



Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on:

Thursday, 25 November 2021 at 6.00 pm

Public access to meeting via:

<https://youtu.be/c958Mnlgs0g>

Your attendance is requested at the above meeting, which will be held at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW. A list of the items of business to be considered, together with any supporting papers, is enclosed. Please bring the papers with you to the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Chair	Councillor Lee Jeavons
Vice-Chair	Councillor Kerry Murphy
	Councillor Rose Burley
	Councillor Sabina Ditta
	Councillor Stacie Elson
	Councillor Kenneth Ferguson
	Councillor Sat Johal
	Councillor Pard Kaur
	Councillor Edward Lee
	Councillor Saiqa Nasreen
	Councillor Lorna Rattigan

NON-ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS

Lichfield Diocesan Representative	Vacancy
Archbishop of Birmingham's Representative	Vacancy
Parent Governors	Mrs Heena Pathan
	Vacancy
	Vacancy

NON-ELECTED NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Primary Teacher Representative	Ms Sharon Guy
Secondary Teacher Representative	Ms Wendy Duffus

PORTFOLIO HOLDER

For Education & Skills	Councillor Chris Towe
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AGENDA

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 meeting of the Committee that was held on 14 October 2021.	Enclosed
<u>Scrutiny</u>		
6	Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2025/26 To receive and consider the draft revenue budget proposals that relate to the remit of this committee	Enclosed
7	Corporate Financial Performance – Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Position for 2021/22 To receive and consider the budget monitoring position for Period 5 2021/22	Enclosed
8	School Admissions Update To receive and consider an update on the outcomes from the September 2021 normal admissions round and progress relating to the September 2022 normal admissions round	Enclosed
9	Education Welfare Service (Attendance) update To receive and consider an update on the role of the Education Welfare Service in relation to attendance and statutory duties.	Enclosed
<u>Overview</u>		
10	Work Programme 2021/22 To receive and consider the Committee's work programme for 2021/22.	Enclosed
11	Forward plans To receive the Cabinet and the Black Country EJC forward plans.	Enclosed
12	Date of next meeting To note that the date of the next meeting of the Committee will be Thursday, 13 January 2022.	

The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests that 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 a Scrutiny and Performance Panel 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.

EDUCATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 14 October 2021 at 6.00 pm

In the Council Chamber at the Council House, Walsall

Committee Members present: Councillor K. Murphy (Vice-Chair in the Chair)
Councillor R. Burley
Councillor S. Elson
Councillor K. Ferguson
Councillor S. Johal
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor K. Pedley (Substitute for Councillor E. Lee)
Councillor L. Rattigan

Portfolio Holders present: Councillor C. Towe – Education & Skills

Non-elected non-voting Members present: Ms S. Guy – Primary Teacher Representative

Officers present: Mrs S. Rowe, Executive Director – Children’s Services
Mrs S. Kelly, Director – Access & Inclusion
Ms T. Pyatt, Head of Inclusion
Mr R. Thomas, Head of Access
Ms J. Kaur-Gill, Employment & Skills Manager
Mr K. Patel, Senior IAG Practitioner
Dr P. Fantom, Democratic Services Officer

39/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Ditta, L. Jeavons, E. Lee, S. Nasreen, and from Mrs P. Mullins.

The Vice-Chair informed the Committee that the Archbishop of Birmingham’s representative, Mrs P. Mullins, had resigned from the Committee due to personal reasons. Members requested that a letter be sent to Mrs Mullins expressing the Committee’s appreciation for her service since she joined the Committee in 2019.

40/21 SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor K. Pedley substituted for Councillor E. Lee.

41/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND PARTY WHIP

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

42/21 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 (AS AMENDED)**

There were no agenda items requiring the exclusion of the public.

43/21 **MINUTES**

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021 was submitted [Annexed].

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

44/21 **SPECIALIST PROVISION REVIEW UPDATE**

A report was submitted to provide an update to the Committee on the review being undertaken of current provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Walsall. [Annexed].

The Portfolio Holder, Councillor C. Towe, introduced the report. He noted that specialist provision review would analyse current and future provision across the Borough for pupils with SEND. A specialist provision review group had been established, with a membership that included head teachers from nursery, primary, secondary and special schools, and it was to bring forward options and recommendations by spring 2022.

The Head of Inclusion, Ms T. Pyatt, summarised the report and explained the increases in the need for additional provision for children and young people with SEND to be provided. In terms of the shared vision of the participants of the review group, this was to enable children to attend a provision suitable for their needs and in line with the Walsall Right for Children agenda. The Head of Access, Mr R. Thomas, provided an outline of the position for the specialist review having regard to estate management. This noted that there would be consideration of the existing school provision, and whether additional places could be added through expansion/extension or additional assets be provided on satellite sites. Work was being undertaken with mainstream schools when there was additional capacity to have a hub that could be operated from within such schools.

Further to a question from Councillor Kaur concerning the training being provided to specialists to ensure children received the right level of support, Ms Pyatt explained the various types of support provided to all schools and settings. Work was being carried out in conjunction with the Educational Endowment Foundation to deliver programmes of training, development and support. The procurement of specialist services that would be available to support schools so that children and young people with SEND could remain in mainstream schools was also part of the review.

Councillor Burley raised the question of how the different needs existing within the 0 – 25 years age group could be met? She also referred to the exclusion of children with SEND who were attending mainstream rather than special schools, and highlighted the need for

there to be regular reports to the Committee on these issues. In response, Ms Pyatt referenced the Council's inclusion policy, and stated that if children had additional or special educational needs then it should be incorporated into the provision. When children were in the right place and receiving appropriate report, it was to be expected that the number of exclusions would fall. As part of the specialist provision review, work was being undertaken with nursery, primary, secondary and special school settings, with health professionals and the Children's Commissioner. She noted that, in terms of the extent of the age range, the Authority was concerned to ensure that young people were prepared for adult life. These points were supported by Councillor Towe, who emphasised the amount of work being carried out in all settings to recognise the needs of children in order to ensure they received an appropriate education.

Having regard to a question from Councillor Kaur on the funding and grants available, the Director – Access & Inclusion, Mrs S. Kelly, highlighted the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), high needs funding and pupil premium funding. She noted that there were additional grants and successful bids had been made regarding autism education training, grants to enable mental health support workers to work with schools, and for social workers to work with designated safeguarding leads in schools. Councillor Towe added that there was to be a significant increase in high needs funding next year, with new processes being introduced, and approval had been received from the Schools Forum.

Councillor Kaur also enquired about the reference in the report concerning the creation of budgetary pressures to be managed within the available funding envelope. Mrs Kelly pointed out that there had been a complete review of high needs funding, and that the new funding formula would allow needs to be met. In terms of capital pressures on the schools estate, there were options to determine whether what was held was sufficient.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

45/21 POST-16 EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS SUPPORT

A report was submitted to update the Committee on the current post-16 employment and skills support services in Walsall and the future resourcing of the services [Annexed].

Councillor Towe introduced this item by noting the decision in October 2020 to integrate the post-16 Information, Advice and Guidance team and the Education Business Partnership into the Employment and Skills team to create a more joined up and coherent education, employment and skills service to support both young people and older residents. This now totalled 28 employees, and was to be increased to 38 staff in the future. To support the work of schools, a more comprehensive offer for young people was being made via better employment engagement to prepare young people for work. Having regard to those young people not in employment, education or training (NEET), the career and enterprise company were supporting schools to work with pre- and post-16 year's young people. Councillor Towe also referred to the initiatives, such as Kick-start (which had been extended to March 2022), Black Country Impact and the drop-in centres at the Crossing, St Paul's Church, Walsall, and St John's Methodist Church, Bloxwich.

The Senior IAG Practitioner, Mr K. Patel, expanded on these points to provide more detail for the Committee, including Walsall Works, the links with other agencies and outreach delivery across the Borough. In particular, he noted that the statistics relating to NEETs in Walsall had been significantly lower than for those reported for the Authority's regional and national statistical neighbours.

Councillor Towe expressed his pride in what Walsall had achieved for its young people through such initiatives as Walsall Works, and he congratulated the officers for their work in helping the young people and residents in the Borough to obtain the skills that they needed to fulfil the opportunities available to them.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

46/21 WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2021/22

Members received the Committee's updated Work Programme [Annexed].

It was proposed that the item on the Walsall Right for Children programme, which had been due to be considered at this meeting, but which had been deferred owing to the Ofsted inspection, now be placed on the agenda for the March 2022 meeting.

The Democratic Services Officer, Dr P. Fantom, informed the Committee that due to staffing and resource constraints, it was considered necessary to pause the activities of the proposed working group initiated at the Committee's last meeting. This would be resumed once the constraints had been removed.

Resolved:

That subject to the above-mentioned amendments, the Work programme be approved.

47/21 FORWARD PLANS

Members received and considered the Forward Plans of the Council and the Black Country Executive Joint Committee [Annexed].

Resolved:

That the Forward Plans be noted.

48/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Thursday, 25 November 2021 at 6.00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.48 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....

25 November 2021

Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2025/26

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor Chris Towe – Education and Skills

Executive Summary:

The draft revenue budget, as reported to Cabinet on 20 October 2021, includes the latest medium term financial outlook (MTFO) for the four-year period from 2022/23 to 2025/26. It also outlines the draft revenue budget for 2022/23 to 2025/26 (including savings proposals for consultation), draft capital programme for 2022/23 to 2025/26, and sets out the process and timescale for setting a legally balanced budget for 2022/23.

Our MTFO has been updated for all known pressures, including best professional assumptions around the ongoing impact of Covid-19. The Council is legally obliged to set a one year balanced budget (2022/23), however a medium term approach is beneficial to allow for sound financial planning and to support future financial stability. The report to Cabinet presents a balanced budget for 2022/23 and a number of savings proposals for 2023/24 and 2024/25, however further options are being identified to allow for a balanced budget over the period 2023/24 to 2025/26 aligned to the Corporate Plan and Proud activity. The assumptions include a 1.99% council tax increase, in line with current referendum assumptions.

The Government Spending Review took place on 27 October 2021 covering a three year period, alongside the Chancellors Autumn Budget statement. Full analysis of the impact of core funding on our budget assumptions over the next review period will be undertaken, and reported back to Cabinet in December on the impact for the 2022/23 budget and MTFO for future years. Our current funding and cost assumptions are set out in the report to Cabinet, and therefore they are subject to change.

The draft capital programme for 2022/23 is balanced and totals £62.27m. It sets out new capital investment funded from the council's own resources of £38.41m (funded by capital receipts and borrowing) and externally funded schemes of £23.86m (funded by capital grants) and represents a balanced programme for 2022/23. In addition, the report sets out a further three years of indicative proposals to 2025/26. 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.

This report provides an extract of the Proud draft revenue savings proposals and Investments / Cost Pressures for 2022/23 – 2025/26 by Proud Outcomes, which fall within the remit of the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. It also provides a summary of the draft capital programme for schemes within the remit of this Committee.

Feedback from this Committee on the draft revenue and capital proposals will be reported back to Cabinet on 15 December 2021. This will inform the final draft budget to be considered by Cabinet on 9 February 2022 to be recommended to Council on 24 February 2022. Any changes to draft revenue and capital budget proposals as a result of equality impact assessments and consultation, along with the outcome of the councils strategic asset review, will be fed into the final budget report.

Reason for scrutiny:

To enable consultation of the draft revenue and capital budget proposals for services within the remit of this Committee. Comments on the operational revenue proposals are welcomed but not essential, as they are able to be delivered under delegations.

Recommendations:

That:

1. The Committee are recommended to consider the draft revenue budget proposals attached that relate to the remit of this committee as shown in **Appendices 1 and 2**, and that feedback will be presented to Cabinet on 15 December 2021.
2. The Committee are recommended to consider the draft capital schemes included in the draft capital programme attached that relate to the remit of this committee as shown in **Appendices 3 and 4**, and that feedback will be presented to Cabinet on 15 December 2021.

Background papers:

Various financial working papers.

Resource and legal considerations:

Cabinet on 20 October 2021 were presented with a list of draft Proud revenue savings proposals for consultation and a list of growth items by Proud outcome, along with a draft capital programme over the period 2022/23 to 2025/26.

The full Cabinet report can be accessed at the following link:

[Draft revenue budget and capital programme 2022/23 to 2025/26 - Cabinet 20 October 2021](#)

Maximising Outcomes through Budgeting 2022/23 onwards

Finance and the corporate management team (CMT) have been assessing the best approach to mapping the council's financial envelope to the delivery of the council's key priorities, measures of success and outcomes. Finance have started work collaboratively with all services on a new outcomes based process aligning spend more accurately to the council's agreed deliverables building on the work previously undertaken to map the gross and net expenditure of the council by outcomes as well as benefits delivered/ to be delivered within the corporate Budget Plan.

This is being aligned to the Corporate Plan/direction of travel work for 2022/23 onwards which will be presented to Cabinet during December as draft, and then Cabinet and Council in February 2022 as final, to approve and endorse the council's key outcomes and ambitions. This will feed into the commissioning and financial strategies at the end of the 2021/22 financial year. This will then fully inform the 2023/24 budget process starting in Spring 2022 where the 2022/23 budget will be fully mapped to the council's key outcomes in the Corporate Plan 2022-25.

The updated direction of travel approach will set out how the budget will be aligned to deliver the desired outcome i.e. through different amounts of delivery, coordination, influencing, signposting or regulating. A review of the current delivery model will be undertaken alongside the direction of travel and re-prioritised where appropriate to maximise value for money and overall delivery of outcomes. Moving forward the aim is to ensure that budgets from 2023/24 onwards are built and developed around this approach.

Savings proposals

The Proud service transformation plans have identified £20.14m of financial benefit for 2022/23 and £6.08m for 2023/24. Benefits / savings are classified into two categories:

1. Policy Proposals - which require an Executive decision to proceed, and which will be referred for public consultation and equality impact assessment prior to any decision being made to include these in Cabinet's final budget proposals. These total £282k over the two years. The majority are full year impact of savings from 2021/22. There are no policy proposals relating to the remit of this Committee.
2. Operational Proposals – savings which officers have delegations to implement; examples include restructures, back office savings and operational efficiencies. These total £25.95m over the two years. Operational proposals relating to the remit of this committee are shown at **Appendix 1 B**, and total £682k over the two years.

Some proposals require investment to support delivery, most of which has been provided for as part of the approved 2021/22 budget. Such investment will only be allocated if the relevant saving proposal is included within Cabinet's final budget report in February, once consultation and equality impact assessment on proposals has concluded.

Savings proposals outlined in the report to Cabinet on 20 October 2021 will ensure a balanced budget for 2022/23. A gap of £10.25m remains after the delivery of the £6.08m saving identified for 2023/24, with a further £18.41m saving requirement for 2024/25 and £15.23m for 2025/26. Directors continue to work on identifying additional options for Members consideration through the STP process, and a further report will be presented to Cabinet outlining further options to balance the budget for 2023/24 onwards. A work stream review of the STP's is taking place to ensure that they maximise opportunities from the Proud ways of working and capabilities, and therefore capture the full benefits; to ensure they capture innovative thinking; and to challenge any opportunities to accelerate identified savings.

Investment / cost pressures

Further to the changes in assumptions, the draft budget 2022/23 – 2025/26 includes provision for growth and investment of c£55m. There is a further £4.52m of pay and pension related investment to be allocated to services in 2022/23 once the pay award and

pension valuation have been agreed. Those relating to the remit of this Committee are shown at **Appendix 2** and total £5.57m over 4 years.

Draft Capital Programme

The draft capital programme for 2022/23 is balanced and totals £62.27m. It sets out new capital investment funded from the council's own resources of £38.41m (funded by capital receipts and borrowing) and externally funded schemes of £23.86m (funded by capital grants) and represents a balanced programme for 2022/23. In addition, the report sets out a further three years of indicative proposals to 2025/26. Those council funded schemes relating to the remit of this Committee are shown at **Appendix 3** totalling £2.00m over 4 years, and external funded schemes of £15.01m at **Appendix 4**.

Contact Officers:

Sally Rowe – Executive Director, Children's Services, ☎ 01922 652081

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Sharon Kelly – Director Access & Inclusion, ☎ 07464521074

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Vicky Buckley – Head of Finance and Assurance, ☎ 07983 604698,

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APPENDIX 1

Benefits Realisation (Savings) for Proud activity by Outcome 2022/23 to 2025/26 relating to the remit of this Committee

A: Summary of Policy Proposals by Outcome 2022/23 – 2023/24

None relating to the remit of this Committee

B: Summary of Operational Proposals by Outcome 2022/23 – 2023/24

Directorate	Ref No	Detail of Operational Proposals by Outcome	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Total £
Children thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential					
Children's Services	OP5	Home to school transport - route optimisation	(216,204)	0	(216,204)
	OP17	Reduction in use of agency and temporary staff	(120,000)	0	(120,000)
Total Children thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential			(336,204)	0	(336,204)
Education, training and skills enable people to fulfil their personal development					
Children's Services	OP25	Increase traded services to schools	(55,000)	0	(55,000)
	OP26	High needs funding review and provide specialist support to children with additional needs via use of DSG grant	(250,000)	0	(250,000)
	OP28	Review and streamline the provision of specialist inclusion services and support	(41,283)	0	(41,283)
Total Education, training and skills enable people to fulfil their personal development			(346,283)	0	(346,283)
Total Operational Proposals relating to the remit of this Committee			(682,487)	0	(682,487)

	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	Total £
Total Savings			
A - Policy Savings	0	0	0
B - Operational Savings	(682,487)	0	(682,487)
Total Savings relating to the remit of this Committee	(682,487)	0	(682,487)

APPENDIX 2

Summary of New Growth and Investment 2022/23 to 2025/26 aligned to Proud Outcomes relating to the remit of this Committee

Directorate	Ref No	Details of Growth by outcome	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £
Education, training and skills enable people to fulfil their personal development						
Children's Services	17	Home to school transport	1,338,094	1,045,861	941,977	941,977
	New	Home to school transport	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Total Education, training & skills enable people to fulfil their personal development			1,588,094	1,295,861	1,191,977	1,191,977
Children grow up in connected communities and feel safe everywhere						
Children's Services	New	Increases in EHP assessment team	303,000	0	0	0
	Total Children grow up in connected communities and feel safe everywhere		303,000	0	0	0
Total Growth and investment relating to the remit of this Committee			1,891,094	1,295,861	1,191,977	1,191,977

APPENDIX 3

Draft Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2025/26 – Council Funded Schemes relating to the remit of this Committee

Directorate	Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £
Prior Year Approvals						
Children's Services	School Estate Condition Survey	Ongoing provision to cover school conditions. Part allocation from 2020/21 proposed to be carried forward to 2021/22.	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
	School Temporary Classrooms	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	250,000
Total Prior Year Approvals			500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Total Draft Capital Programme – Council Funded Schemes within the remit of this Committee			500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000

APPENDIX 4

Draft Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2025/26 – External Funded Schemes relating to the remit of this Committee

Directorate	Capital Scheme	Detail of Capital investment	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	2025/26 £
Children's Services	Basic Need	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. (Department for Education).	1,319,871	1,319,871	1,319,871	1,319,871
	Devolved Formula Capital	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	514,854
	Capital Maintenance	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. (Department for Education).	1,917,799	1,917,799	1,917,799	1,917,799
Total Draft Capital Programme - External Funded Schemes			3,752,524	3,752,524	3,752,524	3,752,524

25 NOVEMBER 2021

**CORPORATE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – QUARTER 2 FINANCIAL MONITORING
POSITION FOR 2021/22**

Ward(s) All

Portfolio: Councillor Towe – Education and Skills

1. Aim

To provide the budget monitoring position for Period 5 2021/22. The Chair requested that this item be considered by the Committee.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the revenue and capital forecast for the financial year end 2021/22 for the services under the remit of the committee.

3. Report detail – know

3.1 The current net revenue forecast position, after the net use of reserves, is net nil.

3.2 Regular reports are prepared during 2021/22 for both Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee. For services under the remit of this committee the forecast revenue position is net nil at Period 5, after net use of reserves of £1.47m. For completeness, the forecast revenue overspend for services under the remit of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is net nil. This gives a total forecast position of net nil for Children’s Services directorate as at 31 August 2021.

3.3 Reasons for the current position are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1 - Explanations of overspend	
	£k
£322k (offset by reserves) overspend on home to school transport, due to an increase in transport demand of 71 pupils, of which 60 pupils are due to SENDI provision requirements for additional places at two Special Schools within the Borough. Further work being undertaken to consider short term and longer term implications which continue to inform the MTFO.	-
£537k (offset by reserves) overspend on use of agency within the Special Education Needs team, relating to clearing a backlog of Education and Health Care Plan cases and meeting the ongoing demand.	-
Total	-

3.4 The forecast revenue position by service is shown in Table 2 below:

Service	Annual Budget	Year End Forecast	Net Use of Reserves	Action Plan	Variance after Reserves & Action Plan
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Access & Inclusion	2.22	2.93	(0.71)	0.00	0.00
Home to School Transport	4.92	5.24	(0.32)	0.00	0.00
Children's Services Sub Total	7.14	8.17	(1.03)	0.00	0.00
Education funding - accountable body	(0.46)	(0.02)	(0.44)	0.00	0.00
Total Children's Services	6.68	8.15	(1.47)	0.00	0.00

3.5 Reserves

The total allocated reserves in 2021/22 are £4.71m, of which £1.47m has been used or committed to date. To note, this includes reserves of £0.19m relating to one off Covid-19 funding, £0.41m relating to school improvement funding, £0.32m relating to Supporting Families funding to offset the home to school transport pressure and £0.09m other reserves.

Table 3 below details the current net use of reverses included within the forecast.

Reserve Details	Allocated reserve	Use of reserve	Transfer to reserve	Balance of reserve
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Education funding-accountable body	3.31	(0.44)	0.00	2.86
Access & Inclusion (including home to school transport)	1.40	(1.03)	0.00	0.37
Total Reserves	4.71	(1.47)	0.00	3.23

3.6 Risks

For the services under the remit of this committee, there are total risks of **£413k** which are not included in the above forecast. At this stage the risks are not a certainty and as such are not included in the monitoring position. High risks of **£413k** are included in the corporate monitoring report to CMT. If the risk became a certainty, it would need to be included in the forecast

position as an overspend unless alternative action can be identified to mitigate these costs. A summary of the risk assessment is shown in Table 4 below.

Risk	Value £'000	Ongoing £'000	One Off £'000	Actions to manage risk
High	413	250	163	Children’s Services continue to identify possible in year mitigations and review budgets as part of Council’s MTFO plan.
Medium	0	0	0	
Low	0	0	0	
Total	413	250	163	

The main high risks (Red risk) that could negatively impact the current forecast position should they occur are detailed further in Table 5 below.

Service	Reason / explanation of risk	£'000
Home to school transport	Risk of not achieving the identified cost reductions	250
Access & Inclusion	Risk that the demand for assessments continues to increase above capacity of the current Educational Psychologist team, therefore incurring additional agency cost	100
Access & Inclusion	Risk of overspend on agency staff to meet EHCP assessment demand. Funding has been approved for permanent posts, but interim cover may be needed in the short term to meet demand whilst recruitment is underway	63
Total High Risks		413

3.7 Service Transformation Plan Benefits

Included within the budget for 2021/22 for services within the remit of this Committee are £0.57m of approved savings. Table 6 gives an early indication of the progress towards implementing these benefits:

Saving	Total savings £m	Delivered (Blue) £m	To be delivered by 31/03/22 (Green) £m	Not fully guaranteed (Amber) £m	Not achieved (Red) £m
OP15 – Review of Access and Inclusion staffing structure	0.129	0.129	0	0	0
OP16 – Renegotiation and joint procurement of moderation and school improvement contract	0.040	0	0.040	0	0
OP24 – Seek contribution from Walsall CCG towards the provision of a Special Education	0.043	0.043	0	0	0

Needs and/or Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)					
OP25 – Increase traded services to schools	0.020	0	0.020	0	0
OP26 – High needs funding review and provide specialist support to children with additional needs via use of DSG grant	0.250	0.250	0	0	0
OP27 – Review of structure and functions and provide in-house support to 2, 3 and 4 year olds	0.050	0	0.050	0	0
OP113 – CAM Dispersed Effort Benefit Target	0.023	0	0	0	0.023
OP109 – A&BS Dispersed Effort Benefit Target	0.014	0	0	0	0.014
Total approved savings for services within remit of Committee	0.569	0.422	0.110	0	0.037

Each benefit is “BRAG” categorised as follows:

- Blue (delivered);
- Green (on track to be delivered with no issues at year end of 2021/22);
- Amber (not guaranteed at this stage but no major issues expected, some management action needed to ensure delivery) or,
- Red - (at high risk of not being achieved either in part or in full and therefore a robust delivery plan is required);
- A WP resource plan has been agreed to provide additional support towards delivery. All RED and AMBER benefits will require a high level delivery plan with key milestones including any corrective action to be produced.

3.7 Capital Summary

The total capital programme relating to this portfolio is £41.20m. The projected forecast spend for 2021/22 as at Quarter 2 end (September) is £20.96m with a proposed carry forward of £20.25m. This is detailed in Table 7 below:

Table 7 - Capital Forecast 2021/22					
Service	Annual Budget £m	Actual Year to Date £m	Forecast £m	Year End Variance £m	Proposed carry forward to 2022/23 £m
Council Funded					
School Estate Condition Survey	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00
School Temporary Classrooms	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00
2 Year Old Capital Funding - DSG RCCO	0.23	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.00
SUB-TOTAL	0.73	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00
Externally Funded					
Devolved Formula Capital	2.01	0.15	2.01	0.00	0.00
Capital Maintenance	5.90	1.73	4.20	1.70	(1.70)
Basic Need*	29.51	5.09	10.97	18.55	(18.55)
Universal Infant Free School Meals	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Academies	0.35	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00

High Needs Provisional Capital Allocation**	1.42	0.00	1.42	0.00	0.00
Goldsmith 2 Year Old Expansion	0.99	0.48	0.99	0.00	0.00
Section 106 – Various Schemes	0.29	0.00	0.29	0.00	0.00
SUB-TOTAL	40.48	7.45	20.24	20.25	(20.25)
TOTAL - EDUCATION	41.21	7.45	20.97	20.25	(20.25)

* The Basic Need carry forward includes £1.63m of Special Provision Fund and £0.06m of Section 106 funding. The amounts were adjusted on the balance sheet at year-end in 2020/21 to reflect the expenditure already incurred on special school expansions.

** This grant is a new grant for 21/22 funded by the DfE to support the creation of new High Needs places or the improvement of existing provision for pupils with SEND or Alternative Provision. The funding is for place creations for the academic year 2022/23 and is intended to allow the authority to manage pressures on their high needs budgets.

4. Financial information

4.1 The financial implications are as set out in the main body of this report. The council has a statutory responsibility to set a balanced budget and to ensure it has an adequate level of reserves. The council will take a medium term policy led approach to all decisions on resource allocation.

5. Reducing Inequalities

5.1 Services consider and respond to equality issues in setting budgets and delivering services. Irrespective of budgetary pressures, the Council must fulfil equal opportunities obligations.

6. Decide

6.1 To note the recommendations as set out in this report.

7. Respond

7.1 The Executive Director for Childrens Services, with finance in support will be working with Directors and Heads of service to review the forecast, to continue to implement mitigating actions for any further forecast overspends and to consider these financial implications in line with the council's budget setting process.

8. Review

8.1 Regular monitoring reports are presented to Cabinet to inform them of the impact of Covid-19 and the financial forecast for 2020/21, including an update on risks and impact on the budget for 2021/22 and beyond.

Background papers: Various financial working papers

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Sally Rowe

Executive Director, Children's Services

25 November 2021

School Admissions Update

Ward(s) All

Portfolio: Councillor Chris Towe – Education & Skills

1. Aim

The aim of this report is to provide the Education Scrutiny and Overview Committee with an update about the outcomes from the September 2021 normal admission rounds and progress in relation to the September 2022 normal admission rounds.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the contents of this report and decides whether any further information or updates are required

3. Report detail - know

3.1. Admissions Authorities

An admissions authority is the responsible body for determining the admissions criteria of a school and for ensuring that all admissions to that school take place in accordance that published criteria.

Walsall Local Authority is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled primary schools in the borough. The governing bodies are responsible for voluntary aided and foundation primary schools and academy trusts are responsible for any academy primary school.

All secondary schools in Walsall are their own admission authorities – again through their governing bodies or academy trusts. Given this, Walsall Local Authority is not the admitting admission authority for any of the secondary schools in Walsall.

3.2. Normal/Phased Admission Rounds.

In accordance with the provisions of the School Admissions Code (2021) Walsall Local Authority is required to work in conjunction with its neighbouring Local Authorities (Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley), to co-ordinate the ‘normal’ admissions rounds. These rounds are also referred to as ‘phased’ admission rounds and are distinct from the mid-year admissions process that parents and carers need to follow in they wish to apply to change school outside of the year groups and timescales that are covered by the ‘normal’ admission rounds.

In Walsall, the normal admission round process includes the following three phased admission rounds:

- **Primary Transfer Round** - admission to reception class.
- **Infant to Junior Transfer Round** - transfer from Year 2 to Year 3, for those children that are on roll at an infant school and need to transfer to a junior school to continue their primary education.
- Secondary Transfer Round – admission to Year 7.

In the normal admissions round parents or carers must apply to their home local authority for a school place. Parents or carers must be able to express a preference for at least three schools, although in Walsall parents can express up to five preference for a secondary school place and three preferences for a primary (reception or year 3 place). Parents or carers can express preferences for schools outside their home local authority and the purpose of the co-ordinated arrangements between Local Authorities is to ensure that all parents who submit applications receive a **single** offer of a school place from the local authority at the highest preference school at which a place is available. The offers are sent to parents on National Offer Day – this is 1 March for secondary schools or 16 April for primary schools (or the next working day where 1 March or 16 April fall on a weekend or bank holiday), in the year in which the child will be admitted.

3.3 Update on Normal Admission Rounds for September 2021

The following tables provide data about the number of applications received and offers made by Walsall Local Authority in relation to the normal admissions rounds for September 2021. Table A refers to the Secondary Transfer Round, Table B refers to the Primary Transfer round and Table C refers to the Infant Junior Transfer round.

Table A: Secondary Transfer Round for September 2021*

Number of Applications Received	3566	
Number Offered First Preference School	2719	76%
Number Offered Second Preference School	464	13%
Number Offered Third Preference School	114	3%
Number Offered 1 of Top 3 Preferences	3297	93%
Number Offered Any of Their Preferred Schools	3353	94%

*this data is taken from the statutory return that the Local Authority was required to submit to the Department for Education following secondary 'national offer day' on Monday 1 March 2021 and refers to 'on time' applications only. Please note that % figures have been rounded up or rounded down.

Table B: Primary Transfer Round for September 2021*

Number of Applications Received	3521	
Number Offered First Preference School	3217	91%
Number Offered Second Preference School	158	4%
Number Offered Third Preference School	49	1%
Number Offered 1 of Top 3 Preferences	3424	97%
Number Offered Any of Their Preferred Schools	3424	97%

*this data is taken from the statutory return that the Local Authority was required to submit to the Department for Education following secondary 'national offer day' on Thursday 16 April 2021 and refers to 'on time' applications only. Please note that % figures have been rounded up or rounded down.

Table C: Infant to Junior Transfer Round

Number of applications received	752	
Total Number of Offers Made	752	
Number Offered First Preference School	743	
Number Offered Second Preference School	8	
Number Offered Third Preference School	1	
Number Offered 1 of Top 3 Preferences	751	
Number Offered Any of Their Preferred Schools	751	

* The Local Authority is not required to submit to a statutory return to the Department for Education in respect of the infant junior transfer round so this template has been populated from the Local Authority own data snap shot following offer day on Thursday 16 April 2021.

3.4. Progress on Normal Admission Rounds for September 2022.

Secondary Round September 2022

The deadline for the Secondary 2022 Admission Round passed on 31 October 2021. To date Walsall Local Authority has received 3,704 on-time applications for Walsall resident children. In the run-up to the closing date, the School Admissions Team worked intensively to chase up as many outstanding applications as possible. This included:

- Liaison with Walsall's Communication Team to ensure that both the opening and closing dates of the round were highlighted via press releases and regular updates on Walsall Council's social media sites.
- Liaison with Walsall primary schools to identify those parents or carers that required additional support to make an application.
- Liaison with those out of borough schools with Walsall resident children on roll to try to identify those parents or carers that required additional support to make an application.
- Reminder telephone calls and emails directly to parents and carers in the run up to the closing date.

The LA's records show that there are still 215 Walsall resident children on roll at Walsall schools, for whom an application has not yet been received. The team are in the process of following up with both schools and parents and carers about these applications and all late applications will be processed in accordance with the Local Authority's late application process.

The first inter-LA Data Transfer is scheduled to take place between 9 and the 13 November 2021 when application data will be exchanged with neighbouring LA's. Offer day will be on Tuesday 1 March 2022 and all 'on time' applicants will receive email notification of their offer on this day.

Primary and Infant to Junior Transfer Rounds

The primary and infant to junior transfer rounds will open on Monday 15 November 2021 and will close on 15 January 2022. Work is ongoing to promote the opening dates for the primary with parents, schools, early years settings and other relevant agencies so as to maximise the number of applications that are submitted by the closing date.

3.5. The Mid-Year Admissions Process in Walsall.

As set out in paragraph 4.1 above parents and carers need to follow the mid-year admissions application process if they wish to apply to change schools outside of the year groups and timescales that are covered by the 'normal' admission rounds.

In Walsall, the process for making a mid-year admission application is as follows:

- **Primary Mid-Year Admission Application Process:** The Local Authority co-ordinates the mid-year admissions applications for the majority of primary schools in Walsall so applications for these schools need to be made directly to the Local Authority via the School Admissions and Appeals Team. However, in line with new admission code in 2021, as of 1 November 2021 a number of own admission authority schools have informed the Local Authority that they wish to take co-ordinate their own mid-year admissions and for these schools parents and carers need to make applications directly to these schools. Parents and Carer should be sign posted to Walsall's School Admissions webpages for more information about the correct application process for each school.
- **Secondary Mid-Year Admission Application Process:** In line with the School Admissions and Appeals Code (2021) all Secondary Schools in Walsall have opted to co-ordinate their own mid-year admissions application process. Therefore, parents need to approach each school directly to make an application for a secondary school place.

As set out in the School Admissions Code (2021) all admissions authorities, should aim to notify applicants of the outcome of their mid-year application within 10 school days and they must notify applicants of the outcome of their application in writing within 15 schools day. Applicants must be informed, in writing, of the reason for refusal and their right to appeal the decision of the admission authority. Applicant must not be refused the opportunity to make an application or be advised

that they can be placed on a school's waiting list instead of making a formal application.

3.6. The School Admissions Appeals Process.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021, all admission authorities must inform a parent in writing of a decision to refuse their child a place at a school for which they have applied. The letter must include the reason why the admission was refused, details about the right to appeal the decision, the deadline for lodging an appeal and the contact details for making an appeal.

All admission authorities are responsible for arranging their own appeals and ensuring that they are conducted in accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code (2012).

The purpose of this Code is to ensure the independence of admission appeal panels and to ensure that all admission appeals for maintained schools and Academies are conducted in a fair and transparent way. This Code is designed to give admission authorities the freedom they need to run the appeals process efficiently, whilst maintaining minimum requirements, which will ensure fairness and transparency.

Appeal panels must either uphold or dismiss an appeal. Under Section 94(6) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, a panel's decision that a child shall be admitted to a school is binding on the admission authority concerned.

4 Decide

- 4.1. The Committee may decide to note the current position and request further information or assurance in respect of the progress of the School Admissions process.

5 Respond

- 5.1. Any recommendations made by the Committee will be assessed against the Access and Inclusion planned work and performance board programmes.

6. Review

The work of the School Admissions and Appeals team is subject to constant monitoring and assessment via the Children's Services Performance Board process.

Background papers

School Admissions Code (2021)

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25 November 2021

Update on Education Welfare Service (Attendance)

Ward(s) All

Portfolio: Councillor Chris Towe – Education & Skills

1. Aim

1.1 The aim of this report is to:

- Provide a clear understanding of the laws relating to School Attendance;
- Explain the role of the Education Welfare Service in relation to Attendance and statutory duties.
- Provide information detailing the Education Welfare Services thresholds and processes in carrying out its functions.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the contents of this report and decides whether there should be further information or updates.

3. Report detail – know

Attendance Law

3.1 The Education Act 1996 (7) sets out the duty of parents to secure education of children of compulsory school age:

The parent of every child of compulsory school age shall cause him to receive efficient full-time education suitable—

- (a) *to his age, ability and aptitude, and*
- (b) *to any special educational needs (in the case of a child who is in the area of a local authority in England) or additional learning needs (in the case of a child who is in the area of a local authority in Wales) he may have, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.*

3.2 The law requires all schools including independent schools to have an admission register and, with the exception of schools where all pupils are boarders, an attendance register. All pupils (regardless of their age) must be placed on both registers. The proprietor of a school who fails to comply with these regulations is guilty of an offence and can be fined.

3.3 Local authorities, school governing bodies, school head teachers (and staff authorised by the head) and teachers-in-charge of pupil referral units are required by law to have regard to the relevant parts of the DfE guidance ‘School attendance parental responsibility measure’ when carrying out their functions in relation to parenting contracts, parenting orders and penalty notices.

- 3.4 Local authorities have the power to prosecute parents who fail to comply with a School Attendance Order (SAO) (section 443 of the Education Act 1996) or fail to ensure their child's regular attendance at a school (section 444 of the Education Act 1996).

Education Welfare Service and Schools

- 3.5 The Education Welfare Service works closely with Walsall schools to support regular attendance and to deliver our statutory duties.
- 3.6 The majority of Walsall schools have regular referral meetings with an Education Welfare Service Attendance Officer. The Attendance Officers will visit schools to discuss all pupils that are of concern in regards to attendance. All interventions, actions, and escalation decisions are agreed upon by School and the Attendance Officer.
- 3.7 The Education Welfare Service is committed to ensuring that all children can take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them so that they achieve their potential. Where necessary a range of informal and/or legal interventions will be considered where a parent is failing in their duty to ensure that their child is educated.

Restorative Working

- 3.8 The Education Welfare Service will offer parent(s)/carer(s) and school, advice, guidance, and support. Multi-agency involvement will be considered if there are concerns about a child's welfare.
- 3.9 As part of a graduated response, attempts to work with the parent(s)/carer(s) to encourage regular attendance will be made. Attempts to engage with parent(s)/carer(s) and pupils (where appropriate) are made by:
- Home visits;
 - Telephone calls;
 - Parent meetings;
 - Pupil Interviews (where appropriate).
- 3.10 If attendance does not improve, an Attendance Panel is held as part of the Education Welfare Service's process. The Attendance Panel provides parent(s)/carer(s) the opportunity to discuss the reasons for low attendance with the Attendance Officer and School. The Chair of Attendance Panel will identify areas where support is required to allow the pupil to access school regularly. Parent(s)/carer(s) and pupils are expected to engage with the Attendance Officer, School and other professionals if necessary to address the issues identified resulting in poor attendance.
- 3.11 A 6-week monitoring period is attached to the Attendance Panel to monitor and support regularly attendance. A review will take place at the end of the 6-weeks to determine whether further action is required.

Local Authority Statutory Duties

- 3.12 Local authorities in England have a statutory duty to make arrangements to identify children not receiving education (section 436A, Education Act 1996). The statutory duties outline what the Local Authority should do to comply with the law to ensure that all children and young people of compulsory school age have access to a full-time, suitable education.
- 3.13 The LA identifies children not receiving education in Walsall schools by identifying pupils who are classified as persistently absent (PA) – pupils who have attendance of 90.00% and below.
- 3.14 In line with Walsall's Code of Conduct and Enforcement Policy, the LA will prosecute parent(s)/carer(s) for failing to secure regular school attendance for their child. Penalty Notices are issued for unauthorised leave in term time.
- 3.15 The LA has an Education Welfare Officer (EWO) who administers and enforces all requirements needed for child performance, child employment, and chaperone licensing.

Education Welfare Service – Reduced Timetables

- 3.16 In October 2021, the Education Welfare Service published new guidance to set out the process for all schools to notify the Local Authority when a child is placed on a part-time/reduced school timetable.
- 3.17 The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to track, monitor and action any pupil missing from education. Any pupil on a reduced timetable is not in receipt of a full-time offer and therefore needs to be accounted for. All schools in Walsall have a statutory responsibility to cooperate with the Council to ensure that the council's duties can be effectively discharged.
- 3.18 This guidance sets out notification and planning requirements applying to all Walsall schools, including Maintained, Academies, Free Schools, and Alternative Provision settings, in the very exceptional event of a reduced timetable being agreed for a pupil for a limited period.
- 3.19 It is the role of the Specialist Officer for Children Missing from Education within the Education Welfare Service to review all pupils who are not in receipt of a full-time offer, or, are not accessing education in the usual way. The officer will identify any schools where a pupil is not receiving their full-time educational entitlement for a period exceeding 6-weeks and raise the concern with the school. This is will be escalated to the Schools Causing Concern Forum where appropriate.

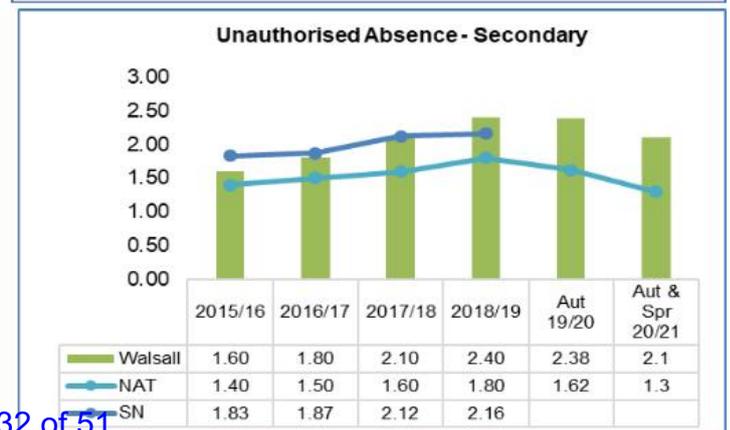
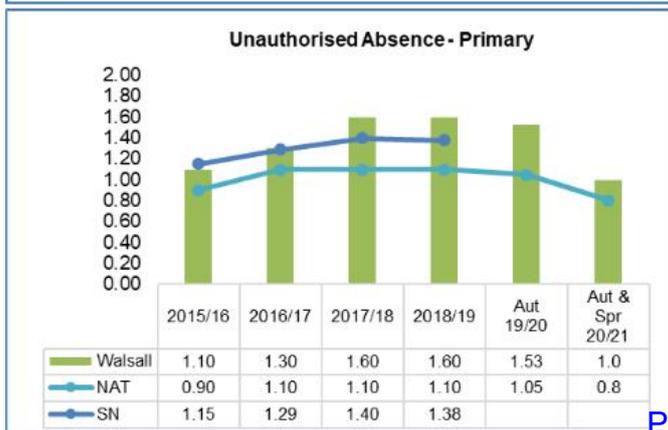
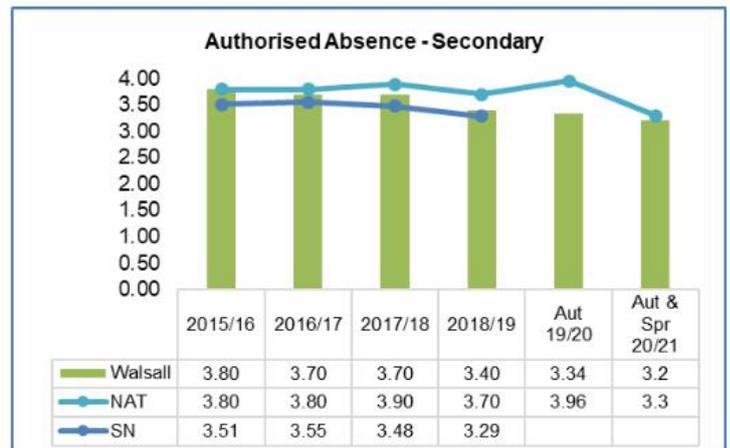
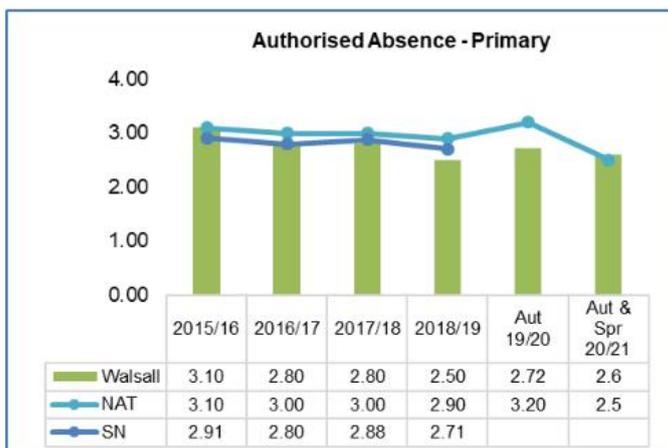
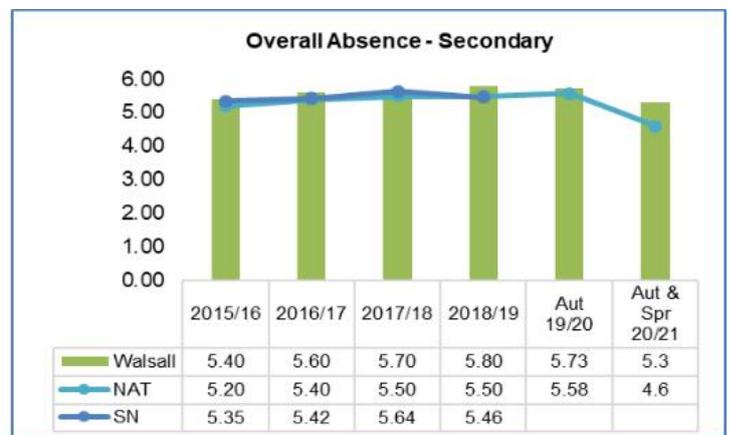
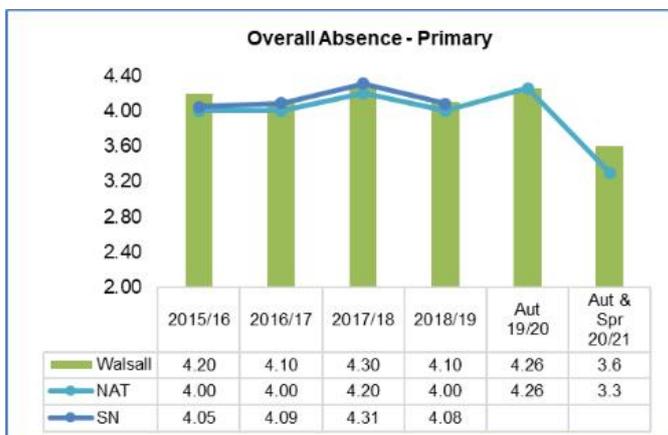
Education Welfare Service Data - Attendance figures

- 3.20 The absence statistics on the levels of overall, authorised, and unauthorised absence in state-funded schools was published on 21st October 2021 for the autumn 2020 and spring 2021 terms. Absence data was collected via the school census.

3.21 The following graphs provide information on the levels of overall, authorised, and unauthorised absence over six years, in state-funded primary schools and state-funded secondary schools.

3.22 Please note:

- Full-year data is available for 2015/16 to 2018/19 academic years only, autumn term data was published for 2019/20, and autumn and spring terms combined are available for 2020/2021.
- For the majority of the spring 2021 term, only children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils could attend school during the period of lockdown from 4 January 2021. Restrictions were lifted on attendance from 8 March 2021 for all other pupils, four school weeks before the end of term.
- Due to the disruption faced during the spring 2021 term, caution should be taken when comparing data to previous years.



Primary Schools

3.23 The latest published data for the autumn and spring terms combined in 2020/21 shows the overall absence for primary schools in Walsall is at or around national average.

Secondary Schools

3.24 The latest published data for the autumn and spring terms combined in 2020/2021 shows the overall absence for secondary schools in Walsall is at or around national average.

Disapplication of statutory proceedings

3.25 Due to COVID-19, the government dis-applied certain statutory provisions on school attendance so that the parent of a child of compulsory school age would not be guilty of an offence on account of their child's failure to attend school regularly (Coronavirus Act 2020). This followed the decision of the government to close schools, colleges, and nurseries in March 2020.

Coronavirus

3.26 With the threat of Coronavirus, there are circumstances when a pupil is unable to attend school for reasons related to Coronavirus. Therefore, although school attendance is now compulsory, a new category (Code X) has been introduced to the regulations governing school attendance registers – 'not attending in circumstances related to Coronavirus (Covid-19)'.

This new category of non-attendance will not count as an absence (authorised or unauthorised) for statistical purposes and the pupil's parent will not be sanctioned.

The Department for Education has published an **addendum** to the school attendance guidance which details the new category and outlines the circumstances in which it could apply.

The Education Welfare Service continues to give support and advice to Schools and parents/carers when necessary in regards to the new changes.

Post Coronavirus

3.27 From the start of the autumn term 2021, however, pupil attendance at school is compulsory and the usual rules on school attendance have been reinstated. This includes the parent(s)/carer(s) duty to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends regularly at the school where the child is a registered pupil and the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.

4. Financial information

- 4.1 The EWS service has a budget of £683,088 funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and from general funding to enable it to carry out its duties. In addition, a number of schools buy additional services to enable them to encourage good school attendance with their parent community.

5. Reducing Inequalities

- 5.1 In accordance with the Walsall Right for Children Inclusion Strategy, the Education Welfare Service is committed to ensuring that all children and young people are able to access appropriate, high quality, inclusive education to ensure the best possible outcomes, whatever their abilities or needs. We aim to identify vulnerable learners and those with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) including those from other disadvantaged backgrounds. We strive to encourage good school attendance to enable an environment where all children can achieve, feel safe and included.

6. Decide

- 6.1 The Committee may decide to note the current position and request further information or assurance in respect of the progress of the School Admissions process.

7. Respond

- 7.1 Any recommendations made by the Committee will be assessed against the Access and Inclusion planned work and performance board programmes.

8. Review

- 8.1 The work of the Education Welfare Service team is subject to constant monitoring and assessment via the Children's Services Performance Board process.

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Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work programme 2021/22

Main agenda items	14/09/21	14/10/21	25/11/21	13/01/22	17/02/22	31/03/22
Schools Update	X					
SEND Update	X					
Establishment of Working Group	X					
Special provision Update		X				
Post-16 Skills and Employability		X				
Q2 Finance report and Budget Proposals			X			
Admissions/Attendance Figures			X			
Vulnerable pupils update			X			
Capital Programme/Pupil placed planning				X		
Schools Update				X		
SEND Update				X		
Walsall Right for Children Update					X	
Early Years Sufficiency/Places					X	
Special Provision Review					X	
Elective Home Education					X	
Changes to the Funding Formula						X
Admissions/Attendance Figures						X
Walsall Right for Children Update						X
Working Group Report						X

NB: The Outturn, Q1 and Q3 Finance reports to be by email circulation to the Committee in July and September 2021, and February 2022 respectively.



Walsall Council

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

1 November 2021

FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive (Cabinet). Also included on the plan are other decisions to be taken by the Cabinet (“non-key decisions”). Preparation of the forward plan helps the Council to programme its work. The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The plan is updated each month with the period of the plan being rolled forward by one month and republished. Copies of the plan can be obtained from Democratic Services, Walsall MBC, Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk 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.

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:
 - (i) any decision in relation to an executive function which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates or
 - (ii) any decision that is likely to have significant impact on two or more wards within the borough.
- (2) The threshold for “significant” expenditure/savings is £500,000.
- (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. [Page 37 of 51](#)

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
DECEMBER 2021 TO MARCH 2022 (1.11.21)**

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)	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
89/21 (1.11.21)	Corporate Financial Performance 2021/22 and Covid-19 update: To report the financial position and impact of Covid-19	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	15 December 2021
90/21 (1.11.21)	Autumn Budget and Spending review: To provide an update on the impact of the Autumn Budget and Spending Review on the medium term financial outlook	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	15 December 2021
63/21 (4.10.21)	Corporate Plan 2021/22: To note the Quarter 2 performance against the Measures of Success in the Corporate Plan 2021/22	Cabinet Non-key decision	Stephen Gunther Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	15 December 2021
78/21 (1.11.21)	Upgrade of education IT systems: Authority to procure software as a service (SaaS) cloud based education system via relevant procurement frameworks and associated costs	Cabinet Key decision	Helena Kucharczyk Helena.kucharczyk@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Bird Councillor Towe	15 December 2021
37/21 (7.6.21)	Sale of Council land in Blakenall: To seek approval to the freehold disposal of Council land in Blakenall <i>Contains commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet Key decision Private	Nick Ford, Team Leader – Asset Management Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	15 December 2021

47/21 (2.8.21)	Walsall's Customer Experience Strategy 2021 to 2026: To approve the Strategy which sets out the Council's service transformation to meet customers' priorities and needs.	Cabinet Key decision	Elise Hopkins elise.hopkins@walsall.gov.uk Rashida Hussain Rashida.Hussain@walsall.gov.uk	Public, partner organisations, elected members, internal staff	Councillor Andrew	15 December 2021
14/21 (8.3.21)	Willenhall Masterplan: Strategic Land Acquisitions: In-principle approval for the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers. <i>Contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person</i>	Cabinet Key decision Private Session	Willenhall Masterplan: Strategic Land Acquisitions. Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	15 December 2021
48/21 (2.8.21)	Affordable Housing commuted sums spend scheme: To approve the use of affordable housing commuted sums (which are contributions secured through the planning process) to fund the provision of affordable housing to be used as temporary accommodation.	Cabinet Key decision	Neil Hollyhead Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	15 December 2021
64/21 (4.10.21)	Housing Enforcement Policy: To approve an updated and consolidated enforcement policy (including financial penalties)	Cabinet Key decision	David Lockwood David.lockwood@walsall.gov.uk Appollo Fonka Appollonaris.fonka@walsall.gov.uk	Public, Housing Associations, Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	15 December 2021
79/21 (1.11.21)	Riverpoint Estate: To consider options in response to recommendations of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regard to land between Riverpoint Estate and the former Willenhall Sewage Works.	Cabinet Key decision depends on options developed	Nick Ford Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	15 December 2021

73/21 (4.10.21)	Town Deal: To authorise officers to receive and allocate Town Deal funding through agreed business cases	Cabinet	Philippa Venables Philippa.venables@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services, Town Deal scheme leads and Town Deal Board Members	Councillor Andrew	15 December 2021
65/21 (4.10.21)	Waste Management Strategy: To agree to the submission of the planning application for Middlemore Lane site to accommodate a new household waste recycling centre and a waste transfer station facility and to approve that the existing site at Fryers Road to have an upgraded household waste recycling centre.	Cabinet Key decision	Cabinet Report - 19 May 2020 Dave Brown Director of Place and Environment Dave.brown@walsall.gov.uk 01922 653478 Stephen Johnson Service Manager – Strategy Stephen.johnson@walsall.gov.uk 01922 654227	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew Councillor Butler	15 December 2021
66/21 (4.10.21)	Walsall's Street Scene Strategy : To approve a strategy which sets out the Council's aspirations and service standards for the design and maintenance of the boroughs streets and associated assets.	Cabinet Key decision	Dave Brown Dave.Brown@Walsall.gov.uk Kathryn Moreton Kathryn.Moreton@Walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew Councillor Butler	15 December 2021
67/21 (4.10.21)	Green Space Strategy: To agree an updated Green Space Strategy including a programme to improve and update/upgrade our children's playgrounds and to consider new/improved outdoor gym facilities	Cabinet Key decision	Alan Bowley Alan.bowley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Ward Councillors	Councillor Butler	15 December 2021

68/21 (4.10.21)	Bulky and Garden Waste Service: To agree to the continuation of the current bulky waste charging arrangements 'Three for a Tenner' and brown bin collections free, fortnightly and extended to November.	Cabinet Key decision	Alan Bowley Alan.bowley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Butler	15 December 2021
44/21 5.7.21	Day care/day opportunities: To approve recommendations for the delivery of a menu of options for vulnerable people who require support to engage in meaningful community based activities as a result of ongoing needs around social care and inclusion,	Cabinet Key decision	Cabinet report and the lessons learned from COVID report Jeanette Knapper 07500028537	Existing end users of traditional day services in house; Existing users and carers/parents of people accessing building based day opportunities; Carers Hub; FACE; Frontline internal staff; External marketplace for day care/community based opportunities	Councillor Martin	15 December 2021
80/21 (1.11.21)	Adult Social Care Charging Policy: To consider and approve public consultation on a revised Charging Policy within Adult Social Care.	Cabinet Key decision	Karen Jackson, Director, Karen.jackson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Martin	15 December 2021

81/21 (1.11.21)	Walsall Together (WT) Alliance Agreement: to approve the extension of the agreement.	Cabinet Key Decision	Cabinet report - WT Alliance: Integration of Health and Care Full Business Case.13.2.19 Kerrie.allward@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Martin	15 December 2021
69/21 (4.10.21)	Future provision of the Appointeeship Service: To receive the outcome of formal consultation undertaken with regard to the future provision of the service and to approve the recommended changes identified as a result of the consultation.	Cabinet Key Decision	Council report 25 February 2021; Corporate Budget Plan 2021-22 & 2023-24; Cabinet Report 16 June 2021 – Pre-Audit Outturn 2020-21 Contact: Lloyd Haynes Lloyd.haynes@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services, Service users, their reps and other stakeholders, incl. advocacy organisations, internal social care professionals.	Councillor Martin Councillor Bird	15 December 2021
70/21 (4.10.21)	Food Law Enforcement Service Plan: To receive the annual service delivery plan required by the Food Standards Agency and recommend Council to approve the plan	Cabinet Non-key decision Council	Paul Rooney Paul.rooney@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Perry	Cabinet 15 December 2021 Council 10 January 2022
82/21 (1.11.21)	The Borough Plan ‘Our Walsall Story’: To agree to launch the concept and give a mandate to engage the Walsall community and partners to develop a long-term borough plan for Walsall which will be submitted to Cabinet/Council for approval in due course.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk Stephen Gunther Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Perry Councillor Craddock	15 December 2021

71/21 (4.10.21)	Fire Protection Service and Maintenance Contract: To approve the award of the contract <i>Note: Contains confidential information relating to the financial and business affairs of a particular person</i>	Cabinet Key decision Private Session	Ian Lister ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	15 December 2021
72/21 (4.10.21)	Energy Supplies Contract: To approve the award of the contract for the provision of the Council's energy supplies	Cabinet Key decision	Ian Lister ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	15 December 2021
61/21 (6.9.21)	Corporate Financial Performance 2021/22 and Covid-19 update – To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2021 and impact of Covid-19.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services	Councillor Bird	9 February 2022
83/21 (1.11.21)	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2021: To note the refresh of the updated data by Council and partner officers and to assist with identification of priorities in the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-25.	Cabinet Non key decision Council	Stephen Gunther Director of Public Health Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services & Council partners through the Health and Wellbeing Board.	Councillor Bird	Cabinet 9 February 2022 Council 24 February 2022
84/21 (1.11.21)	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-25: To agree the 2022-25 Joint Health and wellbeing Strategy which outlines agreed priority areas and how the Council and NHS will work together to improve health and reduce health inequalities in the borough; and to recommend Council to approve.	Cabinet Non-key decision Council	Stephen Gunther, Director of Public Health Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services, Integrated Care Partnership, Council partners through Health and Wellbeing Board.	Councillor Craddock Councillor Bird	Cabinet 9 February 2022 Council 24 February 2022

85/21 (1.11.21)	Corporate Plan 2022-25: To agree the 2022-25 Corporate Plan which outlines the council's future priorities and objectives and recommend Council to approve.	Cabinet Non-key decision Council	Stephen Gunther, Director of Public Health	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	Cabinet 9 February 2022 Council 24 February 22
62/21 (6.9.21)	Corporate Budget Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25, incorporating the Capital Strategy; and the Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2022/23: To recommend the final budget and Council tax for approval by Council	Cabinet Key decision Council	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations	Councillor Bird	Cabinet -9 February 2022 Council – 24 February 22
86/21 (1.11.21)	Award of new contract(s) for Disabled Facility building works and other Housing related Works and Services To approve the award of new contracts for the period 1 march 2022 to 22 February 2027 <i>Note: The report contains commercially sensitive information to be considered in private session.</i>	Cabinet Key decision Private Session	David Lockwood David.lockwood@walsall.gov.uk Bill Weston	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022
49/21 (2.8.21)	Domestic Abuse services contract award: To approve the contract awards for the provision of Domestic Abuse emergency accommodation and support; and support to Domestic Abuse victims and their children <i>Note: There may be commercially sensitive information to be considered in private session.</i>	Cabinet Key decision	Neil Hollyhead Isabel Vanderheeren Isabel.vanderheeren@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services, Service users external stakeholders	Councillor Andrew Councillor Wilson	9 February 2022

74/21 (4.10.21)	COVID Memorial Garden: To consider options for a COVID Memorial Garden	Cabinet Key decision	Dave Brown Dave.brown@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services. Stakeholders dependent upon options	Councillor Perry	9 February 2022
87/21 (1.11.21)	Statutory Advocacy Services: To receive an update on the recommissioning of these services and delegate authority to accept and award a contract	Cabinet Key Decision	Tracy.simcox@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Martin	9 February 2022
46/21 (2.8.21)	Emotional Wellbeing and Therapeutic Support for Children and Young People in need: To approve entering into an appropriate agreement with the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to provide therapeutic services for children and young people in need, including those who are looked after.	Cabinet Key decision	David DeMay David.demay@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services, Walsall CCG and Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Councillor Wilson	9 February 2022
75/21 (4.10.21)	General building Repair and Maintenance Contract: To award the contract for the Council's general building repair and maintenance. <i>Note: Contains confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person</i>	Cabinet Key decision Private Session	Ian Lister Ian.Lister@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	9 February

76/21 (4.10.21)	Mechanical and Electrical Service and Maintenance Contract: To approve the award of the contract award the contract for the Council's mechanical and electrical service and maintenance contract. <i>Note: contains confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.</i>	Cabinet Key decision Private Session	Ian Lister ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	9 February 2021
77/21 (4.10.21)	Supported Housing Repair and Maintenance Contract: To approve the award of the contract.	Cabinet	Ian Lister ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	9 February
88/21 (1.11.21)	Corporate Plan 2021/22: To note the Quarter 3 performance against the Measures of Success in the Corporate Plan 2021/22	Cabinet Non-key decision	Stephen Gunther Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	16 March 2022
22/21 (8.3.21)	Walsall Council Housing Allocations Policy: To update the policy which sets the principles for the allocation of affordable housing	Cabinet Key Decision	Neil Hollyhead Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk	Public, Housing Associations, Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	16 March 2022

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
Published up to March 2022 (for publication 01/11/2021)

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
05/07/2021	Local Growth Fund – Growth Deal Programme Approval of the 2020/21 Programme Spend	Approve the year end position of Growth Deal Projects, reflecting all changes to the Programme (Funding and Outputs) throughout the year, detailed in Attachment 1 of the report.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	03/11/2021
05/07/2021	Ruskin Mill Land Trust - Glasshouse Development Phase 3	Approve the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Glasshouse Development Phase 3 Grant Agreement with Ruskin Mill Land Trust, in relation to the project outputs.			
05/07/2021	Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre	Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre Grant Agreement with Incomm, in relation to the project outputs.			

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FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
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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
05/07/2021	Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Test Track 1 Project	Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Test Track 1 Grant Agreement with Dudley Council in relation to the project output.			
06/09/2021	Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills	Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton in relation to match funding.			
06/09/2021	<p>Growing Places Fund (GPF)</p> <p>Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Test Track 1 Project</p>	Approves the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Test Track 1 Project from the Growing Places Fund (previously used for LGF over programming) to support the delivery into 2021/22 financial year.	Papers TBC – Helen Martin Helen.Martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	03/11/2021

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
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Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
06/09/2021	Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – National Innovation Centre	<p>Note that change request relates to a change in programme funding streams.</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – National Innovation Centre project from the Growing Places Fund (previously used for LGF over programming) to support the delivery into 2021/22 financial year.</p> <p>Note that change request relates to a change in programme funding streams.</p>			
02/08/2021	Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement Deed of Variation	Approval of the proposed amendments, as highlighted, to the Collaboration Agreement covering the removal of the Advisory Board and revised Black Country Executive Joint Committee governance, and Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones, included as Appendix 1 to this report.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/02/2022

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
Published up to March 2022 (for publication 01/11/2021)

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
06/04/2021	Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme changes		Papers TBC – Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/02/2022
06/04/2021	Dudley Advanced Construction Centre	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley College, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Dudley Advanced Construction Centre project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.			
06/09/2021	Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills	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 (ECMS) project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year. Note that change request relates to a change in outputs.			

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FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
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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
01/11/2021	Hatherton Street Phase 2	<p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Jessups Brothers Ltd, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hatherton Street Phase 2 project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.</p> <p>Note that change request relates to a change in match funding and outputs.</p>			
01/11/2021	i9 Wolverhampton	<p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Ion Projects Limited, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the i9 Wolverhampton project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.</p> <p>Note that change request relates to a change in outputs.</p>			