

## Cabinet – 7 February 2024

### Recommendations from Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Councillor Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration
<b>Related Portfolios:</b>	None
<b>Service:</b>	Economy, Environment and Communities
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Forward plan:</b>	N/A

#### 1. Aim

To receive a recommendation from the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee made on 23 October 2023.

#### 2. Recommendations

That Cabinet considers the recommendations of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### 3. Report detail – know

At its meeting of 23 October 2023, the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.

He highlighted that £1.5 billion was being invested into transforming the Borough with a number of interventions to regenerate and support economic activity, increase housing choice and make Walsall a better-connected town for businesses and residents alike.

Members noted the proposed changes as part of the Walsall Town Centre Masterplan including the Connected Gateway project. This project was aimed at improving connections between the town's bus station and train station thus making each transport hub more accessible. In this respect, there was a view that further work could be done to increase transport links by relocating bus services closer to the train station and Park Street.

Due to the changes in consumer habits and the changing role of high streets post-pandemic, the Committee expressed their belief that the Council should be radical in changes to the Borough's town centre plans. They recommended this

should include exploring options for future housing projects in town centres across the Borough.

**Resolved:**

**To recommend to Cabinet that:**

- 1. That, the Cabinet and Council Officers be radical in changes to the Borough's Town Centre plans as town centres have radically changed post-pandemic.**
- 2. In connection with (1) above, the Council look to increase transport links by moving bus services closer to Walsall Train Station and Park Street, Walsall.**
- 3. That, the Council explore a clearer vision of future housing potential in town centres in future plans and reports.**

**4. Decide**

The recommendations of the Committee are set out and the Cabinet could choose to:

1. Accept the recommendations as set out;
2. Reject the recommendations; and/or
3. Choose to receive a report in more depth at a future Cabinet meeting.

**5. Respond**

Following the decision of Cabinet, the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be advised of the outcome of their recommendation.

**6. Review**

Subject to the decision of Cabinet, further reports at Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings or Cabinet meetings may be required.

**Background papers**

None

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