

# Leader's Report 2017 / 2018



MAY 10, 2018

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Wolverhampton Labour Group  
Councillor Roger Lawrence

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## Looking Back

- A year of achievement – MJ Council of The Year and winning 4 awards overall – all awarded by different juries.
- Continued investment in the City - £3.7 billion. Investment includes Steelpark Way in Wednesfield (**cover picture**) already providing jobs for local people.



**“WV Living on site providing homes for sale and rent to local people. Bilston Urban Village project well underway”**

- Wolves @Work reaches 2000 people in its first year with a sustainability rate in work over 60%. Workbox has attracted over 2250 people to sign up and over 200 have achieved either training or support into employment.
- Homelessness Task Group established and working to tackle problem of rough sleeping. Nearly all rough sleepers in accommodation during the coldest spells of a particularly challenging winter.
- As City of Sanctuary, we continue to work with refugees and asylum seekers and are proactive in providing support to the Windrush generation and challenging the “hostile environment” policy.



- Transport infrastructure sees Metro on site, start of work on the Interchange project and free 500 City Centre bus extended to Sainsbury's. A £1 charge for concessionary fares before 9.30am introduced and cheap bus fares for apprentices and trainees introduced.
- Education achievements continue to improve and training for adults receives a funding boost.
- A balanced budget set and the largest Labour Group ever in the City can be proud of what it has delivered.

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## Looking Forward to 2018/19



- Another year of challenges because of Tory austerity but still presents the City with opportunities.
  - Starts on site at Springfield Campus and at Westside. i9 project gets ready to go.
  - New Bike Share scheme will be introduced and a focus on improving air quality in those parts of the city which do not meet current standards.
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- We will seek longer term funding for our public health approach to reducing knife crime with our partners.
  - New investment by West Midlands Trains in better rolling stock and more frequent services.
  - With i54 nearly full, the Western extension to provide another 2000 plus jobs is increasingly needed. More investment in our key corridors for economic growth – Stafford Road, Wednesfield Road, Bilston Road.

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- Nearly £100m secured for housing schemes focused on Wolverhampton to Walsall Corridor.
  - New City Centre housing and a focus around specialist housing for older people and people with disabilities.
  - We will focus on improving productivity to bring the City closer to national targets.
  - Adult Social Care is a continuing challenge to our communities. We will work with partners to ensure that recipients of Adult Social Care continue to get appropriate and innovative care packages.
  - We continue to support improvements in Mental Health both for adults and especially young people through our successful HeadStart initiative.
  - We will bring forward key gateway sites like the Royal Hospital, Eye Infirmary, Pantheon Park, Wednesfield and St George's.

**A proud record but more to achieve – lets deliver a City ready for the Premier League!!!**