

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Meeting of the City Council 20 July 2022
--	---

Report title	Motions on Notice	
Referring person	Councillor Phil Bateman MBE, Councillor Simon Bennett, Councillor Ellis Turrell, Councillor Wendy Thompson	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	N/A	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
	Tel	01902 550320
	Email	David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Recommendation for action:

The Council is recommended to:

Consider the motions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Council to consider the motions received:

a. West Midlands Police – Data

Councillor Phil Bateman MBE will move the following motion:

“This City Council is concerned and dismayed over the poor public information arrangements that West Midlands Police are currently operating. Police UK, which informs the public upon the actions and performances and local crime and the detection, is still deficient and does not carry West Midlands performance rates.

West Midlands Police also do not update their electronic information on the changes in ward cover and the teams performing crime fighting duties in the city’s wards.

Added to that, there are no up to date crime level statistics for wards across the city which the public can read, digest and then support. There are concerns across our city that crime is rising and that is compounded by the fact that there are no detection rates or other important statistics on show to benchmark, prove or measure criminal effects on our communities.

There is no current up to date public information on police strength by city wards that the public can rely upon. Wulfrunians will be growing away from the police if their requirements to know what is happening in their communities are not heeded, or their need for information on crime and its solutions continue to be ignored.

The ‘Thin Blue Line’ still has less police in service in Wolverhampton than it had in 2010, yet our population has soared in that same period. It could appear to some that West Midlands Police are appearing to ignore the public in our city.

This City Council therefore calls on West Midlands Police to greatly improve its communications and create better links between elected members and community leaders in the wards they serve.”

b. Ukraine

Councillor Simon Bennett will move the following motion:

“In support of Ukraine, Council agrees to explore twinning opportunities with a Ukrainian town or city.”

c. Draft Black Country Plan

Councillor Ellis Turrell will move the following motion:

“The long-awaited Brownfield Land Study, commissioned by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, has been published. Contrary to the claims from the Leader of the Council that

"every inch" of brownfield land in the city has been included in the draft Black Country Plan, the Study outlines that there is a significant amount of additional brownfield capacity in Wolverhampton for 4,458 homes. The Study also includes a number of recommendations for local authorities to further evaluate and prioritise existing brownfield sites.

Specifically, the Study proposes releasing employment land in the city for the creation of nearly 500 new homes and identifies almost 2,500 new homes from windfall sites. This includes 812 new dwellings in the city centre from converted upper storey floorspace.

This Council therefore agrees to:

- i) Accept and begin implementing the recommendations of the Brownfield Land Study.*
- ii) Immediately include new brownfield and windfall sites in the Black Country Plan through Regulation 18 consultations, where the necessary evidence exists to do so.*
- iii) Retract the Council's original statement that "every inch" of brownfield land in the city has been included in the Black Country Plan."*

d. Fallow Year

Councillor Wendy Thompson will move the following motion:

"Council agrees that following the all-out local elections on 4 May 2023 its preference is for the planned fallow year of 2025 to be brought forward to 2024 and that the Chief Executive, on Council's behalf, writes to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request this."