

## Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002592  
Date 27 July 2018

### *Capital Receipts and Redundancies*

#### Request:

For each of the following financial years: 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 (up to the date on which you received this request) I request the following information:

- A) The total amount of capital receipts (in £) received by the council following the disposal of any type of asset

**Table 1: Capital receipts**

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019 at 30.08.18
	£	£	£	£	£
Total capital receipts received from disposal of assets (including disposals under Right to Buy legislation)	16,357,823	14,315,544	13,879,054	15,784,660	5,817,927

- B) A breakdown of the use of capital receipts within each financial year by the following three categories:

- i) To help meet the cost of borrowing related to capital expenditure.
- ii) To invest in new capital expenditure.
- iii) To finance the revenue costs of service reform (as introduced in March 2016 - <https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk&data=02%7C01%7CFOI%40wolverhampton.gov.uk%7C96aecc8be16e42dc910f08d60e54981b%7C07ebc6c370744387a625b9d918ba4a97%7C0%7C0%7C636712153830226542&data=DlojnIUqCGJT3qxyEKzWwfhUhOPrCso8BAxll6QbmKU%3D&reserved=0...>

iv) Other

**Table 2: Use of capital receipts**

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019 at 30.08.18
	£	£	£	£	£
Meet the cost of borrowing	-	-	-	-	Information not available until the statement of accounts have been produced.
Invest in new capital expenditure	8,551,579	19,881,681	10,678,733	13,352,989	
Finance revenue costs of service reforms (costs of service reconfiguration, restructuring and rationalisation)	-	-	1,856,611	2,965,427	
Other	174,621	121,278	133,123	44,966	

C) A list of service reforms financed through capital receipts since flexible use of capital receipts was introduced in March 2016, including:

- i) The date the reform began  
[1 April 2016](#)
- ii) The amount (in £) of capital receipts used  
[See the response we provided for question D\).](#)
- iii) The savings target at the time
- iv) The % of that savings target which has been met to-date

With reference to questions C) iii) and iv), your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

**Section 12 - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

We can confirm that the Council holds information falling within the description specified in your request. However, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse a request if the cost of providing the information to the applicant would exceed the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information.

The Regulations provide that the appropriate limit to be applied to requests received by local authorities is £450 (equivalent to 18 hours of work). In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

- (a) *Determining whether it holds the information,*
  - (b) *Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
  - (c) *Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information,*
- and*
- (d) *Extracting the information from a document containing it.*

*For the purposes of the estimate the costs of performing these activities should be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour.*

The information appertaining to your request is not easily accessible and as such this information is not held as a distinct set able to be retrieved or reported on as we would need to analyse whether each budget reduction proposal in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 had any redundancy and early retirement costs associated to it. To gather the requested information would require us to allocate revenue reorganisation costs that were capitalised to each individual budget reduction proposal. This would be a manual exercise and as such we believe that the aggregated time it would take to collate the requested information would be approximately 150 hours.

Excess cost removes the City of Wolverhampton Council's obligation under the Freedom of Information, however under Section 16 – (the duty to provide advice and assistance, the Council may be able to provide answers to the request, should you wish to submit a refined request.

We can report that capital receipts in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 were used to fund redundancy and early retirement costs associated with service reconfiguration, restructuring and rationalisation. Each individual service would have associated budget reduction proposals which are built into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The total savings target assumed in the Council's MTFS in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 was £26.4 million and £23.4 million respectively.

- D) The amount of capital receipts (in £) used to meet the cost of redundancies made (or in the process of being made) by the council during each financial year

Capital receipts in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 were used to fund redundancy and early retirement costs associated with service reconfiguration, restructuring and rationalisation. The amount of capital receipts used can be seen in Table 2 under question B).

- E) The number of all types of redundancies (and not just those funded by capital receipts, if there are any) made by the local authority in each financial year broken down by the service they relate to

**Table 3: Total number of voluntary and compulsory redundancies including schools**

<b>Division</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Adult Services	89	216	44	37	1	<b>387</b>
Children & Young People	157	59	11	9	1	<b>237</b>
City Environment	55	6	6	14		<b>81</b>
City Housing	2		1	4		<b>7</b>
Commercial Services	54	22	13	14	2	<b>105</b>
Corporate Services	92	31	2	8	1	<b>134</b>
Director of Education	86	34	25	14	1	<b>160</b>
Governance	6	7	1	2	1	<b>17</b>
Managing Director	16	5	1		2	<b>24</b>
Public Health & Wellbeing	4	2	1	52	2	<b>61</b>
Public Service Reform	7	4		5	1	<b>17</b>
Regeneration	69	22	17	6	6	<b>120</b>
Schools	71	64	68	57	15	<b>275</b>
Strategic Director People	7	1	11	1		<b>20</b>
Strategic Director Place		1	1			<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,647</b>

**Notes**

- \* The number of redundancies have been aligned to the current organisational structure
- \* 2018-2019 upto August 2018
- \* excludes employees from the Housing Revenue Account, West Midlands Pension Fund and External Payroll