



Walsall Council

Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on: **23 October 2023 AT 6.00PM**

Meeting to be held at: Council Chamber

Public access to meeting via: www.walsallcouncilwebcasts.com

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillor M. Follows (Chair)
Councillor B. Allen (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P. Bott
Councillor S. Cheema
Councillor S. Cooper
Councillor P. Gill
Councillor F. Hassan
Councillor A. Hicken
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor R. Larden
Councillor M. Ward
Councillor J. Whitehouse

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Councillor A. Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor G. Perry – Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor K. Murphy – Street Pride
Councillor M. Statham – Education and Skills
Councillor G. Flint – Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------|
| 1. | Apologies To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee. | |
| 2. | Substitutions To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting. | |
| 3. | Declarations of interest and party whip To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda. | |
| 4. | Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda. | |
| 5. | Minutes of the previous meeting To approve the minutes of the meeting on 12 September 2023. | Enclosed |
| 6. | Regeneration Update To provide the Committee with information in relation to the ongoing regeneration activity in the borough. | Enclosed |
| ITEMS FOR OVERVIEW | | |
| 7. | Areas of focus – 2023/24 To consider the areas of focus for the Committee during 2023/24. | Enclosed |
| 8. | Forward Plans To receive the latest Forward Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet • Black Country Joint Executive Committee • West Midlands Combined Authority Board | Enclosed |
| 9. | Recommendation Tracker To consider progress on recommendations from the previous meeting. | Enclosed |
| 10. | Date of next meeting To note the date of the next meeting will be 23 November 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.

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
12 September 2023 at 6.00pm held at Walsall Council House, Lichfield Street,
Walsall, WS1 1TW.

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Committee Members | Councillor B. Allen (Vice-Chair) | |
| | Councillor S. Cheema | |
| | Councillor P. Gill | |
| | Councillor F. Hassan | |
| | Councillor P. Kaur | |
| | Councillor R. Larden | |
| | Councillor M. Ward | |
| | Councillor J. Whitehouse | |
| | Councillor V. Waters | |
| Portfolio Holders | Councillor A. Andrew | Deputy Leader and Regeneration |
| Officers Present: | Dave Brown | Interim Executive Director, Economy and Environment |
| | Paul Leighton | Group Manager, Highway Network |
| | Simon Tranter | Head of Regeneration, Housing and Economy |
| | David Elrington | Head of Community Safety and Enforcement |
| | Sian Lloyd | Democratic Services Officer |

9. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Follows and P. Bott.

10. **Substitutions**

Councillor Waters substituted for Councillor Follows.

11. **Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

12. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to consider in private session.

13. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

14. **Street Works Permit Scheme**

The Group Manager for the Highway Network presented a report to the Committee in relation to the permit scheme for street works, its operation and its constraints. He advised that the council introduced its permit scheme in 2019 under powers provided in Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Traffic Management Permit Scheme (England) Regulations 2007 and that all works would require a permit to take place.

The Committee were informed that in 2020 the Government introduced a digital service called Street Manager and now all permit applications must be entered into this system which then gives a national overview of works taking place. The Group Manager stated that the council had a team of 8 people working on permits across the borough and that there were four main types of permits which all carried a small fee which was charged to all organisations except the council itself. He highlighted that the council were not permitted to make a profit from the permit scheme so these costs could not be increased beyond the organisational costs that the council incurs.

The Group Manager did advise that there were a limited number of emergency circumstances in which work could start before the council had been informed but it was still the obligation of the organisation conducting the work to inform the council within a two-hour window. He explained that, when issuing permits, the council could impose certain restrictions on times works can be conducted and advertisement before works commence and that they also had the ability to issue fixed penalty notices should these not be complied with.

Following questions from Members of the Committee the Group Manager confirmed that there were 4 inspectors operating across the borough and Councillors and members of the public could contact the council directly if they needed to make the team aware of any works that they suspected were not authorised or posed a danger to the public. He emphasised that it was ultimately the responsibility of the contractor to ensure the safety of the site but that the council would be able to issue fixed penalty notices and order more chargeable inspections of the site in response to any issues. It was also noted that there was a very small proportion of works that took place on the network which did not have the correct permissions and these were mostly dropped kerbs.

Resolved:

That the Committee:

- 1. Notes the legislative constraints imposed on the operation of a street works permit scheme; and**
- 2. Recognises the statutory rights held by the council and utility companies to undertake street and road works on the public highway.**

15. **Derelict Properties Taskforce**

The Deputy Leader introduced the item on the derelict properties taskforce, highlighting the £20 million secured for Willenhall from the Levelling Up Fund would aid in the regeneration of the area alongside the compulsory purchase orders (CPOs) that were in progress. He explained that the derelict properties taskforce was an internal taskforce which had been constituted to ensure that the various departments required to be involved in the process were brought together to discuss specific sites and progress any works required to bring them back into use.

The Executive Director of Economy and Environment advised that public discussions with the Committee would need to be handled sensitively at this stage in order to not prejudice any ongoing commercial negotiations with landowners. The Committee requested that discussions be held at a future meeting in private session so as to avoid this.

Following questions from Members of the Committee the Deputy Leader advised that if a property was not able to be occupied then no rates would be due on that property. He shared Committee Members' frustrations that landowners could use planning applications to delay CPOs and advised that he had requested to be part of a pilot of the new streamlined process for CPOs.

Resolved:

That:

- 1. The Committee notes the progress set out in this report and the content of the associated Cabinet report; and**
- 2. Discussions in relation to specific sites to be held at a future meeting in private session within six months.**

16. **Areas of Focus – 2023/24**

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration gave a brief presentation on the priorities within his portfolio for the municipal year, highlighting the 1.5 billion pound investment going into the borough and the amount of varied and successful regeneration projects were being pursued, which he noted would be the topic of the next meeting of the Committee. He emphasised the need to build communities and not just houses.

Following this presentation the Committee considered the items on the previously agreed list of areas of focus and if there were any items that needed to be added.

Resolved:

That the Committee requests an invitation to the Scrutiny Overview Committee meeting in relation to the Walsall Local Borough Plan.

17. **Recommendation Tracker**

The Democratic Services Officer updated the Committee on the recommendations from previous meetings of the Committee. It was noted that all items had been completed.

Resolved:

That the progress on recommendations from the previous meeting be noted.

18. **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 19 October 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated 7.15pm.

Signed:

Date:

23 October 2023

Regeneration Update

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Councillor Adrian Andrew, Deputy Leader and Regeneration

1. Aim

Regeneration activity in the borough is key to achieving the objectives set out in Our Council Plan 2022-2025 and the vision of the “We Are Walsall 2040” Borough Plan. Projects and programmes have a positive impact to provide quality homes, vibrant towns, a connected borough and a strong economy for all.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee note the ongoing regeneration activity in the borough and give feedback to support the development of future proposals.

3. Report detail – know

Walsall is in the middle of a £1.5 billion transformation of our Borough through recent, current and planned investment. Significant work is currently underway to progress this transformation and a summary of the key regeneration activity is set out below.

3.1 Walsall Town Centre

- 3.1.1 The **Walsall Town Centre Masterplan** was supported by Cabinet in 2019. It provides an inspirational and deliverable vision for a sustainable and resilient town centre for the next 15-20 years, providing a bold and ambitious vision that is at the same time a clear, deliverable and investible strategy for the council and stakeholders to follow.

The vision is that “Walsall will attract visitors based on its leisure and culture offers; including its internationally significant art gallery. The town centre environment will be easily navigable with healthy streets, which encourage walking and cycling and maximise the value of significant public spaces through regular events and activities”.

A series of ten catalytic interventions are set out in the Masterplan. These are the projects that the council and its partners are able to prioritise to enable a process

of physical transformation in Walsall Town Centre. The delivery of these catalytic interventions will stimulate investor confidence in the town centre and enable the overall Masterplan vision to be achieved.



A number of capital projects are now in development for the town centre with funding from the Future High Streets Fund, Towns Fund and Walsall Council. These projects will help to deliver several interventions as set out in the Masterplan:

3.1.2 The **Connected Gateway** project was successful in securing £11.4m from the government's Future High Street Fund and is also supported by the council's capital funds. This is an exciting and transformative project that will:

- create a public transport gateway that improves connections between the town's bus and rail hubs.
- enhance the presence of Walsall Rail Station by improving accessibility to it and the arrival experience into the town centre.
- modernise and repurpose the Saddlers Shopping Centre and introduce a greater proportion of non-retail uses, and
- transform the public realm in the heart of Park Street.

A detailed design for the project is currently being developed with a view to submission of a planning application in late 2023. The project will lead to many positive outcomes including increasing footfall, environmental improvements, through greenery and high quality public realm and introduce a new offer to boost economic growth and investment.

- 3.1.3 The **Active Public Spaces** scheme is being supported by Towns Fund. It will deliver an inviting, engaging and quality public space around the northern end of Park Street and its link into Gallery Square. This will provide a stronger connection between the High Street, the New Art Gallery Canal Basin and local restaurant and entertainment facilities. The project will help to change the experience of visiting the town centre. The physical and visual links will encourage more use of the Waterfront and its facilities and put Walsall New Art Gallery at its heart.

In partnership with Canal River Trust, new and improved facilities will encourage boaters to visit and extend their stays around the Canal Basin, creating a vibrant and active waterfront for casual visitors, shoppers and gallery visitors.

A detailed design for the project has been completed and it is anticipated that works will start in early 2024.

- 3.1.4 The **Creative Industries Enterprise Centre** project is being supported by funding that has been successfully secured from DCMS 'Cultural Development Fund and DLUHC's Towns Fund. This funding will enable the currently vacant Grade II* listed Guildhall building to be transformed. The makerspace, to be run by Urban Hax, a local non-profit creative CIC, will include support and facilities for creatives to run and grow creative businesses and projects across art, science and technology. A detailed design has been completed and a planning application has been submitted to change of use and address the listed status.

In the run-up to the Guildhall re-opening, an associated Festival of Design and Making, a programme of creative commissions, events, skills development and business support will take place throughout 2024-2026 to engage local people, raise awareness of Walsall's continuing status as a centre of creative excellence and promote representation of Walsall's diverse communities.

- 3.1.5 The **Construction Skills Academy Programme** is a Walsall Town Deal project led by Walsall College which has enabled the construction of an extension to the front of current Green Lane campus. The new facility expands the offer currently available for the construction sector through the college; including new technologies, advanced skills that are essential for this key sector moving forward and supports local people to acquire new skills at a meaningful scale to gain employment and help to meet pent up demand for upskilling within the construction sector locally.

- 3.1.6 The **Advanced Electric Vehicle Technology Centre Programme** is also led by Walsall College and will create a new purpose-built facility adjacent to the existing and complementary training centre at their Wisemore Campus. This will deliver advanced training in electric vehicle technologies and maintenance close to the existing traditional motor vehicle education facilities, allowing for easier integration into the wider Wisemore Campus, creating an improved student experience.

- 3.1.7 The **Digital Skills Hub** Town Deal project will provide new digital skills infrastructure at a meaningful scale to help meet the need for upskilling local people in digital technologies, so they are able to move into and develop successful careers within this growing and key market place sector. The centre will be located in close proximity to the Studio School and Sixth within the St Matthews Quarter.

- 3.1.8 During 2023 the **Walsall Public Realm Manual** has been produced for Walsall Town Centre. The manual aims to provide continuity in the design and detailing across the streets and spaces of the town centre. The Manual builds on the existing Town Centre Masterplan and the Public Realm Investment Plan which preceded the manual to provide an overall strategy for public realm. The manual provides a further layer of design information on key interventions developed in the Town Centre Masterplan. The Public Realm Manual will be used as a technical guide for future public realm projects in the town centre.
- 3.1.9 The Walsall Town Centre Masterplan also set out an aspiration to deliver **high quality town centre living**. This will provide new homes in a highly accessible and sustainable location while also helping create a broader community that can help support the vitality of the wider town centre into the future. Delivery of these new homes will complement the investment already taking place through the Connected Gateway and Town Deal projects. The council is actively working to progress new residential schemes within the town centre engaging with landowner and developers and undertaking work to consider potential delivery routes and the role that it can play to support this.
- 3.1.10 Demolition of the **former Challenge Building** and redevelopment of the site for a new modern, purpose-built medical centre reached practical completion in August 2023. The £12.6million town centre scheme, including £4.5million grant funding from NHS England, opened in September and relocated four existing GP practices into a single hub, providing services to over 25,000 patients. The scheme includes consulting, treatment and meeting rooms, plus on-site patient car parking. It is built to BREEAM Excellent sustainability rating and has a high-energy efficiency above standard building regulation requirements. This strategic development in the town centre complements the development plans for the wider area and the vision for the town centre set out in the masterplan. Building on this, work is underway to review potential development and delivery options for the adjoining council owned land.

3.2 Bloxwich Town Deal

- 3.2.1 The Council has launched the **Construction Skills Through Regeneration** programme as part of the Bloxwich Town Deal programme. The programme will build local capacity to deliver on Walsall's housing targets. Walsall College will lead on the delivery of Apprenticeships training and skills development while the council will manage grant funding to support local Social Landlords. The fund is open to local housing associations and developers to support the remediation of derelict brownfield sites, and the environmental upgrading of existing dwellings.

To access the fund applicants will be asked to make commitments to providing local jobs for local people, the use of local supply chains and the delivery of construction skills and training for local people by developers. Outcomes will include improved quality of neighbourhood, reduced carbon emissions and costs, together with local people trained and employed.

- 3.2.2 The **Community Capital Grants Programme** has enabled voluntary and community sector and social enterprise organisations to submit expressions of

interest for a share of circa £2m to refurbish and upgrade existing buildings in Bloxwich so they can expand their roles in supporting local people into employment and training, and improve skills, work and job opportunities (note the programme also extends to Walsall with funding of £740,000).

3.2.3 King George V Playing Field in Bloxwich will be enhanced as part of the **Green Bloxwich** programme. Work will include bringing back into use two of the park's heritage buildings, transforming one of them, the existing Pavilion, into a community café, with proposals for the Park Lodge under development. Proposals for King George V Park are being developed and include new equipment, a variety of sports pitches and multi-use games areas, and zones to attract and encourage wildlife. There will also be spaces suitable for holding a variety of events.

3.2.4 The **Incubation Space & Digital Access Centre** programme will create a new centre within Bloxwich Town Centre. The Digital Access element will support local people to access internet services, receive training, support, advice and guidance to overcome barriers to their future participation in education and / or employment. For those looking to establish a new or develop an existing business, the Incubation Centre will provide the support they need within a professional environment, enabling participants to develop their self-employment or business ambitions. Council staff and Walsall College, together with local community groups and specialist providers of services, have agreed to and will be engaged to support all participants to succeed. A building has been identified for the centre and a detailed design is being prepared.

3.2.5 The aim of the **Bloxwich Towns Fund Active Travel and Connectivity Sustainable Transport Programme** is to make it safer and easier to walk, cycle and use public transport in the Bloxwich area. The main schemes being delivered as part of this programme are:

- Cycling and walking improvements on Elmore Green Road and Croxdene Avenue.
- Footway widening/one-way improvements on Marlborough St/Clarendon St.
- LED street lighting on Bloxwich High Street.
- Infilling/widening works on the A34 Upper Green Ln bridge, next to Cable Drive.

All works must be delivered by March 2026 at the latest.

3.2.6 The cycling and walking improvements on Elmore Green Rd are currently in the process of being constructed and include:

- Upgrading the existing pedestrian crossing opposite Elmore Green Primary School to a facility for both pedestrians and cyclists.
- Installing a new pedestrian crossing on Elmore Green Rd, near to the junction with Croxdene Avenue.
- Creating a new cycle parking facility near to Bloxwich Station, which will be covered by CCTV.

3.2.7 At present the construction work is still running to programme and the upgraded toucan crossing opposite Elmore Green Primary School has already been switched on to coincide with the start of the new school term. The last element of this scheme to be delivered will be the planting, the timings of which are dictated

by the types of plants and trees selected – this will be complete by the end of October/start of November, in time for the end of scheme press release.

- 3.2.8 In addition, the Canals and River Trust are putting in place 14km of new tarmac tow paths, 12km of which is lit (low level solar) across both the Bloxwich and Walsall Town Deal areas, including improving the entrance and exit points.



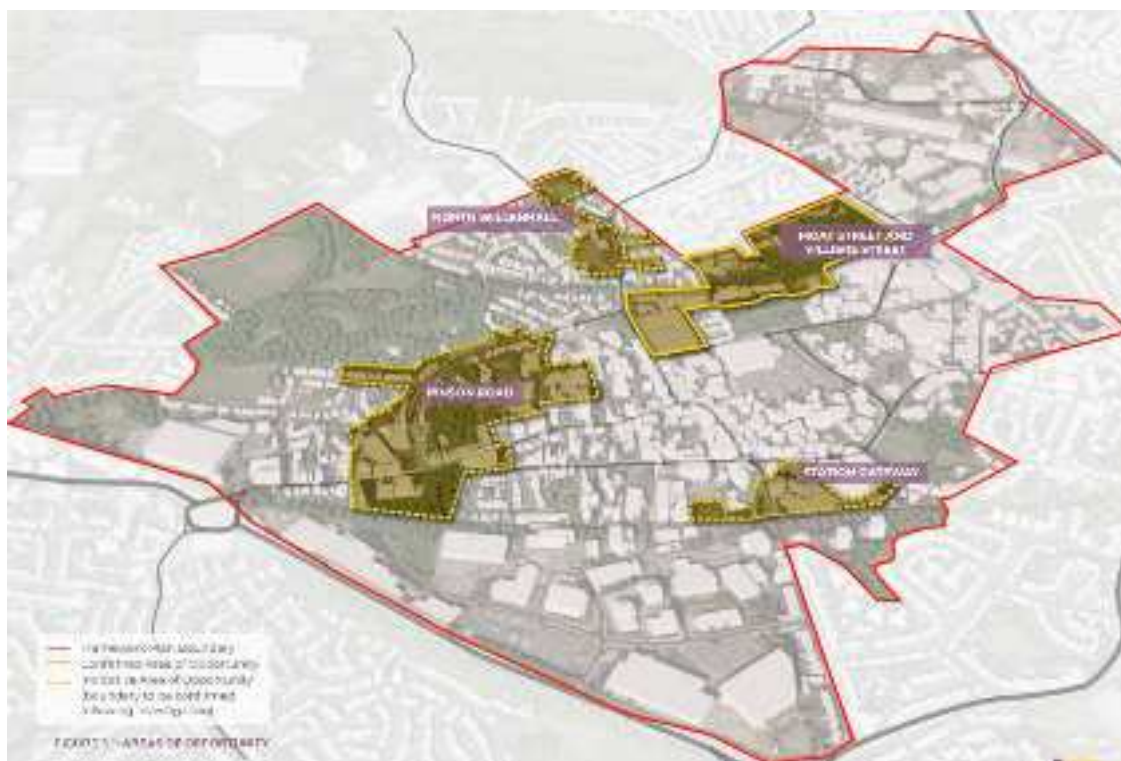
Canal tow path improvement

3.3 Willenhall

- 3.3.1 Willenhall has been identified by the council as an area for strategic intervention with Cabinet previously agreeing to support a targeted programme of activity to regenerate the area. Since then work has continued to explore and promote opportunities for growth and investment. The planned opening of the new railway station and promotion of the Walsall Growth Corridor as a priority for housing delivery and sustainable growth provides a real opportunity to promote Willenhall as a place where people aspire to live, work, and spend leisure time.
- 3.3.2 In February 2021 Cabinet approved preparation of a **Willenhall Framework Plan** to confirm the council's aspirations for Willenhall and to guide future development. The completed Willenhall Framework Plan was supported by Cabinet in February 2022, following engagement with key stakeholders including the local community.

The Framework Plan sets out a 10-year vision for Willenhall which provides an ambition for housing growth and healthy, prosperous communities. The vision is that Willenhall will grow into a vibrant, connected and welcoming town with a strong sense of place which celebrates its diverse communities and promotes safe, healthy and active lifestyles. Quality design and sustainable construction will move Willenhall towards a healthy, prosperous and sustainable future.

There are four opportunity areas identified in the Framework Plan, which are categorised for delivery over the short, medium and long term. In total the aim is to provide up to 500 new homes with associated environmental and connectivity benefits. The Moat Street/Villiers Street area of opportunity has been identified as Phase 1 and the initial focus for the council.



Willenhall Framework Plan and Areas of Opportunity

- 3.3.3 The **Phase 1 Moat Street and Villiers Street** scheme has a number of key workstreams: land assembly (the council has very limited landholdings in the area), development and submission of an outline planning application and the procurement of a developer partner to deliver the proposed homes.

Land assembly

The council appointed property consultants Avison Young (AY) to commence negotiations with the interested parties in March 2021 and negotiations have been on-going since this time. Following a review of progress Cabinet authorised the use of the compulsory purchase powers conferred on the council by section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to acquire land and rights necessary to deliver the Moat Street and Villiers Street scheme at the meeting on 19 July 2023. The council made the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on 29 August 2023 and the objection period commenced on 7 September 2023. The objection period concluded on 6 October 2023.

Outline planning application

An outline planning application with all matters reserved other than access and layout was submitted on 22 March 2023. The outline planning application was for 107 new homes (54 apartments and 53 houses) together with the conversion of the locally listed Moat Field Works into a residential use. The application was considered by planning committee on 7 September 2023 who resolved to delegate to the Head of Planning & Building Control to grant planning permission subject to conditions and a Section 111 Agreement to secure a Section 106 Agreement.



View 1 – Looking from the War Memorial down Most Street



View of parcel E – Junction of Villiers St and Cometary Road

Artist impressions of the Phase 1 site

Procurement of a developer partner

Following approval from Cabinet in December 2022 to the use of the Homes England Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS), the council commenced a procurement process in February 2023 to procure a developer partner for Willenhall. Cabinet considered the appointment of the preferred developer partner on 18 October 2023.

Funding

The council submitted a bid to the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 in August 2022 for £20m to support Phase 1 of the Willenhall Framework Plan together with a movement package that would improve transport infrastructure including the greenway that runs through the Phase 1 site. In January 2023 the council was advised that the bid had been successful. The council also submitted a funding bid to the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) for the Phase 1 scheme which was successful in securing £3.2m.

3.3.4 The **Willenhall Movement Package** is made up of three specific elements:

Willenhall Greenway Route

Construction of a shared walking and cycling route from Willenhall Memorial Park westbound to Anson Road, including upgrades to pedestrian crossings, fencing and existing walking and cycling facilities on Stringes Lane. Due to construction cost savings the scheme has been extended to include the link between Moose Lane and Willenhall Memorial Park. Construction started on site in July 2023 and is due to complete in December 2023. The extension to Moose Lane is likely to complete at the start of 2024.

Railway Lane

Clearance and redevelopment of Railway Lane from East Acres to the north of the Wolverhampton-Walsall Railway Line to become a shared walking and cycling route. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to prohibit vehicular use along Railway Lane received no objections during consultation in July 2023. Consultation on the Highways Act 1980 Section 205 notice for this section of network to become formerly adopted highway is imminent. Following consultation, the aim is for construction to begin by December 2023, subject to the outcome of the Section 205.

Rose Hill / Bilston Lane Junction

The proposed conversion of the existing priority junction at Rose Hill / Bilston Lane to a three-arm roundabout. The scheme is currently in preliminary design development, anticipated for completion by November 2023. Following this public engagement and detailed design will be undertaken. The scheme is proposed for construction in 2025.



Locations of the three Movement Package sites

3.4 Strategic Employment Land

- 3.4.1 The **Black Country Enterprise Zone (EZ)** sites, clustered around M6 Junction 10, are the strategic focus for employment land development. These sites providing significant opportunities for high-quality employment uses to drive economic growth and job creation.
- 3.4.2 The most significant site within the EZ is **SPARK**, formerly known as Phoenix 10. At its meeting on 13 April 2023 Committee received a report that provided a summary of the work undertaken to progress the project and information about the future programme towards completion. Since then, site enabling works remain ongoing while SPARK has continued to be marketed by HBD's joint agents Knight Frank and Cushman & Wakefield with a view to securing occupiers for the circa 620,000sqft of new employment floorspace that will be created. New signage has also been installed on site to further raise its profile. A reserved matters planning application relating to development of part of the site is also due to be submitted in October/November 2023. At this stage it is anticipated that construction works could start in the latter part of 2024. HBD are also keeping local people informed via a regular community newsletter with two issues distributed to date.



SPARK

- 3.4.3 Over the last 2 years, private landowners have delivered schemes on several EZ sites. This includes Fortel Services Ltd who located their 1,500sqft headquarters and storage hub at the **Tempus 10 Opal** site. With EZ grant funding support totalling c. £3.8m from the former Black Country LEP landowners have also completed schemes on EZ sites at Box Pool and Parallel 113. The former development is occupied and operated by Darlaston Builders Merchants and has a new signalised access from the Darlaston Road junction. Following completion earlier this year, the Parallel 113 facility is being actively marketed to purchasers / end occupiers and has the potential to provide up to 200 new jobs.



Parallel 113

- 3.4.4 As landowner of the former **Gasholders** site, the council are progressing development options for the site which has the potential to deliver a minimum 15,000sqm employment floorspace and circa 300 new jobs. A suite of pre-development work has been on-going since last December when Cabinet approved recommendations to continue to explore delivery of high-quality employment uses on the site. This includes technical survey work to understand site constraints and mitigations, layout options, development costs and appraisals, and soft market testing. The outcomes of this week will feed into decision making on next steps; for example, phasing of future delivery work and taking forward a business case to secure public sector funding to support site viability.
- 3.4.5 Following acquisition of the **Tempus 10 Onyx** site, landowner, JB Construction have proposals to redevelop the site for their own business use and additional employment units with a planning application currently being determined. In addition, Fortel have sought to accelerate proposals for the balance of their Tempus 10 Opal land holding by securing reserved matters planning consent for further industrial/warehouse units. The council will continue to support landowners in delivery (e.g. funding and planning) and promote opportunities to potential end-occupiers where necessary. Delivery of the Tempus 10 sites will complete the development of the remaining land parcels at Tempus Drive, which benefit from close proximity to the improved M6 Junction 10 and strategic highway network.
- 3.4.6 Outside of the EZ, **other strategic employment development** has been completed at Reedwood business park, with two units occupied by FW Thorpe and Love Shopping Direct. The final two units, totalling 100,000sqft and branded as Leftfield Park, are on the market and available to let. Walsall 90 (former Holiday Inn) near M6 Junction 10 has also secured planning consent for a 90,000sqft industrial/ warehouse scheme and is expected to be completed by Q3 2024. The employment sites pipeline also includes sites at **Bentley Lane** (former Beatwaste), **Iron Park** (former Moxley Tip) and the decommissioned Willenhall sewage works site at **Anson Road**. The council continues to support landowners in bringing forward much-needed employment space on these sites.

3.5 M6 Junction 10

3.5.1 Background

Walsall Council and Highways England are working in partnership to provide a long-term improvement to M6 Junction 10. The junction currently experiences significant congestion and resultant delays, particularly during morning and evening peak times. The area regularly suffers from long queues at peak times on the roundabout and both the merge and diverge motorway slip roads, with congestion also occurring on other local roads leading to the junction, such as Wolverhampton Road, Wolverhampton Road West and Bloxwich Lane.

The main objectives of the scheme are to provide a more safe and serviceable free-flowing network, support economic growth by attracting new business/employment opportunities and improved access to Walsall town centre and the wider West Midlands conurbation.

3.5.2 Progress

To date, the following major milestones have been achieved:

- Construction of two new four-lane wide bridges and demolition of the previous two-lane structures.
- Introduction of an additional 5th lane on the northbound and southbound exit slip roads.
- Widening of the roundabout to provide additional capacity on the eastern and western extents.
- Introduction of new sign gantries with improved road markings, signage and LED street lighting.
- Construction of a new 4m wide shared cycleway/footway (from Bloxwich Lane to Wolverhampton Road West) with controlled pedestrian crossing facilities.
- Resurfacing of all carriageways and footways within the scheme footprint.
- Reconstruction of the A454 Wolverhampton Road/Bloxwich Lane junction with new segregated right turn lanes on the east and west approaches.
- Widening of the westbound Black Country Route to provide a 3rd lane up to the Marshland Way junction.
- Installation of new traffic signals at both the roundabout and A454 Wolverhampton Road/Bloxwich Lane junction, with high friction surfacing on approaches.
- New landscaping, road restraint systems, fencing and drainage with attenuation ponds installed adjacent to the northbound and southbound sections of the M6 motorway.
- Diversion and reconnection of all affected underground utility apparatus (electric, gas, water and comms).



Image taken from drone footage collected on 9th September 2023

3.5.3 Remaining Work/Programme

Remaining work includes the final surfacing and opening of the new cycleway/footways, further work in relation to the bridge joints/drainage and testing/commissioning of all new communications equipment.

The construction programme has extended beyond the original completion date due to a number of issues:

- Covid-19 impacts - workplace/site restrictions, contractor/supply chain related illness and the requirement for a revised method of working to allow operatives to maintain a safe working distance, whilst still delivering the required outputs.
- The collapse of the bridge beam manufacturer (Cleveland Steel) which resulted in prolonged negotiations with the administrator to enable the workforce to return to complete the fabrication process.
- National shortage of construction related materials in the UK during 2022.
- Poor condition of the existing street lighting and drainage networks prompting additional repairs to be carried out (whilst the necessary resource and traffic management is in place).
- Traffic management re-programming to take into account National Highways planned highway maintenance work on the M6 between junctions 9 and 11.
- Further work associated with the diversion of underground utility apparatus.
- Additional carriageway surfacing required to the motorway slip roads.

It is envisaged that the scheme will be 'open for traffic' in early 2024 with full project completion (not necessarily physical work – e.g. compilation of the Health and Safety File, etc) being completed in Spring 2024.

- 3.6 The aim of the **Walsall Towns Fund Active Travel and Connectivity Sustainable Transport Programme** is to make it safer and easier to walk, cycle and use public transport in the Walsall area. The main two schemes being delivered as part of this programme are pedestrian improvement works on Raybolds Bridge Road, as well as bus shelter improvements on the A34 Green Lane and the B4210 Bloxwich Road. All works must be delivered by March 2026 at the latest, in line with Towns Fund guidelines.

Preliminary designs have been completed for the Raybolds Bridge Road pedestrian improvements scheme. Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) are also planning to improve the existing bus shelters on the A34 Green Lane and the B4210 Bloxwich Road.

4. ***Financial information***

None arising directly from this report. It should be noted that the projects outlined are being funded from a number of different sources, both via the public sector and private investment.

5. *Reducing Inequalities*

Regeneration seeks to support economic growth for all people, communities and businesses. Increasing housing choice, enabling job creation, making the borough better connected and increasing incomes will all contribute towards reducing inequalities.

6. *Decide*

The Committee is asked to consider the content of this report, provide comments on progress to date and confirm any specific information required for a subsequent project update.

7. *Respond*

The report sets out a number of projects that are all contributing to regeneration in the borough. Each of these projects have their own specific milestones as they progress towards completion.

8. *Review*

Progress with regeneration activity is regularly reviewed given its importance in relation to Our Council Plan 2022-2025 and the We Are Walsall 2040 Borough Plan.

Background papers

None

Author

David Moore
Director Regeneration and Economy
☎ 650411
✉ david.moore@walsall.gov.uk

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Area of Focus – 2023/24

Committee responsible for all aspects and general services related to the economy and environment including:

Responsibility of scrutiny of flood risk management functions which may affect the Local Authority's area as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

And the scrutinising of performance in relation to the relevant priority in the Council Plan: Enable greater local opportunities for all people, communities and businesses.

| Agenda Items | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| Theme | 6 July 2023 | 12 September 2023 | 19 October 2023 | 23 November 2023 | 16 January 2024 | 27 February 2024 | 11 April 2024 |
| Economy | | Derelict Properties Taskforce | Regeneration focus – Towns Funds projects, Town Centre Masterplan, Willenhall Masterplan, M6 J10 | Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Train Stations | Heritage Strategy with reference to Highgate Brewery | | |
| Environment | | Streetworks permit scheme | | Tree Planting Strategy | Climate change Off-road biking Grass cutting schedule and mapping of council assets | Litter picking strategy and volunteers | Partnership working with West Midlands Police – traffic speed enforcement |
| Cross cutting both Economy and Environment | Outturn 2022/23 | | | Quarter 2 Monitoring | | | |

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Area of Focus – 2023/24

*Quarter 1 and Quarter 3 Financial reports will be circulated via e-mail to Members of the Committee and will not form part of the Committee's Agenda unless specially requested by the Committee.

Items to be scheduled in work programme:

1. Public Toilets Pilot Update;
2. Private session discussion on derelict properties taskforce



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

2 OCTOBER 2023

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
NOVEMBER 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2024 (02.10.2023)**

| 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 |
| 26/23 (5.6.23) | Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2027/28 To provide an updated medium term financial outlook, draft revenue budget and capital programme for 2024/25 to 2027/28, including savings proposals, and to set out the process and timescales for setting a legally balanced budget for 2024/25. | Cabinet Non-key Decision | Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk | Rate payers, voluntary and community organisations, Internal Services | Cllr Bird | 18 October 2023 |
| 32/23 (3.7.23) | Council Plan 2022/25 – Q1 23/24 To note the Quarter 1 2023/24 (outturn) performance against the Markers of Success in the Council Plan 2022/25 | Cabinet Non-key Decision | Elizabeth Connolly Elizabeth.Connolly@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Bird | 18 October 2023 |
| 27/23 (5.6.23) | Corporate Financial Performance 2023/24 To report the financial position based on 6 months to September 2023. | Cabinet Non-key Decision | Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Bird | 18 October 2023 |

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|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 48/23 (2.10.23) | Armed Forces Covenant To approve the new Walsall Armed Forces Covenant. | Cabinet Non-key Decision | Katie Moreton Kathryn.Moreton@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Bird | 18 October 2023 |
| 40/23 (4.9.23) | Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) To seek approval for the adoption and publication of guidance on BNG, the publication of the Black Country Local Nature Recovery Map and Strategy, and its use as a working document | Cabinet Key Decision | The Black Country Local Nature Recovery Map and Strategy Sammy Pritchard Sammy.Pritchard@walsall.gov.uk David Holloway David.Holloway@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Andrew | 18 October 2023 |
| 41/23 (4.9.23) | Willenhall Framework Plan: Phase 1 Developer Partner Procurement Outcome and Award To provide an update on the outcome of the developer partner procurement <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 | 18 October 2023 |
| 42/23 (4.9.23) | Sale of the Former Allens Centre, Hilton Road, Willenhall To seek approval for the sale of the former Allens Centre in Willenhall. <i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i> | Cabinet Key Decision | Nick Ford Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Andrew | 18 October 2023 |

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|-------------------|---|--|--|---|-------------|--|
| 43/23 (4.9.23) | Integrated sexual and reproductive health services and the Healthy Child Programme 0-19 Section 75 Agreement Extensions To seek approval for the extension of the Section 75 agreement for the delivery of integrated sexual and reproductive health services and the Healthy Child Programme 0-19. | Cabinet Key Decision | Esther Higdon Esther.Higdon@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services Walsall Healthcare Trust | Cllr Flint | 18 October 2023 |
| 33/23 (3.7.23) | Winter Service Operational Plan 2023- 2028 To approve the winter service operational plan. | Cabinet Key Decision | Paul Leighton Paul.Leighton@walsall.gov.uk Graham Wallis Graham.Wallis@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Murphy | 18 October 2023 |
| 44/23 (4.9.23) | Street Lighting Post-PFI Arrangements To approve the service delivery model for the street lighting service from April 2028. | Cabinet Key Decision | Katie Moreton Kathryn.Moreton@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Murphy | 18 October 2023 |
| 45/23 (4.9.23) | Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2023/24 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 | Cabinet Council Non-key Decision | Paul Rooney Paul.Rooney@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Perry | Cabinet 18 October 2023 Council 6 November 2023 |

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|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---|-----------------|------------------|
| | enforcement. In accordance with this requirement a Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2023/24 has been prepared and a decision is required from members to obtain authority to approve this plan. | | | | | |
| 34/23 (3.7.23) | Early Years Funding Formula 2023/24: That Cabinet approves changes to the Early Years Funding Formula for 2023/24 following notification of an increase in the hourly funding rates. | Cabinet Key Decision | ESFA – Early Years funding operational guide Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk | Schools Forum Internal Services | Cllr M. Statham | 18 October 2023 |
| 35/23 (3.7.23) | Schools Mainstream Local Funding Formula 2024/25: That Cabinet approves the Mainstream Local Funding Formula, to be used for the allocation of mainstream funding to schools in Walsall. | Cabinet Key Decision | ESFA – Schools revenue funding operation guide Richard Walley Richard.walley@walsall.gov.uk | Schools Forum Internal Services | Cllr M. Statham | 18 October 2023 |
| 46/23 (4.9.23) | SEN Place Requirement To approve finance for additional special educational needs school places. | Cabinet Key Decision | Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk | Internal services | Cllr M. Statham | 18 October 2023 |
| 37/23 (7.8.23) | Autumn Budget and Spending Review, and feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees on draft revenue and capital budget proposals 2024/25 to 2027/28 To provide an update on the impact of the Autumn Budget and Spending Review on the medium-term financial outlook, and to consider feedback from | Cabinet Non-key Decision | Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk | Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations. Internal services | Cllr Bird | 13 December 2023 |

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|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|------------------|------------------|
| | Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the draft revenue and capital budget. | | | | | |
| 38/23 (7.8.23) | Treasury Management Mid Year Position Statement 2023/24 To note and forward to Council, for consideration and noting (and in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017), the mid year report for treasury management activities 2023/24 including prudential and local indicators. | Council Non-key Decision | Treasury Management Code of Practice. Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk | Internal services | Cllr Ferguson | 13 December 2023 |
| 49/23 (2.10.23) | Technology Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28 To approve the Technology Strategy, which outlines the Council's approach to investing in and implementing technology, which will support the delivery of the Council Plan and enable transformation change | Cabinet Key Decision | Sharon Worrall Sharon.worrall@walsall.gov.uk | Internal services | Cllr Ferguson | 13 December 2023 |
| 39/23 (7.8.23) | Strategic Leisure Review To update on the performance and impact of the four leisure facilities. To approve recommendations around the current and future facility stock. | Cabinet Key Decision | Stuart Webb Stuart.Webb@walsall.gov.uk | Internal services | Cllr Flint | 13 December 2023 |
| 36/23 (7.8.23) | Healthy Eating for Children and Young People Programme To seek approval to procure a new healthy eating and weight management | Cabinet Key Decision | Esther Higdon Esther.Higdon@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services Walsall Healthcare Trust | Cllr Flint | 13 December 2023 |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|---|-----------------|---|
| | programme for children and young people in Walsall. | | | | | |
| 14/23 (6.2.23) | Growth Funding for Schools: To enable the Local Authority to fulfil its duty to secure sufficient primary and secondary school places, through the adoption of a policy for the application of revenue funding for school growth. | Cabinet Key Decision | Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk | Internal services, Schools Forum | Cllr M. Statham | 13 December 2023 |
| 50/23 (2.10.23) | Corporate Financial Performance 2023/24: To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2023. | Cabinet Non-key decision | Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk | Corporate Management Team and Internal Services | Cllr Bird | 7 February 2024 |
| 51/23 (2.10.23) | Corporate Budget Plan 2024/25 – 2027/28, incorporating the Capital Strategy and the Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2024/25: To recommend the final budget and council tax for approval by Council. | Cabinet Council Key decision | Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk | Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations, Corporate Management Team and Internal Services | Cllr Bird | Cabinet 7 February 2024 Council 22 February 2024 |
| 52/23 (2.10.23) | Council Plan 2022/25 – Q2 23/24: To note the Quarter 2 2023/24 (outturn) performance against the Markers of Success in the Council Plan 2022/25. | Cabinet Non-key decision | Elizabeth Connolly elizabeth.connolly@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Bird | 7 February 2024 |

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|--------------------|---|----------------------------|---|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| 54/23 (2.10.23) | Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategy 2023 - 2026 To approve an interim commissioning strategy. | Cabinet Key Decision | Nigel Imber – Nigel.Imber@Walsall.Gov.uk Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund 2023 to 2024 - Capacity Plan Health and Wellbeing Strategy Walsall Wellbeing outcomes framework | Internal consultees Local and regional partners | Cllr Pedley | 7 February 2024 |
| 53/23 (2.10.23) | Determination of the Scheme for coordinated admissions, and the Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools for the 2025/26 academic year: To determine the scheme of admissions and admission arrangements for community and voluntary-controlled primary schools for 2025-26. | Cabinet Key Decision | Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk | Internal consultees Public Local Authorities Schools Faith Groups | Cllr M. Statham | 7 February 2024 |

Black Country Executive Joint Committee
Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Published up to February 2024

| Date Created | Key Decision | Contact Officer | Main consultee | Date of meeting |
|---------------------|---|--|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance | | | |
| 04/09/2023 | Change Control and Delegated Authority Approval of BCJC Delegated Authority to the Single Accountable Body Section 151 Officer (SAB s151 officer) and approval of the revised Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BCLEP) Assurance Framework Change Control and Delegated Authority delegations, as detailed in the attachment of the report (BCLEP Assurance Framework Appendix 23). | David Moore david.moore@walsall.gov.uk Mark Lavender mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk | Walsall Council | 01/11/2023 |



West Midlands Combined Authority

Forward Plan

Forthcoming key decisions

| Title of key decision: | Decision to be taken by and date: | Open or Exempt: | Portfolio Lead | Employee to contact: |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Regional Activity & Delivery Update To provide an update on recent activity of the WMCA. | WMCA Board 13 October 2023 | Open | Andy Street Mayor | Laura Shoaf Chief Executive of the West Midlands Combined Authority |
| Deeper Devolution Deal To formally ratify the 'trailblazer' deeper devolution deal between the WMCA and HM Government. | WMCA Board 13 October 2023 | Open | Councillor Sharon Thompson Levelling Up Portfolio Lead | Ed Cox Executive Director of Strategy, Integration & Net Zero |
| New Stations Package 1 Project Update To provide an update on the impact on the West Midlands Rail Programme (New Stations Package 1 Project), following Buckingham Group Contracting Ltd being placed into administration. | WMCA Board 13 October 2023 | Open | Councillor Mike Bird Transport Portfolio Lead | Liz Baker Strategic Sponsor |
| Regional Activity & Delivery Update To provide an update on recent activity of the WMCA. | WMCA Board 17 November 2023 | Open | Andy Street Mayor | Laura Shoaf Chief Executive of the West Midlands Combined Authority |
| Financial Monitoring Report To provide a summary of the WMCA's financial position as at 30 September 2023. | WMCA Board 17 November 2023 | Open | Councillor Bob Sleigh Finance Portfolio Lead | Beverly Sullivan Financial Planning and Coordination Manager |

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|---|-----------------------------|------|--|--|
| Single Assurance Framework Update To agree the updated Single Assurance Framework. | WMCA Board 17 November 2023 | Open | Councillor Bob Sleigh Deputy Mayor | Joti Sharma Corporate Assurance Manager |
| Single Settlement To provide an update on the latest developments regarding the single settlement arrangements. | WMCA Board 17 November 2023 | Open | Councillor Bob Sleigh Finance Portfolio Lead | Jonathan Gibson Head of Policy & Public Affairs |
| Investment Zone Governance To consider governance arrangements supporting the region's Investment Zones proposals. | WMCA Board 17 November 2023 | Open | Councillor Stephen Simkins Economy & Innovation Portfolio Lead | Jonathan Gibson Head of Policy & Public Affairs |
| Investment Zones Funding and Finance Plan To consider the funding and finance plan relating to the region's Investment Zones proposals. | WMCA Board 17 November 2023 | Open | Councillor Stephen Simkins Economy & Innovation Portfolio Lead | Jonathan Gibson Head of Policy & Public Affairs |
| Air Quality Framework To approve the draft framework that reviews all of the measures possible to accelerate improvements to regional air quality, following public consultation and consideration by the Environment & Energy Board. | WMCA Board 17 November 2023 | Open | Councillor John Cotton Environment, Energy & HS2 Portfolio Lead | Jacqueline Homan Head of Environment |
| Homelessness Taskforce Update on the work of the Homelessness Taskforce | WMCA Board 17 November 2023 | Open | Councillor Kerrie Carmichael Inclusive Communities Portfolio Lead | Claire Dhami Head of Systems Change and Inclusion |
| WMCA's Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Progress Update To provide a quarterly summary of the activity of work of the WMCA's overview and scrutiny function, as required by the Deeper Devolution Deal. | WMCA Board 17 November 2023 | Open | | Lyndsey Roberts Scrutiny Officer |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------|--|---|
| Bus Franchising Update To provide a further update on work to support the consideration of any future bus franchising decision. | WMCA Board 12 January 2024 | Part exempt | Councillor Mike Bird Transport Portfolio Lead | Pete Bond Director of Integrated Transport Services |
| WMCA's Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Transport Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Progress Update To provide a quarterly summary of the activity of work of the WMCA's overview and scrutiny function, as required by the Deeper Devolution Deal. | WMCA Board 15 March 2024 | Open | | Lyndsey Roberts Scrutiny Officer |

The Forward Plan

This document sets out known 'key decisions' that will be taken by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) over the coming months.

Forthcoming key decisions are published online to meet the statutory 28 day notification rule for each meeting where a key decision will be taken. Where it has not been possible to meet the 28 day rule for publication of notice of a key decision or an intention to meet in private, the relevant notices will be published as required by legislation as soon as possible.

What is a key decision?

A 'key decision' means a decision of the Mayor, WMCA or officer which is likely:

- (a) to result in the WMCA incurring expenditure, making savings or generating income amounting to £1m or more; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the WMCA

The report relating to a decision, together with any other documents being considered, will be available five clear working days before the decision is to be taken (unless the documentation contains exempt information).

The forward plan also provides notice of when the WMCA may decide to exclude the press and public during consideration of a particular matter due to the potential for disclosure of confidential or exempt

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information. The grounds upon which local authorities can exclude the press and public are specified by law and details of the exempt categories are available on request from the Governance Services team (governance.services@wmca.org.uk).

Councillors or members of the public wishing to:

- make a representation about why a matter should be heard in public, or
- submit information to the decision-making body about an item in the forward plan, or
- request details of relevant documents, or
- seek advice about the WMCA's decision-making arrangements,

should contact the Governance Services team: governance.services@wmca.org.uk

| Committee Meeting Date | Agenda Item | Action/Recommendation | Officer responsible | Status | Target Completion Date | Notes |
|------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------|---|
| 7 July 2022 | Response to petition: 'Pedestrian Crossing for Birmingham Road, Aldridge, enabling the safety of school children' | S106 funding schemes in Aldridge to be reviewed to see if any funding could be secured for the crossing in this way. | Katie Moreton | Completed | | The Development Monitoring Officer who starts on 3 October will provide improved resource to review this matter. Unlikely that previous S106 funds can be used as each S106 specifies what works the obligations are to cover as it has to be related specifically to the development proposed. |
| 20 October 2022 | Urgent Item: Bus Matters – Bus Network Update | Presentation and report be circulated to all Members of the Council. | Sian Lloyd | Completed | | Sent out by email 21/10/2022. |
| 24 November 2022 | Off-Road Bikes | The Committee recommends Cabinet to investigate the acquisition of a drone or drone service for community protection to use in conjunction with West Midlands Police. | Sian Lloyd/Simon Neilson | Completed | | Report discussed at Cabinet on 8 February. Further fuller details to be discussed at next Cabinet meeting on 22 March. |
| 2 February 2023 | Willenhall, Darlaston and | Report to be considered at a future meeting of the Committee. | Sian Lloyd | Completed | | Discussed at the meeting of the |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|-----------|--|--|
| | Aldridge Railway Stations | | | | | Committee on April 13. |
| | Areas of Focus 22/23 | Report on public toilet provision to be presented at the next meeting of the Committee. | Sian Lloyd | Completed | | Report on public toilets brought to meeting on 28 February. |
| 28 February 2023 | Area of Focus 22/23 | CCTV provision in housing estates be added to the list of items to be considered. | Sian Lloyd | Completed | | Added to areas of focus document. |
| 13 April 2023 | Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Railway Stations | A further written update to be considered by the Committee. | West Midlands Rail Executive | Completed | | Added to areas of focus. |
| | Phoenix 10 | A further report to be considered by the Committee in due course following the site remediation phase. | Simon Tranter | Completed | | Added to areas of focus. |
| 12 September 2023 | Derelict Properties Taskforce | Discussions in relation to specific sites to be held at a future meeting in private session within six months. | Simon Tranter/David Moore | Ongoing | | Added to areas of focus – to be scheduled for a specific date. |
| | Areas of Focus | Request an invitation to the Scrutiny Overview Committee meeting in relation to the Walsall Local Borough Plan. | Sian Lloyd | Completed | | Invitation requested – at present this discussion is scheduled is for February 2024. |