



Walsall Council

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

**Civic Centre,
Darwall Street,
Walsall, WS1 1TP
www.walsall.gov.uk**

6 June 2008

FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” which the Executive (Cabinet) intend to take over the following 4 months. 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. The plan is available for public inspection at the Civic Centre Reception, Darwall Street, Walsall. Copies of the plan can be obtained from John Garner, Constitutional Services, Walsall MBC, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1TP, 01922 653500 or e-mail cabinetoffice@walsall.gov.uk. The forward plan can also be accessed from the Council’s website at www.walsall.gov.uk. The Cabinet are allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan.

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 Members and their responsibilities are as follows:

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| Leader of the Council | Councillor John O’Hare |
| Children’s services | Councillor Zahid Ali |
| Communities and partnerships | Councillor Garry Perry |
| Environment | Councillor Rachel Walker |
| Finance and personnel | Councillor Al Griffiths |
| Leisure and culture | Councillor Louise Harrison |
| Procurement, transformation and performance management | Councillor Mohammed Arif |
| Regeneration | Councillor Adrian Andrew |
| Social care, health and housing | Councillor Barbara McCracken |
| Transport | Councillor Anthony Harris |

The Cabinet agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet. The papers can be seen at First Stop Shop at the Civic Centre, Walsall. The papers are also available on the Council's website referred to above shortly before the meeting. 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 and take place in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall on a monthly basis. 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 does not list all decisions which have to be taken by the Council only "key decisions" which are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings.

Dates of Cabinet meetings for 2008/2009

2008

18 June
16 July
17 September
22 October
19 November
17 December

2009

14 January
4 February
18 March
22 April

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
JULY TO OCTOBER 2008 (6.6.08)**

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|-----------------|--|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan | Key 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 |
| 83/07 (18.5.07) | Sustainable community strategy. The SCS sets the scene for Walsall to become a prosperous borough and unites all partners behind a common vision, setting the context for partners to work together to deliver a sustainable and more prosperous borough. Cabinet are requested to approve the strategy and refer it to Council. | Cabinet Council | Clive Wright 654707 | Partners, residents, Citizens' panel, focus groups, Scrutiny panels, LNPs | Councillor O'Hare | 18 June 2008 7 July 2008 |
| 119/07 (10.12.07) | Decriminalised parking enforcement operational framework. Approval of broad framework for directing enforcement activity across the borough | Council | Paul Leighton 652458 | PCT, Health Trust, Strategic Health Authority | Councillor Harris | 7 July 2008 |
| 39/07 (18.5.07) | Review of Licensing Act 2003. The Licensing Act 2003 introduced significant changes to licensing laws and to the regulation of entertainment and late night refreshment in order to create a more responsive and flexible approach to the way licensed premises and activities are conducted in England and Wales. From November 2005 the responsibility for the regulation of the sale and supply of alcohol from the Magistrates' Court transferred to Walsall Council as the licensing authority. Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 | Council | John Beavon 652214 | Regulatory authorities, emergency services, Licensed trade associations, Pubwatch, Chamber of Commerce, voluntary groups, health bodies, internal | Councillor Walker | 7 July 2008 |

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| | <p>requires that the Licensing Authority must prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy every 3 years. This current policy was produced in compliance with the Licensing Act 2003 and subordinate legislation and guidance issued by the government. The current licensing policy is now subject to review and consultation is underway. The last date for receipt of comments is 2 June 2008. The report to Council will present the proposals for any amendments to the policy based on feedback obtained through consultation with interested parties. It is proposed to present the findings from a cumulative impact assessment undertaken with a view to specifying a saturation policy within a given area.</p> | | | | | |
| 62/08 (6.6.08) | <p>Walsall Housing Group – proposed changes to group structure. This report seeks the support of Walsall Council to proposed changes to the current structure of Walsall Housing Group (whg). The proposed new group structure would enable whg to become more effective and more efficient and to ‘do more of what we are here for and do it even better’. These changes would establish five Local Neighbourhood Boards that have more time to focus on local issues and listen and respond to local concerns. Walsall Housing Trust (WHT) would become the property owning Registered Social Landlord in the group. Walsall Council would</p> | Council | Liz Walford , Walsall Housing Group | Customers, funders, partners | Councillor McCracken | 7 July 2008 |

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| | <p>continue to nominate three non-Executive directors to the Walsall Housing Trust Board and one on each of the five Local Neighbourhood Boards. This is the same as existing arrangements, as would be tenant membership on Local Neighbourhood Boards and the WHT Board. The new Local Neighbourhood Boards would be responsible for monitoring local service performance; listening to feedback from customers and to community concerns; bringing local knowledge to discussions on local issues; be a voice for whg in the local community; and use their local knowledge to assist the WHT Board to shape overall service delivery across the group.</p> | | | | | |
| 47/08 (6.6.08) | <p>Area Based Grant (ABG). Approval of proposed allocations of funding recommended by WBSP Executive Committee to deliver the Local Area Agreement, proposed change in approval processes to enable business to be conducted between Cabinet meetings and extensions to original programme deadlines to enable robust planning to take place.</p> | Cabinet | Jo Lowndes WBSP | None | Councillor O'Hare | 16 July 2008 |
| 48/08 (6.6.08) | <p>WBSP Constitution and Accountable Body Agreement. Approval of both documents as required by agreed governance arrangements contained within the WBSP constitution.</p> | Cabinet | Jo Lowndes WBSP | None | Councillor O'Hare | 16 July 2008 |

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| 24/08 (11.2.08) | Special Educational Needs provision. Outcome of consultation approved at Cabinet on 6 February on a proposal to establish designated SEN provision for pupils with sensory needs (primarily hearing impairment) at Joseph Leckie Community Technology College. | Cabinet | Susan Lupton, Education Walsall 686231 | Schools | Councillor Zahid Ali | 16 July 2008 |
| 45/08 (9.5.08) | Shelfield Sports and Community College – proposed academy. Cabinet approved consultation on a proposal to close Shelfield Sports and Community College from 31 December 2008 subject to opening of the school as an academy from 1 January 2009. The decision was called-in by scrutiny. The consultation subsequently commenced on 12 May and ends on 20 June. Outcome of consultation will be reported to Scrutiny and to Cabinet. | Cabinet | Susan Lupton Education Walsall 686231 | Department for Children, Schools and Families, Ormiston Trust | Councillor Zahid Ali | 16 July 2008 |
| 46/08 (9.5.08) | Phase 3 Children’s Centres development . In April 2008 Cabinet agreed the development of 3 new children’s centres. Further Cabinet approval is sought on the geographical areas the new centres will reach and principles for allocating the financial resources to enable access to children’s centre service delivery across Walsall. | Cabinet | Carl Britton Education Walsall 686282 | | Councillor Zahid Ali | 16 July 2008 |
| 59/08 (6.6.08) | Structures of secondary schools. Some Walsall local authority maintained schools are considering changing their status. Any change of status could have implications for the Council. Cabinet to be asked for its views on the potential changes in the status of the schools. | Cabinet | Susan Lupton Education Walsall 686231 | | Councillor Zahid Ali | 16 July 2008 |

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| 60/08 (6.6.08) | Birchills C of E Primary School. Consultation on the proposal to significantly enlarge Birchills CE Primary School from 1.5 forms of entry to 2 forms of entry | Cabinet | Susan Lupton Education Walsall 686231 | HR, finance, legal, regeneration | Councillor Zahid Ali | 16 July 2008 |
| 61/08 (6.6.08) | Education Capital Programme Approval of further schemes to be added to the Capital Programme | Cabinet | Susan Lupton Education Walsall 686231 | HR, finance, legal, property services | Councillor Zahid Ali | 16 July 2008 |
| 33/08 (7.4.08) | Procurement of a new residual waste treatment plant outside the borough with Staffordshire County Council – approval of heads of terms | Cabinet | Keith Stone 652100 | Staffs CC, Warwickshire CC, internal | Councillor Walker | 16 July 2008 |
| 36/08 (9.5.08) | Oracle finance and procurement transformation project – approval of financial investment project. The report seeks Cabinet approval for the upgrade of the Oracle Financials and iProcurement systems and the implementation of a new operating model for financial and procurement transactions. It also sets out the strategic business case for the project including the recommended technical option, costs and benefits. | Cabinet | James Walsh 652910 | | Councillor Arif | 16 July 2008 |
| 92/07 (10.10.07) | Corporate Asset Management Plan The Corporate Asset Management Plan outlines the council's approach to the strategic management of the property portfolio. The Plan identifies the emerging Corporate Property Strategy and how directorates and property teams work together to ensure the efficient and effective use of property resources. | Cabinet | Steve Law 652075 | | Councillor Andrew | 16 July 2008 |

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| 18/08 (11.2.08) | Land at Littleton Street/Hatherton Street. The Council has been requested to consider the disposal of its land to the east of the junction of Littleton Street and Hatherton Street Walsall as the preferred location for an office development. Negotiations are on-going for the disposal of the council's freehold interest in the land to facilitate the development, which is seen as a key component of the Office Corridor project. Cabinet approval for the sale on terms to be agreed is sought. . | Cabinet | Steve Law 652075 Paul Nicholson 652489 | Urban Regeneration Company | Councillor Andrew | 16 July 2008 |
| 37/08 (9.5.08) | St. Matthews Quarter – The Council has been working with developers and landowners to bring forward the retail led regeneration of this part of the town centre. In order to deliver this aspiration the developers have approached the Council with a view to acquiring the Council's land interests in the area. The scheme will require the temporary relocation of the market to the Bridge whilst a permanent location is developed. Cabinet approval is sought to agree the details of the temporary relocation of the market, its future management arrangements and details of the development agreement | Cabinet | Paul Nicholson 652489 Richard Chadwick 652576 | Regeneration Scrutiny Panel and Markets Working Group, Market Traders Association, Town Centre Management Partnership, Walsall Regeneration Company | Councillor Andrew | 16 July 2008 |

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| 38/08 (9.5.08) | <p>Police station – The West Midlands Police Authority has identified a preferred location for its new Walsall Police HQ. The Council is a considerable landowner in the preferred location and the Police Authority has approached the Council with a view to purchasing its interest and securing its support to assemble the remainder of the site. Cabinet approval is sought “in principle” for the pursuit of a compulsory purchase order to help deliver the police station relocation and for the sale of land to the Police Authority.</p> | Cabinet | Paul Nicholson 652489 Richard Chadwick 652576 | Walsall Regeneration Company | Councillor Andrew | 16 July 2008 |
| 35/08 (9.5.08) | <p>Appointment of framework contractor for capital programme. The delivery of the red routes, bus showcase and major transportation schemes has become critical over the last few years and there are significant projects planned to be implemented over the next 3-5 years. To ensure that the Council is equipped to deliver a future programme of works and to allow the transportation team to potentially tap into a further £3-4m to be spent on improving the highway network around Walsall it is proposed to form a partnership with one contractor. Cabinet approval is requested to tender a contract to appoint a framework contractor to undertake schemes within the capital programme.</p> | Cabinet | Stuart Everton 652560 | Internal | Councillor Andrew/Harris | 16 July 2008 |

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| 50/08 (6.6.08) | Building construction and consultancy strategy. Cabinet in September 2006 approved a strategy for building construction and maintenance works. The strategy has been developed to include a range of specialist and consultancy contracts and proposals for collaboration via the Black Country Procurement Consortium. Cabinet are requested to give delegated authority to enter into contracts for building and consultancy contracts. | Cabinet | Kevin Kendall | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 16 July 2008 |
| 51/08 (6.6.08) | Barcroft Primary School. The new Barcroft School will replace the current premises on Albion Road and Elm Street with a new school building on the Elm Street side and playing fields on Albion Road. The funding for the project will come from a number of sources and Cabinet will be asked to seek delegated authority to enter into a contract. | Cabinet | Kevin Kendall Susan Lupton 686231 | Internal | Councillor Andrew/Zahid Ali | 16 July 2008 |
| 53/08 (6.6.08) | Former Redhouse School, Gorseway, Aldridge sale of Council's freehold interest in residential development site. The school closed and the site has previously been declared surplus to requirements by Cabinet. An outline planning permission for residential development has been obtained and it is proposed to advertise the site for sale by formal tender. Cabinet to approve a sale to the highest bidder provided that the figure can be certified as best consideration in accordance with Section 123, Local Gov. Act 1972. | Cabinet | Steve Pugh | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 16 July 2008 |

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| 41/07 (9.7.07) | Review of transport policy. In October 2007 adult social services commenced a review of transport provision. This focused on direct provision (transport provided by local authority provision), indirect provision (external contracted provision via taxi or mini-bus), identifying the transport needs of vulnerable people and how these needs could be best met. The review's objective is to develop a more efficient and effective service across all areas and user groups. | Cabinet | Wendy Woodward 658377 | Social care, and inclusion, voluntary sector, service users | Councillor McCracken | 16 July 2008 |
| 29/08 (10.3.08) | Communities for Health Funding The report will outline current expenditure on funding which has been provided by the Department of Health. Cabinet approval is sought for continuing the programme. In all £150,000 has been awarded to the Council, plus a further £70,000 for the preparation of early years and teen lifecheck which will be implemented by the Government later in the year. | Cabinet | Tim Challans 650336 | tPCT, Voluntary sector | Councillor McCracken | 16 July 2008 |
| 41/08 (9.5.08) | Fairer charging policy. Amendment of existing policy for non residential care to update changing care, charge rates, addition of different charges and changes to make the policy fit for purpose for 2009. | Cabinet | Steph Simcox 652703 | Social care and inclusion, independent sector | Councillor McCracken | 16 July 2008 |
| 42/08 | Approval of the charging scheme for extra care housing. To standardise extra care charging policy across Walsall including the new Housing 21 schemes. At present there is no extra consistent care charging policy within Walsall Council and practice varies | Cabinet | Nigel Imber 652723 | Social care and inclusion, independent sector | Councillor McCracken | 16 July 2008 |

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| | amongst providers. With the development and increase in extra care it is necessary to standardise policies and processes across providers to ensure equity and equality for service users and to avoid ambiguity. | | | | | |
| 58/08 (6.6.08) | Re-tender for residential nursing care services. Proposals for the re-tender of the Council's residential and nursing care services are a core element of the overall modernisation and redesign of services for older people and people with disabilities. The main aim is to achieve consistency by standardising contracts whilst in turn improving the specification of those services in order to provide high quality care at an affordable cost. Cabinet approval is sought to consult and go out to tender and delegate the award of the contract to the Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion | Cabinet | Gary Mack 658393 | Staff, partner organisations, users carers | Councillor McCracken | 16 July 2008 |
| 52/08 (6.6.08) | Rushall Mews refurbishment. Cabinet are requested to refer to Council the variation of the capital programme to allow the refurbishment of Rushall Mews to go ahead as part of the contract with Housing 21 with Older People's services. | Cabinet Council | Steph Simcox 652703 | Staff, partner organisations, users carers | Councillor McCracken | 16 July 2008 8 Sept 2008 |
| 104/07 (9.11.07) | Highways repair and maintenance partnership – approval of preferred bidder. Selection of a contractor to deliver a highways repair and maintenance service for the Council for a period of up to 8 years. | Cabinet | Keith Stone 653301 | Internal and prospective partners | Councillor Harris | 16 July 2008 |

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| 34/07 (19.4.07) | Outcome of street trading review. Following consideration by Licensing and Safety and Development Control Committees of outline proposals to change the nature and location of street trading consents and to regulate advertisements and obstructions on the highway, details proposals are out for consultation with a closing date of 20 June. A further opportunity will be provided for LNPs to make comments and final proposals will be presented to Licensing and Safety Committee on 30 July and thereafter to Council to implement the proposals with effect from 1 April 2009. | Council | John Beavon 652214 | Regulatory authorities, emergency services, Town centre partnerships, Chamber of Commerce, trade associations, stakeholders LNPs Internal | Councillor Walker | 8 September 2008 |
| 59/06 (18.8.06) | Mellish Road Methodist Church. The report is intended to summarise the findings of a recent economic appraisal that assesses the viability of the retention and conversion of the existing building. Cabinet to approve the pursuance of a compulsory purchase order for the site based on the conclusions of the appraisal. | Cabinet | Simon Tranter 652543 | English Heritage | Councillor Andrew | 17 September 2008 |
| 67/06 (18.8.06) | Darlaston Strategic Development Area – authorisation to publish orders and processes | Cabinet | Steve Pretty 652598 | Walsall Regeneration Co., Environment Agency, British Waterways, statutory undertakers, AWM | Councillor Harris | 16 July 2008 |

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| 49/08 (6.6.08) | <p>Energy supply contract – renewal of future contract cycle with purchasing body. Cabinet in November approved procurement of gas and electricity via the specialist procurement body, Yorkshire Purchasing, with effect from 1 April 2008. The Council joined the purchasing cycle part way through the annual cycle. The first refreshment of this cycle is for gas on 1 June 2008 and electricity in November 2008. Each contract is for 12 months. Cabinet are requested to give delegated authority to enter into a contract for energy supplies.</p> | Cabinet | Kevin Kendall | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 17 September 2008 |
| 55/08 (6.6.08) | <p>Housing moratorium on employment land. Manufacturing industry is very important to the future prosperity of the Borough, not only in terms of the direct jobs it provides, but indirectly through the consumer expenditure it supports. It is therefore vital that a good supply of land for industry is maintained. The Council also has to demonstrate a supply of brownfield land for housing for the next 15 years. Housing development has been occurring overwhelmingly on brownfield land recently, helping the Council meet its Government-imposed targets and avoiding large housing developments on greenfield and greenbelt land. But there are increasing signs that the advance of housing development on industrial land is having an adverse effect on efforts to relocate industrial firms that need to</p> | Cabinet Council | Sandy Urquhart 652477 | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 17 September 2008 3 November 2008 |

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| | <p>expand or rationalise in the Borough. If this continues it could result in viable firms vacating the Borough and jobs being lost at a time when they are desperately needed, and in the longer term, Walsall not having enough suitable land to benefit from increased inward investment. Recent technical work relating to the employment land supply, to inform the Black Country Joint Core Strategy, advocates a cautious approach to the management of the employment land supply. Consequently there is a need to ensure that the needs of housing and employment land are managed carefully and in a balanced way, while the Local Development Framework, which will replace the Unitary Development Plan (UDP), is being prepared.</p> | | | | | |
| 56/08 (6.6.08) | <p>Sale of former Kings Hill JMI off Old Park Road/Johnson Street, Wednesbury. The former school was vacated in 1991 and demolished in 1992 following a fire. The land is surplus to requirements and it is proposed to advertise this potential residential development site for sale by informal tender. Cabinet to be requested to approve the sale to the highest bidder provided that the figure can be certified as best consideration in accordance with Section 123 of the Local Government Act, 1972</p> | Cabinet | John Kirwan 652033 | Internal | Councillor Andrew | 17 September 2008 |

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| 54/08 (6.6.08) | Housing Strategy 2008-11. Endorsement of the Council's Housing Strategy 2008-11 which details the Council's priorities to increase housing choice and opportunity, improve the standard and sustainability of existing and future homes and address diverse needs and promote independent living. | Cabinet Council | Neil Hollyhead 655411 | Key stakeholders | Councillor McCracken | 17 September 2008 3 November 2008 |
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FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS FROM NOVEMBER 2008

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|--|----------------|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan | Key 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 |
| 9/08 (7.1.08) | <p>The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase 2. The RSS is now part of the development plan alongside the Council's UDP. It is reviewed in 3 phases. Phase 1 concerning the Black Country came into effect in January 2008. The Phase 2 preferred option has been published dealing with the economy, housing, centres, transport and waste. The consultation on the preferred option has been extended to December, in order to take account of further technical work that the Government is preparing. This work is intended to show that there is capacity for more housing in the West Midlands that the RSS is currently proposing. Cabinet to approve the Council's response to the RSS Phase 2 and the Government's technical work. Phase 3 is at the planning stage and will be reported on in due course.</p> | Cabinet | Sandy Urquhart 652477 | N/A | Councillor Andrew | 19 November 2008 |

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| <p>15/08 (10.12.07)</p> | <p>Sustainable travel to school strategy. The Sustainable travel to school strategy is being produced in response to both national and local initiatives. There is a general duty under for Local Authorities to promote sustainable modes of travel to school. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a further duty on Local Authorities to consider the travel needs of all pupils. There are 4 main requirements of the Education and Inspections Act: (1) An assessment of the travel and transport needs of children and young people within the authority's area. (2) An audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between schools/institutions. (3) A strategy to develop the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority, so that the needs of children and young people are better catered for. (4) The promotion of sustainable travel and transport to, from and between schools and other institutions.</p> | <p>Cabinet</p> | <p>Kathryn Parr 652511 Kate Mann 686361</p> | <p>Walsall Schools working party, Serco, road safety</p> | <p>Councillor Harris</p> | <p>19 November 2008</p> |
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