



Walsall Council

Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on: **28 November 2022 at 6.00 P.M.**

Meeting to be held via: **Council Chamber, Walsall and Microsoft Teams**

Public access to meeting via: <https://www.walsallcouncilwebcasts.com>

MEMBERSHIP

Chair	Councillor S. Ditta
Vice Chair	Councillor S. Elson
	Councillor B. Bains
	Councillor R. Burley
	Councillor S. Cheema
	Councillor I. Hussain
	Councillor S.B. Hussain
	Councillor A. Hussain
	Councillor P. Kaur
	Councillor L. Rattigan
	Councillor C. Towe

NON-ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS

Lichfield Diocesan Representative	Vacancy
Archbishop of Birmingham's Representative	Vacancy
Parent Governors	Mrs Heena Pathan
	Vacancy
	Vacancy

NON-ELECTED NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Primary Teacher Representative	Ms Sharon Guy
Secondary Teacher Representative	Ms Wendy Duffus

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Councillor Mark Statham – Education and Skills

Democratic Services, Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW
Contact: Jack Thompson ☎ 01922 654196 E-mail: jack.thompson@walsall.gov.uk

ITEMS FOR BUSINESS

1.	Apologies To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee.	
2.	Substitutions To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.	
3.	Declarations of interest and party whip To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.	
4.	Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda (if applicable).	
5.	Minutes To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2022.	Enclosed
6.	School Place Planning: Capital strategy for schools That the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the contents of this report and decides whether any further information or updates are required.	Enclosed
7.	Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring To note the revenue and capital forecast for the financial year end 2022/23 for the services under the remit of the committee.	Enclosed
8.	Recommendation Tracker To review progress with recommendations from previous meetings.	Enclosed
9.	Areas of Focus To review the Committees Work Programme and the Forward Plans for Walsall Council and the Black Country Executive Committee.	Enclosed
10.	Date of next meeting To note that the date of the next meeting will be 12 January 2022.	Enclosed

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 an Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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.

**MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE,
COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALSALL COUNCIL HOUSE.**

Tuesday 11 October 2022 at 6.00 P.M.

Committee Members present:

Councillor S. Ditta (Chair)
Councillor B. Bains
Councillor R. Burley
Councillor S. Cheema
Councillor S. Elson
Councillor I. Hussain
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor H. Bashir

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Mark Statham – Education and Skills

Officers Present:

Sally Rowe – Executive Director, Children’s Services
Sharon Kelly - Director Access and Inclusion
Helena Kucharczyk – Head of Service, Quality Assurance and Performance Information
Judith Nash – Head of Service, Inclusion
Rob Thomas - Head of Access
Craig Goodall - Principal Democratic Services Officer
Edward Cook – Assistant Democratic Services Officer

Welcome and introductions were made.

20/22 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors A. Hussain, S. Hussain, L. Rattigan and C. Towe, and Ms S. Guy.

21/22 Substitutions

Councillor S.B. Hussain was substituted by Councillor H. Bashir.

22/22 Declarations of interest and party whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whip for the duration of the meeting.

23/22 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no agenda items requiring the exclusion of the public.

24/22 Minutes

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2022 was submitted [annexed].

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2022 a copy having previously been circulated, be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

25/22 Ofsted Local Area SEND Revisit Inspection Outcome and Actions

A report was submitted which provided an overview of the results of the recent SEND Inspection by Ofsted, the outcomes and the next steps to be taken to improve services. [annexed]

The Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills introduced the report and highlighted that the re-inspection had taken place to assess if improvements had been made since the inspection of 2019. Seven of the nine areas assessed showed improvements, but it was recognised there was still room for improvements through collaborations. An Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) was submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) on 6th October for the two areas of concern against which sufficient progress was not made, the 'local offer' and Education Care and Health Plans (EHCPs). This would be published following DfE approval and circulated to Committee members. The Head of Service, Quality Assurance and Performance Information added that a local offer coordinator had been appointed who would work on co-production with parents and lead on work with the Children's SEND group. The Inclusion team had been restructured to increase locality and community-centric work, whilst a recruitment drive was underway, coupled with training.

Responding to questions, the Head of Service, Quality Assurance and Performance Information and the Head of Service, Inclusion explained that work had been undertaken to increase co-production with parents, though there was work to do increasing the involvement of children. It was important to increase feedback to parents, so that those not involved were aware that co-production was occurring and the channels for this. There are 3 main channels for co-production which were parental membership of: interview panels; EHCP decision panels and quality assurance panels. There had been a significant reduction in overall exclusion numbers, but children with SEND continued to have higher proportional rates of exclusion. The Vulnerable Learners Group was looking at how working with schools and parents could prevent exclusion, and EHCP pathways were considering inclusion from early stages.

With regards to concerns about EHCPs not being updated, the Heads of Service noted that from September, recommendations from review pathways now directly inform EHCP plans. All EHCPs were expected to be digitised by 21 October. The responsibility for undertaking reviews lay with schools and many fell behind during the Covid-19 pandemic. It was expected all Plans would be updated by August 2023. The Local Authority did have statutory powers to ensure providers were completing EHCPs. EHCPs were not dependent on 'diagnoses' but rather on identifying needs. Early identification of needs could make a big difference, especially in early years. Local funding needs had been met but demand was increasing and work was being undertaken to identify areas in need of further future funding, locally and nationally.

Ensuring standards were met was being achieved through training, both through the national SENCO programme and additional local training. Senior locality officers were visiting schools to ensure training was being undertaken and reviewed as required and approximately 80% of schools are actively engaging in this.

The number of EHCPs going to tribunal had decreased but may increase as the process became more rigorous. Legally rights for children to attend mainstream schools may conflict with children's needs and can cause conflict. The appeal rate to tribunal in Walsall was 1.15% in 2021 compared to 1.84% nationally. Members asked to be provided with specific numbers regarding tribunal cases.

A 'local offer steering group' had been established to increase awareness and through the locality coordinators, attendance at the parent/carer group was increasing. Regarding recruitment and retention of staff, there was a need for increased numbers in the team, including senior caseworkers and educational psychologists. There were challenges nationally in recruiting suitable staff. A growing need for social and emotional health support had been identified and was a core area of need. In response to this a Trauma and Detachment Awareness Programme has been developed, which members asked to be circulated to them via email

Resolved:

1. That the Committee recognise the development of SEND in Walsall;
2. That the Committee confirm they are assured that there are robust plans in place to achieve improvement in the two areas of concern that were found not to have yet made sufficient progress at the SEND inspection;
3. That the Committee confirm that they are satisfied with the robustness of the governance arrangements for the ongoing monitoring of SEND Improvement and the identification of impact;
4. That the Committee confirm that they are assured by the plans to develop a wider robust SEND improvement plan over the next three months.
5. That the following information be circulated to Members:
 - a. When available, a copy of the full inspection report;
 - b. The specific number of EHCP applications in Walsall which have been taken to tribunals;
 - c. When available, a copy of the Accelerated Access Plan.
6. That the item remains on the Committee's work programme for further updates.

26/22 SEND Transitions

A report was submitted, providing an overview and update of SEND transitions within Walsall, including the process followed. [annexed]

The Head of Service, Inclusion explained that this year a parallel round of transition planning was being conducted with Years 5 and 6 and 10 and 11 both being completed simultaneously. Next year, a single round of transitions would be completed, but with the younger age group, Years 5 and 10, enabling additional time for planning, preparation, and consultations. Parental consultations had increased, and the early years offer has been strengthened, including 0-3 EHCPs.

Responding to questions, the Head of Service, Inclusion explained that EHCP transfer deadlines were different to mainstream deadlines, asking for preferences earlier in the academic year but with deadlines in Spring. Only 4 applications missed the deadline last year. The majority of EHCP applicants who request a mainstream school place do get these, so long as the child's needs are met. Efforts were being increased to improve services for older young people and readiness for post-25 life. A transitions toolkit had been produced for professionals so they know what support exists and a parent/carer toolkit is currently being co-produced with service users.

Regarding the end of EHCPs, it was explained that the Children and Families Act 2014 prevents EHCPs continuing when young people go to university. For others, EHCPs can end at different times as they are determined on the needs of the individual. Changes to EHCPs once an individual was over-18, should be led by the service user not their parents where possible. If an EHCP was removed, an application could be made in future for a new one. Annual reviews ensured that provision continued to match needs and also provided the possibility for those in special schools to return to mainstream education.

Resolved:

That a further update report be brought to the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting of 28 March 2022.

27/22 SEND and Alternative Provision (AP) Green Paper

A report was submitted in response to the national SEND review and AP Green Paper, which aimed to ensure consistent provision throughout the country.

(annexed)

The Director (Access and Inclusion) highlighted the main points of the Green Paper, including:

- Clarification of EHCP criteria and support available, to increase consistency;
- Digitisation of all EHCPs;
- Making mediation a prerequisite before tribunals can be lodged;
- SENCO qualifications;
- Clarification on budgets available;
- Inclusion dashboards and contextual league tables.

The new DfE regions group will have increased powers and oversight, including over SEND services, to ensure local authorities and trusts are delivering for young people.

Responding to members, the Director (Access and Inclusion) explained that the new training being introduced for SENCOs would come through the DfE, providing professional qualifications which were fully funded for staff.

Resolved:

That a further update report be brought to the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the future, following the outcomes of the Green Paper consultation period expected in the Autumn of 2022.

28/22 Specialist Provision Review

A report was submitted which provided an overview of the current position of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) specialist school provision planning within Walsall.

(annexed)

The Head of Access explained that more than 100 additional places had been made within the authority for young people with SEND. The forecast model used to predict future places and needs was being continuously reviewed to ensure future needs could be met.

Responding to questions, the Head of Access explained that a pilot scheme working with 14 children across 10 schools who had been identified as being at higher risk of exclusion, had been conducted. This engaged with families and future schools, through taster sessions and early introductions to tutor groups. He reported that none of the children involved had been suspended or excluded. Whilst there was no specific reason why SEND pupils got excluded behavioural issues were often cited. The Head of Access also explained that whilst historically exclusions were sometimes used by schools to 'offload' challenging pupils the current project was increasing support for schools and increasing due diligence before such decisions were made. Learning between schools further helped reduce exclusions.

Regarding funding questions, it was explained likely need had been assessed for the next five years. Some of the immediate needs for pupils could be found and addressed in the short term but others require longer-term solutions. The Capital Strategy would address how these potential needs would be met.

Resolved:

That a further update report be brought to the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting of 16 February 2022.

29/22 Recommendation Tracker

The Principal Democratic Services Officer confirmed that the committee work program had been circulated.

Resolved:

That the recommendation tracker be noted.

30/22 Areas of Focus

Members noted the Committees Work Program and the Forward Plan for Walsall Council and the Black Country Executive Committee.

Resolved:

1. That budget scrutiny be moved to the meeting of 12 January 2022.

2. That Children's Homelessness be removed from the Areas of Focus, being referred instead to Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

31/22 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 22 November 2022, at 6:00p.m.

There being no further business this meeting was terminated at 7.54 p.m.

Signed:

Date:

School Place Planning

Wards All

Service: School Admissions and Appeals Team, Access Service

Portfolio: Councillor Statham

1. Aim

The aim of this report is to provide the Education Scrutiny and Overview Committee with an update on:

- School Place Planning – Early Years Sufficiency, Primary, Secondary, Post 16 and Special Schools
- Free School Development

2. Recommendations

That the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the contents of this report and decides whether any further information or updates are required

3. Report detail

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for resident children who want a school place. A local authority has a general duty, under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to ensure that there are available, in its area, sufficient schools 'in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education'.

To meet its statutory responsibilities Walsall Council needs to ensure it understands where the pressures on school places will come from. These pressures include changes in the population, housing developments, and cross border migration.

The projections of future demand for school places are based on birth data sourced from the Office of National Statistics, historical pupil retention data from the school census, pupil yield from housing developments obtained from the council's planning department and inward and outward migration data.

For mainstream pupil place, planning purposes the borough has been divided into planning areas. There are 11 Primary Planning Areas and 4 Secondary Planning Areas. These areas were drawn up taking account of ward boundaries, geographical features (such as major roads and housing developments), and patterns from historical school admissions data. (See Appendix A & B)

In order to plan pupil places effectively the Council must be open and transparent communicating the details on the pressures on school places in each planning

area. The Council must also manage expectations and avoid any adverse impact on schools regarding school development proposals. When new capacity is needed, it is important to establish guidelines to ensure that this new capacity is provided appropriately and in the right place:

- We should seek to meet demand locally to allow children a school place within a reasonable walking distance from their home.
- Our planning of school places should reflect our school improvement strategy: we should work to make all schools good or outstanding. When seeking to expand schools, we should favour the expansion of schools where there is proven demand and well-established and successful leadership and management at a good or outstanding school.
- We should consider the impact of any changes on the viability and standards at existing schools. Where necessary we should work with schools to provide optimum forms of entry appropriate to the capacity of the school site and the level of demand for that school. On occasions, over time, it may be appropriate to reduce the capacity of some schools as others grow in size.
- The guidelines set out above will need to be balanced against the need to make best use of scarce capital resources and the physical practicalities of available sites.

The Local Authority adopts an annual cycle to school organisation and place planning, linked to the Department for Education School Capacity (SCAP) survey for mainstream schools. This survey is submitted in July each year and comprises four parts:

- capacity of schools
- forecasts of pupil numbers per national curriculum year group by planning area
- additional places due to be created by planning area
- place planning commentary by planning area of local circumstances e.g. migration, changes of school category

The school organisation service prepares and submits this survey and its component parts, and during the yearly planning cycle updates its core data including changes to school capacity data following alterations and expansion of the school estate, planning department data on housing completions in each planning area, school census numbers and school admission application numbers and preferences.

The outcome of the validated and moderated submission by the DfE is an allocation of funding known as basic need funding. This capital grant is allocated to all LAs who have a forecasted demand for places above their existing capacity to help in meeting the statutory duty in making sure there are enough school places for children in our area

3.1 Early Years Sufficiency

There is currently sufficient childcare in Walsall. Overall, demand for early years and childcare provision has decreased since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, with nearly half of childcare providers (48%) reporting a decrease in demand in the provider audit. Take-up of the early year's entitlements has decreased, both in terms of actual numbers of children participating, and the percentage of eligible children taking up their entitlement.

Between 2020-2021 and 2025-2026 there are plans to develop around 4,074 new homes across Walsall (source: Walsall Planning January 2022). Wards with a high number of planned new homes (over 10% of total) include Blakenall, Birchills, Leamore and St Matthews. Where there are a significant number of new homes planned, demand for early years and childcare may increase as the local population increases.

Data has been analysed to identify wards that have a potential future sufficiency risk based on the composition of current provision, current childcare ratio (supply relative to overall supply) and new homes developments over the period 2020-2026.

In wards where there are a significant number of new homes planned, including Blakenall, Birchills, Leamore and St Matthews, demand for early years and childcare may increase as the local population increases.

Although forecasting demand for early years and childcare is not a precise science, working alongside Planning and Development, the School Organisation team are currently creating a pupil yield in which pre-school children will be included. This will enable us to establish more precisely, not only in which wards we expect future sufficiency issues to arise, but also to what extent.

3.2 Primary Sufficiency

Primary school intakes are forecast based on the number of births in each planning area. However, not all children born in a particular area will stay to attend a school in that area and others may move into the area. To account for this, a 'loss / gain' factor is applied to each area to account for inward and outward migration as well as children attending schools outside of Walsall or in the non-maintained sector. Finally, movement between planning areas is accounted for by comparing where children live and where they have recently attended school.

Since 2016, birth numbers have begun to reduce, which will lead to forecasted reduction in demand for corresponding Reception places from September 2022 onwards. Over the coming years, it may be that there will be too much capacity in some planning areas, so careful consideration will need to be given to removal of some places.

School place planning forecasts must be agile and robust and will need to align to the Council's wider housing and regeneration plans and those of our neighbouring local authorities to ensure the impacts of new housing developments and cross border movement of pupils continues to be sufficiently planned for.

The table below shows the projected number of Reception places required against the capacity in terms of Published Admission Number (PAN) for Walsall as a whole.

Measure	Sep 23	Sep 24	Sep 25	Sep 26
PAN	3974	3974	3974	3974
Projected Intake	3609	3520	3437	3381
Surplus / Shortfall	365	454	537	593
Surplus %	9%	11%	14%	15%

Planning a sufficiency of school places requires a balance between two conflicting objectives. The first is to provide enough places to meet need along with a margin to allow some exercise of parental preference; the second is to ensure that there is not an excess of places overall or in any school or planning area. A working surplus across the whole borough however is necessary to ensure there are sufficient places for in-year admissions and an ability to meet parental preference.

The falling birth rates have led to conversations with Head Teachers at Primary, Nursery and Special Heads Forum (PNS) and cluster meetings with schools in smaller groups. Schools and the local authority are working together to determine the most appropriate way forward to ensure the school remains financially viable with the falling need for places.

The school organisation team are working with Primary Schools across the borough to deal with reduced birth rates and therefore a lower place requirement for school places. This could result in some schools consulting and reducing their published admission number from 2024. This work is ongoing and will feed into the SEN project of space creation.

3.3 Secondary Sufficiency

For each secondary planning area, the number of Year 6 pupils attending Walsall schools living in that planning area is compared against the next year's figure for Year 7 pupils attending Walsall schools living in that planning area to arrive at a 'loss / gain' factor. This is applied to projected future Year 6 figures for each planning area to predict how many Year 7 pupils there will be in Walsall schools living in each planning area. Movement between planning areas is calculated in a similar way as for the primary schools.

The borough's secondary schools are now being affected by the upturn in births that led to primary schools needing to be expanded. To increase the number of places available a review of all secondary school capacities has been carried out and the possibility of those schools admitting higher numbers has been identified.

Year 7 places for September 2022

As part of allocation of school places for September 2022, it became evident of a significant variance to required number of places against previous years modelled forecasted demand.

Whilst there will always be several contextual factors that change the forecasted demand, there are 3 main contributing reasons:

1. More pupils than previously modelled submitted preferences for Walsall schools, leading to less than forecasted numbers seeking out of borough school places.
2. More pupils from out of borough schools than previously modelled submitted preferences for Walsall school places.
3. The delayed opening of the Swift Free School has removed the availability of up to 180 school places being available

The increased demand resulted in all secondary schools being contacted prior to National Offer Day – 1 March 2022 to ask for places to be increased. Schools worked with the Local Authority to provide additional places, within their schools without the need for additional accommodation, by exceeding their Published Admission Number (PAN) to allow more children to be offered a place within their school.

Year 7 places for September 2023

As part of the SCAP submission this summer, the school organisation team has revised the forecasted model based on the variances in the in/out of borough demands. The submitted SCAP model, therefore shows an absolute shortfall of 296 Y7 places against the schools published admission numbers for September 2023.

The current forecasting model for secondary pupil places for Year 7 intakes shows the following:

Planning Area	Measure	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25	Sep-26	Sep-27	Sep-28	Sep-29
Total	Agreed Intake	3743	3743	3743	3743	3743	3743	3743
	Projected Intake	4039	3998	3933	3936	3911	3946	3832
	Surplus / (Shortfall)	(296)	(255)	(190)	(193)	(168)	(203)	(89)

In addition to the SCAP forecasts, a 'planning' tolerance has been added as a risk factor to allow for some additional migration impacts of in/out of borough preferences. A 1-2% factor would increase the shortfall by 40-81 places for September 2023.

Future projections are reviewed regularly based on the October census information, and on-time applications for school places to ensure the forecasted model is as accurate as possible with known information.

The expected shortfall of places across the Local Authority over the coming years is significant, therefore additional capacity is needed across the borough to ensure sufficient places are available.

Through ongoing conversations with schools and academy trusts/governing bodies, additional places have been secured for September 2023. To date, 11

schools have offered an additional 187 places without requiring any works to be undertaken at the site.

Some of these schools have previously admitted a lower number of pupils, however the additional places offered by the schools is reflective of the school sites and their ability to manage additional pupils.

Three schools have offered an additional 150 places however there is a requirement for some building related works to be undertaken to allow the schools to offer these additional places.

Schools	Flatline PAN	Uplift	Admitting 2023	Additional places by uplift	Works Required/Not required
Aldridge	270	10	280		No works required
Barr Beacon	252	7	259		No works required
Bloxwich	180	5	185		No works required
Blue Coat	150	10	160		No works required
Brownhills	150	10	160		No works required
Sheffield	240	20	260		No works required
Shire Oak	270	30	300		No works required
St Francis	180	15	195		No works required
Streetly Academy	260	10	270		No works required
West Walsall	210	20	230		No works required
Willenhall	180	50	230		No works required
Total places without any works required				187	
Grace	180	40	220		Works Required
Joseph Leckie	240	60	300		Works Required
Pool Hayes	200	50	250		Works Required
Total places with some works				150	
	3,743	337	4,080	337	

The number of places required for September 2023 as submitted on the School Capacity (SCAP) return was 4039. If approval is given to create the places with works at the three schools above, together with the additional places offered at schools with no works required, then this requirement has been met and exceeded with 4080 places being secured.

Officers are in continued dialogue with schools and Trusts on an individual basis, together with Walsall Association of Secondary Heads (WASH) as a collective of schools to review existing school capacities and opportunities to increase admission numbers to increase the 'planning' tolerance beyond the 41 places already secured.

Key Milestone dates

Throughout the admissions cycle there are key milestone dates when the forecasted data for additional places can be validated. These include:

- October, January and May Census data of pupils on roll
- Number of 'on-time' applications received at 31 October
- Transfer file dates within the coordinated scheme with other local authorities on preference data
- Timely following up of 'late' applications for those pupils who do not apply 'on-time'

Schools will exceed the Published Admission Number (PAN) for September 2023 to admit additional pupils into the cohort – the additional places offered will allow more pupils to secure one of their preferences for school admission and lead to less pupils being offered a non-preference school which will reduce admission appeals and home to school transport assistance for those pupils offered a place at alternative schools.

Subject to approval at Cabinet, it is proposed that the Local Authority will work with the schools across the borough to increase the capacity at schools and where works are required to support the capacity increases, funding will be available from the Basic Need grant given to the LA from the DfE to ensure sufficiency of school places.

Consideration of new provision – Free School

A Free School has been approved for Walsall and is set to open from September 2025 however there are conversations been the Local Authority, DfE and Free School sponsors for places to be provided in temporary provision from September 2024. This would create an additional 180 places within the borough.

3.4 Post 16

Walsall has a complex picture of education providers for post 16 learners comprising:

- 22 schools with sixth forms, of which
 - 18 mainstream secondary schools of which
 - 16 are academies across eight sponsor organisations and
 - 2 maintained – Voluntary Aided
 - 3 maintained special schools
 - 1 Studio School for learners aged 14-19
- Free School for AP = Ladder School opening to 6th form as part of Mercian Trust
- 1 FE college
- a range of local and national training providers offering programmes of study and apprenticeships

Not all schools with 6th form designation are currently recruiting to 6th form provision.

Post 16 learners travel across the border into neighbouring local authorities for mainstream and SEND including South Staffs College which has a number of sites, Sandwell, Wolverhampton colleges.

Participation:

51% of young people accessing education post 16 remain in their school 6th form placements, 48% accessing college provision. Additionally, there are post 16 learners on apprenticeships and programmes of study with other training providers.

Gaps in provision

Suitable specialised post 16 provision for young people with SEMH, ASC and high levels of anxiety, particularly as Elmwood as the SEMH school is the only one in Walsall without a 6th form.

Increasing demand for provision to meet needs of students aged 19-25 with more severe and complex learning difficulties, those with Autistic Spectrum Condition/SLCN and high levels of anxiety.

There is increased need for local provision for learners with SEND to reduce gaps and the need for young people to move out of borough:

- Specialist provision for young people with Autism - especially with challenging behaviour and those with the highest need
- Provision for PMLD students who would have previously moved to social care but are now staying in education and going to ISP's; looking to develop a joint enterprise with adult social care and education
- Provision for students with Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) especially those with challenging behaviour who can't currently access a place within the existing local provision

There is increasing requirement for suitable provision to meet needs of autism, SEMH, challenging behaviour and PMLD.

Increase in Supported Internship/employment opportunities and progression routes, which will be addressed in some part by the development of the Goscote site by social care. Potential to develop Supported Internships, Traineeships and Apprenticeships and develop an attractive offer to provide in-work training to local employers to increase skills levels of employees.

Requirement for smaller, specialist, flexible provision in appropriate environments to meet the needs of vulnerable young people with complex needs.

External Drivers

T Levels are new 2-year courses which are taken after GCSEs and are broadly equivalent in size to 3 A Levels. Launched in September 2020, these courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and education providers so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for entry into skilled employment, an apprenticeship or related technical study through further or higher education.

T Levels offer students practical and knowledge-based learning at a school or college and on-the-job experience through an industry placement of at least 315 hours – approximately 45 days.

T Levels will become one of the main choices for students after GCSEs alongside:

- apprenticeships for students who wish to learn a specific occupation ‘on the job’
- A levels for students who wish to continue academic education
- other qualifications not served by A levels or T levels, including sport science, performing arts and small qualifications designed to be taken alongside A levels

3.5 Special Schools

The pupil place requirement for SEND places is broader than just Walsall and indeed the Black Country; it is an increasing need for many Local Authorities. There continues to be increased demand for specialist school places and increased levels of SEND needs across the region and nationally. The reasons underpinning this are multi-faceted including improved early identification of needs, changing complexity of need and general increased demand.

The impact of this is that local authority areas may not have the sufficient or appropriate provision and capacity to deliver specialist support in their area and children may need to be educated in out of borough commissioned high-cost independent settings that may not always be able to deliver good outcomes nor be value for money.

Following a detailed review and analysis over the last 3 years, forecasts indicate that Walsall is likely to see an annual demand growth of 6.3% of statutory assessments, which in turn will lead to a need for additional specialist places across the borough. This has considered fluctuations because of the pandemic.

The table below shows the predicted number of specialist SEN places needed by type of need:

	Sept. 2022	Sept. 2023	Sept. 2024	Sept. 2025	Sept. 2026	Total
Cognition and Learning Needs (complex/SLD)	+ 26	+21	+22	+24	+24	+117
Cognition and Learning Needs (MLD)	+36	+29	+31	+33	+35	+164
Social Emotional Mental Health Needs	+40	+32	+34	+36	+38	+180
Sensory and/or Physical Needs	+7	+6	+6	+6	+8	+33
Communication and Interaction Needs (includes Autism)	+64	+51	+54	+58	+61	+288
Total number of places	+173	+139	+147	+157	+166	+782

Current Position

For the majority of CYP, a mainstream education would be the most appropriate provision, however where needs are more complex and significant, a specialist setting may be an option. Consideration of additional ways to support CYP with an EHCP to remain in mainstream provision is one of the key themes in the action plan.

The school organisation team worked with IFM within the Corporate Landlord service to commission work from an external architect company to undertake

desktop feasibility studies, to establish the number of places each school can accommodate based on the ambulant and non-ambulant requirement of children within the school.

The architects, alongside the school organisation team will then review the current arrangements model of our special schools and consider how the existing spaces could be utilised in other ways to create more places within the current school footprint. They will also evaluate the site to determine if an expansion would be possible – considering any site constraints e.g., ground problems/mineshfts, highway implications etc.

Discussions regarding the immediate need from September 2022 have taken place with individual schools and an additional 107 places have been commissioned across special schools and the creation of SRPs in some mainstream schools.

Whilst the 107 places created so far does not meet all of the forecasted shortfall for September 2022, the forecasted demand is for the whole of the 2022/23 academic year, so plans for additional places are included in the medium term for the creation of an additional 124 SRP places in mainstream schools over the next 2 academic years.

Long Term Solutions

In assessing the options for place creation in the longer term, the school organisation team and corporate landlord have considered the potential for the permanent expansion of existing special schools and opportunities within the council property portfolio to repurpose buildings to create new provision.

Currently, our special schools have specific designations for the type of need they meet – we will address this over time, aiming to have generic provisions where appropriate (whilst avoiding dilution of specialisms). This has been included in a Free School application that has been submitted to the DfE, to create an all age, all need special Free School suitable for 312 children.

Successful local authorities will be contacted in late Autumn 2022 to early Spring 2023.

There are a number of options on how the remaining forecasted specialist places could be delivered.

These include:

- Additional SRP places in mainstream schools
- refurbishment and expansion of our special schools eg Elmwood and Phoenix SEMH schools
- refurbishment of the Education Development Centre (EDC) to continue to provide highly complex SLD provision as a satellite site to Oakwood Special School.
- refurbishment of other council sites – either through delivery of an awarded DfE Free School or through the Council running a presumption competition for a new school

This provision, based on the proposed sites, will benefit children and families as we will have a wider geographical spread of available places. It complements our offer available to children and families, supporting our wish to meet parental preference where possible, for children living and being educated in their local community.

Increasing the number of places available over time will allow us, at appropriate times, to bring children in 'out of borough' places back in to borough, delivering associated cost savings including on transport and to ensure that we have all children in the right place at the right time – so for children affected by a current shortfall of places, who are in mainstream but really need a specialist provision, we will be better able to meet need.

Pressure on special schools will be eased and schools who are sometimes forced to go over commissioned number, with a negative impact on their budget and on pupil outcomes will not have to do so with the additional space created, and when we can meet need appropriately, opportunities would be available for commissioning from neighbouring local authorities.

The high-level review and cost estimates will be undertaken to look at the potential numbers of pupils that could be accommodated within the council's portfolio of buildings.

Costs will not be known in their entirety until a decision has been made as to whether the Free School bid has been successful, however following the feasibility a more detailed idea of costs will be known.

A full report on Specialist provision and places will be taken to Cabinet in December.

4. *Financial information*

Any capital costs arising from works required will be funded from DfE grant funding – either Basic Need for mainstream schools or High Needs Provision Capital Allocation for special schools.

5. *Reducing Inequalities*

It is of crucial importance to the Council's strategic objectives that the young People of Walsall can access the right provision to meet their need to achieve the appropriate qualifications, progressing to employment and / or training and to make a positive contribution within the Borough in the future.

6. *Decide*

The Committee may decide to note the current position and request further information or assurance if necessary.

7. *Respond*

Any recommendations made by the Committee will be assessed against the Access and Inclusion planned work and performance board programmes.

8. Review

The work of the Admissions & Education Sufficiency Team is subject to constant monitoring and assessment via the Children's Services Performance Board process.

Appendices

Appendix 1 & 2 – Primary and Secondary Planning Area Maps

Contact Officer(s)

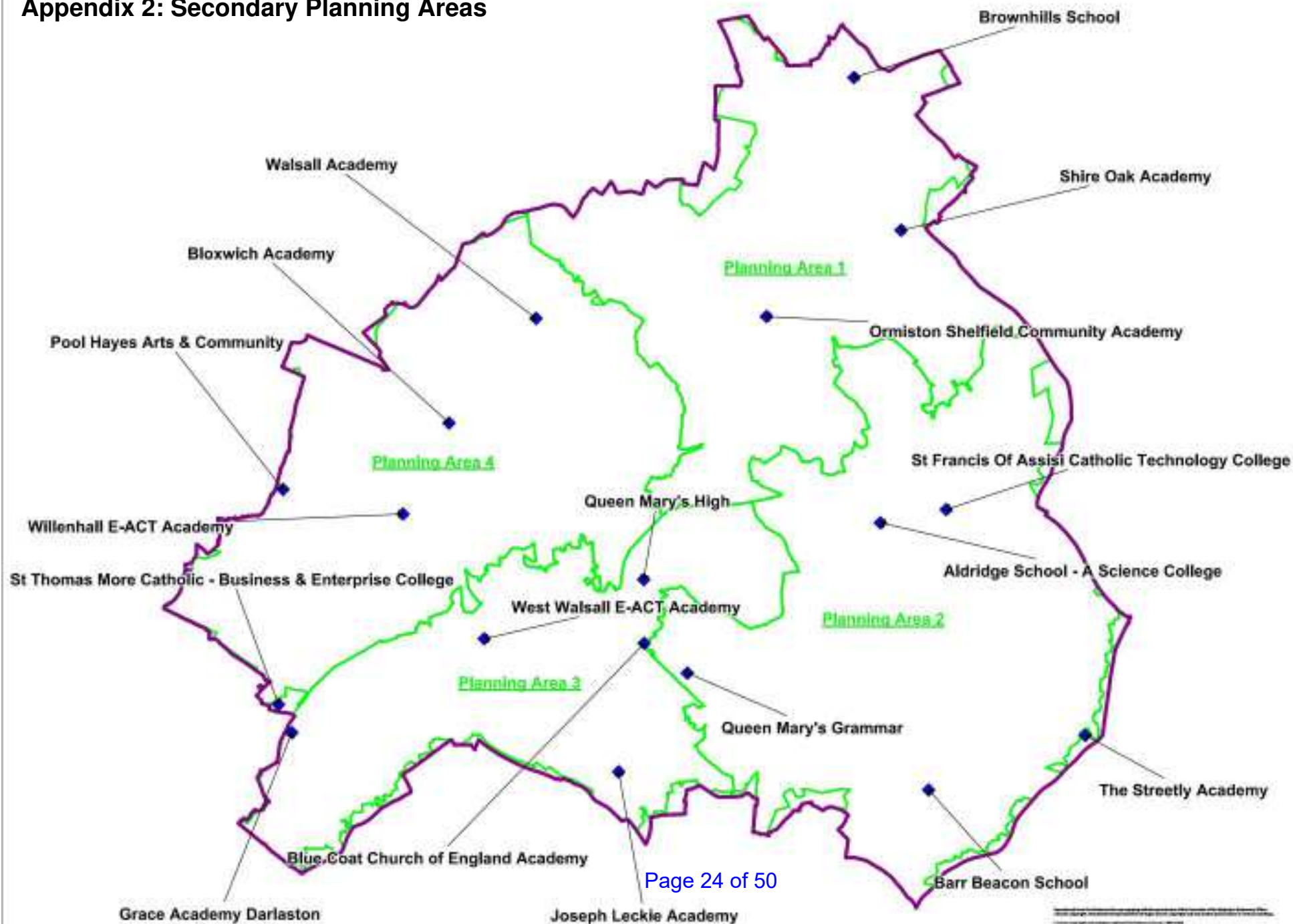
Alex Groom – Admissions & Education Sufficiency Manager

✉ alex.groom@walsall.gov.uk

Rob Thomas – Head of Access

✉ rob.thomas@walsall.gov.uk

Appendix 2: Secondary Planning Areas



DATE: 28 NOVEMBER 2022

CORPORATE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – QUARTER 2 FINANCIAL MONITORING
POSITION FOR 2022/23

Ward(s) All

Portfolio: Councillor Statham – Education and Skills

1. Aim

To provide the budget monitoring position for Period 5 2022/23. The Chair requested that this item be considered by the Committee.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To note the revenue and capital forecast for the financial year end 2022/23 for the services under the remit of the committee.

3. Report detail – know

3.1 The current net revenue forecast position, after the net use of reserves, is an overspend of £0.40m.

3.2 Regular reports are prepared during 2022/23 for both Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee. For services under the remit of this committee the forecast revenue position is an overspend of £0.40m at Period 5, after net use of reserves of (£0.18m). For completeness, the forecast revenue overspend for services under the remit of the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is an overspend of £3.28m. This gives a total forecast position of an overspend of £3.68m for Children’s Services directorate as at 31 August 2022.

3.3 Reasons for the current position are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1 - Explanations of overspend	
	£m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £0.45m overspend on use of agency within the Special Education Needs team, relating to clearing a backlog of Education and Health Care Plan cases and meeting the ongoing demand. The full pressure in year is £649k however £133k is offset by vacant posts and £64k from use of School Improvement Reserve. There are 20 permanent posts in the EHCP team, 11 of which were vacant at August 22. There was a team of 10 agency staff in place. 	0.45
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (£0.05m) various underspends across the service. 	(0.05)
Total	0.40

3.4 The forecast revenue position by service is shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2- Forecast Revenue Outturn 2022/23					
Service	Annual Budget	Year End Forecast	Net Use of Reserves	Action Plan	Variance after Reserves & Action Plan
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Access & Inclusion	1.97	2.53	(0.16)	0.00	0.40
Home to School Transport	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Children's Services Sub Total	7.97	8.53	(0.16)	0.00	0.40
Education funding - accountable body	(0.46)	(0.44)	(0.02)	0.00	0.00
Total Children's Services	7.51	8.09	(0.18)	0.00	0.40

3.5 Reserves

The total allocated reserves in 2022/23 are £2.61m, of which (£0.18m) has been used or committed to date.

The use of reserves includes (£0.14m) School Improvement grant reserve, (£0.02m) Wellbeing for Education grant reserve & (£0.02m) Non-attendance fine income reserve. Table 3 below splits out the use of / transfer to reserves across the services within the remit of this committee.

Table 3 - Summary of use of reserves and transfer to reserves				
Reserve Details	Allocated reserve	Use of reserve	Transfer to reserve	Balance of reserve
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Education funding-accountable body	2.32	(0.02)	0.00	2.30
Access & Inclusion (including home to school transport)	0.29	(0.16)	0.00	0.13
Total Reserves	2.61	(0.18)	0.00	2.43

3.6 Risks

For the services under the remit of this committee, there are total risks of **£0.93m** which are not included in the above forecast. At this stage the risks are not a certainty and as such are not included in the monitoring position. There are no high risks relating to Education Services. If the risk became a certainty, it would need to be included in the forecast position as an overspend unless alternative action can be identified to mitigate these costs. A summary of the risk assessment is shown in Table 4 below.

Risk	Value £m	Ongoing £m	One Off £m	Actions to manage risk
High	0	0	0	
Medium	0.93	0.93	0	The amber risks will continue to be monitored and reviewed with the service on a monthly basis.
Low	0	0	0	
Total	0.93	0.93	0	

The risks are linked to potential increases to SEN numbers and the consequent impact on EHCP and Educational Psychology provision.

3.7 Service Transformation Plan Benefits

Included within the budget for 2022/23 for services within the remit of this Committee are £0.68m of approved savings. Table 6 gives an early indication of the progress towards implementing these benefits:

Saving	Total savings £m	Delivered (Blue) £m	To be delivered by 31/03/23 (Green) £m	Not fully guaranteed (Amber) £m	Not achieved (Red) £m
OP5 – Home to school transport – route optimisation	0.216	0	0.216	0	0
OP17 – Reduction in use of agency and temporary staff	0.120	0	0.120	0	0
OP25 – Increase traded services to schools	0.055	0	0.055	0	0
OP26 – High needs funding review and provide specialist support to children with additional needs via use of DSG grant	0.250	0.250	0	0	0
OP28 – Review and streamline the provision of specialist inclusion services and support	0.041	0	0.041	0	0
Total approved savings for services within remit of Committee	0.682	0.250	0.432	0	0

Each benefit is “BRAG” categorised as follows:

- Blue (delivered);

- Green (on track to be delivered with no issues at year end of 2022/23);
- Amber (not guaranteed at this stage but no major issues expected, some management action needed to ensure delivery) or,
- Red - (at high risk of not being achieved either in part or in full and therefore a robust delivery plan is required);

3.8 Capital Summary

The total capital programme relating to this portfolio is £37.52m. The projected forecast spend for 2022/23 as at Quarter 2 (August) is £18.45m with a proposed carry forward of £19.07m. This is detailed in Table 7 below:

Table 7 - Capital Forecast 2022/23					
Service	Annual Budget £m	Actual Year to Date £m	Forecast £m	Year End Variance £m	Proposed carry forward to 2023/24 £m
Council Funded					
School Estate Condition Survey	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00
School Temporary Classrooms	0.25	0.18	0.25	0.00	0.00
SUB-TOTAL	0.50	0.18	0.50	0.00	0.00
Externally Funded					
Devolved Formula Capital	1.84	0.10	1.84	0.00	0.00
Capital Maintenance	6.41	0.96	4.28	(2.13)	(2.13)
Basic Need	22.19	0.74	8.88	(13.31)	(13.31)
High Needs Provisional Capital Allocation	6.03	0.00	2.41	(3.62)	(3.62)
Academies	0.35	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.00
Goldsmith 2 Year Old Expansion	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00
SUB-TOTAL	37.02	1.80	17.96	(19.06)	(19.06)
TOTAL - EDUCATION	37.52	1.98	18.46	(19.06)	(19.06)

A budget of £0.23m of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) has been transferred back to our Education general DSG budget, to be repurposed at the start of the 2022/23 financial year. This funding was previously allocated for RCCO (Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay) for “2 Year Old Place Funding”. However, analysis of places for 2 year olds has been completed by A&I this year and the conclusion is that there are sufficient places within the borough, to meet the needs of the current cohort and therefore this budget is no longer required for capital expenditure.

The Capital Strategy for School Expansions to utilise Basic Need and High Needs funding for SEND, Secondary and Primary has not yet been finalised. We are seeing significant pressure for available SEND places and the Secondary Cohort is set to expand from 2023/24. A briefing paper is being prepared for review at Director level, before following the governance process to Cabinet.

4. Financial information

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

5. Reducing Inequalities

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

6. Decide

- 6.1 To note the recommendations as set out in this report.

7. Respond

- 7.1 The Executive Director for Children's Services, with finance in support will be working with Directors and Heads of service to review the forecast, to continue to implement mitigating actions for any further forecast overspends and to consider these financial implications in line with the council's budget setting process.

8. Review

- 8.1 Regular monitoring reports are presented to Cabinet to inform them of the financial forecast for 2022/23, including an update on risks and impact on the budget for 2023/24 and beyond.

Background papers: Various financial working papers

Contact Officers:

Ross Hutchinson, Head of Finance – Finance Business Partnering & ESS projects

☎ 07415 308513, ✉ ross.hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk

Tanya Collier, Lead Accountant – Children's Services

☎ 01922 652346, ✉ tanya.collier@walsall.gov.uk

Sally Rowe
Executive Director, Children's Services

Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Recommendation Tracker (22/23)

30 June 2022	Areas of Focus	A work program for the municipal year be produced and be circulated to members of the Committee.	Jack Thompson	Complete	6 September 2022	Sent to members of the Committee with agenda for the meeting on the 6 September 2022.
		The suggested items of 'teenage pregnancy' and 'overweight children' be referred to the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Jack Thompson	Complete	14 July 2022	Members of the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to put these items on the Committee work program.
06 September 2022	Areas of Focus	Items suggested; young people's homelessness and the finance Funding formula to be added to the areas of focus for future meetings.	Reena Farmah	Complete	30 September 2022	Areas of Focus updated to include items.
	School Attendance Bill and Children Not in School Bill	To share the SEND inspection report with Members.	Reena Farmah	Complete	30 September 2022	Circulated to Members via email.
11 October 2022	Areas of Focus	That young people's homelessness be referred to the Children's Services OSC and removed from this Committee's Areas of Focus.	Edward Cook	Complete	17 November 2022	Areas of focus updated.
	Ofsted Local Area SEND Revisit Inspection	To share with Members, data on the number of EHCP applications in Walsall which have gone to tribunals.	Edward Cook	In Progress		

	Outcome and Actions	To share the Accelerated Access Plan document with Members, once available.	Edward Cook	In progress		
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Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Work programme 2022/23

Main agenda items	06/09/22	11/10/22	28/11/22	12/01/23	16/02/23	28/03/23
Theme: Children not in School						
School Attendance Bill and Children Not in School Bill	X					
Children not in school (attendance, exclusions, elective home education and children missing education)	X					
Fair access and FAP	X					
Vulnerable Learners Hub	X					
Theme: SEND						
OFSTED Inspection Outcome and actions inc EHCP		X				
Transitions		X				
SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper		X				
Special School Provision Plan		X				
Theme: School Place and Capital Strategy						
School Place Planning: Capital strategy for schools inc Early Years sufficiency, Primary, Secondary, Post 16 and Special Schools (inc Black Country plan impact and Free School development)			X			
Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring			X			
Theme: Outcomes and improvements						
Attainment and Improving Educational Outcomes				X		
Increasing the Number of Good and Outstanding Schools				X		
Schools White Paper and Education Improvement Area				X		
Childrens Strategic partnership and Walsall Learning Alliance (WR4C)				X		
Budget Setting 2023/24				X		
Theme: Children not in School (Revisited)					X	
Theme: SEND (Revisited)						X

NB: The Outturn, Q1 and Q3 Finance reports to be by email circulation to the Committee.

Items to be scheduled:

Young people's homelessness

Finance funding formula.



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

7 November 2022

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
DECEMBER 2022 TO MARCH 2023 (7.11.22)**

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
110/22 (6.6.22)	<p>Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2026/27:</p> <p>To provide an updated medium term financial outlook, draft revenue budget and capital programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27, including savings proposals, and to set out the process and timescales for setting a legally balanced budget for 2023/24.</p>	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Public Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
121/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23:</p> <p>To report the financial position based on 7 months to October 2022, including the impact of Covid-19.</p>	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
123/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Treasury Management Mid Year Position Statement 2022/23:</p> <p>The council is required through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce a mid-year position statement reviewing</p>	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Lloyd Haynes Lloyd.Haynes@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022

	treasury management activities and prudential and treasury indicator performance.					
135/22 (10.10.22)	<p>Renewal of the Council's insurance arrangements from 1st April 2023:</p> <p>To seek delegated authority to renew the Council's insurance arrangements from 1 April 2023</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Cabinet Report 14 February 2018 - Renewal of the Council's Insurance Arrangements from 1 April 2018</p> <p>Marc Cox Marc.Cox@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
157/22 (7.11.22)	<p>Streamlining Black Country Ways of Working – Black Country Consortium:</p> <p>To provide an update on finalising an agreed way forward for streamlining ways of working across the Black Country, many of which have historically been coordinated through and by Black Country Consortium Ltd (BCC Ltd). The report builds from the agreements to date on the transition of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and the collaborative Black Country based approach for the future accountability of LEP legacy funds utilising Association of Black Country Authorities as a mechanism if and when required.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Sarah Middleton (Chief Executive, Black Country Consortium Ltd.)</p> <p>Sarah_Middleton@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk</p>	Association of Black Country Authority Leaders	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022

107/22 (6.6.22)	Procurement of Corporate Landlord Strategic Partner: To seek approval to the appointment of a strategic partner to support the programme of capital schemes related to the council's property portfolio.	Cabinet Key Decision	Nick Ford Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
136/22 (10.10.22)	Black Country Enterprise Zone-Gasholders Site: To update on the direction of travel and seek approvals in relation to the preferred delivery approach, project funding and next steps to bring forward the site for employment generating uses. <i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet Key Decision	Caroline Harper Caroline.Harper@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
137/22 (10.10.22)	Willenhall Framework Plan: Phase 1 Developer Partner Procurement Approach and Funding Update: To provide an update on the preferred developer partner procurement approach and funding position. <i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet Key Decision	Kauser Agha Kauser.Agha@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Legal (External)	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
144/22 (7.11.22)	UK Shared Prosperity Fund: To authorise officers to accept funding allocation for UK Shared Prosperity	Cabinet Key Decision	Philippa Venables Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022

	Fund and to utilise for project activity aligned with UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan.					
145/22 (7.11.22)	<p>Town Centre Theatre Project:</p> <p>To agree next steps for the Town Deal Theatre project, setting out funding implications and options.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Philippa Venables</p> <p>Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
158/22 (07.11.22)	<p>Walsall Economic Strategy</p> <p>To approve an economic strategy for the borough.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Philippa Venables</p> <p>Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
126/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Strategic acquisition of a freehold heritage building in Walsall Town Centre:</p> <p>To seek approval to the freehold acquisition of a heritage property in Walsall Town Centre to support the preservation of the property.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Nick Ford</p> <p>Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk</p> <p>Bryte Legister</p> <p>Bryte.Legister@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
125/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Housing First contract award:</p> <p>To approve the contract award enabling the continuation of flexible support to former rough sleepers housed through the Housing First initiative.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Neil Hollyhead</p> <p>Neil.Hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal services, service users, external stakeholders	Cllr Ali	14 December 2022

	<i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i>					
146/22 (7.11.22)	<p>Home Upgrade Grant (HUGs) Round 2 Procurement and Update:</p> <p>To approve the use of a Framework to appoint contractors to deliver government funds to help residents with retro-fit works where they are not on the gas network.</p>	Cabinet Key decision	David Lockwood David.Lockwood@walsall.gov.uk	Public, Internal Services	Councillor Ali	14 December 2022
138/22 (10.10.22)	<p>Food for Life Contract:</p> <p>Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements from 1st April 2023 until 31st March 2024, and subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of associated contracts, deeds or other related documents for the Food for Life contract.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Esther Higdon Esther.Higdon@walsall.gov.uk Paul Nelson Paul.Nelson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services	Cllr Flint	14 December 2022
130/22 (6.9.22)	<p>Sexual Health and 0-19 Contracts:</p> <p>To approve the extension of the integrated sexual health service, contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024; and</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing to extend contracts on behalf</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Tony Meadows, Interim Director of Commissioning Tony.Meadows@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	14 December 2022

	of the Council and to subsequently authorise the variations to the contractual arrangements for the services should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules to 31 March 2024.					
156/22 (7.11.22)	<p>Healthy Lifestyles Contract and Smoking Cessation Contract Extensions:</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Director of Public Health and the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing. This will allow them to extend contracts on behalf of the Council and to subsequently authorise the variations to the contractual arrangements for the services should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Joe Holding Joe.Holding@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	14 December 2022
147/22 (7.11.22)	<p>We Are Walsall 2040: Consultation Feedback:</p> <p>To note the key findings from the consultation activities carried out over summer/autumn 2022, which will inform the We Are Walsall 2040 strategic borough plan.</p>	Cabinet Non-key decision	<p>Karen Griffiths</p> <p>Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk</p> <p>Policy & Strategy Unit</p> <p>(policyandstrategy@walsall.gov.uk)</p>	Internal Services, Local partners/ stakeholders	Cllr Perry Cllr Wilson	14 December 2022

148/22 (7.11.22)	Food Law Service Plan: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) requires all local authorities to prepare an annual service delivery plan to reflect the work required of food authorities by the FSA, under the requirements of the Food Standards Act 1999 and the framework agreement on local authority enforcement. In accordance with this requirement a Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2022/23 has been prepared and a decision is required from members to obtain authority to approve this plan	Cabinet Council Non-key decision	Paul Rooney Paul.Rooney@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	14 December 2022 Council, 9 January 2023
129/22 (5.9.22)	Update on Resilient Communities Safer Streets Programme: To report back on Safer Streets activity and recommend any adjustments/additions to the programme.	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Paul Gordon Paul.Gordon@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	14 December 2022
149/22 (7.11.22)	Electronic Calls Monitoring Contract Extension: To approve the extension of the ECM contract with Access UK Ltd.	Cabinet Key Decision	Tracy Simcox Tracy.Simcox@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Pedley	14 December 2022
124/22 (8.8.22)	Schools Mainstream Local Funding Formula 2023/24: That Cabinet approves the Mainstream Local Funding Formula, to be used for	Cabinet Key Decision	Walsall Schools Forum report December 2022 – Proposed Schools Local Funding Formula 2023/24.	Internal Services Schools Forum	Cllr M. Statham	14 December 2022

	the allocation of mainstream funding to schools in Walsall		ESFA – Schools revenue funding operation guide. Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk			
159/22 (7.11.22)	Secondary School Sufficiency: To approve funds for the creation of an additional 150 places in three Secondary Schools.	Cabinet Key Decision	Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Local partners/stake holders	Cllr. M. Statham	14 December 2022
160/22 (7.11.22)	Special School Sufficiency: To begin feasibility works to create to additional places in SEN Schools to meet additional demands.	Cabinet Key Decision	Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Local partners/stake holders	Cllr. M. Statham	14 December 2022
141/22 (10.10.22)	Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23: To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2022, including the impact of Covid-19.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Corporate Management Team and Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 2023
142/22 (10.10.22)	Corporate Budget Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27, incorporating the Capital Strategy and the Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2023/24: To recommend the final budget and council tax for approval by Council.	Cabinet Key Decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Public Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 2022 Council, 23 February 2023

150/22 (7.11.22)	Payments Project Contract Award: To award a contract to Capita/Pay360 Ltd (soon to be Access Group Ltd) for the provision of Pay 360 Licences and Capita/Pay360 Ltd services.	Cabinet Key Decision	Janice Freeman-Phillips Janice.Freeman-Phillips@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 2023
155/22 (7.11.22)	Council Plan: Review of Achievements 2021/22: To note the Review of Achievements for 2021/22, highlighting successes and progress towards achieving our Council priorities.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Meresh Kumari (meresh.kumari@walsall.gov.uk) Elizabeth Connolly (elizabeth.connolly@walsall.gov.uk)	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 2023
151/22 (7.11.22)	Introduction of Council Tax Premium on unoccupied but furnished properties: Levy the premium on properties that are unoccupied and unfurnished for more than 12 months. Effective from 1 April 24.	Cabinet to make recommendation to Full Council Key Decision	Mark Fearn Mark.Fearn@walsall.gov.uk	Part of budget consultation	Cllr Ali	8 February 2023
140/22 (10.10.22)	High Needs Funding Formula: To approve changes to the High Needs Funding Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used for the allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block to schools in Walsall for the 2023/24 financial year.	Cabinet Key Decision	Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk Schools' Forum reports October 2022, December 2022 and January 2023. Page 44 of 50	Internal Services, Schools Forum	Cllr M. Statham	8 February 2023

152/22 (7.11.22)	Renewal of the Council's Oracle Cloud Licenses: To renew the Council's Oracle cloud Licenses required for the operation of the Council's One Source system for HR, Payroll, Finance and Procurement from May 2023.	Cabinet Key Decision	Ian Tuft Ian.Tuft@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird Cllr Ferguson	22 March 2023
153/22 (7.11.22)	Walsall's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 to 2027: To approve Walsall's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, 2022 to 2027.	Cabinet Key Decision	Neil Hollyhead Neil.Hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services, service users, external stakeholders	Cllr Ali	22 March 2023
154/22 (7.11.22)	Early Years Funding Formula: To approve the Early Years Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used for the allocation of funding to early years providers in Walsall.	Cabinet Key Decision	Cabinet Report 17 March 2022 Early Years Funding Formula Walsall Schools Forum report March 2022 – Proposed Early Years Funding Formula Cabinet report 8 February 2017 Early Years National Funding Formula Walsall Schools Forum report 20 September 2016 - Update on National Funding Formula Original consultation document from government regarding the	Schools Forum Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	22 March 2023

			<p>implementation of a national early years funding formula</p> <p>Government's response to the early years consultation and fact sheet</p> <p>Richard Walley</p> <p>Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</p>			
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Black Country Executive Joint Committee
Forward Plan of Key Decisions Published up to March 2023

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance			
09/05/2022	<p>Future working arrangements of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee</p> <p>Consider the future working arrangements in light of the receipt of Government correspondence dated 31 March 2022: Integrating Local Enterprise Partnerships into local democratic institutions.</p>	<p>Sarah Middleton Sarah.Middleton@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk</p>	<p>Dudley MBC Sandwell MBC Walsall MBC City of Wolverhampton Council</p>	01/02/2023
06/06/2022	<p>Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones</p> <p>Approval of the amended Supplemental Deed of Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones, relating to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement.</p>	<p>Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Walsall Council</p>	01/02/2023

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)			
03/10/2022	<p>Willenhall Garden City - Phase 1 (Moat Street and Villiers Street)</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Green Square Accord Ltd, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Willenhall Garden City – Phase 1 (Moat street and Villiers Street) with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.</p>	Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk	Walsall Council	01/02/2023
03/10/2022	<p>Dudley Brownfield Land Programme</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Dudley Council, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Dudley Brownfield Land</p>	Helen Martin Helen.Martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	01/02/2023

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	<p>Programme with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.</p>			
07/11/2022	<p>Wolverhampton Stowheath Redevelopment for Housing</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Stowheath Redevelopment for Housing project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.</p> <p>Where the full grant amount cannot be met with LPIF grant funding, the balance will be made up of residual BC LEP funding and investment.</p>	<p>Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk</p>	<p>City of Wolverhampton Council</p>	01/02/2023

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	Local Growth Fund (LGF)			
07/11/2022	<p>YMCA Cleveland Road</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending its Grant Agreement for the YMCA Cleveland Road project, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the YMCA Cleveland Road project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.</p>	<p>Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk</p>	<p>City of Wolverhampton Council</p>	01/02/2023