

Notice of key decision to be made under General Exception provisions

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of notice: 5 October 2021
To: Councillor Paul Sweet
Chair of Scrutiny Board
From: Mark Taylor (Deputy Chief Executive)

An intention to make the following key decision, which is to be considered by the Cabinet on 20 October 2021, was not publicised in advance as required by the Regulations.

Report title: Wolves@Work 18-24 - Tackling Youth Unemployment.
Classification: PUBLIC

The City of Wolverhampton currently has the highest unemployment rate for 18-24 year olds in the UK at 13.5%, meaning there are 2,795 young people claiming benefits (NOMIS August 2021).

Although this has historically been a significant issue in our city - exacerbated by the pandemic – the Council is committed to actively reducing the levels of youth unemployment, especially as city employers are reporting high levels of vacancies. With the end of the furlough scheme likely to push youth unemployment even higher, urgent intervention and action is required from a range of national, regional and local partners.

The Cabinet report will seek authority for the council to lead on developing a comprehensive programme of targeted intervention to support young people aged 18 to 24, currently claiming benefits into sustainable employment, apprenticeships or training. This will aim to tackle inequalities in the city given big disparities between different wards - the highest youth unemployment rate is in East Park (19.5%), the lowest is Tettenhall Regis (8.8%). However, the urgent need to respond is highlighted by the fact that all of Wolverhampton's wards are above the English youth unemployment rate of 6.9% (NOMIS August 2021).

This notice must be provided to the Chair of the Scrutiny Board and to the appropriate democratic support officer at least five clear working days in advance of the relevant Executive meeting.