

10 June 2010

Consideration of Panel Work Programme for 2010/11

Ward(s) All

Portfolio Holders:

Summary of report:

The purpose of this report is to provide relevant background information for Members so that the Panels work programme can be agreed for 2010/11.

It is important for Members to consider the wide range of potential issues within their remits that they could consider during the year which could range from council specific to completely external issues.

When agreeing items it is important that consideration is given to what, value the Panel can add and what tools and performance measures are available to support them in their work.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Member's consider the range of items within their remit available to them and agree a work programme for 2010/11 along with any potential working groups and their membership.

Background papers:

Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10
Minutes of previous meetings
Citizen Panel Consultations

Resource and legal considerations:

In terms of resources it is important that the right balance and number of items and working groups are selected so that the work programme can be completed during the year without placing undue pressure on Member capacity.

Legal considerations for specific items will need to be addressed as and when necessary based on the items that are selected for inclusion on the work programme.

Citizen impact:

An effective work programme will enable the Panel to focus its work on the most important issues within its remit. Consideration of these issues and subsequent recommendations, if accepted, could improve the quality of services delivered to local residents.

Environmental impact:

The level of environmental impact will be dependant on which issues are selected to become a part of the panels work programme for 2010/11. The borough's Sustainable Community Strategy places an importance on considering the impact of present decisions on future generations which includes environmental issues.

Performance management:

The report asks Members to consider performance management information when deciding on their work programme, and also to consider how they wish to use performance management information and tools in assisting them with their work over the course of the year.

Equality Implications:

Ensuring equality for all is a key theme in the boroughs Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement as well as being one of the Council's core values. Members are advised to consider what, if any, equality implications there are for any items on their work programme.

Consultation:

Members may wish to consider the results of any formal or informal consultation exercises, including that with the public and partners, when considering what items they wish to include in their work programme. Whilst Council officers carry out a range of consultation activity on behalf of the Council, Members themselves engage with the public on a much more frequent basis and it is valuable to consider feedback from these sources as well.

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Introduction

At the start of each municipal year it is good practice for scrutiny and performance panels to spend some time discussing and agreeing its work programme for the year ahead for issues within its remit.

As Members will already be aware scrutiny and performance panel remits were amended by Council at its meeting on 24 and 26 May 2010. For information the Panels remit in Article 6 of the Walsall Council Constitution now reads as:

Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel

All aspects and general services related to the environment such as waste management, highways maintenance, grounds maintenance and traffic management, within the functions set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act, 2000.

Work Programme

In agreeing its work programme for 2010/11 the Panel will be informed from a range of sources, including all 60 Members, last years Panel work streams and suggested carry over items , Council Officers, Partners and the Public.

When agreeing the items to be included in its work programme focus should be given to the range of performance management information available that could assist the Panel with each particular issue. A whole host of performance information is available on a range of subjects that Members could utilise to measure success or otherwise.

Working Groups

Members need to decide whether they want to operate any working groups for this year. Working Groups are at their most effective when they are considering broad policy areas that require detailed investigation time that cannot be completed at Panel level. The Panel will set the working group remit, its membership and once a working group has completed its investigations it will report its findings and recommendations to the Panel for consideration and adoption.

It is very important that Member capacity is considered when deciding on what working groups are formed as many members sit on more than one panel and their respective working groups. As such getting suitable dates in the municipal diary and getting suitable attendance at those meetings is difficult if too many working groups are formed. In previous years experience and given the increased number of Panel's in this years municipal diary, it is suggested that each Panel should look to run only one working group at any one time. Panels that wish to operate more than working group during the year could timetable the second to start as the first finishes.

A copy of the councils working group toolkit has been despatched separately to Members and is available to members of the public by request. Member's are asked to familiarise themselves with this toolkit ahead of deciding what, if any, working groups they wish to run.

Value for Money Service Reviews

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel has developed a value for money (vfm) toolkit to assist Members if it is decided to complete a service review. Last year the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel used the value for money toolkit to review the Councils Communication and Payroll and Pensions services. The two reviews were well received by both Members and Officers and resulted in positive recommendations for both services. The Corporate Panel recommended that other Panel's also look to use this toolkit and this recommendation was endorsed by the scrutiny working group of Chair's and Vice-Chairs.

The vfm assessment tool provides a framework for members in partnership with services to work through and is divided into 3 broad themes:

1. What does it cost to provide this service? (economy)
2. How is this service performing? (efficiency)
3. What quality is the service being provided? (effectiveness)

For each of these themes there is the opportunity/potential for scrutiny panels with the service being assessed to benchmark with other service providers to give a clearer picture of relative performance.

The aim is that on completing this assessment scrutiny members will be able to make a judgement regarding the vfm provided by the service and identify and recommend any potential further action.

The vfm toolkit can be used to support the investigations of working groups or independently. When used independently the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel appointed a lead member who liaised with the service area whilst the toolkit is completed and then reports back their findings to the Panel for agreement of recommendations and any other further action that may be necessary.

Appendices

Appendix 1: RESIDENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITY FINDINGS

This briefing note sets out findings from the local place survey and budget consultation. Members may wish to consider the findings of this community engagement work and use it to influence the selection of work programme topics.

Further to this is a series of tables illustrating the outcome of the place survey consultation by question and neighbourhood management areas.

Appendix 2: CITIZENS' PANEL SURVEY ON PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND LEISURE CENTRES – AUTUMN 2009

This briefing note sets out the findings from a Citizens Panel survey on parks, open spaces and leisure centres. Members may wish to use this information to influence their selection of work programme topics.

Suggested Items

Appendix Three contains a number of suggested items completed on a standard template to assist Members with deciding what they wish to include on their work programme. This template requires the following points to be considered-

- ø **What the Issue Is**
- ø **Where it has come from-** for example it could be a carry over item from last year's panel, a suggestion from a Councillor or member of the public or it could be a new item officers are aware of that is coming up this year,
- ø **Why it is important-** with limited time available to Members they need to be able to prioritise their work and concentrate on those things that really matter.
- ø **Who it affects-** Does it impact on any particular ward or user group? Does it concern partner agencies or staff groups? Any potential equalities issues may be highlighted here if the item is likely to have a disproportionate affect on any particular group.
- ø **How can scrutiny add value-** What specifically can Scrutiny do? E.g. provide feedback and recommendations ahead of a Cabinet (or partner executive) decision, support the development of policy, service review, public engagement etc. Suggestions have also been made here for if the item is particularly suited to a particular method of scrutiny such as a working group or value for money review.
- ø **Timings-** This will highlight any critical timings that would need to be taken into consideration such as statutory deadlines which would dictate when scrutiny would need to have considered the item by if they are to have any valuable input
- ø **Performance Information-** This includes any relevant performance indicators that can provide Members with a guide on current levels of performance and also give a benchmark to measure future improvement.

The items highlighted at appendix one are not an exhaustive list, but only those that it is possible to provide in advance of the meeting. Members should consider these alongside any items they wish to raise themselves and use them to develop a balanced work programme that concentrates on what is important to them and on where they believe they can make a difference.

Appendix Four is a copy of the forward plan for May to September 2010.

Appendix Five is the outcome of a recent public survey on what local residents believe scrutiny and performance panels should consider. The survey closed on 31 May 2010 so the results of the survey will be tabled at the meeting.

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL
DATE: 8 JUNE 2010

RE: RESIDENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITY FINDINGS**Purpose**

To inform the Panel regarding recent consultation activity which provides guidance regarding local residents views on what should be the council's priorities. The Panel may choose to use this guidance to inform their decisions in relation to the work programme for this year.

Consultation activity

A budget consultation event was held in October 2009. The attendees heard about the council's budget setting process as well as current and future spending and savings targets. Through informal discussion in small groups, local residents had the opportunity to give their views as to what should be the council's spending priorities for the coming financial year. In addition, between September and December 2008 the national Place Survey was undertaken. This was a statutory consultation used to identify, from the perspective of local residents, priorities for Walsall.

Findings**Budget consultation October 2009:**

Event attendees wanted a borough to be proud of, one where people respect one another and their surroundings, is safe, clean and easy to get around. Where young people and adults are aspiring and do well in education and training. Whilst continuing to deliver services to those who are vulnerable, attendees want to see a greater allocation of money to make the borough a more attractive place to live in, with the regeneration of all areas not just Walsall town centre. Clean streets and level of crime are both important to local quality of life.

The Place Survey 2008:

Respondents identified the following top 5 priorities for improvement:

- Activities for teenagers;
- Road and pavement repairs;
- Level of crime;
- Clean streets;
- Level of traffic congestion.

Respondents identified the following top 5 issues as most important for quality of life:

- Level of crime;
- Clean streets;
- Health Services;

- Affordable decent homes;
- Public transport.

A number of other issues and concerns were raised by respondents:

- Anti-social behaviour remains a concern for residents, with many feeling a lack of activities for children and young people in need of improvement;
- Residents want to see continued regeneration of the borough with a focus on stimulating a thriving economy. Residents are concerned that about the job situation and ensuring that buildings are not left derelict, and that empty shops are reused. Residents want to see investment across the whole borough;
- Investment and regeneration is thought to be a key catalyst for prompting community spirit and proactive behaviour, whilst also helping raise the aspirations of residents and the feeling of pride;
- Whilst views about the impact of the new Walsall ring road are generally divided, residents feel that further improvements to transport links and services could be made. Walsall bus station and town centre car parking being highlighted as particular areas requiring attention;
- Residents want a borough that is clean and tidy, a borough they can feel proud of. Litter picking and street sweeping in all areas of the borough is important to residents, as well as targeting run down areas and maintaining the borough's roads, pavements and footpaths;
- Whilst residents feel it is important to ensure a clean and green borough, it should not be at the detriment of other critical services e.g. care for the vulnerable, adults and children, which are seen as a priority. Residents are worried that cuts may lead to reduced services which then impact on the most vulnerable. Maintaining quality services, particularly in the current economic climate and the years ahead is of vital importance;
- Throughout the challenging economic climate, supporting people when they need it most and the delivery of preventative services is seen by some as a key area for investment. The community and voluntary sector want the council working hard to support families throughout the borough to help prevent them breaking down and prioritising those most at risk from harm;
- Investing in education is a top priority for many, particularly basic skills and life-long learning. Libraries are seen as a potentially vital resource;
- Concerns were expressed that young professionals and graduates may not take up jobs here. Regenerating the borough so that it is attractive to young qualified professionals and businesses is seen as a priority;
- When recruiting staff, businesses most frequently state that accessing the right higher level skills, lack of basic skills and recruitment costs are barriers;
- Businesses identify costs in the form of overheads including business rates, high cost of energy and premises costs as barriers to operating in the borough;
- Residents and representatives from the community and voluntary sector feel that there are emerging opportunities arising from the current economic climate. Investing in and supporting volunteering opportunities in the borough and working more closely with the voluntary sector was thought to offer many benefits and cost savings;

Appendix 1

- There is widespread consensus that the council needs to do more to tap into the expertise, knowledge and skills of the community and voluntary sector, which would in turn help the council achieve its efficiency targets and help this sector survive.
- Residents expressed the view that they were generally unable to influence decisions in their local area;
- Considering the role of local people in decision-making, a majority of respondents to the Place Survey feel that they currently are not adequately informed about local public services. Research has highlighted the link between the extent to which residents are informed about local services and their level of satisfaction;
- Representatives from the community and voluntary sector feel that local people don't adequately understand what services the council provides. Having a better understanding is thought to benefit local people and the council;
- There was strong consensus that working more closely with the community and voluntary sector is very important and that this sector can help spread information about council services to the people and communities they work with.

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BRIEFING NOTE

TO: ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

DATE: 10 JUNE 2010

RE: CITIZENS' PANEL SURVEY ON PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND LEISURE CENTRES – AUTUMN 2009

Purpose

To inform the Panel regarding the Citizens' Panel survey – Autumn 2009. The Panel may choose to use this guidance to inform their decisions in relation to the work programme for this year.

Consultation activity

A total of 54%, 646, panel members responded to the postal survey, with the results analysis provided by Local Neighbourhood Partnership (LNP) area. Participants were asked a number of questions, including in relation to environmental quality, enforcement and waste collection.

Findings

Full details of the analysis are attached at Appendix 1, BMG report, as well as Appendix 2, key questions results. Highlights include:

- 38% of all respondents rated as "Good" the general appearance and cleanliness of the local area and the borough as a whole. Residents in Aldridge South and Streetly, together with those in Pheasey and Paddock were more likely to respond "Good" compared to those living in other wards. Whereas respondents in Darlaston and Pleck were more likely to rate as "Poor" the general appearance of the local area and the borough as a whole;
- Significant environmental issues identified by respondents as concerns within their locality included: litter in public areas (52%); dog fouling (41%); parking on verges (37%) and Fly tipping (31%). Litter in public places was identified as a problem in Darlaston (69%) and Palfrey and Pleck (60%), with concern regarding dog fouling also featuring strongly in Darlaston (53%). In terms of problems across the borough as whole litter in public areas (55%); and fly tipping (45%) were identified by respondents as the principal concerns;
- In respect of environmental issues respondents were most happy with how the council dealt with abandoned cars with + net 29% satisfaction and least satisfied with litter in public places with net satisfaction at net -20%. Further respondent concerns existed around how the council dealt with verges (net -13% satisfaction) and dog fouling (net -14% satisfaction);
- 93% of respondents stated that environmental enforcement was important;
- Satisfaction with grey bin waste collection was highest (92%) with green bin collection achieving a satisfaction rate of 80%. It is noteworthy that respondents in Pheasey and Paddock (100%) are most satisfied with grey bin collection, with those in Blakenall and Bloxwich and Brownhills (9%) and Aldridge North (10%) more likely to be dissatisfied.

A full account of the citizens panels survey has been sent separately to members and is available to members of the public by request.

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CITIZENS' PANEL SURVEY - AUTUMN 2009

Key questions - Environmental Enforcement and Waste Collection

Panel Question	Bloxwich/ Blakenall, Birchills Leamore (134)	Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall- Shelfield (91)	Darlaston / Bentley (67)	St Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck (134)	Streetly / Pheasey / Aldridge / Walsall Wood (125)	Willenhall / Short Heath (96)	Walsall (all respondents 646)
Q1 Overall satisfaction with local area as a place to live (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	64.0	73.0	66.0	61.0	80.0	56.0	67.0
Q2a General appearance / cleanliness of local area (very good / good)	40.0	46.0	53.0	46.0	67.0	32.0	45.0
Q2b General appearance / cleanliness of borough as a whole (very good / good)	18.0	23.0	25.0	51.0	29.0	21.0	22.0
NB reversed rating scale							
Q5_1 Abandoned vehicles in local area (big / fairly big problem)	2.0	2.0	8.0	6.0	0.5	3.0	3.0
Q5_2 Dog fouling in local area (big / fairly big problem)	44.0	45.0	53.0	36.0	32.0	45.0	41.0
Q5_3 Drug litter in local area (big / fairly big problem)	16.0	6.0	22.0	18.0	2.0	17.0	13.0
Q5_4 Fly posting in local area (big / fairly big problem)	3.0	9.0	18.0	13.0	4.0	8.0	9.0
Q5_5 Fly tipping in local area (big / fairly big problem)	31.0	30.0	52.0	36.0	21.0	22.0	31.0
Q5_6 Graffiti in local area (big / fairly big problem)	26.0	19.0	54.0	18.0	9.0	29.0	23.0
Q5_7 Household rubbish on the street & in gardens in local area (big / fairly big problem)	44.0	16.0	42.0	30.0	11.0	29.0	29.0
Q5_8 Litter in public areas in local area (big / fairly big problem)	57.0	58.0	69.0	49.0	35.0	55.0	52.0
Q5_9 Overhanging hedges & trees on footways or road in local area (big / fairly big problem)	35.0	17.0	32.0	31.0	26.0	28.0	28.0
Q5_10 Parking on verges in local area (big / fairly big problem)	31.0	30.0	33.0	47.0	40.0	35.0	36.0

CITIZENS' PANEL SURVEY - AUTUMN 2009

Key questions - Environmental Enforcement and Waste Collection

Panel Question	Bloxwich/ Blakenall, Birchills Leamore (134)	Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall- Shelfield (91)	Darlaston / Bentley (67)	St Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck (134)	Streetly / Pheasey / Aldridge / Walsall Wood (125)	Willenhall / Short Heath (96)	Walsall (all respondents 646)
NB reversed rating scale							
Q8_1 Satisfaction with the way we deal with Abandoned vehicles in the borough (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	45.0	37.0	28.0	32.0	29.0	33.0	34.0
Q8_2 Satisfaction with the way we deal with Dog fouling in the borough (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	26.0	25.0	19.0	16.0	18.0	19.0	23.0
Q8_3 Satisfaction with the way we deal with Drug litter in the borough	25.0	22.0	13.0	13.0	16.0	27.0	19.0
Q8_4 Satisfaction with the way we deal with Fly posting in the borough (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	31.0	28.0	22.0	22.0	17.0	18.0	26.0
Q8_5 Satisfaction with the way we deal with Fly tipping in the borough (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	25.0	27.0	16.0	17.0	18.0	23.0	20.0
Q8_6 Satisfaction with the way we deal with Graffiti in the borough (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	21.0	28.0	21.0	16.0	18.0	21.0	25.0
Q8_7 Satisfaction with the way we deal with Household rubbish on the street & in gardens in the borough (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	27.0	27.0	39.0	18.0	31.0	26.0	21.0
Q8_8 Satisfaction with the way we deal with Litter in public areas in the borough (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	21.0	23.0	22.0	17.0	27.0	23.0	18.0
Q8_9 Satisfaction with the way we deal with Overhanging hedges & trees on footways or road in the borough (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	36.0	34.0	22.0	15.0	20.0	28.0	20.0
Q8_10 Satisfaction with the way we deal with Parking on verges in the borough (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	25.0	21.0	12.0	12.0	13.0	22.0	22.0
Q19a Satisfaction with grey bin collection (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	86.0	95.0	94.0	94.0	94.0	89.0	95.0
Q19b Satisfaction with green bin collection (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	87.0	93.0	89.0	88.0	88.0	84.0	89.0
Q19c Satisfaction with brown bin collection (very satisfied / fairly satisfied)	81.0	88.0	57.0	73.0	86.0	68.0	92.0

XX% denotes 'better than borough average'

XX% denotes 'worse than borough average'

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Project W2R – Energy From Waste (efw) with Staffordshire County Council					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	<p>Project W2R is a 25 year contract with Staffordshire County Council to deliver rubbish (after recycling and composting) from Walsall to their PFI funded efw facility at Four Ashes in South Staffs.</p> <p>Sending waste to efw will help Walsall Council meet its statutory targets and avoid LATs penalties.</p> <p>The Project will secure long term disposal for Walsall.</p>					
Who does it affect?	The facility is located in South Staffs so the biggest impact will be on their residents. The project has involved consultation with residents who live close to the proposed facility.					
Who needs to be involved?	Waste officers, Finance Officers, Procurement Team, Legal support (currently outsourced to Pinsents).					
How can scrutiny add value?	By monitoring progress towards implementation of this key project.					
Timings	<p>Warwickshire County Council and Sandwell Council will also be delivering waste to the facility. Individual Councils will be looking to obtain Cabinet approval in May/June with all party sign up in June/July. Once the contract between Staffs County Council and the Preferred Bidder has been signed, this will trigger the process of project delivery which, over the next 12 months, will include the submission and determination of a detailed planning application.</p>					

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Performance Information	Walsall currently sends about 21% of waste to efw and 33% to landfill. W2R will reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill to 10-15%, depending on waste arisings, helping the Council to meet its statutory targets.
Corporate Priority	Improving the quality of our environment.

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Replacement of Damaged Bins through end of life					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	<p>Green wheeled bins were first introduced into Walsall in 1992/93 and now all approximately 17/18 years old. The manufacturers guarantee for the bins is 10 years and an increasing number of bins are now starting to split.</p> <p>The existing wheeled bin replacement policy requires the householder to pay for any replacement bin if the bin has not been damaged by council operatives.</p> <p>Therefore under the current policy householders would need to pay for the replacement of bins at the end of their life at a cost of approximately £18.50 each</p> <p>It may be necessary to amend the current replacement policy to replace a wheeled bin free of charge, if the bin is over 10 years old, the bin has not been neglected or wilfully damaged and a replacement is required due to end of life.</p>					
Who does it affect?	All residents that receive a waste collection via 140litre or 240litre wheeled bins.					
Who needs to be involved?	Waste Officers, Communication Team					
How can scrutiny add value?	By considering and commenting on the replacement proposal and advising Cabinet of their views					
Timings	It is proposed to take the amended replacement wheeled bin policy to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.					
Performance	The Council currently has circa 300,000 wheeled bins in use					

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Information	for the collection of various elements of waste collections. Around 120,000 are over 10 years old and an increased replacement budget will need to be found to deliver this amended policy.
Corporate Priority	Improving the quality of our environment

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Waste Strategy Review					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	<p>Walsall Council is a unitary authority and as such has responsibility for both waste collection and disposal within the Borough.</p> <p>In 2004 Walsall produced the first waste strategy detailing a strategic framework for the management of waste collected in the borough until 2024. The council is now in the process of updating and reviewing the strategy to reflect the council's progress, changes in legislation, government policy and guidance.</p>					
Who does it affect?	All residents that receive a waste collection.					
Who needs to be involved?	Waste Officers, Press Office					
How can scrutiny add value?	By monitoring progress towards implementation of this key project.					
Timings	It is proposed to take the revised draft waste strategy to Cabinet in July with a view to going out to public consultation in August/ September and producing a final published version in December/January (MH to confirm)					
Performance Information	<p>In 2004 Walsall had a combined recycling and composting rate of 11.4 %, this is now measured as part of NI 192 and in 2009/10 that rate has increased to 47.3% (draft figures).</p> <p>NI 191 measures the residual household waste per household. From a baseline of 850Kg in 2006/07 this has been reduced to 542Kg in 2009/10 (figures are currently draft). This out</p>					

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	<p>turn of 542Kg is against our LAA target of 739Kg and shows excellent performance.</p> <p>NI 193 measures municipal waste that is sent to landfill. The draft year end out-turn is 33.90% (09/10) of waste will be sent to landfill, the annual target for this measure is 45% and good performance is typified by a lower percentage, hence we gar this measure green against the 2009/10 target.</p>
Corporate Priority	Improving the quality of our environment

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Scrutiny of Local Area Agreement Targets							
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other Walsall Partnership		
Why is it important?	<p>The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is the delivery vehicle for the areas Sustainable Community Strategy. There are 31 targets in Walsall’s LAA. In previous years scrutiny and performance panels have taken an overview of the LAA indicators that fall into their specific remits. This year it is suggested that Members focus their attention on LAA that are below target indicators and consider the range of action that is taking place to achieve it.</p> <p>LAA indicators where performance could be improved for this panel include:</p> <p>Red:</p> <table><tr><td>NI186</td><td>Per Capita CO2 emissions in the Local Area</td></tr></table>						NI186	Per Capita CO2 emissions in the Local Area
NI186	Per Capita CO2 emissions in the Local Area							
Who does it affect?	All Walsall Residents							
Who needs to be involved?	Council, partners, highways agency, residents							
How can scrutiny add value?	Scrutiny can add value by ensuring achievement of and making suggestions to assist in achieving with the LAA which will have an affect on local area quality, the health of local residents and climate change.							
Timings	TBC							
Performance Information	A corrective action plan is currently being compiled for NI 186. This is a local indicator and as such a planned adoption of a 70 tonne reduction is currently being agreed. The extent to how this will be achieved is still in discussion and future progress will be updated. Part of the reason for the delay can be attributed to the lack of baseline data available. An original baseline was released on the CLG Hub but since the original							

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	release this data has been removed due to data quality issues. No new data has yet been made available for the reduction to be measured against.
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Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Recommendations made by the Previous Panel					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	<p>It is important that scrutiny and performance panels revisit previous recommendations that they have made to ensure that suitable action has taken place on the topics concerned.</p> <p>Previously considered topics that Members may wish to revisit include:</p> <p>Street Cleanliness Working Group Recommendations plus Street Cleansing Improvement Action Plan</p> <p>Integrated Transport Working Group Recommendations</p> <p>Report and analysis on enforcement action taken regarding dog fouling</p>					
Who does it affect?	All residents					
Who needs to be involved?	Varies by topic, typically council officers, partners and stakeholders.					
How can scrutiny add value?	Scrutiny can add value by maintaining momentum and progress in topics that they've previously considered.					
Timings	Members should consider a suitable time for sufficient activity to take place with their recommendations before reviewing progress.					
Corporate Priorities	<p>Improving the quality of our environment</p> <p>Developing strong and dynamic communities</p> <p>Reducing worklessness and creating opportunity and potential</p>					
Performance Information	<p>NI 195 measures the improved street and environmental cleanliness. This is split into four components that are litter, detritus, graffiti and fly-posting. Levels of litter, detritus and graffiti have all been reduced between 08/09 and 09/10</p>					

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	<p>showing excellent improvement. Litter reduced from 7% to 3%, detritus from 14% to 7% and graffiti from 7% to 4%. Fly-posting was already at a level measured at zero percent and thus has continued this trend, again showing excellent performance.</p> <p>NI 196 measures the improved street and environmental cleanliness – fly-tipping. This is measured on a grading system from one to four. Grade one is very effective, grade two is effective, grade three is good and grade four is poor. Walsall ended 2008/09 with a grade one (very effective) after decreasing the number of fly-tipping incidents from the previous year and increasing the number of enforcement actions against people. In 2009/10 Walsall has experienced a rise in the number of fly-tipping incidents and although we have increased the number of enforcement actions to try and combat this the highest grade we can achieve is three (good). This means performance has declined over the past year dropping from a grade one to a grade three.</p>
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Walsall Council

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Civic Centre,
Darwall Street,
Walsall, WS1 1TP
www.walsall.gov.uk

7 May 2010

FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” which the Executive (Cabinet) intend to take over the following 4 months. Preparation of the forward plan helps the Council to programme its work. The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The plan is updated each month with the period of the plan being rolled forward by one month and republished. The plan is available for public inspection at the Civic Centre Reception, Darwall Street, Walsall. Copies of the plan can be obtained from John Garner, Constitutional Services, Walsall MBC, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1TP, 01922 653500 or e-mail cabinetoffice@walsall.gov.uk. The forward plan can also be accessed from the Council’s website at www.walsall.gov.uk. The Cabinet are allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change. Please contact the above addressee if you wish to check the date for a particular item.

The Cabinet Members and their responsibilities are as follows: **(to be approved by the Leader of the Council)**

Leader of the Council

Deputy Leader and Regeneration

Business support services

Children’s services

Communities and partnerships

Environment

Finance and personnel

Leisure and culture

Social care, health and housing

Transport

The Cabinet agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet. The papers can be seen at First Stop Shop at the Civic Centre, Walsall. The papers are also available on the Council’s website referred to above shortly before the meeting. Background papers are listed on each report submitted to the Cabinet and members of the public are entitled to see these documents unless they are confidential. The report also contains the name and telephone number of a contact officer. These details can also be found in the forward plan.

Meetings of the Cabinet are open to the public and take place in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall on a monthly basis. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are confidential and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting.

The forward plan does not list all decisions which have to be taken by the Council only “key decisions” which are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. The Council’s Constitution defines a key decision as an executive decision which is likely:

- “(1) to result in the Council in incurring expenditure which exceeds that included in any approved revenue or capital budget or the limits set out within an approved borrowing or investment strategy and was not the subject of a specific grant;
- (2) to result in the Council incurring expenditure, or the making of savings, which are equivalent to or more than 5% of any approved revenue budget or 10% of any capital budget, whichever is the lower, subject to a de minimus level of £50,000;
- (3) to be significant in terms of its direct effects on communities in an area comprising two or more wards in the Borough.”

Dates of Cabinet meetings for 2010/2011 (To be approved at Adjourned Council meeting on 26 May 2010)

2010

16 June
14 July
15 September
13 October
17 November
15 December

2011

12 January
9 February
16 March
13 April

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2010 (7.5.10)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Key decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
86/09 (9.11.09)	New Horizons Community Enterprise Walsall's New Deal for Communities end 31.3.2011. The Department for Communities and Local Government are encouraging New Deal partnerships to develop succession strategies beyond the end of the programme. As accountable body the Council is required by the DCLG to formally approve the succession strategy.	Cabinet	Paul Rowlands 712858	New Horizons Community Enterprise, Department for Communities and Local Government, Government Office, West Midlands	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
28/09 (8.5.09)	Walsall Gigaport – To consider and agree the principles of the partnership agreement with Advantage West Midlands for the delivery of the Gigaport, to advise on the bid to AWM for project, funding, to endorse, in principle, the use of compulsory purchase powers where necessary, to agree the process for the procurement of a development partner and the identification of a delivery model	Cabinet	Paul Nicholson 652489 Richard Chadwick 652576	Walsall Regeneration Company	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
10/10 (8.2.10)	Building Schools for the Future – approve the strategy for change part 2 prior to submission to Partnership for Schools. The document sets out a clear, robust and resourced plan to deliver educational transformation across the secondary school estate in Walsall.	Cabinet	Alison Butcher 655489	Schools, partners, scrutiny members, trade unions, community representatives	Regeneration portfolio Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010

32/10 (7.5.10)	Regional Housing Pot – approve programme of projects to be funded in 2010/11 and delegate the Executive Director in consultation with the portfolio holder authority to approve any amendments to the programme during the year to maximise the Regional Housing Pot	Cabinet	Andrea Potts 652633	Legal services, finance	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
33/10 (7.5.10)	Housing Renewal Assistance – seek enders to deliver capital grant and other assistance projects in line with the Housing Renewal Assistance policy and delegate to the Executive Director, Regeneration authority to accept tenders	Cabinet	Andrea Potts 652633	Audit, procurement, legal, finance	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
34/10 (7.5.10)	Redevelopment of the Old Square, Walsall – to agree to the disposal of the Council's interests and in principle approval, to use compulsory purchase powers to facilitate the phased redevelopment of the Old Square area.	Cabinet	Richard Chadwick 652576	Walsall Regeneration Company	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
22/10 (31.3.10)	Primary Strategy – transforming learning – to seek approval on the primary strategy which will outline the strategic direction of primary education for 2009-2012	Cabinet	Sue Wedgwood, Walsall Children's Services Serco 686369	Finance, legal, HR and Ward Councillors	Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010
23/10 (31.3.10)	Education capital programme – to seek permission to progress further projects	Cabinet	Susan Lupton, Walsall Children's Services Serco 686231	Finance, legal, HR, ward Councillors	Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010
35/10 (7.5.10)	Early Years – Quality access childcare grant – to seek approval of the use of the Early Years Childcare grant	Cabinet	Carol Boughton Walsall Children's Services Serco 686420	Finance, legal, HR, ward Councillors	Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010

90/09 (9.11.09)	Project W2R – provision of energy from waste capacity from Staffordshire County Council – To consider the affordability of the W2R contract over the life time of the project	Cabinet	Keith Stone 652100	Legal, procurement, finance, Staffordshire County Council	Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010
30/10 (7.5.10)	Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre – consider progress by schools to buy into proposed additional bed space and whether there is a need to commit significant expenditure to modernise the Top Lodge	Cabinet	Chris Holliday 650339 Ben Percival 605500	Bryntysilio trustees, Primary School Head Teachers Forum, Property Services	Leisure and culture portfolio	16 June 2010
31/10 (7.5.10)	Willenhall Leisure Centre – update on progress to reduce costs and increase income and to make a decision on the future of the centre	Cabinet	Chris Holliday 650339 Ben Percival 605500	Ward Councillors, Project Reference Group, Property Services	Leisure and cultur portfolio	16 June 2010
16/10 (8.2.10)	Walsall Partnership Programmes and Resources – approval of proposed funding allocations recommended by Walsall Partnership thematic groups to deliver the Local Area Agreement and national indicator set	Cabinet	Jo Lowndes	Council and partners	Leader of the Council	14 July 2010
8/10 (8.2.10)	Designation of Jane Lane and Castle Schools – to seek permission for changes in designations of Jane Lane and Castle Schools	Cabinet	Connie Mergen, Walsall Children's Services, Serco 686232	Finance, legal, HR and ward Councillors	Regeneration portfolio	14 July 2010
25/10 (31.3.10)	Education capital programme – to seek permission to progress further projects	Cabinet	Susan Lupton, Walsall Children's Services Serco 686231	Finance, legal, HR, ward Councillors	Children's services portfolio	14 July 2010
36/10 (7.5.10)	Waste Strategy review – to approve the draft waste strategy prior to going out to public consultation	Cabinet1	Keith Stone 653301	Approval required for public consultation	Environment portfolio	14 July 2010

37.10 (7.5.10)	Replacement wheelie bins – implementation of charging policy for replacement bins that have come to end of their natural life	Cabinet	Dave Roberts 653957	Leisure services, finance, procurement	Environment portfolio	14 July 2010
58/09 (7.8.09)	Corporate Asset Management 2009-2014 – approval of plan which sets out the approach to the strategic management of the Council's property portfolio	Cabinet	Steve Law 652075	Executive Directors, Corporate Property Group	Regeneration portfolio	15 September 2010
38/10 (7.5.10)	Integrated Youth capital strategy and youth offer – approval of strategy and related implementation plan	Cabinet	Alan Michell	Young people, stakeholders (including third sector)	Children's services portfolio	15 September 2010
27/10 (8.3.10)	Community equipment service – To approve the transformation of the service from the current equipment store system to a retail model for small items of equipment	Cabinet	Andy Rust	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Social care, health and housing portfolio	15 September 2010
28/10 (31.3.10)	Frail elderly pathway – to approve changes in working practice within in-house home care, to ensure that intermediate care services can be provided to people in their own homes that more effectively prevents avoidable hospital admissions to the Manor	Cabinet	Andy Rust	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Social care, health and housing portfolio	15 September 2010
29/10 (31.3.10)	Tender for Domiciliary care – to change procurement arrangements for independent homecare services from the current block contract to framework agreements so that the Council is better placed to support individuals to choose their own service provider in line with government policy as set out in "Putting People First".	Cabinet	Andy Rust	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Social care, health and housing portfolio	15 September 2010

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
FROM OCTOBER 2010**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Key decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
(7.5.10)	Contracts for treatment, recovery and final disposal of municipal waste – award of contract for waste disposal – medium term arrangements, 5 year contract to various contractors	Cabinet	Dave Roberts 653957	Internal	Environment portfolio	December 2010