



Walsall Council

Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on: **19 November 2020 AT 6.00PM**

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

Public access to meeting via: <https://youtu.be/YjVG58QB7B4>

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 6 October 2020.	<u>Enclosed</u>
ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY		
6.	Petition: Road Safety at Doe Bank Lane A petition containing in excess of 500 signatures was presented to Cabinet on 9 September 2020 which calls for the installation of road safety measures on Doe Bank Lane, Pheasey.	<u>Report</u>
7.	Draft Revenue Budget 2021/22 – 2023/24 and in-year Position 2020/21 To enable consultation of the draft budget proposals for services within the remit of this Committee.	<u>Report</u>
8.	Corporate Financial Performance – Quarter 2 Period 5 (August 2020) Financial Monitoring Position for 2020/21 To provide the budget monitoring position for Quarter 2 Period 5 2020/21.	<u>Report</u>
9.	Council Firework and Bonfire Displays To provide a detailed evaluation of Walsall Council Bonfire and Firework Events 2019	<u>Report</u>
10.	Cycling in Walsall Update To provide the Committee with an update of the National Cycling Network 5 Better Streets Project.	<u>Report</u>

ITEMS FOR OVERVIEW

11.	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>
12.	Date of next meeting To note the next scheduled meeting due to take place on 21 January 2020.	

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
6 October 2020**

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 October 2020 at 6.00pm held virtually via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members

Present:

Councillor L. Harrison (Chair)
Councillor A. Hicken (Vice-Chair)
Councillor M. Follow
Councillor S. Johal
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor I. Shires
Councillor M. Ward

Portfolio Holders

Present:

Councillor A. Andrew Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor O. Butler Clean and Green

Officers Present:

Neil Taylor Interim Director of Regeneration & Economy
Matt Crowton Transportation Major Projects & Strategy Manager
Matt Powis Democratic Services Officer

Other Attendees

Present:

David Reed Highways England
James Keogh John SISK and Sons Ltd

01/20 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Simon Neilson, Executive Director of Economy and Environment and Councillor Perry, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities.

02/20 Substitution

There were no substitutions.

03/20 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whips.

04/20 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to consider in private session.

05/20 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

In reference to Minute No. 50/19 SPRINT – A34 Walsall to Birmingham Presentation ‘existing X57 buses’ be amended to ‘existing X51 buses’.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2020, as amended, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

06/20 **M6 Junction 10 Update**

Following an initial presentation about upgrade works on M6 Junction 10 at the Committee meeting held on 20 February 2020. The Committee received a progress update from David Reed, Project Manager at Highways England and James Keogh, Senior Project Manager at SISK.

The Committee received updated aerial shots of the upgrade works which was progressing on schedule and due to be completed before the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022.

Due to the pandemic, SISK had carried out necessary risk assessments to minimise and mitigate risk associated with COVID-19 with all employees attending the site and other office staff. SISK and Highways England continue to work with the Council and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) to promote alternative modes of transportation and encourage people to work from home if possible.

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

- SISK was on target to complete the upgrade works without any disturbance to existing traffic flows.
- A Member sought clarification on potential future disruption around Junction 10 and how this would be communicated to local residents and businesses. In response, the James Keogh confirmed that a stakeholder manager had been assigned to the project to oversee engagement with the public, surrounding neighbourhoods and partners. In addition, SISK carries out regular meetings with the Council, Highways England and TfWM to ensure minimal impact and disruption in the area.
- The Vice-Chair sought clarification on how the project would reduce local air pollution and improve local green space. In response, James Keogh confirmed that landscaping in the area was being carried to minimise the impact of the local biodiversity and replace trees like-for-like. In regard to air pollution, added traffic capacity would allow vehicles to flow easier across the junction and reduce incidences of congested traffic.
- A Member sought clarification regarding noise pollution in the area due to ongoing works. In response, it was noted that pile driving and rotary pile

works were only being carried out during the daytime. However, most of this work had already concluded.

- The Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green highlighted that there were ongoing discussions regarding speed reductions across the motorway network to assist in the reduction of pollution.
- The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration highlighted that the upgrade works were essential and would bring long-term economic for the Borough.

The Committee thanked David Reed, Highways England and James Keogh, SISK for their attendance.

Resolved:

- 1. That, the presentation be noted.**

07/20 Economy and Environment Financial Performance - Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Position for 2020/21

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

This position highlighted a revenue overspend of £802,000 as a result of delayed savings, unachieved income and necessary spending increases across the directorate. However, a result of mitigating actions this figure had reduced to an overspend of £562,000.

It was noted that forecast use of reserves were £9.362m including a one-off expenditure of £5.784m relating directly to implications of COVID-19 restrictions.

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

- A Member sought clarification on how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted action plans within the Council's directorates. Interim Director of Regeneration & Economy confirmed that the Council's Budget report was scheduled for the next meeting of the Committee on 19 November 2020 which would connect both the budget and action plans in relation to Economy and Environment.
- A Member suggested that the Committee schedule a standing item on each Committee agenda to track the recovery of the budget.
- The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration highlighted that the Council was awaiting a further funding announcement from Government regarding COVID-19 funding shortfalls. However, the Government had announced the Towns Fund and High Street Fund which would be beneficial for the economic recovery of the Borough.
- The Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green highlighted that due to pandemic, the Council had seen an increase of online shopping which had thus increased amount of household waste being produced. In addition, it was

noted that due to a number of businesses that were forced to close, there had been a reduction in the Council's income from business waste permits causing further financial pressures.

Resolved:

- 1. That the forecast 2020/21 year end financial position be noted.**

08/20 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.

Members debated and suggested the following items to be considered at a future meeting of the Committee:

1. A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT
2. Black Country Transport Team Collaboration
3. West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme
4. Presentation from bus operators in Walsall
5. Carbon Neutral Council – Update on proposals
6. Town Deals Boards

Resolved:

- 1. That, areas of focus 2020/21 and forward plans be noted.**
- 2. That, the following items be considered at a future meeting of the Committee:**
 - a. A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT**
 - b. Black Country Transport Team Collaboration**
 - c. West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme**
 - d. Presentation from bus operators in Walsall**
 - e. Carbon Neutral Council – Update on proposals**
 - f. Town Deals Boards**

09/20 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 19 November 2020.

Termination of Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated 7.16p.m.

Signed:
Date:

Petition: Road Safety at Doe Bank Lane

19 November 2020

Response to the Petition: “Improve road safety on Doe Bank Lane”

Ward(s): Pheasey Park Farm

Portfolios: Councillor Andrew – Deputy Leader of the Council and Regeneration

1. Aim

- 1.1 A petition was submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on the 9 September 2020. The petition, containing approximately 880 signatures, calls on Walsall Council to install road safety measures on Doe Bank Lane, Pheasey.
- 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, Assistant 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) Additional repeater signage is installed throughout the length of Doe Bank Lane and Bridle Lane to reinforce both the 20mph speed limit and the adjoining 30mph speed limit as part of the 2020/21 minor highway works programme.
 - b) The need for further engineering works on Doe Bank Lane be considered as part of the annual borough wide road safety review.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 Doe Bank Lane is a local distributor road that runs from Bridle Lane to Queslett Road and is approximately 0.8 miles [1.3km] in length. There are 68 properties at the south eastern end of the road, located between the junction with Queslett Road and Doe Bank Wood and a 20mph speed limit extends for the length of this residential section. A 30 mph speed limit is in place from Doe Bank Woods to the junction with Bridle Lane. Footway provision extends from the junction with Queslett road to the entrance of Doe Bank Park on the southern side of the road.
- 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;
- 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) .

Response to Road Safety Concerns

- 3.4 The Council receive a high volume of requests for traffic and road safety schemes; these can range from 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 Schemes that have a lower number of injury collisions are transferred to the Community Health & 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.
- 3.7 The Doe Bank Lane request has been combined with Bridle Lane and the area wide request has been included on a list of new request held under PCHS programme. These scheme will be assessed in the next road safety review which is expected to be undertaken in early 2021.

3.8 Speed data from 2019 indicates an average speed of 26mph inside the 20mph speed limit suggesting that the lower speed limit needs to be better understood by drivers. Therefore, in light of local concern, the Council propose to install additional repeater signage throughout the length of Doe Bank Lane and Bridle Lane to reinforce both the 20mph speed limit and the adjoining 30mph speed limit. This work is scheduled for completion by the end of March 2021 as part of the Council's minor works programme. The need for further engineering works will be considered as part of the annual borough wide road safety review.

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 Doe Bank Lane and Bridle Lane will be implemented by 31st March 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 Doe Bank Lane and Bridle Lane area will allow a period of consultation and comment on the details of the scheme before implementation.

Author

Kathryn Moreton

Head of Highways & Transport

☎ 658013

✉ Kathryn.moreton@walsall.gov.uk

**Draft Revenue
Budget 2021/22 –
2023/24 and in-year
Position 2020/21**

**Economy and Environment
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

19 NOVEMBER 2020

Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr A Andrew – Deputy Leader, Regeneration
Cllr O Butler – Clean and Green
Cllr G Perry – Deputy Leader, Resilient Communities

Executive Summary:

The draft revenue budget, as reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020, includes the latest medium term financial outlook for the four year period from 2020/21 to 2023/24. It provides an updated in year position, medium term financial outlook and first draft revenue budget for 2021/22 to 2023/24, including savings proposals for consultation, and sets out the process and timescales for setting a legally balanced budget for 2021/22.

Our MTFO has been updated for all known pressures, including assumptions around the ongoing impact of Covid-19, resulting in an adjusted financial gap of £33.66m in 2021/22. The Council is legally obliged to set a one year balanced budget (2021/22), however a medium term approach is beneficial to allow for sound financial planning and to support future financial stability. Whilst there is a significant number of savings proposals for 2021/22 and 2022/23, further options are being identified to allow for a balanced budget for 2021/22. The remaining gap reported to Cabinet on 28 October 2020 report, subject to all the policy and operational proposals within the report going on to be included in the final budget in February 2021, is £12.32m for 2021/22. A further round of proposals will therefore be presented to Cabinet on 9 December 2020.

A one year Spending Round for 2021/22 is expected later this year followed by a one year provisional local government settlement for 2021/22 around December 2020. This makes planning for future years very difficult, as funding is extremely uncertain for 2021/22 and beyond. Our current funding and cost assumptions are set out in the report to Cabinet on 28 October 2020, however they are subject to change. It should also be noted that the Chancellor cancelled the Autumn budget for 2020, which also suggests they are focusing on shorter term planning at this time. Any variation to current predictions will be addressed in the next available report to Cabinet following receipt.

This report provides an extract of the Proud draft savings proposals and investments / cost pressures 2021/22 – 2023/24 by Proud Outcomes which fall within the remit of the Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Feedback from this Committee on the draft proposals will be reported back to Cabinet on 9 December 2020. This will inform the final draft budget to be considered by Cabinet on 10 February 2021 to be recommended to Council on 25 February 2021.

Any changes to Cabinet's December draft revenue budget proposals as a result of equality impact assessments and consultation will be fed into the final budget report.

Reason for scrutiny:

To enable consultation of the draft budget proposals for services within the remit of this Committee. A formal response for policy options is required to be reported back to Cabinet on 9 December 2020. Comments on the operational proposals are also welcomed but not essential, as they are able to be delivered under delegations.

Recommendations:

That:

1. The Committee are recommended to consider the draft revenue budget proposals attached that relate to the remit of this committee and formally report to Cabinet on the policy proposals shown in **Appendix 1**.
2. The Committee are asked to note that consultation will be undertaken on all new 2021/22 policy proposals shown in **Appendix 1**, and that feedback will be presented to Cabinet on 9 December 2020.
3. Note that further savings proposals will be presented to Cabinet on 9 December 2020 in order for a balanced budget to be delivered by February 2021. These will be reported to a future meeting of this scrutiny committee for consultation.

Background papers:

Various financial working papers.

Resource and legal considerations:

Cabinet on 28 October 2020 were presented with a list of draft Proud revenue savings proposals for consultation and a list of growth items by Proud outcomes.

The full Cabinet report can be accessed at the following link:

[Cabinet 28.10.2020 - Draft Revenue Budget 2020/21 – 2023/24](#)

Savings proposals

The Walsall Proud Programme (WPP) is the Council's transformation programme to transform the way the Council works; Achieve Improved Outcomes and Customer Experience; Improve Staff Satisfaction and Engagement; and Improve Service Efficiency and Performance. WPP is expected to deliver the required savings for 2021/22 and beyond – the extent of savings being dependent on the pace of change and the level of ambition.

Throughout the Covid-19 period, work continued on the Programme where possible. It was also possible to identify examples of changes in working practices having taken place in response to Covid-19, which were in line with the aspirations of the Proud Programme, including introducing new ways of working, making the best use of technology, challenging existing processes and procedures, working in partnership and demonstrating the best of what our teams can achieve.

Gradually over the last 2 months, activity within the Programme has restarted. This includes preparing for employee consultations; completing outstanding design work within the Enabling Support Services; continuing with procurement activities within the Enabling Technology work stream; commencing work on the Council's Estate Strategy and providing Connected Working tools and techniques to support teams. In parallel and complementary to the Resilient Communities Service Transformation Plan (STP), as discussed below, public consultation has begun on the Resilient Communities proposals, in conjunction with the residents survey, and engagement activities have commenced with partners.

As part of the RESET process, the Council identified an opportunity to bring together the work of the Proud Programme and the work taking place in each directorate in response to Covid-19 and RESET. As part of the Outcomes, Service Levels and Delivery Models work stream, the Proud Programme has worked with services to establish a desired direction of travel for service delivery. Drawing on good practice and applying Walsall context, a number of common themes have been identified which will support the future delivery of Council services:

- Using effective marketing and communications to change behaviour.
- Using local assets and empowering communities to deliver outcomes.
- Partnering in an effective way where a Council-only response is not enough.
- Providing one, clear, unified offer for Council-only delivered services

These themes will help transformation planning for the Council as a whole, in order to best deliver the Corporate Plan priorities and outcomes. In line with this, the Proud Programme has been supporting Directors to develop three-year Service Transformation Plans (STPs) to deliver both financial and non-financial benefits.

The outcome of the Proud STP process has identified £37.63m of potential financial benefits which are classified into two categories:

1. Policy Proposals - which require an Executive decision to proceed, and which will be referred for public consultation and equality impact assessment prior to any decision being made to include these in Cabinet's final budget proposals. These total £1.6m over the two years. Policy proposals relating to the remit of this committee are shown at **Appendix 1**, and total c£0.46m over the two years.
2. Operational Proposals – savings which officers have delegations to implement; examples include restructures, back office savings and operational efficiencies. These total £36m over the two years. Operational proposals relating to the remit of this committee are shown at **Appendix 2**, and total c£2.3m over the two years.

Investment / cost pressures

Following a review of the MTFO / impact of Covid-19 a number of investment / cost pressures have been identified and included in the draft budget proposals totalling c£47.5m over the period 2021/22 to 2023/24. Those relating to the remit of this Committee are shown at **Appendix 3** and total c£1.9m over 3 years.

Some of the savings proposals also require investment to be support delivery, these total £3.17m and will only proceed if the saving proposals is included within Cabinet's final budget report in February, once consultation and equality impact assessment on proposals has concluded.

Contact Officers:

Simon Neilson - Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Communities,
☎ 01922 652004, ✉ simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk

Vicky Buckley – Interim Director of Finance, Corporate Performance Management and Corporate Landlord, ☎ 07983 604698, ✉ Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk

Summary of Policy Proposals by Outcome 2021/22 – 2022/23 Relating to the remit of this Committee

Portfolio	Ref No	Detail of Policy Proposals	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Total £
Outcome - People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities					
Deputy Leader & Regeneration	P6	Re-profile the highway maintenance mainstream budget for 2021/22	(300,000)	300,000	0
	P7	Increased capitalisation of staff costs	(46,000)	0	(46,000)
	P8	Increased capitalisation of highway works	(300,000)	0	(300,000)
	P9	Charge developers for travel plans	0	(30,000)	(30,000)
Total Outcome - People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities			(646,000)	270,000	(376,000)
Outcome - People live a good quality of life and feel they belong					
Deputy Leader & Resilient Communities	P13	Consider ceasing pest and animal control service	(87,606)	0	(87,606)
	P14	Bereavement services – the sale of keepsake memorials and a range of personal memorabilia	(1,000)	0	(1,000)
Total Outcome - People live a good quality of life and feel they belong			(88,606)	0	(88,606)
Total Policy Proposals relating to the remit of this Committee			(734,606)	270,000	(464,606)

APPENDIX 2

Summary of Operational Proposals by Outcome 2021/22 – 2022/23 Relating to the remit of this Committee

Portfolio	Ref No	Detail of Operational Proposals by Outcome	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Total £
Outcome - Creating an environment where business invests and everyone who wants a job can access one					
Deputy Leader & Regeneration	OP19	Increase in fee paying services planning development and building control	(37,000)	0	(37,000)
	OP20	Restructure within planning development and strategic planning	(135,000)	0	(135,000)
	OP21	Capitalisation of posts - maximise external funding	(120,000)	(25,000)	(145,000)
	OP22	Efficiencies arising from the review and consolidation of admin & business support functions into a single hub (EE&C directorate support)	(125,611)	0	(125,611)
	OP23	Efficiencies arising from the creation of an integrated customer contact centre	(80,441)	0	(80,441)
Total Outcome - Creating an environment where business invests and everyone who wants a job can access one			(498,052)	(25,000)	(523,052)
Outcome - Internal Services deliver quality and adapt to meet the needs of customer facing services					
Deputy Leader & Regeneration	OP30	Removal of expenses and training budgets - regeneration	(8,981)	0	(8,981)
Total Outcome - Internal Services deliver quality and adapt to meet the needs of customer facing services			(8,981)	0	(8,981)
Outcome - People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities					
Clean & Green	OP61	Increasing the number of fixed penalty notices issued	(50,000)	0	(50,000)
	OP62	Abandonment of current 'silo' roles within waste service	0	(363,682)	(363,682)
	OP63	Increase MOT charges	(19,975)	0	(19,975)
	OP64	Events income generation	(10,000)	0	(10,000)
	OP65	Management restructure	0	(320,000)	(320,000)
	OP66	Covid-19 reset of the street cleansing service	0	(49,320)	(49,320)
	OP67	Private sector or sponsorship funding of Christmas lights	(5,000)	0	(5,000)

	OP68	Efficiencies arising from the creation of an integrated customer contact centre	(1,739)	0	(1,739)
Portfolio	Ref No	Detail of Operational Proposals by Outcome	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	Total £
Deputy Leader & Regeneration	OP69	Transfer of all non-technical contact with customers to the customer contact centre - Planning, Engineering & Transport	(9,630)	0	(9,630)
	OP70	Review of permit scheme charges within statutory cap - permit costs to utilities companies for works on highways	(40,000)	0	(40,000)
	OP71	Section 38 fees increase	(45,806)	0	(45,806)
	OP73	Efficiency savings within the libraries service	(60,000)	0	(60,000)
	OP74	Heritage and culture / Arts and events - increase fees and charges	(9,351)	(9,351)	(18,702)
Total Outcome - People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities			(251,501)	(742,353)	(993,854)
Outcome - People know what makes them healthy and they are encouraged to get support when they need it					
Deputy Leader & Resilient Communities	OP78	Cost effective procurement of new fitness equipment	0	(34,646)	(34,646)
	OP79	Bloxwich Active Living Centre landing development	0	(80,820)	(80,820)
	OP80	Management restructure across Active Living Centres	(28,762)	0	(28,762)
	OP81	Concessionary "Move It" leisure scheme annual fee increase	(63,000)	0	(63,000)
	OP82	Increase membership retention by utilising new customer experience centre provision	(45,000)	0	(45,000)
Total Outcome - People know what makes them healthy and they are encouraged to get support when they need it			(136,762)	(115,466)	(252,228)
Outcome - People live a good quality of life and feel they belong					
	OP102	Restructure and efficiencies within regulatory services and community protection	(295,563)	0	(295,563)
	OP103	Review of existing fees and charges within resilient communities	(115,522)	(44,315)	(159,837)
	OP104	Provide pre license surgeries to individuals and businesses to support license applications	(7,350)	(7,350)	(14,700)
	OP106	Charging for change of name deeds (registrars)	0	(10,890)	(10,890)
Total Outcome - People live a good quality of life and feel they belong			(418,435)	(62,555)	(480,990)
Total Operational Proposals relating to the remit of this Committee			(1,313,731)	(945,374)	(2,259,105)

APPENDIX 3

Summary of Investments / Cost Pressures 2021/22 – 2023/24 included within the MTFO by Outcome relating to the remit of this Committee

Portfolio	Ref No	Details of Growth by outcome	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
People live a good quality of life and feel they belong					
Deputy Leader & Resilient Communities	5	Unfunded Head of Service posts	523,000	0	0
	6	Taxi licensing – shortfall in income	52,000	0	0
	7	Licensing – shortfall in income	51,000	0	0
	8	Bereavement Services – shortfall in income	114,000	0	0
Total People live a good quality of life and feel they belong			740,000	0	0
People know what makes them healthy and are encouraged to get support when they need it					
Deputy Leader & Resilient Communities	9	Active Living - shortfall in income	188,155	0	0
Total People know what makes them healthy and are encouraged to get support when they need it			188,155	0	0
People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities					
Clean & Green	20	Economy and Environment contractual inflation	339,000	240,000	240,000
	21	Fall out of leasing recharge for extended vehicles	35,019	0	0
Deputy Leader & Resilient Communities	22	Unauthorised encampment works	100,000	0	0
Deputy Leader & Regeneration	23	Engineering / rights of way – shortfall in income	10,000	0	0
	24	Emergency Planning – shortfall in income	30,000	0	0
Total People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities			514,019	240,000	240,000
Total Growth relating to the remit of this Committee			1,442,174	240,000	240,000

Corporate Financial
Performance –
Quarter 2 Period 5
(August 2020)
Financial Monitoring
Position for 2020/21

19 NOVEMBER 2020

**CORPORATE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – (Period 5 – August 2020)
FINANCIAL MONITORING POSITION FOR 2020/21**

Ward(s):

Portfolios:

Councillor Adrian Andrew – Deputy Leader of the Council Regeneration

Councillor Perry – Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities

Councillor Butler – Clean and Green

1. Aim

To provide the budget monitoring position for period 5 2020/21.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the revenue and capital forecast for the financial year end 20/21 for the services under the remit of the committee

2.2 To note the actions being taken to address the overspend

3. Report detail – know

3.1 The current net revenue forecast position, after the net use of reserves and prior to any mitigating action, would be an over spend of £0.845m, which results from delayed delivery of savings, unachieved income and over areas of spend increases as a result of demand. After mitigating actions of (£0.240m) the forecast position is an over spend of £0.645m. Forecast net use of reserves total £8.899m including a one-off £6.659m relating directly to implications of COVID-19 restrictions.

3.2 Reasons for current overspend are:

(£0.100m) relating to underspends on employee and supplies and services budgets in Clean and green Services (allowances (£0.050m), fuel (£0.050m) and tyre costs (£0.030m) and agency costs due cancellation of the splashpads (£0.030m)) offset by £0.059m overspends on agency staff in waste and grounds.

£0.375m – Ongoing pressure due to non-achievement of planning income (non covid related).

£0.541m –the impact on the current Head of Service budgets being used to support the senior management redesign and the costs of the 2 interim directors and the interim Head of Planning

£0.030m – Relating to ongoing prior year pressures due to the cessation of shared emergency planning service with Sandwell MBC

(£0.191m) – overachievement of income in Bereavement Services, offset in part by unachievable saving £0.010m

£0.182m - under achievement of active living income due to previous year's ongoing pressure £0.082m and the additional £0.100m identified maintenance costs

(£0.060m) – staffing vacancies in Arts & Events and Community Protection divisions

(£0.130m) - Ongoing pressure from part non-achievement of prior years' libraries saving - £0.028m, offset by vacant posts being held in service (£0.098m) and the underspend from the book fund (£0.060m)

3.3 Forecast Revenue outturn by service:

Table 1 – Forecast Revenue Outturn 2020/21					
Service	Annual Budget	Net Forecast	Planned Net Use of Reserves	Action Plan	Variance after Action Plan
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Clean and Green Services	18.793	20.890	(2.195)	0.000	(0.097)
Economy Environment & Communities Management	0.422	0.605	0	0.000	0.184
Leisure Culture & Operations	2.432	5.186	(2.596)	(0.240)	(0.083)
Planning, Engineering & Transportation	8.851	11.428	(2.108)	0.000	0.469
Programme Management	1.656	2.135	(0.427)	0.000	0.051
Resilient Communities – Regulatory Services	1.986	3.240	(1.238)	0.000	0.016
Regeneration & Development	1.33	1.770	(0.335)	0.000	0.105
Total Economy, Environment & Communities	35.470	45.254	(8.899)	(0.240)	0.645

A number of directorate meetings have taken place to discuss the overspend and mitigation actions that can be taken to bring to overspend down for the remit of this committee. A number of options have been identified and agreed for the value of £442k and this will be reflected in the next Scrutiny report. Options were use of grant funding, stop on non-essential spend and reduction in agency staff. Further work is continuing to look at mitigating the remaining overspend.

At the previous meeting of the Committee, Members considered the Quarter 1 Financial Report which covered services relating to Economy and Environment. Within this report, Resilient Communities was highlighted to be within the remit of the Economy and Environment OSC. However, due to operational changes within Directorates across the Council, Resilient Communities resides within the Scrutiny Overview Committee portfolio.

3.4 Reserves

The total allocated earmarked reserves for Economy and Environment Scrutiny in 2020/21 are £35.268m, and £8.899m (25.23%) has been used or committed.

The table below details the current net use of reserves used within the service.

Reserve Details	Allocated reserve	Use of reserve	Transfer to reserve	Balance of reserve
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Clean and Green Services	3.488	(2.195)	0.000	1.293
Economy & Environment Management	0.013	0.000	0.000	0.013
Leisure, Culture & Operations	3.486	(2.596)	0.000	0.890
Planning, Engineering & Transportation	23.182	(2.108)	0.000	21.074
Programme Management	1.569	(0.111)	0.000	1.458
Regeneration & Development	2.209	(0.651)	0.000	1.557
Resilient Communities	1.321	(1.238)	0.000	0.083
Total Reserves	35.268	(8.899)	0.000	26.368

3.4 Savings 2020/21

Economy and Environment committee remit has approved total savings for 2020/21 of £2.282m which were agreed as part of the 2020/21 budget process. To date 7% has been achieved, 6% should be achieved by 31.03.2021 and 87% is unachievable and has been mitigated in the main by use of the street lighting and COVID reserves.

Savings that are not forecast to be achieved in year (red), are included in the current forecast position and service managers are required to identify alternative options to mitigate these.

BRAG Status	Amount (£m)	% of Total Savings	Comment
High risk of non-delivery	1.990	87	Includes £0.450m relating to SL PFI unachieved savings bfwd from 2019/20 funded by the SL reserve and a one-off £1.541m funded from COVID reserve
Low risk of non-delivery	0.131	6	Directorate wide income generation target partly unachievable
To be delivered by 31/03/20	0.000	0	
Delivered in full	0.161	7	Savings on re-contracted waste disposal contracts
Total	2.282	100	

The savings identified as unachievable or as having a high risk of not being achieved are:

Service Area	Savings 20/21 (£m)	Unachieved Savings inc in forecast (£m)	Reasons and Actions
Street Lighting	0.450	0.450	Funded from SL PFI reserve
Planning redesign	0.476	0.476	One-off funding from the corporate COVID reserve
Directorate Wide – fees and charges	0.249	0.118	£0.062m one-off funding from the corporate COVID reserve, £0.056m non COVID to be mitigated elsewhere but included in the current forecast
LCOPS – change of name deed	0.011	0.011	One-off funding from the corporate COVID reserve
Resilient Communities redesign	0.935	0.935	One-off funding from the corporate COVID reserve
TOTAL	2.121	1.990	

3.5 - Risks

The total risk for this committee is currently £1.013m of which £0.961m relates to high risks.

Risk	Value (£m)	Ongoing	One Off	Actions to manage risk
High	0.925	0.873	0.052	
Medium	0.038	0.038	0.000	
Low	0.050	0.050	0.000	
Total	1.013	0.961	0.052	

The main high risks (Red risks) that could negatively impact the current forecast position if they occur are:

- £0.150m – Increased costs due to increased tonnages/fluctuating gate fees/contract prices in clean and green.
- £0.052m – C&G – Mayrise system replacement
- £0.171m - additional loss of planning application and land charges income above that assumed, relating to covid 19.
- £0.509m - Additional loss of active living income
- £0.043m - other items below £0.050m individually

3.6 Capital Summary

The total capital programme for the Economy and Environment committee is £46.413m with the current forecast position being an overspend of £0.085m relating to Oak Park car park project. It is expected that this overspend will be

funded from underspend of other capital schemes when identified at Q3. The projected carry forward into 2021/22 is (£0.469m). A summary by service area is detailed in the table below:

Table 5 – Forecast Capital Outturn 2020/21					
Service	Annual Budget £m	Actual Year to Date £m	Forecast £m	Year End Variance £m	Proposed carry forward to 2021/22 £m
Council funded					
Clean & Green	0.143	0.000	0.051	(0.092)	(0.092)
Leisure, Culture & Operations	1.473	0.323	1.557	0.085	0.000
Planning, Engineering & Transportation	4.791	0.384	4.791	0.000	0.000
Regeneration & Development	6.118	0.021	6.118	0.000	0.000
SUB-TOTAL	12.525	0.728	12.517	(0.007)	(0.092)
Externally funded					
Clean & Green	0.502	0.001	0.125	(0.377)	(0.377)
Leisure, Culture & Operations	0.300	0.000	0.300	0.000	0.000
Planning, Engineering & Transportation	3.419	1.240	3.419	0.000	0.000
Regeneration & Development	26.417	4.656	26.417	0.000	0.000
SUB-TOTAL	30.639	5.897	30.262	(0.377)	(0.377)
Prudential Borrowing					
Regeneration & Development	0.468	0.000	0.468	0.000	0.000
Clean & Green	2.782	0.056	2.782	0.000	0.000
SUB-TOTAL	3.250	0.056	3.250	0.000	0.000
TOTAL - E&E	46.413	6.681	46.028	(0.384)	(0.469)

Details of proposed capital carry forwards are detailed in the table overleaf:

Table 6 - Proposed Capital Carry Forwards to 2021/22		
Capital Schemes	Amount to be c/f (£m)	Comments
Clean and Green - Broadway West playing fields – Council funded	0.092	Budget to match external funding
Clean & Green - Broadway West playing fields – Externally Funded	0.150	The Broadway West Sports Association who we are working with the Council on this project have not been able to progress the funding application to Big Local to obtain feasibility funding for the project so everything is delayed as a result. The COVID 19 pandemic is largely responsible for this delay.
Clean & Green - Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant	0.227	Awaiting outcome of new HWRC proposals

3.7 Capital risks

There are currently no capital risks identified for the directorate

4. Financial information

4.1 The financial implications are as set out in the main body of this report. The council has a statutory responsibility to set a balanced budget and to ensure it has an adequate level of reserves. The council will take a medium term policy led approach to all decisions on resource allocation.

5. Reducing Inequalities

5.1 Services consider and respond to equality issues in setting budgets and delivering services. Irrespective of budgetary pressures, the Council must fulfil equal opportunities obligations

6. Decide

6.1 To approve the recommendations as set out in this report.

7. Respond

7.1 The Executive Director for E, E & C will be working with his Directors and Heads of service to review the forecast and implement an action plan that will mitigate this overspend by year-end.

8. Review

- 8.1 Regular monitoring reports are presented to Cabinet to inform them of the impact of Covid-19 and the financial forecast for 2020/21, including an update on risks and impact on the budget for 2021/22 and beyond.

Background papers: Various financial working papers

Contact Officers:

Ross Hutchinson, Interim Head of Finance
07415 308513, ross.hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk

Fraz Hussain, Interim Lead Accountant – Economy & Environment
01922 650476, fraz.hussain@walsall.gov.uk



Simon Neilson
Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Communities

Council Firework and Bonfire Displays

19 November, 2020

Bonfire and Fireworks events 2019 response to questions

Ward(s): St Mathews, Willenhall South, Bloxwich West, Brownhills

Portfolios: Clean and Green

1. Aim

- 1.1 To respond to questions raised at 20th February Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to lockdown.

2. Recommendations

Committee to note the contents of the report

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th February 2020 a number of questions were asked of officers below are the responses to these questions

- 3.2 Clarification on the numbers of staff in 2018 compared to 2019

Staffing numbers were similar in 2019 to 2018, (around 44 WMBC staff plus 64 external security staff for the Arboretum and 21-26 WMBC staff and 33-51 external security at other sites). Although there was the potential to reduce numbers due to the improved online ticketing system, staff numbers remained the same due to the need to maintain security. Advice was provided, that there may be problems on gates due to the use of cashless payments, Brexit (original date was 31/10/2019) and possible terrorist threats.

Staffing costs increased in 2019 as more staff claimed overtime than previous years, and fewer staff claimed TOIL. Staffing changes in 2019 meant fewer staff met the threshold for claiming TOIL. Only Senior Managers claimed TOIL in 2019, whereas in previous years more staff were employed in Parks and Open spaces to deliver these kind of events, and would claim TOIL.

- 3.3 A breakdown of staff costs

	2017	2018	2019
Staff Costs	9,376	7,289	13,241

3.4 Clarification on why costs had increased so dramatically for the reported years 2017, 2018 and 2019

	2017	2018	2019
Expenditure	-80,331	-114,986	-119,576
Income	69,235	105,022	75,987
Net position	-11,096	-9,954	-43,706

Cost between 2017 and 2018 increased by £34,655. This was due to considerable improvements in providing entertainment at the Arboretum and infrastructure such as trackway on soft ground, also there has been an increase in the cost of providing fireworks. Costs between 2018 and 2019 increased by £4,500. The majority of this was on staffing for reasons described in the first clarification above.

3.5 Clarification on the number of customers who were turned away due to a policy on cashless entry.

To ensure access to those who did not purchase tickets in advance, a box office was available on the entrances to enable card payments on the night of the events. Besides a group of teenagers who were refused entry after jumping the fencing, no other members of the public were turned away. Two teenagers at Holland Park were only able to pay by cash but were given an option of paying at the leisure centre or arranging for an adult to purchase on-line.

3.6 Information was also requested on the percentage of the total ticket cost that was taken by the provider as a booking fee for online transactions.

Following benchmarking against three suppliers, the decision was taken to go with the supplier offering the lowest fees on sales which was Seaty (6%). The other two suppliers' fees were 6.5% and 7%. For the public a 6% booking fee was 60p on a £10 sale and 45p on a £7.50 sale. Seaty also offered a payment platform, Stripe, that was in line with what the Council's own finance system uses.

3.7 Members expressed concerns about the lack of project documentation for events that were accessible to the Healthy Spaces team when they took over responsibility for the delivery of events.

Many of the Healthy Spaces Team were new in post when planning the Bonfire and Fireworks events, some information was available to them but the documentation from previous events was limited. New systems were also being developed such as cashless payments which proved very successful in reducing the amount of cash processing on the evening of the event.

3.8 Members requested a further breakdown of costs per site

Location	Holland Park	Willenhall Memorial Park	Walsall Arboretum	KGV	TOTAL
Date	Sat 26/10	Fri 01/11	Sat 02/11*	Tue 05/11*	
WEATHER	V poor	V poor	V poor	Good	
Expenditure	-18,796.78	-18,990.88	-61,291.28	-20,498.03	-119,576.97
Income tickets	2,429.00	7,888.00	29,882.50	24,550.00	
Other income	755.00	1,005.00	7,976.00	1,385.00	
Total Income	3,184.00	8,893.00	37,858.50	25,935.00	75,987.50
Net position	-15,612.78	-10,097.88	-23,432.78	5,436.97	-43,706.47

Location	Holland pk	Willenhall pk	Walsall Arboretum	KGV	Total
Site capacity	4,000	4,000	10,000	8,000	
% achieved	12%	37%	41%	57%	
Est. income if capacity achieved	£19,095	£18,816	£68,713	£37,100	
Total profit/ loss if capacity achieved	£298	-£175	£7,422	£16,602	

* Key dates closest to Bonfire night, more likely to have a higher turnout, and therefore higher income

Within the budget there is an income target of £10,000, therefore overall position is a £53,706.47 loss. It should be noted that in the previous two year the Arboretum made a small profit of £1,694 and £2,577.

4. **Financial information**

The cost of providing a safe and well run event is increasing annually, and there are high expectations from customers to provide other entertainment as well as the Fireworks. Ticket sales were particularly bad for the 2 events held before Bonfire weekend, and the poor weather before the Arboretum event did not help with Ticket sales for this event.

5. **Reducing Inequalities**

The events provide an opportunity for residents from all walks of life to attend a safe and well organised activity as part of the Council year.

6. Decide

As this report is in response to questions raised in the previous report an options proposal has not been provided.

7. Respond

Feedback from this report will be used to inform development and delivery of future council events.

8. Review

The Healthy Spaces events programme is monitored and reviewed, ensuring compliance with corporate priorities and the satisfaction of residents and stakeholders, future provision will be developed accordingly.

Background papers

Author

Liz Stuffins
Healthy Spaces Team Development Manager
☎ 07788 362091
✉ liz.stuffins@walsall.gov.uk

Cycling in Walsall Update

19 November, 2020

NCN5 Better Streets Project Update

Ward(s): Pelsall, Rushall-Shelfield, St. Matthews

Portfolios: Councillor A Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration

1. Aim

The NCN5 Better Streets Project provides a response to a community petition, calling for improvements to complement the National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5), in north Walsall. The Better Streets Community Fund, has provided Walsall Council with the opportunity to take some of these improvements forward, for implementation in summer 2021. This report builds on the initial NCN5 cycle route report taken to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17th October 2019, and provides an update on the progress made by Walsall Council since the report was published. Since that time, national COVID-19 restrictions have impacted on the scheme development and delivery programme, which has been amended accordingly.

2. Recommendations

That the committee note the ongoing work by Walsall Council to deliver improvements to National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5), between Pelsall and Walsall Town Centre, using funding from the West Midlands 'Better Streets Community Fund'.

3. Report

Walsall Community Petition

- 1.1. A petition was received by Walsall Council, with over 1,000 signatures, requesting a marked, safe route from the National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5) at Ryecroft Cemetery, on-street to Walsall Town Centre – see Appendix A. Additional improvements included a cycle crossing at Harden Road/Station Road in Rushall, as well as modified anti-motorcycle P-barriers, to make the cycle route more accessible for various users.

Better Streets Community Funding

- 2.1. In 2019, The West Midlands Mayor and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) launched a 'Better Streets Community Fund' to help improve local streets, by making them better places to live and move about in. Across the West Midlands, £2 million was made available for community-led projects, which made it easier for people to walk and cycle.

- 2.2. Several proposals were put forward for Better Streets Community Funding in the Walsall area, including a bid which was in line with the community petition. Initial assessment of the various bids, by officers at the local authorities and TfWM, concluded that this bid, alongside several other bids, was worthy of further consideration from Walsall Council.

NCN5 Better Streets Project

- 3.1. Walsall Council were awarded a funding allocation from the Better Streets Fund, in order to develop and deliver two 'Better Streets' schemes, aimed at improving cycling and pedestrian facilities for local communities, with a focus on improving accessibility to cycle networks.
- 3.2. This report covers one of those schemes, which is focused on delivering improvements on and around National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5). Walsall Council anticipates that the improvements outlined below will be delivered by the end of August 2021 (or before), to ensure maximum usage over the summer period.
- 3.3. The NCN5 Better Streets project aims to improve the cycle route between Pelsall and Walsall Town centre/Arboretum utilising parts, or all, of the NCN5 cycle route. The cycle route should be accessible for all users. The project scope is as follows:
- Improve the highway crossing over Harden Road on the NCN5.
 - Improve the cycle route between Ryecroft Cemetery and Walsall Town Centre.
 - Install modified P-barriers at approved locations on the NCN5.
- 3.4. There is currently one option being explored for Harden Road, which includes a raised table and/or a Tiger crossing, as well as additional traffic calming measures. There are three possible cycle route options for the section of NCN5 between Ryecroft Cemetery and Walsall Town Centre/Arboretum. All of three of the cycle route options and the improved crossing are explored in more detail below.

Harden Road Crossing Improvements

- 4.1. The location of the Harden Road crossing is mapped in Appendix B. The proposal is to install a raised table and/or a Tiger crossing at the road crossing, on the NCN5 route, to control traffic speeds. Further traffic calming measures are also being explored either side of the crossing, to try and further improve road safety. For example, increased signage could be implemented further down Harden Road, to make drivers more aware of the crossing.
- 4.2. Walsall Council's Major Projects and Minor Improvements (MPMI) Team were commissioned to draw up preliminary designs and cost estimates for the crossing improvements. These preliminary designs have now been passed onto an external contractor (Amey), to conduct Stage 1 Road Safety Audits (RSA's). The external contractor has indicated that Walsall Council will receive the results of the Stage 1 RSA's by December 2020.

NCN5 Cycle Route: Option 1

- 5.1. In addition to the cycle crossing at Rushall, the scheme also includes improvements to the NCN5 cycle route itself, between Ryecroft Cemetery and Walsall Town Centre. Option 1 involves an alternative on-street route along Cartbridge Lane South, Lichfield Road and through The Butts – see Appendix C. There are two key ‘improvement areas’ that will need to be upgraded to improve on-street cycling accessibility.
- 5.2. The first improvement area is on the A461 Lichfield Road. There are two potential options for accommodating a safer cycle route; a shared route on the footway or an on-road marked route. The aspiration appears to be to develop a shared route on the footway along Cartbridge Lane South and the A461 Lichfield Road to Westbourne Road, before continuing through the Butts.
- 5.3. This will involve widening the A461 Lichfield Road western footway between Cartbridge Lane South and Westbourne Road to an appropriate width, to accommodate a shared use path for cyclists and pedestrians (assumed 3 meters). The initial assessment is that this may potentially affect pedestrian refuges and the centre hatched area on Lichfield Road, in the section between Butts Road and Westbourne Road. A possible alternative may be to develop a route using Borneo Street, which is already a 20mph Zone and has also been the subject of requests for further traffic management measures.
- 5.4. Consideration needs to be given to how visibility and safety for both cyclist/pedestrians and vehicle users can be improved at several road crossing along the proposed route. For example, there are currently no drop kerbs, or tactile paving at the crossing over Borneo Street, and traffic flow is heavy (especially in the AM and PM peak). Consideration also needs to be given to the crossing on Hawley Road. However, there is already existing tactile paving and drop kerbs in this location. The link between Cartbridge Lane South and Lichfield Road also needs to be considered, at the junction of Cartbridge Lane South/Lichfield Road.
- 5.5. The second improvement area is on the pavement near to the junction with Butts Street and The Butts. The proposal would be to create either a drop kerb or a cut out in the footway, to allow cyclists to pass seamlessly.
- 5.6. Walsall Council’s MPMI Team were commissioned to draw up preliminary designs and cost estimates for all the elements of this cycle route option. These preliminary designs have now been passed onto an external contractor (Amey), to conduct Stage 1 Road Safety Audits (RSA’s). The external contractor has indicated that Walsall Council will receive the results of the Stage 1 RSA’s by December 2020.

NCN5 Cycle Route: Option 2

- 6.1. The second option is to improve the existing NCN5 path between Ryecroft Cemetery and Mill Lane (Option 2) – see Appendix D. There are a number of factors that make the existing path unfit for purpose, these are listed below:
 - Poor drainage;
 - Poor path construction;
 - Poorly lit

- 6.2. In order to address these issues, the path needs to be built to a higher standard with drainage, as well as surface and lighting improvements (if possible). The section of path to improve is approximately 665 meters long. However, indicative cost estimates from the MPIMI Team suggest that this is likely to be an expensive option. Furthermore, the steep gradients on this route would not be suitable for disabled cyclists.

NCN5 Cycle Route: Option 3

- 7.1. The third option involves a new path being created on a section of Walsall Council owned public space, which runs adjacent to the back of Borneo Street (Option 3) – see Appendix E. The path is accessed via a small path from Cartbridge Lane South. There is currently no paved area in the highlighted section, this option is therefore assumed to require the following improvements:
- New cycle path;
 - Vegetation clearance;
 - Improved/new lighting;
 - Improved security (proposed path backs onto residential properties).
- 7.2. Nevertheless, after consulting with both the MPIMI and Community Protection Teams, the initial assessment is that this option might not be feasible, due to high utilities costs, as well as the increased potential for anti-social behaviour, near residential properties.

Anti-Social Behaviour and P-barriers

- 8.1. Separate to the proposal for an improved cycle route, the NCN5 has also seen a high level of anti-social behaviour, especially concerning the unauthorised use of motorcycles on the cycle route and on the adjacent public footpaths. A multi-agency response to anti-social behaviour in 2016 saw the introduction of anti-motorcycle P-barriers. Whilst these barriers have curtailed some of the anti-social behaviour, work is still ongoing to develop a corridor-wide strategy to tackle these issues.
- 8.2. An element of the NCN5 Better Streets project includes modification of some of the anti-motorcycle P-barriers, to facilitate easier access for wheelchairs and recumbent cycles. The NCN5 Better Streets applicants have designed their own modified P-barrier, which can be opened by disabled users, using a radar key. However, due to prevalence of anti-social behaviour along the NCN5 route, there are concerns that modified P-barrier users could fall victim to crime (there have been several cases of radar keys being stolen in the past), and that the modified P-barriers themselves could be vandalised. Installation of modified P-barriers therefore requires the consideration and acceptance of local authority officers, agencies (West Midlands Police) and landowners (Sustrans), before suitable locations can be agreed.
- 8.3. Walsall Council's Community Protection Team, suggested that anti-social behaviour is currently most prevalent on the approach into Walsall Town Centre and least prevalent further north of the NCN5, near Pelsall. With the permission of the landowner Sustrans, it was therefore agreed that Walsall Council would install the modified P-barrier (designed by Better Streets applicants) at a trial location in

Pelsall, in order to monitor motorcycle usage and anti-social behaviour. Station Road in Pelsall has therefore been selected as the pilot location for the modified P-barrier to be installed on the NCN5.

- 8.4. Initial P-barrier design drawings for Station Road in Pelsall have been produced by Walsall Council and shared with the Better Streets applicants. Walsall Council's P-barrier supplier has been briefed to install the modified P-barrier, at the agreed pilot location, as soon as the design drawings have been finalised, and the modified P-barrier has been collected from the Walsall Civic Centre (where it is currently being stored).

Next Steps

- 9.1. Given the strong local support for cycle improvements from the NCN5 to Walsall Town Centre, and the availability of capital funding from the Better Streets Community Fund to implement such improvements, the proposed way forward is as follows: -

- **Internal Consultation** – complete an initial feasibility assessment of the suitability of the proposals with various stakeholders, including Community Protection, Public Rights of Way, Road Safety and Urban Traffic Control colleagues, as well as Sustrans and West Midlands Police. This will involve an internal review of the initial cost estimates and Stage 1 RSA's for the cycle route design options and road crossing, in addition to implementing the modified P-barrier trial at Station Road, in Pelsall. This work will take up to three months, and be complete by mid-January 2021.
- **Public Consultation** – depending on the latest COVID-19 restrictions, a Public Consultation will take place in late-January 2021, to give members of the public an opportunity to feedback on the proposed design option(s).
- **Final Development & Design** – providing that all feasibility issues can be resolved to the satisfaction of all stakeholders, further development and design work will be undertaken in preparation for scheme implementation. This will take up to three months, and will be complete by mid-April 2021.
- **Implementation** – subject to all design issues being resolved and the availability of Walsall Council's highways contractor, the scheme will be delivered in late-spring to early summer 2021.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation** – upon implementation, the improvements will then be monitored and evaluated for a pilot period, with this work concluding in autumn 2021.

- 9.2. If the monitoring and evaluation outcome required no changes to the implemented scheme, no further action will be taken, except routine maintenance by the various infrastructure asset owners. However, if there were unintended negative impacts as a result of the measures delivered, remedial action would be required before the conclusion of the Better Streets Community Funding period.

- 9.3. It should be noted that the initial design options will be kept within Walsall's internal teams in the first instance. However, they will be made available at the public

consultation stage for comments/feedback. This way, all the evidence can be displayed at one time i.e. preliminary designs, costs, safety audits, internal views and stakeholder comments (West Midlands Police and Sustrans).

4. Financial information

Better Streets Community Fund capital monies, up to £150,000, have been identified to develop and implement this scheme, from the Transforming Cities Fund. A funding agreement for the Better Streets Project was signed on the 15th September 2020, by the West Midlands Combined Authority and Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council. The project has also been included in the Walsall Council Capital Programme for 2019/20 and 2020/21. The risk of any abortive spend (should a capital asset not be enhanced or created as a consequence of the feasibility work not being able to demonstrate safe, effective and affordable physical measures) is being underwritten by the Council, from an appropriate revenue budget. Whilst the likelihood of this risk occurring is 'medium', the value of this risk is 'low'.

The risk of time and cost overruns is being managed by reserving an element of the overall capital budget as a contingency fund. This risk is being actively monitored and managed by the designated project manager.

5. Reducing Inequalities

As part of the delivery of 'Movement for Growth' and 'Transport in Walsall', consideration has been given to ensuring that the needs of all sections of the community are considered in transport projects. 'Movement for Growth' has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Delivery programmes will assist in improving facilities for all modes of transport by focusing on improving access to key services and facilities such as education, job opportunities and health care facilities. The improvements envisaged will help reduce inequalities, by ensuring that NCN5 is easily accessible to recumbent cyclists, mobility-aid users and disabled people.

'Movement for Growth' and 'Transport in Walsall' delivery programmes have been tested against the 'Marmot Objectives'. These are:

- Giving every child the best start in life – programmes include measures to support travel to school by sustainable modes, which is part of a rolling programme across the Borough;
- Enabling all children, young people and adults to maximize their capabilities and have control over their lives – measures to promote sustainable modes help promote healthy and independent travel choices;
- Creating fair employment and good work for all – improved transport networks help people access employment and training opportunities;
- Ensuring a healthy standard of living for all – access to paid employment is facilitated by improved transport networks;
- Creating and developing sustainable places and communities – programmes include active travel, public transport and road safety measures, which all support sustainable places and communities;

- Strengthening the role and impact of ill-health prevention – healthy travel choices, such as walking or cycling, can help prevent ill health.

The proposed improvements make sustainable active travel (cycling and walking) available to all residents and stakeholders in the NCN5 corridor.

6. Decide

Should stakeholder and public support be obtained, and the final scheme cost be within the budget allowance, Walsall Council already has the necessary capital funding from the Better Streets Community Fund to implement improvements to the NCN5. In accordance with the community petition, it is proposed that Walsall Council utilises the Better Streets Funding to improve the following elements of the NCN5 route, in between Pelsall and Walsall Town Centre:

- Improve the highway crossing over Harden Road on the NCN5.
- Improve the cycle route between Ryecroft Cemetery and Walsall Town Centre.
- Install modified P-barriers at approved locations on the NCN5.

Walsall Council's initial cycle route options are still being refined and are therefore subject to change. A copy of the finalised designs will be circulated during public consultation and again before implementation.

7. Respond

Following this meeting, Walsall Council will continue to work in partnership with various stakeholders, (including: Community Protection, Public Rights of Way, Road Safety, Urban Traffic Control, Sustrans and West Midlands Police), as well as TfWM and the Better Streets applicants themselves, to deliver improvements on the NCN5 route north of Walsall, by Summer 2021. The next steps are to undertake an internal feasibility assessment of the suitability of the cycle route proposals with various stakeholders, in addition to implementing the modified P-barrier trial at Station Road, in Pelsall.

8. Review

Scrutiny of the Council's efforts to promote the 'Movement for Growth' and 'Transport in Walsall' agendas will help promote the overall efficiency of service delivery. Transport policy is continually developing and evolving with regard to local issues. Project and programme delivery is adapting and responding to current and future challenges, such as COVID-19 restrictions.

Walsall Council are required to attend quarterly review meetings with TfWM to track the progress on both of their Better Streets projects. Project risks and financial profiles are updating regularly using TfWM's Smartsheets system. Walsall Council circulates monthly project reports to the NCN5 Better Streets applicants, to ensure that they are kept updated with the latest progress and delivery timescales.

Background papers

- Petition: A Marked, Safe Route along National Cycling Route 5 – report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 17th October 2019
- Transport in Walsall: 2017-2022 (Walsall Council, published 2017)
- Movement for Growth: The West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (West Midlands Combined Authority, published 2016)
- Black Country Core Strategy (Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton Councils, adopted 2011)

Author: Eleanor Cooper

Eleanor Cooper

Senior Transport Planner

☎ 07920 086368

✉ Eleanor.Cooper@walsall.gov.uk

To: SIMON NEILSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

From: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Your Ref:

My Ref: NP/DL

Date: 17.9.19

Ext: 4369

Please ask for: Neil Picken

Council – 16 September 2019

Petition: A marked, safe route along National Cycling Route 5

I attach the petition which was submitted to the above meeting by Councillor Worrall. The petition contains approximately 1285 signatures.

The Council's petitions scheme provides:

"If your 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, Assistant Directors or Heads of Service. The Committee may also decide to call the relevant portfolio holder to attend the meeting."

Can you investigate the issues contained in the petition and report to the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Prior to responding to this matter, please ensure that the relevant portfolio holder is consulted.

Please inform Councillor Worrall when you propose to give evidence at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Thanks

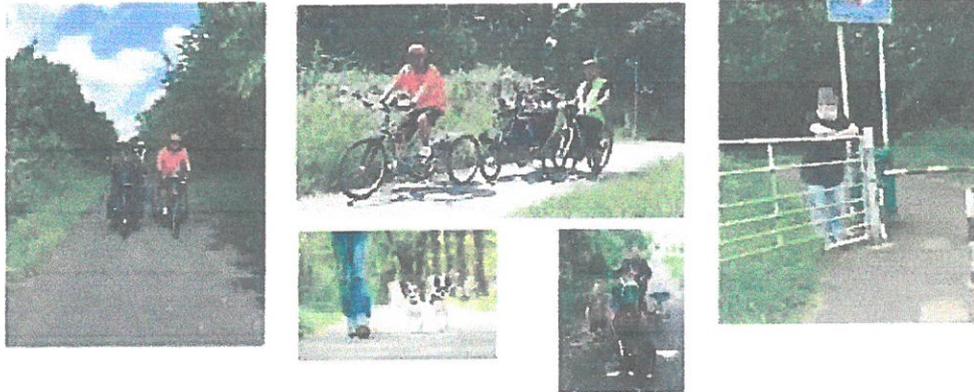
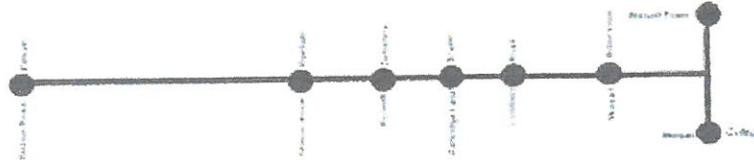


Senior Democratic Services Officer

Enc.

The Thin Blue Line

Cllr.
Worrall
✓



This petition was formed to show and prove to the parties involved Namely **Walsall Council**, **Sustrans** and **Travel for West Midlands (TfWM)** that the people of Walsall want a marked safe route down the existing National Cycling Network route 5 which stops at Rycroft Cemetery, to continue along Cartbridge Lane South and right along Lichfield Road down to **Walsall Arboretum** or along Butts St and Upper Forster St to the crossings adjacent to Queen Mary's School to the **Town Centre** or to pickup the existing cycle route to **Walsall College**.

Which in summary would link Pelsall up with Walsall Town Centre on a safe route for families, pedestrians and cyclists, improving their health and the environment which are two major contributions to the Councils and NHS targets.

In addition to make NCN5 accessible to Inclusive Cyclists, Mobility Aid users, Disabled and Able bodied pedestrians and dog walkers by installing 4 movable 'P' Posts (anti-motor cycle barriers) which can be unlocked and locked by a RADAR key lock, and are maintenance free and vandalism proof, at Station Rd – Pelsall plus 1 static 'P' Post, Station Rd - Rushall and Cartbridge Ln South, along with a cycle crossing at Station Rd - Rushall

We circulated the petition to the following locations of which the following responses were collected

Sheffield NISA	296
Pelsall Hub	17
Pelsall Village Café	234
Rushall Hub	11
Walsall College	58
Walsall Heart Care	29
Russell Cycles	31
C-R Cannock	16
NCN 5 Route (Mobile)	156
Cllr Worrall	40 30
Peter Hubbard	06
38 Degrees On Line Petition	134

1,018

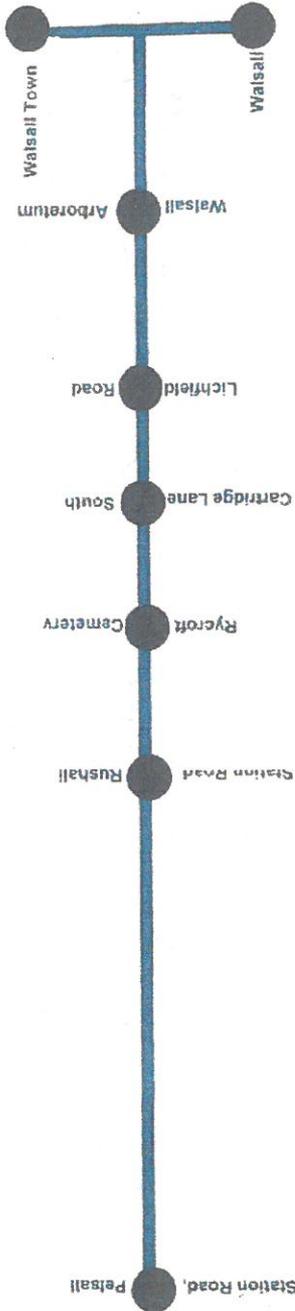
Totalling ~~1,028~~ signatures from the general public who strongly support this proposal.

We have submitted a **Better Streets Bid** to (TfWM) and we have presented the idea to the **Walsall Cycling Forum** headed by **Tim Philpot the Strategic Cycling Officer for Wolverhampton and Walsall**.

The Thin Blue Line

Shelfield NISA CD

254 319119
Ade



Please would sign the petition overleaf to support the introduction of a marked safe cycle route (NCN 5) from Station Road, Pelsall to Walsall Town Centre and onward.

The disused railway track formally the rail link from Pelsall to Walsall.

This will be an accessible and safe unpolluted route to all, Cyclists, Dog Walkers, Pedestrians, Mobility aid users, family cycling. We need to raise over 1500 signatures for this to be debated at full council, in support of this community project. Petitions Located at Pelsall, Rushall, Walsall Library's, Walsall College and Russell Cycles on Stafford Street.





Figure 2 – Harden Road crossing location (map view)

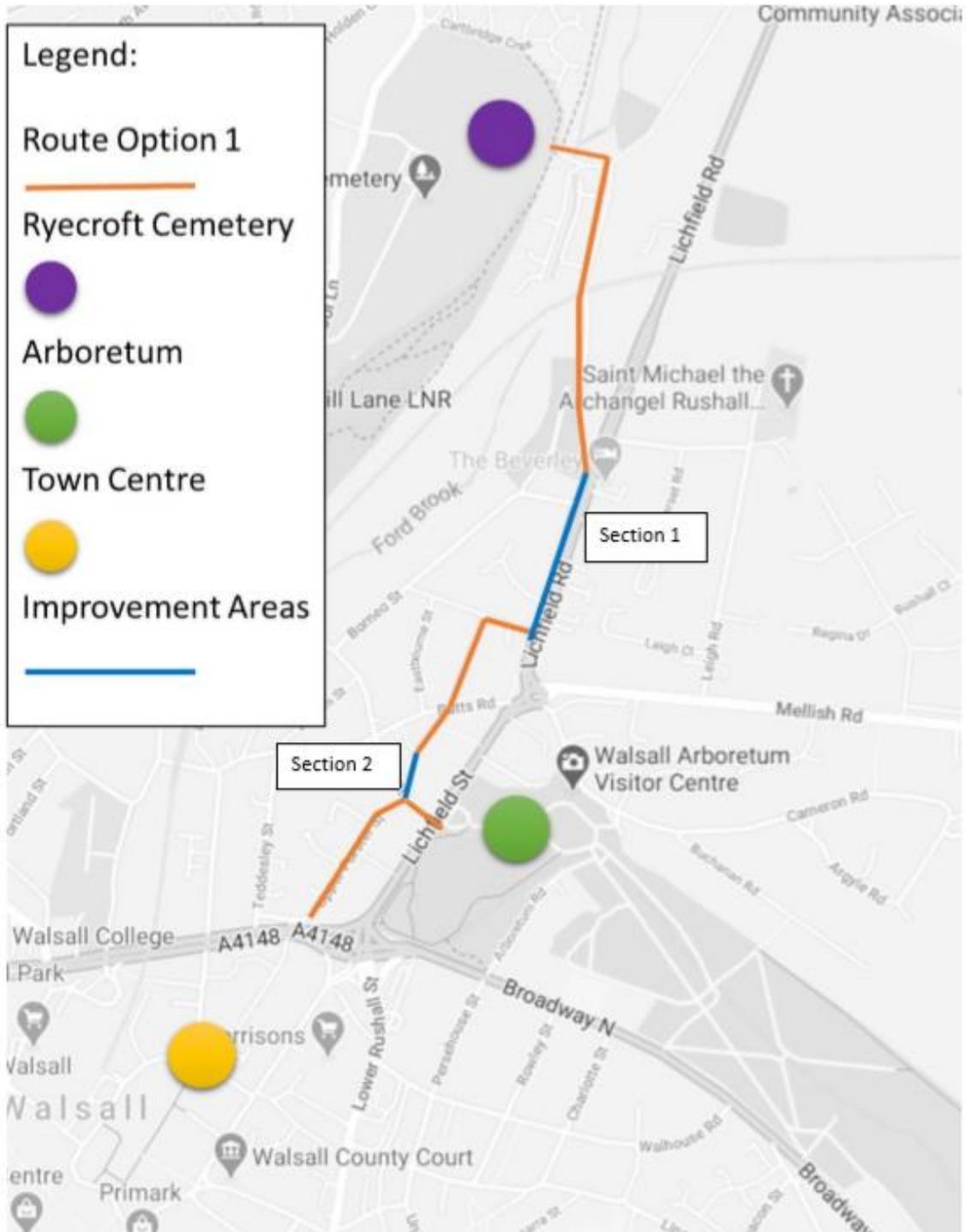
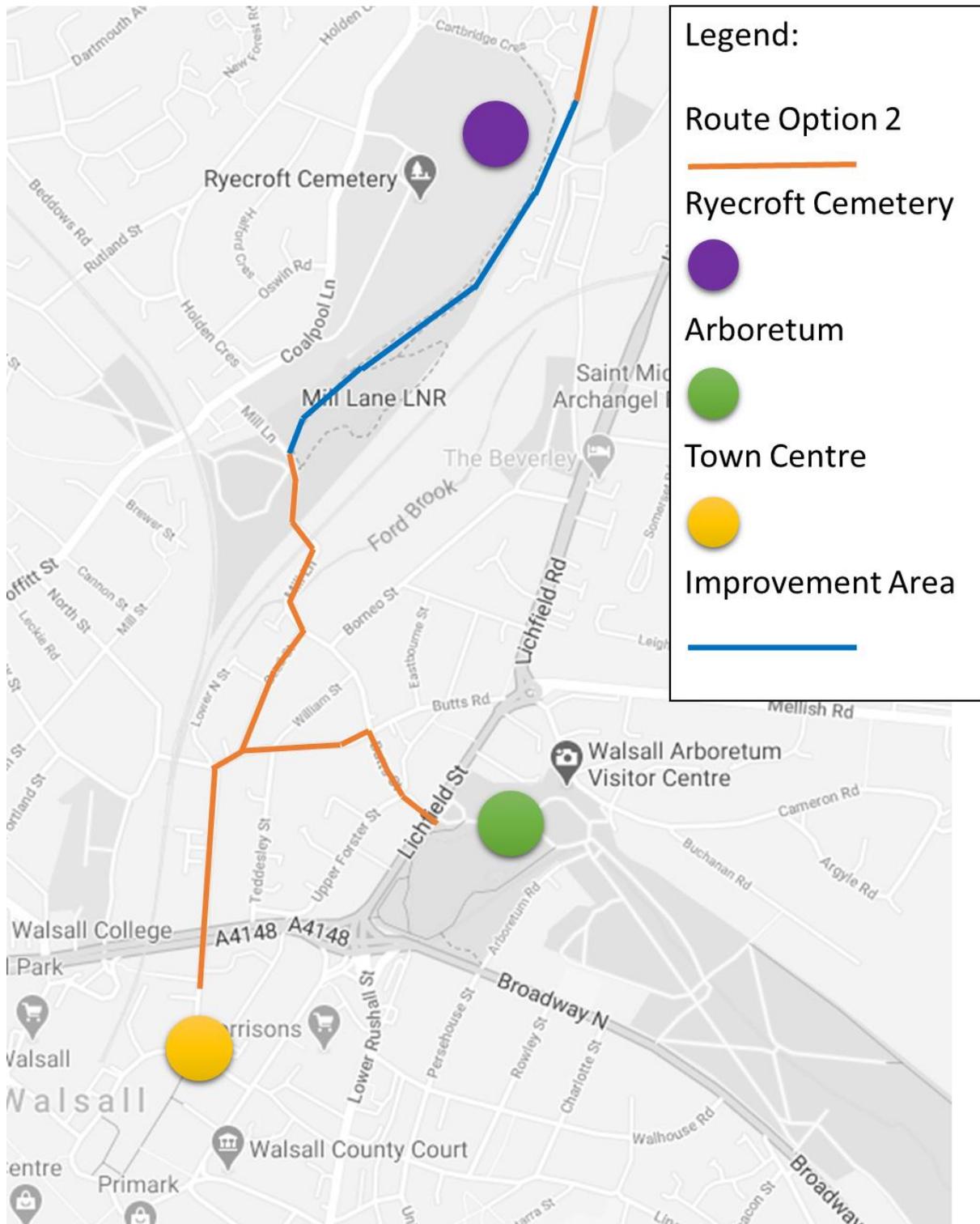
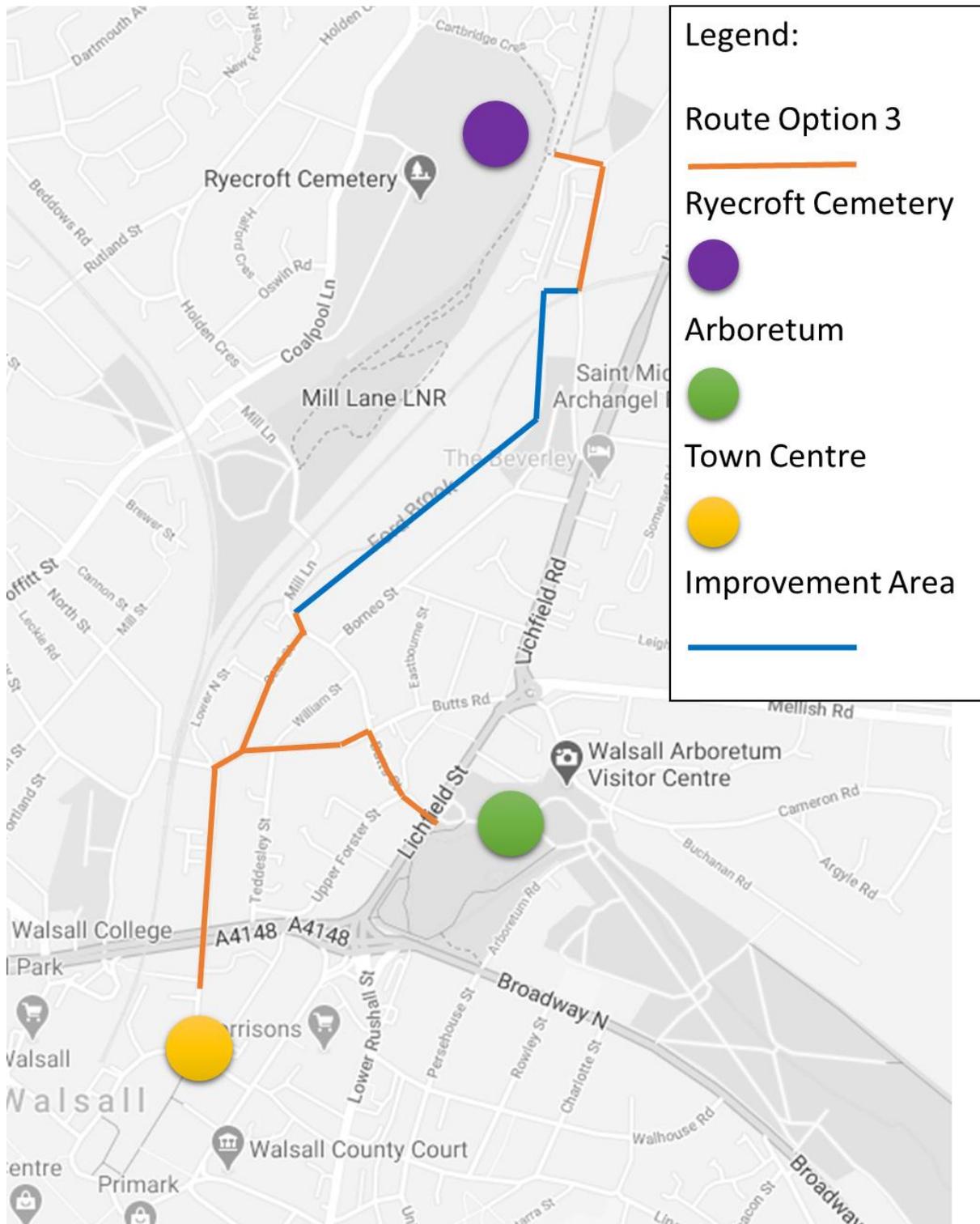


Figure 4 – NCN5 Cycle Route Option 1





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	Black Country Consortium Presentation. Town Deal Board	
Environment		Council run events (Bonfires/Fireworks) Cycling in Walsall Update Petition: Road Safety at Doe Bank Lane	Presentation from bus operators in Walsall.	
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. The Council's Waste Strategy.
4. Carbon Neutral Council – Update on proposals
5. M6 Junction 10 Update - *Scheduled for 2021*

WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN: JANUARY 2021 - MARCH 2021

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
WMCA Draft Budget 2021/22	To approve in draft the WMCA budget for 2021/22.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Financial Monitoring Report 2020/21	To consider the latest financial position.	15 January 2021	No	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Black Country Land and Property Investment Fund - Programme Update and Derogation Approval	To consider programme progress to date and request derogation approval for the programme until March 2026.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Digital Strategy	To agree the new Digital Strategy.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Patrick Harley	Julia Goldsworthy	No	Culture & Digital
Culture Update	To consider a report on latest portfolio developments.	15 January 2021	No	Cllr Patrick Harley	Julia Goldsworthy	No	Culture & Digital

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
'Help to Own' Pilot	To approve the establishment of a pilot 'help to own' scheme.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Mike Bird	Gareth Bradford / Ian Martin	In part	Housing & Land
Rail - Package 1 Full Business Case	To consider an update on this issue.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	In part	Transport
Rail - Package 2 Full Business Case	To consider an update on this issue.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	In part	Transport
Road Safety	To consider an update on this issue.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
Reviewing the West Midlands Local Transport Plan	To consider the latest developments with reviewing the Local Transport Plan.	15 January 2021	No	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
Perry Barr Station Full Business Case	To approve the full business case for this project.	15 January 2020	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	In part	Transport

Title of Report	Description of Purpose	Date of Meeting	Key Decision (Y/N)	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Metro - Off-Tram Ticketing	To consider proposals for off-tram ticketing.	15 January 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport
WMCA Final Budget 2021/22	To approve the final WMCA budget for 2021/22.	12 February 2021	Yes	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Financial Monitoring Report 2020/21	To consider the latest financial position.	19 March 2021	No	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Adult Education Budget	To provide an update on the allocation process and outcomes of the AEB.	19 March 2021	Yes	Cllr George Duggins	Julie Nugent	No	Productivity & Skills
Metro - Buy Before You Board Penalty Fares Byelaws	To consider proposals on this issue.	19 March 2021	Yes	Cllr Ian Ward	Laura Shoaf	No	Transport

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to March 2021 (for publication 02/11/2020)

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
06/07/2020	Birchley Island Site Assembly PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to a Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Birchley Island Site Assembly project with delivery to commence in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Alison Knight alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk	Sandwell Council	09/12/2020
07/09/2020	Black Country Enterprise Zone - Approval Historic Revenue costs PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)	Approve that Dudley Council actual historic revenue costs are recovered in the year that they were incurred. Approve that Single Accountable Body (SAB) actual revenue costs are recovered in the year that they were incurred. Approve that historic revenue costs of Walsall Council and Wolverhampton Council are recovered over a 10-year period, from 2020/21 to 2029/30.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/12/2020
07/09/2020	Black Country Enterprise Zone - Approval Future Revenue costs PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A)	Approve that each Local Authority may claim from 2020/21 to 2024/25 for development funding. Approve that the SAB may claim from 2020/21 to 2024/25 for programme management costs. Approve that the PMO may from 2020/21 to 2024/25 for programme management costs.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/12/2020

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to March 2021 (for publication 02/11/2020)

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
	of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)	<p>Approve that from 2025/26 onwards each Local Authority, the SAB and the PMO (the “entities”) may claim a reduced maximum to the end of the relevant EZs to cover monitoring and compliance costs. This will end at 31 March 2038 for Walsall Council, Wolverhampton Council and Sandwell Council, and end at 31 March 2042 for Dudley Council, the SAB and the PMO.</p> <p>Approve that from 2021/22 to 2024/25, Wolverhampton Council can claim towards the Transport Director costs, on behalf of all Local Authorities.</p>			
05/10/2020	Supplemental Deed of Variation to the Black Country Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement	Approve the Supplemental Deed of Variation Relating to the Collaboration Agreement in Relation to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee City Deal and Growth Deal dated the 7 May 2014, and in doing so approve the Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/12/2020
05/10/2020	Programme Management and Single Accountable Body Admin Costs Proposal Approval PRIVATE SESSION - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A)	<p>Approval of capital allocations from the identified Growth Deal over programming (formerly the Growing Places Fund) for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walsall Council to carry out its role as Accountable Body to the Growth Deal and other LEP programmes; • the Black Country Consortium for the Management and Administration functions of the Black Country Local Growth Deal, and; 	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/12/2020

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to March 2021 (for publication 02/11/2020)

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
	of the Local Government Act1972 (as amended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Walsall Council to cover the costs of the external legal and technical fees in support of managing the programme. <p>Endorse that the administrative costs of supporting effective programme delivery and ongoing monitoring of schemes continue and are funded through the Growth Deal over programming.</p>			
05/10/2020	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.	Papers TBC – Simon Neilson simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	09/12/2020
05/10/2020	Accessing Growth – Springfield Interchange 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 Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Accessing Growth Springfield Interchange project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk	Wolverhampton City Council	09/12/2020
02/11/2020	School of Architecture and Built Environment – 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 Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the School of Architecture and Built Environment project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk	Wolverhampton City Council	17/02/2021

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to March 2021 (for publication 02/11/2020)

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
02/11/2020	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 Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk	Wolverhampton City Council	17/02/2021
02/11/2020	Fab Kit Fab Lab – Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell College, to deliver the Local Growth Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Fab Kit Fab Lab project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Alison Knight alison.knight@sandwell.gov.uk	Sandwell Council	17/02/2021
02/11/2020	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 Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Dudley Advanced Construction Centre project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Helen Martin helen.martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	17/02/2021
02/11/2020	Advanced Science Engineering and Technology – Change Request	Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Halesowen College, to deliver the Local Growth Deal Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Advanced Science Engineering and Technology project with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Helen Martin helen.martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	17/02/2021

BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE
FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Published up to March 2021 (for publication 02/11/2020)

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
02/11/2020	Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Limited – Change Request	Approval for Sandwell Council to proceed to amending the funding repayment schedule with the Dudley Canal Trust (Trips) Limited, funded from within the Growing Places Fund (GPF), with delivery to continue in the 2020/21 financial year.	Papers TBC – Helen Martin helen.martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	17/02/2021



Walsall Council

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

2 November 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

DECEMBER 2020 TO MARCH 2021 (2.11.20)

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
43/20 (7.9.20)	Corporate Financial Performance and Covid-19 update – To report the financial position and impact on Covid-19	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
44/20 (7.9.20)	Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2020/21 – 2023/24 – To provide an updated outline budget plan and options for further consultation, and update on consultation to date	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Council tax payers, Business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
32/20 (3.8.20)	Treasury Management mid-year position statement: To note and forward to Council the mid-year position statement for treasury management activities 2020/21, including prudential and local indicators	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Richard Walley 07500 819796 richard.walley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
36/20 (7.9.20)	Corporate Plan delivery Quarter 2: To report performance monitoring information relating to the priorities and outcomes included in the Corporate Plan	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Helen Dudson helen.dudson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
33/20 (7.9.20)	Black Country Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement: To enter into the Supplementary Deed of Variation to the BCJC Collaboration Agreement	Cabinet (Key decision)	Kelly Valente 07768 387580 kelly.valente@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
52/20 (2.11.20)	IT goods and services: To award a 4 year contract to a single supplier for the supply of IT goods and services	Cabinet	Sharon Worrall 07944 530920	Internal	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020

		(Key decision)	sharon.worrall@walsall.gov.uk			
60/20 (2.11.20)	Walsall Council's Apprenticeship programme: To agree proposed approach to the programme from February 2021 to January 2024 and delegate authority to the Executive Director for the approval and signing of the subsequent framework agreement	Cabinet (Key decision)	Lisa Koc lisa.koc@walsall.gov.uk Helena Baxter helena.baxter@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	9 December 2020
8/20 (3.2.20)	Black Country Transport Team Collaboration Agreement: To approve the agreement to facilitate the delivery of a strategic transportation function across the four Black Country local authorities	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Matt Crowton 01922 654358 matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
27/19 (8.7.9)	A34 Walsall to Birmingham SPRINT (Bus Rapid Transit) scheme – Phase 1: To approve the sprint scheme	Cabinet (Key decision)	Matt Crowton 01922 654358 matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
68/19 (2.12.19)	West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme: To approve a plan to improve bus travel in the A34 Walsall to Birmingham corridor through delivery of a new SPRINT service.	Cabinet (Key decision)	Matt Crowton 01922 654358 matt.crowton@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
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	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
30/20 (3.8.20)	Bloxwich and Walsall Town Deal Acceleration Programmes: To update Cabinet on the successful application and approve the necessary delegation to finalise and submit the Town Deal Investment Plans to the government on or before the deadline of 29 January 2021	Cabinet (Key decision)	Mark Lavender 07951 620333 mark.lavender@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020

49/20 (5.10.20)	Council tax reduction or discount exemption penalties: To introduce financial penalties for failure/late notification of changes of circumstances that would affect a resident's entitlement	Cabinet (Non key)	Mark Fearn mark.fearn@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
53/20 (2.11.20)	Additional Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation: To approve public consultation exercise in line with the prescribed process for additional licensing in Paddock, Palfrey, Pleck and St. Matthews Wards, including proposed licensing conditions and associated fee levels	Cabinet (Non key decision)	David Lockwood david.lockwood@walsall.gov.uk	Internal, Walsall Neighbourhood Police Unit, West Midlands Migration Compliance and Enforcement Team, West Midlands Fire Service	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
57/20 (2.11.20)	York's Bridge, Pelsall: To approve commencement of application to deregister parts of Pelsall North Common, offer of replacement land for the common land and approve recommendations at Planning Committee following the introduction of the road bridge	Cabinet (Key decision)	Kathryn Moreton kathryn.moreton@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew	9 December 2020
58/20 (2.11.20)	Citizens advice Walsall: To approve variation of grant agreement	Cabinet (Key decision)	Elise Hopkins elise.hopkins@walsall.gov.uk Michelle Dudson michelle.dudson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Andrew/ Councillor Perry	9 December 2020
35/20 (7.9.20)	Preparing for Adulthood policy: To approve a new policy to deliver timely and robust plans for young people preparing for adulthood	Cabinet (Key decision)	Jeanette Knapper jeanette/knapper@walsall.gov.uk	Internal, SEND Improvement Board, Health operational partners and CCG	Councillor Martin	9 December 2020
54/20 (2.11.20)	Social Care Market uplifts: to approve the social care market uplifts and rates for 2021/22	Cabinet (Key decision)	Margaret Liburd 07557 608043 margaret.liburd@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Martin	9 December 2020

55/20 (2.11.20)	Adult Social Care providers during Covid-19: To approve an extension to flexible arrangements during Covid-19 pandemic	Cabinet (Key decision)	Tracy Simcox 07983611418 tracy.simcox@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Martin	9 December 2020
61/20 (2.11.20)	Walsall Allotments Boundary review: To consider providing capital funding to improve boundaries and consider the disposal of a derelict allotment garden Private session: Report contains commercially sensitive information	Cabinet (Key decision)	Jaki Brunton-Douglas 07768 290788 Jaki.brunton-douglas@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Butler	9 December 2020
48/20 (5.10.20)	Access and Inclusion: Response to report and recommendations of Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Sharon Kelly 01922 652895 sharon.kelly@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Towe	9 December 2020
50/20 (5.10.20)	Public Health contracts: To approve extension of existing public health core contracts and commence consultation to reconfigure lifestyle services	Cabinet (Key decision)	Stephen Gunther stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk Adrian Roche adrian.roche@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Craddock	9 December 2020
26/20 (3.8.20)	Information Governance Framework policy: To approve the framework policy which has been updated throughout the Covid-19 lockdown to include the changes required for mobile working alongside the Council's technology changes.	Cabinet (Key decision)	Paul Withers paul.withers@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Chattha	9 December 2020
56/20 (2.11.20)	Social Value Policy and Social Value Charter: To approve a revised policy and charter	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Sharon Wright sharon.wright@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Chattha	9 December 2020
59/20 (2.11.20)	Equalities: To provide an update on the Council's approach to Equalities and to strengthen certain initiatives and adopt the Walsall for All Pledge	Cabinet (Key decision)	Irena Hergottova irena.hergottova@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Chattha/ Councillor Perry	9 December 2020

62/20 (2.11.20)	Appointment of Major works technical advisor: To provide services such as architects, quantity surveyors, engineers, etc. for a period of 2 + 1 + 1 years for corporate landlord	Cabinet (Key decision)	Derwyn Owen 01922 650747 derwyn.owen@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Chattha	9 December 2020
45/20 (7.9.20)	Corporate Financial Performance and Covid-19 update – To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2020 and impact on Covid-19	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	10 February 2021
46/20 (7.9.20)	Corporate Budget Plan 2020/21 – 2023/24, and Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2021/2022: To approve the final budget and Council tax for approval by Council	Cabinet (Key decision)	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326 vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Council tax payers, Business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations	Councillor Bird	10 February 2021 25 February 2021
47/20 (7.9.20)	Corporate Plan delivery – Quarter 3 monitoring: To report performance monitoring information relating to the priorities and outcomes included in the Corporate Plan	Cabinet (Non key decision)	Helen Dudson helen.dudson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal	Councillor Bird	10 February 2021
3/20 (6.1.20)	Strategic development at Moxley Road, Darlaston Private session: Report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person	Cabinet (Key decision)	Joanne Nugent 01922 654752 joanne.nugent@walsall.gov.uk Joel Maybury 01922 654748	Internal	Councillor Andrew	10 February 2021
51/20 (5.10.20)	High Needs Funding Formula: To approve changes to the formula to be used for the allocation of High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant funding for the 2021/22 academic year	Cabinet (Key decision)	Andy Crabtree Mohammed Irfan 01922 652330	Schools Forum	Councillor Towe	10 February 2020

**Date of next meeting
21 January 2020**