



Walsall Council

Scrutiny Overview Committee

Meeting to be held on: **2 February 2021 at 6.00 P.M.**

Meeting to be held via: **Microsoft Teams**

Public access to meeting via: <https://youtu.be/A7bJvQbg6-M>

MEMBERSHIP:

Chair: Councillor Murray
Vice Chair: Councillor Nawaz

Councillor S. Ditta
Councillor Ferguson
Councillor Harrison
Councillor Hussain
Councillor Jeavons
Councillor Rasab
Councillor Samra
Councillor Shires
Councillor M. Statham

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL:

Councillor Bird

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

All

Democratic Services, Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW
Contact: Craig Goodall ☎ 01922 654765 E-mail: craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk

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ITEMS FOR BUSINESS

| | | |
|------------|--|-----------------|
| 1. | Apologies To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee. | |
| 2. | Substitutions To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting. | |
| 3. | Declarations of interest and party whip To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda. | |
| 4. | Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) 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). | |
| 5. | Minutes To approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 1 December 2020. | <u>Enclosed</u> |
| 6. | Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 During this item Members will have the opportunity to consider the draft capital programme and receive a verbal update on the revenue budget 2021/22 – 2023/24. | <u>Enclosed</u> |
| 7. | Covid-19 Update To give an overview of the Covid-19 management response in Walsall. | <u>Enclosed</u> |
| 8. | Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees This report provides a short summary of the activity of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. | <u>Enclosed</u> |
| 9. | Areas of Focus For the Committee to consider and agree its areas of focus for the municipal year and the Forward Plans for Walsall Council and the Black Country Executive Committee. | <u>Enclosed</u> |
| 10. | Date of next meeting To note that the date of the next meeting will be 15 April 2021. | |

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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

Tuesday 1 December 2020 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 H. Bashir
Councillor S. Ditta
Councillor K. Ferguson
Councillor K. Hussain
Councillor L. Jeavons
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 G. Perry – Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor C. Towe – Education & Skills

Officers present: Deborah Hindson - Executive Director – Resources & Transformation
Helen Dudson – Corporate Assurance Manager
Stuart Wootton – Financial Planning Manager
Craig Goodall - Senior Democratic Services Officer

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.

283/20 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nawaz.

284/20 **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillor Bashir substituted for Councillor Nawaz.

285/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

286/20 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
(AS AMENDED)**

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

287/20 **MINUTES**

A short discussion took place on the corporate style of minutes.

Resolved (by roll call):

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 8 October 2020, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

288/20 **FORECAST REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN FOR 2020/21 – 5
MONTH POSITION ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

The Committee were informed of the forecast financial and revenue position for 2020/21 for the Council.

The Leader highlighted the forecast revenue and capital outturn figures to Members.

Following a query the Leader reported that the loss of income from Integrated Facilities Management was due a reduction of catering and cleaning services being provided to schools. This had been caused by their closure from March-September.

Resolved (by assent):

That the report, and the information contained within it, be noted.

289/20 **DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22 – 2023/24 AND IN YEAR POSITION
2020-21**

The Committee were informed of the draft revenue budget as reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020. The report contained that latest medium term financial outlook. The report also contained an updated in year budget position.

In-year position

On the 2020-21 budget the Leader reported that a revenue overspend of £420,000 was currently forecast. This did not include the impact of Covid-19. He noted that Covid-19 had impacted the Council's finances and reported the potential best and worst case financial impact.

Draft revenue budget 2021/22 – 2023/24

The Leader continued to outline the draft revenue budget 2021/22 – 2023/24. He highlighted the savings and investments in the report, and his portfolio, and noted that further savings were required to balance the budget.

Following a question the Financial Planning Manager explained that the Council had received £6m of funding to support the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. He noted that the financial impact of the virus would continue into the next financial year. The Leader added that when planning for the next three years it was challenging to predict when services could reopen and what levels of income they could return. In terms of priorities he explained there would be a focus on supporting improvements in social care and a precept would be added to Council Tax for this purpose.

A Member asked a question about staff and it was reported that the majority of officers would continue to work from home. Staff were being provided with IT to improve home working facilities. The Civic Centre capacity was currently reduced from 1,500 to 350.

The Deputy Leader (Regeneration), the Deputy Leader (Resilient Communities) and Portfolio Holder for Personnel and Business Support presented budget issues from their portfolios to the Committee. Following a question about the Town Boards the Deputy Leader (Regeneration) explained that the Government had provided £25m of funding to Bloxwich and Walsall. This money was ring fenced and not match funded.

The meeting then moved on to receive feedback from representatives of the all other Overview and Scrutiny Committees on issues identified at their meetings as follows:

- *Children's Services* – challenge was provided regarding the transformation and proud programmes.
- *Social Care and Health* – the impact of Covid-19 on this area was discussed.
- *Education* – proposals that affected home to school transport were highlighted.
- *Economy & Environment* – it was reported that draft budget was noted.

RESOLVED (by assent):

The draft revenue budget 2021/22 – 2023/24 be noted.

290/20 CORPORATE PLAN – QUARTER 2 UPDATE

The Committee received a report detailing performance towards achieving performance measures from the Corporate Plan up to the end of quarter 2 (30 September 2020).

The Corporate Assurance Manager presented the report highlighting the majority of performance measures were on track. She added that Covid-19 had impacted a number of measures. She also noted that data for some measures was reported annually but assured Members that work was taking place to deliver in these areas. Following a question she explained that data on some economic measures for quarter 2 would be available in quarter 3.

Resolved (by roll call):

That:

- 1. Further information on measure 10 ‘number of apprentices in Walsall’ be provided to the Committee;**
- 2. The report be noted.**

291/20 FEEDBACK FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

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

A Member requested that a report on Carbon Neutral Council be considered by the Committee as it had not been scheduled at the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny as previously requested.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

291/20 AREAS OF FOCUS

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

Following a discussion the following items were identified for the next meeting of the Committee:

- Carbon neutral council;
- Equalities;
- Covid-19 update including data and vaccinations.

A discussion took place on methods of scrutiny.

Resolved (by assent):

That the Areas of Focus and Forward Plan be noted.

292/20 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 2 February 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.47pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

Scrutiny Overview Committee

2 FEBRUARY 2021

Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: All - specifically in relation to services within the Committee's remit -
Cllr M Bird – Leader of the Council
Cllr A Andrew – Regeneration (Money Home Job)
Cllr G Perry – Resilient Communities
Cllr B Chatta – Personnel and Business Support

Executive Summary:

During this item Members will have the opportunity to consider the draft capital programme and receive a verbal update on the revenue budget 2021/22 – 2023/24.

Capital Programme

The second budget report to Cabinet on 9 December 2020 includes feedback from this Committee on the draft budget plan as reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020, along with a draft Capital Programme for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24.

The draft capital programme for 2021/22 totals £65.99m. It sets out new capital investment funded from the council's own resources of £28.17m (funded by capital receipts and borrowing) and externally funded schemes of £37.82m (funded by capital grants) and represents a balanced programme for 2021/22. In addition, the report sets out a further two years of indicative proposals to 2023/24.

Capital programme resources are limited. The financing for capital investment is heavily reliant on grants and funding received from the Government. The remaining flexibility is currently through capital receipts and borrowing. Capital receipts projections however are limited, and fully dependent on when council assets are sold.

Scrutiny Overview Committee are asked to consider the Draft Capital Programme as presented to Cabinet on 9 December 2020 as attached at **Annex 1**. Those capital schemes relating to services within the specific remit of this Committee are highlighted grey in the report for ease of reference, split into 2 areas -

1. Council funded schemes – those schemes funded from the councils own resources (borrowing and capital receipts) – see **Appendix 2** of Cabinet report. These include a refresh of the draft programme reported to Council in February 2020, along with additional schemes deemed as being high priority based on three categories (health & safety, council priority and unavoidable infrastructure). For 2022/23 onwards, the full impact of these projects will be reviewed, and funding revisited as part of the rolling annual budget process. There may be a number of schemes that will require match

funding in year to secure external resources, which will be reviewed in year and funds drawn down as projects are confirmed.

2. Externally funded schemes – those schemes funded from grant or other external contributions – see **Appendix 3** of Cabinet report.

Any additional receipts received in year (excluding those earmarked for specific schemes) will be considered to fund those projects on the reserve list. These are summarised at **Appendix 4** of Cabinet report.

Walsall Proud Programme work streams will identify one off revenue and capital investment required to ensure the required savings are delivered. Regular Proud programme updates will be provided to Cabinet and Scrutiny, and the S151 Officer will report throughout the budget process on the robustness of budget estimates to ensure that a legally balanced 2021/22 budget is set in February 2021.

Feedback from this Committee on the content of this report will be reported back to Cabinet on 10 February 2021 prior to the recommendation of the final revenue and capital budget plan to Council on 25 February 2021.

Revenue budget

The final draft revenue budget will be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2021.

Due to report publishing deadlines it is not possible to provide a copy of this report to members in advance of the meeting. Therefore the Leader will provide the Committee with a verbal update on the revenue budget at the meeting. A copy of the final budget report being considered by Cabinet will be sent to scrutiny members on 3 February 2021.

Reason for scrutiny:

For Scrutiny Overview Committee to consider the draft Capital Programme as reported to Cabinet on 9 December 2020, specifically in relation to capital schemes that fall within services under the remit of this Committee, and for feedback to be taken into account in the finalisation of the budget by Cabinet on 10 February 2021 for recommendation to Council on 25 February 2021.

Recommendations:

That:

1. **The Committee are recommended to consider the draft capital budget proposals attached, specifically those that relate to the remit of this committee.**
2. **The Committee are asked to note that consultation feedback will be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2021, along with further revenue options to close the gap to ensure we set a balanced budget for 2021/22.**

Resource and legal considerations:

Cabinet, on 9 December 2020, were presented with the draft capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24. The full Cabinet report can be accessed at the following link:

[Draft Revenue Budget Feedback and Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24](#)

Background papers:

Draft Revenue Budget Feedback and Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 as approved by Cabinet on 9 December 2020 (attached).

Contact Officers:

Deborah Hindson – Interim Executive Director, Resources and Transformation, s151 Officer, ☎ 07551 400340, ✉ Deborah.hindson@walsall.gov.uk

Vicky Buckley – Interim Director of Finance, Corporate Performance Management and Corporate Landlord, ☎ 07983 604698, ✉ Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk

Cabinet – 9 December 2020

Draft Revenue Budget Feedback and Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

Portfolio: Councillor M. Bird – Leader of the Council (Lead Portfolio)

Related Portfolios: All

Service: Finance – council wide

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: Yes

1. Aim

1.1 For Cabinet to:

- approve, subject to consultation, a draft capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24,
- consider feedback from Overview Scrutiny Committees on the draft revenue budget reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020 to inform the final budget to be presented to Council in February 2021.
- Receive a summary of the Spending Review 2020.

2. Summary

2.1 Cabinet on 28 October 2020 agreed the process and timeline for the setting of a four-year revenue budget and capital programme; an updated medium term financial plan; and first draft revenue proposals, referring the latter to Overview Scrutiny Committees for consultation and feedback, to allow Cabinet to then consider this feedback in setting their final budget recommendations in February 2021.

2.2 This report covers:

- The impact of the Spending Round announced on 25 November 2020;
- Feedback from Overview Scrutiny Committees on draft revenue budget proposals;
- A draft capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24.

2.3 The draft capital programme for 2021/22 totals £65.99m. It sets out new capital investment funded from the council's own resources of £28.17m (funded by capital receipts and borrowing) and externally funded schemes of £37.82m (funded by capital grants) and represents a balanced programme for 2021/22. In addition, the report sets out a further two years of indicative proposals to 2023/24.

- 2.4 Despite reductions in capital funding in recent years and going forward, the draft capital programme contains significant investment into highways, education, and into adult social care and housing to support vulnerable households through Health through Warmth and provision of aids and adaptations. A reserve list of new projects is also included, where funding could be redirected in-year if it becomes available.
- 2.5 We would normally include reference to announcements made in the Chancellors Autumn Budget. However, due to Covid-19 this was cancelled along with an expected longer term Government Spending Review, with a one year Spending Round presented on 25 November 2020 for 2021/22, a summary of which is outlined in this report.
- 2.6 The final budget, including any changes arising from consultation arrangements, tax base changes and the final allocation of direct Government funding and other specific grants will be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2021 for recommendation to Council, and this will be considered by full Council on 25 February 2021.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet are requested to:

- 3.1 Note the feedback from Overview Scrutiny Committees, and consider this feedback in preparation for final budget recommendations in February 2021.
- 3.2 Note the main implications from the chancellors Spending Round announcement on 25 November 2020, and that any financial implications arising once the Provisional Settlement is received, will be included in the budget report to Cabinet on 10 February 2021.
- 3.3 Approve as a basis for consultation the current draft capital programme of £65.99m for 2021/22, and refer the draft capital programme to Overview Scrutiny Committees to enable comments to be considered by Cabinet on 10 February 2021.

4. Know - Context

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 to 2023/24 – Consultation

- 4.1 The first draft revenue budget was reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020. This was referred to Overview Scrutiny Committees, and the feedback and recommendations summarised at **Appendix 1**. Cabinet are requested to note these and consider the recommendations and any changes Cabinet may wish to make, arising from these, in making their final budget recommendations to Council in February.
- 4.2 The report to Cabinet on 28 October 2020 identified a gap of £12.32m in 2021/22, should all options identified be approved. A number of further options are currently being finalised to close the gap, and a balanced budget will be reported to Cabinet in February 2021.

Spending Round 2020 and MTFO Impact

4.3 The Spending Round (SR20) announced on 25 November 2020 set departmental budgets for 2021/22 only. Whilst this has provided some further detail for 2021/22, total funding is still uncertain, as the announcement did not include details of our core grant settlement which is expected in December 2020.

4.4 The impact of SR20 on Walsall is as follows. This is subject to further clarification on final allocations, confirmation of allocation methodologies, and in some cases, national consultation taking place. The impact on the council's budget for 2021/22 is not yet known. Any allocations for Walsall are expected to be confirmed with the Provisional Settlement and will be included in the final budget report to Cabinet and Council in February 2021.

- A council tax referendum threshold of 2% (this is already assumed within the budget);
- An additional Adult Social Care Precept threshold of 3%, for which conditions are awaited;
- A 4.5% increase in overall Core Spending Power (mainly due to the ability of Council's to raise council tax by up to 5% in total);
- £300m of new grant funding for Adults and Children's Social Care;
- Maintaining the existing New Homes Bonus scheme for a further year with no new legacy payments;
- Additional Covid-19 funding of £3.0bn for 2021/22, to include support for the first quarter of the year for income losses, and for support for tax revenue losses;
- A pause in public sector pay for 2021/22, except £250 for all those earning less than £24k, and an increase in the National Living Wage;
- A number of new infrastructure initiatives that may impact on local councils, include a new £4bn 'Levelling Up' fund for local projects, and £220m Shared Prosperity Fund.

4.5 The budget is an evolving process, with recognition that funding assumptions may change as the budget develops. The council awaits publication of the Provisional Settlement for 2021/22, which may impact on our MTFO projections. Any changes resulting from this will be reported in the final budget report to Cabinet on 10 February 2021.

Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

4.6 The key objective of the Capital Strategy is to deliver a capital programme that:

- Ensures the council's capital assets are used to support the delivery of priorities within the Corporate Plan and the council's vision,
- Links with the council's Asset Management Plan,
- Is affordable, financially prudent and sustainable,
- Ensures the most cost effective use is made of existing assets and new capital investment, and;
- Supports other Walsall service specific plans and strategies

The approach to capital planning includes:

- the need to match priority capital investment decisions against the council's limited internal resources;
- to maximise external funding sources;
- to optimise borrowing where there is an agreed deliverable pay back mechanism;
- to ensure the council's health and safety, etc. commitments are adequately covered;
- and to minimise the call on revenue resources.

In practical terms the basic approach is to:

- Maintain existing assets to meet the needs of the services and people that use them,
- Evaluate options for disposal of surplus assets,
- Develop sustainable, cost effective new assets in response to the council's priorities.

However there will be an increasing emphasis on:

- Investing in activity that unlocks external investment in the borough,
- Investing in service redesign to drive out long term revenue savings,
- Investing in the creation of an efficient and effective operational estate,
- Investing in assets that support the strengthening of the borough's economy,
- Investing in assets to grow future income streams for the council.

4.7 Capital programme resources are limited. The financing for capital investment is heavily reliant on grants and funding received from the Government. The success that Walsall has had in securing a wide range of external funding may be harder to achieve as many of the sources of funding may stop or reduce.

4.8 The remaining flexibility is currently through capital receipts and borrowing. Capital receipts projections however are limited, and fully dependent on when council assets are sold. There is further uncertainty in relation to asset valuations due to Covid-19 which may impact our capital receipts projections and this is being assessed and will be taken into account in setting the final capital programme in February 2021. Earmarking of capital receipts beyond what we are statutorily obliged to do is not recommended without overall strategic consideration of the entire capital programme. Use of unsupported borrowing incurs ongoing revenue debt charges and impacts on council tax payers.

4.9 Capital allocations and grants from Government and other sources have not, in some cases, been provided, therefore best estimates have been used, based on published information to date. Any further reduction in funding will require amendments to the draft programme.

4.10 Despite the above difficulties, significant investment is planned and funded over the four years to 2023/24. The council is able to fund existing commitments and has, through prioritisation of bids and resources and sound treasury management, been able to support new investment into key services, and areas of capital investment need, linked to the Walsall Proud Programme.

- 4.11 Cabinet determine the projects to be included within the capital programme in the light of the relative priorities and the overall impact on the revenue budget. Schemes that require use of the council's own capital resources (such as through borrowing or capital receipts), are categorised according to the following, in order to assist the decision making process:
- Level One Priority – relates to schemes that are unavoidable to meet statutory and legislative requirements in the provision of services. This includes items such as health and safety, new legislation etc. By their nature, these schemes are a first call on available resources. It also includes supported borrowing allocations which are ring fenced to a specific programme of activity. This category also includes prior year approved/rolling programme schemes.
 - Level Two Priority – relates to schemes that unlock external investment in the borough; drives out long-term revenue savings; support the strengthening of the borough's economy; delivers an efficient and effective operational estate; and invests in assets to grow future income streams for the council.
- 4.12 The list of schemes included in the draft capital programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 are shown at **Appendix 2** (council funded) and **Appendix 3** (externally funded). **Table 1** below shows the draft capital programme against available resources -

| Table 1: Draft Capital Programme | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
| | £m | £m | £m |
| <u>Anticipated Capital Resources</u> | | | |
| Capital Receipts | 1.50 | 1.50 | 1.50 |
| Earmarked Capital Receipts | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| General Borrowing | 9.06 | 10.32 | 6.70 |
| Prior year underspends | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Revenue contribution to capital | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Borrowing for Regional Materials Recycling Facility | 4.76 | 2.72 | 0.00 |
| Borrowing/Capital Receipts for Proud Investment | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Borrowing for Waste Strategy | 8.89 | 3.00 | 0.00 |
| Use of business rates – Enterprise Zone* | 2.94 | 13.94 | 4.07 |
| Flexible use of capital receipts | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| External funding - grants | 37.82 | 16.27 | 10.83 |
| <i>Total Estimated Resources</i> | 65.99 | 47.77 | 23.12 |
| <u>Capital Schemes</u> | | | |
| Rolling Programme Schemes | 4.30 | 4.30 | 4.30 |
| Prior Year Approvals | 14.23 | 23.93 | 7.99 |
| In Year Approval | 8.89 | 3.00 | 0.00 |
| Proud investment | 0.00 | 0.17 | 0.00 |
| New Capital Schemes – Health & Safety | 0.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| New Capital Schemes – Council Priority | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| New Capital Schemes – Infrastructure | 0.25 | 0.10 | 0.00 |
| New schemes - Other | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| <i>Total Council Funded Schemes – Appendix 2</i> | 28.17 | 31.50 | 12.29 |
| External Funded schemes – <i>Appendix 3</i> | 37.82 | 16.27 | 10.83 |
| Total Draft Capital Programme | 65.99 | 47.77 | 23.12 |
| Funding shortfall (surplus) | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

*Rephased by year - requirement to cash flow prior to generation of business rates

- 4.13 Council funded schemes identified in **Appendix 2** include a refresh of the draft programme reported to Council in February 2020, along with additional schemes deemed as being high priority based on three categories (health & safety, council priority and unavoidable infrastructure). For 2022/23 onwards, the full impact of these projects will be reviewed, and funding revisited as part of the rolling annual budget process. There may be a number of schemes that will require match funding in year to secure external resources, which will be reviewed in year and funds drawn down as projects are confirmed.
- 4.14 Capital receipts projections are based on professional estimates of property colleagues. Any additional receipts received in year (excluding those earmarked for specific schemes) will be considered to fund those projects on the reserve list at **Appendix 4**, subject to approval. The potential impact of Covid-19 on these is currently being assessed.
- 4.15 Borrowing is funded from the council's own resources – generated through savings, and/or paid for via council tax. Councils are allowed to borrow in accordance with the Treasury Management Code of Practice.
- 4.16 As well as those in the draft programme, there are a number of large capital schemes that are in development or planning stages. It is expected that as individual business cases are developed and considered by Cabinet and/or Council, they are then included in the latest update of the capital programme if they are deemed to be a high priority and affordable. Funding for these will need to be identified and may be through a combination of borrowing and/or other contributions. Where practical, a payback agreement will be implemented, whereby projects should, wherever possible be self-funded over the life of the project and beyond.
- 4.17 For externally funded schemes, where a bidding process is required, it is assumed the full cost of the project is met from external grant and/or third party contributions. If it becomes clear during the process that this is not the case, the project cannot proceed if the external funds cannot be sourced.

Draft Leasing Programme

- 4.18 The 2021/22 leasing programme totals £4.6m, summarised in **Table 2** below. Leasing minimises the call on capital resources by spreading the acquisition cost over a number of years. Revenue funds are required to finance operating leases, and are included in the revenue budget.

| Table 2: Leasing Programme | Asset cost | | | Revenue £m |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| | b/f from 2020/21 £m | New vehicles 2021/22 £m | Total for 2021/22 £m | |
| Equipment | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.118 |
| Light Commercial vehicles | 1.892 | 0.036 | 1.928 | 0.362 |
| Refuse Vehicles | 1.860 | 0.000 | 1.860 | 0.653 |
| Tractors & Agricultural Implements | 0.059 | 0.232 | 0.291 | 0.231 |
| Welfare vehicles | 0.496 | 0.020 | 0.516 | 0.060 |
| | 4.307 | 0.288 | 4.595 | 1.424 |

Council Corporate Plan priorities

- 4.19 Resource allocation is an annual cycle aiming to support delivery of council priorities within available resources. It aims to achieve this through the delivery of efficiencies, income reviews and service reviews and redesign to redirect existing and reducing resources to areas of high council priority.
- 4.20 In order to meet the council's purpose and vision, the council will be focussing its' energy over the next four years on the following key priorities, recognising that it must do so with decreased and decreasing resources and concentrating efforts on those most in need:
- Economic growth for all people, communities and businesses.
 - People have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities.
 - Internal Focus – all council services are efficient and effective.
 - Children have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.
 - Communities are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion.

Risk management

- 4.21 The council reviews capital planning and budget principles in accordance with the medium term financial strategy (MTFS) and Capital Strategy.
- 4.22 There is still uncertainty around Government funding for 2021/22 and beyond. The full details of the Governments Provisional Settlement will be assessed when received, and the final Settlement in the new year, and any implications on the budget and medium term financial outlook will be reported as they become clear. There is a risk that funding will reduce more than anticipated or that further pressures will emerge, which will require the council to make changes prior to setting the budget in February 2021.
- 4.23 The budget is risk assessed and this is used to formulate the recommended level of contingencies and reserves. The outcome of this will be reported to Cabinet and Council in the final budget report.

Financial implications

- 4.24 The Council must set a balanced revenue budget and capital programme to meet its legal requirements. A four year plan provides for sounder financial planning and management of financial risk.

Legal implications

- 4.25 Under the Local Government Act, an authority must set a council tax and balanced budget, giving 14 days' notice of the council tax level prior to the date of billing. The council must set a budget before 11 March of each year. This will include the S151 Officer's report that deals with the robustness of the budget and the adequacy of the reserves for which the budget provides, together with an assessment of risk.

Procurement Implications / Social Value

- 4.26 None directly arising from this report. Any proposed changes arising from the Proud Programme will be considered alongside proposed changes to service provision.

Property implications

- 4.27 None directly arising from this report. Any proposed changes arising from the Proud Programme will be considered alongside proposed changes to service provision.

Health and Wellbeing implications

- 4.28 The health and wellbeing of communities in Walsall have direct implications on the resources required within the council and the wider public sector, and how resources are allocated. Any proposed changes arising from the Proud Programme will be considered alongside proposed changes to service provision.

Staffing implications

- 4.29 None directly arising from this report.

Reducing Inequalities

- 4.30 The council uses an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) to check the lawfulness of council decisions in relation to the impact on people with certain characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. An EqIA must contain relevant data and sufficient analysis to enable Members to understand the equality implications of a proposal and any alternative options before any decisions are arrived at. Whilst there are no directly equalities implications arising from this report, equality impact assessments will be undertaken on service and organisational change options as they develop and arise from the Proud Programme and any implications reported, to allow Cabinet to consider and make any revisions required.
- 4.31 Assessing the impact of proposed organisational changes and changes to policies, procedures and services is a positive opportunity for the council to ensure good decisions are made, based on robust evidence. It is clear that the decisions taken by individual services do not operate in isolation. Thus, when making policy changes, it is important not just to look at the potential impact of individual measures, but also to ensure that their interaction is properly understood and that the cumulative impact is taken into account. Understanding the cumulative impact on protected groups should be a pre-requisite of any policy making process.

Consultation

- 4.32 Section 138 of the Local Government and Public involvement in Health Act 2007 placed a general duty on every local authority in England to take such steps as it considers appropriate to secure that representatives of local persons (or of local persons of a particular description) are involved in the exercise of any of its functions, among other things by being consulted about the exercise of the function. The 2010 Equality Act whilst not imposing a specific duty to consult, lays a requirement to have due regard to the equality impact when exercising its function.

4.33 All Overview and Scrutiny Committees have received the draft revenue budget options for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit, and their recommendations are reported at **Appendix 1**. Since 29 October 2020, consultation on proposed changes to services has been taking place and remains ongoing. Findings along with equality impact assessments will be reported to Cabinet for their consideration and to inform Cabinet's final budget recommendations to Council in February 2021.

4.34 This report will be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consultation in relation to the draft capital programme.

5. Decide

5.1 Cabinet are asked to approve the recommendations as set out and forward this report to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consideration of the draft capital programme proposals.

6. Respond

6.1 The final revenue budget and capital programme will be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2021, along with any feedback from the final settlement and stakeholder consultation.

7. Review

7.1 The final budget report to Cabinet in February 2021 will be recommended to Full Council on 25 February 2021, where the 2021/22 budget and council tax levels will be approved.

Background papers:

Various financial working papers.

Draft Revenue Budget 2021/22 – 2023/24 and in-year Position 2020/21 as approved by Cabinet on 28 October 2020.

Author

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Deborah Hindson
Interim Executive Director (s151 Officer)
09 December 2020



Councillor M. Bird
Leader of the Council
09 December 2020

Appendices: -

- 1** Feedback from Overview Scrutiny Committees –
 - a. Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee (3 November)
 - b. Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10 November)
 - c. Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (19 November)
 - d. Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (26 November)
 - e. Scrutiny Overview Committee (1 December)
- 2** Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Council Funded.
- 3** Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Externally Funded.
- 4** Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Council Funded Reserve List approved allocations.

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Recommendations of the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee following Budget Consultation - 3 November 2020

Summary of report

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its consideration of the draft revenue budget for consultation for 2020/21 to 2023/24 at the meeting of the Committee held on 3 November 2020. This will enable consideration by the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

All overview and scrutiny committees received the draft revenue budget options and for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

Summary of Operational Proposals by Outcome 2021/22 – 2022/23 relating to the remit of this Committee

The report to the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee contained information around an operational savings proposal for home to school transport and the Committee sought clarification on how the savings would be made from 2020/21 to 2023/24.

The Committee resolved:

1. The Committee considered the draft revenue budget proposals relating to the remit of the Committee in order to formally report to the Cabinet.
2. The Committee noted that consultation would be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals and that feedback would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. The Committee noted that further savings proposals would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021, and that these would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consultation.

Author:

Dr Paul Fantom

Democratic Services Officer

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Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Jeavons', with a large loop at the top and several horizontal strokes at the bottom.

Councillor Lee Jeavons
Chair - Education Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Rowe', written in a cursive style.

Sally Rowe
Executive Director -
Children's Services

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Recommendations of the Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee following Budget Consultation - 10 November 2020

Summary of report

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its consideration of the draft revenue budget for consultation for 2020/21 to 2023/24 at the meeting of the Committee held on 10th November 2020. This will enable consideration by the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

All overview and scrutiny committees received the draft revenue budget options and for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

Following challenge from Members, the Committee were provided with reassurance that the financial modelling used within the transformation plans for Children’s Services would provide financial savings by achieving improved outcomes for young people and their families. For example, through new models of working, young people could be prevented from coming into care and foster care placement disruption could be avoided.

The Committee resolved:

1. The Committee considered the draft revenue budget proposals relating to the remit of the Committee in order to formally report to the Cabinet on the policy proposals.
2. The Committee noted that consultation would be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals and that feedback would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. The Committee noted that further savings proposals would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021, and that these would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consultation.

Author:

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Signed:

Councillor M. Statham

Councillor Mark Statham
Chair - Children's Services Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

Signed:



Sally Rowe
Executive Director -
Children's Services

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Recommendations of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee following Budget Consultation - 19 November 2020 **Summary of report**

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee following consideration of the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation for 2021/22 to 2023/24 at the Committee's meeting on 19 November 2020. This will enable consideration by Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

All overview and scrutiny committees have received the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

Deputy Leader of the Council and Regeneration

P6: Re-profile the highway maintenance mainstream budget for 2021/22

A Member sought clarification regarding the re-profile of the highway maintenance budget for 2021/22. In response, the Executive Director confirmed that the re-profile would allow the Council to manage cash flow and revenue expenditure. This was confirmed as a temporary 1 year only saving due to the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic.

P8: Increased capitalisation of highway works

A Member sought clarification regarding the increased capitalisation of highway works. In response, the Interim Director of Place confirmed that this increase capitalisation was created as a result classification changes for highway works from revenue to capital expenditure. Due to the saving, there needed to be a long-term focus and monitoring on the condition of highways especially if the condition of highways deteriorated.

Deputy Leader of the Council and Resilient Communities

Ref: 20 - Unauthorised Encampment Works

A Member welcomed the increased expenditure with Unauthorised Encampments. However, there were concerns about the one-off investment as there was still a high number of vulnerable sites across the Borough. The Executive Director confirmed that whilst it was confirmed as a 100k cost pressure in 2021/22, the base budget would be adjusted in future years too.

P14: Bereavement Services – The sale of keepsake memorials and a range of personal memorabilia

A Member sought clarification proposal 14. The Executive Director confirmed that the sale of memorials and memorabilia would enable the Council to offer the service for individuals and families suffering bereavements.

OP102: Restructure and efficiencies within Regulatory Services and Community Protection

A Member sought clarification regarding the restructure and efficiencies with Regulatory Services and Community Protection. The Executive Director responded that the Council was developing a resilient communities model under the Economy, Environment & Communities directorate. As a result, the model would encompass a number of services from across the Council including Regulatory Services and Libraries to make greater efficiencies and savings overall.

OP103: Review of existing fees and charges within resilient communities

Member sought clarification in regard to review of existing fees and charges. The Executive Director informed that a detailed plan of the changes with fees and charges would be circulated to the Committee in writing.

The Committee resolved:

1. The Committee considered the draft revenue budget proposals relating to the remit of the Committee in order to formally report to the Cabinet on the policy proposals.
2. The Committee noted that consultation would be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals and that feedback would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. The Committee noted that further savings proposals would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021, and that these would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consultation.

Matt Powis

Democratic Services Officer,

☎01922 654764

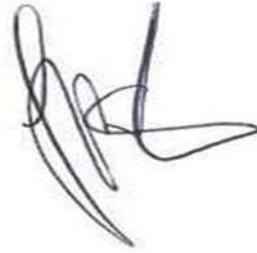
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Signed:



Councillor L Harrison
Chair, Economy and Environment Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

Signed:



Simon Neilson
Executive Director
Economy and Environment

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Recommendations of the Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee following Budget Consultation - 26 November 2020

Summary of report

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee following consideration of the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation for 2021/22 to 2023/24 at the Committee's meeting on 26th November 2020. This will enable consideration by Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

All overview and scrutiny committees have received the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

The Committee were provided with further detail on the key proposals within the Adult Social Care budget. Members acknowledged that, the announcement in relation to the Better Care Fund, was historically late and this made planning difficult. It was also noted that the proposal '*P10 Charge self funders to arrange care via adult social care*' would now be progressed in the financial year 2022/23.

Following challenge in relation to – '*OP91 Reduction of day care funded by direct payments*' - the Committee were informed that the pandemic had provided opportunities for individuals to explore alternative options to the traditional day care centres. In response to concern that, whilst individuals had adapted to alternative options during the pandemic, people may be keen to return to their 'normal activities'. The Committee were provided with reassurance that individual needs and preferences would be assessed through support plans.

Members also sought clarification on '*OP97 Review of all resources including Goscote and shared lives*'. The Committee were provided with clarification that resources would be reviewed to ensure a focus on re-ablement activity; however, it was acknowledged that more traditional support would be needed by some individuals.

The Panel Resolved:

That:

1. The Committee considered the draft revenue budget proposals relating to the remit of the Committee in order to formally report to the Cabinet on the policy proposals.

2. The Committee noted that consultation would be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals and that feedback would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. The Committee noted that further savings proposals would be presented to the Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021, and that these would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee for consultation.

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Signed:

K. Hussain

Councillor K Hussain
Chair, Social Care and Health Overview and
Scrutiny Committee

Signed:



Kerrie Allward
Executive Director
Adult Social Care

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Overview Committee following Budget Consultation – 1 December 2020

Summary of report

This report presents the comments and recommendations from the Scrutiny Overview Committee following consideration of the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation for 2021/22 to 2023/24 at the Committee's meeting on 1 December 2020. This will enable consideration by Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

All overview and scrutiny committees have received the draft revenue budget proposals for consultation in respect of the portfolio of services falling within their remit.

Any changes to these options, following consultation, will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee, providing an opportunity to make further recommendations to Cabinet. Cabinet are requested to consider the feedback contained within this report in formulating their draft budget proposals.

Response to the draft budget options

Covid-19 Impact

The Committee sought to understand the potential impact on the in-year budget of Covid-19 and how this may impact future years. The loss of income and additional spending were discussed along with the potential best and worst case scenarios.

Budget proposals for services within the remit of the committee

Members considered the budget proposals for services within the remit of the committee. This covered proposals from the following portfolios:

- Leader
- Deputy Leader (Regeneration)
- Deputy Leader (Resilient Communities)
- Personnel and Business Support

As part of the presentation from Cabinet Members clarity was provided on the allocation and use of funding for the Towns Fund.

Council-wide proposals

The Committee heard from the Leader on overall financial position and noted that further savings proposals were required to present a balanced budget to Council.

The Committee received feedback on the budget scrutiny that had taken place at the remaining Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

It was reported the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had discussed changes to the allocation of the adult social care budget.

The Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered proposals to make changes to the Home to School Transport Service.

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee sought to understand the ambitions transformation programme and new models of working that were proposed.

An overview of the budget discussions from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee was provided.

The Panel Resolved:

The draft revenue budget 2021/22 – 2023/24 be noted.

Author

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Signed:

John Murray

Councillor John Murray
Chair, Scrutiny Overview Committee

Signed:



Deborah Hindson
Executive Director
Resources and Transformation

Appendix 2: Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Council Funded Schemes

| Capital Scheme | Detail of Capital investment | 2021/22 £ | 2022/23 £ | 2023/24 £ |
|---|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Rolling Programme Schemes | | | | |
| Memorial Safety Management in Cemeteries (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | The continued inspection and making safe of memorials in Walsall cemeteries and to discharge the council's duty of care within the cemeteries. Increased safety of memorials benefits the residents of Walsall by delivering a safer environment within Walsall cemeteries. | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Highways Maintenance Programme (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | As Highway Authority the Council has a legal responsibility to maintain the highway network. Failure to do so inevitably leads to a deterioration of our roads, increasing the likelihood of accidents and would ultimately expose the council to increased risk of third party claims. | 2,800,000 | 2,800,000 | 2,800,000 |
| Aids and Adaptations / Preventative Adaptations/ Supporting Independence (<i>Resources</i>) | This project directly supports the council's: 1. Statutory requirement to provide disabled facility grants (DFGs) this includes enabling the council to provide a continuous service rather than as some councils do in terms of stock-piling enquiries till new grant allocations are made to them. 2. Provision of maintenance of lifts and hoists. 3. Minor adaptation works. | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 |
| Health Through Warmth - Tackling Fuel Poverty (<i>Resources</i>) | To help provide a safety net for those who cannot access other funding sources and is available as a loan charged on the individuals' property that is repaid upon sale or relevant transfer of their home. For this sum per year, it could offer 28 new boiler systems and 25 boiler repairs. The fund also helps secure continued investment from external agencies in tackling fuel poverty and excess winter deaths in the borough. | 75,000 | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| Health & Safety (<i>Council Wide</i>) | Provision for urgent schemes to meet health and safety regulations. | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Funding to support essential works including health and safety, and other projects that cannot be programmed at start of year (<i>Council Wide</i>) | 1: Asbestos removal - the authority is required by legislation to manage asbestos within its properties and to remove to comply with health & safety legislation. 2: Statutory testing of gas and electrical systems in buildings. 3: Control of Legionella - statutory requirement to test all water systems and undertake upgrades and improvements as required. 4: Fire Risk Assessment - statutory requirement to ensure compliance with health & safety. 5: Demolition of redundant buildings to provide saleable assets and increase market value of sites. 6: General repair & maintenance of buildings, historic buildings, aiding relocations. 7: Self-insured property damage – insurance excess. 8: Risk Management - unforeseeable events. | 750,000 | 750,000 | 750,000 |
| Total Rolling Programme Schemes | | 4,295,000 | 4,295,000 | 4,295,000 |
| Prior Year Approvals | | | | |
| Traffic Signals Infrastructure (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | The Council has a statutory duty to maintain all its traffic signal infrastructure. This programme of planned pedestrian crossing replacements will ensure the safe and efficient movement of pedestrians across the borough (Traffic Mgt Act 2004). Also supports delivery of councils CO2 reduction targets. | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Provision of Community Dropped Crossings (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | These are dropped kerbs at strategic points along footways which permit access for wheelchairs, pushchairs, mobility scooters etc. to cross roads. The investment will allow the Council to provide a rolling programme of community crossing points. | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |

| Capital Scheme | Detail of Capital investment | 2021/22 £ | 2022/23 £ | 2023/24 £ |
|--|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Promotion of Community Health and Road Safety (Economy, Env and communities) | To fund road safety schemes, to address local community concerns, which fail to achieve the strategic priorities associated with the Local Transport Plan funding in terms of casualty reduction. In supporting the delivery of these local schemes it is possible to improve local quality of life and safety creating safer communities. Year 4 of 4. | 120,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Open Water Safety Schemes - Signage etc. (Economy, Env and communities) | Health and safety upgrades to Council owned open water sites per the Council's proposed open water policy. Year 4 of 4. | 2,000 | 0 | 0 |
| M6 Junction 10 - Widening of Bridges (Economy, Env and communities) | Walsall Council is working in partnership with Highways England to improve Junction 10 of the M6 motorway. The scheme will include the widening of the existing bridges over the motorway to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. In addition improvements will be made to the junction of A454 Wolverhampton Road/Bloxwich Lane/Tempus Drive and the A454 Black Country Route. | 0 | 650,000 | 0 |
| Walsall Arboretum Extension and County Park - Infrastructure Improvements (Economy, Env and communities) | To widen and resurface the main footpath running from the Grange Car Park to the children's play area and historic core of the park, to replace the currently used wheelie bins and to improve access into and around the country park area. | 190,000 | 0 | 0 |
| New Rail Stations at Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge - local 10% contribution (Economy, Env and communities) | The new rail stations at Darlaston and Willenhall are promoted by WMCA/TfWM and WMRE at an estimated total package cost of £50m based on the preliminary design. A local contribution of 10% is required at the request of WMCA, which currently amounts to circa £4.93m. The Council has made provision for an element of this contribution and is negotiating with other strategic stakeholders, such as the Black Country LEP, to match fund. | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 0 |
| Yorks Bridge (Top Up) (Economy, Env and communities) | Yorks Bridge has suffered over recent decades and the bridge is currently the subject of a 7.5 tonne weight limit. The replacement scheme will be funded using a combination of WMBC capital funding and the Department for Transport Maintenance Block. | 0 | 750,000 | 750,000 |
| Town Centre Strategic Acquisition for Third Sector Hub (Resources) | Purchase of accommodation in Walsall Town Centre to support the formation of a third sector co-located hub and provide additional office accommodation for the Council to support its ongoing rationalisation of its operational estate. Year 3 of 3. As approved by Cabinet March 2019. | 219,373 | 0 | 0 |
| Regional Materials Recycling Facility Project (Economy, Env and communities) | Cabinet on 4 September 2019 approved for the council to enter into a Joint Working Arrangement with 5 partner councils in order to facilitate the delivery stage of a local authority owned Materials Recycling Facility. | 4,758,000 | 2,722,000 | 0 |
| Enterprise Zones (Economy, Env and communities) | Required for the Council to cash-flow borrowing costs associated with capital investment into the Enterprise Zone. Financial modelling forecasts that these costs are expected to be recovered from future business rates generated from within the zone, although the Black Country LEP are the decision making body in relation to where business rates within the zone are invested. Therefore on the basis that the BCLEP approve that costs on Walsall sites can be recovered through the business rates mechanism, then the Council will only be required to cash-flow these costs. | 2,937,001 | 13,938,273 | 4,072,473 |

| Capital Scheme | Detail of Capital investment | 2021/22 £ | 2022/23 £ | 2023/24 £ |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Council House windows <i>(Resources)</i> | Replace aged windows within the council house. | 1,307,025 | 0 | 0 |
| Civic Centre Plumbing - non heating related <i>(Resources)</i> | Essential works of planned / programme maintenance given age of existing supply / parts. | 66,600 | 0 | 0 |
| Council House general heating <i>(Resources)</i> | Upgrading of council house heating systems. | 1,085,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Upgrade of CCTV Cameras <i>(Resources)</i> | Upgrade of cameras in Bloxwich, Leamore, Willenhall, Darlaston, Palfrey, and Caldmore. 10 x New Redeployable Cameras plus costs for 5 years. | 200,000 | 0 | 0 |
| School Estate Condition Survey <i>(Children's)</i> | Ongoing provision to cover school conditions. Part allocation from 2020/21 proposed to be carried forward to 2021/22. | 79,300 | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| School Temporary Classrooms <i>(Children's)</i> | Ongoing provision for improving / replacing permanent mobile classrooms when they reach a state of disrepair. This has been held corporately to fund emergency costs arising. | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Children's Locality Model <i>(Children's)</i> | The Children's Services Right 4 Children Transformation Programme is looking to connect services and professionals by integrating staff into the communities using a locality model of working to help develop a stronger approach in helping young children, young people and their families in partnership with the voluntary and community sector. The intention is to move Social workers within Children's Social Care into locality areas across the borough with Early Help Services already based in 4 well established localities. Wherever possible, the aim is to use current operational buildings in order to keep costs to a minimum. | TBC | 0 | 0 |
| Council House Roof Repairs <i>(Resources)</i> | Replace roof as it is at the end of its life, plus timber repairs. | 750,000 | 750,000 | 0 |
| Replacement of 'tablet' technology <i>(Resources)</i> | A 'tablet rollout' programme was completed during 2019 enabling agile working and the adoption of Office 365, with replacement starting in 2022. | 0 | 2,250,000 | 2,250,000 |
| Smartphones <i>(Resources)</i> | Current mobile phone devices will require replacement beginning in 2021/22. Out of life devices will not receive security patches nor upgrades to the android operating system - will result in 'apps' not being updated, including 'outlook app' used to receive email. | 200,000 | 200,000 | 0 |
| Proud card payments, digital website etc) <i>(Resources)</i> | To ensure the council remains PCI compliant and allows for citizens to pay for services on line. | 250,000 | 250,000 | 0 |
| Maintaining a safe and secure environment <i>(Resources)</i> | Hardware & software upgrades to maintain compliance for current standards e.g. BACS software & open banking compliance. | 100,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Total Prior Year Approvals | | 14,234,299 | 23,930,273 | 7,992,473 |
| Current Year Approvals (2020/21) | | | | |
| Waste Management Strategy <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i> | Strategic Acquisition of property to support the future delivery of the Council's Waste Management strategies. | 8,890,338 | 3,004,788 | 0 |
| Total Current Year Approvals | | 8,890,338 | 3,004,788 | 0 |

| Capital Scheme | Detail of Capital investment | 2021/22 £ | 2022/23 £ | 2023/24 £ |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Proud investment | | | | |
| Bloxwich Active Living Centre landing development (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | Development of landing and office space to extend fitness suite, create bespoke indoor cycle studio, and install virtual instructor will deliver c.£90k per annum additional income. | 0 | 170,000 | 0 |
| Total Proud investment | | 0 | 170,000 | 0 |
| New Capital Schemes – Health and Safety | | | | |
| Walsall Gala pool filters (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | Filters clean the pool water, with all of the 1.4 million litres of water passing through them every 6 hours. Project proposal is to replace current failing system with ceramic filters (new technology) which offer efficiency savings, energy savings, and are fully portable. | 104,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Brine pool air handling (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | The air handling system supplying the brine pool has been recommended for replacement. | 65,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Health and Safety | Additional funding to support new health and safety works / security measures / social distancing measures during Covid-19. | 332,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Capital Schemes – Health and Safety | | 501,000 | 0 | 0 |
| New Capital Schemes – Council Infrastructure | | | | |
| Computer Aided Facilities management system (<i>Resources</i>) | To provide a comprehensive computer based integrated system to manage repairs, minor and major works, stock condition, financial modelling, asset evaluation, new build evaluation, contract management, DLO module for staff allocation such as direct labour and soft FM caretaking and cleaning, asset management property records, valuation toll, gis integration, finance loading of invoicing, statutory compliance, asbestos etc. | 250,000 | 100,000 | 0 |
| Total Capital Schemes – Council Infrastructure | | 250,000 | 100,000 | 0 |
| Total Draft Capital Programme – Council Funded Schemes | | 28,170,637 | 31,500,061 | 12,287,474 |

Appendix 3: Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Externally Funded Schemes

| Capital Scheme | Detail of Capital investment | 2021/22 £ | 2022/23 £ | 2023/24 £ |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Growth Deal <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i> | The Black Country Growth Deal, 'Made in the Black Country, Sold around the World', was agreed with Government in July 2014. The Growth Deal will create the skills, connections and locations for further high value manufacturing success and support growth in the Black Country's automotive, aerospace and construction sectors. To date the programme has committed c£148m and received claims c£77m. It has contracted 3,532 jobs excluding apprenticeships and over 6,000 including them (Dep't of Communities & Local Gov). In January 2019 the Black Country Joint Committee appointed Walsall Council as its Single Accountable Body, as a result the balance of the Growing Places Fund (£5.4m) was transferred from Sandwell Council, with the funds to be used to over-programme Growth Deal. | 0 | 5,439,498 | 0 |
| LTP Highway Maintenance Programme <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i> | This capital funding, known as the maintenance block, is distributed by the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA).As the Highway Authority we have an extremely high profile duty to maintain our highway network. This money is provided, by DfT as a capital grant via the ITA with the condition that it should be spent on the classified road network. (Department for Transport via ITA). | 1,943,000 | 1,943,000 | 1,943,000 |
| Pothole Fund <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i> | This capital funding, known as Pothole Action fund, is distributed by the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA), specifically to repair pothole or to prevent them forming in the first place. Funding is based upon a formula using road length data. | 154,600 | 154,600 | 154,600 |
| West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (STP) 'Movement for Growth' <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i> | The Government provides each locality with grant funding to help implement the Local Transport Plan in their area. The grant is used for the implementation of small scale capital schemes; development of major capital schemes and to part fund major schemes implementation costs. The programme is designed to address road safety issues, progress the Council's major scheme aspirations; and resource the required 'local contributions' to approved major schemes. (Department for Transport / West Midlands ITA). | 1,276,300 | 1,276,300 | 1,276,300 |
| Land and Property Investment Fund <i>(Economy, Env and communities)</i> | In January 2019 the Black Country Joint Committee appointed Walsall Council as its Single Accountable Body, as a result the Land and Property Investment Fund transferred from Wolverhampton Council. This is a grant which is part of the Investment Programme of the West Midlands Combined Authority for Black Country brownfield sites, and is drawn down in arrears. The Black Country LEP has agreed to deliver 1,860 new jobs, 1,600 new houses and 126,000 sqm of commercial floorspace through deployment of the first tranche (£53m) of the total fund allocated to the Black Country LEP (£150m in total). | 8,548,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Disabled Facilities Grant <i>(Resources)</i> | This project directly supports the council's statutory requirement to provide disabled facility grants (DFGs). It is based on the delivery of the ring fenced award of grant money from government. The project has a direct positive impact on the number and subsequent varied costs to the council from the increasing level of demand for home adaptations. | 2,894,013 | 2,894,013 | 2,894,013 |
| Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES) <i>(Resources)</i> | Supplies equipment to people with both a social care and a health need on an assessed needs basis. This is a pooled budget between the CCG and the Council, this capital funding will be used to purchase this equipment which will enable people to return home or continue to remain at home. This now forms part of the Better Care Fund (BCF) for which the Council is host. (Department of Health). | 810,000 | 810,000 | 810,000 |

| Capital Scheme | Detail of Capital investment | 2021/22 £ | 2022/23 £ | 2023/24 £ |
|--|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Basic Need <i>(Children's)</i> | Paid to LAs to support the capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing maintained schools, free schools or academies, and establishing new schools. | 1,319,871 | 1,319,871 | 1,319,871 |
| Devolved Formula Capital <i>(Children's)</i> | Received by the LA then allocated out to individual schools as per allocations defined by the DfE. It is intended to provide schools with capital funding for improvement to buildings and other facilities, including ICT, or capital repairs / refurbishments and minor works. (Department for Education). | 514,854 | 514,854 | 514,854 |
| Capital Maintenance <i>(Children's)</i> | Allocated to the LA on an annual basis to improve and maintain the condition of the school estate (buildings and grounds). Investment is prioritised on keeping school buildings safe and in good working order by tackling poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues. (Dept for Education). | 1,917,799 | 1,917,799 | 1,917,799 |
| School Nursery Capital Fund – Goldsmith <i>(Children's)</i> | The Project: A new build, Option 2 creating 16 additional full time nursery places and holiday provision on the Goldsmith Primary Academy site, Goldsmith Road, Walsall WS3 1DI. Approved by Cabinet 20/03/2019 and 18/03/2020. | 991,550 | 0 | 0 |
| Get Britain Building Fund <i>(Resources)</i> | Funding of £66m was awarded to the WMCA by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, from what is now known as the 'Get Britain Building Fund'. This fund is seen as one of many platforms to enable the Covid-19 recovery plan across the country and boost local economies. Projects submitted must be deemed Value for Money (VfM) with a strong Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR), 'Shovel Ready' with planning permission approved and able to deliver within an 18-month timescale. Two of these projects were Black Country projects, and the WMCA are passporting the funds for these two projects (NBI and VLR) to Walsall Council as the Single Accountable Body for the BCLEP. £13m in 2020/21. | 17,447,800 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Draft Capital Programme - Externally Funded Schemes | | 37,817,787 | 16,269,935 | 10,830,437 |

Appendix 4: Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24 – Council Funded Schemes - Reserve List Allocations

| Capital Scheme | Detail of Capital investment | 2021/22 £ | 2022/23 £ | 2023/24 £ |
|--|--|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Aids and Adaptations / Preventative Adaptations and Supporting Independence (<i>Resources</i>) | Additional to the funds contained in the rolling programme section (£400k per annum) and external funding section (DFG - £2.9m) totalling £3.3m. This project directly supports the council's: 1. Statutory requirement to provide disabled facility grants (DFGs) this includes enabling the council to provide a continuous service rather than as some councils do in terms of stock-piling enquiries till new grant allocations are made to them. 2. Provision of maintenance of lifts and hoists. 3. Minor adaptation works. | 250,000 | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Health Through Warmth - Tackling Fuel Poverty (<i>Resources</i>) | Additional to the funds contained in the rolling programme section (£75k per annum). To help provide a safety net for those who can't access other funding sources and is available as a loan charged on the individuals' property that is repaid upon sale or relevant transfer of their home. For this sum per year, it could offer 28 new boiler systems and 25 boiler repairs. The fund also helps secure continued investment from external agencies in tackling fuel poverty and excess winter deaths in the borough. | 75,000 | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| Cemetery & Crematorium - replacement roads and pathways, along with selected pothole works (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | The bid is to fund the pro-active repairs of roads and pathways. The council manages in excess of 125 acres of cemetery land in eight cemeteries. The repairs would be scheduled on a priority basis dependent on footfall and condition. | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Registry Office Phase 2 - redesign to reception and ceremony areas (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | Access by the public to the facilities is divided without internal public access. The small reception area for all appointments, births and death registration as well as marriage notices, is located on one side of the ceremony rooms. Access to offices for taking notices of marriage is on the other side. Customers are required to leave the reception and go around the outside of the building to these offices. The relocation has the potential for the main ceremony room to be upgraded and extended to provide room for larger marriage ceremonies. This will generate increased income and offer an appealing choice of marriage venue. | 350,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Oak Park meeting room remodel - Spend to Save (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | Opportunity to remodel the vacant office area to income generating facilities (meeting room). | 50,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Cloud 2 - goods and services (<i>Resources</i>) | Further work expected following the outcome of the Walsall Proud Programme in relation to ICT transformation and cloud migration programme. | 500,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Darlaston Boilers (<i>Economy, Env and communities</i>) | Boiler replacement (all hot water and heating). | 250,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Draft Capital Programme – Council Funded Schemes Reserve List | | 1,575,000 | 425,000 | 425,000 |

2 February 2021

Covid-19 Update

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Cllr Craddock

1. Aim

To give an overview of the Covid-19 management response in Walsall.

2. Recommendations

That colleagues play their part in the Local Authority and Partner management response to Covid-19 in Walsall and support the government messages.

3. Report detail

There are a number of action areas in relation to the response to the Covid-19 pandemic in Walsall to date. This report will cover several of these including:

- Barometer (7 key performance indicator overview)
- Outbreaks
- Testing / access to
- Vaccinations
- Schools / care homes
- Hospital situation

The **barometer** offers an overview of the current situation based on five key performance indicators and their RAG ratings (the defined parameters agreed regionally).

As of 20th January, 2021, the KPIs pertaining to incidence and test positivity rate are rated as **RED** due to the very high case rate per 100,000 of the population, and the proportion of tests returning a positive result.

There has been a steady decrease in the daily number of positive cases, following Walsall being placed in Tier 4 and then National lockdown. This decreasing trend allows this indicator to be marked **GREEN** (as of 20/01/21).

Exceedance of positivity is also currently rated as **GREEN**. An exceedance means that an area has a greater than expected rate of infection compared with the usual background rate for that location. This is a way of assessing a recent change in incidence in that area. This is assessed by PHE every day, and so can change on a daily basis, and thus the rag rating of this indicator should be carefully considered within the context of other intelligence.

There are also two supplementary indicators offering an acute perspective in terms of inpatient numbers and critical beds occupied; both of which have increased rapidly over the month of January, but appear to be gradually decreasing in the most recent week. The situation in Walsall Healthcare Trust is monitored daily by the Public Health Intelligence Team.

Figure 1. Key Performance Indicator Barometer

| KPI | Latest Data | Comments | Source |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1 7 day incidence | 2,087 Cases (11 th to 17 th Jan) | Walsall's cases remain very high | PHE Line List (last refreshed 20 Jan) <i>Note the last 4 days are subject to reporting delays</i> |
| 2 7 day rate trends | <p>10-Dec: 172, 17-Dec: 232, 24-Dec: 313, 31-Dec: 578, 07-Jan: 792, 14-Jan: 722</p> | <p>The rate is currently at 722 per 100,000 population (9% reduction compared to the previous week)</p> <p>(Each bar represents a rate for positive cases over 7 days; the date range for the rate is always earlier than for the case count in KPI 1 due to reporting delays)</p> | PHE Daily Report (last refreshed 20 Jan) |
| 3 Exceedance RAG rating | <p>GREEN</p> <p>13/01/21 14/01/21 15/01/21</p> <p>16/01/21 17/01/21 18/01/21 19/01/21</p> | <p>Walsall is flagged RED in 3 out of the last 7 exceedance reports.</p> <p>NOTE: Daily exceedance should be considered alongside other available indicators.</p> | PHE Daily Exceedance Report (last refreshed 20 Jan) |
| 4 PCR Positivity rate in last 14 days (pillars 1 & 2) | <p>Pillar 1 = 17.9%</p> <p>Pillar 2 = 20.3%</p> <p>Pillar 1 & 2 = 19.9%</p> | <p>Pillar 2 for Walsall is 20.3%, compared with WMids (17.1%) and England (15.8%).</p> <p>NOTE: As of 18/12/2020, tests and positivity are based only on PCR testing</p> | PHE LA Report (last refreshed 20 Jan) |
| 5 Situation Awareness | RED | There continues to be community transmission and a range of exposures / outbreaks across the borough | Daily PHE line list mapping / PHE outbreaks & issues / PHE LA Report (last refreshed on 20 Jan) |
| 6 Walsall Hospital NHS Trust Inpatients | | Total of 252 confirmed COVID-19 inpatients | Daily Trust Sitrep (last refreshed on 20 Jan) |
| 7 HDU/ITU Occupancy | | 18 HDU/ITU beds being occupied due to COVID-19. | Daily Trust Sitrep (last refreshed on 20 Jan) |

Key:

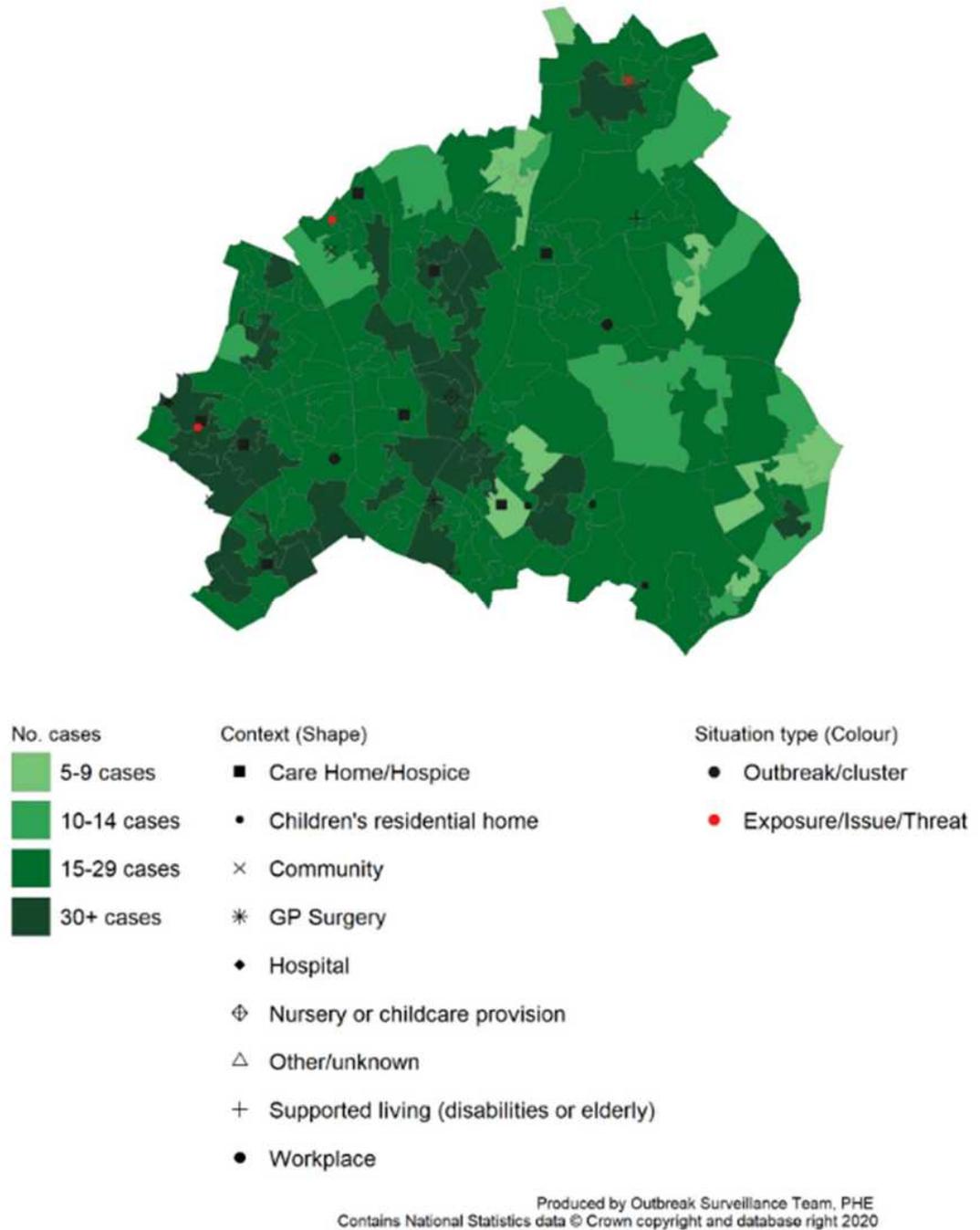
| | KPI | Green | Amber | Red |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 7 day incidence (count) | 0 to 40 | 41 to 99 | 100+ |
| 2 | 7 day trends (rate) | Either reducing or increase of 0 to 50% | Increase of 51% to 99% | 100% + - Or - Statistically significantly higher |
| 3 | Exceedance Report RAG rating | 0 to 3 days are red (out of 7) | 4 to 6 days are red (out of 7) | All 7 days are red |
| 4 | Positivity Rate (Pillar 2 only) | 0 to 5% | 6 to 9% | 10%+ |
| 5 | Situation Awareness | Isolated exposure | Cluster / incidents | Large cluster / outbreaks |

The **outbreaks** / exposures currently occurring in Walsall continue to suggest a large proportion of residential dwelling transmission which the local Test & Trace team act upon as soon as data is received.

Mapped positive case data is monitored daily, with the recent LSOA level map demonstrating the impact across the borough.

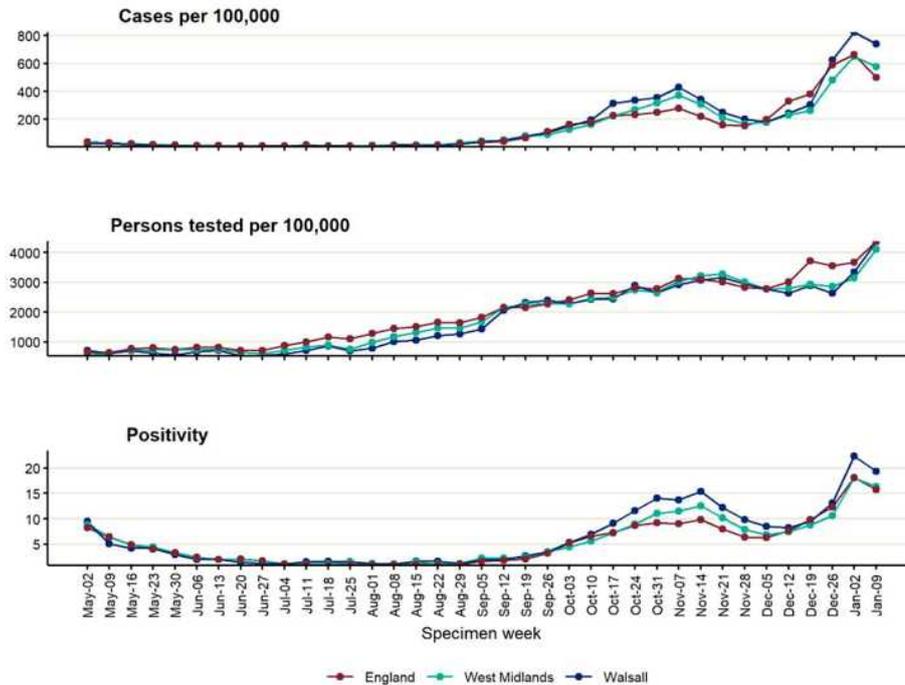
Figure 2. Map of new Covid-19 cases from Pillar 1 and 2 testing by LSOA overlaid with new outbreaks / clusters in Walsall (past 14 days 6th – 19th January 2021).

Source – PHE Daily LA report



Pockets of high cases exists sporadically across the borough – for example parts of Palfrey, Willenhall (North and South), Darlaston South, Pleck, Paddock, Blakenall. ***What is clear is that no area is untouched.***

Figure .3 Persons PCR tested and cases diagnosed per 100,000 population, and PCR positivity per week in Walsall, West Midlands, and England



The testing data shown above is based on PCR testing only.

As previously noted, positive cases have decreased in Walsall, but are still higher than regional and national rates. The rate of positivity has also decreased, but again, is still higher than both regional and national rates.

However, the number of tests performed per 100,000 population has increased in recent weeks, with Walsall now on a par with regional and national rates.

Impact of Covid-19 on the BAME Community

The ethnicity of positive cases is included in PHE surveillance where it is available.

In December 2020, a new variant of Covid-19 was identified in the UK. However, throughout the pandemic, the overall proportion of cases in people from Walsall's BAME community has remained stable since December 2020, indicating that the new variant of Covid-19 is not disproportionately affecting BAME residents in terms of increased infection or positivity rate.

A "[Spotlight Report](#)" was recently published by PHE, which looked at the impact of Covid-19 on the BAME population in terms of mental health and wellbeing. In summary, early evidence suggests that on average, Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and White British men have all reported statistically significant declines in mental health; with Pakistani and Bangladeshi men reporting the largest declines.

Among women, there was no evidence of a difference in mental health decline between ethnic groups; but women in general reported a decline in their mental health and wellbeing.

It is important to note that the sample sizes for minority ethnicity respondents in these studies are relatively small. This makes the estimates less precise. In addition, the interaction between ethnicity and potential confounding factors needs further consideration. Potential factors include income, employment as a key worker and family/caring responsibilities.

Observations so far can only suggest associations. It is unlikely that ethnicity in itself is the cause of differences in the mental health and wellbeing impact of the pandemic. Instead ethnicity may be correlated with other factors that may cause a difference. It remains difficult to draw conclusions about ethnicity, interactions with gender and mental health during the pandemic.

Testing

There are currently three 'local testing sites' for those with Covid-19 symptoms within the borough located at:

- Walsall Town Hall,
- Darlaston Community Centre and
- University of Wolverhampton campus.
- Additionally, a 'mobile testing unit' currently located at Wakes Ground Car & Lorry Park in Willenhall.

In addition, symptom free testing (lateral flow testing (LFT)) is now being rolled out to key workers across Walsall. The testing prioritisation process for accessing testing sites, including critical key workers, as well as businesses that are critical to COVID-19 response or EU transition process as defined by DHSC.

There are currently 3 sites live at:

- The EDC
- Blakenall
- University of Wolverhampton Campus

Four more sites are to be mobilised the week commencing 25 January 2021 at:

- The Depot
- Ryecroft
- Walsall Town Hall
- WHG

In coming weeks there are also plans to establish sites in Darlaston and Aldridge.

With the 3 sites that are currently live, LFT testing capacity is approximately 5,000 per day, which will increase as more site are mobilised.

Vaccination

With the release and availability now of the Covid-19 **vaccination**, 'Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust Vaccination Centre' has been operational since Tuesday 8th December 2020. Since then it has been:

- Working as part of Walsall Together Partnership which includes many of the PCNs
- 0800-2000 and expanding to 0700-2200 in January 2021
- Flow 500-600/Day stepping up to 1000-1200/Day as second doses required in early Jan 2021
- Updated national guidance issued 30 Dec 20 highlights updated scientific and political advice (strategic review on implications for Walsall underway)
- Capturing high risk/BAME NHS staff at Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, WMAS and key WBC Care Home and hospice staff. Looking to increase Over 80 in/out patients and then all other Hospital/WMAS staff
- Manor site remains as a frontrunner nationally with flow and numbers

Working within Walsall Together Partnership has seen:

- Walsall Local Authority support, including assessing community sites for vaccination centres
- Working with Oak Park Leisure centre to set up and go live as combined PCN/Walsall Together hub for East on Friday 8th January 2021
- Saddler Centre planning being prepared for mid Jan (TJ Hughes site) - awaiting date
- PCNs in East and South working with Walsall Together and Walsall Healthcare Community Division, going out to vaccinate in care home residents and some staff.

Focus on:

- Reviewing updated national guidance
- Sustaining operational model at Hospital Hub and Planning/Co-ordination Cell
- Rapidly operationalising Over 80 and Over 75 cohort pathways in hospital (in and outpatients)

The delivery of the vaccination programme is a major undertaking and the CCG has been working with a wide variety of partners to ensure the vaccine can be delivered as quickly as possible

WHT, the Tranche 1 Hospital Hub, is achieving circa 750 vaccinations/day. Wave 1-5 PCN sites are all established with Wave 5 commencing 4th Jan. The roving delivery model was activated w/c 21st December for care homes (with 50+ residents) in areas with activated PCN sites. Community Pharmacy delivery model is pending final outcome of the completed designation

The national reporting system is not currently available to the CCGs, therefore all reporting of the COVID vaccination delivery is being done nationally.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is leading the Workforce Bureau and is committed to establishing a workforce model for the vaccination programme, which

doesn't impact adversely on the capacity of the acute providers, particularly given the significant challenges and pressures of COVID-19

Vaccinations commenced using the Pfizer vaccine with packs of 975 doses delivered for administering by PCN sites and Hospital Hubs. PCN sites receive their delivery in a thawed state and administer over a 3½ day period (shelf life at 2-8 degrees centigrade). Packs of 75 doses are being delivered for administering to care homes, also delivered to PCN sites in a thawed state. The Oxford/ Astra Zeneca vaccine is now delivered to Hospital hubs and PCNs in batches of 400 doses.

There are currently 7 COVID vaccination sites live in Walsall

| Location | Lead Organisation |
|---|---|
| Oak Park Active Living Centre, Walsall Wood | East 1/East 2 PCN with Walsall Together |
| Bloxwich Active Living Centre, Bloxwich | North PCN |
| Sycamore House Surgery | South 2 PCN with Walsall Together |
| Forrester Street Surgery | South 1 PCN |
| Keys Surgery, Willenhall | West 2 PCN |
| Darlaston Health Centre | West 1 PCN |
| Walsall Manor Hospital | Walsall Together |

The programme will offer vaccinations to a total of 211,228 adults, with each person receiving 2 vaccinations. Details of the numbers of residents to be vaccinated can be viewed in the table below:

| Cohort | Sub Group | Qty |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| RC | Residents | 1354 |
| | Workers | 3401 |
| 80+ | 80+ Housebound | 1794 |
| | Non Housebound | 11082 |
| DE | All Detained Estates | 1 |
| HCW | NHS Trust | 6106 |
| | GP Staff | 884 |
| | Community Pharmacy | 450 |
| | Dentists | 442 |
| | Optometrists | 67 |
| | Other | 0 |
| SCW | Day Care | 151 |
| | Domiciliary Care | 4130 |
| | Community Care | 1105 |
| 75-79 | Housebound | 1258 |
| | Non Housebound | 7961 |
| 70-74 | Housebound | 678 |
| | Non Housebound | 11473 |
| 65-69 | Housebound | 608 |
| | Non Housebound | 11689 |
| High Risk | Housebound | 0 |
| | Non Housebound | 1185 |
| Mod. Risk | Housebound | 850 |
| | Non Housebound | 22596 |
| 60-64 | Non Housebound | 9076 |
| 55-59 | Non Housebound | 10943 |
| 50-54 | Non Housebound | 13070 |
| Key Worker | Education and Childcare | 5238 |
| | Food and Necessary Goods | 3353 |
| | Not At Risk Key Public Services | 1030 |
| | National and Local Government | 341 |
| | Public Safety and National Security | 1192 |
| | Transport | 1747 |
| | Utilities and Communication | 3772 |
| 18-49 | BAME Non Housebound | 12434 |
| | Non BAME Non Housebound | 59767 |

As the availability of vaccine increases it is expected that larger sites may be required to deliver the number of vaccinations required. The programme will continue to balance local accessibility with the scale required.

As part of the response / management of Covid-19, schools and care homes have been a particular focus. The Public Health On-Call Cell has been operational since the summer 2020, 7 days a week, 12 hours a day and has supported / advised /

guided over 3,000 contacts, with the majority being from care homes and schools. Additional resource has been taken on to continue this dedicated service.

Contact details for this service – walsall.healthprotection@nhs.net (01922) 658065.

Finally, the impact of Covid-19 has / is having from an acute (**hospital**) perspective. The KPIs on inpatients and critical care bed occupancy have increased throughout January, emphasising that the need for the national lockdown was essential in order to help protect the NHS.

As a Local Authority, collaborative joint working will continue to ensure the best possible outcomes for Walsall residents.

4. Financial information

Funding for response to the Covid-19 pandemic is supported by a grant of £1.3m. Further funding is also provided by government for those residents who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEVs).

5. Reducing Inequalities

The impact on Walsall residents as well as staff Covid-19 has had continues, however there will come a time where it will diminish and the learning from this pandemic can be put into perspective. Some of this work, such as the recent resident survey and the enablement of remote working is already taking place.

In addition to responding to this pandemic, the organisation continues to work hard on reducing inequalities in Walsall be that through the refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to identify focussed priorities; through other corporate strategies such as the Corporate Plan and through the transformation work.

6. Decide

Response to the pandemic continues with a Partnership approach. The pace of increased cases at present (locally within Walsall, but across the country as a whole) has led to a management approach as opposed to a containment approach. Those key organisations and Partners continue to meet weekly as part of IMT to work collaboratively and will continue to do so at present.

There are also weekly Outbreak Plan meetings involving a broad range of colleagues across the Local Authority and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust. These meetings have a core agenda and cover - Business insight, risks, schools, local businesses, care homes, regulatory services, local test and trace and communications.

Regular meetings across the region also assist with future decision-making.

7. Respond

As individuals, we all have a responsibility and can do our part, however small. The message of “hands, face, space” is imperative.

The Local Outbreak Engagement Board (LOEB) (a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board) meets regularly to discuss core Covid-19 related matters and questions are encouraged from members of the public. The meeting can also be watched live through YouTube. The next one is 2nd March 2021.

8. Review

Covid-19 is reviewed regularly through a vast number of avenues and throughout the hierarchy of the organisation.

Key general information is available on the Walsall Council website - [HERE](#) with subsections covering FAQs as well as weekly refreshed data.

Background papers

Key links to Covid-19 related intelligence include:

- [Walsall Council](#)
- [gov.uk website](#)
- www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-mental-health-and-wellbeing-surveillance-spotlights/ethnicity-covid-19-mental-health-and-wellbeing-surveillance-report

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2 February 2021

Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Portfolios: All

Wards: All

1. Summary of report

This report provides a short summary of the activity of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2. Recommendation

That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

3. Report

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report updating Members on the recruitment and retention of social workers and were assured that the direction of travel was positive with staff turnover reducing and the use of agency staff reduced. This had been achieved by a culture of staff wellbeing and a 'pay and retention structure'. The Committee heard the benefits of the Family Safeguarding model, the model focused on the best way to help the family and achieve stability for the child. The structured programme assisted parents to overcome difficulties in their lives. Members were also informed of Covid-19 related financial pressures that were regularly reviewed by officers and discussed with the DfE. The Annual complaints report was also presented which provided an overview and analysis of all compliments and complaints received and to summarise the issues that have arisen. Further detail was requested by the Committee on the time taken to respond to complaints which were responded to after 10 days of receipt. Members considered performance data and compared data to consider improvements. The draft capital programme was presented and noted by the Committee.

Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on 5 January 2021. Members received a report on the Walsall Right 4 Children Inclusion Strategy 2020-25, also included, to be read in conjunction with this, were the SEND Strategy and the Accessibility Strategy. The Committee received a presentation summarising the

background to the report, core priorities and aims for ensuring a step changed in improved outcomes for children/young people. The Committee resolved to note the contents of the report and adopt and endorse the Inclusion Strategy 2020-25.

The Committee received a report on the programme and progress being made to address the areas of concern identified by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission in the February 2019 SEND local area inspection. The report dealt with DfE monitoring visits, programme updates and progress and improvement relating to EHCPs and the clearance of the backlog. Members resolved to note the report and thanked the officers involved in reducing the backlog of EHCPs.

The Committee received a report summarising the law on elective home education, explaining how the Council meets its statutory responsibilities regarding EHE, and providing data on EHE. Members noted the issues around EHE monitoring and support, child protection, EHCPs and the reasons for children becoming electively home educated.

Members received an update on the draft revenue budget process and received the draft capital programme for services within the Committee's remit. The Committee considered the draft capital budget proposals relating to its remit and noted that consultation was continuing on all revenue policy proposals previously reported, with feedback being presented to the Cabinet on 10 February 2021, together with further revenue options to close the gap and ensure a balanced budget in 2021/22.

For a future meeting the Committee resolved to request officers to produce a brief report on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on schools, testing and Council strategy – including attendance/opening of schools, remote learning and the roll out of digital devices – and to provide data regarding the number of schools where have had Covid cases, etc. so can see trends and what's happening in schools

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Members considered four topics in relation to Transportation in Walsall and the wider West Midlands. The Committee invited a number of representatives from Transport for West Midlands and Black Country Transport.

The Committee noted proposals for a SPRINT network on the A34 between Walsall and Birmingham which will enable fast travel into Birmingham in preparation for the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

Transport for West Midlands were engaging in proposals for a West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme which would create a roadmap for cooperation with transportation providers.

The Committee were provided an update on bus vehicular carbon emissions and how the Black Country Transport team collaboration was managing key investments in the Black Country.

The Committee were provided with an update on the Councils Carbon Neutral strategy. Members asked a number of questions and requested clarification on certain aspects of the report.

The Committee were provided with an overview of the Town Deals fund which aims at driving sustainable economic regeneration of Walsall towns to deliver long term economy and productivity growth. The Committee then received a private presentation regarding a number of upcoming projects using the Town Deals fund.

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee is scheduled to meet on 28 January 2021. Items on the agenda include:

- Draft capital programme;
- Covid-19;
- Outpatient service redesign;
- Stroke pathways
- Walsall Together update.

A verbal update on the meeting will be provided at SOC on 1 December 2020.

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Scrutiny Overview Committee

Agenda
Item No. 9

2 February, 2021

Areas of Focus

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: All

Report:

At each meeting the Committee are invited to consider its areas of focus for future meetings. To assist this the following sources are provided:

- Walsall Council Forward Plan;
- Black Country Joint Executive Committee Forward Plan;
- The Committee's work programme including future meeting dates.

Members are invited to review the above information and suggest any further issues they wish for consideration by the Committee or any of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Recommendations:

That, subject to any suggestions or requests for items, the report be noted.

Contact Officer:

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Senior Democratic Services Officer
Executive | Scrutiny | Charities
01922 654765
Craig.Goodall@walsall.gov.uk



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

**Council House,
Lichfield Street,
Walsall, WS1 1TW**
www.walsall.gov.uk

4 January 2020

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 and can also be accessed from the Council’s website at 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.

Cabinet responsibilities are as follows

- Leader of the Council – Councillor Bird
- Deputy Leader, Regeneration – Councillor Andrew
- Deputy Leader, Resilient Communities – Councillor Perry
- Adult social care – Councillor Martin
- Children’s– Councillor Wilson
- Clean and green – Councillor Butler
- Education and skills – Councillor Towe
- Health and wellbeing – Councillor Craddock
- Personnel and business support – Councillor Chattha

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).

“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:

is, or the

- (i) any decision in relation to an executive function which results in the Council incurring expenditure which 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.

Dates of meetings

2020 28 October
9 December

2021 10 February
17 March
21 April

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

FEBRUARY TO MAY2021(4.1.21)

| 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 |
| 8/20 (3.2.20) | Black Country Transport Team Collaboration Agreement: To approve the agreement to facilitate the delivery of a strategic transportation function across the four Black Country local authorities | Cabinet (Nonkey decision) | Matt Crowton 01922 654358 matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 10 February2021 |
| 27/19 (8.7.19) | A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT (Bus Rapid Transit) scheme – Phase 1: To approve the sprint scheme | Cabinet (Key decision) | Matt Crowton 01922 654358 matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 10 February2021 |
| 68/19 (2.12.19) | West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme: To approve a plan to improve bus travel in the A34 Walsall to Birmingham corridor through delivery of a new SPRINT service. | Cabinet (Key decision) | Matt Crowton 01922 654358 matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 10 February2021 |
| 43/18 (8.10.18) | Lighting Invest to Save: To consider proposals for a major investment in the highway lighting infrastructure by | Cabinet (Key | Paul Leighton 07831 120871 paul.leighton@walsall.gov.uk | Public, Walsall Public Lighting Ltd., industry | Councillor Andrew | 10 February2021 |

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|--------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------|
| | replacing all existing lighting with energy efficient LED lighting | decision) | gov.uk | companies, internal | | |
| 1/21 (4.1.21) | Domestic Abuse Refuge Contract: to approve a six month extension to the contract which provides a refuge service for victims of domestic abuse. | Cabinet (Key decision) | Neil Hollyhead Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 10 February 2021 |
| 2/21 (4.1.21) | Willenhall Masterplan: To approve matters relating to Strategic Land Acquisitions. <i>Private Session: Contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.</i> | Cabinet (Key Decision) | Willenhall Economic & Development Programme; and Walsall Regeneration & Development Pipeline: procurement of a strategic advisor. Joel Maybury Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk | Internal External Legal Representative. | Councillor Andrew | 10 February 2021 |
| 58/20 (2.11.20) | Citizens advice Walsall: To approve variation of grant agreement | Cabinet (Key decision) | Elise Hopkins elise.hopkins@walsall.gov.uk Michelle Dudson michelle.dudson@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Andrew/ Councillor Perry | 10 February 2021 |
| 35/20 (7.9.20) | Preparing for Adulthood policy: To approve a new policy to deliver timely and robust plans for young people preparing for adulthood | Cabinet (Key decision) | Jeanette Knapper jeanette.knapper@walsall.gov.uk | Internal, SEND Improvement Board, Health operational partners &CCG | Councillor Martin | 10 February 2021 |

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|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 3/21 (4.1.21) | Supplier Relief Payments to contracted and non-contracted Adult Social Care providers: To agree additional budget to support delivery of service to ensure continuity of care and support | Cabinet (Key decision) | Tracy Simcox Tracy.simcox@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Martin | 10 February 2021 |
| 48/20 (5.10.20) | Access and Inclusion: Response to report and recommendations of Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Cabinet (Non key decision) | Sharon Kelly 01922 652895 sharon.kelly@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Towe | 10 February 2021 |
| 62/20 (2.11.20) | Appointment of Major works technical advisor: To provide services such as architects, quantity surveyors, engineers, etc. for a period of 2 + 1 + 1 years for corporate landlord | Cabinet (Key decision) | Derwyn Owen 01922 650747 derwyn.owen@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Chattha | 10 February 2021 |
| 45/20 (7.9.20) | Corporate Financial Performance and Covid-19 update – To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2020 and impact on Covid-19 | Cabinet (Non key decision) | Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Bird | 10 February 2021 |
| 4/21 (4.1.21) | Corporate Plan Refresh: To consider a refresh of the Council's Corporate Plan for 2021/22 and forward to Council for approval. | Cabinet Council | Christine Williams Christine.Williams2@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Bird | Cabinet - 10 February 2021 Council - 25 February 2021 |
| 46/20 (7.9.20) | Corporate Budget Plan 2020/21 – 2023/24, and Treasury Management | Cabinet | Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 | Council tax payers, Business rate | Councillor Bird | Cabinet - 10 February 2021 |

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|--------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------|----------------------------|
| | and investment Strategy 2021/2022: To approve the final budget and Council tax for approval by Council | (Key decision) | vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk | payers, voluntary and community organisations | | Council - 25 February 2021 |
| 47/20 (7.9.20) | Corporate Plan delivery – Quarter 3 monitoring: To report performance monitoring information relating to the priorities and outcomes included in the Corporate Plan | Cabinet (Non key decision) | Helen Dudson helen.dudson@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Bird | 10 February 2021 |
| 3/20 (6.1.20) | Strategic development at Moxley Road, Darlaston <i>Private session: Report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person</i> | Cabinet (Key decision) | Joel Maybury Joel.Maybury@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 10 February 2021 |
| 51/20 (5.10.20) | High Needs Funding Formula: To approve changes to the formula to be used for the allocation of High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant funding for the 2021/22 academic year | Cabinet (Key decision) | Andy Crabtree Mohammed Irfan 01922 652330 | Schools Forum | Councillor Towe | 10 February 2021 |
| 5/21 (4.1.21) | Regional Supported Accommodation: To agree to be part of a 4 year regional framework contract for supported accommodation for the West Midlands region, covering 14 local authorities and Trusts if appropriate. | Cabinet | David DeMay David.demay@walsall.gov.uk Andrea Cooke Andrea.cooke@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Wilson | 10 February 2021 |
| 6/21 | Black Country Tenancy Strategy: To | Cabinet | Neil Hollyhead | Internal | Councillor | 17 March 2021 |

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|------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|----------|----------------------|---------------|
| (4.1.21) | approve the strategy to enable a uniform approach across the Black Country for Fixed Term Tenancies and Affordable Rents by registered providers of social housing | (Key decision) | Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk | | Andrew | |
| 7/21 (4.1.21) | Community Sponsorship: To approve a process to enable the community to house and support refugees | Cabinet (Key decision) | Neil Hollyhead Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 17 March 2021 |

FORWARD PLAN – February Cabinet - Additions post publication

| 1 | 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) Indicate Key/Non-key | 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 |
| 5.1.21 | <p>Black Country Enterprise Zone-Gasholders Site Next Steps: To seek approval for a proposed delivery approach to bring forward the site for employment generating uses.</p> <p>Private: contains commercially sensitive information.</p> | <p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key decision</p> | <p>Caroline Harper, Regeneration Officer</p> | <p>Finance</p> <p>Legal</p> <p>Corporate Landlord</p> <p>Procurement</p> | <p>Councillor Andrew</p> | <p>10 February 2021</p> |
| 5.1.21 | <p>Crisis Support Provision for families in financial hardship during the Covid-19 pandemic: To consider the findings of a review into the current Crisis Support provision for families in financial</p> | <p>Cabinet</p> <p>Non-key decision</p> | <p>Elise Hopkins Elise.hopkins@walsall.gov.uk</p> | <p>Voluntary Sector Partners, Residents, Statutory Partners, Council Officers</p> | <p>Cllr Perry, Deputy Leader, Resilient Communities</p> <p>Cllr Andrew, Deputy Leader, Regeneration</p> | <p>10 February 2021</p> |

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|---------|---|------------------------------------|--|----------|-------------------|------------------|
| | <p>hardship in Walsall and any recommendations that may arise from it.</p> <p><i>Note: the findings of this review, and any recommendations, will not be available until after the stakeholder consultation is completed on 15th January 2021.</i></p> | | | | | |
| 11.1.21 | <p>Supported Living Service</p> <p>To award a spot contract.</p> | <p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p> | <p>None</p> <p>Susan Blick s.blick@walsall.gov.uk</p> | Internal | Councillor Martin | 10 February 2021 |
| | | | | | | |

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to May 2021 (for publication 04/01/2021)

| 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 |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 05/10/2020 | Accessing Growth – Springfield Interchange Change Request | 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 Accessing Growth Springfield Interchange project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year. | Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk | Wolverhampton City Council | 17/02/2021 |
| 07/09/2020 | School of Architecture and Built Environment – Change Request | Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the School of Architecture and Built Environment project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year. | Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk | Wolverhampton City Council | 17/02/2021 |
| 06/07/2020 | Fab Kit PTP Ltd – Change Request | Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Performance Through People (PTP) Ltd, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Fab Kit PTP Ltd project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year. | Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk | Walsall Council | 17/02/2021 |
| 05/10/2020 | Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Limited – Change Request PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) | Approval for Sandwell Council to proceed to amending the funding repayment schedule with the Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Limited, funded from within the Growing Places Fund (GPF), with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year. | Papers TBC – Alison Knight alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk | Sandwell Council | 17/02/2021 |

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to May 2021 (for publication 04/01/2021)

| 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 |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|---|----------------------------|
| | of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended) | | | | |
| 07/12/2020 | Sandwell Housing Gap Funding - Phase 1 – Change Request | Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) funded elements of the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding - Phase 1 project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year. | Papers TBC – Alison Knight alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk | Sandwell Council | 17/02/2021 |
| 04/01/2021 | Review of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance and Black Country LEP Assurance Framework | Approval of the revised Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance process. Approval of the Black Country LEP Assurance Framework, following the implementation requirements of the new arrangements, and the programme of continuous improvement to further enhance the BC LEP governance and transparency above and beyond published government standards, included as Attachment 1 to this report. | Dr Helen Paterson chiefExecutive@walsall.gov.uk Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk | Dudley MBC Sandwell MBC Walsall MBC Wolverhampton CC | 17/02/2020 |

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to May 2021 (for publication 04/01/2021)

| 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 |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 04/01/2021 | Growth Hub - EU Transition Business Readiness Funding | Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd for the additional award of EU Transition Business Readiness Growth Hub Grant Funding with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year. | Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk | Walsall Council | 17/02/2021 |
| 04/01/2021 | Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – National Innovation Centre | Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – National Innovation Centre project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year. | Papers TBC – Helen Martin helen.martin@dudley.gov.uk | Dudley Council | 31/03/2021 |
| 04/07/2021 | Getting Building Fund –Capital and Revenue Funding Approval | Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to use the revenue funding and capital contingency funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walsall Council to carry out its role as Accountable Body to the Getting Building Fund programme; •the Black Country Consortium for the Management and Administration functions of the Getting Building Fund, and; •Walsall Council to cover the costs of the external legal and technical fees in support of managing the programme. | Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk | Walsall Council | 31/03/2021 |

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to May 2021 (for publication 04/01/2021)

| 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 |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 07/01/2021 | Land & Property Investment Fund – Programme Extension | <p>Approval for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund programme (LPIF), be re-profiled to allow expenditure and outputs to be claimed up to March 2025.</p> <p>Approval for the programme management costs, within this fund be reprofiled for an additional year to March 2026, to ensure that the expenditure and outputs are audited in line with the Black Country Assurance Framework.</p> | Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk | Walsall Council | 31/03/2021 |
| 05/10/2020 | Dudley Advanced Construction Centre – Change Request | 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 2020/21 financial year. | Papers TBC – Helen Martin helen.martin@dudley.gov.uk | Dudley Council | 31/03/2021 |
| 05/10/2020 | Advanced Science Engineering and Technology – Change Request | Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Halesowen College, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Advanced Science Engineering and Technology project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year. | Papers TBC – Helen Martin helen.martin@dudley.gov.uk | Dudley Council | 31/03/2021 |
| 07/09/2020 | Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills – Change Request | Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year. | Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk | Wolverhampton City Council | 31/03/2021 |

Scrutiny Overview Committee – Area of Focus – 2020-21

| | 28 July 2020 | 25 August 2020 | 8 Oct 2020 | 1 Dec 2020 | 2 February 2021 | 15 April 2021 |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Economic Growth, for all people communities and businesses</p> <p><i>Lead OSC: Economy & Environment</i></p> | | <p>C-19 working group.</p> <p>C-19 & Business Compliance</p> | | | | |
| <p>People have increased independence, improved health and positively contribute to their communities</p> <p><i>Lead OSC: Social Care & Health</i></p> | | C-19 Data | C-19 Data | | C-19 Data, vaccinations and BAME impact | |
| <p>Internal focus, all Council services are efficient</p> <p><i>Lead OSC: Scrutiny Overview Committee</i></p> | <p>Financial outturn 19/20 (<i>Cabinet on 17/6</i>)</p> <p>Q1 (budget monitoring) (<i>Cabinet on 15/7</i>)</p> | | 'Getting the basics right' Member comm review | <p>Draft revenue and capital budget 2021-22</p> <p>Budget monitoring</p> <p>Corporate Plan Monitoring</p> | Revenue Budget and Capital Programme | 'Getting the basics right' Member comm review |
| <p>Children have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well</p> <p><i>Lead OSCs: Children's & Education</i></p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Communities are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion</p> <p><i>Lead OSC: Scrutiny Overview Committee</i></p> | Resilient communities working group outcome | Unauthorised encampments | Remembrance Day Parades | | | Public Sector Equality Duty |

Notes: Corporate Plan themes can be cross cutting for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Lead Overview and Scrutiny Committees identified for reference

Scrutiny Overview Committee – Area of Focus – 2020-21

Items to be scheduled

Local and Regional COVID-19 recovery plans and how they integrate.