



Walsall Council

Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on: **25 March 2021 AT 6.00PM**

Meeting to be held virtually via: **Microsoft Teams**

Public access to meeting via: https://youtu.be/G_IYJoMK2zQ

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillor L. Harrison (Chair)
Councillor A. Hicken (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P. Bott
Councillor C. Creaney
Councillor M. Follows
Councillor S. Johal
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor A. Nazir
Councillor G. Singh Sohal
Councillor I. Shires
Councillor M. Ward

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Councillor A. Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor G. Perry – Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor O. Butler – Clean and Green
Councillor C. Towe – Education and Skills

ITEMS FOR 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 meetings that took place on 21 January 2021	<u>Enclosed</u>
ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY		
6.	Petition: Barns Lane, Rushall A petition containing in excess of 500 signatures was submitted to the Council. It requests the Council to install road safety measures at Barns Lane, Rushall.	<u>Report</u>
7.	Presentation from Black Country Consortium For the Committee to consider a presentation from Sarah Middleton, Chief Executive from the Black Country Consortium	<u>Presentation</u>
ITEMS FOR OVERVIEW		
8.	Areas of focus – 2020/21 To consider the areas of focus for the Committee during 2020/21. The report includes the Forward Plans of Walsall Council, Black Country Joint Executive Committee and Forward Plan of West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Board.	<u>Enclosed</u>
9.	Date of next meeting To note that the next meeting will be agreed at Annual Council.	

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.

Apologies

Substitutions

Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

Local Government Act 1985 (as amended)

**Minutes of the
previous meeting
21 January 2021**

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 January 2021 at 6.00pm held virtually via Microsoft Teams

Held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; and conducted according to the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings and those set out in the Council's Constitution.

Committee Members

Present:

Councillor A. Hicken (Vice-Chair in the Chair)
Councillor P. Bott
Councillor C. Creaney
Councillor M. Follows
Councillor S. Johal
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor A. Nazir
Councillor M. Statham
Councillor S. Samra
Councillor I. Shires
Councillor M. Ward

Portfolio Holders

Present:

Councillor M. Bird	Leader of the Council
Councillor A. Andrew	Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor O. Butler	Clean and Green
Councillor C. Towe	Education and Skills

Officers Present:

Simon Neilson	Executive Director of Economy and Environment
Dave Brown	Director Place and Environment
Neil Taylor	Interim Director of Regeneration and Economy
Fraz Hussain	Lead Accountant
Alan Bowley	Interim Head of Clean and Green
Matt Crowton	Transportation Major Projects & Strategy Manager
Mark Lavender	Head of Programme Management
Simon Tranter	Head of Regeneration Housing and Economy
Zoey West	External Programme Manager
Matt Powis	Democratic Services Officer

Invited Attendees

Present:

Sandeep Shingadia	Director of Development & Delivery at Transport for West Midlands
Thomas Skidmore	SPRINT Development Manager at Transport for West Midlands
Edmund Salt	Bus Development & Partnership Manager at Transport for West Midlands
Jon Hayes	Head of Bus at Transport for West Midlands
Stuart Everton	Black Country Director of Transport
Brett Chambers	Arcadis

22/20 Apologies

Councillor Harrison and Councillor Singh Sohal submitted apologies for absence.

23/20 Substitution

Councillor Samra substituted on behalf of Councillor Harrison and Councillor M Statham substituted on behalf of Councillor Singh Sohal.

24/20 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whips.

25/20 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

Resolved

That the Committee considered that part of Agenda Item 8 be considered in private session due to exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1985 (as amended).

26/20 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2020, as amended, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

27/20 Transportation in Walsall

The Committee considered an item on transportation in Walsall, which incorporated four key discussion points:

- A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT (Bus Rapid Transit) Scheme
- West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme
- Bus engine upgrades in the West Midlands
- Black Country Transportation overview

The Chair welcomed representatives from Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) and Black Country Transportation (BCT) and invited each representative in turn to address the Committee.

A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT (Bus Rapid Transit) Scheme

The Transportation Major Projects and Strategy Manager and SPRINT Development Manager provided an overview of the A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT project, which aimed to connect people to a range of opportunities in the West Midlands including events such as the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022 and provide important regeneration to Walsall Town Centre.

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) approved a revised phasing plan for the proposed SPRINT routes for the A34 and A45. Phase 1 works were scheduled to be completed by June 2022 in time for the Commonwealth Games and Phase 2 was intended to be complete by December 2024. However, it was noted that Phase 2 was unfunded and would be subject to future funding approval.

Members were informed that total estimated capital cost for Phase 1 works was £32.4m, which had been approved by WMCA. It was noted that the Council was not liable for any funding to implement the scheme as liability was held with WMCA and TfWM.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration highlighted that he had requested pre-conditions for the initial approval of Phase 1 to include the publication of the commercial operator of the service in advance of the Cabinet decision. However, it was confirmed that details of the provider had yet to be realised at the time of the scrutiny meeting.

West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Plan and Scheme

The Bus Development & Partnership Manager at TfWM provided an overview of the West Midlands Enhanced Partnership plan and scheme. The scheme aimed to improve bus services across the West Midlands through a strategic improvement plan, which enables formal arrangements for partnership working between bus operators, WMCA and local authorities in the West Midlands.

TfWM undertook a review of available statutory powers and opportunities in accordance with the Transport Act 2000, which include options for Advanced Quality Partnership Schemes, Enhanced Partnerships and Franchising. Following a period of review, the WMCA agreed that Enhanced Partnerships was the most suitable option for delivering and managing the SPRINT system ahead of the Commonwealth Games in 2022. However, it was noted that the Enhanced Partnership scheme would require approval from all local authorities within the WMCA area.

It was noted that franchising was not a suitable consideration due to the inability to deliver franchising within the timescales for the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

Transport for West Midlands – Bus Presentation

The Bus Development and Partnership Manager and the Head of Bus at TfWM gave a presentation on the vision for bus in the West Midlands and proposed bus engine upgrades.

The Committee noted the Metropolitan Authorities Vision, which aimed to provide a world-class integrated, reliable, zero emission transport system providing inclusive travel for all across the West Midlands.

It was highlighted that £1.8m had been spent to reduce bus emissions through retrofitting existing buses. However, further action was still needed on the following:

- Finalisation of minimum emission standards for buses.
- Further subsidised bus services to Euro VI
- Greater engagement with new operators
- Development of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
- Implementation of A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT
- Regional fleet cascade from Coventry Electric Bus City

Black Country Transportation Overview

The Black Country Director of Transport gave an overview presentation of the role of Black Country Transport (BCT) in the Black Country and wider West Midlands.

The Committee noted that £2.1bn worth of transport investment was scheduled for the Black Country and there were multiple opportunities to develop schemes in the area. However, there were concerns that greater influence was needed on a wider scale to attract investment into the Black Country.

The BCT had created a single Black Country Team across the four Black Country Authorities to streamline and prioritise transportation projects across the area. However, it was noted that the BCT was competing with major project organisations in the area such as TfWM, Highways England and Network Rail for resources when considering upcoming projects.

The Committee noted the current BCT Team Structure and the governance arrangements for the body.

A lengthy discussion commenced on all of the reports and presentations. A question and answer session took place and following on, the principal points from the ensuing discussion:-

- In relation to a development of a Park and Ride scheme mentioned within the SPRINT proposals. The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration confirmed that the park and ride scheme and SPRINT were not combined proposals and that TfWM were exploring all options for park and ride in Walsall.
- A Member sought clarification on the SPRINT Phase 1 cost benefit to local residents and the wider community. In response, it was confirmed that chargeable fares on SPRINT would be comparable to existing bus services.
- SPRINT Phase 1 initial design work had been completed. However, Phase 2 park and ride scheme funding had yet to be confirmed.
- Existing bus services operating along the proposed SPRINT route (X51 and 51 services) would continue to operate alongside SPRINT and the number of bus services between Walsall and Birmingham were not expected to change.
- Existing bus services between Cannock and Birmingham via Walsall were expected to continue.
- A Member sought clarification regarding the lack of bus service routes through new build housing estates in Walsall. In response, it was confirmed that a response would be provided in writing.
- A Member sought clarification regarding Euro 6 upgrades. In response, it was highlighted that 190 Euro 6 buses were approved for use in the Black Country.

In addition, an accredited upgrade scheme was launched for older bus models to ensure compliance with existing fleets.

- There was a discussion on the transport franchising powers given to Mayoral Combined Authorities. It was confirmed that the WMCA had commenced a feasibility study on franchising to consider whether it was a viable offer for the West Midlands compared to other delivery models.
- A Member sought clarification from the Director of Transport at BCT regarding competition between BCT and other transport authorities. In response, it was confirmed that BCT had a strong focus on big transportation projects, which attracted young talent in the organisation. However, further work was required to attract and retain staff for the future as 50 percent of staff were leaving to other organisation due to higher salaries and secure project funding.
- The Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder of Regeneration highlighted that bus type and operator would need to be announced in public prior to approval at Cabinet.
- There was a proposal to invite bus operators to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee thanked representatives for their attendance.

Resolved:

- 1. That the reports and presentations be noted.**
- 2. That, local bus operators be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.**

28/20 Council Carbon Neutral

The Committee considered an update on the Council's carbon neutral policy and emergency action plan, which was agreed by Cabinet on 28 October 2020.

It was noted that the Council had declared a climate emergency, which sets forth a course of major changes to address climate change and decarbonise the Borough and the wider region. An internal working group was established to shape the action plans and engagement had taken place with a number of partners including the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

Six key themes emerged from internal discussions, which were outlined as follows:

1. Strategy (Taking the Lead)
2. Energy
3. Waste and Consumption
4. Transport
5. Nature
6. Resilience and Adaptation

In order to achieve carbon neutrality, the Council planned to create a fixed term Climate Change Programme Manager as part of the wider Proud Transformation Programme. It was highlighted that by 2050, the Council would have achieved £6m per annum from energy saving initiatives.

In the longer-term, the Council planned to engage with local residents, businesses, schools and the wider community as part of the decarbonisation strategy.

A question and answer session took place and following on, the principal points from the ensuing discussion:-

- There were concerns regarding electric battery quality for refuse collector trucks. The Council required refuse trucks to cover vast areas of the Borough in order to collect refuse promptly and efficiently. As a result, there were concerns on the effective battery range of refuse vehicles.
- The Leader of the Council highlighted the benefits of hydrogen fuel for use with personal and commercial vehicles compared to electric vehicles. In addition, there was concerns regarding issues with recycling electric vehicle batteries and the long term impact on the environment.
- A Member expressed concerns regarding the lack of electric vehicle charging points in the Borough.
- A Member sought clarification on Geo Parks and whether the Council had a tree planting strategy. In response, it was confirmed that an update would be provided in writing regarding Geo Parks. The Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green confirmed that the Council had a tree planting strategy and 2000 trees were scheduled to be planted at Aldridge Airport.
- A Member sought clarification on recycling rates in Walsall. In response, it was confirmed that a response would be provided in writing.

Following a brief discussion on the Environmental Bill 2020, the Chair requested a regular scheduled update on the Council's Carbon Neutral and Climate Change progress to be presented to the Committee.

Resolved:

1. That, the report be noted.
2. That, the Committee receive regular updates regarding the progress of the Carbon Neutral strategy.
3. That, a briefing note on recycling rates in Walsall be provided to Members in writing.
4. That, an update on Geo Parks be provided to Members of the Committee in writing.

29/20 Draft Revenue Budget Feedback and Draft Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

The Committee considered a feedback report on revenue and capital outturn for 2020/21 to 2023/24 for services within the remit of the Committee.

It was noted that the draft capital programme for 2021/22 totalled £65.99m, which included £28.17m capital investments funded from the Council's own resources and £37.82m externally funded capital grants. It was confirmed that the draft capital programme represented a balanced programme for 2021/22.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

30/20 **Areas of focus – 2020/21**

The Committee considered its areas of focus and the forward plans of Walsall Council, the Black Country Joint Executive Committee and West Midlands.

Resolved:

That, areas of focus 2020/21 and forward plans be noted.

31/20 **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 25 March 2021.

32/20 **Private Session – Town Deal Boards**

The Committee considered a private report on the Bloxwich and Walsall Towns Fund which aims at driving sustainable economic regeneration of Walsall to deliver long term economy and productivity growth.

Members were informed that the Government launched the Town Fund Programme in September 2019, which included both Bloxwich and Walsall towns for eligible funding as part of a £25m funding package. Following this publication, in June 2020 a further £5bn was announced as part of an Accelerated Towns Capital funding which supported and funded investments projects that supported jobs, stimulated economic recovery and complemented existing projects under development.

The Government requested that a Town Deal Board be established which placed requirements on the board in terms of responsibility, membership, accountability and scope.

The Town Fund intervention framework was outlined:

- Local Transport
- Digital Connectivity
- Urban Regeneration, Planning and Land Use
- Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Skills Infrastructure
- Enterprise Infrastructure

It was noted that £1.5m of investments had been secured through the accelerated funds submission, which included:

Bloxwich – Acceleration Fund Projects

Sustainable Transport Interventions

- The planning and design of transport interventions, linking local people with jobs and training opportunities

Bloxwich Town Area Environmental Improvements

- A kick start package of improvements to public realm and environments to encourage people into Bloxwich Town area

Improved Community Safety

- Upgraded/additional CCTV in Bloxwich Town Centre, identified local shopping areas and business parks

Park and Green Spaces Improvements

- Variety of rapid intervention in parks and greenspaces, enhancing the environment and outdoor sports facilities

Improving Transport access across Bloxwich

- Transport control improvement to Bloxwich High Street to improve traffic flow and safety

Walsall – Acceleration Fund Projects

Improving the Economy of Walsall Town area

- Identify areas for improvement to encourage use by the public and businesses to increase footfall, trade and investment

Walsall Town Area Environmental Improvement

- Improvements to public realm and environments to encourage people into the Town Centre

Park & Green Spaces Improvements

- Interventions in parks, greenspaces and enhancing environment and outdoor sports facilities

Improved Community Safety

- Upgraded/Additional CCTV in Walsall Town Centre, identified local shopping areas and business parks

The Committee considered an overview of the proposed projects across Bloxwich and Walsall, which would be submitted alongside a business case to the Government for consideration.

A question and answer session took place and following on, the principal points from the ensuing discussion:-

- A Member sought clarification regarding the timeframe for developing projects in the area. In response, the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration confirmed that business case approval was required for each project before any publicised timescales. However, local Ward Members would be consulted and informed prior to any project announcement.
- The Chair sought clarification regarding funding for Willenhall and Darlaston Town Centres. In response, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration confirmed that the Council was developing a Willenhall Masterplan.
- A Member sought clarification regarding town centre funding for Aldridge. The Committee was informed that Cabinet would consider any regeneration suggestions from Members of the Committee. However, it was noted that the announcement of the development of Aldridge Railway Station was a positive development for the Borough.
- A discussion was held about the impact of Town Deals funding in a post-COVID future. In response, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder highlighted that funding would enable job creation and accelerate growth in the Borough.
- It was anticipated that office based private and public sector employees would return to office environments once the UK lockdown ceases.
- Members discussed the future footfall of Walsall Town Centre.
- The Chair requested that the private presentation regarding the Town Board projects be circulated to the Committee.

- The Deputy Leader of the Council confirmed that all Members would be engaged and consulted with Willenhall Town Centre Masterplan
- A discussion was held about the Town Deal Board membership. Particular concerns were raised about the lack of Ward Member representation on the Board.

Resolved:

1. That, the report be noted.
2. That, the Committee receive annual updates on progress regarding Bloxwich and Walsall Town Deal Programmes.
3. That, the private presentation regarding the Town Board projects be circulated to Members of the Committee.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated 8.37p.m.

Signed:

Date:

Petition: Barns Lane, Rushall

25 March 2021

Response to the Petition: “Physical measures to reduce speeding in our area”

Ward(s): Rushall-Shelfield

Portfolios: Councillor Andrew - Regeneration

1. Aim

- 1.1. A petition has been submitted calling on Walsall Council to install road safety measures on Barns Lane, Rushall. The hard copy of the petition contained 262 signatures with more than 300 further signatures on the online version.
- 1.2. The Council’s petitions scheme state that “if a petition contains at least 500 signatories the relevant senior officer will give evidence at a public meeting of one of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The authority has determined that the response to such petitions must be given by either the chief executive, executive directors, directors or heads of service. The committee may also decide to call the relevant portfolio holder to attend the meeting.”

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. This report recommends that:
 - a) A “dragon teeth” gateway feature be installed on Westgate approach to Barns Lane to emphasise the lower speed limit; the existing 20mph repeater signs be replaced with larger signs and “SLOW” marking be installed along the length of Barns Lane.
 - b) The need for further engineering works on Barns Lane be considered as part of the annual borough wide road safety review.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1. Barns Lane is a local distributor road that runs from Winterley Lane to Westgate and then extends north west to Subbers Green Road. There are over 250 residential properties on Barns Lane which is approximately 1 mile [1.6km] in length. A 20mph speed limit was introduced between the junction with Winterley Lane and north east of the junction with Pool View in March 2014 as part of a wider safety scheme. A 30mph speed limit then extends to the junction with Subbers Green Road. There is footway provision along the full length of the road, on both side within the 20mph zone and on one side of the road in the 30mph section. **A plan showing the road can be found at Appendix A.**

- 3.2. The Highways Act 1980 places a general duty on the highway authority to keep its highways reasonably free of obstruction and in a condition that allows the safe passage of people and goods. Section 39 of The Road Safety Act 1988 places a statutory duty for highway authorities to:
- a) prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety;
 - b) carry out studies into accidents arising out of the use of vehicles; and
 - c) take such measures as appear to the authority to be appropriate to prevent such accidents.
- 3.3. Section 90 (A to F) of the Highways Act 1980 is the current legislation that covers the introduction of all forms of vertical deflections on a carriageway. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amended the Highways Act 1980 to permit the introduction other forms of traffic calming within additional sections 90 (G to I). Such measures are therefore permitted for the purpose of 'promoting safety and preserving or improving the environment'. The Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999 require three or more street lights to be present not more than thirty eight metres apart or to comply with British Standard (BS5489 1992) .
- 3.4. The petition submitted makes the following request:

We, the undersigned, call upon Walsall Council, in the light of a high number of accidents and ongoing crashes and damage to property in Barns Lane, Rushall to revise its oft-stated position of no or minimal action in regard to long-standing community and councillor requests to:

- a) *put in place physical measures to reduce speeding;*
- b) *re-route through HGV traffic away from the heavily residential areas of Barns Lane and Springfield, Shelfield; and*
- c) *ensure that, meanwhile, in conjunction with West Midlands Police, there is regular, frequent enforcement against speeding drivers in the Westgate/Barns Lane 20 mph zone.*

"We therefore ask the Council to instruct officers to bring forward effective measures to address the issues above as a matter of urgency."

Responding to Road Safety Concerns

- 3.5. The Council receive a high volume of requests for traffic and road safety schemes. The range of issues includes speeding concerns, collisions concerns and parking issues. A data lead approach is taken to prioritising the implementation of road safety schemes and a programme is collated for Cabinet approval each year.
- 3.6. All scheme requests are recorded, assessed and categorised. In the case of local safety schemes, sites should have a minimum of six personal injury collisions in the previous three years to be considered as part of this programme. This is indicative of the number of injury collisions which occur on the highway in the borough on an annual basis and generates a list of schemes which far exceeds the current level of

funding available. The traffic engineering team undertake the annual review of injury collisions to prioritise those schemes where road safety will be most effective in reducing known casualty histories.

- 3.7. Schemes that have a lower number of injury collisions are transferred to the promotion of community health and safety programme (PCHS) for further review. Schemes held in this programme are assessed with the a road safety aspect, but include the impact a potential scheme may have on improving access to schools, local shops and public open space. The schemes are then ranked in priority and will be delivered based on the availability of funding.
- 3.8. There have been six slight collisions (collisions in which at least one person is slightly injured but no person is killed or seriously injured) recorded on Barnes Lane in the three years 2018, 2019 and 2020. Two of these collisions occurred in the vicinity of the Kings Road/ Farmers Boy public house and only one of those involved excessive speed. The other incidences were damage only collisions and are not routinely included for consideration.

With regards to physical measures to reduce speeding, a request for traffic calming on Barnes Lane is retained in the list of schemes held under the PCHS programme. In the most recent review, completed in February 2021, the Barnes Lane and Westgate scheme request ranked 17th in a list of about 145 schemes. This is largely due to the increases in the number and severity of collisions at other locations also included in the programme. **Details of the full PCHS programme can be found at Appendix B.**

Request for an environmental weight limit to re-route HGVs elsewhere

- 3.9. Environmental weight restrictions offer a means of preventing heavy goods vehicles from using minor roads as inappropriate short cuts between main routes. They are still permitted to enter weight restricted areas for access (e.g. making deliveries). When proposing a weight restriction for any route or area, careful consideration must be given to those vehicles that will be re-routed. In some instances, a route may seem inappropriate for HGV use but there may be no other realistic alternatives. If there are no alternative routes, introducing a weight restriction will only displace problems on to similarly inappropriate roads. Where alternative routes are available, we must ensure wherever possible to positively sign these routes. Early warning of a weight restricted area must also be given to help the restriction to be self-enforcing.
- 3.10. Barnes Lane serves as one of five routes that link the A461 Lichfield Road and the A454 Little Aston road. It is classified as a local distributor road and its role within the road hierarchy is to carry all classifications of traffic from the principal road network through to local residential and commercial premises.
- 3.11. Automatic traffic counters were used to collect data on the speed, volume and classification of vehicles using Barnes Lane in 2019. Counters were placed on Barnes Lane, between Westgate and Stubbers Green Road, and on Westgate, north of Tintagel Way. Both counters indicated that HGVs made up just 1% of the traffic using the road.

- 3.12. For the reasons indicated above, there are currently no plans to implement an environmental weight limit on Barnes Lane or Spring Lane.

Request for speed enforcement.

- 3.13. In response to concerns raised by Cllr Richard Worrall, a request has been submitted to West Midlands Police (WMP) to undertake speed enforcement on Barnes Lane.
- 3.14. Feedback from WMP indicates that during an operation in November 2020, of 481 vehicles monitored on Barnes Lane, 14 drivers were passed for persecution and a further 65 drivers were educated regarding their speed.
- 3.15. In light of local concern, the Council propose to install a “dragon teeth” gateway feature on Westgate to emphasise the lower speed limit. Additionally, the existing repeater signs will be replaced with larger signs and “SLOW” marking will be installed along the length of Barnes Lane. This work will be scheduled for completion in the summer of 2021 as part of the Council’s minor works programme. **A plan showing the outline proposal for the scheme can be found at Appendix C.**
- 3.16. The need for further engineering works will continue to be considered as part of the annual borough wide road safety reviews.

4. Financial information

- 4.1. The proposed works fall within the scope of the Council’s budget for road safety engineering works.

5. Reducing Inequalities

- 5.1. The Council’s road safety programmes of work provide all citizens using Walsall’s highway network a standard of service which will maintain the safe passage of vehicular and pedestrian traffic so far as is reasonably practicable.

6. Decide

- 6.1. The Council has to determine a reasonable level of intervention in response to the concerns raised by the signatories of the petition detailed in this report. This needs to take into account the borough wide demand for road safety measures and the site specific data with respect to incidents and traffic speeds.

7. Respond

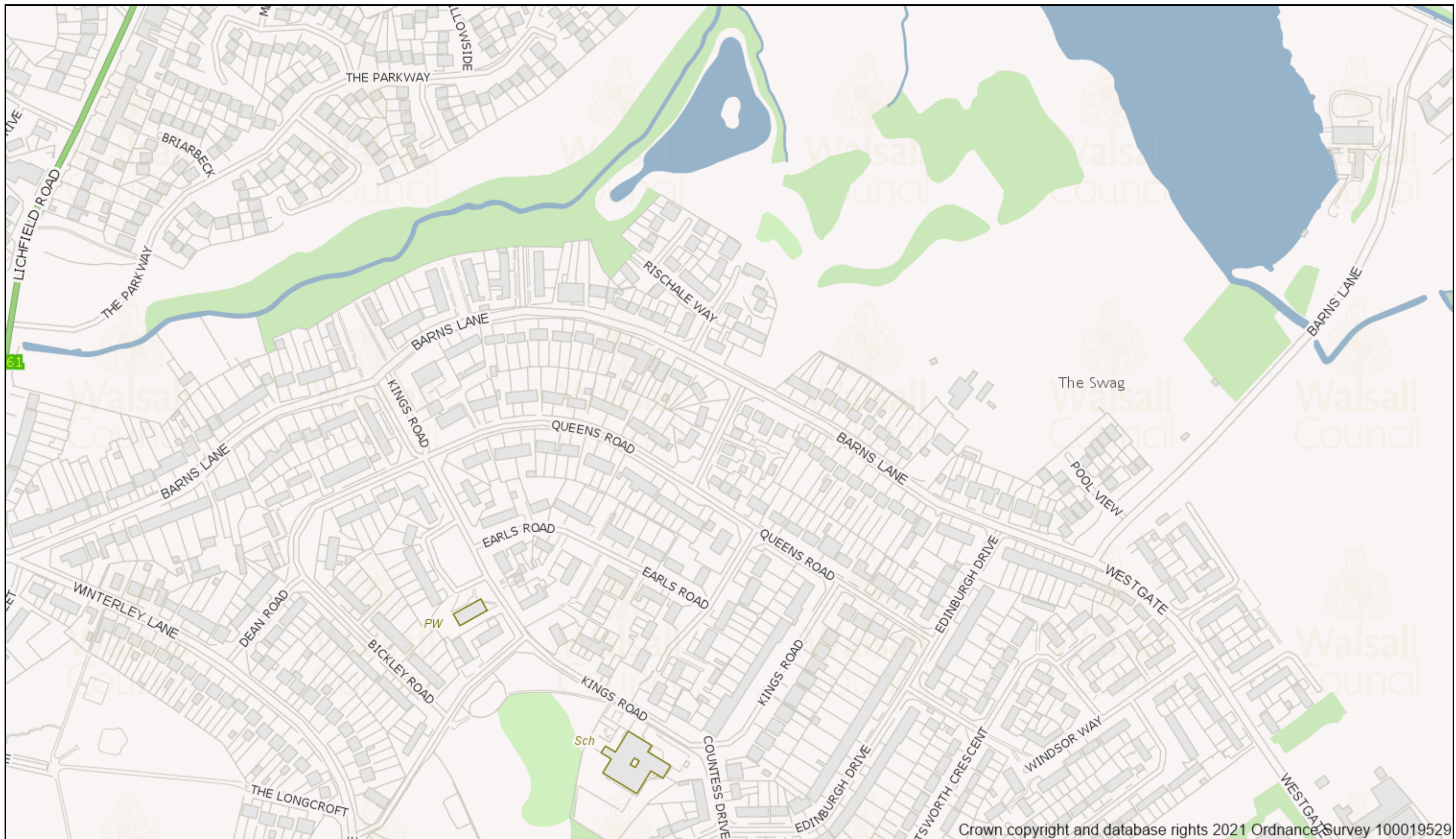
- 7.1. The proposed improvements to signage on Barnes Lane will be implemented by 31st August 2021.

8. Review

- 8.1. The need for further road safety engineering works will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the Council borough wide safety review. Any future road safety scheme proposals which are likely to impact residents and road users in the Barns Lane will allow a period of consultation and comment on the details of the scheme before implementation.

Author

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APPENDIX A - Barns Lane, Rushall



N Scale: 1:3050

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Sensitivity: PROTECT

Promotion of Community Health and Safety

Refer to R519 - Procedure for assessing sites of Community Health & Safety

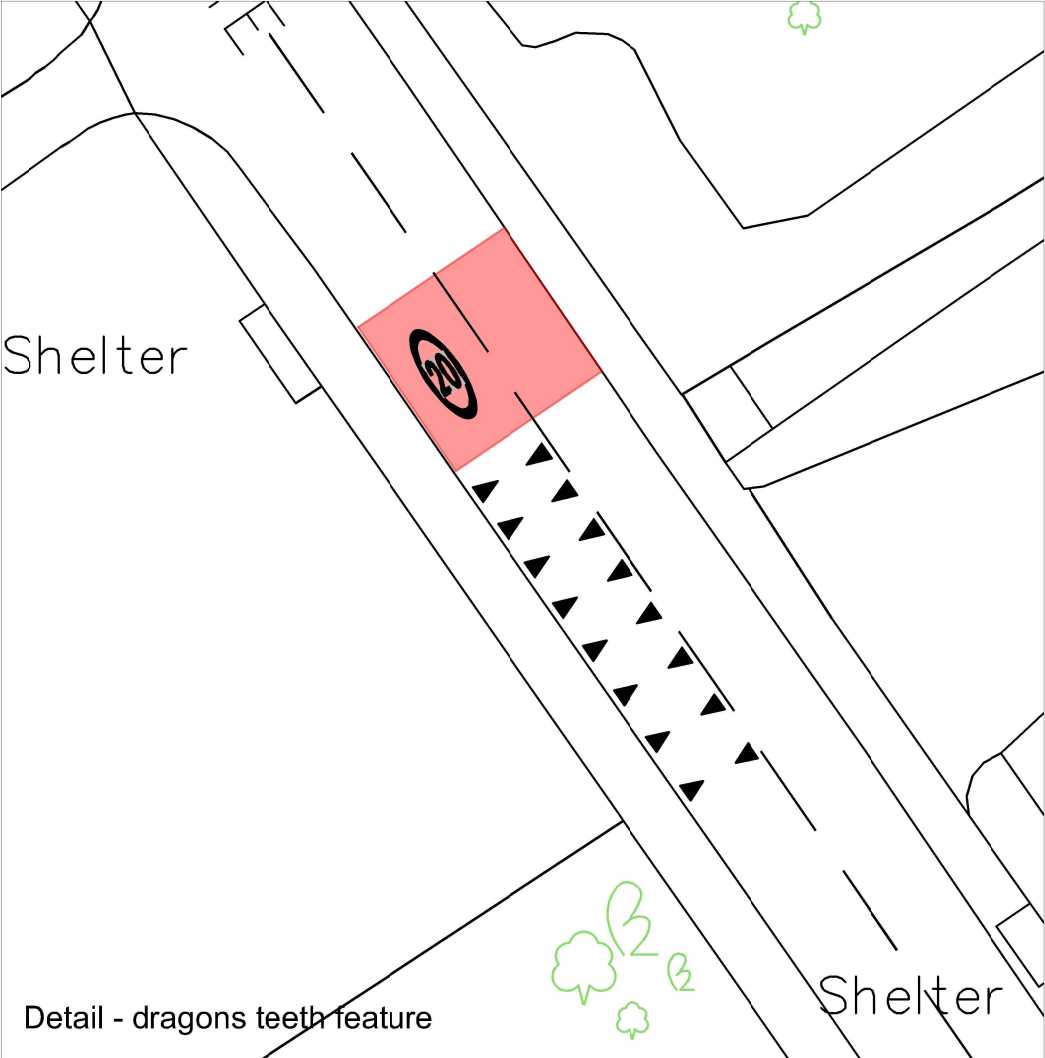
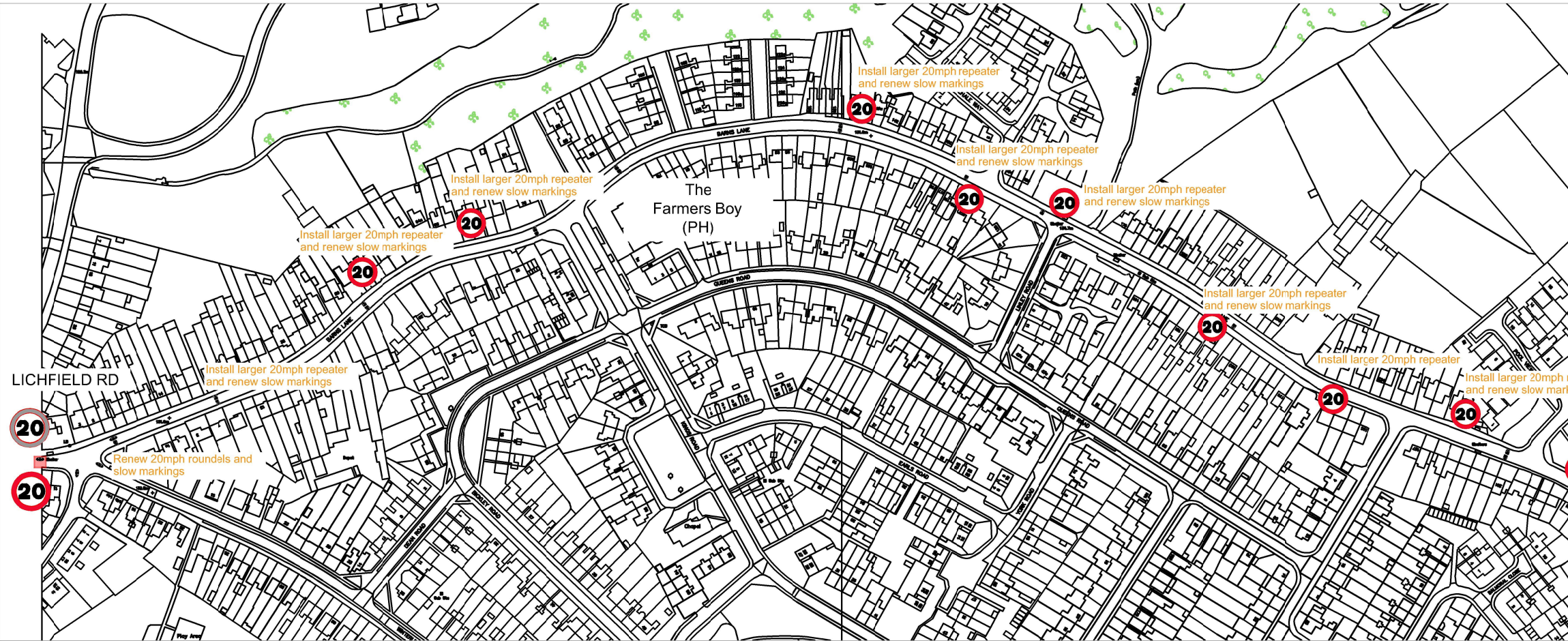
Scheme Heading	Budget	Scheme Description				Comments				
Safety related requests	£5,000.00	To address minor road safety concerns within the Borough								
Speed Management	£35,000.00	Review of 20mph speed limit areas, areas listed as part of LSS programme, Network Performance Management				Slippage from previous years; Implementation in line with Walsall Road Safety Strategy				
Network Performance	£90,000.00	Implementation of route management systems				Links to delivery of Congestion Management Plan & Network Management Plan				
Total budget to complete schemes	£130,000.00									

		AREA				REQUEST			ACCIDENTS (2018 - 2020)			AMENITIES			COST	ASSESSMENT																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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Reserve schemes

Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston	Darlaston	1300	7.0	100	50	0	n/a		7	0	3	1	1	1	£273,000	0.5	13	13.46	2	6		Concern regarding vehicle speed and pedestrian casualties.	Cllr Bott and Cllr Wilson	45%
Cavendish Road, Leamore	Leamore	770	6.5	110	50	100	Gaz Ali, Cllr Jeevons	Mar-18	4	1	2	0	1	1	£150,150	0.9	10	10.90	3	5		TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME DELIVERED OCTOBER 2020	Petition Lead: Mr Gaz Ali	47%
Churchill Road	Bentley	1350	7.0	238	39	0	Anthony Groom	Jun-16	5	0	2	1	1	0	£283,500	0.9	9	9.91	4	2		Traffic calming including speed humps/ warning signs	M6 JCT 10 - CONNECTING BENTLEY WORKS	31%
Walker Road	Goscole	258	8.3	120	45	0	n/a	Sep-29	5	0	0	1	1	0	£64,165	2.2	7	9.22	5	21		traffic calming to reduce vehicle speeds and rat running	Alteration made to road markings as part of a surface dressing programme (July 2020)	137%
Valley Road	Blakenhall	1460	7.3	147	0	143	Mrs Moorcroft	Oct-08	6	0	1	0	1	0	£319,740	1.0	8	9.00	6	19		Request for traffic calming due to vehicle speeds		33%
Lucknow Street	Short Heath	613	6.2	105	0	0	Cllr Dan Barker	Feb-13	5	0	1	1	1	0	£114,018	0.9	8	8.92	7	34				77%
Pooles Lane	Willenhall	605	7.3	110	0	0	Cllr Shires	Feb-10	5	0	0	1	1	1	£132,495	0.8	8	8.83	8	17		Speeding vehicles and HGVs ignoring 7.5t limit		66%
Tasker St nr Wednesbury Rd	Palfrey	200	7.5	20	25	0	n/a		6	0	0	1	1	0	£45,000	0.7	8	8.72	9	9				234%
Bridgeman St/ Jerome Business Pk	Palfrey	100	7.3	0	0	0	n/a	Nov-19	6	0	0	0	1	1	£21,900	0.0	8	8.00	10	4				480%
Walsall Wood Road	Aldridge	1985	7.5	406	65	0	Miss Louise Connor	Mar-15	5	0	0	0	1	1	£446,625	1.0	7	7.98	11	12		Traffic calming / safety camera request	Miss Louise Connor	20%
Wimperis Way / Bonnington Way / Romney Way	Phaesey	1280	6.5	202	10	170	Mr Sadler, Councillors: Andrew, Butley,	Nov-02	4	0	1	1	0	1	£249,600	0.8	7	7.83	12	41		Traffic calming to slow motorists avoid Collingwood Road	Needs to be considered with Tyndale Crescent as an affected parallel route (Wimperis Way survey Sept 07 Mean 26.2mph 85th 30.9mph)	28%
Ingram Road	Blakenall	494	7.0	36	306	0	Mr Davis	Nov-17	3	1	1	0	0	0	£103,740	1.8	6	7.82	13	8		Traffic Calming - Local Safety Scheme		51%
Bentley Road North	Bentley	494	7.0	36	306	0	Mr Martin	Jul-17	4	0	1	0	1	0	£103,740	1.8	6	7.82	14	23		Traffic Calming to include warning signs ped. Vass Bend warning.		68%
Pooles Lane	Willenhall	571	6.5	110	150	0	Mr Hough	Jun-20	5	0	0	0	0	1	£111,345	1.7	6	7.66	15	n/a		Traffic calming request		79%
Pooles Lane	Willenhall	571	6.5	110	150	0	Mr Hough	19/06/2020	5	0	0	0	0	1	£111,345	1.7	6	7.66	16	n/a		Traffic calming request		79%
Barns Lane & Westgate	Rushall	3020	6.0	270	115	0	Cllr Worrall	Aug-12	6	0	0	0	1	0	£543,600	0.6	7	7.60	17	24		Request for speed reducing measures and night time HGV ban		19%
Erdington Road	Aldridge	2485	7.2	140	80	0	Mrs Cartwright	Apr-15	4	0	1	1	1	0	£536,760	0.3	7	7.34	18	14		Traffic Calming to reduce perceived speeding		13%
Leamore Lane/ Fryer Rd	Leamore	300	9.3	50	60	0	n/a	Feb-19	2	0	1	1	1	1	£83,700	1.0	6	6.96	19	7		E7		42%
Highfield Road	Pelsall	360	6.0	26	61	0	M Page	Mar-11	3	0	1	1	0	1	£64,800	0.9	6	6.87	20	29		Traffic claming to reduce vehicle speeds		81%
Old Park Road	Kingshill	396	7.3	68	180	0	Mohammed Perager	Aug-13	3	0	0	1	0	1	£86,724	1.8	5	6.82	21	42		Traffic calming to reduce speeds / improve safety for elderly		61%
Mill Road, Pelsall	Pelsall	627	6.0	200	0	0	n/a	Jul-13	2	0	1	1	1	0	£112,860	1.8	5	6.77	22	3		Traffic calming		31%
Franchise Street	Darlaston	840	7.2	195	157	0	Jamal Atfal via Cllr Chambers	Mar-15	4	0	0	0	1	0	£182,280	1.5	5	6.50	23	62		Traffic calming to reduce vehicle speeds following RTC	Cllr Chambers; Previous Request from Mr Holland, Councillor:- S. Madeley	38%
Coppice Farm Way	Willenhall	1390	8.0	1121	0	0	Cllr Shires	Dec-10	2	0	0	0	0	1	£333,600	3.4	3	6.36	24	20		Traffic calming		11%
Bewley Road, (Calstock Rd / Binbrook Rd / Darvel Rd)	Bentley	197	6.0	70	92	0	Cllr Barker	Aug-17	1	0	1	0	0	1	£35,460	3.3	3	6.27	25	53		Traffic Calming - Local Safety Scheme		49%
Greaves Avenue	Park Hall	690	6.9	69	172	0	Cllr Martin	Oct-10	3	0	1	0	0	1	£142,630	1.1	5	6.09	26	74		Request for traffic calming		37%
Parker Street inc Sandhill Street	Blowwich	500	7.4	108	0	0	Nicola Denny 01922 710937	Apr-10	2	0	1	1	1	0	£111,000	1.0	5	5.97	27	27		Parking restrictions / junction imps / traffic calming		32%
Hall Lane, Mouse Hill	Pelsall	500	6.0	50	0	0	Wendy Morton MP	Apr-18	2	0	0	1	1	1	£90,000	0.6	5	5.56	28	25		Bolt down speed cushions or priority give ways		39%
Hollyhedge La - Birchills St	Birchills	300	7.3	50	100	0	n/a	Feb-19	1	0	0	1	1	1	£65,700	1.5	4	5.52	29	32				27%
Somerfield Road	Blowwich	740	11.8	136	0	71	Cllr Jones	Nov-15	3	0	0	1	1	0	£261,960	0.5	5	5.52	30	33		Strict traffic calming measures		20%
Northgate, Mini Rbt, Aldridge upto and including Walton Rd	Aldridge	366	7.0	29	20	0	Cllr Wilson		5	0	0	0	0	0	£76,860	0.5	5	5.51	31	11		Concern regarding mini-roundabout	Cllr Wilson	114%
A4124 Lichfield Road, New Invention	Willenhall	670	6.0	50	0	0	MP Eddie Hughes	Jan-18	3	0	0	1	1	0	£120,600	0.4	5	5.41	32	13		Speed Camera or traffic calming		44%
Green Lane Sheffield	Sheffield	845	6.8	138	80	0	Mrs Cotton/ Mrs Carol Stone Aug 15	May-14	1	0	1	1	1	0	£172,380	1.0	4	5.03	33	56		Modification to traffic calming to reduce vehicle speeds		10%
Walsall Road, Aldridge	Aldridge	1285	6.7	232	62	0	Mr Robert Jones	Dec-08	2	0	1	1	0	0	£259,056	1.0	4	5.02	34	22		Speeding traffic		14%
Ravenscroft Road	Willenhall	371	5.0	117	66	0	MHl Reeves	Apr-10	1	0	0	0	0	1	£55,650	2.7	2	4.70	35	44		Modify existing traffic calming to enforce 20mph speed limit		31%
Slater Street / Victoria Road Bull Street junction	Darlaston	227	7.3	32	0	78	J Walker, Councillor:- Madeley	Apr-05	2	0	1	0	0	1	£49,713	0.6	4	4.64	36	60		Request for mini island		71%
Coppice Road	Walsall Wood	900	6.0	143	264	142	Mrs Hughes	Sep-05	3	0	1	0	0	0	£162,000	0.5	4	4.50	37	18		Traffic calming for Coppice Road due to speeding vehicles		32%
Fleming Road	Walsall	340	5.1	63	24	47	Mr & Mrs Round, Councillors:- Joan Barton	Oct-04	1	0	0	1	0	1	£52,020	1.4	3	4.44	38	48		Closure to stop rat runnign following collisions involving a child		34%
Turnberry Road,	Blowwich	1137	7.3	17	1144	0	Jayne Price	Oct-13	1	0	0	0	1	0	£249,960	2.4	2	4.36	39	50		Modification of traffic calming		7%
St Annes Road	Willenhall	532	7.0	106	80	0	Mr Garbett	Dec-15	2	0	0	0	1	0	£111,619	1.3	3	4.31	40	52		Road widening for visability and safety.		31%
The Crescent, Willenhall	Willenhall	500	9.0	30	20	0	Eddie Hughes MP	Jun-18	3	0	0	0	0	1	£135,000	0.3	4	4.30	41	105		Central hatching, slow markings.		39%
Millfield Avenue	Pelsall	200	7.3	30	50	0	Mr Cartwright	Aug-18	1	0	0	1	0	1	£43,800	1.3	3	4.26	42	67		Priority build-outs, give way		40%
Delves Rd / Highgate Rd/ / Sandwell St	Palfrey	75	9.0	25	0	0	Cllr Coughlan	Nov-17	1	0	0	1	1	0	£20,250	1.2	3	4.23	43	68		Mini roundabout at give-way junction	Request maintenance to add give way triangles to junction	87%
Catshill Road / Fullstove Road	Brownhills	1280	5.1	231	16	132	J Lees, Councillors - Alan Paul, Dave Turner & J. Bird	Dec-02	1	0	0	1	0	1	£195,840	1.2	3	4.22	44	69		Traffic calming		9%
Dovedale Avenue	Short Heath	450	5.2	101	104	0	Mr Adrian Anderson	Apr-10	1	0	0	0	0	1	£70,200	2.2	2	4.18	45	70		Change to existing traffic calming		25%
Mount St/White Street	Caldmore	337	5.4	62	0	0	n/a	Nov-13	2	0	0	0	1	0	£54,015	1.1	3	4.15	46	71		Installation of bollard		65%
Brookland Road	Aldridge	521	5.8	86	35	0	Mrs Donna Partles	Feb-10	2	0	0	0	0	1	£90,654	1.1	3	4.14	47	39		Traffic calming to prevent rat running		39%
Coronation Road	Pelsall	650	6.9	139	22	0	Ms C Brennan	Jun-14	1	0	0	1	1	0	£134,550	1.1	3	4.11	48	72		Speeding vehicles, parking, volume of traffic		13%
Doe Bank Lane/Bridge Lane	Streethy	2500	5.5	29	0	880	Mrs Bullock	Sep-20	1	0	1	1	0	1	£412,500	0.1	4	4.07	49	n/a		Traffic calming request following serious injury		4%
Doe Bank Lane/Bridge Lane	Streethy	2500	5.5	29	0	880	Mrs Bullock	08/09/2020	1	0	1	1	0	1	£412,500	0.1	4	4.07	50	n/a		Traffic calming request following serious injury		4%
Castle Drive	Willenhall	230	4.8	35	0	109	A. Anstool, Councillor:- Shires	Oct-05	1	0	0	1	1	0	£32,775	1.1	3	4.07	51	75		Parking restrictions and junction improvements		53%
B4464 Walsall Rd, Shepwell Green	Bentley	150	8.5	1	0	0	Cllr Coughlan	Sep-17	2	0	1	0	1	0	£38,250	0.0	4	4.03	52	15		Cars ignoring restrictions / temple access		92%
Broadmeadow	Aldridge	534	6.5	55	96																			

Victoria Avenue (Field Road to Blakenall)	Blakenall	500	7.7	80	50	0	0	Mr Blair	Aug-20	1	0	0	0	1	0	£115,500	0.9	2	2.91	84	n/a	concern regarding vehicle speed	15%
Victoria Avenue (Field Road to Blakenall)	Blakenall	500	7.7	80	50	0	0	Mr Blair	11/08/2020	1	0	0	0	1	0	£115,500	0.9	2	2.91	85	n/a	concern regarding vehicle speed	15%
Park Farm Road	Park Farm	495	5.4	125	212	0	0	Laura Kelly	Aug-13	0	0	0	0	0	0	£80,190	2.9	0	2.88	86	87	Traffic calming	0%
Hundred Acre Road	Streety	1000	6.2	160	0	0	0	Wendy Morton MP	Mar-18	1	0	0	1	0	0	£186,000	0.9	2	2.86	87	115	Bolt down speed cushions and 20mph speed limit. VASS signs at Aldridge Road junction	9%
Barr Common Road	Adridge	430	6.0	54	24	0	0	Mr Shingley	Jul-09	1	0	1	0	0	0	£77,400	0.9	2	2.85	88	40	Speeding motorists past Knights Hill and collisions	23%
Straight Road	Willenhall	261	6.9	123	62	0	0	Mrs Athwell	Aug-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	£54,440	2.8	0	2.83	89	58	Traffic calming to reduce vehicle speeds j/w Green Lane	0%
Selmans Hill/Stoney Lane	Blowich East	442	6.9	167	0	0	0	N/A	Dec-13	0	0	0	0	1	0	£91,608	1.8	1	2.82	90	88	Vehicle restraint system	0%
Hannah Road	Darlaston	370	5.0	85	30	0	0	Cltt Bott	Dec-12	1	0	0	0	0	0	£55,500	1.8	1	2.80	91	89	Request for one way working	32%
Stephenson Avenue, Beechdale	Beechdale	500	7.5	60	50	0	0	Mr Williams	Jun-18	2	0	0	0	0	0	£112,500	0.8	2	2.76	92	119	On-street parking bays, off-set centre line, central refuges.	31%
Chantry Ave	Blakenall	830	5.0	185	17	unknown	0	Cltt Young, Pettion	Apr-14	1	0	0	0	0	0	£124,500	1.6	1	2.55	93	31	Traffic calming measures	14%
Lake Avenue	Park Hall	480	6.9	51	7	0	0	Cltt Martin	Oct-10	1	0	0	0	0	1	£99,360	0.5	2	2.55	94	128	Request for traffic calming	18%
Fordbrook Lane/Mill Lane	Pelsall	1000	6.3	100	0	0	0	Richard Harshall	Mar-18	2	0	0	0	0	0	£187,500	0.5	2	2.53	95	10	Speed cushions to reduce speed. Central hatching and anti-skid.	19%
Edinburgh Avenue	Bentley	600	6.6	114	132	n/a	0	Mr G Taylor	Sep-14	1	0	0	0	0	0	£118,800	1.5	1	2.52	96	93	Traffic calming request	15%
Shire Ridge	Aldridge North & Walsall Wood	700	7.0	220	0	0	0	Mr Hodges, Mr R Shephard MP	Sep-09	1	0	0	0	0	0	£147,000	1.5	1	2.50	97	95	Measures to prevent rat running to avoid Salters Road junction	12%
Leighton Road	Darlaston	208	7.0	14	15	0	0	Valerie Vaz MP	Mar-15	0	0	0	0	1	1	£43,680	0.5	2	2.49	98	96	Traffic calming to reduce vehicle speeds on Leighton Road	Mrs and Mr Hall Kendrick Place via Valerie Vaz
Four Crosses Road	Sheffield	221	6.2	17	0	0	0	Miss J O'Brien	May-14	0	0	0	1	0	1	£41,106	0.4	2	2.41	99	98	Request for traffic calming	0%
Station Street	Blowich	163	7.0	66	33	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	£34,230	2.4	0	2.41	100	99	Traffic calming including speed humps/ warning signs	0%
Heathfield Lane West	Darlaston	321	6.1	80	0	0	0	Cltt Bott	Jan-07	1	0	0	0	0	0	£58,743	1.4	1	2.36	101	101	Request for traffic calming	30%
Dumbelderry Lane	Adridge	727	6.0	38	15	0	0	Mrs Dunlederry	Nov-15	1	0	0	0	1	0	£130,860	0.3	2	2.35	102	102		13%
Lichfield Rd, Sandhills	Brownhills	1010	7.3	76	0	0	0	Gareth Pulman	Sep-13	1	0	0	0	0	1	£221,190	0.3	2	2.34	103	37	Cars parking on f/w creating obstruction for pedestrians	more recent complaints about speed (TFP802)
Laurel and Laburnum Road	Delves	318	5.1	16	0	0	0	N/A	Feb-14	0	0	0	1	0	1	£48,654	0.3	2	2.33	104	103	One way working with traffic calming	0%
Milfield Avenue Pelsall	Sheffield	315	5.5	44	48	30	0	Mrs P Cartwright	Jun-14	0	0	0	0	0	1	£51,975	1.3	1	2.31	105	104	T	



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Rev	Date	Detail	Made	Chk'd	App'd
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Project:

Title:

BARNES LANE

Location:

20MPH SPEED LIMIT

Design:

CAD:

Checked:

Approved:

Date: MARCH 21

Scale:



ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORTATION
MAJOR PROJECTS AND MINOR IMPROVEMENTS
CIVIC CENTRE, DARWALL STREET, WALSALL. WS1 1DG

Drg No.

SRR21-02/c

Rev:

Presentation from Black Country Consortium

Areas of Focus 2020/21

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Area of Focus – 2020/21

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

Agenda Items				
Theme	6 October 2020	19 Nov 2020	21 Jan 2021	25 March 2021
Economy		Budget setting Directorate Action Plans	Town Deal Board	Black Country Consortium Presentation.
Environment		Council run events (Bonfires/Fireworks) Cycling in Walsall Update Petition: Road Safety at Doe Bank Lane	Presentation from bus operators in Walsall. Carbon Neutral Council Strategy	
Cross cutting both Economy and Environment	M6 Junction 10 Update. Quarter 1 Financial Outturn 2020/21*	Quarter 2 2020/21	Budget setting A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT Black Country Transport Team Collaboration West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme	Quarter 3 Financial Outturn 2020/21*

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Area of Focus – 2020/21

*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.

Items to be scheduled:

1. Employment, Growth and Skills;
2. District Town Centres Update;
3. M6 Junction 10 Update - *Scheduled for 2021*
4. Carbon Neutral Council – *Scheduled update for 2021*
5. Town Deal Board – *Scheduled update for 2021*
6. The Council's Waste Strategy – In tandem with the Environmental Bill 2020, scheduled for late 2021/early 2022.
7. Road safety action plan – *Delayed until June 2021*



Walsall Council

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

8 March 2020

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 helen.owen@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.

Cabinet responsibilities are as follows

- Leader of the Council – Councillor Bird
- Deputy Leader, Regeneration – Councillor Andrew
- Deputy Leader, Resilient Communities – Councillor Perry
- Adult social care – Councillor Martin
- Children’s – Councillor Wilson
- Clean and green – Councillor Butler
- Education and skills – Councillor Towe
- Health and wellbeing – Councillor Craddock
- Personnel and business support – Councillor Chattha

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 (helen.owen@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 £250,000.
- (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.

Dates of meetings

2020 28 October
9 December

2021 10 February
17 March
21 April

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
APRIL to JULY 2021 (8.3.21)

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
11/21 (8.3.21)	Review of Achievements 2019-20: To receive a review of some of the key achievements during the 2020-21 year in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2021.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Helen Dudson Helen.dudson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Bird, Leader of the Council	21 April 2021
12/21 (8.3.21)	Walsall Future High Street scheme To seek approval of the full business case and funding package for Walsall's Future High Street scheme. <i>Private session report. Contains commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet Key decision	Joel Maybury Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk Valdheer Rajania Valdheer.rajania@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	21 April 2021
13/21 (8.3.21)	Restart Scheme: To note an overview of the new government Restart scheme and accept a sub-contract with the approved DWP Tier 1 Prime Provider for the Central West region.	Cabinet Key decision	Jane Kaur-Gill Jane.kaur-gill@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	21 April 2021
14/21 (8.3.21)	Willenhall Masterplan: Strategic Land Acquisitions – in principle approval for the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers.	Cabinet Key decision	Willenhall Masterplan: Strategic Land Acquisitions. (Private Report)	Internal services	Councillor Andrew	21 April 2021

	<i>Private session report. Contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person</i>		Contact: Kauser Agha Kauser.agma@walsall.gov.uk			
9/21 (2.1.21)	Adult Social Care Call Electronic Call Monitoring System: Approval of the extension to the Electronic Call Monitoring Contract for an additional year and delegate authority to make any variations as a result of statutory requirements	Cabinet Non-key decision	Hardeep Kainth 01922 658387 Hardeep.kainth@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services	Councillor Martin	21 April 2021
15/21 (8.3.21)	Shared Lives Model - Permission to consult on a proposed new standardised scheme of payments to carers who support adults and young people in the carers own family home	Cabinet Key decision	Jeanette Knapper/Kirpal Bilkhu/Nigel Imber Kirpal.bilkhu@walsall.gov.uk	Shared Lives Carers, Shared Lives Service Users and families, internal services.	Councillor Martin	21 April 2021
16/21 (8.3.21)	Direct Payment Support Service: award of contracts: To delegate Authority to the Director of Adult Social Care to award contracts for the provision Direct Payment Support Services for a period of three years, with the option to extend on an annual basis for a further period of up to two years; and to agree a contract modification with existing DPSS providers for the period 6.10.21 up to 31.03.22 to allow for transition between new and outgoing providers; should this be necessary.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Tracy Simcox Tracy.simcox@walsall.gov.uk Roberto Lusuardi Roberto.lusuardi@walsall.gov.uk	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Councillor Martin	21 April 2021
17/21 (8.3.21)	Maintenance Contracts – Award of contracts for General Building repairs and	Cabinet	Ian Lister ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Chattha	21 April 2021

	Fire Safety maintenance to commence from 1 st June 2021. 3 + 1 + 1 contracts	Key decision				
18/21 (8.3.21)	Youth Justice Plan: To agree the plan and refer to Council to approve.	Cabinet Council	Phil Rutherford Philip.rutherford@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Wilson	21 April 2021
19/21 (8.3.21)	School Improvement and Moderation Service : Delegate authority to Award of contract for the provision of School Improvement and Moderation Service from 01 September 2021 to 31 August 2023 with option to extend any part up to 3 years to 31 August 2026	Cabinet Key decision	Trudy Pyatt, Head of Inclusion Trudy.pyatt@walsall.gov.uk David DeMay, Children's Commissioner david.demay@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services Inclusion Centre, Alternative Provision providers	Cllr Towe	21 April 2021
20/21 (8.3.21)	Provision of Alternative Education: Delegate authority to award of contracts for the provision of Alternative Education from 01 August 2021 to 31 July 2025 with option to extend any part up to 2 years to 31 July 2027	Cabinet Non-Key decision	Alternative Provision Framework Contract Extension Cabinet Report on 15 July 2020 Trudy Pyatt Head of Inclusion Trudy.pyatt@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Council colleagues, Inclusion Centre, Alternative Provision providers	Cllr Towe	21 April 2021
21/21 (8.3.21)	Pre-Audit Outturn 2020/21: To inform Cabinet of the pre-audit revenue and capital financial outturn position for 2020/21 after revenue and capital carry forwards into 2021/22 and financial and treasury indicators for 2020/21.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services	Leader of the Council	June 2021

43/18 (8.10.18)	Lighting Invest to Save: To consider proposals for a major investment in the highway lighting infrastructure by replacing all existing lighting with energy efficient LED lighting	Cabinet Key decision	Paul Leighton 07831 120871 Paul.leighton@walsall.gov.uk	Public, Walsall Public Lighting Ltd, industry companies, internal services.	Portfolio holder for Regeneration	June 2021
22/21 (8.3.21)	Walsall Council Housing Allocations Policy: To update the policy which sets the principles for the allocation of affordable housing	Cabinet Key decision	Neil Hollyhead 07943 500394 Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk	Public, Housing Associations, Internal Services	Portfolio holder for Regeneration	June 2021
23/21 (8.3.21)	Corporate Financial Performance 2021/22, Covid-19 update and Budget Framework 2022/23 to 2024/25: To report the financial position based on 2 months to May 2021, impact of Covid-19, and the budget framework for 2022/23 to 2024/25.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services	Leader of the Council	July 2021
24/21 (8.3.21)	Phoenix 10 Project To seek authority for the award of a contract for Environmental Impairment Liability Insurance to support delivery of the project. <i>Private Session report: Contains commercially sensitive information</i>	Cabinet Key decision	Joel Maybury Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services	Portfolio holder for Regeneration	July 2021

WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN: JUNE 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2021

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Commonwealth Games Transport Plan	To approve a draft plan for consultation purposes.	11 June 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
Annual Plan 2021/22 Approval	To approve the 2021/22 WMCA Annual Plan.	23 July 2021	Yes	n/a	Deborah Cadman	No	Governance
Appointment of Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee Independent Member	To appoint a new independent member to chair ARAC.	23 July 2021	Yes	n/a	Tim Martin	No	Governance
West Midlands Rail/Department for Transport Collaboration Agreement	To seek approval to enter into a new collaboration agreement.	23 July 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport



Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Local Transport Plan Consultation Approval	To approve the draft local transport plan proposals for consultation.	17 September 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
Published up to July 2021 (for publication 01/03/2021)

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
04/01/2021	Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – National Innovation Centre	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – National Innovation Centre project with delivery to commence in the 2021/22 financial year.	Papers TBC – Helen Martin Helen.Martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	31/03/2021
04/01/2021	Getting Building Fund – Capital and Revenue Funding Approval	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to use the revenue funding and capital contingency funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walsall Council to carry out its role as Accountable Body to the Getting Building Fund programme, and Walsall Council to cover the costs of the external legal and technical fees in support of managing the programme. Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Black Country Consortium for the Management and Administration functions of the Getting Building Fund. Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to proceed to re-profile the Getting Building Fund (GBF) projects Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Innovation Centre (Dudley Council), and the National Brownfield Institute Phase 2 - Construction and Delivery (University of Wolverhampton). 	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	31/03/2021

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
Published up to July 2021 (for publication 01/03/2021)

Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
04/01/2021	Land & Property Investment Fund – Programme Extension	Approval for the Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund programme (LPIF), be re-profiled to allow expenditure and outputs to be claimed up to March 2025. Approval for the programme management costs, within this fund be reprofiled to March 2026, to ensure that the expenditure and outputs are audited in line with the Black Country Assurance Framework.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	31/03/2021
08/02/2021	Wolverhampton Canalside – Change Request	Approval for Sandwell Council to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the Growing Places Fund (GPF) funded elements of the Wolverhampton Canalside project with delivery to conclude in the 2021/22 financial year.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk	Wolverhampton City Council	31/03/2021
05/10/2020	Dudley Advanced Construction Centre – Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley College, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Dudley Advanced Construction Centre project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.	Papers TBC – Helen Martin Helen.Martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	28/04/2021
07/09/2020	Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills – Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk	Wolverhampton City Council	28/04/2021
08/02/2021	Hub to Home Transport Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley Council to deliver the Local Growth Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hub to Home Transport	Papers TBC – Helen Martin Helen.Martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	28/04/2021

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
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Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
	and Autonomous Technologies – Test Track 1 Project Change Request	Innovation Centre and Test Track Project: Very Light Rail and Autonomous Technologies – Test Track 1 project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.			
04/01/2021	Black Country LEP Assurance Framework	Approval of the revised Black Country LEP Assurance Framework, following the implementation requirements of the new Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance arrangements, and the programme of continuous improvement to further enhance the BC LEP governance and transparency above and beyond published government standards, included as Attachment 1 to this report.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	28/04/2021
01/03/2021	Bilston Urban Village Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Bilston Urban Village project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk	Wolverhampton City Council	28/04/2021
01/03/2021	Goscote Lane Corridor Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Walsall Housing Group Limited, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Goscote Lane Corridor project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	28/04/2021
01/03/2021	Transport Major Road Network (MRN) Development	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth Transport	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk	Wolverhampton City Council	28/04/2021

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
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Date first entered into the plan	Project Name	Key Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside of the Council)	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Date Item to be considered
	Change Request	Major Road Network (MRN) Development project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.			
01/03/2021	Growth Hub – Peer Networks Programme	Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) to enter into a grant agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd to deliver the Growth Hub Peer Networks Programme for 2021/22.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	28/04/2021
01/03/2021	Growth Hub Grant Funding Agreement Approval 2021/22	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Black Country Growth Hub (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement, with the Black Country Consortium Ltd, to deliver the Black Country Growth Hub Funding for 2021/22.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	28/04/2021
01/03/2021	Parallel 9/10 PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)	Approval for Walsall Council to enter into a Grant Agreement with Cayborn Limited to deliver the Black Country Enterprise Zone (BCEZ) funded elements for the Parallel 9/10 project, with delivery to commence in the 2021/22 financial year. Approval that business rates from the wider BC EZ can be utilised by Walsall Council to repay borrowing costs, with Parallel 9/10 being confirmed as the next priority project in respect of the allocation of business rates, after Categories 1 – 6 as set out in the BCJC Collaboration Agreement.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	28/04/2021

**Date of next meeting
to be agreed at
Annual Council**