

10 June 2010

Consideration of Panel Work Programme for 2010/11

Ward(s) All

Portfolio Holders:

Summary of report:

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

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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Background papers:

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

Resource and legal considerations:

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

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

Citizen impact:

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

Environmental impact:

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

Performance management:

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

Equality Implications:

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

Consultation:

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

Lead Officer:

Paul Davies, Executive Director for Social Care and Inclusion
t: 01922 652070
e: morrisj@walsall.gov.uk

Report Author:

Matthew Underhill, Scrutiny Officer
t: 01922 652087
e: underhillm@walsall.gov.uk

Introduction

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

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

Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel

All aspects and general services related to social care and inclusion for example; adult services as conferred under the Health and Social Care Act 2001 within the functions set out in section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Work Programme

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

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

Working Groups

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

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

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

Value for Money Service Reviews

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel has developed a value for money (vfm) toolkit to assist Members if it is decided to complete a service review. Last year the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel used the value for money toolkit to review the Councils Communication and Payroll and Pensions services. The two reviews were well received by both Members and Officers and resulted in positive recommendations for both services. The Corporate Panel recommended that other Panel's also look to use this toolkit and this recommendation was endorsed by the scrutiny working group of Chair's and Vice-Chairs.

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

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

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

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

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

Appendices

Appendix 1: RESIDENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITY FINDINGS

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

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

Suggested Items

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

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

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

Appendix Four is a copy of the forward plan for May to September 2010.

Appendix Five is the outcome of a recent public survey on what local residents believe scrutiny and performance panels should consider. The survey closed on 31 May 2010 with the results of the survey to be tabled at the meeting.

BRIEFING NOTE

**TO: SOCIAL CARE AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE
PANEL
DATE: 8 JUNE 2010**

RE: RESIDENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITY FINDINGS**Purpose**

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

Consultation activity

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

Findings**Budget consultation October 2009:**

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

The Place Survey 2008:

Respondents identified the following top 5 priorities for improvement:

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

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

- Level of crime;
- Clean streets;

- Health Services;
- Affordable decent homes;
- Public transport.

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

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

Appendix 1

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

Author

Matthew Underhill

Scrutiny Officer

☎ 01922 652087 or underhillm@walsall.gov.uk

PLACE SURVEY

Perception on National Indicators

National Indicator	Bloxwich/ Blakenall, Birchills Leamore	Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall- Shelfield	Darlaston / Bentley	St Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck	Streetly / Pheasey / Aldridge / Walsall Wood	Willenhall / Short Heath	Walsall (GAR based on National position)
NI 001 % who agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together	different backgrounds get on well together 55.1%	different backgrounds get on well together 75.3%	different backgrounds get on well together 75.4%	different backgrounds get on well together 72%	different backgrounds get on well together 78.9%	different backgrounds get on well together 70%	different backgrounds get on well together 70.9%
NI 002 % who feel they belong to their immediate neighbourhood	feel they belong 51.7%	feel they belong 56.8%	feel they belong 51.2%	feel they belong 54.3%	feel they belong 62.7%	feel they belong 54.3%	feel they belong 55.8%
NI 003 % who have been involved in decisions that affect the local area in the past 12 months	have been involved in decisions that affect the local area 13.9%	have been involved in decisions that affect the local area 13.8%	have been involved in decisions that affect the local area 14.9%	have been involved in decisions that affect the local area 21.8%	have been involved in decisions that affect the local area 11.5%	have been involved in decisions that affect the local area 7.7%	have been involved in decisions that affect the local area 14%
NI 004 % who agree that they can influence decisions in their local area	Influence decisions 24.2%	Influence decisions 21.0%	Influence decisions 21.5%	Influence decisions 30.7%	Influence decisions 17.7%	Influence decisions 20.9%	Influence decisions 22.7%
NI 005 % who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live	Local area satisfaction 64.0%	Local area satisfaction 76.3%	Local area satisfaction 65.1%	Local area satisfaction 66.7%	Local area satisfaction 84.1%	Local area satisfaction 67.9%	Local area satisfaction 71.4%
NI 006 % who have given unpaid help at least once per month over the last 12 months	Participation in volunteering 13.4%	Participation in volunteering 14.2%	Participation in volunteering 14.9%	Participation in volunteering 28.7%	Participation in volunteering 19.0%	Participation in volunteering 16.8%	Participation in volunteering 18.5%

National Indicator	Bloxwich/ Blakenall, Birchills Leamore	Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall- Shelfield	Darlaston / Bentley	St Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck	Streetly / Pheasey / Aldridge / Walsall Wood	Willenhall / Short Heath	Walsall (GAR based on National position)
NI 017 % who think that anti-social behaviour is a problem in their local area	Perceptions of ASB 37.9%	Perceptions of ASB 20.8%	Perceptions of ASB 35.5%	Perceptions of ASB 26.3%	Perceptions of ASB 18.1%	Perceptions of ASB 23.5%	Perceptions of ASB 26.1%
NI 021 % who agree that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime in their local area	Dealing with concerns about ASB and crime 20.4%	Dealing with concerns about ASB and crime 25.8%	Dealing with concerns about ASB and crime 12.0%	Dealing with concerns about ASB and crime 28.8%	Dealing with concerns about ASB and crime 19.7%	Dealing with concerns about ASB and crime 13.5%	Dealing with concerns about ASB and crime 20.8%
NI 022 % who agree that in their local area parents take enough responsibility for the behaviour of their children	Parent responsibility for children's behaviour 19.6%	Parent responsibility for children's behaviour 23.3%	Parent responsibility for children's behaviour 16.8%	Parent responsibility for children's behaviour 29.6%	Parent responsibility for children's behaviour 26.5%	Parent responsibility for children's behaviour 13.6%	Parent responsibility for children's behaviour 22.4%
NI 023 % who think there is a problem with people not treating each other with respect and consideration in their local area	People not treating each other with respect and consideration 51.2%	People not treating each other with respect and consideration 37.8%	People not treating each other with respect and consideration 43.4%	People not treating each other with respect and consideration 30.6%	People not treating each other with respect and consideration 28.3%	People not treating each other with respect and consideration 39.4%	People not treating each other with respect and consideration 37.5%
NI 027 % who agree that the police and other local public services seek people's views about anti-social behaviour and crime in their local area	Local concerns about ASB and crime 24.1%	Local concerns about ASB and crime 21.9%	Local concerns about ASB and crime 20.6%	Local concerns about ASB and crime 29.3%	Local concerns about ASB and crime 18.9%	Local concerns about ASB and crime 16.1%	Local concerns about ASB and crime 22.0%
NI 037 % who feel informed about what to do in the event of a large-scale emergency	Awareness of civil protection arrangements 15.4%	Awareness of civil protection arrangements 12.5%	Awareness of civil protection arrangements 7.2%	Awareness of civil protection arrangements 13.1%	Awareness of civil protection arrangements 13.8%	Awareness of civil protection arrangements 12.4%	Awareness of civil protection arrangements 13.0%
NI 041 % who think that drunk and rowdy behaviour is a problem in their local area	Perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour 34.8%	Perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour 25.2%	Perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour 30.0%	Perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour 36.1%	Perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour 24.3%	Perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour 24.5%	Perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour 29.2%
NI 042 % who think that drug use or drug dealing is a problem in their local area	Perceptions of drug use / dealing as a problem 50.6%	Perceptions of drug use / dealing as a problem 30.7%	Perceptions of drug use / dealing as a problem 47.4%	Perceptions of drug use / dealing as a problem 45.7%	Perceptions of drug use / dealing as a problem 27.4%	Perceptions of drug use / dealing as a problem 35.7%	Perceptions of drug use / dealing as a problem 39.1%
NI 119 % who say their health is good or very good	Self reported measure of health and well-being 67.8%	Self reported measure of health and well-being 66.8%	Self reported measure of health and well-being 57.7%	Self reported measure of health and well-being 70.4%	Self reported measure of health and well-being 72.9%	Self reported measure of health and well-being 73.7%	Self reported measure of health and well-being 69.4%
NI 138 % aged 65 and over who are satisfied with both home and neighbourhood	Satisfaction of 65+ with home and neighbourhood 71.7%	Satisfaction of 65+ with home and neighbourhood 84.3%	Satisfaction of 65+ with home and neighbourhood 61.2%	Satisfaction of 65+ with home and neighbourhood 69.7%	Satisfaction of 65+ with home and neighbourhood 85.1%	Satisfaction of 65+ with home and neighbourhood 79.5%	Satisfaction of 65+ with home and neighbourhood 77.8%
NI 139 % who think that older people in their local area get the help and support they need to continue to live at home for as long as they want to	Perceptions of older people receiving support to live at home 33.6%	Perceptions of older people receiving support to live at home 31.5%	Perceptions of older people receiving support to live at home 40.4%	Perceptions of older people receiving support to live at home 29.0%	Perceptions of older people receiving support to live at home 30.4%	Perceptions of older people receiving support to live at home 32.2%	Perceptions of older people receiving support to live at home 32.0%
NI 140 % who would say that they have been treated with respect and consideration by their local public services in the last year	Fair treatment by local services 58.6%	Fair treatment by local services 63.7%	Fair treatment by local services 53.5%	Fair treatment by local services 60.6%	Fair treatment by local services 70.8%	Fair treatment by local services 62.3%	Fair treatment by local services 62.8%

PLACE SURVEY 2008/9

General perceptions on effectiveness of local public services, the council, how well informed on issues, fear of crime

Local public services.....	Bloxwich/ Blakenall, Birchills Leamore	Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall Shelfield	Darlaston / Bentley	St Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck	Streetly / Pheasey / Aldridge / Walsall Wood	Willenhall / Short Heath	Walsall	
Q6 a) Local public services are working to make the area safer - a great deal some extent	Making the area safer? 133 (56%)	Making the area safer? 107 (54%)	Making the area safer? 43 (37%)	Making the area safer? 156 (47%)	Making the area safer? 161 (46%)	Making the area safer? 108 (48%)	Making the area safer? 708 (53%)	3rd worst authority nationally
Q6 b) Local public services are working to make the area cleaner and greener - a great deal some extent	Making area cleaner greener? 138 (54%)	Making area cleaner greener? 136 (68%)	Making area cleaner greener? 59 (50%)	Making area cleaner greener? 156 (56%)	Making area cleaner greener? 197 (65%)	Making area cleaner greener? 112 (48%)	Making area cleaner greener? 797 (58%)	11th worst authority nationally
Q6 c) Local public services promote the interests of local residents - a great deal some extent	Promote interests of local residents 88 (40%)	Promote interests of local residents 65 (35%)	Promote interests of local residents 18 (18%)	Promote interests of local residents 96 (36%)	Promote interests of local residents 98 (35%)	Promote interests of local residents 57 (28%)	Promote interests of local residents 421 (33%)	7th worst authority nationally
Q6 d) Local public services act on the concerns of local residents - a great deal some extent	Act on concerns 94 (41%)	Act on concerns 61 (33%)	Act on concerns 33 (31%)	Act on concerns 108 (41%)	Act on concerns 104 (38%)	Act on concerns 57 (28%)	Act on concerns 456 (36%)	13th worst authority nationally
Q6 e) Local public services treat all types of people fairly - a great deal some extent	Treat people fairly 134 (62%)	Treat people fairly 111 (65%)	Treat people fairly 60 (64%)	Treat people fairly 174 (71%)	Treat people fairly 161 (63%)	Treat people fairly 113 (61%)	Treat people fairly 752 (64%)	21st worst authority nationally
Q8 a) How satisfied are you with Walsall Council keeping public land clear of litter and refuse - satisfied	Satisfied with Cleanliness standards 108 (41%)	Satisfied with Cleanliness standards 88 (42%)	Satisfied with Cleanliness standards 39 (32%)	Satisfied with Cleanliness standards 139 (49%)	Satisfied with Cleanliness standards 160 (51%)	Satisfied with Cleanliness standards 95 (38%)	Satisfied with Cleanliness standards 629 (43%)	8th worst authority nationally
Q10) To what extent do you agree or disagree that Walsall Council provides value for money - agree	Council provides VFM 64 (27%)	Council provides VFM 37 (19%)	Council provides VFM 27 (22%)	Council provides VFM 49 (18%)	Council provides VFM 74 (26%)	Council provides VFM 51 (22%)	Council provides VFM 302 (22%)	11th worst local council
Q11) Taking everything into account, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way Walsall Council run things - satisfied	Satisfaction with council 94 (37%)	Satisfaction with council 64 (31%)	Satisfaction with council 36 (29%)	Satisfaction with council 84 (29%)	Satisfaction with council 106 (35%)	Satisfaction with council 72 (30%)	Satisfaction with council 456 (32%)	12th worst local council

Local public services.....	Bloxwich/ Blakenall, Birchills Leamore	Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall Shelfield	Darlaston / Bentley	St Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck	Streetly / Pheasey / Aldridge / Walsall Wood	Willenhall / Short Heath	Walsall	
Q12 c) How well informed do you feel about how to get involved in local decision making - informed	How to get involved in local decision making 61 (27%)	How to get involved in local decision making 51 (28%)	How to get involved in local decision making 21 (21%)	How to get involved in local decision making 69 (27%)	How to get involved in local decision making 71 (26%)	How to get involved in local decision making 58 (27%)	How to get involved in local decision making 331 (26%)	35th worst authority
Q12 d) How well informed do you feel about what standard of service you should expect from local public services - informed	Informed about standards of service 79 (32%)	Informed about standards of service 65 (34%)	Informed about standards of service 43 (38%)	Informed about standards of service 96 (35%)	Informed about standards of service 108 (37%)	Informed about standards of service 68 (30%)	Informed about standards of service 458 (34%)	32nd worst authority
Q12 e) How well informed do you feel about how well public services are performing - informed	Informed about how well services are performing 95 (39%)	Informed about how well services are performing 76 (40%)	Informed about how well services are performing 35 (33%)	Informed about how well services are performing 80 (31%)	Informed about how well services are performing 91 (31%)	Informed about how well services are performing 56 (24%)	Informed about how well services are performing 433 (33%)	47th worst authority
Q12 h) How well informed do you feel about how well informed you feel about public services - informed	how well informed you feel about public services 90 (35%)	how well informed you feel about public services 68 (33%)	how well informed you feel about public services 26 (22%)	how well informed you feel about public services 96 (34%)	how well informed you feel about public services 104 (33%)	how well informed you feel about public services 57 (23%)	how well informed you feel about public services 441 (31%)	12th worst authority
Q14) Generally speaking would you like to be more involved in decisions that affect your local area - Yes	would like to be more involved in local decisions 58 (22%)	would like to be more involved in local decisions 51 (25%)	would like to be more involved in local decisions 33 (28%)	would like to be more involved in local decisions 102 (36%)	would like to be more involved in local decisions 82 (27%)	would like to be more involved in local decisions 47 (19%)	would like to be more involved in local decisions 373 (26%)	151 worst authority (350)
Q22) How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area after dark safe	feel safe outside in local area after dark 28%	feel safe outside in local area after dark 40%	feel safe outside in local area after dark 28%	feel safe outside in local area after dark 39%	feel unsafe outside in local area after dark 45%	feel safe outside in local area after dark 38%	feel safe outside in local area after dark 37%	19th worst authority
Q22) How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area during the day - safe	feel safe outside in local area during the day 79%	feel safe outside in local area during the day 81%	feel safe outside in local area during the day 83%	feel safe outside in local area during the day 78%	feel safe outside in local area during the day 90%	feel safe outside in local area during the day 86%	feel safe outside in local area during the day 83%	45th worst authority

PLACE SURVEY 2008/9

Top 5 issues for improvement

Bloxwich/ Blakenall, Birchills Leamore	Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall- Sheffield	Darlaston / Bentley	St Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck	Streetly / Pheasey / Aldridge / Walsall Wood	Willenhall / Short Heath	Walsall
level of crime 51%	Activities for teenagers 64%	Activities for teenagers 53%	level of traffic congestion 45%	Activities for teenagers 57%	Activities for teenagers 52%	Activities for teenagers 52%
Road and Pavement repairs 50%	Road and Pavement repairs 48%	Road and Pavement repairs 43%	Road and Pavement repairs 42%	Road and Pavement repairs 53%	Road and Pavement repairs 48%	Road and Pavement repairs 48%
Activities for teenagers 48%	level of traffic congestion 35%	level of crime 43%	Activities for teenagers 41%	level of crime 31%	Clean Streets 34%	level of crime 36%
Clean Streets 45%	Clean Streets 33%	Clean Streets 42%	level of crime 36%	Clean Streets 31%	level of crime 32%	Clean Streets 36%
Job prospects 29%	Facilities for young children 27%	Job prospects 30%	Clean Streets 34%	level of traffic congestion 30%	Job prospects 26%	level of traffic congestion 29%
	level of crime 27%					

Job prospects (Walsall = 25%); facilities for young children (Walsall = 24%)
XX% denotes 'better than borough average'
XX% denotes 'worse than borough average'

Must Do's (Valued for 'local quality of life' vs 'most in need of improvement')

Bloxwich/ Blakenall, Birchills Leamore	Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall- Sheffield	Darlaston / Bentley	St Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck	Streetly / Pheasey / Aldridge / Walsall Wood	Willenhall / Short Heath	Walsall
level of crime	level of crime	level of crime	level of crime	level of crime	level of crime	Activities for teenagers
Clean Streets	Clean Streets	Clean Streets	Clean Streets	Clean Streets	Clean Streets	level of crime
Road and Pavement repairs	Activities for teenagers	Activities for teenagers	Affordable decent housing	Activities for teenagers	Activities for teenagers	Clean Streets
Activities for teenagers			Job prospects	Road and Pavement repairs	Job prospects	

PLACE SURVEY

Anti-social behaviour (Top 3 issues by Neighbourhood Management Area)

Bloxwich/ Blakenall, Birchills Leamore	Brownhills / Pelsall / Rushall- Sheffield	Darlaston / Bentley	St Matthew's / Paddock / Palfrey / Pleck	Streetly / Pheasey / Aldridge / Walsall Wood	Willenhall / Short Heath	Walsall
Teenagers hanging around on the streets 62%	Teenagers hanging around on the streets 50%	Rubbish or litter lying around 69%	Rubbish or litter lying around 47%	Teenagers hanging around on the streets 45%	Teenagers hanging around on the streets 52%	Teenagers hanging around on the streets 51%
Rubbish or litter lying around 61%	Rubbish or litter lying around 50%	Teenagers hanging around on the streets 64%	People using or dealing drugs 46%	Rubbish or litter lying around 37%	Rubbish or litter lying around 51%	Rubbish or litter lying around 50%
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles 51%	Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles 38%	Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles 48%	Teenagers hanging around on the streets 40%	Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles 31%	People using or dealing drugs 36%	Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles 39%
People using or dealing drugs 51%						People using or dealing drugs 39%
NI 17 (ASB perceptions) 38%	NI 17 (ASB perceptions) 21%	NI 17 (ASB perceptions) 36%	NI 17 (ASB perceptions) 26%	NI 17 (ASB perceptions) 18%	NI 17 (ASB perceptions) 24%	NI 17 (ASB perceptions) 26%

XX% denotes 'better than borough average'

XX% denotes 'worse than borough average'

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Links to Work					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	Links to Work is a work preparation and supported employment service for people who have a disability or are disadvantaged by society. Links to Work offers support, tackles inequalities and encourages independence through the acquisition of skills and progression to open employment. The Links to Work service has been restructured during the last year in response to a falling income stream and an increasing budget deficit. It will be important for service users that restructured services are delivered effectively.					
Who does it affect?	Service users					
Who needs to be involved?	Officers responsible for the service, as well as potentially service users or representatives.					
How can scrutiny add value?	The Panel can assist in the process of identifying the most effective approach to the delivery of services.					
Timings	The restructure of services is ongoing throughout 2010-11.					
Performance Information	<p>There are key performance indicators that are affected by the operations at Links to Work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N1 132 – Timeliness of social care assessment (18+) • N1 133 – Timeliness of social care package (18+ from 2009/10) • N1 136 – People supported to live independently through social services. • N1 146 – Adults with learning disabilities in employment. 					

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Personalisation					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	<p>Personalisation is a national programme aimed at creating more individual choice in the way people receive their care. The Department of Health has stated, "personalisation of social care services means that every person who receives support whether provided by statutory services or funded by themselves, will have choice and control over the shape of that support in all care settings". The Panel established a working group to investigate the introduction of the programme in Walsall during the previous municipal year. It has significant implications for both local residents and the council's ability to fund services.</p> <p>A number of other proposals related to the personalisation agenda may also be developed during the next year and which the Panel may also wish to consider. These include the development of the universal offer with the possibility of a Centre for Independent Living (CIL) as a "shop front" for independence, health and well being.</p>					
Who does it affect?	Local residents in receipt of care.					
Who needs to be involved?	Council officers, partner organisations, stakeholders, service users. The Panel supported the recommendation made in the working group report that the working group be re-established in 2010-11.					
How can scrutiny add value?	The Panel agreed to continue to monitor and review the introduction of Personalisation. It is anticipated that it will be able to continue to support the effective introduction of the programme.					
Timings	The introduction of Personalisation will be ongoing throughout 2010/11.					
Performance	A number of targets exist for implementation of the					

Information	programme.
--------------------	------------

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	In House Homecare and NCO/CAS response service					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	The In House Home Care Service, Neighbourhood Community Officers and Community Alarms are going to come together in partnership with the Police and Fire Service to deliver a multi-level response service across the borough for vulnerable adults.					
Who does it affect?	All vulnerable adults 18-100+ Staffing Teams.					
Who needs to be involved?	Operational Officers, Colleagues from the Police and Fire Service as well as the voluntary and private sectors. The ARC. Unions.					
How can scrutiny add value?	Scrutiny could act as a critical friend for the plans which would change the nature of in-house services and their partnerships in the borough.					
Timings	This will happen over the next 6-12 months with a final implementation date of 1/4/11					
Performance Information	<i>Performance targets yet to be set.</i>					

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Development of a retail model for the provision of equipment and adaptations					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	At present the council is responsible for the warehousing and delivery of equipment and adaptations to service users. A number of challenges exist, including providers failing to deliver equipment within 28 days from assessment and 7 days from receipt of a referral. This impacts on service users, as well as the council in meeting performance targets. It is anticipated that the introduction of a retail-model in 2010-11 will enable individuals to make personalised and flexible arrangements which will tackle some of the existing challenges, including in relation to delivery, by encouraging a greater sense of ownership in the process, as well as remove a significant part of the provision burden from the council.					
Who does it affect?	Service users and officers responsible for service delivery.					
Who needs to be involved?	Officers responsible for service delivery. Consideration might be given to including service users in determining the most effective approach.					
How can scrutiny add value?	Support the process of identifying and introducing the most effective approach.					
Timings	The retail model is expected to be introduced during the 2010-11 financial year.					
Performance Information	D54 Equipment/ adaptations delivered within 7 days, and NI133 Timelines of social care package.					

Appendix 2

Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

Issue	Walsall LINK (Local Involvement Network)					
Who from	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
Why is it important?	In 2008 Patient Forums were replaced with Local Involvement Networks (LINKs). The purpose of Walsall LINK is to enable local residents to become involved and support wide and diverse representation of the community, particularly in relation to local health service provision. Within the last 12 months the LINK has undergone significant changes, including the introduction of a new host organisation and an election for LINK Board Members. The Panel identified the need to continue to ensure that the LINK represents the interests of local residents in relation to statutory health services.					
Who does it affect?	Local residents, service users					
Who needs to be involved?	The LINK, the host organisation, partner organisations and council officers					
How can scrutiny add value?	Scrutiny can assist in identifying approaches that enable the LINK to be effective. In addition, the Panel is part of the formal structure of which the LINK can make use for the raising of issues and concerns.					
Timings	This process will be ongoing throughout 2010/11					
Performance Information	The council has to ensure that effective support for the LINK remains in place.					



Walsall Council

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

7 May 2010

FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” which the Executive (Cabinet) intend to take over the following 4 months. Preparation of the forward plan helps the Council to programme its work. The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The plan is updated each month with the period of the plan being rolled forward by one month and republished. The plan is available for public inspection at the Civic Centre Reception, Darwall Street, Walsall. Copies of the plan can be obtained from John Garner, Constitutional Services, Walsall MBC, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1TP, 01922 653500 or e-mail cabinetoffice@walsall.gov.uk. The forward plan can also be accessed from the Council’s website at www.walsall.gov.uk. The Cabinet are allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change. Please contact the above addressee if you wish to check the date for a particular item.

The Cabinet Members and their responsibilities are as follows: **(to be approved by the Leader of the Council)**

Leader of the Council

Deputy Leader and Regeneration

Business support services

Children’s services

Communities and partnerships

Environment

Finance and personnel

Leisure and culture

Social care, health and housing

Transport

The Cabinet agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet. The papers can be seen at First Stop Shop at the Civic Centre, Walsall. The papers are also available on the Council’s website referred to above shortly before the meeting. Background papers are listed on each report submitted to the Cabinet and members of the public are entitled to see these documents unless they are confidential. The report also contains the name and telephone number of a contact officer. These details can also be found in the forward plan.

Meetings of the Cabinet are open to the public and take place in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall on a monthly basis. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are confidential and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting.

The forward plan does not list all decisions which have to be taken by the Council only “key decisions” which are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. The Council’s Constitution defines a key decision as an executive decision which is likely:

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

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

2010

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

2011

12 January
9 February
16 March
13 April

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Key decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
86/09 (9.11.09)	New Horizons Community Enterprise Walsall's New Deal for Communities end 31.3.2011. The Department for Communities and Local Government are encouraging New Deal partnerships to develop succession strategies beyond the end of the programme. As accountable body the Council is required by the DCLG to formally approve the succession strategy.	Cabinet	Paul Rowlands 712858	New Horizons Community Enterprise, Department for Communities and Local Government, Government Office, West Midlands	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
28/09 (8.5.09)	Walsall Gigaport – To consider and agree the principles of the partnership agreement with Advantage West Midlands for the delivery of the Gigaport, to advise on the bid to AWM for project, funding, to endorse, in principle, the use of compulsory purchase powers where necessary, to agree the process for the procurement of a development partner and the identification of a delivery model	Cabinet	Paul Nicholson 652489 Richard Chadwick 652576	Walsall Regeneration Company	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
10/10 (8.2.10)	Building Schools for the Future – approve the strategy for change part 2 prior to submission to Partnership for Schools. The document sets out a clear, robust and resourced plan to deliver educational transformation across the secondary school estate in Walsall.	Cabinet	Alison Butcher 655489	Schools, partners, scrutiny members, trade unions, community representatives	Regeneration portfolio Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010

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

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

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Key decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
(7.5.10)	Contracts for treatment, recovery and final disposal of municipal waste – award of contract for waste disposal – medium term arrangements, 5 year contract to various contractors	Cabinet	Dave Roberts 653957	Internal	Environment portfolio	December 2010