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CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON C O U N C I L

Meeting of the City Council

3 November 2021

Report title Written Questions by Councillors

Referring person Councillor Paul Singh, Councillor Andy Randle, Councillor

Jonathan Crofts, Councillor Wendy Dalton, Councillor Mak Singh, Councillor Paul Appleby, Councillor Chris Haynes, Councillor Udey Singh, Councillor Wendy Thompson, Councillor Adam Collinge and Councillor Simon Bennett

Wards affected All Wards

Cabinet Member with lead

responsibility

Councillor Ian Brookfield, Leader of the Council

Councillor Paula Brookfield, Governance and Equalities Councillor Dr Mike Hardacre, Education, Skills and Work

Councillor Steve Evans, City Environment and Climate Change

Councillor Stephen Simkins, Deputy Leader Inclusive City

Economy

Councillor Obaida Ahmed, Digital City

Accountable director

David Pattison, Director of Governance

Originating service

Governance

Accountable employee

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Recommendation for action:

The Council is recommended to:

That Cabinet Members respond to the questions received in accordance with Council's procedure rules.

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1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Councillors to respond to the questions received:

a. Sporting Legends

Councillor Paul Singh to ask the Leader of the Council:

"I know that colleagues across this Chamber are proud to champion our city's sporting legends. Will the Leader work with me to celebrate their legacy, fantastic achievements, and consider naming more streets after them?"

b. Driving Training

Councillor Andy Randle to ask the Leader of the Council:

"Unemployment amongst 18-24 year olds is unfortunately high here in Wolverhampton. There are many driving opportunities now becoming available. Will the Council support young people into driving training and promote these opportunities by committing funds from the newly approved Wolves @Work 18-24 program?"

c. External Legal Services

Councillor Jonathan Crofts to ask the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities:

"Please can the portfolio holder detail how much the Council has spent this financial year on external legal services and the purpose of each engagement?"

d. Unemployment Support

Councillor Wendy Dalton to ask the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Work:

"Wolverhampton has the joint-fourth highest unemployment rate in the country with the latest figures showing nearly 15,000 people out of work in the city. Of those unemployed nearly a quarter are 50 or older. Whilst support for our young people is welcome; what support can Council the offer to those who are older and who may want to retrain or start their own business?"

e. World Powerlifting Championship

Councillor Mak Singh to ask the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change:

"Wolverhampton has a proud sporting pedigree and a commitment to becoming an events city; with this in mind will the portfolio holder commit the Council towards bringing the World Powerlifting Championship to the city in 2022?"

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f. Fly Tipping

Councillor Paul Appleby to ask the Cabinet Member for City Environment and Climate Change:

"After my bringing of officers from this Council and South Staffordshire District Council together to introduce CCTV on Moseley Road, fly tipping has fallen by more than half compared to the 6 months prior. Will the portfolio holder commit the funds necessary to provide for permanent CCTV in this much valued green space to continue the progress made?"

g. Westside Scheme

Councillor Chris Haynes to ask the Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy:

"Please can the portfolio holder provide an update on the much-delayed Westside scheme?"

h. Heath Town Baths

Councillor Udey Singh to ask the Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy:

"Please can the portfolio holder provide an update on Heath Town Baths?"

i. Support to shops and small businesses

Councillor Wendy Thompson to ask the Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy:

"Please can the portfolio holder detail what the Council is doing to support shops and other small businesses in the city centre?"

j. Draft Black Country Plan

Councillor Adam Collinge to ask the Deputy Leader Inclusive City Economy:

"The CPRE has called for four sites to be removed from the Wolverhampton component of the draft Black Country Plan. Will the portfolio holder heed this call, review their advice and safeguard these green spaces for future generations?"

k. Digital Projects

Councillor Simon Bennett to ask the Cabinet Member for Digital City:

"The Digital City Portfolio has now been in existence for nearly 6 months. Please can the portfolio holder briefly advise the Council what digital projects have been undertaken in this time and her role in these?"