

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 July 2023 at 6.00pm held at Walsall Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW.

Committee Members

Councillor M. Follows (Chair)
Councillor S. Cheema
Councillor P. Gill
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor R. Larden
Councillor F. Mazhar
Councillor J. Whitehouse
Councillor K. Sears
Councillor T. Jukes

Portfolio Holders

Councillor M. Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor K. Murphy	Street Pride
Councillor G. Flint	Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces
Councillor M. Statham	Education and Skills

Officers Present:

Kathryn Moreton	Interim Director, Place and Environment
Sian Lloyd	Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, P. Bott and Ward.

2. Substitutions

Councillor Sears substituted for Councillor Allen and Councillor Jukes substituted for Councillor Ward.

3. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

4. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to consider in private session.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2023, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

6. **Areas of Focus 2023/24**

The Committee received presentations from Cabinet Portfolio Holders and Officers on services within the remit of the Committee.

Interim Director for Place and Environment

The Committee received a high-level presentation on the works of the Economy, Environment and Communities Directorate from the Interim Director of Place and Environment who highlighted which services in particular fell within the remit of the Committee. She also noted that there had been a recent addition of a dedicated Climate Change team to help support the council with their commitments in this area.

Portfolio Holder for Street Pride

The Portfolio Holder for Street Pride outlined the developments within her remit, highlighting that moving traffic enforcement powers would be received later in the year which would grant the council the authority to further tackle traffic offences within the borough. She also discussed grass cutting which had been a topic of some conversation amongst residents.

Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces

The Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces started his presentation by explaining the items that had been added to his remit this municipal year which included leisure and culture items such as the Forest Arts Centre and the New Art Gallery and bereavement services. He outlined his priorities for the municipal year.

The Democratic Services Officer then gave an overview of the Committee's remit and outstanding items from the previous year's work programme.

Members debated the issues and selected the following items for their work programme:

- Regeneration focus – to include Towns Fund projects, Town Centre Masterplan, Willenhall Masterplan, M6 J10 etc.;
- Partnership working with West Midlands Police on traffic speed enforcement;
- Grass cutting schedule and mapping of council assets;
- An update on Walsall's Heritage strategy with reference to Highgate Brewery;
- Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Train Stations;
- Public Toilets Pilot Update;
- Off-road biking;
- Derelict Properties Taskforce;
- Streetworks permit scheme;
- Tree Planting Strategy;
- Climate change; and
- Litterpicking strategy and volunteers.

Resolved:

1. That the areas of focus 2023/24 and forward plans be noted;
2. That the following items be added to the work programme:
 - a) Regeneration focus – to include Towns Fund projects, Town Centre Masterplan, Willenhall Masterplan, M6 J10 etc.;
 - b) Partnership working with West Midlands Police on traffic speed enforcement;
 - c) Grass cutting schedule and mapping of council assets;
 - d) An update on Walsall's Heritage strategy with reference to Highgate Brewery;
 - e) Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Train Stations;
 - f) Public Toilets Pilot Update;
 - g) Off-road biking;
 - h) Derelict Properties Taskforce;
 - i) Streetworks permit scheme;
 - j) Tree Planting Strategy;
 - k) Climate change; and
 - l) Litterpicking strategy and volunteers.

8. **Recommendation Tracker**

The Democratic Services Officer updated the Committee on the recommendations from previous meetings of the Committee. It was noted that all items had been completed.

Resolved:

That the progress on recommendations from the previous meeting be noted.

9. **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 12 September 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated 6.50pm.

Signed:

Date: