

Social Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on: Thursday 15 December 2022 at 6.00 P.M.

Meeting to be held: Conference room 2, Walsall Council House

Public access to meeting via: www.WalsallCouncilWebcasts.com

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillor Hussain (Chair)
Councillor Waters (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Clarke
Councillor R.K. Mehmi
Councillor Rasab
Councillor Rattigan
Councillor Sears
Councillor Smith
Councillor Worrall
Vacancy x2

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Health and Wellbeing Councillor G. Flint
Adult Social Care Councillor Pedley

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Democratic Services, Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW

Contact: Jack Thompson ☎ 01922 654196 E-mail: jack.thompson@walsall.gov.uk

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www.walsall.gov.uk

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 of the previous meeting To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting that took place on 27 October 2022.	<u>Enclosed</u>
<u>Scrutiny</u>		
6.	Waiting times for elective care To receive an update on waiting times for elective care.	<u>Enclosed</u>
7.	Maternity services update To receive an update on maternity services in Walsall.	<u>To follow</u>
<u>Overview</u>		
8.	Recommendation Tracker To review progress with recommendations from previous meetings.	<u>Enclosed</u>
9.	Areas of Focus To review the Committee Work Programme and the Forward Plans for Walsall Council and the Black Country Executive Committee.	<u>Enclosed</u>
10.	Date of next meeting To note that the date of the next meeting will be 19 January 2023.	

The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

Specified pecuniary interests

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

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

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

Access to information: Exempt information

Part 1

Descriptions of exempt information: England

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
 - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of 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.

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 27 October 2022 at. 6.00 p.m.

Conference room 2, Walsall Council.

Committee Members Present

Councillor K. Hussain (Chair)
Councillor V. Waters (Vice-Chair)
Councillor G. Clarke
Councillor S. Elson
Councillor R.K. Mehmi
Councillor K. Sears
Councillor A. Nawaz (substitute)

Portfolio Holder – Adult Social Care

Councillor K. Pedley

Officers

Walsall Council

K. Allward	Executive Director for Adult Social Care
T. Meadows	Interim Director of Commissioning
P. Stoddart	Lead Accountant – Adult Social Care & Public Health

Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust

D. Loughton	Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust
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Black Country Healthcare NHS FT

M. Foster	Acting Chief Executive, Black Country Healthcare NHS FT
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West Midlands Ambulance Service

V. Khashu	Strategy and Engagement Director
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18/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Rasab, Rattigan, Smith and Worrall.

19/22 Substitutions

Councillor Nawaz substituted for Councillor Worrall for the duration of the meeting.

20/22 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

21/22 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

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

22/22 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 29 September 2022 were discussed.

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record subject to the minute numbers being added.

23/22 Emergency Access

The Chair invited the Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust to introduce the report.

The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust began by explaining that the national outlook for emergency care within the NHS was poor and that the average attendance at Walsall Manor Accident & Emergency (A&E) had gone from 7,000 to 8,000 patients per year. Furthermore, that the number of patients at Walsall Manor Hospital A&E being seen within four hours had fallen to 70% but this put the hospital within the top 25% of NHS Trusts within England.

Additionally, the transfer rates from ambulances to A&E and wards to social care were better in Walsall because of the partnership work through Walsall Together. The Chief Executive Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust also informed the Committee that the Hospital had employed 300 extra nurses and reduced its reliance on agency staff. Moreover, the new A&E being built would help to deliver further improvements. However, there were significant pressures building for the winter, such as flu, norovirus and covid increases. Finalising, the Chief Executive reiterated that the data should be seen through the lens of a worsening position for A&E departments across the Country.

The Chair then invited the Strategy and Engagement Director from West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) to add to the report. The Strategy and Engagement Director for WMAS began by giving thanks to NHS staff in

Walsall and explained that from the view of WMAS Walsall Manor Hospital was the best in the region for ambulance handover performance. Also, one percent of patients were waiting for over one hour to admit patients to Walsall Manor Hospital, amongst the very best in the region whereas other hospitals in the region were close to 50% of patients waiting more than one hour

The Strategy and Engagement Director for WMAS explained to the Committee that WMAS had raised the national profile of Walsall NHS Trust due to the success of the transfer rates through the National Ambulance Leadership Forum.

The Strategy and Engagement Director clarified to the Committee that while figures for the service were getting worse overall due to increased pressure, relatively the Black Country was performing better than the other areas we serve (linked to handover performance). In addition, that the WMAS was conveying the same number of patients as it was five years ago but now had more alternative pathways in which to transfer patients.

In addition, within the West Midlands, the Black Country had the second lowest amount of lost handover delays. Furthermore, the area of the Black Country received the same amount of resourcing (ambulances) from WMAS as the Birmingham area.

For Category 1 callouts the WMAS average callout time for the Black Country was 6 minutes and 48 seconds and the target is 7 minutes. However, the figures were not as good for lower categories. Category 2 callout times for the Black Country averaged 22 minutes but the target was 18 minutes, but, as a trust the average was around an hour. Category 3 callouts averaged 2 hours and 30 minutes and the target is 60 minutes.

The Strategy and Engagement Director clarified to the Committee that while figures for the service were getting worse overall due to increased pressure, relatively the Black Country was performing well. In addition, that the WMAS was transferring as many patients as it was five years ago but now had more alternative pathways in which to transfer patients.

A Member asked whether it was possible to get a break down of the reasons why patients were seeking care from A&E and calling 999. The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust responded that it would be possible for that information to be provided to the Committee. The Members continued their questions by asking whether because residents were struggling to see GPs in person it was contributing to the pressure in A&E departments. The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust responded that the way in which patients accessed NHS health was different to way that they did before the Covid-19 pandemic. There was also worry amongst NHS leaders of the increase in the number of patients needing mental health support. There had been an increase in demand for mental health support and with the cost-of-living crisis this was expected to increase. The Acting Chief Executive of Black Country Healthcare NHS FT added that there had been an increase in

the amount of young people needing mental health care. Furthermore, there had been an increase in the number of patients presenting with eating disorders across all ages and that more patients with advanced dementia were presenting. Finally, the Acting Chief Executive of Black Country Healthcare NHS FT added that there had been an increase in the number of patients presenting with mental health issues that have had no previous contact with for mental health services.

The Strategy and Engagement Director for WMAS added that primary care was being accessed more than before the pandemic, with 30m appointments per month, a record, but there were fewer GPs than in 2015.

A Member asked what proportion of the Walsall Manor's budget was spent on A&E and whether this was going to be affected by budget cuts. The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust responded that GP services were under increasing pressure and the volume of patients being seen by GP's had increased. A Member had observed that patients attending A&E were being sent to the urgent care centre and whether this meant that patients should be encouraged to go to urgent care instead of presenting at A&E. The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust responded that it was not the policy of the trust to turn away patients from emergency care when they present instead it was better to see them when they presented rather than risk turning them away. Furthermore, it was probably more efficient for those patients to be seen at urgent care rather than sending them to other parts of the NHS.

The Strategy and Engagement Director for WMAS added that Walsall Manor Hospital's streaming of patients at emergency care was very good and that was why the wait times for transferring patients from ambulances in Walsall was low. Moreover, they agreed that the clinical risk of turning patients away that presented at emergency care was high and led to poor patient experience. In West Midlands Ambulance's opinion, it was more efficient to deal with a patient when they presented at emergency care, rather than assess patients, to only then turn them away

Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust added at the end of the discussion that there were no funding issues with emergency care at Walsall Manor Hospital and he did not foresee any funding issues in the future.

A Member asked whether the committee could be presented with the scripting the ambulance service used to identify the needs of callers and the way in which ambulances were dispatched. The Strategy and Engagement Director for WMAS informed the committee that all ambulance services have to follow set process called *NHS Pathways*. The process was used to determine the category of call out, if it was a category one or two call out an ambulance would be dispatched. Instead, if the call-out was categorised as category three or four then a paramedic at the call centre would contact the caller and determined the clinical needs of the patient, and to discuss other options if

possible. The Strategy and Engagement Director for WMAS also offered the Committee an invitation to the WMAS call centre to see the process first hand.

The Chair recalled a personal experience to the Committee and asked how the WMAS could be improved and if the number of incidents involving ambulance wait times had increased. The Strategy and Engagement Director for WMAS explained to the Committee that the given examples and experiences were less frequent two years ago as ambulance wait times were meeting their targets. Furthermore, that West Midlands ambulance service had been one of the most vocal services in the country regarding the pressures placed on the service and that it was one of the best resourced services in the country. The Strategy and Engagement Director for WMAS added that before the pandemic the average ambulance crew would see six to twelve patients per shift however now the average seen was two. Furthermore, the number of serious incidents that occurred two years ago was 84 for this year the number was heading towards over 400. These serious incidents included patient death and serious harm.

The Chair asked officers why the delays were occurring. The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust responded that delays were due to the slower transfer of patients out of the hospital and into social care. Because the hospital could not transfer patients out into the social care system it could not admit more patients as there was no spare capacity.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care added that while the report provided was detailed it did not contain much information about patient experience. In Walsall the patient experience measured through the *Friends and Family Test* was in the highest quartile in the region.

Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust responded that most patients receive a good experience when seen at A&E but longer wait times didn't help with the overall patient experience.

A Member asked whether the reduction in the number of face-to-face appointments being offered by GP services were causing problems for emergency care. In response the Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust informed the committee that 60% of GP appointments were face-to-face in Wolverhampton however there were also a large number of nurse practitioners who could help manage the increased pressure on GP services. Furthermore, other healthcare professionals put also be used to help fill some of the gaps in GP provision, but the Committee should keep in mind that there was a national shortage of GPs.

In a follow up question, a Member asked why patients could no longer walk into a GP surgery to get face-to-face appointments. The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust responded that it was still possible for patients to get face-to-face appointments with GPs on the other hand they suggested that reform to the way appointments were allocated could it help improve the service.

The Chair asked whether access to emergency care would be affected in winter and how services would cope with increased winter pressures. The Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust responded that the trust had hired over 300 nurses and reduced reliance on agency staff however there was concern around the rise in new norovirus, flu, and COVID-19 cases. Despite this they believed that Walsall was performing well.

In response to a question from a Member of the Committee the Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare Trust and Wolverhampton Hospital Trust explained to the committee that the current issues within the health service could not be laid at the feet of GP practises and a focus should be made on recruiting more GPs to help meet demand.

The Chair thanks NHS officers for attending the meeting and answering Members questions.

Resolved

- That NHS officers pass on the thanks of the Committee to hospital and ambulance staff.
- That officers organise for Committee Members to visit the WMAS call centre.
- That the Emergency Access report be noted.

24/22 Corporate Financial Performance – P5 August Financial Monitoring Position for 2022/23

The Chair invited the Lead Accountant for Adult Social Care & Public Health to introduce the report.

The Lead Accountant for Adult Social Care & Public Health highlighted the salient points to the committee. These included that at the end of August 2022 there was a predicted overspend of £2.36 million, of that just over £0.61 million was due to business-as-usual spending and £1.75 million was due to a shortfall in saving targets. The business as usual overspend was mainly attributable to the provision for bad client debt. Regarding the transformation plan, of the savings target of £13.6 million, as of end of August 2022 £6.6million of savings is currently projected to be achieved.

The Interim Director of Commissioning clarified for the Committee the term used in the report; *reduction in packages of care* did not mean a reduction in the care offered but meant that the delivery of the care had changed. The council was still providing care to the legal standard.

A Member asked for an update regarding the high category risk contained within table 4 of the report. The Executive Director for Adult Social Care

responded that the risk was refereeing to an historical agreement between the Clinical Commissioning Group (now the Integrated Care Board) to provide nonmedical care to residents. However, issues had arisen because the Integrated Care Board (ICB) needed to clinically validate the care it delivered before releasing funding. There had also been a issues with a tool both organisations used to determine the amount of care given and ICB no longer wanted to use the tool. The Section 151 Officers and the Director for Adult Social Care had written to their counterparts at the ICB to resolve the debt however if this was unsuccessful the Council would explore formal dispute resolution. Furthermore, the Council had a duty to provide care for example, section 117 care. But the joint working done between the Council and ICB there was no legal duty to carry out this care, but it was advantageous for both to continue with the joint working arrangements.

A Member asked why disability aides provided to residents were not recycled after their use but instead were scrapped, therefor, costing the Council more money. The Executive Director for Adult Social Care responded that the Council had one of the highest recycling rates in the country and the ICB performed this function for the Council and could provide a report to the Committee if needed. However, for some equipment it was not cost effective to recycle.

A Member asked what cuts the Council were making to the Adult Social Care. The Executive Director for Adult Social Care responded that no services had been cut but efficiencies had been made. The Lead Accountant for Adult Social Care & Public Health added that there had been some delay in delivering the efficiencies due to the pandemic, but income generation was also important for delivering savings.

A Member asked why there was a shortfall in the planned savings. The Lead Accountant for Adult Social Care & Public Health responded that the difference was due to the money received from national government for the pandemic. The Executive Director for Adult Social Care added that the Council were not seeking any further savings than the ones already planned. Furthermore, that the shortfall this year can be made up the following year and that nearly £7 million had been found already. The use of reserves had helped to mitigate the undelivered savings further.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care added that the overall experience for those receiving care would not change but would instead there would be different ways of working. Furthermore, that the use of technology would help to deliver these efficiencies. In addition, the social care sector was not an attractive place to work, and a focus on prevention was needed to help reduce future demand.

The Chair asked if Adult Social Care was prepared for the winter period and the increased pressure that this can bring. The Executive Director of Adult Social Care responded that the Social Care sector was struggling to recruit and retain staff due to better wages being offered in other sectors. In addition, in the view of the Executive Director the service was prepared as it could be

and the focus in the winter would be hospital discharge. The Interim Director for Commissioning added that adult social care experienced pressures throughout the year.

A discussion took place around the pay of carers and their working conditions. Members were concerned about the pay of carers and asked why pay could not increase for carers to help retain existing staff and recruit more staff. In addition, Members asked why more overseas carers had not been hired to help boost numbers.

The Executive Director for Adult Social Care responded that carers pay was a national issue and that an increase in pay would mean a significant rise in costs for Local Authorities. Furthermore, there was a lack of understanding from both residents and government on how the social care system worked. The Executive Director did not agree that an NHS led service would be better for residents as the approach could become too clinical and not care led.

The Executive Director for Adult Social Care also added that the Council did not employ carers directly and that the Council paid £15.80 per hour per person for domiciliary care. Furthermore, that the Council had undertaken a Fair Cost of Care exercise, and this had led to a 20% increase in the rate paid and that there was a built-in profit margin. In addition, due to Home Office rules it was not possible to recruit more carers from overseas. The Interim Director for Commissioning added that to compete with the likes of Amazon for wages it would involve a 30% increase in the cost of care. Additionally, that the gross profits for companies who provided domiciliary care was around five to eight percent.

A Member asked how the Council was supporting family Members who supported those with care needs. The Executive Director for Adult Social Care responded that this support was a key strand of the transformation plan and that this support will be built upon.

Resolved

That the Corporate Financial Performance – P5 August Financial Monitoring Position for 2022/23 be noted.

25/22 Recommendation Tracker

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Committee of the items added to the recommendation tracker and that these changes had been reflected in the work program.

Resolved

That the Recommendation Tracker be noted.

26/22 Areas of Focus

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Committee of the added items regarding the corporate finance monitoring and the budget scrutiny.

Resolved

That the Areas of Focus were agreed by the Committee.

27/22 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place on the 29 November 2022.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 19:58pm

Chair:

Date:

15 December 2022

Waiting times for Elective Care (Walsall Healthcare Trust)

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr G. Flint – Health and Well Being
 Cllr. K. Pedley – Adult Social Care

Report:

This is a presentation for the Social Care & Health Committee of Walsall Council, and provides an update on waiting times for elective care. And a description of challenges faced by the service.

Recommendations:

That the Committee receive the presentations provided at the meeting, ask questions and consider if there are any areas they wish to make recommendations on or follow up at future meetings.

Jack Thompson
Democratic Services Officer

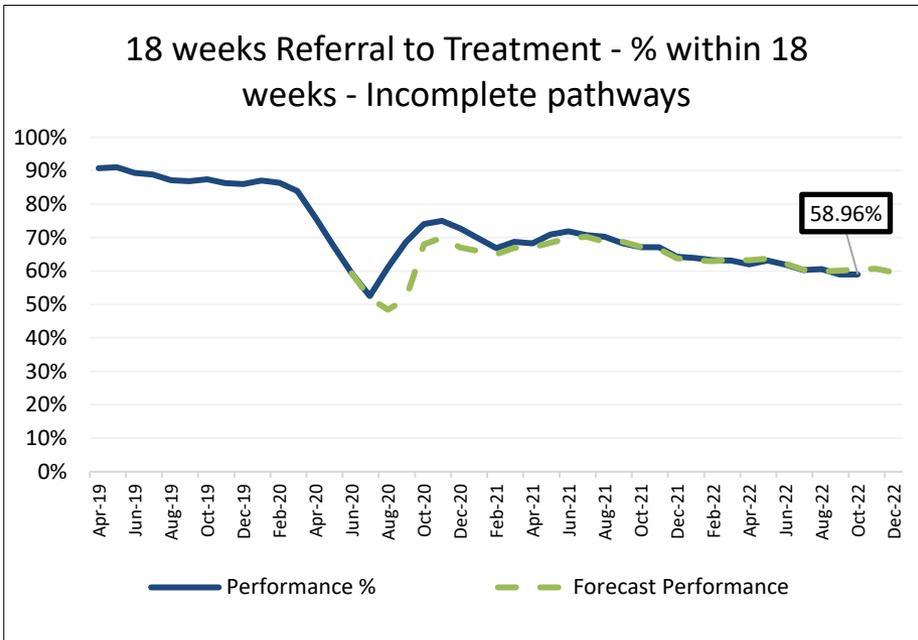
Social Care and Health OSC

Waiting times for elective care

15 December 2022



18 weeks Referral To Treatment (RTT) – Incomplete Pathways



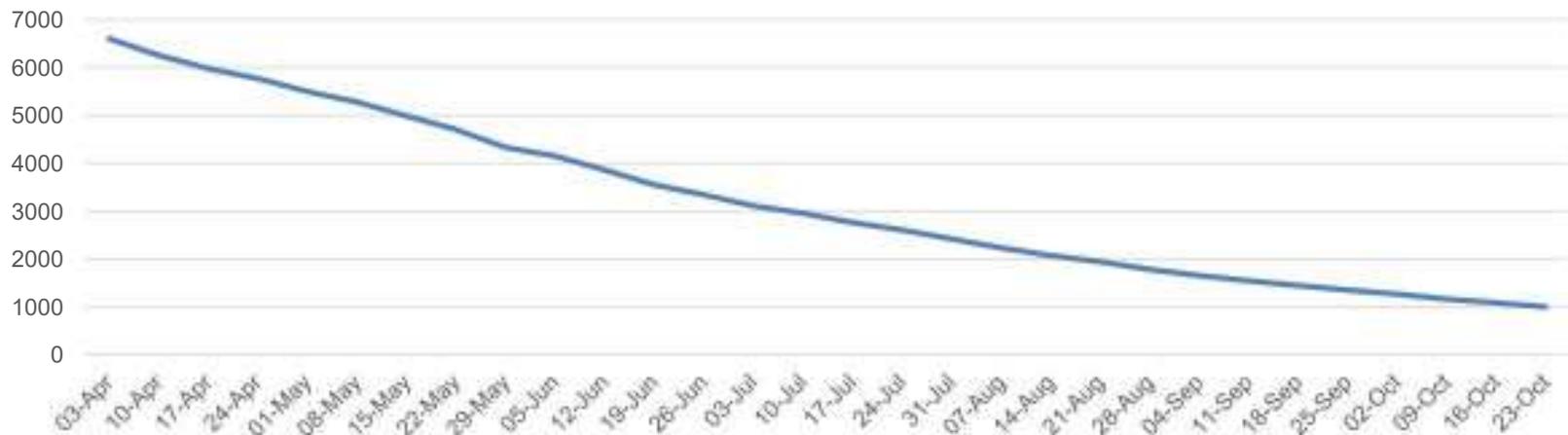
In October 2022, 58.96% of patients were waiting less than 18 weeks, which is slightly below the trajectory of 60%. This is the percentage of patients referred to the hospital who have not yet commenced definitive treatment or been discharged.

October 2022's performance places the Trust at a position of 74th (out of 109 reporting general Acute Trusts) across the NHS for 18-week Referral To Treatment incomplete performance.

78 Weeks Referral to Treatment Performance

Target – Zero 78 week referral to treatment waits by the end of March 2023

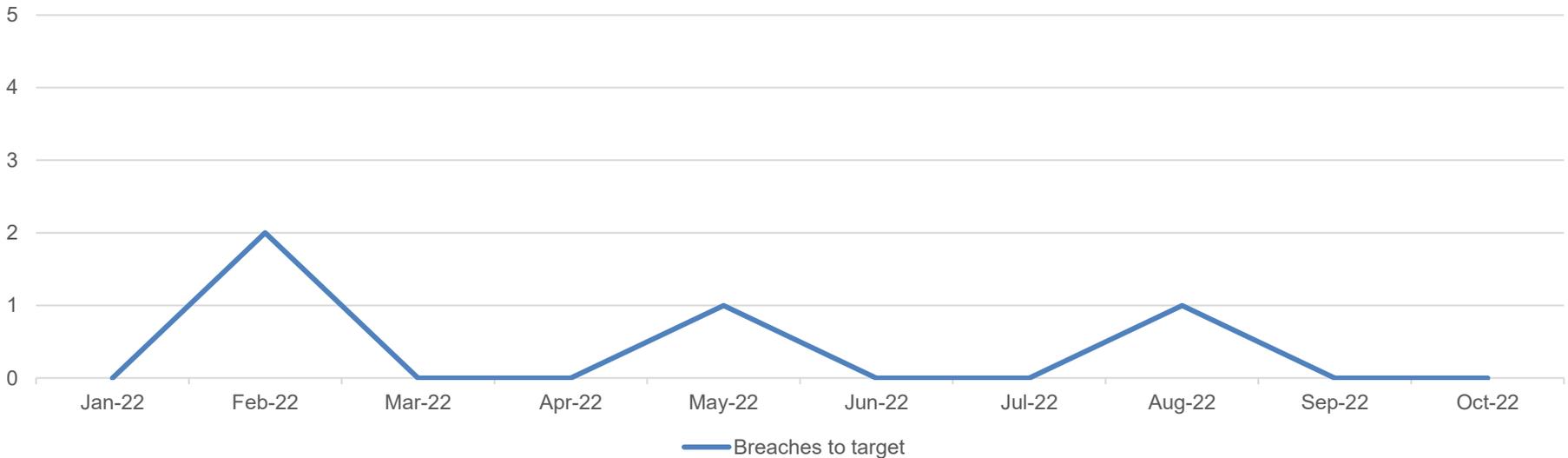
Total patients on an incomplete pathway who will exceed 78-weeks by 31/3/23



The chart outlines the number of patients who, if they do not receive treatment, will breach 78 weeks by the end of March 2023. This number has significantly reduced since April 2022. The Trust is currently on track to deliver zero 78 week breaches by the end of March 2023.

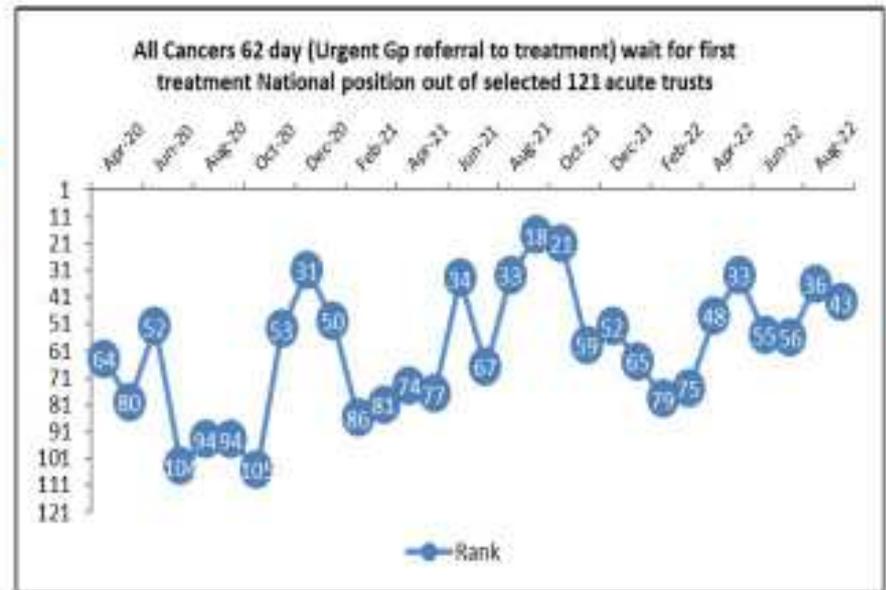
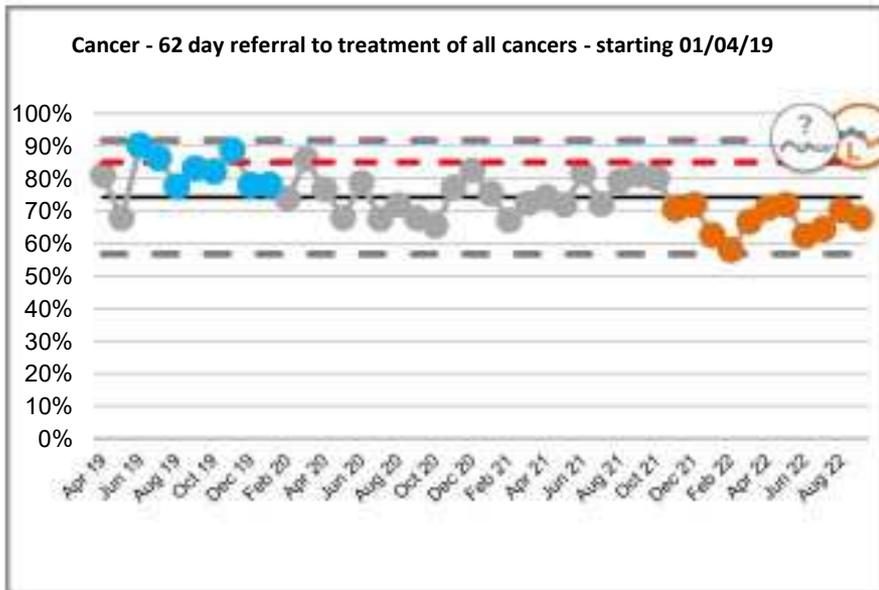
104 Weeks Referral to Treatment Performance

Target – Zero 104 week referral to treatment waits by the end of June 2022



The target has been achieved since June 22, with the exception of August 22. This was as a result of a single patient not being medically fit to have the procedure undertaken earlier.

Cancer 62-day GP Referral to Treatment



Whilst monthly rankings are subject to volatility due to relatively small denominators, the Trust has delivered an underlying improvement in the percentage of patients treated within 62-days of GP Referral over the last 3 years, compared to other Trusts.

Elective Care Challenges

Area for Improvement	What we're doing about it
Maintaining access for elective surgery amidst high demand for emergency covid admissions	The Trust has maintained a ring-fenced elective surgical wing to the hospital since May 2020, including an Enhanced Recovery Unit for patients requiring additional monitoring post-operatively.
Insufficient theatre and anaesthetic staffing to ensure all elective operating sessions for 50 weeks per year	£1.64m/year investment to expand by 35WTE theatre staff and 4.6WTE Consultant Anaesthetists, approved by Trust Board in 2021/2022.
Inadequate theatre environment	Refurbishment of 2 theatres in West Wing, delivered in 2021/2022 without disruption to elective surgery. A further £9.1M refurbishment of 4 further theatres, anticipated for commencement in 2022/2023.
Inadequate Consultant capacity in General Surgery to meet patient demand	A £744k/year investment in the General Surgery service, expanding the Consultant workforce, providing additional elective clinics and diagnostic sessions
Inadequate Consultant capacity in Orthopaedics to meet patient demand	A £264k/year investment, introducing three additional Consultants

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Recommendation Tracker 2022/23

Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action/Recommendation	Officer responsible	Status	Target Completion Date	Notes
14 July 2022	Introduction to the Health and Care system on Walsall	A briefing note on GP services provision be provided by the Managing Director of NHS Walsall and circulated to members.	Geraint Griffiths-Dale and Jack Thompson/Nikki Gough	Complete	14 July 2022	This was supplied to members via email shortly after the meeting on the 14 July 2022.
	Areas of Focus	A work programme for the municipal year be produced containing agreed areas of focus, for agreement by the Committee.	Jack Thompson/Nikki Gough	Complete	15 September 2022	Agreed on 29.9.22
29 Sept 2022	Access to GP services	That the Committee receive a further report detailing the implementation of the improved telephony system and the impact on patient experience in access GP appointments, in 6 months.	Geraint Griffiths-Dale	In Progress	To be scheduled for 6 April 2022	
		The Committee request a breakdown of the number of face to face appointments and digital appointments (as a percentage of all appointments) for each practice in Walsall.	Geraint Griffiths-Dale and Jack Thompson/Nikki Gough Request to be made to LMC	In Progress	To be scheduled for 6 April 2022	
	Update on Urgent Treatment Centre	That the Committee receive a report on the emergency department, the urgent treatment centre with updated figures in April 2023 to include patient experience.		In Progress	To be scheduled for 6 April 2022	

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Recommendation Tracker 2022/23

		Committee Members visit the emergency department around 2 months after opening.		In Progress	30 January 2022	
27 Oct 2022	Emergency Access	That Council Officers organise a visit for members of the Committee to the West Midlands Ambulance Service call centre.	Jack Thompson/ Nikki Gough and Vivek Khashu	In Progress	30 January 2022	

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work programme 2022/23¹

Main agenda items	15/09/22	27/10/22	15/12/22	19/01/23	20/02/23	06/04/23
Theme: Primary Care Access						
Access to GP Services						Update on telephone system
Dentistry Service Provision						
Update on the Walsall Walk-in-Centre						Update on emergency dept
Theme: Emergency and Hospital Care						
Access to A&E						
Report from the CQC on Manor Hospital						
Review of Maternity Services						
Discharge of patients						
Theme: Waiting times						
Ambulance waiting times						
A&E waiting times						
Elective care (inc. Surgery)						
Theme: Children and Young Adult						
Teen pregnancy						
Childhood obesity						
Revisit: Primary Care Access						
Adult Social Care						
CQC Inspection Readiness						
Adult Social Care Reform						
Winter preparedness (Social Care and Health)		X ²				
Budget Scrutiny						
Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring						
Budget Setting 2023/23						

¹ Please note that the work plan can be edited, and items can be added and removed at the discretion of the chair.

² Please note that 'Winter Preparedness (Social Care and Health)' will be covered by above items AT the meeting.



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

7 November 2022

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 craig.goodall@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 (craig.goodall@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.

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
DECEMBER 2022 TO MARCH 2023 (7.11.22)**

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
110/22 (6.6.22)	<p>Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2026/27:</p> <p>To provide an updated medium term financial outlook, draft revenue budget and capital programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27, including savings proposals, and to set out the process and timescales for setting a legally balanced budget for 2023/24.</p>	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Public Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
121/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23:</p> <p>To report the financial position based on 7 months to October 2022, including the impact of Covid-19.</p>	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
123/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Treasury Management Mid Year Position Statement 2022/23:</p> <p>The council is required through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce a mid-year position statement reviewing</p>	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Lloyd Haynes Lloyd.Haynes@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022

	treasury management activities and prudential and treasury indicator performance.					
135/22 (10.10.22)	<p>Renewal of the Council's insurance arrangements from 1st April 2023:</p> <p>To seek delegated authority to renew the Council's insurance arrangements from 1 April 2023</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Cabinet Report 14 February 2018 - Renewal of the Council's Insurance Arrangements from 1 April 2018</p> <p>Marc Cox Marc.Cox@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
157/22 (7.11.22)	<p>Streamlining Black Country Ways of Working – Black Country Consortium:</p> <p>To provide an update on finalising an agreed way forward for streamlining ways of working across the Black Country, many of which have historically been coordinated through and by Black Country Consortium Ltd (BCC Ltd). The report builds from the agreements to date on the transition of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and the collaborative Black Country based approach for the future accountability of LEP legacy funds utilising Association of Black Country Authorities as a mechanism if and when required.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Sarah Middleton (Chief Executive, Black Country Consortium Ltd.)</p> <p>Sarah.Middleton@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk</p>	Association of Black Country Authority Leaders	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022

107/22 (6.6.22)	Procurement of Corporate Landlord Strategic Partner: To seek approval to the appointment of a strategic partner to support the programme of capital schemes related to the council's property portfolio.	Cabinet Key Decision	Nick Ford Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
136/22 (10.10.22)	Black Country Enterprise Zone-Gasholders Site: To update on the direction of travel and seek approvals in relation to the preferred delivery approach, project funding and next steps to bring forward the site for employment generating uses. <i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet Key Decision	Caroline Harper Caroline.Harper@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
137/22 (10.10.22)	Willenhall Framework Plan: Phase 1 Developer Partner Procurement Approach and Funding Update: To provide an update on the preferred developer partner procurement approach and funding position. <i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet Key Decision	Kauser Agha Kauser.Agha@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Legal (External)	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
144/22 (7.11.22)	UK Shared Prosperity Fund: To authorise officers to accept funding allocation for UK Shared Prosperity	Cabinet Key Decision	Philippa Venables Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022

	Fund and to utilise for project activity aligned with UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan.					
145/22 (7.11.22)	<p>Town Centre Theatre Project:</p> <p>To agree next steps for the Town Deal Theatre project, setting out funding implications and options.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Philippa Venables</p> <p>Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
158/22 (07.11.22)	<p>Walsall Economic Strategy</p> <p>To approve an economic strategy for the borough.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Philippa Venables</p> <p>Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
126/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Strategic acquisition of a freehold heritage building in Walsall Town Centre:</p> <p>To seek approval to the freehold acquisition of a heritage property in Walsall Town Centre to support the preservation of the property.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Nick Ford</p> <p>Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk</p> <p>Bryte Legister</p> <p>Bryte.Legister@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
125/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Housing First contract award:</p> <p>To approve the contract award enabling the continuation of flexible support to former rough sleepers housed through the Housing First initiative.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Neil Hollyhead</p> <p>Neil.Hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal services, service users, external stakeholders	Cllr Ali	14 December 2022

	<i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i>					
146/22 (7.11.22)	<p>Home Upgrade Grant (HUGs) Round 2 Procurement and Update:</p> <p>To approve the use of a Framework to appoint contractors to deliver government funds to help residents with retro-fit works where they are not on the gas network.</p>	Cabinet Key decision	David Lockwood David.Lockwood@walsall.gov.uk	Public, Internal Services	Councillor Ali	14 December 2022
138/22 (10.10.22)	<p>Food for Life Contract:</p> <p>Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements from 1st April 2023 until 31st March 2024, and subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of associated contracts, deeds or other related documents for the Food for Life contract.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Esther Higdon Esther.Higdon@walsall.gov.uk Paul Nelson Paul.Nelson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services	Cllr Flint	14 December 2022
130/22 (6.9.22)	<p>Sexual Health and 0-19 Contracts:</p> <p>To approve the extension of the integrated sexual health service, contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024; and</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing to extend contracts on behalf</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Tony Meadows, Interim Director of Commissioning Tony.Meadows@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	14 December 2022

	of the Council and to subsequently authorise the variations to the contractual arrangements for the services should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules to 31 March 2024.					
156/22 (7.11.22)	<p>Healthy Lifestyles Contract and Smoking Cessation Contract Extensions:</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Director of Public Health and the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing. This will allow them to extend contracts on behalf of the Council and to subsequently authorise the variations to the contractual arrangements for the services should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Joe Holding</p> <p>Joe.Holding@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	14 December 2022
147/22 (7.11.22)	<p>We Are Walsall 2040: Consultation Feedback:</p> <p>To note the key findings from the consultation activities carried out over summer/autumn 2022, which will inform the We Are Walsall 2040 strategic borough plan.</p>	Cabinet Non-key decision	<p>Karen Griffiths</p> <p>Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk</p> <p>Policy & Strategy Unit</p> <p>(policyandstrategy@walsall.gov.uk)</p>	Internal Services, Local partners/ stakeholders	Cllr Perry Cllr Wilson	14 December 2022

148/22 (7.11.22)	Food Law Service Plan: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) requires all local authorities to prepare an annual service delivery plan to reflect the work required of food authorities by the FSA, under the requirements of the Food Standards Act 1999 and the framework agreement on local authority enforcement. In accordance with this requirement a Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2022/23 has been prepared and a decision is required from members to obtain authority to approve this plan	Cabinet Council Non-key decision	Paul Rooney Paul.Rooney@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	14 December 2022 Council, 9 January 2023
129/22 (5.9.22)	Update on Resilient Communities Safer Streets Programme: To report back on Safer Streets activity and recommend any adjustments/additions to the programme.	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Paul Gordon Paul.Gordon@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	14 December 2022
149/22 (7.11.22)	Electronic Calls Monitoring Contract Extension: To approve the extension of the ECM contract with Access UK Ltd.	Cabinet Key Decision	Tracy Simcox Tracy.Simcox@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Pedley	14 December 2022
124/22 (8.8.22)	Schools Mainstream Local Funding Formula 2023/24: That Cabinet approves the Mainstream Local Funding Formula, to be used for	Cabinet Key Decision	Walsall Schools Forum report December 2022 – Proposed Schools Local Funding Formula 2023/24.	Internal Services Schools Forum	Cllr M. Statham	14 December 2022

	the allocation of mainstream funding to schools in Walsall		ESFA – Schools revenue funding operation guide. Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk			
159/22 (7.11.22)	Secondary School Sufficiency: To approve funds for the creation of an additional 150 places in three Secondary Schools.	Cabinet Key Decision	Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Local partners/stake holders	Cllr. M. Statham	14 December 2022
160/22 (7.11.22)	Special School Sufficiency: To begin feasibility works to create to additional places in SEN Schools to meet additional demands.	Cabinet Key Decision	Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Local partners/stake holders	Cllr. M. Statham	14 December 2022
141/22 (10.10.22)	Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23: To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2022, including the impact of Covid-19.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Corporate Management Team and Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 2023
142/22 (10.10.22)	Corporate Budget Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27, incorporating the Capital Strategy and the Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2023/24: To recommend the final budget and council tax for approval by Council.	Cabinet Key Decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Public Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 2022 Council, 23 February 2023

150/22 (7.11.22)	Payments Project Contract Award: To award a contract to Capita/Pay360 Ltd (soon to be Access Group Ltd) for the provision of Pay 360 Licences and Capita/Pay360 Ltd services.	Cabinet Key Decision	Janice Freeman-Phillips Janice.Freeman-Phillips@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 2023
155/22 (7.11.22)	Council Plan: Review of Achievements 2021/22: To note the Review of Achievements for 2021/22, highlighting successes and progress towards achieving our Council priorities.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Meresh Kumari (meresh.kumari@walsall.gov.uk) Elizabeth Connolly (elizabeth.connolly@walsall.gov.uk)	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 2023
151/22 (7.11.22)	Introduction of Council Tax Premium on unoccupied but furnished properties: Levy the premium on properties that are unoccupied and unfurnished for more than 12 months. Effective from 1 April 24.	Cabinet to make recommendation to Full Council Key Decision	Mark Fearn Mark.Fearn@walsall.gov.uk	Part of budget consultation	Cllr Ali	8 February 2023
140/22 (10.10.22)	High Needs Funding Formula: To approve changes to the High Needs Funding Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used for the allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block to schools in Walsall for the 2023/24 financial year.	Cabinet Key Decision	Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk Schools' Forum reports October 2022, December 2022 and January 2023. Page 35 of 43	Internal Services, Schools Forum	Cllr M. Statham	8 February 2023

152/22 (7.11.22)	Renewal of the Council's Oracle Cloud Licenses: To renew the Council's Oracle cloud Licenses required for the operation of the Council's One Source system for HR, Payroll, Finance and Procurement from May 2023.	Cabinet Key Decision	Ian Tuft Ian.Tuft@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird Cllr Ferguson	22 March 2023
153/22 (7.11.22)	Walsall's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 to 2027: To approve Walsall's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, 2022 to 2027.	Cabinet Key Decision	Neil Hollyhead Neil.Hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services, service users, external stakeholders	Cllr Ali	22 March 2023
154/22 (7.11.22)	Early Years Funding Formula: To approve the Early Years Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used for the allocation of funding to early years providers in Walsall.	Cabinet Key Decision	Cabinet Report 17 March 2022 Early Years Funding Formula Walsall Schools Forum report March 2022 – Proposed Early Years Funding Formula Cabinet report 8 February 2017 Early Years National Funding Formula Walsall Schools Forum report 20 September 2016 - Update on National Funding Formula Original consultation document from government regarding the	Schools Forum Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	22 March 2023

			<p>implementation of a national early years funding formula</p> <p>Government's response to the early years consultation and fact sheet</p> <p>Richard Walley</p> <p>Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</p>			
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Black Country Executive Joint Committee
Forward Plan of Key Decisions Published up to April 2023

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance			
09/05/2022	<p>Future working arrangements of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee</p> <p>Consider the future working arrangements in light of the receipt of Government correspondence dated 31 March 2022: Integrating Local Enterprise Partnerships into local democratic institutions.</p>	<p>Sarah Middleton Sarah.Middleton@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk</p>	<p>Dudley MBC Sandwell MBC Walsall MBC City of Wolverhampton Council</p>	01/02/2023
06/06/2022	<p>Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones</p> <p>Approval of the amended Supplemental Deed of Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones, relating to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement.</p>	<p>Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Walsall Council</p>	01/02/2023

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)			
03/10/2022	Willenhall Garden City - Phase 1 (Moat Street and Villiers Street) Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into internal Grant Agreement with Walsall Council, to deliver the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership funded elements of the Willenhall Garden City – Phase 1 (Moat Street and Villiers Street) with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.	Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	01/02/2023
03/10/2022	Dudley Brownfield Land Programme Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Dudley Council, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Dudley Brownfield Land	Helen Martin Helen.Martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	01/02/2023

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	<p>Programme with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.</p>			
07/11/2022	<p>Wolverhampton Stowheath Redevelopment for Housing</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Stowheath Redevelopment for Housing project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.</p>	<p>Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk</p>	<p>City of Wolverhampton Council</p>	01/02/2023

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	Growing Places Fund			
05/12/2022	<p>Delegated Authority for Noting – Non-Key Decision</p> <p>Dudley Zoo Visitor and Education Centre Development Phase Project</p> <p>To note that the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities within Walsall Council in his role as Chair of the Working Group has used his Delegated Authority to approve the Accountable Body for the Growing Places Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with the Dudley and West Midlands Zoological Society Ltd, to deliver the Growing Places Fund (GPF) funded elements of the Dudley Zoo Visitor and Education Centre Development Phase project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.</p>	<p>Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Walsall Council	01/02/2023

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	Black Country Growth Hub			
05/12/2022	Black Country Growth Hub – For Noting To note that the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) is requesting via Walsall Council’s Cabinet on 14 December 2022 approval to proceed to a Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Funding for 2022/2023.	Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	01/02/2023
	Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)			
05/12/2022	Music Institute - Cable Plaza Site (Main Scheme) Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending its Grant Agreement with Dudley Council, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded	Helen Martin Helen.Martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	19/04/2023

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	elements of the Music Institute - Cable Plaza Site (Main Scheme) project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.			