



**Walsall Council**

## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Civic Centre,  
Darwall Street,  
Walsall, WS1 1TP  
[www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk)**

**8 September 2008**

## FORWARD PLAN

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

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

The Cabinet Members and their responsibilities are as follows:

Leader of the Council	Councillor John O’Hare
Deputy Leader and Regeneration	Councillor Adrian Andrew
Children’s services	Councillor Zahid Ali
Communities and partnerships	Councillor Garry Perry
Environment	Councillor Rachel Walker
Finance and personnel	Councillor Al Griffiths
Leisure and culture	Councillor Louise Harrison
Procurement, transformation and performance management	Councillor Mohammed Arif
Social care, health and housing	Councillor Barbara McCracken
Transport	Councillor Anthony Harris

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

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

The forward plan does not list all decisions which have to be taken by the Council only "key decisions" which are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings.

### **Dates of Cabinet meetings for 2008/2009**

#### **2008**

18 June  
16 July  
17 September  
22 October  
19 November  
17 December

#### **2009**

14 January  
4 February  
18 March  
22 April

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS  
OCTOBER 2008 TO JANUARY 2009 (8.9.08)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Key decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
77/08 (8.9.08)	<b>Area Based Grant (ABG)</b> – To approve proposed allocations of funding recommended by WBSP Executive Committee to proposed programmes to deliver the Local Area Agreement and receive an update regarding the Target Action planning process	Cabinet	Jo Lowndes, 654714		Councillor O'Hare	22 October 2008
78/08	<b>Strategic fundraiser</b> – Approval of the future role of strategic fundraising to ensure Walsall receives maximum benefits from funding applications and request approval for Walsall partnership to be given the lead on developing strategic fundraising on behalf of the Council	Cabinet	Clive Wright 654707		Councillor O'Hare	22 October 2008
76/08 (8.9.08)	<b>Education capital programme – approval of further schemes</b> – Cabinet to approve schemes at schools	Cabinet	Susan Lupton 686231, Walsall Children's Services, Serco	Finance, property service, legal	Councillor Zahid Ali	22 October 2008

70/08 (8.8.08)	<b>Early years capital grant</b> – Outline proposals for the investment of this capital allocation to improve the quality of learning environment, improve access to all children, including disabled children, and to enable the delivery of flexible 3 and 4 year old provision in early years settings in the private, voluntary and independent sector in addition to maintained settings. Cabinet will be asked to approve the investment approach.	Cabinet	Susan Lupton 686231, Walsall Children's Services, Serco	HR, finance, legal	Councillor Zahid Ali	22 October 2008
73/08 (8.8.08)	<b>Building schools for the future (BSF)</b> BSF is a long-term programme of investment and change in England that will help transform education for secondary age students by providing 21 <sup>st</sup> century learning environments that engage and inspire young people, their teachers and the wider community. BSF was launched by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) in February 2003. Walsall Council has been selected for an accelerated start to BSF as part of 7 other local authorities joining the programme in Interim Wave 6a and together will share funding of £625m. Cabinet to be requested to give approval to proceed with the Building Schools for the Future project.	Cabinet	Karen Adderley 653303	Head teachers, LNPs, Children's services, regeneration officers	Councillor Zahid Ali	22 October 2008
68/08 (8.8.08)	<b>Building schools for the future</b> – To inform Cabinet of progress on the review of mainstream secondary schools and to seek permission to progress the review.	Cabinet	Avril Walton 686283, Walsall Children's Services, Serco	HR, finance, legal	Councillor Zahid Ali	22 October 2008

81/08 (8.9.08)	<b>Darlaston Community Science College:</b> Outcome of consultation on proposed academy - Cabinet to consider the outcome of consultation on the proposal to close Darlaston on 13 August 2009 to enable it to re-open as an academy on 1 September 2009	Cabinet	Avril Walton 686283, Walsall Children's Services, Serco	Legal, finance, HR	Councillor Zahid Ali	22 October 2008
82/08 (8.8.08)	<b>Birchills CE Primary School:</b> Outcome of consultation on proposal to significantly enlarge the school - Cabinet to consider the outcome of consultation and decide whether to approve the publication of a statutory proposal.	Cabinet	Susan Lupton, 686231, Walsall Children's Services, Serco	Legal. Finance, HR	Councillor Zahid Ali	
83/08 (8.9.08)	<b>Land at Ashbourne Road</b> - Cabinet to consider a proposal to incorporate part of this land into the site of Lower Farm Primary School and for the remainder of the land to be managed by leisure.	Cabinet	Susan Lupton, 686231, Walsall Children's Services, Serco	Property services, legal, planning, finance, HR	Councillor Zahid Ali	22 October 2008
87/08 (8.9.08)	<b>Safer and stronger communities fund allocation</b> – Cabinet to ratify the use of government capital funding for the safer and stronger agenda	Cabinet	Nozmul Hussain 709189	Safer Walsall Borough partnership	Councillor Perry	22 October 2008
92/07 (10.10.07)	<b>Corporate Asset Management Plan</b> - The Corporate Asset Management Plan outlines the council's approach to the strategic management of the property portfolio. The Plan identifies the emerging Corporate Property Strategy and how directorates and property teams work together to ensure the efficient and effective use of property resources.	Cabinet	Steve Law 652075		Councillor Andrew	22 October 2008

37/08 (9.5.08)	<b>St. Matthews Quarter</b> – The Council has been working with developers and landowners to bring forward the retail led regeneration of this part of the town centre. In order to deliver this aspiration the developers have approached the Council with a view to acquiring the Council’s land interests in the area. The scheme will require the temporary relocation of the market to the Bridge whilst a permanent location is developed. Cabinet approval is sought to agree the details of the temporary relocation of the market, its future management arrangements and details of the development agreement	Cabinet	Paul Nicholson 652489 Richard Chadwick 652576	Regeneration Scrutiny Panel and Markets Working Group, Market Traders Association, Town Centre Management Partnership, Walsall Regeneration Company	Councillor Andrew	22 October 2008
59/06 (18.8.06)	<b>Mellish Road Methodist Church.</b> - The report is intended to summarise the findings of a recent economic appraisal that assesses the viability of the retention and conversion of the existing building. Cabinet to approve the pursuance of a compulsory purchase order for the site based on the conclusions of the appraisal.	Cabinet	Simon Tranter 652543	English Heritage	Councillor Andrew	22 October 2008
84/08 (8.9.08)	<b>Former Curl &amp; Dye premises, Wolverhampton Road, Walsall</b> – to support the making of a compulsory purchase order	Cabinet	Paul Nicholson 652489 Joel Maybury 653221	Walsall Regeneration Co., Internal - planning legal, estates	Councillor Andrew	22 October 2008

72/08 (8.8.08)	<b>Links to Work</b> – Links to Work assumed responsibility for the transfer of the former Walsall Windows 3 years ago including time limited transitional funding. Cabinet to consider a range of options to address budget issues prior to the service being externalised as a social enterprise.	Cabinet	John Greensill 658383		Councillor McCracken	22 October 2008
71/08 (8.8.08)	<b>Hollybank House</b> – Cabinet in September 2007 considered a report to end local authority provision for younger physically disabled adults and recommended that a further report be received outlining an action plan following formal consultation. Future commissioning decisions will be required from the PCT to progress the preferred future service option The report will confirm the outcome of the formal consultation and provide an action plan for future services.	Cabinet	John Greensill	Staff, service users, carers, residents of Hollybank	Councillor McCracken	22 October 2008
85/08 (8.9.08)	<b>Adult services – transport services</b> – To consider proposals for seeking expressions of interest in the reconfiguration of the delivery of transport services within Adult Services	Cabinet1	Lawrence Brazier 0990	Commissioning managers, fleet services, legal, finance, procurement	Councillor McCracken	22 October 2008
86/08 (8.9.08)	<b>Winter Service Operational Plan 2008/9</b> – The Council needs to ensure that services to the public continue in the face of seasonal changes in the weather. Cabinet to approve the operational plan which details arrangements for the precautionary treatment roads and clearance of snow.	Cabinet	Clive Betts 652536	Risk and insurance services	Councillor Harris Councillor Walker	22 October 2008



88/08 (8.9.08)	<b>Highways repair and maintenance service</b> – Cabinet to approve the final contract for the delivery of highways repairs and maintenance services.	Cabinet	Keith Stone 653301	Internal and prospective partners	Councillor Harris	22 October 2008
34/07 (19.4.07)	<b>Outcome of street trading review</b> - Following consideration by Licensing & Safety and Development Control Committees of outline proposals to change the nature and location of street trading consents and regulate advertisements and obstructions on the highway, detailed proposals are out for consultation. A further opportunity will be provided for LNPs to make comments and final proposals presented to Licensing & Safety Committee and thereafter to Council to implement the proposals with effect from 1 April 2009.	Council	John Beavon 652214	Regulatory authorities, emergency services, Town centre partnerships, Chamber of Commerce, trade associations, stakeholders LNPs Internal	Councillor Walker	3 November 2008 23 February 2009
67/08 (8.8.08)	<b>Review of Council tax discounts on second homes and long term empty premises</b> - Section 11a, Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that an authority may make a determination to reduce existing 50% discounts on second homes and long term empty premises to between 10% and 0%. Approx. 75% of authorities have reduced second home discounts to 10% and 45% have reduced their empty property discount to 0%. If this approach was adopted substantial additional Council tax could be generated. The decision to do this must be taken before the Council tax is set for the year and approved by Council.	Council	Sharon Tait 652039	Other local authorities and internal stakeholders	Councillor Griffiths	3 November 2008

79/08 (8.9.08)	<b>Bereavement and Registration services</b> – Annual review of fees and charges associated with burials, cremation and miscellaneous registration fees.	Cabinet	Steve Billings 0121 353 7228	Stakeholders	Councillor Walker	19 November 2008
9/08 (7.1.08)	<b>The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase 2</b> - The RSS is now part of the development plan alongside the Council's UDP and is reviewed in 3 phases. Phase 1 concerning the Black Country came into effect in January 2008. The Phase 2 preferred option has been published dealing with the economy, housing, centres, transport and waste. Consultation on the preferred option has been extended to Dec. in order to take account of further technical work that the Government is preparing. This work is intended to show that there is capacity for more housing in the West Midlands that the RSS is currently proposing. Cabinet to approve the Council's response to the RSS Phase 2 and the Government's technical work. Phase 3 is at the planning stage and will be reported on in due course.	Cabinet	Sandy Urquhart 652477	N/A	Councillor Andrew	19 November 2008

38/08 (9.5.08)	<b>Police station</b> – The West Midlands Police Authority has identified a preferred location for its new Walsall Police HQ. The Council is a considerable landowner in the preferred location and the Police Authority has approached the Council with a view to purchasing its interest and securing its support to assemble the remainder of the site. Cabinet approval is sought “in principle” for the pursuit of a compulsory purchase order to help deliver the police station relocation and for the sale of land to the Police Authority.	Cabinet	Paul Nicholson 652489 Richard Chadwick 652576	Walsall Regeneration Company	Councillor Andrew	19 November 2008
54/08 (6.6.08)	<b>Housing Strategy 2008-11</b> – Endorsement of the Council’ Housing Strategy 2008-11 which details the Council’s priorities to increase housing choice and opportunity, improve the standard and sustainability of existing and future homes and address diverse needs and promote independent living.	Cabinet Council	Neil Hollyhead 655411	Key stakeholders	Councillor McCracken	19 November 2008 12 January 2009
67/06 (18.8.06)	<b>Darlaston Strategic Development Area</b> – authorisation to publish orders and processes	Cabinet	Steve Pretty 652598	Walsall Regeneration Co., Environment Agency, British Waterways, statutory undertakers, AWM	Councillor Harris	19 November 2008

15/08 (10.12.07)	<p><b>Sustainable travel to school strategy -</b>  The Sustainable travel to school strategy is being produced in response to both national and local initiatives. There is a general duty under for Local Authorities to promote sustainable modes of travel to school. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a further duty on Local Authorities to consider the travel needs of all pupils. There are 4 main requirements of the Education and Inspections Act: (1) An assessment of the travel and transport needs of children and young people within the authority's area. (2) An audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between schools/institutions. (3) A strategy to develop the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority, so that the needs of children and young people are better catered for. (4) The promotion of sustainable travel and transport to, from and between schools and other institutions.</p>	Cabinet	Kathryn Parr 652511 Kate Mann 686361	Walsall Schools working party, Serco, road safety	Councillor Harris	19 November 2008
---------------------	--	---------	---	---	----------------------	---------------------

80/08 (8.9.08)	<p><b>Highway asset management plan</b> – The plan will provide an integrated framework to deliver highway maintenance across the borough’s road network in a way that optimises resources for the management of the highway infrastructure. The primary function of the plan is to maximise value for money while carrying out the Council duties as the Highway Authority. It aligns with both corporate and government strategies and the West Midlands Local Transport Plan. The plan sets out necessary management arrangements to ensure service levels are optimised and ensures the highway asset is managed wherever practicable to meet the expectations of the highway user.</p>	Cabinet	Richard Pohribnyj 652304	West Midlands authorities, stakeholders, Emergency services, LNPs, Walsall Regeneration Co., Centro, Chamber of Commerce	Councillor Harris	19 November 2008
74/08 (7.7.08)	<p><b>Gating Orders Policy</b> – gating orders were introduced under the Clean Neighbourhoods Act 2005. They can be used to gate highways where anti-social behaviour and crime is experienced. It is necessary to amend the existing situational crime interventions policy to allow implementation of this new legislation. Walsall Borough’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan became approved Council policy on 19 April 2008 highlighted that the policy review should be completed within 12 months</p>	Cabinet Council	Joanne Sheeran 652445	LNPs, Local Access Forum, statutory consultees	Councillor Harris	14 January 2009

75/08 (8.8.08)	<b>Learning disability short breaks</b> – Short breaks are offered by the Council to give carers of people with a learning disability a break from 24/7 care and are allocated on an assessed number of nights per year basis. Cabinet to consider a range of options to ensure the equitable and affordable allocation of short breaks.	Cabinet	John Greensill 658383	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Councillor McCracken	14 January 2009
-------------------	--	---------	--------------------------	---	-------------------------	--------------------

## FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS FROM FEBRUARY 2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Key decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council)	Decision maker	Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer	Main consultees	Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall)	Date item to be considered
63/08 (7.7.08) (Replaces items 41/07, 41/08 & 42/08)	<b>Implementation of charging policies within Social Care and Inclusion</b> – The fairer charging policy in place within social care and inclusion needs to be updated and amended. Officers will be required to undertake a formal 12 week consultation. Also there are no policies currently in place for transport, neighbourhood care officers or extra care charging. Cabinet to be requested to authorise officers to consult on the charging proposals and report back to Cabinet at the end of the consultation period.	Cabinet	Steph Simcox 652703	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Councillor McCracken	4 February 2009