

Minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Walsall Council House

Thursday, 24 July 2025 at 6.00p.m.

Committee Members present: Councillor M Follows (Chair)
Councillor S Cheema (Vice-Chair)
Councillor A Garcha
Councillor I Hussain
Councillor R Larden
Councillor K Margetts
Councillor V Waters
Councillor J Whitehouse

Portfolio Holders present: Councillor A Hicken – Safe Streets and Communities
Councillor S Samra – Street Pride

Officers present: Dave Brown – Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities.
Kathryn Moreton – Director of Place and Environment
Paul Gordon – Director of Resilient Communities
Dave Elrington – Head of Community Safety and Enforcement
Matt Powis – Senior Democratic Services Officer

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Bott and L Harrison.

2. **Substitutions**

Councillor E Russell substituted for Councillor P Bott.

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

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

5. **Areas of Focus – 2025/26**

The Committee received presentations from the Director of Economy, Environment and Communities and Portfolio Holders. [Annexed].

The presentations outlined the key services within directorates which fall under the remit of the Committee, the structure of directorate, prioritisation within service areas, and suggested areas of focus for the Committee. In particular, the Portfolio Holders highlighted the following priorities:

- Promotion of sustainability including improvement of green spaces
- Resident engagement with food waste
- Expansion of traded services
- Opening of Middlemore Lane Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- Continuation of the resilient communities with personal responsibility, community led solutions, integrated services and enforcement.
- Strengthening Walsall Community Network and Tea Walsall for asset-based community development.
- Working towards Gold Award for Defence Employer Recognition.
- Supporting Armed Forces Day 2026.

The Democratic Services Officer provided an overview of the outstanding items identified in the previous municipal year. Following a lengthy debate, it was resolved that the following items be included in the work programme for the 2025/2026 municipal year:

- Enforcement of litter and associated fines including fly tipping, fly posting update
- School gate parking enforcement – recommendation monitoring
- Council Waste Strategy and Simpler Recycling in England
- Flood Risk Management Functions and associated invitations to South Staffs Water/Severn Trent
- Community Cohesion Update
- Voluntary Sector and relationship with our volunteers
- Climate Change Action Plan and Net Zero 2041 Strategy
- Road markings, street signs, 20 mph zones and general road safety
- Amenity Grass Cutting Strategy
- Partnership working with West Midlands Police on traffic speed enforcement
- Invitation to the Chief Superintendent and Police and Crime Commissioner
- Tree Planting Strategy including tree maintenance
- Food Waste and post-completion update on Middlemore Lane HWRC
- Enforcement Working Group Recommendation Monitoring
- Middlemore Lane – Recycling Centre Site Visit

Resolved:

That, the following items be scheduled for the Street Scene and Communities Committee work programme for 2025/26:

- **Enforcement of litter and associated fines including fly tipping, fly posting update**

- **School gate parking enforcement – Recommendation monitoring**
- **Council Waste Strategy and Simpler Recycling in England**
- **Flood Risk Management Functions and associated invitations to South Staffs Water/Severn Trent**
- **Community Cohesion Update**
- **Voluntary Sector and relationship with our volunteers**
- **Climate Change Action Plan and Net Zero 2041 Strategy**
- **Road markings, street signs, 20 mph zones and general road safety**
- **Amenity Grass Cutting Strategy**
- **Partnership working with West Midlands Police on traffic speed enforcement**
- **Invitation to the Chief Superintendent and Police and Crime Commissioner**
- **Tree Planting Strategy including tree maintenance**
- **Food Waste and post-completion update on Middlemore Lane HWRC**
- **Enforcement Working Group Recommendation Monitoring**
- **Middlemore Lane – Recycling Centre Site Visit**

6. Forward Plans

The Committee considered the forward plans.

Resolved:

That the forward plans were noted.

7. Date of next meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.53p.m.

It was noted that the next meeting was due to take place on 2 September 2025.

Signed:

Date: