

Cabinet – 22 October 2008

Walsall Partnership Structure update

Portfolio: Councillor John O'Hare, Leader of the Council

Service: Walsall Partnership

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: Yes

1. Summary of report

- 1.1 This report identifies the proposed new structure of the Walsall Partnership, particularly below Board level.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet approve the proposed changes to the Walsall Partnership structure.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet delegate to the Walsall Partnership Board authority to make changes to the Constitution of Walsall Partnership.
- 2.3 That the Cabinet delegate authority to the Walsall Partnership Board to approve changes to the structure of the theme groups, reporting any changes to the Cabinet. Exceptions to this will be where theme groups have wider statutory responsibility requiring Cabinet approval for such change.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Between October 2007 and June 2008 Walsall Partnership (formerly Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership) were developing a new Local Area Agreement (LAA) which was completed and signed in June 2006.
- 3.2 Under the new leadership of Councillor John O'Hare the Board of Walsall Partnership consulted upon and finally agreed to reduce its membership, making these changes at an Annual General Meeting in June 2008.
- 3.3 The new Board has been considering how to deliver the new LAA, reflecting upon learning gained in delivering the previous LAA. As a result of this it is proposed that the existing Executive Committee be replaced by three executive groups of *People*, *Places* and *Prosperity*, which correspond to the Sustainable Community Strategy. (See proposed new structure at appendix 1).

- 3.4 Members of the Walsall Partnership Board will chair the new *People*, *Places* and *Prosperity* groups, giving greater connectivity between the Board and delivery activity. The groups are designed to be cross-cutting. The role of the groups will be to give greater interrogation to proposed and existing activity, to require linkages and efficiencies to be gained and to hold those responsible for delivery to account for performance and appropriate corrective action.
- 3.5 At an away-day of the Walsall Partnership Board it was agreed that the approval of project proposals be delegated to the lowest level possible within the new structure. The structure below the *People*, *Places* and *Prosperity* groups consists of a number of theme groups. Each of these theme groups has a governance structure in place which could approve proposals. Approved proposals would be interrogated by the *People*, *Places* and *Prosperity* executive groups. Financial approval of proposals can only be made by approval of the Cabinet where Walsall Council funding is to be deployed. Similarly, partner governance arrangements will be required to approve resources to be deployed by partners as appropriate. (See appendix 2).
- 3.6 The theme groups of the Walsall Partnership tend to evolve and change, responding to the needs at a particular time. For this reason, it is proposed that the Walsall Partnership Board be delegated authority to approve changes to the structures of theme groups, reporting these to the Cabinet. The following new groups have been identified in the new structure:
- 3.6.1 Environment and Sustainability Executive Group
 - 3.6.2 Third Sector
 - 3.6.3 Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board

4. Resource considerations

4.1 Financial:

The proposed changes will delegate responsibility for resources proposals to theme groups in the Walsall Partnership. Full financial approval will still remain with the Cabinet for Walsall Council resources.

4.2 Legal:

Changes to the Walsall Partnership Constitution will be required.

4.3 Staffing:

The changes do not affect staffing arrangements.

5. Citizen impact

- 5.1 The changes should allow the Walsall Partnership Board to exert greater influence over the £1bn of public resources utilised each year within the borough. This should deliver improved outcomes for citizens.

6. Community safety

The proposals will allow improvements to be made in the structures of Safer Walsall Partnership.

7. Environmental impact

The structure includes a new environmental group to be chaired by the Cabinet member with this portfolio. The proposals should impact positively on our environmental performance.

8. Performance and risk management issues

8.1 Risk:

Directorate risk arrangements will be applied to the changes should they be agreed.

8.2 Performance management:

Performance management of the LAA is being considered as a parallel process.

9. Equality implications

The Walsall Partnership Board is establishing a borough-wide equality group. The proposals should, therefore, impact positively upon equalities.

10. Consultation

The Executive Committee of the Walsall Partnership has been consulted and is in favour of the proposals.

Background papers

There are no background papers.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Morris', with a stylized flourish at the end.

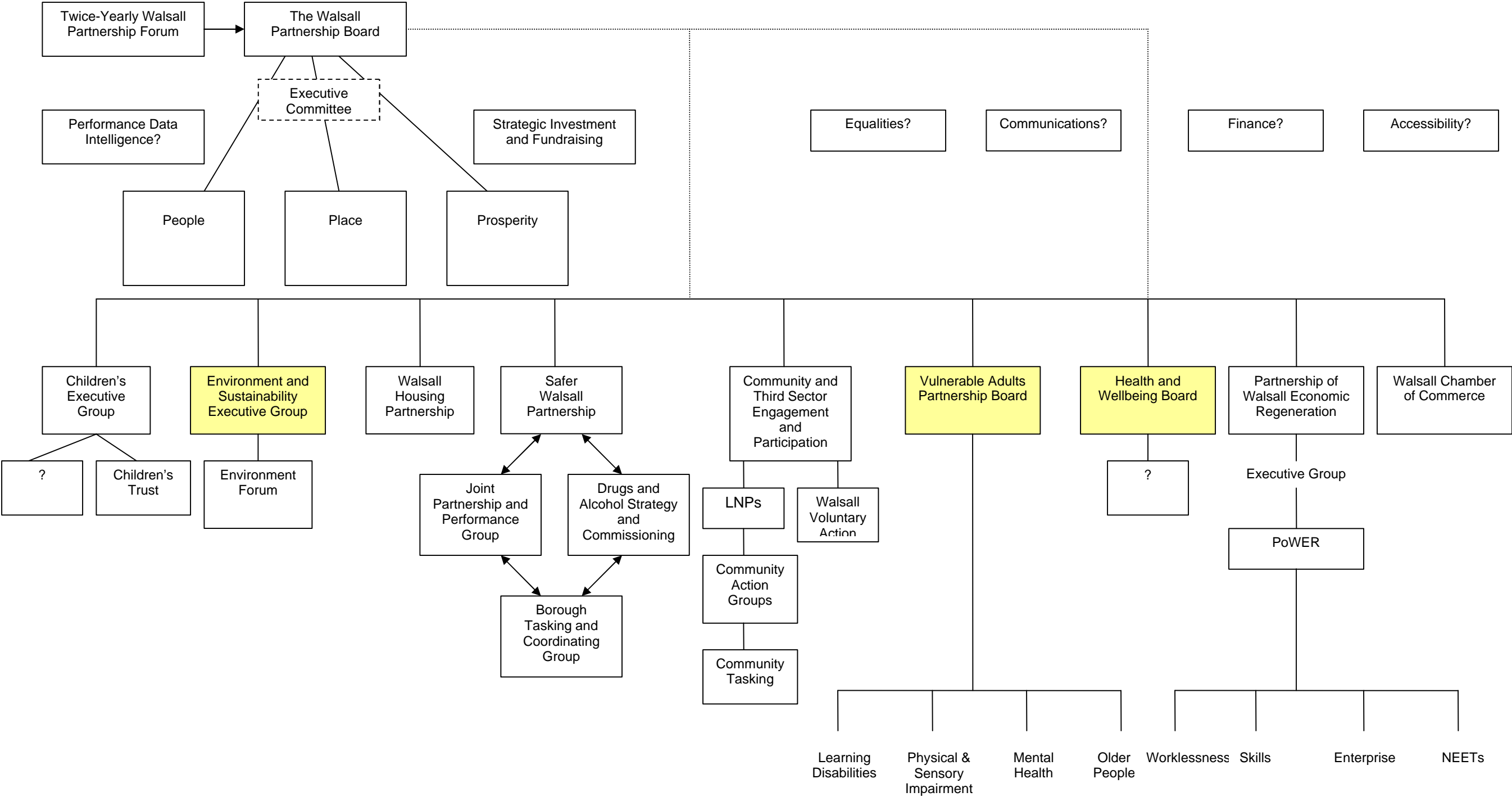
Jamie Morris
Executive Director

13 October 2008

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Councillor John O'Hare
Portfolio holder

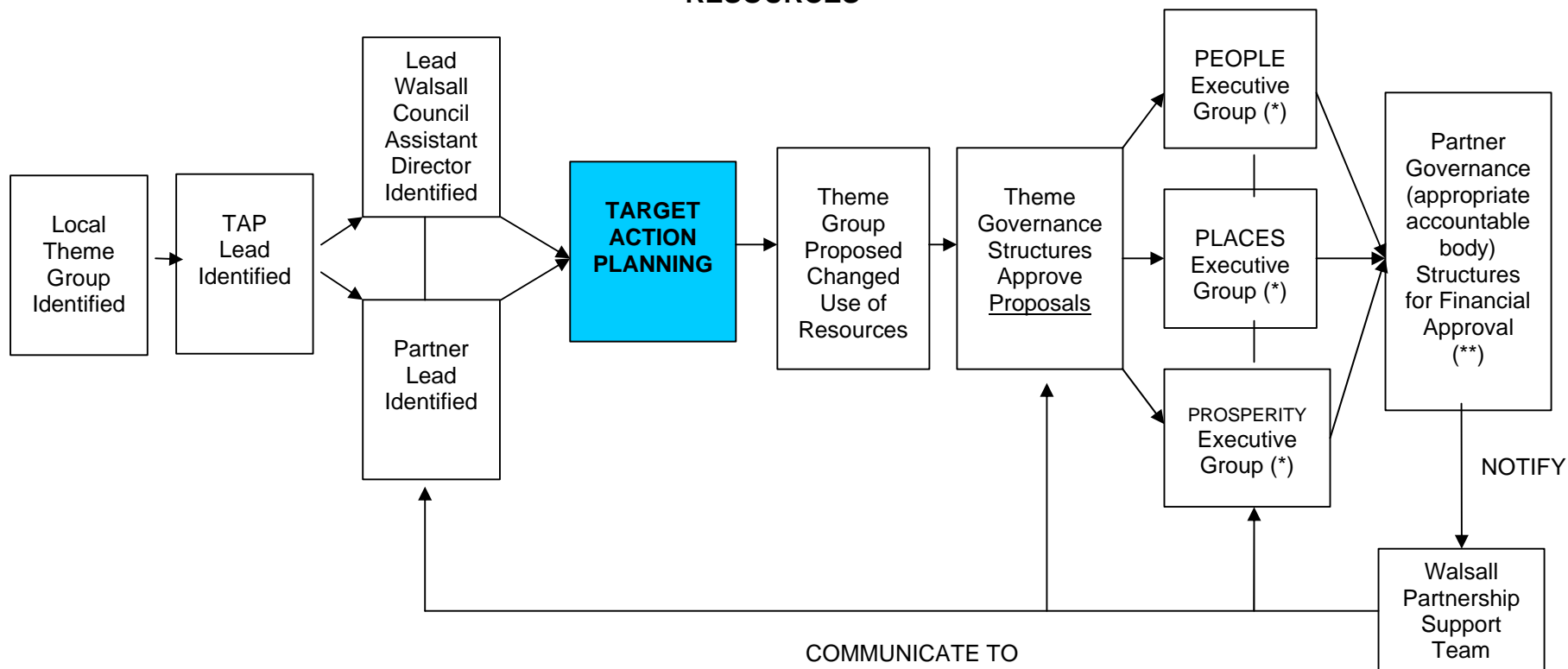
13 October 2008



= new

TARGET ACTION PLANNING – CHANGING THE USE OF RESOURCES

GOVERNANCE – APROOVING THE USE (AND CHANGED USE) OF RESOURCES



NOTES:

- (*) – Executive Groups receives detailed presentation; challenges assumptions; ensures that status quo is not unnecessarily maintained; drives for efficiency and effectiveness; identifies further linkages to be made; makes 'whole partner' investment transparent
- (**) – For example, Walsall Council for Council resources, Walsall NHS for PCT resources, etc