



Walsall Council

Scrutiny Overview Committee

17 June 2024 at 6:00PM

Meeting Venue: Council Chamber at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall

[Livestream Link](#)

Membership:

Councillor J Murray (Chair)
Councillor K Hussain (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Bott
Councillor J Chapman
Councillor M Follows
Councillor A Hicken
Councillor N Latham
Councillor K Sears
Councillor G Singh Sohal
Councillor M Ward
Councillor V Waters

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor G Perry - Leader of the Council
Councillor M Statham – Deputy Leader and Finance
Councillor A Garcha – Resident Access and Housing Support
Councillor E Lee – Internal Resources

Quorum:

4 Members

Democratic Services, The Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW
Contact name: Matt Powis Telephone: 01922 652156 Email: matthew.powis@walsall.gov.uk
[Walsall Council Website](#)

**If you are disabled and require help to and from the meeting room,
please contact the person above**

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.

Part 1 – Public Session

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. Minutes of the previous meeting

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2024.

(Enclosed – Pages 1 - 7)

4. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

5. 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.

6. Areas of focus – 2024/25

For Members to agree their areas of focus for 2024/25 and to receive presentations from:

- a. Portfolio Holder on their priorities for the year
- b. Executive Directors for services within the remit of the Committee.

(Enclosed – Pages 8 - 12)

7. Forward Plans

To receive the latest Forward Plans in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Plans.
- Black Country Joint Executive Committee.
- West Midlands Combined Authority Board.

(Enclosed - Pages 13 - 31)

8. Recommendations Tracker

To consider progress on recommendations from the previous meeting.

(Enclosed – Pages 32 - 36)

9. Date of next meeting

To note that the date of the next meeting will be on 26 September 2024.

Minutes of the Scrutiny Overview Committee held in the Council Chamber at Walsall Council House

Thursday, 18 April 2024 at 6.00p.m.

Committee Members present: Councillor J Murray (Chair)
Councillor A Nawaz (Vice-Chair)
Councillor M Follows
Councillor F Hassan
Councillor A Hicken
Councillor G Singh-Sohal

Portfolio Holder present: Councillor Bird – Leader of the Council
Councillor Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration

Officers present: Dave Brown – Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities
Elise Hopkins – Director of Customer Engagement
Katie Moreton – Director – Place and Environment
Keith Beech – Director of Communications
Matt Powis – Senior Democratic Services Officer

73. **Apologies**

An apology was received from Councillor K Hussain.

74. **Substitutions**

Councillor Hasan substituted on behalf of Councillor K Hussain.

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

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

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

There were no items to consider in private session.

77. **Minutes**

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 14 March 2024 was submitted [annexed].

Resolved

That, the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2024, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

78. **Marketing and Advertising Strategy**

The Director of Communications provided an overview of the Council's Marketing and Advertising Strategy including current engagement and priority campaigns taking place. [Annexed]

Members were informed that priorities were based on the Council's Plan and corporate priorities were refreshed each year. The following priority campaigns were noted for 2023/24:

- Regeneration
- Family Hubs
- Street Pride
- Heritage, Leisure and Culture
- Community Safety
- Local Borough Plan
- We Are Walsall 2040
- Staff Engagement and Culture
- Elections
- Children's and Young People's Health
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- CQC Readiness

Working in tandem with priority campaigns, the Council was committed to working collaboratively with partners and the press to ensure successful delivery of campaigns. It was highlighted that more than 40 press releases were issued every month with majority released to promote services and support activities across the Council.

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

- As part of the Council's income generation priorities, there was a commitment to grow and generate income from advertisements. Examples were highlighted such as the implementation of adverts on 41 roundabouts across the Borough.
- The Council had identified a number of sites around M6 Junction 10 with a view for advertisements to be located as appropriately to generate extra income.

- Any potential advertisement needed to comply with the Council's advertisement policy and terms and conditions. As such, there was a clear assertion that the Council was not endorsing any product advertised.
- There was an opportunity to advertise on lampposts in the Borough. However, further investigation and exploration was required with partners.
- Benchmarking was regularly carried out to ensure that the Council's fees and charges were up to date and within market conditions.

Resolved:

That, the Council's Marketing and Advertising Strategy including promotions and priority campaigns be noted.

79. Emergency Planning

The Director of Place and Environment provided an overview of Council's Emergency Planning function. [Annexed]

The Committee were informed that the Council's Emergency Planning Unit was an essential component of the Civil Protection Framework which set out each category of responder and the responsibilities of local responders including specific duties relating to preparedness, response, and recovery.

- Category 1 responders were the main agencies including emergency services, local authorities and NHS.
- Category 2 responders were cooperating bodies including but not limited to transport and utilities.

Both category responders joined together to form the Local Resilience Forum to share information and facilitation of responses at a local level.

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

- The Council conducted a test within the last 12 months, which included multiple scenarios including national power outages and road traffic collisions.
- There was a requirement to refresh and review Business Continuity Plans annually.
- A Member highlighted the recent measles outbreak and sought clarification on whether Public Health were involved in emergency planning preparations. In response, it was confirmed that Public Health were involved in the Local Resilience Forums and coordinated measures on measles prevention across the Black Country.
- The Council did not organise specific training for commercial stakeholders. However, there would be training for stakeholders when required and necessary to provide an initiative response.
- A Member sought clarification on whether the Council had made preparations for the outbreak of war. In response, the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities confirmed that generic incident

planning was considered. The types of exercises were chosen based on the community risk register to ascertain the principal priorities, which could include war in future.

- The Council utilises various communication tools including but not limited to social media, website and non-digital elements to effectively communicate any messages which would be paramount in a national emergency.
- There was a consensus that non-digital forms of communication were equally important especially when communicating with older people.
- Cyber security was regularly tested to ensure robustness.
- There was a view that Elected Members should be engaged with civil emergency planning and testing.

The Committee were reminded of the Council's governance and decision-making operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic. There was assurance that the Council had appropriate delegations with the Council's Constitution to ensure decisions could still be taken in an emergency. The Leader of the Council confirmed that in the event of a national crisis, Elected Members would be consulted as appropriate, as was practice in the COVID-19 Pandemic.

At this point, Councillor Hasan left the meeting at 6.27p.m.

Resolved:

That, information provided in respect to the Council's Emergency Planning function be noted.

80. Operation Freeway

The Director of Place and Environment provided an overview of Operation Freeway, which was a strategic response plan, owned and managed by National Highways. [Annexed]

Members were informed that the strategic plan aimed to mitigate the impact of exceptional events on the road network particular focusing on the M6 between Junctions 3a and 11a. In the event of a major incident resulting in the M6 motorway being inoperable for more than 24 hours, the regional tactical group would be consulted to consider divert options for traffic. Following this, authorisation from the Secretary of State for Transport would be required in order to suspend toll charges on the M6 Toll for a period time up to three days in order to alleviate traffic flows.

It was noted that the protocol had never been used since the inception of Operation Freeway in 2008.

A question and answer session took place and following on, the principal point from the ensuring discussion:

- A lengthy discussion occurred in respect of the responsibility of activating Operation Freeway. Subsequently, there was a view that the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority should be given the power to use and manage the coordination of Operation Freeway.
- A Member highlighted that consistent stop and start traffic on the M6 Motorway already had a negative impact on the economy. As such, economic impact, should be considered as part of the framework for Operation Freeway.
- There was a view that the M6 Toll Road should be nationalised to alleviate traffic in the West Midlands and the wider road network.
- Whilst the Council had no direct involvement with Operation Freeway, the Council would be consulted and engaged as part of the multi-agency response in the event of the protocol being activated.

Resolved:

That, Operations Freeway be noted.

81. School Gate Parking Working Group – Recommendation Monitoring

The Director for Place and Environment informed Committee of the progress made in respect of the recommendations made by the School Gate Parking Working Group. [Annexed]

Members noted that 16 recommendations were made by the Group and as several of the recommendations already aligned with existing Council policies, significant progress had been made, such as the implementation of moving traffic enforcement. Due to this policy change, the Council issued 2,556 enforcement and 432 penalty charge notices across ten school streets in the Borough during autumn school term in 2023.

Members welcomed the progress made by the Council and thanked officers for their attendance.

Resolved:

That, the progress made against the recommendations from the School Gate Parking Working Group be noted.

82. Housing Standards Working Group – Final Report

The Chair invited Councillor Hicken as Chair of the Working Group to outline the report for consideration. [Annexed]

The Committee noted that the Housing Standards Working Group had been established following concerns regarding housing standards across the Borough. Councillor Hicken highlighted that since January 2024, the Group

had considered a wide range of topics in relation to housing including the impact of HMOs and the impact of Article 4 Directions.

The Chair of the Group thanked Members, Officers, and the Portfolio Holder for their input into the Group's final report.

Resolved:

That, the final report of the Housing Standards Working Group be forwarded to the next meeting of Cabinet.

83. Scrutiny Chair Feedback

The Chair invited each Scrutiny Committee Chair to present their feedback since the last meeting of the Committee.

At this point, the Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader left the meeting at 7.15p.m.

84. Areas of focus – 2023/24 and Forward Plans

The Committee considered the areas of focus and noted the remaining items would be considered by the Committee in the new municipal year. [Annexed]

Resolved:

That, the areas of focus for 2023-24 and forward plans be noted.

85. Recommendations Tracker

The Committee received the tracker of recommendations from previous meetings, including progress made and outstanding items. [Annexed].

It was noted that the action in respect of the Customer Dashboard would be considered by the Committee as a future item.

Resolved:

- 1. That the recommendation tracker be noted.**
- 2. That, the Committee consider an item on Customer Dashboard at a future meeting.**

86. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the date of the meeting would be determined at Annual Council. Members noted the important work carried out by the Committee over the municipal year and thanked participation from all Members.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.26p.m.

Signed:

Date:

17 June 2024

Areas of focus for 2024/25

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor G Perry - Leader of the Council
Councillor M Statham – Deputy Leader and Finance
Councillor E Lee – Internal Resources
Councillor A Garcha – Resident Access and Housing Support

Report

The purpose of this item is to provide relevant background information for Members so that the Committee's areas of focus can be agreed for 2024/25.

It is important for Members to consider the wide range of potential issues within their remit and which of these they could consider during the year.

When agreeing items, it is important that consideration is given to the level of value the Committee could add taking into account. Its important to prioritise work based on strategic importance, data and timing.

Remit

Following Annual Council, the remit of the Committee has been agreed as follows:

Scrutiny Overview Committee shall have consider all aspects and general services related to Council resources and transformation. Including taking an overarching view on strategic plans and services such as:

- *Delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities*
- *The Council transformation programme*
- *Corporate finances*

The scrutinising of performance in relation to the achievement of the Council Plan vision and the following priorities:

- *Internal focus – Council services are customer focussed, effective, efficient and equitable.*
- *Communities – empower our communities so that they feel they are connected and belong in Walsall, creating safe and healthy places whilst building a strong sense of community.*

Scrutiny of the responsible authorities in terms of how they are tackling crime and disorder for the benefit of the local communities (no less than once a year) as required by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 which came into force for local authorities in England on 30 April 2009:

In addition, the Scrutiny Overview Committee shall:

- *Lead on the planning and co-ordination of the programme of activities and in depth studies of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees;*
- *Hold discussions with Portfolio holders over matters such as pre-decision Scrutiny and the programme of policy reviews;*
- *Act as a vehicle of mutual learning.*

Presentations from Leader and Portfolio Holders on their priorities

The Scrutiny-Cabinet Protocol encourages dialogue and communication between Scrutiny Committees and the Cabinet at all times; but especially with selecting items to scrutinise during the ensuing year. To assist with this, presentations on priorities within their respective portfolios will be received at this meeting from:

Councillor G Perry - Leader of the Council
Councillor M Statham – Deputy Leader and Finance
Councillor E Lee – Internal Resources
Councillor A Garcha – Resident Access and Housing Support

Presentation on services within the remit of the Committee

A presentation will be provided at the meeting providing more detail about the Council's services that fall within the committee's remit.

Items recommended from previous year

The following items were recommended for consideration by the committee in the last municipal year:

- Longhurst Group – Social Housing Update.
- Customer Dashboard

Incomplete items from previous year

None

Budget scrutiny

Monitoring the financial performance of the Council is a valuable and important task that Scrutiny Committees are ideally placed to perform. It assists Members in identifying areas of operation that are underperforming that may require scrutiny.

It is suggested that all Scrutiny Committees consider the quarter 2 updates at a formal meeting. It is also suggested that the financial outturn for the previous year, quarter 1 and quarter 3 updates be circulated to Members outside of a formal meeting for information. Subject to the caveat that Members can request the reports to come to a Committee meeting if they wish, and that any significant

budget pressures or changes will be raised with the Chair, to discuss the issue being formally reported to a Committee meeting.

Council performance

The Council Plan, as agreed by the Council, sets the strategic direction for the authority by reference to five priorities. Each priority has a number of measures allocated to it. Scrutiny committees may wish to consider monitoring progress against the measures that sit within their remit. It is the role of the Scrutiny Overview Committee to take an overarching view of performance against all measures included in the Council Plan.

Pre-scrutiny

A copy of the Forward Plans of key decisions from Walsall Council's Cabinet and the West Midlands Combined Authority Board are attached in Agenda Item 7 to this report. Updates of these will be provided to Committees at subsequent meetings. In respect to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee (BCJC), since March 2023, the Black Country LEP has been abolished. As such, the BCJC still monitors the implementation of projects until approximately March, 2026. Decision-making on funds relating to the Black Country Enterprise Zone, will remain with the BCJC until March/April 2025, when it will revert to the Council for matters relating to Walsall.

Members should consider the forthcoming decisions and consider if there are any issues that they may wish to review and seek to influence prior to the Cabinet making a decision on these matters.

Working Groups

A working group is an effective method for Members of Scrutiny Committees to consider an issue in depth over a number of months and to produce a final report and recommendations to the Committee. Once completed, the report and recommendations can be considered by the Cabinet and/or Council. The challenge for Members is selecting the right topic at the right time and to provide the working group with an achievable brief.

In terms of resourcing working groups, mindful consideration should be given to the number of working groups established. Therefore, it is recommended that no more than 3 working groups be established across all Scrutiny Committees.

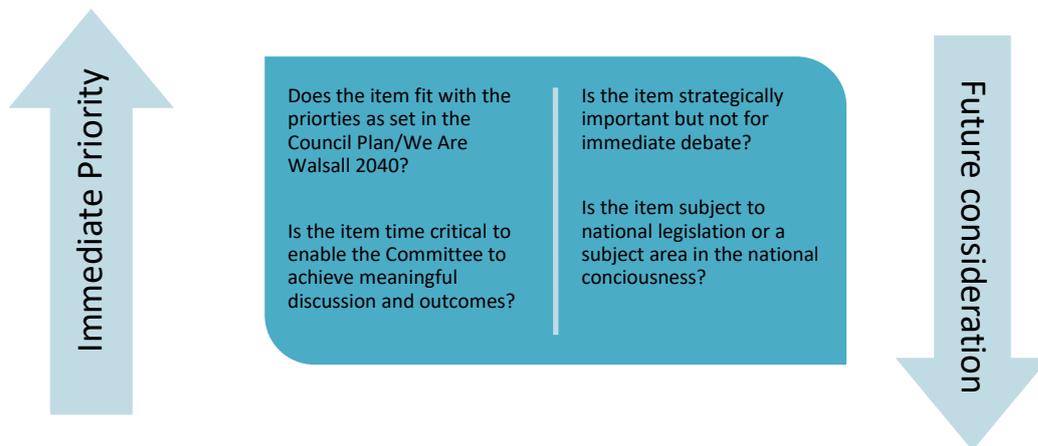
Prioritisation

The remit of the Committee is very broad and the range of issues that could be considered during the year is vast. The challenge that Members face is in prioritising those issues that are the most important whilst still leaving sufficient capacity to address other issues that may arise during the year. To assist Members to manage the broad topics available, it is important that alternative methods of being informed and updated, away from Committee meetings, are used effectively. For example, Members could request briefing notes on particular

topics thereby helping to create additional capacity for more substantial items at Committee meetings.

In terms of scheduling items, it is important that an agenda includes a manageable amount of business to enable the Committee to focus on topics in depth rather than to carry out superficial treatment that may require the Committee to revisit the topic at a later date.

Members should use a prioritisation tool, for example:



THINK PRIDE

Public - Is the subject matter in the public consciousness and concerns local people?

Realistic - Is the matter achievable? Is there enough time to scrutinise, and are the resources available?

Interest - Is this an area affecting a certain ward or the whole Borough/National?

Duplication - Is there work already ongoing? Is another Committee doing the same piece of work?

Effect - Is there an opportunity to change and where Scrutiny can influence?

Statutory Guidance for Scrutiny

On 22 April 2024, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities published new statutory guidance for Councils and Combined Authorities in relation to Overview and Scrutiny functions. Whilst, this is new statutory guidance, majority of the changes refer to the inclusion of combined authorities relating to devolution and the Scrutiny Protocol. In practice, there has been no direct changes in the working arrangements for Scrutiny at Walsall.

Recommendations:

That, the Committee consider and formulate a work programme for the municipal year.

Contact Officer:

Matt Powis
Senior Democratic Services Officer

 01922 652156

 matthew.powis@walsall.gov.uk

Scrutiny Overview Committee – Area of Focus – 2024/25

	17 June 2024	26 September 2024	7 November 2024	9 December 2024	4 February 2025	13 March 2025	17 February 2025
<p><i>Scrutiny Overview Committee shall have consider all aspects and general services related to Council resources and transformation. Including taking an overarching view on strategic plans and services such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Internal Focus</i> • <i>Communities</i> • <i>The Council transformation programme</i> • <i>Corporate finances</i> • <i>Crime and Disorder (Regulations 2009)</i> 	Prioritisation of work programme						

Notes: Council Plan themes can be cross cutting for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Economic – Economy and Environment OSC, People – Social Care and Health OSC and Children – Children OSC.

Quarterly Financial Monitoring circulated via email.

Scrutiny Overview Committee – Area of Focus – 2024/25

Items to be scheduled	Notes
Social Housing – Longhurst Group	From 2023/24 Work Programme.
Customer Dashboard	Recommended as a future item for consideration on 18 th April 2024.
West Midlands Combined Authority	Quarter 1 Corporate Update Quarter 2 Annual Scrutiny Report Quarter 4 WMCA Work in Walsall
Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder matters (no less than once a year)	

Notes: Council Plan themes can be cross cutting for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Economic – Economy and Environment OSC, People – Social Care and Health OSC and Children – Children OSC.

Quarterly Financial Monitoring circulated via email.



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

4 June 2024

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 Craig.Goodall@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.

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 (Craig.Goodall@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 £500,000.

- (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.

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
JULY 2024 TO OCTOBER 2024
(04.06.2024)

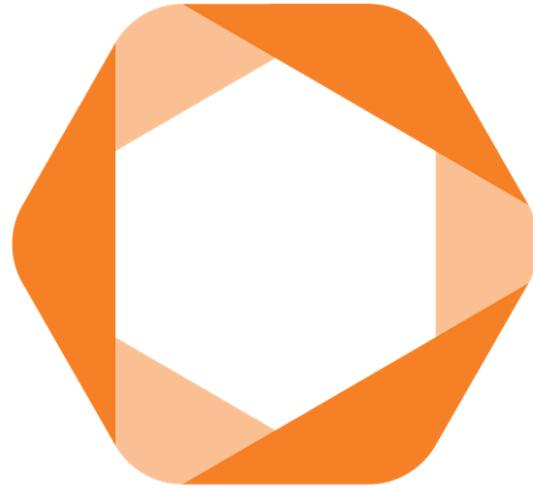
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
36/24 (4.6.24)	Council Plan 2022/25 – Q4 23/24: To note the Quarter 4 2023/24 (outturn) performance against the Markers of Success in the Council Plan 2022/25.	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Sam Oliver Sam.Oliver@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	17 July 2024
25/24 (8.5.24)	Productivity Plan: To agree the publication of the Council's DLUHC Productivity Plan response document.	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Karen Griffiths Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	17 July 2024
23/24 (18.3.24)	Commercial Strategy: To agree the strategic approach to generating income, reducing costs, fostering an entrepreneurial culture, forming partnerships, and investing in businesses to support local economies and social objectives	Cabinet Key Decision	Michele McPherson Michele.McPherson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	17 July 2024

26/24 (8.5.24)	Pre-Audit Outturn 2023/24: To receive the pre-audit revenue and capital financial outturn position for 2023/24 and approve recommended carry forwards, and financial indicators for 2023/24.	Cabinet Key decision	Ross Hutchinson Ross.Hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	17 July 2024
27/24 (8.5.24)	Treasury Management Annual Report 2023/24: To note and forward to Council, for consideration and noting (and in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017), the annual report for treasury management activities 2023/24 including prudential and local indicators.	Cabinet Council Non-key decision	Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	17 July 2024
28/24 (8.5.24)	Corporate Financial Performance 2024/25 and approach to Budget Setting for 2025/26: To report the financial position based on 3 months to June 2024, and to set out our approach and timeline for the 2025/26 budget process and amendments to the Medium-Term Financial Framework	Cabinet Non-key decision	Ross Hutchinson Ross.Hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	17 July 2024
24/24 (8.4.24)	Interim provision of street lighting services: To ensure the provision of street lighting between the end of the PFI and the start of the next term contract.	Cabinet Key Decision	Katie Moreton Kathryn.Moreton@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	17 July 2024

32/24 (4.6.24)	<p>Appointment of Contractor for Civic Centre and Council House Decarbonisation Works:</p> <p>To appoint a contractor for decarbonisation works at the Civic Centre and Council House.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Nick Ford Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	17 July 2024
66/23 (4.12.23)	<p>Waste Management Strategy Update - Fryers Road Household Waste Recycling Centre redevelopment (HWRC):</p> <p>That Cabinet approve the pre-tender budget for the redevelopment of a larger Fryers Road HWRC and agree to use the Pagabo framework (design and build stages) for the procurement of Fryers Road HWRC.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Katie Moreton Kathryn.Moreton@walsall.gov.uk Stephen Johnson Stephen.Johnson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew Cllr Murphy	17 July 2024
29/24 (8.5.24)	<p>Addressing Ethnic Disparity Pathfinder bid:</p> <p>To approve the project delivery plan and accountable body status for the West Midlands Ethnic Disparity Pathfinder grant.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Phil Rutherford Philip.Rutherford@walsall.gov.uk Rachael Phillips Rachael.Phillips@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Elson	17 July 2024

30/24 (4.6.24)	West Midlands Fostering Agency Framework: To agree call off contracts with Independent Foster Care Agencies under a new framework arrangement.	Cabinet Key Decision	Paula Wilman Paula.Wilman@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Regional stakeholders (during tender development)	Cllr Elson	17 July 2024
31/24 (4.6.24)	Families First for Children – Pathfinder To agree receipt of a grant and to set out financial risks.	Cabinet Key Decision	Rita Homer Rita.Homer@walsall.gov.uk	Internal/Cabinet	Cllr Elson	17 July 2024
57/23 (6.11.23)	Draft Walsall Net-Zero 2041 Climate Strategy: To approve for public consultation the draft Walsall Net-Zero 2041 Strategy.	Cabinet Key Decision	Katie Moreton Kathryn.Moreton@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	17 July 2024
33/24 (4.6.24)	West Midlands Childrens Residential Homes Framework: To agree call off contracts with Residential Children’s Homes providers under the West Midlands Regional Framework.	Cabinet Key Decision	Sally Gamston Sally.Gamston@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Regional stakeholders (during tender development)	Cllr Elson	4 September 24
34/24 (4.6.24)	Temporary Accommodation Regulator Registration: To approve registration with the Regulator of Social Housing for the purpose of providing additional Temporary Accommodation for homeless people.	Cabinet Key decision	Neil Hollyhead Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Garcha	4 September 2024

<p>35/24 (4.6.24)</p>	<p>Walsall Housing Allocations Policy: To approve Walsall's Housing Allocations Policy which details how the Council will prioritise applicants for nomination to housing association properties.</p>	<p>Cabinet Key decision</p>	<p>Neil Hollyhead Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Public Consultation Internal Services Housing Associations</p>	<p>Cllr Garcha</p>	<p>16 October 2024</p>
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West Midlands Combined Authority

Forward Plan

Forthcoming key decisions

Title of key decision:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Open or Exempt:	Portfolio Lead	Employee to contact:
WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the provisional outturn position for 2023/24 for the revenue and capital programmes and any relevant risks and financial updates	WMCA Board 14 June 2024	Open		Beverly Sullivan Financial Planning and Coordination Manager
West Midlands Investment Zone - Approval of Investment Plan To approve the overall investment strategy for the West Midlands Investment Zone, including Year One Delivery Plan and capacity funding.	WMCA Board 14 June 2024	Open		Steve Bowyer Partnerships and Engagement Strategic Lead
Metro Penalty Fares Outcomes of consultation, proposing to increase penalty fares on metro network.	WMCA Board 14 June 2024	Open		Amanda White Interim Metro Director
Appointment of WMCA Boards and Committees etc 2024/25 To consider the appointments made by constituent, non-constituent and observer member authorities to the WMCA Board and its other boards/committees for 2024/25 and other associated matters.	WMCA Board 14 June 2024	Open		Dan Essex Governance & Scrutiny Manager
WMCA's Scrutiny & Audit Annual Report The purpose of this scrutiny and audit annual report is to highlight the activities and achievements of scrutiny & audit during 2023/24.	WMCA Board 14 June 2024	Open		Lyndsey Roberts Scrutiny Officer

<p>A Review of the Effectiveness of Member Engagement and Development within the WMCA To consider the findings of a scrutiny review undertaken to examine the effectiveness of member engagement and development within the WMCA.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 14 June 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Dan Essex, Lyndsey Roberts Governance & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Officer</p>
<p>Terms of Reference for Member of Parliament's (MPs) Questions to the Mayor To inform Board of the outcome of negotiations with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLHUC) on the issue of MPs Questions to the Mayor and to seek approval for the draft terms of reference, the process for selecting a chair and a timeline for the first session.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 14 June 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>James Hughes Member Relationship Manager</p>
<p>WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the financial position as at the end of Month 2 (May 2024) and present the revised multi- year capital programme which takes account of the outturn position for approval</p>	<p>WMCA Board 19 July 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Beverly Sullivan, Sally Truman Financial Planning and Coordination Manager, Lead Financial Planning Accountant</p>
<p>Universal Support To consider the principles agreed with local authority partners for the commissioning and delivery model of Universal Support, a Department for Work & Pensions funded opportunity to support residents with health conditions to gain and progress into employment.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 19 July 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>John Hall Senior Delivery Manager-Employment Support</p>

<p>Culture, Creative and Heritage Infrastructure Programme To seek permission to undertake the Culture, Creative & Heritage Infrastructure programme of activity.</p>	WMCA Board 19 July 2024	Open		Hayley Pepler
<p>Bus Options Report To consider options for the future delivery of the region's bus network.</p>	WMCA Board 19 July 2024	Open		Steven Hayes Head of Network Transformation
<p>Bus Depot Strategy To approve the funding for TfWM to acquire sites for Bus Depots.</p>	WMCA Board 19 July 2024	Open		Ian Shore Asset Delivery Manager
<p>Transport Capital Programme To raise awareness of the capital budget pressures across transport multi-modal programmes.</p>	WMCA Board 19 July 2024	Open		Jenni MacKenzie, Sandeep Shingadia Head of Transport Portfolio, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Integration
<p>Ring & Ride Update To consider the latest position.</p>	WMCA Board 19 July 2024	Open		
<p>Wednesbury Brierley Hill Extension (WBHE) Business Case Consider a report in relation to Wednesbury Brierley Hill Extension (WBHE) Business Case</p>	WMCA Board 19 July 2024	Open		Simon Dickinson, Tom Oldershaw, Mike Waters Director of Policy, Strategy and Innovation - TfWM
<p>Black Country Innovative Manufacturing Organisation (BCIMO) To consider the latest position.</p>	WMCA Board 19 July 2024	Fully exempt		Kate Taylor Head of Finance Business Partnering and Strategic Planning

<p>WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the latest financial position.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 13 September 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Beverly Sullivan, Sally Truman Financial Planning and Coordination Manager, Lead Financial Planning Accountant</p>
<p>Single Settlement Update To consider the work undertaken to-date between the WMCA and constituent authorities to develop functional and place-based strategies that will underpin the delivery of the Single Settlement.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 13 September 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Jonathan Gibson Head of Policy & Public Affairs</p>
<p>Health of the Region Report 2024 To acknowledge the findings of the report and to approve its recommendations, including WMCA actions on improving health through all its policies and programmes.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 13 September 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Mubasshir Ajaz Head of Health and Communities • Strategy, Integration and Net Zero</p>
<p>Key Route Network Review 2023/24 To approve the amended Key Route Network within the WMCA area.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 13 September 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Rachel Ing Corridor Manager</p>
<p>Regional Road Safety Action Plan 2024-2030 Endorsement of the Regional Road Safety Action Plan 2024-2030 following completion of public consultation and validation from the Regional Road Safety Strategic Group.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 13 September 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Darren Divall Regional Road Safety Manager</p>

<p>Local Transport Plan Adoption To consider recommendations to approve the final version of the LTP suite of documents (including Area Based Strategies) which have been adapted to align fully with the WMCA Functional and Place Based Strategies.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 13 September 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Carl Beet, David Harris, Mike Waters Head of Strategy and Intelligence - TfWM, Transport Strategy and Place Manager - TfWM, Director of Policy, Strategy and Innovation - TfWM</p>
<p>WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the latest financial position</p>	<p>WMCA Board 15 November 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Beverly Sullivan, Sally Truman Financial Planning and Coordination Manager, Lead Financial Planning Accountant</p>
<p>Best Value Fare Capping for Bus (cEMV Broker) To consider the Full Business Case for the national cEMV Broker pilot and West Midlands roll-out which will enable best value fare capping for bus users to be delivered for travellers using their contactless debit card or other device. The Board will also be asked to approve the legal partnership arrangements with the collaborating delivery entities.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 15 November 2024</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Matt Lewis, Mike Waters Head of Swift, Director of Policy, Strategy and Innovation - TfWM</p>
<p>WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the latest financial position</p>	<p>WMCA Board 10 January 2025</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Beverly Sullivan, Sally Truman Financial Planning and Coordination Manager, Lead Financial Planning Accountant</p>

<p>Draft WMCA Budget 2025/26 To consider the draft budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 10 January 2025</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Beverly Sullivan, Sally Truman Financial Planning and Coordination Manager, Lead Financial Planning Accountant</p>
<p>WMCA Budget 2025/26 To approve the 2025/26 budget.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 7 February 2025</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Beverly Sullivan, Sally Truman Financial Planning and Coordination Manager, Lead Financial Planning Accountant</p>
<p>WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the latest financial position</p>	<p>WMCA Board 14 March 2025</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Beverly Sullivan, Sally Truman Financial Planning and Coordination Manager, Lead Financial Planning Accountant</p>
<p>WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the latest financial position and provisional outturn for the 2024/25 financial year.</p>	<p>WMCA Board 13 June 2025</p>	<p>Open</p>		<p>Beverly Sullivan, Sally Truman Financial Planning and Coordination Manager, Lead Financial Planning Accountant</p>

The Forward Plan

This document sets out known 'key decisions' that will be taken by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) over the coming months.

Forthcoming key decisions are published online to meet the statutory 28 day notification rule for each meeting where a key decision will be taken. Where it has not been possible to meet the 28 day rule for publication of notice of a key decision or an intention to meet in private, the relevant notices will be published as required by legislation as soon as possible.

What is a key decision?

A 'key decision' means a decision of the Mayor, WMCA or officer which is likely:

- (a) to result in the WMCA incurring expenditure, making savings or generating income amounting to £1m or more; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the WMCA.

The report relating to a decision, together with any other documents being considered, will be available five clear working days before the decision is to be taken (unless the documentation contains exempt information).

The forward plan also provides notice of when the WMCA may decide to exclude the press and public during consideration of a particular matter due to the potential for disclosure of confidential or exempt

information. The grounds upon which local authorities can exclude the press and public are specified by law and details of the exempt categories are available on request from the Governance Services team (governance.services@wmca.org.uk).

Councillors or members of the public wishing to:

- make a representation about why a matter should be heard in public, or
- submit information to the decision-making body about an item in the forward plan, or
- request details of relevant documents, or
- seek advice about the WMCA's decision-making arrangements,

should contact the Governance Services team: governance.services@wmca.org.uk

Black Country Executive Joint Committee
Forward Plan of Key Decisions – July 2024 to October 2024 (published 03/06/2024)

On the 3 June 2024, the following key decisions/non key decisions were published to be considered by the Black Country Executive Joint Committee meeting in June 2024.

1. Revised Constitution and Timetable of meetings 2024/25 – Key Decision

Approve the timetable of meetings for 2024/25 and the publication of the Forward Plan dates.

Approve any amendments to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Constitution, Terms of Reference and Working Protocols.

Contact officer: Emma Bennett via email ChiefExecutive@walsall.gov.uk

Main Consultees: Dudley MBC, Sandwell MBC, Walsall MBC and City of Wolverhampton Council

2. LEP Legacy Funds Programmes year end position – March 2024 – Non Key Decision

To note the update on each Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) legacy funds at 31 March 2024, as set out in the report.

To note individual decisions made via Black Country Executive Joint Committee Delegated Authority to the Single Accountable Body (Walsall Council) Section 151 Officer.

Contact Officers: David Moore David.Moore@walsall.gov.uk and Mark Lavender Mark.Lavender@walsall.gov.uk

Main consultees: Walsall MBC.

Scrutiny Overview Committee – Recommendation Tracker (23/24)

Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action/Recommendation	Officer responsible	Status	Target Completion Date	Notes
12 December 2022	Customer Engagement	That data be shared with Members regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A detailed breakdown on the time it takes calls to be answered across the Council. 	Elise Hopkins	Completed		Item to be rescheduled for 2024/25
28 th September 2023	West Midlands Police – Update on Policing within Walsall	That Cabinet are requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensure Walsall Council works with West Midlands Police to improve road safety and reduce road harm in the Borough. b. Consider the feasibility of co-locating the Council’s community protection teams alongside West Midlands Police to increase co-operative working. 	Democratic Services	Completed	13 December 2023 – Cabinet	Response provided on the Cabinet Decisions list on 14 December 2024. This can be accessed here .

<p>28th September 2023</p>	<p>Areas of Focus 2023-24</p>	<p>Democratic Services assess the feasibility of collating all items related to police and judicial matters which could be considered by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.</p>	<p>Craig Goodall</p>	<p>Completed</p>		<p>A review indicated that the police had been required at 3 meetings in the last twelve months. This was reported to SOC in November 2023 who were content to continue inviting the police to attend meetings on an as required basis.</p>
<p>9 November 2023</p>	<p>WMCA Annual Report</p>	<p>That those members appointed to the West Midlands Combined Authority, Transport for West Midlands, Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Panel provide an annual report to full Council.</p>	<p>Democratic Services</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>TBC</p>	

9 November 2023	Recruitment and Retention	<p>A Member requested figures relating to internal promotions with a specific breakdown on ethnic backgrounds. Response would be provided in writing.</p> <p>Electronic exit interview forms were provided to those employees leaving the Council. In addition, face to face exit interviews could be requested on demand as appropriate. A breakdown of the reasons and figures on exit monitoring would be provided to the Committee in writing.</p>	Michele Leith Nicola Rickhuss	Completed		Emailed on 26 February 2024
9 November 2023	Local Authority Control of Housing Waiting List	A discussion ensued on the rights of tenants in respect of disrepair and notice of repossession. It was agreed for information on this matter to be disseminated to all Councillors.	Elise Hopkins	Completed		Emailed on 5 February 2024
11 December 2023	Budget and Capital Programme Feedback	<p>A number of questions were raised in respect of discussions from the Budget and Capital Programme (Forecast Revenue & Capital Outturn):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovation of Park Tennis Courts • One Palfrey Big Local 	Stuart Wootton	Completed		Circulated on 20 December 2023

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme Reduction 				
	Budget and Capital Programme Feedback	A breakdown of temporary accommodation numbers would be circulated to the Committee.	Elise Hopkins	Completed		Circulated on 6 February 2024
	Budget and Capital Programme Feedback	Officers confirmed that a study would be carried out on whether it would be feasible for the Council to incentivise one-off annual Council Tax payments. This would be subject to whether the Council achieved better investment returns and cashflow as a result.	Shaun Darcy	Completed		Circulated on 6 February 2024
14 March 2024	Electoral Services – Impact of new legislation	A Member sought clarification on the number of overseas electors on the electoral register	Helen Dudson	Completed		Circulated on 12 April 2024

	Social Housing	A Member sought clarification on the number of WHG homes which were thermowrapped.	Fay Shanahan	Completed		Circulated on 18 April 2024.
	Social Housing	A Member sought clarification on the number of reported instances of mould and damp in WHG properties.	Fay Shanahan	Completed		Circulated on 18 April 2024.
	Section 106 Monitoring	A concern was raised in respect of outstanding S106 monies for Darlaston including projects planned and uncompleted works. It was noted a response would be provided in writing from the Healthy Spaces Team.	Liz Stuffins	Completed		Information relating to this query have been circulated to Councillor Bott and changes on reporting information would be made.