

## Meeting of the City Council

### 6 December 2023

<b>Report title</b>	Motions on Notice	
<b>Referring body/person</b>	Councillor Stephen Simkins Councillor Simon Bennett	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	N/A	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
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#### 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. City Centre Review

Councillor Stephen Simkins will move the following motion:

*“Council notes that earlier this year, a local business owner commissioned an ‘independent review’ of Wolverhampton City Centre.*

*Although not convinced that such a review was required, Council nevertheless offered its full support to the consultants appointed and were eventually provided a verbal update on the work they had undertaken.*

*Council does not expect the report of this ‘independent review’ to provide any new insight into the challenges faced by city centre businesses in Wolverhampton and indeed, across the country (e.g. factors beyond the council’s control such as the impacts of the pandemic /Brexit, soaring energy costs, emergence of online shopping, out of town retail parks etc).*

*Irrespective of the findings of the ‘independent review’, Council reaffirms its ongoing commitment to supporting local businesses to thrive and establishing Wolverhampton as a destination city for years to come.*

*Furthermore, Council calls upon the Metro Mayor and the Government for local authorities to be given greater powers, freedoms and adequate funding to keep our city centres thriving, after years of Tory under-investment.”*

### b. Green Innovation Corridor

Councillor Simon Bennett will move the following motion:

*“This Council welcomes the recent announcement of £20 million to kickstart and deliver the first phase of the green innovation corridor, a proposal led by the MP for Wolverhampton North East, Jane Stevenson, and confirmed in the Chancellor’s autumn statement. It’s another shot in the arm for government investment in Wolverhampton, and on top of almost 2.5 billion the city has been given since 2019.*

*The green innovation corridor is an ambitious project to create a 6 mile stretch of high value job creation in specialist sectors, upskill our own local talent, and encourage private sector investment. This will lead to wider regeneration along the corridor and the unlocking of brownfield sites for new affordable housing, delivering*

*new commercial space and creating 1,220 jobs. It brings back into use nearly 4 hectares of brownfield land.*

*Therefore, this Council agrees to:*

- *Setup and facilitate a summit of schools, the college, the university, local and regional business stakeholders to ensure educational institutions are providing the relevant skills required in delivering high quality skilled jobs that these emerging jobs and opportunities need.*
- *Explore opportunities in improving our roads and transport infrastructure along the green innovation corridor - particularly the A449 Stafford Road - to make sure we have the infrastructure required to get people to and from these new work and training opportunities.”*