



**Walsall Council**

# **Scrutiny Overview Committee**

Meeting to be held on: **24 June 2021 at 6.00 P.M.**

Meeting to be held via: **Council Chamber and Microsoft Teams**

Public access to meeting via: <https://youtu.be/GNzokqOw8r0>

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Chair: Councillor Murray  
Vice Chair: Councillor Nawaz

Councillor Ali  
Councillor P. Bott  
Councillor Harrison  
Councillor Hicken  
Councillor K Hussain  
Councillor Jeavons  
Councillor Rasab  
Councillor Samra  
Councillor Singh-Sohal

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL:**

Councillor Bird

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:**

All

## ITEMS FOR BUSINESS

1.	<p><b>Apologies</b> To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Substitutions</b> To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Declarations of interest and party whip</b> To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)</b> To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda (if applicable).</p>	
5.	<p><b>Minutes</b> To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 15 April 2021.</p>	<u>Enclosed</u>
6.	<p><b>Update on priorities from Leader and Portfolio Holders</b> To receive presentations from the Leader, Deputy Leader (Regeneration), Deputy Leader (Resilient Communities) and Portfolio Holder for Internal Services on priorities within their portfolios.</p>	<u>Verbal</u>
7.	<p><b>Areas of Focus</b> For the Committee to consider and agree its areas of focus for the municipal year. This will include receiving a presentation on services within the remit of the committee and the Forward Plans for Walsall Council and the Black Country Executive Committee.</p>	<u>Enclosed and Verbal</u>
8.	<p><b>Scrutiny Survey</b> To give Members the opportunity to comment on a draft scrutiny survey of all elected members.</p>	<u>Enclosed</u>
9.	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> To note that the date of the next meeting will be 28 September 2021.</p>	

## The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

### Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests which are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 are the interests specified in the second column of the following:

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of a member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority;</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:</p> <p>(a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

## **Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)**

### **Access to information: Exempt information**

#### **Part 1**

#### **Descriptions of exempt information: England**

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
  - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee when considering flood risk management functions which:
  - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
  - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
  - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

## **SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

**Thursday 15 April 2021 at 6.00 pm**

**Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams**

Held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; and conducted according to the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings and those set out in the Council's Constitution.

**Committee Members present:** Councillor J. Murray (Chair)  
Councillor A. Nawaz  
Councillor S. Ditta  
Councillor K. Ferguson  
Councillor L. Harrison  
Councillor K. Hussain  
Councillor S. Coughlan  
Councillor W. Rasab  
Councillor S. Samra  
Councillor I. Shires  
Councillor M. Statham

**Portfolio Holders present:** Councillor M. Bird - Leader  
Councillor A. Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration  
Councillor G. Perry – Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities  
Councillor. O. Butler – Clean and Green  
Councillor B. Chatta – Personnel and Business Support  
Councillor S. Craddock – Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor R. Martin – Adult Social Care  
Councillor C. Towe – Education & Skills

**Officers present:** Deborah Hindson - Executive Director – Resources & Transformation  
Stephen Gunther – Director of Public Health  
Paul Gordon – Director of Resilient Communities  
Michele Leith – Interim Director of HR, OD and Administration  
Alison Ives – Head of Planning & Building Control  
Brian Fitzgerald – Consultation & Equalities Officer  
Geraint Griffiths-Dale – Walsall Managing Director, Black Country and West Birmingham CCGs  
Chief Superintendent Andy Parsons – West Midlands Police  
Craig Goodall - Principal Democratic Services Officer

**Other Member present:** Councillor H. Bashir

## **WELCOME**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining the rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held. He also directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers, which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

Committee Members confirmed that they could see and hear the proceedings.

Following these remarks, the Chair expressed his condolences to the Royal family while he paid tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh who had passed away on 9 April 2021.

## **308/21 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jeavons.

## **309/21 SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillor Coughlan substituted for Councillor Jeavons.

## **310/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

Councillor Nawaz declared a personal interest in item 314/21 'Policing in Walsall'.

## **311/21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 (AS AMENDED)**

There were no items of business that required the exclusion of the public.

## **312/21 MINUTES**

Item 306/21 'Call-in of Cabinet Decisions: 'Options for a transit site within Walsall' under the section regarding the contribution received from Valerie Vaz MP, Councillor Shires asked for it be added that the Deputy Leader for Regeneration's Register of Interest Form was out of date. Councillor M Statham also asked that it be recorded that Valerie Vaz did not 'question' the interest form rather she stated it as a matter of fact that the Deputy Leader for Regeneration worked for Eddie Hughes MP.

**Resolved** (by roll call):

**That the Minutes, as amended, of the meetings held on 2 February 2021 and 1 March 2021, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.**

## **313/21 COVID-19 UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Covid-19 management response and vaccination programme.

The Portfolio Holder (Health and Wellbeing) reported that cases were currently 38 per 100,000. In the over 60s the rate was 15 cases per 100,000 people. The lower case rate was thought to be linked to the higher vaccination rates in that cohort. He noted that 147 people were in hospital and that there had been one death in the last week. Regarding the vaccine, he noted the rollout to younger age groups and expressed concerns that the AstraZeneca vaccine was being linked to potential very rare side effects. He highlighted that the prevention methods remained important and encouraged the uptake of rapid lateral flow tests.

Following questions, the Portfolio Holder highlighted targeting that was taking place to improve the uptake of vaccines in hard to reach groups. He also reported that the effectiveness of lateral flow tests was dependent on a good sample being provided. A PCR test was required to confirm a positive lateral flow test result.

The Walsall Managing Director, Black Country and West Birmingham CCGs, explained that all over 50s had been offered a vaccination. 90-95% of over 60s and 86% of over 50s had received a vaccination. Work continued to invite those who had not yet had a vaccine to come forward.

He noted that the Saddlers Centre vaccine centre had currently scaled back its vaccine delivery but was expected to operate at higher capacities once younger cohorts were invited for vaccinations.

Campaigns were taking place to tackle hard to reach groups, particularly for BAME groups. Pop up clinics were being held in hesitancy areas and engagement was taking place with faith leaders. These campaigns were having success. The Director of Public Health added that uptake was higher in South Asian communities compared to the black community. Occupation was also a factor that appeared to be affecting uptake, for example Domiciliary Care Workers. Reasons for hesitancy included fears that it could affect fertility, vegan and vegetarianism and more recently blood clot fears. He noted that younger cohorts could have increased vaccine hesitancy compared to the older groups where take up was very high.

In the main people were taking their second vaccinations when offered but there were some missed appointments.

**Resolved** (by assent):

**That the report be noted.**

### **314/21 POLICING IN WALSALL**

The Committee discussed policing in Walsall with Chief Superintendent (CS) Andy Parsons, Walsall Commander. CS Parsons responded to questions submitted by the committee.

Following a question CS Parsons explained that during the pandemic the vast majority of his staff had continued to attend the office and provide frontline service to local residents. He was proud of the commitment that staff had shown in delivering this. He was committed to neighbourhood policing. He noted that not all services provided by the police required a fast response. Many issues reported to the Police could not be solved by them alone.

#### *Roads and vehicles*

CS Parsons reported that a broad response was required to tackle issues with off road bikes in the Willenhall area but noted points made about the impact that increased police patrols could have.

With regard to speeding, he noted that the majority of speeding was not witnessed by Police. Prevention was the most effective method of reducing this but he accepted that deterrents were required. He noted Operation Snap and Speedwatch as successful community tools to tackle speeding. He noted the need to prioritise the focus of Police but challenges in meeting the needs of the community regarding speeding could not be met by police enforcement alone.

#### *Anti-social behaviour (ASB)*

CS Parson noted that he was not aware of issues reported in Frederick Street and requested further details.

He responded to a question regarding ASB in Pelsall. He explained he was aware of concerns within the community and requested communities to continue to report issues so they could build an accurate picture of what was taking place. He added that the restarting the local StreetWatch scheme could be of assistance.

Following a follow up question he noted that there would be days when the neighbourhood teams were off duty, however, there would be other officers available to respond to issues.

#### *Covid*

It was reported that 300 fixed penalty notices had been issued for Covid related offences.

The Police would continue to enforce Covid regulations but as the borough emerged out of the pandemic, a key priority was to reduce violence in under 25s and domestic settings. A further priority was exploitation and reducing crime in Walsall Town Centre and Willenhall.

#### *Violent Crime*

CS Parsons explained that investigations were still ongoing into serious incidents that had taken place in the Palfrey and Delves area through Operation Guardian. He noted that what could often be described a gang was not always an organised criminal

group. He felt it was important to avoid young people being exploited but shared the concerns expressed and advised investigations would continue.

He noted the need to have the confidence of local communities for evidence to bring people to justice and proceed with successful prosecutions.

The Police had a 15-minute response time for incidents.

#### *Taxi and delivery driver safety*

CS Parsons encouraged taxi and delivery drivers to use dash cams to improve their safety. He noted that he had asked the investigation's unit to look into the area discussed at the meeting. During the discussion on this question, Councillor Nawaz declared an interest as he worked as a delivery driver.

CS Parsons noted that an extra 15 Police Constables were to join the Walsall force this year and a further five in 2022.

#### **Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

#### **315/21 SECTION 106 PLANNING OBLIGATIONS**

The Head of Planning and Building Control presented the report noting the referral of the issue from Planning Committee. She highlighted what Section (s) 106 money was, how it was received and how contributions were calculated. It was the expectation that elected Members were engaged in the spending of s106 money. The Council currently had £3.4m of s106 contributions with 51% of that allocated to projects.

A number of Members at the meeting noted that elected Members were not engaged or consulted on the spending of s106 contributions as described. They asked that this be improved. Following a question, it was noted that s106 contributions toward affordable housing were being used to buy vacant properties in the borough and bring them back into use.

#### **Resolved:**

**That:**

- 1. the Committee notes the report on infrastructure secured through S106 Planning Obligations during the period from the start of Q3 in 2019/20 (October – December 2019) to the end of Q4 2019/20 (January – March 2020) including details of committed/spent funding and infrastructure secured.**
- 2. the Committee endorses the procedure for securing necessary infrastructure through S106 Planning Obligations and the role of Members in the process.**

- 3. the Committee recommends that a process be developed where ward members are consulted on s106 allocation, justification and value for money.**

### 316/21 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

The Committee considered the Council's responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

The Portfolio Holder (Personnel and Business Support) highlighted that this had been a priority area for her to drive forward. She noted the benefits that diversity brought to the Council. She highlighted the PSED report and the achievements contained within it.

Following a question, the Portfolio Holder reassured Members that equality was embedded within the Council's recruitment processes. With regard to senior level recruitment, Members sought to understand why no Council Senior Managers were from a BAME background. It was noted that there had recently been recruitment to a number of posts at this level. The Portfolio Holder explained that this was related to the availability of individuals in the job market at the time, which meant that sometimes applications from people of BAME backgrounds could be limited despite efforts to attract them. The development of internal candidates to reduce the reliance on the external market place was going to be a priority moving forward.

The Interim Director of HR, OD and Administration added that candidates from BAME backgrounds were limited during the recent senior manager recruitment campaign. Therefore she wanted to work to understand why this was to ensure that Walsall was seen as a place of belonging. She added that blind recruitment was in place but potentially this could be increased. Previous staff surveys had identified issues that she was going to review and understand what had been done to progress actions.

Whilst the availability of individuals was noted the view was expressed that recruitment could be targeted to improve representation of the local community from BAME or even socio-economic backgrounds. A Member recounted her perception of the council workforce when she was first elected and reported stories from BAME staff.

A Member noted the PSED highlighted a lot of good work but the Council workforce did not reflect the local community. A number of Members recalled previous senior managers who were from a BAME background. Other Members noted that this was a complex area and it was suggested that a working group be established in the new municipal year to look into this issue in detail and make recommendations.

#### **Resolved:**

**That a working group be established to look at and develop policy on diversity in the workforce and how it can be improved to reflect our diverse communities including a review of previous work that has taken place.**

### 317/21 SCRUTINY GOOD PRACTICE AND BENCHMARKING

The Principal Democratic Services Officer presented a report highlighting scrutiny good practice and the findings from recent benchmarking exercise. Members were

informed of the pre-requisites for scrutiny, different models that could be implemented, good practice recommendations and case studies of ineffective scrutiny.

Members noted that there was not a consensus nationally on good scrutiny and supported the proposal to undertake a survey of all elected members in the new municipal year to understand how scrutiny in Walsall could be further improved.

**Resolved:**

**That:**

- 1. a Member survey on how to improve the scrutiny process be undertaken in the new municipal year, and;**
- 2. the outcome of this survey be reported to the Scrutiny Overview Committee.**

#### **318/21 FEEDBACK FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The meeting received feedback from recent meetings of the remaining Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Members thanked Officers for their support across all Committees during the last municipal year.

**Resolved:**

**That the report be noted.**

#### **319/21 AREAS OF FOCUS**

The Committee considered its work programme and the Forward Plans of Walsall Council and the Black Country Joint Executive Committee.

During the item, a Member submitted a petition calling for Walsall Council to explore options for compulsory purchasing land between Riverpoint Estate and the Sewage Works.

**Resolved (by assent):**

**That the Areas of Focus and Forward Plan be noted.**

#### **320/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be agreed at Annual Council in May.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 9.42 p.m.

Chair.....

Date.....

**24 June 2021**

**Areas of focus for 2021/22**

**Ward(s)**                      All

**Portfolios:** Cllr. M. Bird - Leader  
                  Cllr Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration  
                  Cllr Perry – Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities  
                  Cllr Statham – Internal Services

**Report:**

The purpose of this item is to provide relevant background information for Members so that the Committee's areas of focus can be agreed for 2021/22.

It is important for Members to consider the wide range of potential issues within their remit and which of these they could consider during the year.

When agreeing items, it is important that consideration is given to the level of value the Committee could add taking into account the tools and performance measures available to support them in their work.

**Remit**

Following Annual Council, the remit of the Committee has been agreed as follows:

*All aspects and general services related to Council resources and transformation.*

*The Scrutiny Overview Committee shall:*

- *Take an overarching view on strategic plans and services, including:*
  - *Delivery of the Corporate Plan and its priorities*
  - *The Council transformation programme*
  - *Corporate finances*
  
- *Scrutinise performance in relation to the following Corporate Plan priorities:*
  - *Internal focus – all council services are efficient and effective.*
  - *Communities are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and community cohesion.*
  
- *Scrutinise the responsible authorities in terms of how they are tackling*

*crime and disorder for the benefit of the local communities (no less than once a year) as required by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 which came into force for local authorities in England on 30 April 2009;*

*The Scrutiny Overview Committee shall:*

- *Lead on the planning and co-ordination of the programme of activities and in depth studies of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees ;*
- *Hold discussions with Portfolio holders over matters such as pre-decision Scrutiny and the programme of policy reviews;*
- *Act as a vehicle of mutual learning.*

A presentation will be provided at the meeting providing more detail about the Committee's services that fall within the committee's remit.

### **Items recommended from previous year**

The following items were recommended for consideration by the committee in the last municipal year:

#### **Scrutiny survey**

Getting the basics right member communication review

Covid-19 rates and vaccination updates

Establish a working group to develop policy on diversity in the workforce and how it can be improved to reflect the area's diverse communities

### **Budget scrutiny**

Monitoring the financial performance of the Council is a valuable and important task that Scrutiny Committees are ideally placed to perform. It assists Members in identifying areas of operation that are underperforming that may require scrutiny.

It is suggested that all Scrutiny Committees consider the financial outturn and quarter 2 updates at a formal meeting. It is also suggested that quarter 1 and quarter 3 updates be circulated to Members outside of a formal meeting for information. Subject to the caveat that Members can request the reports to come to a Committee meeting if they wish, and that any significant budget pressures or changes will be raised with the Chair, to discuss the issue being formally reported to a Committee meeting.

### **Council performance**

The Council's Corporate Plan, as agreed by the Council, sets the strategic direction for the authority by reference to five priorities. Each priority has a number of measures allocated to it. Scrutiny committees may wish to consider monitoring progress against the measures that sit within their remit. It is the role of the Scrutiny Overview Committee to take an overarching view of performance against all measures included in the Corporate Plan.

## **Pre-scrutiny**

A copy of the Forward Plans of key decisions from Walsall Council's Cabinet and the Black Country Joint Executive Committee are attached at Appendix 2 to this report. Updates of these will be provided to Committees at subsequent meetings. Members should consider the forthcoming decisions and consider if there are any issues that they may wish to review and seek to influence prior to the Cabinet making a decision on these matters.

## **Working Groups**

A working group is an effective method for Members of Scrutiny Committees to consider an issue in depth over a number of months and to produce a final report and recommendations to the Committee. In due course the report and recommendations can be considered by the Cabinet and/or Council. The challenge for Members is selecting the right topic at the right time and to provide the working group with an achievable brief. Resource wise it is recommended that only one working group be established at a time.

## **Prioritisation**

The remit of the Committee is very broad and the range of issues that could be considered during the year is vast. The challenge that Members face is in prioritising those issues that are the most important whilst still leaving sufficient capacity to address other issues that may arise during the year. To assist Members to manage the broad topics available, it is important that alternative methods of being informed and updated, away from Committee meetings, are used effectively. For example, Members could request briefing notes on particular topics thereby helping to create additional capacity for more substantial items at Committee meetings.

In terms of scheduling items, it is important that an agenda includes a manageable amount of business to enable the Committee to focus on topics in depth rather than to carry out superficial treatment that may require the Committee to revisit the topic at a later date.

## **Recommendations:**

**That Members consider the range of issues within this report and formulate and agree a work programme for the year.**

### **Contact Officer:**

Craig Goodall

Principal Democratic Services Officer

 01922 654765

 [craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk)





## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Council House,  
Lichfield Street,  
Walsall, WS1 1TW**  
[www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk)

**7 June 2021**

## FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive (Cabinet). Also included on the plan are other decisions to be taken by the Cabinet (“non-key decisions”). 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. Copies of the plan can be obtained from Democratic Services, Walsall MBC, Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW [helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk) and can also be accessed from the Council’s website at [www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk). The Cabinet is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan, however, a notice will be included on the agenda for the relevant Cabinet meeting which explains the reasons why.

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 agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet on the Council’s website. 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. 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 will show where this is intended and the reason why the reports are confidential. Enquiries regarding these reasons should be directed to Democratic Services ([helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk)).

“Key decisions” are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. With regard to key decisions the Council’s Constitution states:

- (1) A key decision is:
  - (i) any decision in relation to an executive function which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the

making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates or

(ii) any decision that is likely to have significant impact on two or more wards within the borough.

(2) The threshold for “significant” expenditure/savings is £250,000.

(3) A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS  
JULY to OCTOBER 2021 (7.6.21)**

1 7	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	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
32/21 (10.5.21)	<b>Black Country Plan</b> – to seek approval for Black Country Plan 8 week consultation between August-September 2021	Cabinet  Key Decision	Alison Ives 07385 348298 <a href="mailto:alison.ives@walsall.gov.uk">alison.ives@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Public  Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	Special meeting  7 July 2021
23/21 (8.3.21)	<b>Corporate Financial Performance 2021/22, Covid-19 update and Budget Framework 2022/23 to 2024/25</b> – To report the financial position based on 2 months to May 2021, impact of Covid-19, and the budget framework for 2022/23 to	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 <a href="mailto:Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Councillor Bird	21 July 2021

	2024/25.					
36/21 (7.6.21)	<b>Refreshed Performance Management Framework:</b> The report presents the refreshed Performance Management Framework which is part of the Council's governance arrangements along with feedback from Audit Committee following their consideration of the robustness of the framework	Cabinet  Non key decision	Helen Dudson <a href="mailto:Helen.dudson@walsall.gov.uk">Helen.dudson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	21 July 2021
13/21 (8.3.21)	<b>Restart Scheme:</b> To note an overview of the new government Restart scheme and accept a sub-contract with the approved DWP Tier 1 Prime Provider for the Central West region.	Cabinet  Key decision	Jane Kaur-Gill <a href="mailto:Jane.kaur-gill@walsall.gov.uk">Jane.kaur-gill@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Councillor Andrew	21 July 2021
14/21 (8.3.21)	<b>Willenhall Masterplan: Strategic Land Acquisitions</b> – in principle approval for the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers. <i>Contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person</i>	Cabinet  Key decision- Private session	Willenhall Masterplan: Strategic Land Acquisitions.  <a href="mailto:Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk">Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Councillor Andrew	21 July 2021
24/21 (8.3.21)	<b>Phoenix 10 Project</b> To seek authority for the award of a contract for Environmental Impairment Liability Insurance to support delivery of the project.  <i>Contains commercially sensitive information</i>	Cabinet  Key decision  private session	Joel Maybury <a href="mailto:Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk">Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Councillor Andrew	21 July 2021

33/21 (10.5.21)	<b>Civil Traffic Enforcement contract</b> To recommend and award the Civil Traffic Enforcement Contract following the completion of the procurement process.	Cabinet  Key decision	Glynnis Jeavons  <a href="mailto:Glynnis.jeavons@walsall.gov.uk">Glynnis.jeavons@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	21 July 2021
34/21 (10.5.21)	<b>Northgate Revenues and Benefits Processing system contract renewal -</b> Approve the extension of the contract with Northgate to provide a Revenues and Benefits Software Service.	Cabinet  Key decision	Jeanette Hitchcock  <a href="mailto:Jeanette.hitchcock@walsall.gov.uk">Jeanette.hitchcock@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	21 July 2021
37/21 (7.6.21)	<b>Sale of Council land in Blakenall:</b> To seek approval to the freehold disposal of Council land in Blakenall  <i>Contains commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet  Key Decision  Private session	Nick Ford, Team Leader – Asset Management  <a href="mailto:Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk">Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	21 July 2021
43/21	<b>Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LADS) Housing Retro-fit:</b> To appoint a contractor for this service.	Cabinet  Key decision	David Lockwood  <a href="mailto:David.lockwood@walsall.gov.uk">David.lockwood@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Butler	21 July 2021
38/21 (7.6.21)	<b>Liquid fuel supply Contract:</b> To approve the award of a contract for the Council's vehicle fuel and heating oil supply  <i>Contains commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet  Key Decision  Private Session	Den Edwards  <a href="mailto:Den.edwards@walsall.gov.uk">Den.edwards@walsall.gov.uk</a> Alan Bowley  <a href="mailto:Alan.bowley@walsall.gov.uk">Alan.bowley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Butler	21 July 2021
42/21 7.6.21	<b>Shared Lives payment remodelling:</b> To update members on the outcomes	Cabinet	Jeanette Knapper  <a href="mailto:Jeanette.knapper@walsall.gov.uk">Jeanette.knapper@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Shared Lives Carers, Service	Councillor Martin	21 July 2021

	from Consultation and seek approval to proceed based on the outcomes and other supporting information	Key Decision	<a href="mailto:all.gov.uk">all.gov.uk</a> Kirpal Bilkhu <a href="mailto:Kirpal.bilkhu@walsall.gov.uk">Kirpal.bilkhu@walsall.gov.uk</a> Nigel Imber <a href="mailto:Nigel.imber@walsall.gov.uk">Nigel.imber@walsall.gov.uk</a>	users and families  Internal services		
39/21 (7.6.21)	<b>Walsall Domestic Abuse Strategy:</b> To agree the Strategy 2021 to comply with the new domestic Abuse Act 2020	Cabinet  Key Decision	Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021 Domestic Abuse Need Assessment 2021 Domestic Abuse Act 2020  Ian Billham Community Safety <a href="mailto:Ian.billham@walsall.gov.uk">Ian.billham@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Safer Walsall Partnership  Internal Services	Councillor Perry	21 July 2021
28/21 (10.5.21)	<b>Domestic Abuse:</b> To approve the new service delivery model and accordingly agree to a procurement exercise to enable the provision of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• effective support to victims of domestic abuse and their children</li> <li>• Sufficient and effective safe accommodation to victims of Domestic Abuse</li> </ul> as per the Councils' duty as outlined in the Domestic Abuse Bill and need identified through the Walsall Safer partnership	Cabinet  Key decision	Domestic Abuse Needs Analysis  Neil Hollyhead <a href="mailto:Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk">Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk</a>  Isabel Vanderheeren <a href="mailto:Isabel.vanderheeren@walsall.gov.uk">Isabel.vanderheeren@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Safer Walsall Partnership  Internal Services	Councillor Andrew  Councillor Wilson	21 July 2021

	Domestic Abuse Strategic Needs Assessment.					
40/21 (7.6.21)	<b>Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education:</b> There is a legal requirement to review/revise the Agreed Syllabus every five years. Cabinet is asked to endorse the Agreed Syllabus to ensure that the teaching of RE in schools is relevant and appropriate and recommend the Syllabus to Council for approval.	Cabinet Non-Key  Council	Nick Perks <a href="mailto:Nick.perks@walsall.gov.uk">Nick.perks@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services  Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	Councillor Towe	21 July 2021
35/21 (10.5.21)	<b>Corporate Plan 2021/22 - Quarter 1 Performance:</b> To note the approach to the five priorities	Cabinet  Non key	Stephen Gunther <a href="mailto:Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk">Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal – Directors’ Group	Councillor Bird	8 September 2021
22/21 (8.3.21)	<b>Walsall Council Housing Allocations Policy:</b> To update the policy which sets the principles for the allocation of affordable housing	Cabinet  Key decision	Neil Hollyhead 07943 500394 <a href="mailto:Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk">Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Public, Housing Associations, Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	8 September 2021
41/21 (7.6.21)	<b>Intermediate Care Service (ICS) Review:</b> to receive the outcome of the review and approve the Extension of the existing Transitional Bed contract	Cabinet  Key decision	Tracy Simcox <a href="mailto:Tracy.simcox@walsall.gov.uk">Tracy.simcox@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Martin	20 October 2021

**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Published up to October 2021 (for publication 07/06/2021)**

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
06/04/2021	Constitution and timetable of meetings 2021/22	<p>Approve the timetable of meetings for 2021/22.</p> <p>Approve the amendments to the BCJC Constitution and Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Approve the amendments to the BCJC Working Protocols.</p>	<p>Helen Paterson  <a href="mailto:ChiefExecutive@walsall.gov.uk">ChiefExecutive@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Dudley MBC  Sandwell MBC  Walsall MBC  City of  Wolverhampton  Council</p>	23/06/2021
04/01/2021	Black Country LEP Assurance Framework	Approval of the revised Black Country LEP Assurance Framework, included as an interactive Attachment 1 to the report.	<p>Papers TBC – Simon Neilson  <a href="mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk">Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Walsall Council	23/06/2021
10/05/2021	IT Digital Skills and Innovation	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with PTP Ltd, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the IT Digital Skills and Innovation project with delivery to continue up to the 2024/25 financial year.	<p>Papers TBC – Simon Neilson  <a href="mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk">Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Walsall Council	23/06/2021
10/05/2021	Black Country Digital Strategy	Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd to develop Black Country Digital Strategy, initially funded from within the Growing Places revenue budget, and where applicable and eligible, recharged to the Black Country Digital Fund.	<p>Papers TBC – Simon Neilson  <a href="mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk">Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Walsall Council	23/06/2021
10/05/2021	<p>Local Growth Fund – Growth Deal Programme</p> <p>Approval of the 2020/21 Programme Spend</p>	Approval of the year end position of the Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all changes to the Programme (Funding and Outputs) throughout the year and, to maximise the 2020/21 Growth Deal allocation expenditure, requests approval for various changes detailed in Attachment 1 of the report.	<p>Papers TBC – Simon Neilson  <a href="mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk">Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a></p>	Walsall Council	23/06/2021

**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**  
**Published up to October 2021 (for publication 07/06/2021)**

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
		<p>Approval of the Very Light Rail Test Track project expenditure in 2020/21 (currently funded from Growth Deal) is charged to the Getting Building Fund, to utilise unspent 2020/21 budgets allocated to the Very Light Rail National Innovation Centre project.</p> <p>Approval of the Growing Places Fund (utilised to over-programme Growth Deal) is used to fund the Very Light Rail National Innovation Centre project costs in 2021/22, as the variance represents slippage rather than underspend. This will ensure that the Getting Building funds allocated to the Black Country in 2020/21 are fully utilised.</p>			
10/05/2021	Getting Building Fund – Programme Approval of the 2020/21 Programme Spend	<p>Approval of the current position of the Getting Building Fund Projects, reflecting all changes to the programme throughout the year and, to maximise the 2020/21 Getting Building Fund allocation expenditure.</p> <p>Approval of the Very Light Rail Test Track project expenditure incurred in 2020/21 on the Local Growth Fund (LGF) programme can be used to claim any programme underspend to ensure that the Getting Building fund allocated to the Black Country in 2020/21 is fully utilised.</p>	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk">Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	23/06/2021

**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Published up to October 2021 (for publication 07/06/2021)**

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
10/05/2021	Land and Property Investment Fund  Programme Approval of the 2020/21 Programme Spend	Approval of the current position of the Land and Property Investment Fund Projects, reflecting all changes to the Land and Property Investment Fund Programme (Funding and Outputs) throughout the year and, to maximise the 2020/21 allocation.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk">Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	23/06/2021
07/06/2021	YMCA Cleveland Road –  Additional Funding Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement for the additional grant funding in 2020/21, subject to funding being available, with the YMCA Black Country Group to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the YMCA Cleveland Road project with delivery to continue up to the 2024/25 financial year.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence <a href="mailto:Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>	Wolverhampton City Council	23/06/2021
06/04/2021	Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme changes  Dudley Advanced Construction Centre	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley College, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Dudley Advanced Construction Centre project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk">Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	25/08/2021

**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Published up to October 2021 (for publication 07/06/2021)**

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	<p>Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Test Track 1 Project</p> <p>Bilston Urban Village</p>	<p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Test Track 1 project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Bilston Urban Village project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.</p>			
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## WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN: JUNE 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2021

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Commonwealth Games Transport Plan</b>	To approve a draft plan for consultation purposes.	11 June 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
<b>Annual Plan 2021/22 Approval</b>	To approve the 2021/22 WMCA Annual Plan.	23 July 2021	Yes	n/a	Deborah Cadman	No	Governance
<b>Appointment of Audit, Risk &amp; Assurance Committee Independent Member</b>	To appoint a new independent member to chair ARAC.	23 July 2021	Yes	n/a	Tim Martin	No	Governance
<b>West Midlands Rail/Department for Transport Collaboration Agreement</b>	To seek approval to enter into a new collaboration agreement.	23 July 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport



Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Local Transport Plan Consultation Approval</b>	To approve the draft local transport plan proposals for consultation.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport

24 June, 2021

## Scrutiny Survey

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: All

### 1. Aim

To give Members the opportunity to comment on a draft scrutiny survey of all elected members.

### 2. Recommendations

That:

1. subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the scrutiny survey, attached at Appendix 1 to this report, be approved.
2. the results of the survey be report back to a future meeting to enable areas for improvement to be identified.

### 3. Report detail – know

The Council has continually reviewed its scrutiny process and sought to make improvements over recent years.

As part of this continuous review, at its meeting on 15 April 2021, the Committee received a detailed report on scrutiny best practice and benchmarking with other local authorities.

In order to gain further insight on how scrutiny in Walsall could be improved it was agreed that a Member survey on scrutiny and how it could be improved would be undertaken in the new municipal year.

Democratic Services have worked with the Corporate Consultation team to develop the proposal that is contained at Appendix 1 to the report.

The survey enclosed is representative of how the finished article would look. Further work is required before placing it online. For example, routing will be applied to give members different pathways dependent on the answers that they provide when undertaking the survey.

**4. Financial information**

There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

**5. Reducing Inequalities**

None directly related to this report.

**6. Decide**

Members are asked to consider the draft survey and offer any comments that they may have. If the survey does not meet the expectations of Members then other methods of gaining information and/or reviewing scrutiny can be explored.

**7. Respond**

If Members are in agreement with the survey then it is planned for this to take place in July 2021.

**8. Review**

If Members are in agreement with the survey then the findings can be reported to the Committee's next meeting in September 2021.

**Background papers**

None

**Author**

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## Scrutiny Survey 2021

Intro...

A summary of the results will be included in the scrutiny annual report and presented to Council.

The deadline for responding is xxxx 2021.

## Scrutiny Overall

**Q1 What overview and scrutiny committees, if any, are you a member of? Tick all that apply.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Services     | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Care and Health      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education               | <input type="checkbox"/> Scrutiny Overview Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economy and Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> None of these               |

**Q2 Thinking about the location of Scrutiny Committees and working groups, which of the following would you prefer? Tick one only.**

	<i>In person</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>The most suitable location for the topic</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Scrutiny Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working Group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q3 What do you think were the most successful examples of scrutiny from 2020/21 and why?**

**Q4 What are your priority issues for future consideration at scrutiny in 2021/22?**

**Q5 Please rate each of the the following aspects of scrutiny. Tick one only on each row.**

	<i>Very good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Very poor</i>	<i>Does not apply / don't know</i>
Scrutiny structure	<input type="radio"/>				
Work programme	<input type="radio"/>				
Forward plan	<input type="radio"/>				
Frequency of meetings	<input type="radio"/>				
Effectiveness of committees	<input type="radio"/>				
Effectiveness of working groups	<input type="radio"/>				
Number of Committee Members	<input type="radio"/>				
Portfolio Holder involvement	<input type="radio"/>				
Budget scrutiny	<input type="radio"/>				
Length of agendas	<input type="radio"/>				
Scrutiny work programmes	<input type="radio"/>				
Cabinet forward plan	<input type="radio"/>				
Cabinet / Portfolio Holder involvement	<input type="radio"/>				

**Q6 Why do you say that this / these aspects of scrutiny are poor or very poor? Please briefly explain.**

Scrutiny structure	
Work programme	
Forward plan	
Frequency of meetings	
Effectiveness of committees	
Effectiveness of working groups	
Number of Committee Members	
Portfolio Holder involvement	

Budget scrutiny

Length of agendas

Scrutiny work programmes

Cabinet forward plan

Cabinet / Portfolio Holder involvement

**Q7 Generally, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following aspects of reports that are presented to scrutiny meetings? Tick one only on each row.**

	<i>Very satisfied</i>	<i>Fairly satisfied</i>	<i>Dissatisfied</i>	<i>Very dissatisfied</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Length	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clarity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recommendations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Appendices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Training

**Q8 Training is widely recognised as a method in which to improve scrutiny.**

**Which of the following would you like to receive training in? Tick all that apply.**

- Subject specific
- Chairing meetings
- Technical skills
- Questioning
- Legal issues
- None of these
- Other

*Other training, please specify*

**Q9 If necessary, how would you prefer to access / receive training?**

- Online self guided e-learning module
- Virtually
- Face to face
- Booklet / written material
- Other

*Other, please specify*

**Q10 And should training be delivered using in house resources or an external training provider? Tick one only.**

- In house resources
- External training provider
- Depends on the topic
- No preference

## Budget Setting

**Q11 What approach do you think would be the best way forward for scrutiny to consider the budget setting process?**

- Considered by all scrutiny committees
- Scrutiny Overview Committee
- Specialist working group
- Don't know
- Other

*Other, please specify*

## Officer support and reports

**Q12 How, if at all, could the different levels of officer support to scrutiny be improved / more effective? Please briefly explain.**

Senior Officer (Head of Service and above)

Non-senior officers

Democratic Services

## Engagement of partners in scrutiny

**Q13 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the engagement of partners in scrutiny? Tick one only.**

- Very satisfied
- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

**Q14 How, if at all, could partners be more effectively engaged in scrutiny?**

**Q15 Do you have any other comments about scrutiny? Please specify below.**

**Thank you for your response.**

**Please click 'submit' or the tick below to send us your answers.**