

Meeting of the City Council

29 March 2023

Report title	Motions on Notice
Referring body/person	Councillor Ian Brookfield Councillor Ellis Turrell
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 decision:

The Council is recommended to:

Consider the motions received in accordance with the Council's procedure rules for a maximum of 50 minutes.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 For Council to consider the motions received:

a. Green Innovation Zones

Councillor Stephen Simkins, in the absence of Councillor Ian Brookfield, will move the following motion:

“In the Spring Budget, the Chancellor announced plans to launch 12 “investment zones” across the UK over the next five years. These “investment zones” are a scaled-back version of an initiative briefly launched by the government of Liz Truss last autumn. Four zones are planned in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the rest in the Midlands or north of England.

This Council believes that our ambitious Green Innovation Corridor plan meets the criteria for these proposed “investment zones” and demonstrates strong partnership between the local authority and academic institutions. Indeed, our Levelling Up Fund Round 2 feedback was that our Green Innovation Corridor bid was strong.

As the Government starts discussions on these Investment Zones, this Council calls on them to work closely with us and the West Midlands Combined Authority, to designate the Green Innovation Corridor as the Investment Zone for the region.”

b. Deeper Devolution Deal

Councillor Ellis Turrell will move the following motion:

“This Council welcomes the Deeper Devolution Deal negotiated between the West Midlands Mayor Andy Street and the Government, as announced in the Spring Budget on 15 March 2023. This new deal secures wide-ranging powers and a budget windfall in excess of £1.5 billion to level up Wolverhampton and the wider region.

In particular, this Council welcomes the following measures included in the Deeper Devolution Deal:

- 1. A Wolverhampton Innovation Corridor, one of six new locally designed Levelling Up Zones, with 25-year business rates retention to drive further investment, innovation and economic growth.*
- 2. A landmark housing deal worth up to £500 million, offering greater flexibility to drive brownfield regeneration.*
- 3. 100% retention of business rates for the next 10 years, worth £450 million.*
- 4. A new departmental-style budget arrangement with a single pot of funding.*
- 5. Greater local responsibility for developing and delivering careers advice and a partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions to target employment support.*

The Deeper Devolution Deal comes on top of more than £1 billion in direct Government investment into Wolverhampton over the last 3 years, through schemes such as the Levelling Up Fund and Towns Fund, and the package of measures contained in the Budget on 15 March 2023 which will make a real difference to people's lives in our city.

This Council therefore agrees to:

- 1. Thank the West Midlands Mayor Andy Street for securing this milestone new Devolution Deal for Wolverhampton and the West Midlands region; and*
- 2. Work closely with the West Midlands Mayor and the combined authority on delivering the measures contained within the Devolution Deal.”*