

Audit and Risk Committee

8 March 2021

Report title	Payment Transparency	
Accountable director	Claire Nye, Director of Finance	
Originating service	Audit	
Accountable employee	Peter Farrow Tel Email	Head of Audit 01902 554460 peter.farrow@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Not applicable.	

Recommendation for noting:

The Audit and Risk Committee is asked to note:

1. The Council's current position with regards to the publication of all its expenditure.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 This report is to update the Committee on the Council's current position with regards to the publication of all its expenditure.

2.0 Background

2.1 The latest position on the Council's payment transparency activity is as follows:

- The Council publishes its own spend data which is available on the Council's internet site under Transparency and Accountability (payments to suppliers) and is updated monthly.
- Since last reported to the Audit and Risk Committee, while there have been no specific requests for information from the public (as an 'armchair auditor'), an external party did access the Council's published expenditure data regarding early years spend. This highlighted that the expenditure calculated using the published data was much higher than the actual expenditure. Investigations identified that whilst the spend information held on the site was in itself correct, the site incorrectly contained repeated data lines for certain entries due to an administrative error which made the spend figure appear much higher than it was. The duplicate data lines have now been removed from the site and processes are being put in place to ensure it does not happen again.

3.0 Progress

3.1 We will continue to report back to the Audit and Risk Committee on the details of any 'armchair auditor' requests the Council receives.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.
[GE/22022021/A]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report.
[TS/19022021/Q]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7.0 All other implications

7.1 There are no other implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

8.1 None.