

24 June 2010

Consideration of Panel Work Programme for 2010/11

Ward(s) All

Portfolio Holders:

Summary of report:

The purpose of this report is to provide relevant background information for Members so that the Panels work programme can be agreed for 2010/11.

It is important for Members to consider the wide range of potential issues within their remits that they could consider during the year which could range from council specific to completely external issues.

When agreeing items it is important that consideration is given to what, value the Panel can add and what tools and performance measures are available to support them in their work.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Member's consider the range of items within their remit available to them and agree a work programme for 2010/11 along with any potential working groups and their membership.

Background papers:

Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10
Minutes of previous meetings
Citizen Panel Consultations

Resource and legal considerations:

In terms of resources it is important that the right balance and number of items and working groups are selected so that the work programme can be completed during the year without placing undue pressure on Member capacity.

Legal considerations for specific items will need to be addressed as and when necessary based on the items that are selected for inclusion on the work programme.

Citizen impact:

An effective work programme will enable the Panel to focus its work on the most important issues within its remit. Consideration of these issues and subsequent recommendations, if accepted, could improve the quality of services delivered to local residents.

Environmental impact:

The level of environmental impact will be dependant on which issues are selected to become a part of the panels work programme for 2010/11. The borough's Sustainable Community Strategy places an importance on considering the impact of present decisions on future generations which includes environmental issues.

Performance management:

The report asks Members to consider performance management information when deciding on their work programme, and also to consider how they wish to use performance management information and tools in assisting them with their work over the course of the year.

Equality Implications:

Ensuring equality for all is a key theme in the boroughs Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement as well as being one of the Council's core values. Members are advised to consider what, if any, equality implications there are for any items on their work programme.

Consultation:

Members may wish to consider the results of any formal or informal consultation exercises, including that with the public and partners, when considering what items they wish to include in their work programme. Whilst Council officers carry out a range of consultation activity on behalf of the Council, Members themselves engage with the public on a much more frequent basis and it is valuable to consider feedback from these sources as well.

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Introduction

At the start of each municipal year it is good practice for scrutiny and performance panels to spend some time discussing and agreeing its work programme for the year ahead for issues within its remit.

As Members will already be aware scrutiny and performance panel remits were amended by Council at its meeting on 24 and 26 May 2010. For information the Panels remit in Article 6 of the Walsall Council Constitution now reads as:

Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel

All aspects and general services related to regeneration for example; economic development, environmental and physical regeneration, planning, land and property, partnership working and strategic housing matters within the functions set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act, 2000.

Work Programme

In agreeing its work programme for 2010/11 the Panel will be informed from a range of sources, including all 60 Members, last years Panel work streams and suggested carry over items , Council Officers, Partners and the Public.

When agreeing the items to be included in its work programme focus should be given to the range of performance management information available that could assist the Panel with each particular issue. A whole host of performance information is available on a range of subjects that Members could utilise to measure success or otherwise.

Working Groups

Members need to decide whether they want to operate any working groups for this year. Working Groups are at their most effective when they are considering broad policy areas that require detailed investigation time that cannot be completed at Panel level. The Panel will set the working group remit, its membership and once a working group has completed its investigations it will report its findings and recommendations to the Panel for consideration and adoption.

It is very important that Member capacity is considered when deciding on what working groups are formed as many members sit on more than one panel and their respective working groups. As such getting suitable dates in the municipal diary and getting suitable attendance at those meetings is difficult if too many working groups are formed. In previous years experience and given the increased number of Panel's in the municipal diary, it is suggested that each Panel should look to run only one working group at any one time. Panels that wish to operate more than working group during the year should timetable the second to start as the first finishes.

A copy of the councils working group toolkit has been despatched separately to Members and is available to members of the public by request. Member's are asked to familiarise themselves with this toolkit ahead of deciding what, if any, working groups they wish to run.

Value for Money Service Reviews

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel has developed a value for money (vfm) toolkit to assist Members if it is decided to complete a service review. Last year the Panel used the value for money toolkit to review the Councils Development Control Service. The review was well received by both Members and Officers and resulted in positive recommendations. It is recommended that the Panel consider a service to complete a vfm review against this year.

The vfm assessment tool provides a framework for members in partnership with services to work through and is divided into 3 broad themes:

1. What does it cost to provide this service? (economy)
2. How is this service performing? (efficiency)
3. What quality is the service being provided? (effectiveness)

For each of these themes there is the opportunity/potential for scrutiny panels with the service being assessed to benchmark with other service providers to give a clearer picture of relative performance.

The aim is that on completing this assessment scrutiny members will be able to make a judgement regarding the vfm provided by the service and identify and recommend any potential further action.

The vfm toolkit can be used to support the investigations of working groups or independently. When used independently the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel appointed a lead member who liaised with the service area whilst the toolkit is completed and then reports back their findings to the Panel for agreement of recommendations and any other further action that may be necessary.

Appendices

Appendix 1: RESIDENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITY FINDINGS

This briefing note sets out findings from the local place survey and budget consultation. Members may wish to consider the findings of this community engagement work and use it to influence the selection of work programme topics.

Further to this is a series of tables illustrating the outcome of the place survey consultation by question and neighbourhood management areas.

Appendix 2: RESIDENTS WORK PROGRAMME SURVEY

This briefing note sets out the findings of a recent survey of local residents on what they feel Scrutiny and Performance Panels should be considering in the year ahead.

Suggested Items

Appendix Three contains a number of suggested items completed on a standard template to assist Members with deciding what they wish to include on their work programme. This template requires the following points to be considered-

- ø **What the Issue Is**
- ø **Where it has come from-** for example it could be a carry over item from last year's panel, a suggestion from a Councillor or member of the public or it could be a new item officers are aware of that is coming up this year,
- ø **Why it is important-** with limited time available to Members they need to be able to prioritise their work and concentrate on those things that really matter.
- ø **Who it affects-** Does it impact on any particular ward or user group? Does it concern partner agencies or staff groups? Any potential equalities issues may be highlighted here if the item is likely to have a disproportionate affect on any particular group.
- ø **How can scrutiny add value-** What specifically can Scrutiny do? E.g. provide feedback and recommendations ahead of a Cabinet (or partner executive) decision, support the development of policy, service review, public engagement etc. Suggestions have also been made here for if the item is particularly suited to a particular method of scrutiny such as a working group or value for money review.
- ø **Timings-** This will highlight any critical timings that would need to be taken into consideration such as statutory deadlines which would dictate when scrutiny would need to have considered the item by if they are to have any valuable input
- ø **Performance Information-** This includes any relevant performance indicators that can provide Members with a guide on current levels of performance and also give a benchmark to measure future improvement.

The items highlighted at appendix one are not an exhaustive list, but only those that it is possible to provide in advance of the meeting. Members should consider these alongside any items they wish to raise themselves and use them to develop a balanced work programme that concentrates on what is important to them and on where they believe they can make a difference.

Appendix Four is a copy of the latest forward plan.

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL
DATE: 8 JUNE 2010

RE: RESIDENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITY FINDINGS**Purpose**

To inform the Panel regarding recent consultation activity which provides guidance regarding local residents views on what should be the council's priorities. The Panel may choose to use this guidance to inform their decisions in relation to the work programme for this year.

Consultation activity

A budget consultation event was held in October 2009. The attendees heard about the council's budget setting process as well as current and future spending and savings targets. Through informal discussion in small groups, local residents had the opportunity to give their views as to what should be the council's spending priorities for the coming financial year. In addition, between September and December 2008 the national Place Survey was undertaken. This was a statutory consultation used to identify, from the perspective of local residents, priorities for Walsall.

Findings**Budget consultation October 2009:**

Event attendees wanted a borough to be proud of, one where people respect one another and their surroundings, is safe, clean and easy to get around. Where young people and adults are aspiring and do well in education and training. Whilst continuing to deliver services to those who are vulnerable, attendees want to see a greater allocation of money to make the borough a more attractive place to live in, with the regeneration of all areas not just Walsall town centre. Clean streets and level of crime are both important to local quality of life.

The Place Survey 2008:

Respondents identified the following top 5 priorities for improvement:

- Activities for teenagers;
- Road and pavement repairs;
- Level of crime;
- Clean streets;
- Level of traffic congestion.

Respondents identified the following top 5 issues as most important for quality of life:

- Level of crime;
- Clean streets;
- Health Services;

- Affordable decent homes;
- Public transport.

A number of other issues and concerns were raised by respondents:

- Anti-social behaviour remains a concern for residents, with many feeling a lack of activities for children and young people in need of improvement;
- Residents want to see continued regeneration of the borough with a focus on stimulating a thriving economy. Residents are concerned that about the job situation and ensuring that buildings are not left derelict, and that empty shops are reused. Residents want to see investment across the whole borough;
- Investment and regeneration is thought to be a key catalyst for prompting community spirit and proactive behaviour, whilst also helping raise the aspirations of residents and the feeling of pride;
- Whilst views about the impact of the new Walsall ring road are generally divided, residents feel that further improvements to transport links and services could be made. Walsall bus station and town centre car parking being highlighted as particular areas requiring attention;
- Residents want a borough that is clean and tidy, a borough they can feel proud of. Litter picking and street sweeping in all areas of the borough is important to residents, as well as targeting run down areas and maintaining the borough's roads, pavements and footpaths;
- Whilst residents feel it is important to ensure a clean and green borough, it should not be at the detriment of other critical services e.g. care for the vulnerable, adults and children, which are seen as a priority. Residents are worried that cuts may lead to reduced services which then impact on the most vulnerable. Maintaining quality services, particularly in the current economic climate and the years ahead is of vital importance;
- Throughout the challenging economic climate, supporting people when they need it most and the delivery of preventative services is seen by some as a key area for investment. The community and voluntary sector want the council working hard to support families throughout the borough to help prevent them breaking down and prioritising those most at risk from harm;
- Investing in education is a top priority for many, particularly basic skills and life-long learning. Libraries are seen as a potentially vital resource;
- Concerns were expressed that young professionals and graduates may not take up jobs here. Regenerating the borough so that it is attractive to young qualified professionals and businesses is seen as a priority;
- When recruiting staff, businesses most frequently state that accessing the right higher level skills, lack of basic skills and recruitment costs are barriers;
- Businesses identify costs in the form of overheads including business rates, high cost of energy and premises costs as barriers to operating in the borough;
- Residents and representatives from the community and voluntary sector feel that there are emerging opportunities arising from the current economic climate. Investing in and supporting volunteering opportunities in the borough and working more closely with the voluntary sector was thought to offer many benefits and cost savings;

Appendix 1

- There is widespread consensus that the council needs to do more to tap into the expertise, knowledge and skills of the community and voluntary sector, which would in turn help the council achieve its efficiency targets and help this sector survive.
- Residents expressed the view that they were generally unable to influence decisions in their local area;
- Considering the role of local people in decision-making, a majority of respondents to the Place Survey feel that they currently are not adequately informed about local public services. Research has highlighted the link between the extent to which residents are informed about local services and their level of satisfaction;
- Representatives from the community and voluntary sector feel that local people don't adequately understand what services the council provides. Having a better understanding is thought to benefit local people and the council;
- There was strong consensus that working more closely with the community and voluntary sector is very important and that this sector can help spread information about council services to the people and communities they work with.

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BRIEFING NOTE

TO: REGENERATION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL

DATE: 24 JUNE 2010

RE: 2010/11 WORK PROGRAMME SURVEY FINDINGS

Purpose

To inform the Panel regarding a recent survey which was undertaken to provide guidance regarding the views of local residents on what each of the scrutiny Panels should consider including in their work programmes for 2010/11.

Survey activity

The survey was carried out during May 2010, priority themes were identified based on the work programmes from the previous year and following consultation with officers and Scrutiny and Performance Panel Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Local residents were then invited to select the two most important issues that they would like each of the Panels to consider during the new municipal year.

The survey activity included interviews with local residents undertaken in the First Stop Shop and Central Library. The survey was sent out to members of Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs), as well as those local residents who were already part of established consultation groups such as the Citizens Panel. The survey was available in paper form in the First Stop Shop and First Stop Express and was also highlighted on the council's website and a link provided to enable residents to respond using an online version. The Express and Star featured a story on the survey on 25 May 2010.

A combined total of 103 responses were received.

Findings

Corporate Scrutiny & Performance Panel

The table below sets out the key issues that local residents feel the Panel should consider during 2010/11. The council budget and ensuring the council provides value for money services were identified as the most important areas for consideration. Residents were also given the opportunity to suggest other themes with performance and value for money emerging as notable areas.

Council Budget	40.0 %
Budgets of other local service providers	7.6%
Monitoring the council's performance in key areas	23.8%
Ensuring compliance with important inspection recommendations	15.2%
Ensuring the council provides value for money services	53.3%
Revenues & Benefits	8.1%
How the council communicates	4.3%
Don't know	4.8%

Other: Getting much better value out of service partners - SERCO, Amey etc; Performance of each & every Councillor; Audit of other groups where Walsall MBC are the accountable body. Customer service at Walsall Council	4.8%
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Children's and Young People Scrutiny & Performance Panel

The table below sets out the key issues that local residents feel the Panel should consider during 2010/11. Improving educational attainment in Walsall schools and safety of vulnerable children were key themes. Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Looked after Children (LAC) also received significant support. Other themes suggested by local residents including truancy and discipline in schools, children's health and opportunities for activities outside of the classroom.

Improving educational attainment in Walsall schools	67.6%
Safety of vulnerable children, including those in care	44.8%
Looked after Children	17.1%
Building Schools for the Future (BSF)	36.2%
Don't Know	5.7%
Other: Truancy Children's diets Leisure pursuits e.g. sports, drama, extramural facilities for languages, science and technology - especially demonstrations and hands-on learning; Introducing basic skills for youngsters, how to behave, respect, using acceptable language and general good manners; Discipline in schools; Youth activities.	5.7%

Community Services Scrutiny & Performance Panel

The table below sets out the key issues that local residents feel the Panel should consider during 2010/11. Tackling anti-social behaviour and crime and improving local engagement were considered to be the most important issues for local residents, with leisure provision also highlighted. Other issues highlighted include provision of entertainment across different demographic groups and parks and open spaces.

Tackling anti-social behaviour and crime	70.5%
Walsall Partnership	10.5%
Improving community engagement	30.5%
Libraries	9.5%

Leisure provision	26.7%
Bryntysilio outdoor education centre	13.3%
Heritage & culture (museums, collections & archives, History Centre & the New Art Gallery)	16.2%
Don't know	2.9%
Other: Provision of live entertainment within Walsall - tends to cater mostly for older people at the moment; Town hall organ refurbished but no longer used; Replacing Bentley library service; Improving parks & other open spaces.	4.8%

Regeneration Scrutiny & Performance Panel

The table below sets out the key issues that local residents feel the Panel should consider during 2010/11. Helping people into work and training was identified as the single most important issue, with support for business and enterprise, economic development and physical regeneration projects featuring strongly. Other themes suggested included consideration of grants for low income home owners for property maintenance.

Housing standards	16.2%
Social Housing	12.4%
Homelessness	12.4%
Helping people into work & training	54.3%
Economic development	27.6%
Physical regeneration projects	23.8%
Business and enterprise	30.5%
Don't know	4.8%
Other: Grants for low income home owners to maintain their properties; Helping small businesses; Business support.	3.8%

Environment Scrutiny & Performance Panel

The table below sets out the key issues that local residents feel the Panel should consider during 2010/11. Highways and street cleanliness proved to be the issues of greatest concern to local residents, with public transport and household waste and recycling also highlighted. Other themes suggested related to different types of pollution, as well as road safety.

Household waste and recycling	32.4%
Street cleanliness	49.5%
Public transport	34.3%
Highways	50.5%
Pollution control	14.3%
Don't know	3.8%
Other:	1.9%

Effects of atmospheric discharge from landfill sites; Noise pollution; Road safety - to include measures which make roads less safe e.g. large, distracting advert signs visible to motorways and roundabouts; pinch-points; road humps; strategies which force traffic to the centre of carriageways; Footpaths – disabled access; Street cleanliness in wards outside of the town centre; Recycling of plastics; Tackling pungent drains in the town centre; Fly-tipping on private land; Litter on streets and estates.	
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Health Scrutiny & Performance Panel

The table below sets out the key issues that local residents feel the Panel should consider during 2010/11. The delivery of services and partnership working were identified as the most important areas for consideration, with health inequalities also a significant concern for local residents. Other themes included access to health and fitness provision and assisting children with learning difficulties.

Health inequalities in Walsall (currently on average those in the east of the borough live 8 years longer than those in the west)	37.1%
Dementia	18.1%
Delivery of health care services (e.g. GPs, Dentists, ambulance service, hospital)	50.5%
Treatment of specific conditions (please specify below): Mental health Drugs and alcohol treatment High incidences of types of cancer locally Vitiligo (Chronic condition causing depigmentation of the skin) Cancer Dementia Arthritis care in the home	7.6%
How GPs, hospitals and the council work together to provide joined up care	54.3%
Don't know	4.8%
Other : Helping children with learning difficulties Disastrous multi-agency work Better active leisure to offer more health &	3.8%

fitness opportunities	
Out of hours service – Waldoc (Walsall on call doctors service)	
Delivery of advice from GP	
Manor hospital	
Pay & conditions of hospital staff	
Increase in domiciliary care charges	

Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny & Performance Panel

The table below sets out the key issues that local residents feel the Panel should consider during 2010/11. The funding of future care for the elderly was the key concern for most local residents, while public involvement in health care services and personalisation also identified as important areas for consideration. Transport to day care was also highlighted as an issue by some respondents.

Personalisation (key changes to the way social care is provided to users)	39.0%
Funding future care for the elderly	83.8%
Public involvement in health care services	47.6%
Don't know	4.8%
Other	
Transport to day care	1.0%

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Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Walsall's New Deal for Communities Succession Strategy					
Who from	Previous years panel v	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	Walsall's New Deal for Communities (NDC) grant funded programme ends on 31st March 2011. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) are encouraging NDC's to develop strategies for continuing beyond the formal end of the programme in 2011. The Strategy has to be approved by the Council prior to its submission to CLG for endorsement.					
Who does it affect?	NDC programme is the Government's most significant (£2 billion over 10 years) resident led community regeneration programme benefiting some 12,000 residents of the New Deal and surrounding areas of Blakenall and Bloxwich East.					
Who needs to be involved?	The Board of New Horizons Community Enterprise, Partners, residents of the New Deal area, GOWM and CLG.					
How can scrutiny add value?	Subject to Cabinet approval, the Succession Strategy will be submitted to CLG for its consideration.					
Timings	Most likely to be September 2010 but dependent upon views of CLG on an outstanding issue.					
Performance Information	<i>Not applicable.</i>					

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Regional and Sub-Regional Infrastructure (in light of government changes)					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer Yes	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	Joint working with other councils and key partners is becoming more and more important due to the need to deliver activities in support of our local and sub/regional economies. With the change in government and the potential for significant changes in the regional ways of working and the associated structures its felt that keeping Scrutiny Panel up to speed and allowing them to consider and comment on these changes / proposals, providing guidance for their officers as they develop is important.					
Who does it affect?	Potentially all residents in Walsall and local businesses as the potential for the administration of funding and the setting of priorities could be subject to regional and local changes in governance and joint working arrangements both at political and officer levels.					
Who needs to be involved?	Key officers who are to be asked to present / update the panel on developments.					
How can scrutiny add value?	It's key that members are aware of the scope and levels of activity or changes planned and being developed so that their input and guidance can be sought and acted upon etc.					
Timings	Updates as momentum builds and key changes are announced by government would be suitable, difficult to state at this time, but potentially quarterly.					
Performance Information	This will be provided by the officers presenting based on the information gathered and any performance targets or requirements to be placed on local government etc.					
Corporate	Developing strong and dynamic communities					

Priority	Reducing worklessness and creating opportunity and potential Increasing enterprise and making Walsall a vibrant borough
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Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Void properties					
Who from	Considered by other Scrutiny Panel last year	Councillor Pitt - Chair		Public		
Why is it important?	<p>Void properties are usually the focus for other activities such as graffiti and fly tipping, drug abuse and unruly behaviour. As a result an empty property often starts to quickly damage the area, the quality of life of residents, and on prominent sites the image of the Borough as a whole (e.g. a burnt out building on a main road).</p> <p>None of these effects are desirable and require a coordinated approach covering a wide cross-section of council and partner services.</p>					
Who does it affect?	<p>- Every resident of the Borough living near, or even passing by.</p> <p>- Businesses in the Borough, sometimes directly, in ways comparable to those affecting residents. Sometimes more indirectly (see the next item on this).</p> <p>- People visiting or passing through the borough see buildings giving a down at heel image.</p>					
Who needs to be involved?	<p>Several areas of legislation are relevant covering derelict buildings, rubbish, graffiti and ASB. The following areas of the responsibility typically touch on these areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Area Mangers • ASB unit • Public Protection • Environmental Health • Development Management and Building Control • Street Pride • Housing Services – support • Legal Services • Outside groups e.g. the Police 					

How can scrutiny add value?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the Area Neighbourhood Management programme, this is likely to link to the Working Smarter activities. • Maintaining an overview of how the various areas of the Council work together on this. There has never been an appropriate budget in order to use as a fighting fund in order to take direct action where necessary and service areas have not been able to resource or take risks in terms of not being able to recover funding.
Timings	On-going
Performance Information	None in terms of quantitative measures. Anecdotal in terms of Impacts

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Local Economic Assessment					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	<p>There is a Statutory obligation for all Councils to create a Local Economic Assessment (LEA) by April 2011.</p> <p>Beyond this, the LEA is an opportunity for Walsall, based on real evidence and experience to establish its response to many of the key economic issues that face it today and into the future. The LEA offers an opportunity to shape Walsall's priorities and champion its needs both regionally and nationally.</p>					
Who does it affect?	<p>The LEA will help challenge, shape and inform the Council's strategies and investment decisions.</p> <p>Any existing strategies may benefit from enhanced economic evidence and enhanced intellectual value.</p> <p>A quality LEA will protect the reputation of the Authority.</p> <p>The LEA will enable future benefits to be derived for the Council, its partners, as a direct result of greater economic evidence, cross-cutting intellectual insight and influence at various local and national levels.</p> <p>If developed and used correctly the LEA should enable better-informed investments and services to be delivered to Walsall's residents, businesses, employees and visitors.</p>					
Who needs to be involved?	<p>Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel.</p> <p>A cross-party members' group is being set up to provide steer to the LEA process.</p>					
How can scrutiny add value?	<p>Scrutiny will allow greater confidence in the scope and depth of the evidence, the conclusions and the strategic implications contained within the LEA. This in turn will give greater credence to the document when using it to argue Walsall's case when setting sub-regional, regional and nationally policy.</p>					
Timings	A draft report will need to be approved by Cabinet in					

	<p>November 2010 before public consultation. The final report will need to be approved by Cabinet in March 2011 before submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government.</p> <p>It is proposed that an introductory report will be presented to the Scrutiny panel in July. This will be followed by a pre-consultation report in October before a final presentation in January.</p>
Performance Information	Preparation and submission of a Local Economic Assessment by April 2011 is a statutory duty of all Local Authorities.
Corporate Priority	The preparation of the Local Economic Assessment will provide a coherent and robust evidence base that will support the delivery of many of the Council's current priorities as defined in the Corporate Plan.

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue		Energy Efficiency in the Home				
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other Request by Scrutiny in Jan 10
Why is it important?	<p>Improving energy efficiency in the home has a fundamental positive impact on many corporate objectives including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling fuel poverty (National Indicator 187) at a local level and the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan • Reducing excess seasonal (winter and hot summer) deaths • Minimising costs to NHS Walsall and others for health care resulting from cold and damp related illnesses • Reducing CO₂ emissions (National Indicator 186) at a local level to help achieve the emerging European targets • Removes Category 1 and 2 Hazards in private homes under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System • Creating a healthy home environment which enables children to achieve higher educational attainment • Support for local supply chains (investment in local businesses) <p>We are developing a new Affordable Warmth Strategy 2011-2014 which will highlight the methods to help the borough tackle fuel poverty, increase home energy efficiency and reduce CO₂ emissions.</p>					
Who does it affect?	Everyone					
Who needs to be involved?	In developing the Affordable Warmth Strategy 2011-2014 detailed consultation will take place with all partners including through the Affordable Warmth Action Group.					
How can scrutiny add value?	<p>Input into the draft Affordable Warmth Strategy 2011-2014. Their role can also help publicise existing programmes such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nationally acclaimed npower Health Through Warmth Programme delivered in partnership with NHS 					

	<p>Walsall,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Borough's Community Energy Saving Partnership Work with British Gas and whg the emerging renewable and hard to treat and 'retro-fitting' programmes.
Timings	September 2010 for Scrutiny at which a draft Affordable Warmth Strategy 2011-2014 will be available
Performance Information	<p>National Indicator 187 – Tackling Fuel Poverty – is split into two parts, people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a high energy efficiency rating and people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating. Low energy efficiency was deemed as homes with a SAP rating of under 35 and high was deemed as homes with a SAP rating over 65. For this indicator 2008/09 was a baseline year with 6.4% of surveys indicating people lived in a low efficiency home. This figure improved with a decrease to 3.7% in 2009/10 which met the LAA target of 4.4%. This was also the case for the high energy efficiency homes with a baseline of 29.1% in 2008/09 and an improvement to 41.6% in 2009/10. This met the LAA target set at 31.1%.</p>
Corporate Priority	<p>Directly supports Walsall Partnership's new Sustainable Community Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are more and better jobs for local people people can live an independent and healthy life people consider the impact of what we do now on future generations everyone has the chance to live in a home fit for their purpose and for the future <p>Directly supports Corporate Plan priorities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving health Improving education and skills Improving the quality of our environment Working smarter

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	New Walsall Town Centre					
Who from	Previous years panel ✓	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	<p>In recent years, regeneration activity in the town centre has focussed on large scale projects in the St Matthew's Quarter, Gigaport, the new College/Tesco, and Waterfront. A number of these projects are now completed or on-site, for example the new College and Asda are completed, and Waterfront South and Tesco are currently on site, whilst proposals for other projects are advanced (eg St Matthew's Quarter, Gigaport and Waterfront North).</p> <p>Whilst the full delivery of these projects is important to the overall regeneration of the town centre, the Council does not have a coherent strategy or regeneration approach for Walsall town centre as a whole, ie a strategy for a "New Walsall". Furthermore, well-informed or advanced proposals for other parts of the town centre are lacking, including areas such as Park Street, Bradford Street and In Town/Bridge Street, whilst a new approach is required to town centre's public transport provision.</p>					
Who does it affect?	Town centre occupiers, landowners and developers, as well as users of the town centre and the Borough's residents.					
Who needs to be involved?	A cross section of town centre occupiers, landowners and developers, potentially through the town centre management partnership or similar representative body.					
How can scrutiny add value?	Scrutiny can advise in shaping the brief for the town centre strategy, including what sort of document (eg masterplan or statutory planning document) is pursued, and in reviewing its progress. Scrutiny could also have a role in championing the New Walsall work.					
Timings	Throughout the 2010/11 municipal year.					
Performance	An important element of the New Walsall strategy will be in					

Information	the collection of baseline data for the town centre, which will indicate the town centre's performance. Some data already exists, as analysed for the market relocation planning process and in the Black Country Study work, but there are gaps in the information required.
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FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

7 May 2010

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: **(to be approved by the Leader of the Council)**

Leader of the Council

Deputy Leader and Regeneration

Business support services

Children’s services

Communities and partnerships

Environment

Finance and personnel

Leisure and culture

Social care, health and housing

Transport

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. The Council’s Constitution defines a key decision as an executive decision which is likely:

- “(1) to result in the Council in incurring expenditure which exceeds that included in any approved revenue or capital budget or the limits set out within an approved borrowing or investment strategy and was not the subject of a specific grant;
- (2) to result in the Council incurring expenditure, or the making of savings, which are equivalent to or more than 5% of any approved revenue budget or 10% of any capital budget, whichever is the lower, subject to a de minimus level of £50,000;
- (3) to be significant in terms of its direct effects on communities in an area comprising two or more wards in the Borough.”

Dates of Cabinet meetings for 2010/2011 (To be approved at Adjourned Council meeting on 26 May 2010)

2010

16 June
14 July
15 September
13 October
17 November
15 December

2011

12 January
9 February
16 March
13 April

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2010 (7.5.10)

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
86/09 (9.11.09)	New Horizons Community Enterprise Walsall's New Deal for Communities end 31.3.2011. The Department for Communities and Local Government are encouraging New Deal partnerships to develop succession strategies beyond the end of the programme. As accountable body the Council is required by the DCLG to formally approve the succession strategy.	Cabinet	Paul Rowlands 712858	New Horizons Community Enterprise, Department for Communities and Local Government, Government Office, West Midlands	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
28/09 (8.5.09)	Walsall Gigaport – To consider and agree the principles of the partnership agreement with Advantage West Midlands for the delivery of the Gigaport, to advise on the bid to AWM for project, funding, to endorse, in principle, the use of compulsory purchase powers where necessary, to agree the process for the procurement of a development partner and the identification of a delivery model	Cabinet	Paul Nicholson 652489 Richard Chadwick 652576	Walsall Regeneration Company	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
10/10 (8.2.10)	Building Schools for the Future – approve the strategy for change part 2 prior to submission to Partnership for Schools. The document sets out a clear, robust and resourced plan to deliver educational transformation across the secondary school estate in Walsall.	Cabinet	Alison Butcher 655489	Schools, partners, scrutiny members, trade unions, community representatives	Regeneration portfolio Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010

32/10 (7.5.10)	Regional Housing Pot – approve programme of projects to be funded in 2010/11 and delegate the Executive Director in consultation with the portfolio holder authority to approve any amendments to the programme during the year to maximise the Regional Housing Pot	Cabinet	Andrea Potts 652633	Legal services, finance	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
33/10 (7.5.10)	Housing Renewal Assistance – seek enders to deliver capital grant and other assistance projects in line with the Housing Renewal Assistance policy and delegate to the Executive Director, Regeneration authority to accept tenders	Cabinet	Andrea Potts 652633	Audit, procurement, legal, finance	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
34/10 (7.5.10)	Redevelopment of the Old Square, Walsall – to agree to the disposal of the Council's interests and in principle approval, to use compulsory purchase powers to facilitate the phased redevelopment of the Old Square area.	Cabinet	Richard Chadwick 652576	Walsall Regeneration Company	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
22/10 (31.3.10)	Primary Strategy – transforming learning – to seek approval on the primary strategy which will outline the strategic direction of primary education for 2009-2012	Cabinet	Sue Wedgwood, Walsall Children's Services Serco 686369	Finance, legal, HR and Ward Councillors	Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010
23/10 (31.3.10)	Education capital programme – to seek permission to progress further projects	Cabinet	Susan Lupton, Walsall Children's Services Serco 686231	Finance, legal, HR, ward Councillors	Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010
35/10 (7.5.10)	Early Years – Quality access childcare grant – to seek approval of the use of the Early Years Childcare grant	Cabinet	Carol Boughton Walsall Children's Services Serco 686420	Finance, legal, HR, ward Councillors	Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010

90/09 (9.11.09)	Project W2R – provision of energy from waste capacity from Staffordshire County Council – To consider the affordability of the W2R contract over the life time of the project	Cabinet	Keith Stone 652100	Legal, procurement, finance, Staffordshire County Council	Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010
30/10 (7.5.10)	Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre – consider progress by schools to buy into proposed additional bed space and whether there is a need to commit significant expenditure to modernise the Top Lodge	Cabinet	Chris Holliday 650339 Ben Percival 605500	Bryntysilio trustees, Primary School Head Teachers Forum, Property Services	Leisure and culture portfolio	16 June 2010
31/10 (7.5.10)	Willenhall Leisure Centre – update on progress to reduce costs and increase income and to make a decision on the future of the centre	Cabinet	Chris Holliday 650339 Ben Percival 605500	Ward Councillors, Project Reference Group, Property Services	Leisure and cultur portfolio	16 June 2010
16/10 (8.2.10)	Walsall Partnership Programmes and Resources – approval of proposed funding allocations recommended by Walsall Partnership thematic groups to deliver the Local Area Agreement and national indicator set	Cabinet	Jo Lowndes	Council and partners	Leader of the Council	14 July 2010
8/10 (8.2.10)	Designation of Jane Lane and Castle Schools – to seek permission for changes in designations of Jane Lane and Castle Schools	Cabinet	Connie Mergen, Walsall Children's Services, Serco 686232	Finance, legal, HR and ward Councillors	Regeneration portfolio	14 July 2010
25/10 (31.3.10)	Education capital programme – to seek permission to progress further projects	Cabinet	Susan Lupton, Walsall Children's Services Serco 686231	Finance, legal, HR, ward Councillors	Children's services portfolio	14 July 2010
36/10 (7.5.10)	Waste Strategy review – to approve the draft waste strategy prior to going out to public consultation	Cabinet1	Keith Stone 653301	Approval required for public consultation	Environment portfolio	14 July 2010

37.10 (7.5.10)	Replacement wheelie bins – implementation of charging policy for replacement bins that have come to end of their natural life	Cabinet	Dave Roberts 653957	Leisure services, finance, procurement	Environment portfolio	14 July 2010
58/09 (7.8.09)	Corporate Asset Management 2009-2014 – approval of plan which sets out the approach to the strategic management of the Council's property portfolio	Cabinet	Steve Law 652075	Executive Directors, Corporate Property Group	Regeneration portfolio	15 September 2010
38/10 (7.5.10)	Integrated Youth capital strategy and youth offer – approval of strategy and related implementation plan	Cabinet	Alan Michell	Young people, stakeholders (including third sector)	Children's services portfolio	15 September 2010
27/10 (8.3.10)	Community equipment service – To approve the transformation of the service from the current equipment store system to a retail model for small items of equipment	Cabinet	Andy Rust	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Social care, health and housing portfolio	15 September 2010
28/10 (31.3.10)	Frail elderly pathway – to approve changes in working practice within in-house home care, to ensure that intermediate care services can be provided to people in their own homes that more effectively prevents avoidable hospital admissions to the Manor	Cabinet	Andy Rust	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Social care, health and housing portfolio	15 September 2010
29/10 (31.3.10)	Tender for Domiciliary care – to change procurement arrangements for independent homecare services from the current block contract to framework agreements so that the Council is better placed to support individuals to choose their own service provider in line with government policy as set out in "Putting People First".	Cabinet	Andy Rust	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Social care, health and housing portfolio	15 September 2010

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
FROM OCTOBER 2010**

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
(7.5.10)	Contracts for treatment, recovery and final disposal of municipal waste – award of contract for waste disposal – medium term arrangements, 5 year contract to various contractors	Cabinet	Dave Roberts 653957	Internal	Environment portfolio	December 2010