

## Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Statement of Decisions made at a meeting of the Executive on Wednesday, 18 January 2023

Published: Thursday 19 January 2023

The following decisions were made by the Executive at its meeting on **Wednesday, 18 January 2023**. These decisions will come into force on **Wednesday 25 January 2023**. A decision by the Executive may be called-in (in accordance with Part 4 – Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution) by **Tuesday 24 January 2023**. Should you have any queries about any decision that has been made, contact should be made in the first instance to Democratic Services at [democratic\\_services@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk). Any declaration of interest made by any member of the Executive is shown below.

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
5	<p><b>Determination of Admission Arrangements for Sandwell's Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2024/25</b></p> <p><b>Agreed</b> that the Director of Children and Education, in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021, be authorised to publish the Local Authority's Admission Arrangements for 2024/25 academic year for places in all community and voluntary controlled schools as set out in Appendix 1.</p>	<p>The Local Authority (LA) must abide by the requirements of the School Admissions Code ('Admissions Code') and associated regulations and determine admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools each year.</p>	<p>There is no alternative option open to the LA in relation to its responsibilities for agreeing and publishing oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools. The LA must abide with the requirements of the Admissions Code.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
6	<p><b>Asset Management Investment Programme for Housing 2023-24</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:-</b></p> <p>1.1. that the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Director of Finance, be authorised to prepare tendering documentation and to procure contractors, in accordance with The Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council’s Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, to work on behalf of the Council, to deliver the refurbishment and maintenance works detailed below: -</p> <p>Contract Value</p> <p>Internal Improvement Programme 2023 – 2027 £6,000,000</p> <p>Refurbishment of St Giles and Moorlands Court £19,788,000</p> <p>Lift Maintenance Services 2024 - 2028 £3,180,000</p> <p>Electrical Services 2023 - 2027 £3,600,000</p> <p>Day to Day Repairs to Housing 2024 – 2027 £2,400,000</p> <p>Supply of Domestic Electrical Items 2023 - 2027 £2,300,000</p> <p>Supply of Plumbing Parts 2023 – 2027 £6,000,000</p>	<p>This report sought approval to procure, award and enter into contract with the successful contractors to deliver the various contracts as detailed within the report to continue the substantial investment in the Council’s Housing Stock.</p>	<p>The alternative was to not invest in Council Housing Stock which in turn could lead to dissatisfaction from existing and potential new tenants as well as disrepair and additional burden on the Housing Revenue Account.</p> <p>Current in-house provision did not have the capacity to maintain the pace of demand for delivering the required repairs to Council properties with regards to the electrical services and day to day repairs contracts and therefore support from external contractors was required.</p> <p>For supplies contracts under points 4.15, 4.16, 4.17, there were no alternative options available, Sandwell MBC’s Asset Management and Maintenance teams required the items supplied on these tenders to undertake repairs to its housing stock.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>Supply of Building Materials 2023 - 2027 £1,600,000 TOTAL £44,868,000</p> <p>1.2. that the Director of Housing be authorised to award the contracts, as referred to in 1.1 above, to the successful contractor(s);</p> <p>1.3. that the Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into or execute under seal any documentation in relation to the award of the contracts;</p> <p>1.4. that any necessary exemption be made to the Council’s Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the course of action referred to in 1.1 above to proceed.</p>			
7	<p><b>Rolfe Street Masterplan - Approval to consult</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:-</b></p> <p>1.1. That approval be given to the consultation on the Draft Rolfe Street Masterplan for six weeks between January to February 2023;</p>	<p>Consultation with the wider public, businesses, community groups and other interested parties will enable the options being put forward to be further refined and developed into a final document that, once approved, will form the basis for future decision making that will assist in bringing forward regeneration benefits to the area.</p>	<p>Despite the area being allocated for residential use since 2008, no comprehensive redevelopment had taken place. Proposals had been discussed over the years, but they have not come to fruition. Piecemeal development has been refused as it would be inappropriate to promote development in an area predominantly occupied by</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>1.2. that the Director for Regeneration and Growth be authorised to make minor changes to the Masterplan prior to consultation commencing if required.</p>		<p>industry.</p> <p>Funding from the BCLEP had enabled the Council to prepare a more detailed masterplan which would assist in providing the housebuilders more clarity and certainty with regards the type of development the Council considers would be most appropriate. The Towns Fund project was funded for the Smethwick Enterprise Centre which will act as the catalyst for future developer interest. Having a Masterplan in place would assist in the decision-making process for future proposals.</p> <p>Not progressing with a Masterplan for the area would not create a platform from which to promote development opportunities in this area or provide a strong base to bid for further funding. The continued regeneration envisioned for this area would not be achieved and it would prevent the potential development of up to 660 much needed homes, within one of the most deprived areas of Sandwell.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
8	<p><b>Schools Funding 2023-24</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:-</b></p> <p>1.1 That approval be given to:</p> <p>In respect of the 2023/2024 schools funding formula for Sandwell schools, consider the outcome of the consultation proposals following review by the Schools Forum, as shown in Appendix 1 as follows:</p> <p>(a) adopting the minimum transition option for calculating schools funding in 2023-24</p> <p>(b) setting the Growth Funding at £1.664m</p> <p>(c) the transfer of £0.455m funding from the Schools Block to the Central Schools Services Block (CSSB) to fund the attendance service</p> <p>(d) the CSSB, De-delegated and Education Function proposals as set out in Appendix A</p>	<p>The Schools Revenue Funding 2023-24 Operational Guide requires the Council to engage in open and transparent consultation with maintained schools and academies in their area, as well as with their schools forum about any changes to the local funding formula, including the principles adopted and any movement of funds between blocks.</p> <p>The Council is responsible for making the final decisions on the formula and for ensuring there is sufficient time to gain political approval before the schools funding model (Authority Proforma Tool – APT) deadline in January 2023.</p>	<p>There is an alternative option whereby cabinet can overrule schools’ preferences and move the funding model immediately to that which moves closer or mirrors the National Funding Formula.</p>	
9	<p><b>Council Tax Base 2023/2024</b></p> <p><b>Agreed</b> that approval be given to:-</p>	<p>The Council Tax Base must be calculated in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax</p>	<p>There were no alternative options.</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>1.1. Recommend to Council that they approve the Council Tax Base for 2023/2024 be set at 76,764.73</p> <p>1.2. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to adjust the Council Tax Base as required following approval of the 2023-2024 Council Tax Reduction Scheme by Council on 21 February 2023</p>	<p>Base) (England) Regulations 2012. It is used to determine the annual amount of collectable Council Tax. The regulations set out the methodology to be used by authorities when calculating their Council Tax Base. They further dictate that the Council Tax Base should be set between 01 December and 31 January prior to the financial year to which it refers</p>		
10	<p><b>Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2022/23</b></p> <p><b>Agreed</b> that the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2022/23 and revised Minimum Revenue Provision Policy are recommended to full Council for approval.</p>	<p>To comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management</p> <p>To ensure the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy is prudent.</p>	<p>If the Mid-Year Review report is not approved, then the Council would not be compliant with the CIPFA Code. Cabinet could choose not to adopt the revised MRP Policy, but this will forgo savings of over £4m in 2022/23 and 2023/24 and savings for the next 25 years.</p>	
11	<p><b>Oracle Fusion ERP System Implementation Costs and Benefits Case</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:-</b></p> <p>1.1 That Cabinet note the current progress being made with the implementation of the Oracle Fusion Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)</p>	<p>To ensure the implementation of Oracle Fusion is delivered in a timely and efficient manner in order to bring transformation benefits to the way the Council currently works and to complete the actions from the Grant Thornton Governance Review.</p>	<p>The Council could choose to scale down the resource model to reduce costs but this would significantly reduce capacity to undertake the implementation on time and achieve transformational benefits of the system. The Directions issued by the Secretary of State are a statutory requirement and the</p>	

	Item	Reason for Decision:	Alternative options:	Lead officer:
	<p>system</p> <p>1.2 That the implementation budget for 2022/23-2024/25 as set out at section 4.14 be added to the Capital Programme in each respective year</p> <p>1.3 That additional implementation costs of £2.5m be funded from capital resources as part of the overall capital financing strategy</p> <p>1.4 That the Director of Finance be authorised to undertake all steps and actions necessary to implement the Oracle Fusion Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.</p>		<p>council has a legal obligation to respond appropriately. Failure to do so would likely result in further intervention measures.</p>	