CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

ReferenceFOI 001574Date13 October 2017

Council Pilot Schemes

Request:

Please can you provide details of council pilot schemes which have been stopped/not carried forward after its initial trial, between January 2013 until the date of this request for the following areas: Education, Housing, City Economy, City Environment, Public health and Wellbeing, and People

Specifically, I would like details regarding the following:

- The length of time the pilot scheme ran for;

- The amount of money allocated to the project, and the total amount spent on it;

- The reason why it was not extended, or the reason it was terminated early;

- A list of all pilot schemes launched since January 2013, whether they were extended or not.

"Pilot scheme" refers to an initiative launched by the council on a trial basis, with hopes of rolling it out indefinitely if successful.

In response to your above question, following careful consideration the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

The information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12(5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary to provide the information you have requested would take us at least three days (21 hours) to compile as we do not record this type of information centrally and therefore we would have to carry out a manual trawl (scrutinise) of each service area.

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".