



**Walsall Council**

# **Scrutiny Overview Committee**

Meeting to be held on: **16 March 2023 at 6.00 P.M.**

Meeting to be held via: **Council House and Microsoft Teams**

Public access to meeting via: [www.WalsallCouncilWebcasts.com](http://www.WalsallCouncilWebcasts.com)

**MEMBERSHIP:**

Chair: Councillor Murray

Vice Chair: Councillor Nawaz

Councillor Bains

Councillor P. Bott

Councillor Cooper

Councillor Ditta

Councillor Follows

Councillor Hicken

Councillor K. Hussain

Councillor Samra

Councillor Singh-Sohal

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL:**

Councillor Bird

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:**

All

## ITEMS FOR BUSINESS

1.	<b>Apologies</b> To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee.	
2.	<b>Substitutions</b> To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.	
3.	<b>Declarations of interest and party whip</b> To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.	
4.	<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)</b> 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.	<b>Minutes</b> To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2022.	<u>Enclosed</u>
6.	<b>Member Enquiries</b> To update the Committee on the progress made to deal with Member enquiries.	<u>Enclosed</u>
7.	<b>Our Council Plan: Markers of Success Q2 22/23</b> To provide an update on the council plan markers of success - (quarterly update).	<u>Enclosed</u>
8.	<b>School Gate Working Group</b> Final report of the working group.	<u>Enclosed</u>
9.	<b>Feedback from Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committees</b> To receive any feedback from meetings of Overview & Scrutiny Committees since the last meeting.	<u>Enclosed</u>
10.	<b>Recommendation Tracker</b> To consider progress on recommendations from the previous meeting.	<u>Enclosed</u>
11.	<b>Areas of Focus 2022-23</b> To review the Committees Work Programme and the Forward Plans for Walsall Council and the Black Country Executive Committee.	<u>Enclosed</u>
12.	<b>Date of next meeting</b> To note that the date of the next meeting will be 20 April 2023.	

## 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.

## **SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2023, 6:00pm**

**In the Council Chamber at the Council House, Walsall**

### **Committee Members present:**

Councillor J. Murray (Chair)  
Councillor A. Nawaz (Vice Chair)  
Councillor B. Bains  
Councillor P. Bott  
Councillor S. Cooper  
Councillor S. Ditta  
Councillor Follows  
Councillor Hicken  
Councillor K. Hussain  
Councillor S. Samra  
Councillor Singh-Sohal

### **Portfolio Holders present:**

Councillor Bird  
Councillor Andrew  
Councillor Ali  
Councillor Elson  
Councillor Ferguson  
Councillor Murphy  
Councillor Perry

### **Officers present:**

Simon Neilson	Executive Director, Economy & Environment and Communities
Dave Brown	Director – Place and Environment
Shaun Darcy	Director – Finance Corporate Performance and Corporate Landlord
Elise Hopkins	Director - Customer Engagement
David Elrington	Head of Community Safety and Enforcement
Nikki Gough	Democratic Services Officer
Edward Cook	Assistant Democratic Services Officer

### **445/22 Apologies**

No apologies were received.

### **446/22 Substitutions**

There were no substitutions.

**447/22          Declarations of interest and party whip**

No declarations of interest or party whip were received.

**448/22          Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

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

**449/22          Minutes**

A copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2022 was submitted.

[Annexed]

The Chairman explained that every effort had gone in to arranging for the outgoing Chief Executive to attend a meeting of the Committee following the request at the meeting held on 12 December 2022, however, this had not been possible to arrange within the time available.

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2022, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.**

**450/22          Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23 – 7 month position ended 31 October 2022**

The Committee received a report, which provided the updated forecast financial position for 2022/23, based on the seven-month position at the end of October 2022.

[Annexed]

The Chairman explained that this item had been added as a late item to the agenda in response to the worsening financial situation and forecast overspend. The Director (Finance Corporate Performance and Corporate Landlord) explained that the main source of the forecast overspend was in Adult Social Care and Children's Services, due to rising costs of care packages and increasing costs to providers, but that mitigating measures were in place. For services within the remit of the Committee there was an underspend which was helping off-set the over-spend in different service areas.

Responding to Member questions, the Director (Finance Corporate Performance and Corporate Landlord) explained that outstanding debts owed to the Council by other bodies did not contribute to the overspends, as they were treated as part of cash-flow, rather than spending. Provisions were in place to write-off bad debt, and significant resources had been invested to improve debt collection. A discussion was

held on money owed by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) with further detail provided on action taken to rectify this situation. The Leader of the Council affirmed that social care was needed and the Council would never leave those who needed care without it. Whilst the Government had allowed further increases in council tax to fund Adult Social Care, Cabinet had felt those in need would struggle to pay this, thus moving debt from one source to another. Regarding questions about energy costs in schools the Leader of the Council explained that Cabinet and Council had written to Government calling for contingency plans and support for schools and businesses.

**Resolved:**

- 1. That the Committee noted:**
  - a. The forecast 2022/23 year-end financial position for the council as a whole including a predicted net revenue overspend of £11.33m (an increase of £5.21m since last reported to Cabinet in October 2022), and capital break-even position after re-phasing of £92.64m into 2023/24;**
  - b. That the section 151 Officer had requested that all budgets be reviewed and that services identify mitigating actions to address the revenue position. Following this review, £11.28m of mitigating actions had been identified to address this, resulting in a marginal revenue forecast overspend of £0.05m. Any on-going pressures or undelivered savings not addressed in-year would need to be considered as part of the 2023/24 budget process, putting pressure on that process. Officers were confident at this stage, based on known assumptions, that actions being taken will address this and outturn on budget;**
- 2. That the Committee noted the forecast 2022/23 year-end financial position for services within the remit of the committee including a predicted net revenue underspend of £1.27m and net capital break even position after re-phasing of £19.33m into 2023/24, subject to ongoing review.**
- 3. That the full list of mitigating actions taken in response to the forecast overspend, as set out in the report submitted to cabinet, be shared with members of the Committee.**

The Committee received a report and supplementary paper, which provided the draft revenue budget proposals for services within the remit of the committee and for Council-wide services. 'Part A' of the report set out the draft revenue budget proposals for services within the remit of the committee. 'Part B' outlined the draft revenue budget and capital programme covering Council-wide services, as submitted to Cabinet on 14 December 2022 and with amendments due to be presented to Cabinet on 8 February 2023 summarised in the supplementary paper.

[Annexed]

The Leader introduced the report, providing headline figures, details of investments, efficiencies, cost pressures, and the proposed draft capital programme spending. The Portfolio Holders for Resilient Communities, Customer and Internal Services provided further descriptions of proposals within the remit of the Committee.

An extensive discussion was held on the draft revenue and capital budget proposals, with particular challenge provided in relation to:

- Card payments and online services capital investment schemes – it was suggested that this needed future scrutiny.
- The level of reserves held by the Authority.
- Overspend within the Childrens Service and Adults Social Care.
- Increasing cost pressures through rising prices of commodities, fuel and energy.
- Review of provision - school crossing patrols.

The Committee considered the future use of the civic centre, including hybrid working arrangements, enhancing the council's registrars offer and the proposal to lease out space within the civic, as set out in Appendix 2 - OP 32 and Appendix 3. The Leader clarified that this investment was required to ensure the space was fit for purpose, met health and safety requirements and to ensure that maximum income was achieved from the building from both a service offer and working with partners from a one public estate perspective. Officers clarified that this would be a capital scheme, also supported by a £3.7m capital grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme supporting air source heat pumps across the civic centre and Council House to deliver towards the net carbon zero agenda and drive energy efficiency. It would also provide an enhanced service offer for registrars, which would generate additional ongoing revenue benefits, especially from increased marriage ceremonies from a much improved, town centre space. Concern was expressed by the Committee that investment in the civic centre was not prudent at this time. The Leader of the Council clarified that he had never said that the Civic Centre may be sold and that there had been no consideration of this, contrary to reports in the press.



The Leader explained the reasons for the reduction in the grant funding provided to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) set out in Appendix 2 P2, stating that this was no longer a satisfactory service to Walsall residents.

It was **moved** and **seconded** that a recommendation be made to Cabinet to review the proposed funding cut to the CAB and that Cabinet be asked to continue funding the CAB at the current level on the condition that it provides services in Walsall (Civic Centre) and community centres across the Borough to support residents.

The Committee discussed this motion. Members debated the merits of the service provided - it was acknowledged that this was previously of significant value to Walsall residents, however, it was felt by some Members that this was no longer the case. A Member stated that he could not support the CAB as it did not support his local community, it was suggested that an alternative provider/in house should be sought to deliver the help. Concerns were raised in relation to the CAB capacity and if they would be able to deliver what was being suggested, the identification of an alternative provider was suggested as a better option for Walsall residents. A Member stated that it was his understanding that the CAB did deliver services from Beechdale and this proposal would ensure that they had a presence in Walsall – with the funding conditional on provision of the service in a way that was designed by the Authority. It was stressed that the CAB had not been delivering an adequate level of service in Walsall despite receiving funding and it was concluded by some members it would be wrong to recommend that the funding be continued as the CAB did not have the capacity to deliver.

Upon being put to the vote, this was **rejected** and the proposed resolution failed for this reason.

The Committee further discussed the service provided by the CAB and the benefits of developing an in-house service or using an alternative provider and it was suggested that this should be a future agenda item for the Scrutiny Overview Committee.

**Resolved:**

- 1. That the Scrutiny Overview Committee support recommendation one made by the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in relation to the draft revenue and capital programme 2023/24 – 2026/27, at its meeting on 19 January 2023. (That recommendation being ‘Cabinet be advised that the Committee is unable to support the savings listed in the ‘Summary of Operational Proposals by Outcome 2023/24 – 2026/27’, contained with Appendix 2 (Savings in relation to Social Care);**
- 2. That the Scrutiny Overview Committee request that Cabinet produce a full options appraisal on the future use of the Civic Centre before allocating resources to its refurbishment;**
- 3. That the Scrutiny Overview Committee ask Cabinet to consider the impact of the financial overspend within Adult Social Care and**

**Children's Services and that a robust action plan aimed at dealing with the overspend is produced for the next financial year.**

- 4. That information be provided on funding brought in for Clean and Green purposes.**

#### **452/22      Community Protection Enforcement**

The Committee received a report, which provided an overview of community protection enforcement in Walsall.

[Annexed]

The Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities introduced the report and highlighted the key points. Responding to questions, the Head of Community Safety and Enforcement stated that the number of registered scrap vehicles was relatively low and that license plates for these vehicles were available. Whilst they were not legally mandatory, there had been enthusiastic take-up. A significant challenge regarding fly tipping was recurring sites and identifying offenders. Improving partnership working would be an important factor in strengthening enforcement.

Regarding the time taken to respond to and resolve complaints, the Head of Community Safety and Enforcement explained that there was a very pressing demand on services and that despite operational changes, expectations needed to be realistic. Cases were prioritised with considerations including the nature and level of threat/harm and the quality of evidence provided. There were often delays in seeing the results of enforcements due to backlogs in the legal system. The issuing of 'Fixed Penalty Notices' followed a strict process, but Walsall had issued the highest number in the Black Country this year.

The Head of Community Safety and Enforcement explained that the Team Leader post in Community Protection team was currently vacant with members of the team temporarily covering. Community Protection Enforcement officers workloads were periodically prioritised and staff had recently been focussing on street-drinking, homelessness, environmental patrols and supporting the police.

#### **Resolved:**

- 1. That the Committee noted the information contained in the report and on how resources are allocated to provide integrated enforcement to support the resilient communities approach;**
- 2. That information be provided to Committee Members regarding the number of scrap metal dealers licensed in Walsall.**

**453/22      Feedback from Overview & Scrutiny Committees**

The Committee received feedback from the Chairs of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees on meetings of their committees since 12 December 2022.

**Resolved:**

- 1. That the feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted;**
- 2. That the Committee congratulate the Officers in Children's Services and Education for their work regarding SEND.**

**454/22      Recommendation Tracker**

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

[Annexed]

**Resolved:**

**That the recommendation tracker be noted.**

**455/22      Areas of Focus 2022-23**

Members received the Committee's Work Programme and considered the Forward Plans of the Council and the Black Country Executive Joint Committee.

[Annexed]

It was noted that the report produced following the recent Local Government Association peer review was due to be considered by Cabinet in March 2023 so would likely to come before the Committee in April 2023.

**Resolved:**

- 1. That the following items be considered at the meeting of 16 March 2023:**
  - a. Council Customer Engagement including member queries and responses;**
  - b. Council Plan performance report;**
  - c. School Gate Working Group.**
- 2. That the We Are Walsall 2040 draft strategy framework be added to the work programme for consideration at the meeting of 20 April 2023;**
- 3. That the Walsall Local Plan be added to the Committee's areas of focus, for consideration when appropriate during the next Municipal Year;**

4. That the Children's Play Strategy be referred to the Economy & Environment Committee for consideration as soon as practicable;
5. That the Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark be referred to the Economy & Environment Committee for consideration at a future meeting;
6. That the Forward Plans be noted.

456/22      **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on 16 March 2023 at 6pm.

There being no further business this meeting was terminated at 9:34pm.

Signed:

Date:

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

## **Agenda Item No.**

**DATE: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**6.**

### **Members Enquiries - Update**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:** Cllr Ali - Portfolio Holder for Customer Engagement

**Report:** Members Enquiry Portal

In December, we attended Scrutiny to introduce a proposed approach for a new Members Enquiry process based on developing an application that could be used by both Members and Services to streamline the process and make it much more transparent and performance led.

It was made clear that we needed to engage further with the Members who had put themselves forward to work with us in the “co-design” of this process and also that we must have a process that;

- Works for Members however they choose to initiate an enquiry;
- Does not force members to use an “app” to raise an enquiry;

We have worked with our co-design Members and Services to further develop the proposition and now wish to present to Scrutiny the revised approach, catering for all channels and also to share the proposed implementation and training plan. We also intend to present a demonstration of the application.


### **Recommendations:**

**That:**

- 1. Members agree the approach and planned development as setout in the accompanying presentation.**

### **Contact Officer:**

Marcus Hobbs

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Marcus.hobbs@walsall.gov.uk

# Members Enquiries

## Update for Scrutiny Committee

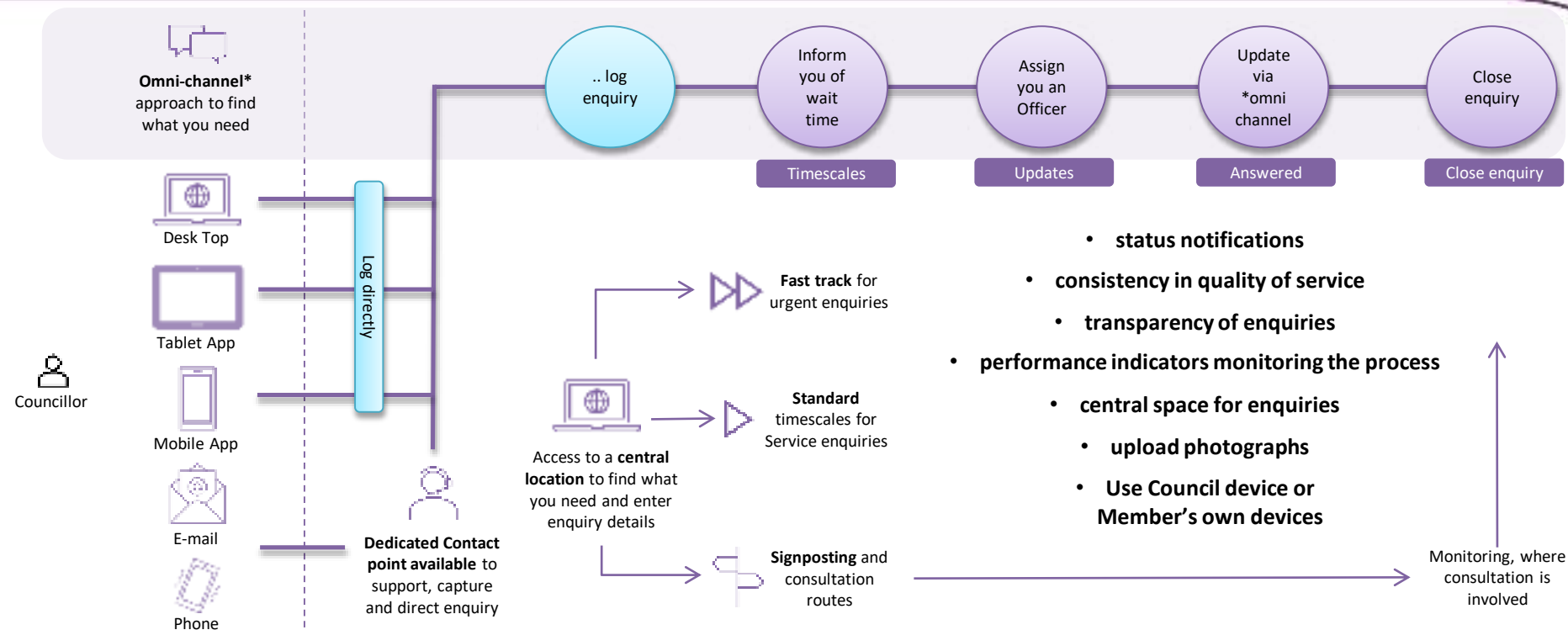


# Introduction

- In December, we attended Scrutiny to introduce a proposed approach for a new Members Enquiry process based on developing an application that could be used by both Members and Services to streamline the process and make it much more transparent and performance led.
- It was made clear that we needed to engage further with the Members who had put themselves forward to work with us in the “co-design” of this process and also that we must have a process that;
  - ✓ Works for Members however they choose to initiate an enquiry;
  - ✓ Does not force members to use an “app” to raise an enquiry;
- We have worked with our co-design Members and Services to further develop the proposition and now wish to present to Scrutiny the revised approach, catering for all channels and also to share the proposed implementation and training plan

Page 15 of 81

# New Members Enquiries Process



\*A choice of channels to help you find what you need – status updates (via app), email notifications on progress and a dedicated contact point.



# New Members Enquiries Process – Demonstration Video



I am out on my walk and I have noticed

Page 17 of 81



# Training Approach | High-Level Training Requirements

## Members (including PAs for Group Leaders)

- Understand overall process
- Understand scope and how to manage enquiries that are out of scope
- How to access from any device
- How to raise and track enquiries
- How to personalise views
- How to access and use dashboards

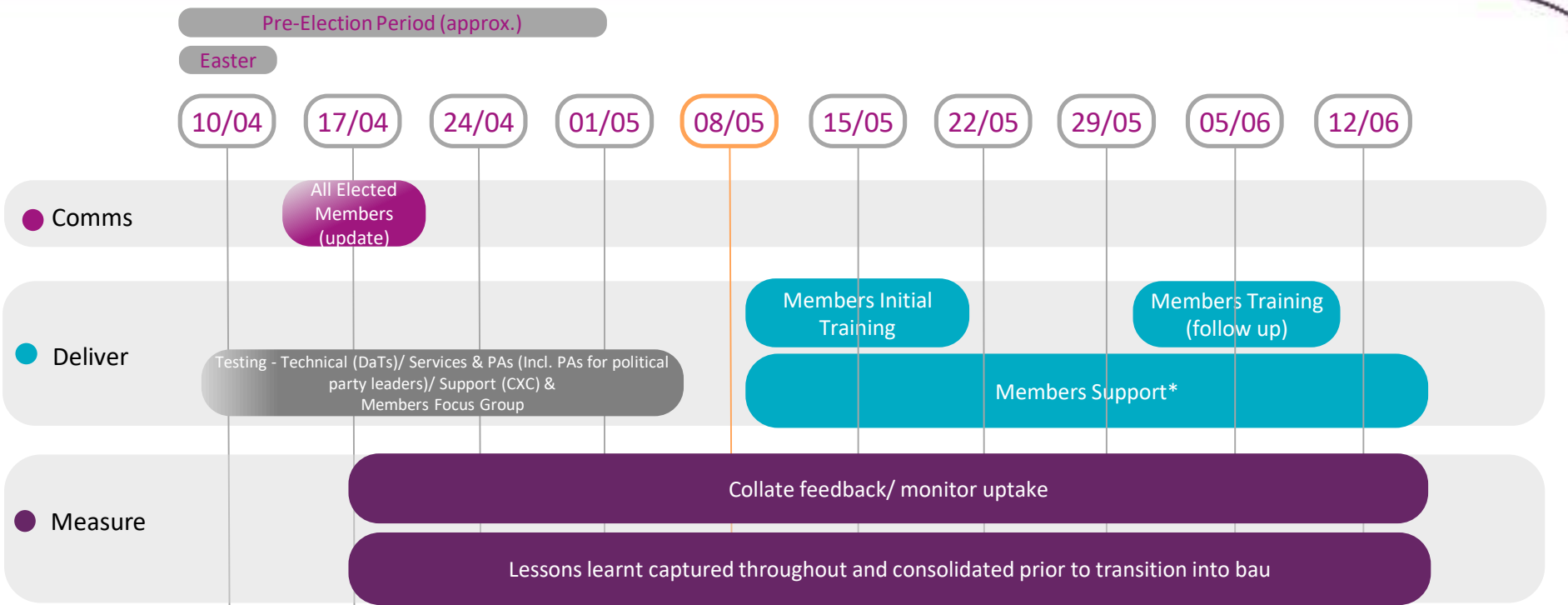
## Assumptions:

- There will be technical specialists to support delivery of initial training.
- There will be a mechanism for ongoing technical support (DaTs).
- There will be a mechanism for ongoing process / app guidance (CXC).
- There will be a period of Testing where training materials will be tested as well as the application and processes.

# Training Approach | Overview

Members	Training Recommendations
Diverse group	▪ Bespoke and flexible
	▪ Extended period of training may be necessary
	▪ Clear and robust approach for ongoing support
Digital confidence is low for some	▪ Face to face learning environment
	▪ 121 coaching support
	▪ Hints & Tips built into the app to facilitate ease of use
Concerns around loss of direct communication with council officers	▪ All training/ communications to reflect <b>overall process</b> reiterating points of <b>contact</b>
	▪ Focus on the benefits of overall process and how the app will facilitate achievement of those benefits

# Implementation & Training Approach | Delivery (Proposed Go-Live Plan)



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Agenda Item No.

**DATE: 16 March, 2023**

**7**

### Our Council Plan: Markers of Success Q2 22/23

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:** Cllr M Bird - Leader

#### Report:

Our Council Plan 2022-25 was approved and published in May 2022 and sets out Walsall's intention to continue focusing on the five EPICC priorities: Economic, People, Internal, Children and Communities. These priorities are underpinned by 10 outcomes (two per priority) and 20 Markers of Success (two markers per outcome).

From 2022/23 onwards, responsibility for reporting performance against the Council Plan lies with the Policy & Strategy Unit, who collate the information received from across services. Each Marker of Success (MoS) has a named director(s) and data owner(s), who have identified appropriate measures that are available to report performance.

The performance for each MoS is reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The attached spreadsheet sets out performance for Quarter 2 22/23 (covering the period July – September 2022). The presentation summarises the red/amber/green (RAG) rating for each MoS overall and highlights any key issues.

The summary below shows overall progress against targets. All outcomes have either met or exceeded the target set or are on course to do so by the end of 22/23 (including some outcomes where measures are still being developed and a narrative update has been provided). Performance remains stable compared with Q1, although two MoS under Communities are now amber as an update is available (grey in Q1). Note that some MoS have more than one performance measure contributing to their overall performance RAG; one such measures (in the Children priority) is rated red – but balanced with the other measures the MoS is rated amber overall.

Performance	Qtr 2	
Green	7	MoS met / exceeded target
Amber	13	MoS close / on track to achieving target
Red	0	MoS did not achieve target
Grey	0	Data/information not yet available

Moving into 2023/24, the Policy & Strategy Unit is becoming more established and has more capacity. Officers will begin to work closely with services, and with colleagues across the Hub, to develop a more insightful understanding of performance that will help drive the achievement of our outcomes.

This will include the development of a dashboard or 'balanced scorecard' approach to provide a more rounded and timely view of progress against each MoS by including a wider range of measures and supporting information (financial, legal, staffing, national changes etc). There are opportunities to benchmark our performance more effectively against national outcomes, our neighbouring local authorities, and similar councils across the country – and we will start introducing this from Q1 23/24, where possible.

Some service areas already have well-developed performance reporting processes, with nationally recognised measures (for example in Children's Services and Adult Social Care). Therefore, our initial focus will be on working with services to understand outcomes where performance measures are not as well established.


### **Recommendations:**

#### **That:**


- Scrutiny note the Quarter 2 22/23 performance against the Markers of Success as set out in Our Council Plan 2022-25
- Scrutiny note the plans for developing the performance process from 2023/24 onwards

### **Contact Officer:**

Liz Connolly – Senior Policy & Performance Officer

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elizabeth.connolly@walsall.gov.uk

Karen Griffiths – Head of Policy & Strategy

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karen.griffiths@walsall.gov.uk

Council Plan Performance Reporting: Q2 22/23

	Outcome	Marker of Success	Lead Director(s)	Performance / Data owner contacts	Baseline measures - updated for 22/23	Qtr1: Apr - Jun 2022	Qtr2: Jun - Sep 2022	Q2 Comment / Progress achieved to date
ECONOMY	1. Supporting a dynamic, resilient and diverse economy where businesses invest and everyone has the right jobs and the right housing in the right place	1a. Better connectivity, improved reliability and well maintained transport networks creating an environment where businesses are supported to thrive and grow	Philippa Venables	Kathryn Moreton (Richard Pohribnyj)	Highways condition: free from defects (Source: Safety Inspections Monitor, Tarmac Contract KPI, UTC Dashboard)	G	G	1. Highway safety inspections completed on time = 100% 2. Emergency defects attended to within 1 hour = 99% 3. Number of Urgent traffic signal faults repaired within time by contractor (%) = 100% 4. Number of Non-Urgent traffic signal faults repaired within time by contractor (%) = 99% 5. Traffic signal inspections completed on time = 100%
				Simon Tranter (Dan Turner)	Business Engagements (Source: Evolutive CRM & Walsall Works Records)	G	G	77 business engagements logged for Q2 2022. This is through a range of one-to-one engagements, one of our business engagement days which took place in Darlaston, other networking sessions held by local partners and continued support for businesses already enrolled on our ERDF AIM for Gold programme.
		1b. Regenerating the borough to support places where people are proud to live and work, delivering affordable homes and attracting inward investment	Philippa Venables	Simon Tranter (Joel Maybury)	Progress on the delivery of a range of development projects that will provide new housing and employment floorspace and enhance the town and district centres with a total package of investment of circa £500m	G	G	A 2 year programme of remediation for the 18ha Phoenix 10 site has begun, once completed the site will be developed for circa 620,000sqft of new employment floorspace located directly adjacent to the M6 between J9 and J10 providing around 1100 jobs; work has also begun on another Enterprise Zone site with construction of a 113,000sqft unit commencing at Parallel 113 which can create a further 195 jobs; the Willenhall Framework Plan was supported by Cabinet in February 2022 and work is now ongoing to progress delivery of Phase 1 at Moat Street / Villiers Street for the development of 111 new homes; the Council has been awarded £11.4m from Future High Street Fund for the Connected Gateway project and detailed design work is now underway; work is taking place to progress projects that are part of both Walsall and Bloxwich Town Deals with £23.5m awarded to each area respectively.
	2. Education, training and skills enable people to contribute to their community and our economy	2a. Provide access to education, apprenticeships and training to improve productivity and skills	Philippa Venables	Simon Tranter (Jane Kaur Gill)	Walsall Apprentices on programme (BC Data Cube, April 2021)	G	G	Starts & Achievements for the academic year 2021/22 show that 1,920 apprentices were Walsall residents who began an apprenticeship (3,990 are participating in a programme of learning). 730 completed an apprenticeship and achieved a qualification. Walsall had the highest increase in starts, from 1740 in 2020/21 to 1920 in 2021/22 in the Black Country.
		2b. Reducing unemployment through collaborative working with employers and partners	Philippa Venables	Simon Tranter (Jane Kaur Gill)	Walsall Universal Credit Claimant Data (ONS, March 2021)	A	A	ONS data shows a reduction in Universal Credit Benefit Claimants who are actively seeking employment from 10,285 in April 2022 to 9,545 in November 2022. This is a reduction of 805 claimants from the start of quarter one (April 2022) and end of quarter two (Sept 2022). There are still more than expected claimants who are aged 55 plus.
PEOPLE	3. People can access support in their community to keep safe and well and remain independent at home	3a. People are supported to build on their strengths and those in their communities to sustain their independence.	David Hamilton	Jennie Pugh/Jeanette Knapper (Anne Doyle)	Our success will be measured by the percentage of people approaching the Council for support who are successfully redirected to universally accessible community-based support to meet their needs	G	G	Total contacts received = 2439 (excluding Hospital contacts) Number signposted = 1205 Percentage = 49%  Supplementing this 22.18% of Connection Assessments were signposted some of these with the addition of equipment, an improvement on the 17.6% of assessments signposted during Quarter 1.
		3b. People feel safe in their home and community	David Hamilton	Jennie Pugh/Jeanette Knapper (Anne Doyle)	Our success will be measured by the percentage of people who report as part of their annual review, that assessed need delivered through community based services is contributing to feeling safe	G	G	947 connections undertaken and completed during the quarter Of these 311 led to a care and support plan equating to 32.84% of assessments leading to the start of a provision of long term services.  In Making Safeguarding Personal the percentage of people asked about their desired outcomes and where an outcome was expressed is 88%, of these 54% had their outcomes fully achieved
		4a. People know how to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing and get timely support for this, where required.	Stephen Gunther / David Hamilton	Jennie Pugh/Jeanette Knapper (Anne Doyle)	Our success will be measured by outputs from the Healthy Lifestyle single wellbeing service, and aligned to development of the wider Wellbeing Outcomes Framework	G	G	Measures from existing Healthy Lifestyle single wellbeing service  2324 referrals into the service 515 received more intensive targeted support

	4. People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life	4b. People can access timely social care support and reablement to prevent a hospital admission or facilitate a timely discharge	David Hamilton	Jennie Pugh/Kerrie Thorn (Anne Doyle)	Success will be measured by a reduction in emergency admissions and delayed transfers of care attributable to ASC - linked to ICS and reablement figures	G	G	During Q2 - 143 service users were referred as hospital avoidance cases The Outcomes for the service users referred for hospital avoidance: • 0 service users were fast tracked (Pathway 4) • 25 service users were Pathway 0 - signposted to other services and did not require care or reablement • 303 service users were admitted to Pathway 1 for reablement • 6 service users were admitted to Pathway 2 into a bed-based rehab facility • 9 service users were admitted to Pathway 3 for ongoing health and social care assessments in a bed-based facility During Q2 – 660 service users were referred as hospital discharge cases onto Pathway 1 (Reablement in the community) Total = 803 services users discharged, or admission avoided in Q2 of 22/23
INTERNAL	5. We get things right, first time and make all services accessible and easy to use	5a. Services will be accessible and easy to use with improved customer satisfaction	Elise Hopkins	Michelle Dudson	Infrastructure and tools to monitor on-going customer satisfaction are still under development. These are anticipated to be available when the right resources are in the Hub, and when we have introduced the additional functionality available in the Genesis Cloud system (and later on CRM). A quarterly progress update will be provided. Proxy baselines may be available from the annual customer survey.	A	A	Customer satisfaction survey is under development expected in Q2 2023 to capture feedback. Genesys telephony data shows that we are improving customer experience by reducing abandoned calls, wait times and a reduction in calls indicating a shift to self-service channels. Overall Customer Engagement services have 72% of customers opting to transact online. All 26 Walsall Connected sites are live offering customer's face to face support in accessing Council services digitally. [2]
		5b. Customers and partners report that they would recommend working with us in the future	Tony Meadows	Tony Meadows	Annual proxy measures to be used - sustaining/improving on performance from 21/22 - % of adult social care users reporting that the services they receive make them feel safer (85.8%) - % of people raising safeguarding alerts reporting that they achieved their desired outcome (88.8%)	A	A	% of adult social care users reporting that the services they receive make them feel safer (85.8%) % of people raising safeguarding alerts reporting that they achieved their desired outcome (88.8%) There has been improved partner engagement within ASC provider forums to support the Reimagining Care transformation project that is taking place
	6. The Council will deliver trusted, customer focused, and enabling services, which are recognised by customers and our partners for the value they bring	6a. Services will provide value for money measured through delivery of outcomes within agreed resources	Shaun Darcy	Vicky Buckley	Delivering on our 3 Proud Promise measures: • Improved outcomes and customer experience from current level of 73% to 77% by Apr 23 • Improved employee satisfaction and engagement from current level of 61% to 67% by Apr 23 • Improved service efficiency and performance (deliver within approved budget and deliver Proud savings)	A	A	Customer experience and employee satisfaction annual surveys are planned for Q4 2022/23. Budget position and Outturn 2022/23: At Q2, the reported corporate financial position indicated a potential council wide variance to budget of £11m, primarily arising from children in care and Adult Social Care demand costs, delays in delivering adults social care savings and from the national pay award. Actions to address these had been identified, resulting in a net variance to budget of £50k. Since then, the position has improved. There is high confidence that the council will outturn on budget, with reserves intact. Ongoing pressures within social care and the cost of living are reflected in the draft 2023/24 proposals. There is some risk, primarily around the fair cost of care reforms within Adult Social Care. Regular updates are being provided on the position and actions to address these variances.
		6b. Services are trusted and customer focused measured through staff satisfaction/ engagement scores.	Michele Leith	Michele Leith	Enabling Communication and Culture (ECC) work stream has been re-scoped, the themes in the new plan to be delivered include: - Updating the action plan developed after the staff survey - A pay and reward review - Workforce Strategy - Organisation Development Strategy - Culture Stocktake: where are we now?	A	A	A 3 year high level action plan has been produced, in addition to performance reporting to cabinet on staff satisfaction and engagement, progress against the actions will be measured within ECC workstream and by Proud Board. Rated Amber while themes are still being established and embedded
					% of children who attend good and outstanding schools	G	G	82% of children attended good and outstanding schools as at 30/09/2022 - direction of travel - improving
					% of 16, 17 and 18 year olds who are not in Education, Employment and Training	G	G	1.3% of young people are NEET, and 1.5% of young people are 'unknown', giving a total official figure of 2.8% - direction of travel – improving from baseline. Q2 data is at the start of the academic year is incomplete and will be updated in the Q3 report



CHILDREN	7. Children and young people thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential	7a. Children and young people have access to high quality education and training opportunities and schools are more inclusive		Helena Kucharczyk (Scott Degville)	% of children excluded from school (fixed term and permanent)	A	A	Quarter 2: New academic year started 5th September 2022, figures for quarter two include September 2022 only. Primary Suspensions – 0.02% (6) a decreased from 0.06% (16) when compared to September 2021-22 academic year - <i>direction of travel - decreasing</i> Permanent – 0.00% (0) – direction of travel – remained same when compared to September 21-22 academic year - <i>direction of travel - stable</i> Secondary Suspensions – 0.33% (61) decreased from 0.32% (60) when compared to September 2021-22 academic year - <i>direction of travel - decreasing</i> Permanent – 0.01% (1) – decreased from 0.01% (2) when compared to September 2021-22 academic year - <i>direction of travel - decreasing</i>
		7b. Children and young people with additional needs or in specific circumstances are identified and supported to have their health and education needs met.		Helena Kucharczyk (Scott Degville)	% of Care Leavers who are in Education, Employment and Training	A	A	
					% of EHC assessments completed within 20 weeks	R	R	
					% of children in care with up to date health assessment	A	A	
	8. Children grow up in connected communities and feel safe everywhere	8a. Services and support is responsive to needs of different communities, partners are proactive in responding to these needs and children and families have easier and timelier access to services.		Helena Kucharczyk (Scott Degville)	% of social care contacts which lead to a referral	A	A	34.7% of requests for social care contacts led to a referral between 01/04/2022 and 30/09/2022 - <i>direction of travel – stable</i>
					% of social care assessments completed within 45 days	G	G	89.6% of social care assessments completed within 45 days between 01/10/21 – 30/09/22 - <i>direction of travel – stable</i>
		8b. Children and families are better connected with community resources to enable them to build resilience, are involved in developing their plans and can provide regular feedback.		Helena Kucharczyk (Scott Degville)	% of children and young people who contribute to their CP conferences	G	G	96.4% of children and young people who contribute to their CP conferences between 01/10/21 – 30/09/22 – <i>direction of travel – increasing from baseline</i>
					% of children and young people who contribute to their LAC review	A	G	99.5% of children and young people in care contributed to their review between 01/10/21 – 30/09/22 – <i>direction of travel – improved slightly</i>
					Number / Rate per 10,000 of children entering care	G	G	173 or 25.3 per 10,000 age 0-17 of children entered care between 01/10/21 – 30/09/22 - <i>direction of travel – decreasing</i>
					Number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system	A	A	Number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system - 63 with a rate 213.7 rate per 100,000 01/10/2021 and 30/09/2022 – <i>direction of travel – increase</i>
	9. Our communities will be more resilient and supportive of each other	9a. There will be a vibrant and diverse community and voluntary sector providing help and support where people need it with a range of volunteering opportunities	Paul Gordon	Paul Gordon (Irena Hergottova)	- Number of volunteering opportunities (One Walsall) - Development of improved and joint volunteering infrastructure (PG designing through new tender) - Number of new groups involved in voluntary sector (One Walsall) - Qualitative feedback	TBC	A	One Walsall Contract prepared for retendering in February/March 2023 setting out targets for community development, infrastructure support, capacity building and dealing with increasing diversity. Volunteering volumes and KPIs linked to key borough wide-plans (e.g. health inequalities, Council plan...etc) are included. Walsall Community Association Network expanded its activity to meet 'cost of living' pressures - leading on Slipper swap, slips and trips, Warm Walsall and Winter Coat campaigns. Walsall for All (W4A) Board agreed a new 'caretaker organisation and Chair (AINA Community Hub) new terms of reference, membership and plan of activity 2023-25. W4A Partnership communication campaign starts in March 2023- linked to the Building Community Cohesion in Walsall Conference. Making Connections referrals on the increase - links made with Hospital discharges.
		9b. Trust will be built within and between communities across the Borough	Paul Gordon	Paul Gordon (Irena Hergottova)	- Involvement of CVS (excluding One Walsall) in anchor organisation committees - Qualitative feedback	TBC	A	Resilient Communities VCS network meets quarterly and delivered WAW2040 consultation & engagement work stream involving 17 diverse organisations. Focus is on building trust, raising awareness of health inequalities funding, creating a network of 'cultural associates', taking part in WMCA Race Equality Task force, Community Tension workshop of Belong Network and advice to Electoral services on Election ID changes.

COMMUNITIES	10. People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities	10a. The Borough's streets are clean, green and welcoming, with more waste recycled and less going to landfill	Dave Brown	Joanne Cockbill	% of household waste by disposal method (reuse/recycle/composting; energy recovery; landfilled)	A	A	<p>Outturn is available via Waste Data Flow published quarterly in arrears. Provisional figures are available for Q2 22/23 but may be subject to change.</p> <p>The Government's Circular Economy Package sets targets for the preparing for re-use and recycling of municipal waste to be 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035 and to have no more than 10% of municipal waste going to landfill by 2035.</p> <p>In 21/22 the percentage of Walsall's household waste sent for reuse, recycling, or composting was 33.55%, so below target. In Q2 22/23 the provisional figure is 34.5%, for comparison Q2 21/22 was 37.2%. The cumulative figure for Q1 and Q2 2022/23 is 36.9%. This is predicted to decrease in Q3 &amp; 4 due to seasonal variation in garden waste sent for composting.</p> <p>Key achievements in Q2 included publishing the tender documents for the design and build of the new waste transfer station and Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) facilities in Middlemore Lane. New facilities will enable more materials to be recycled and waste collections to be reviewed.</p>
		10b. People feel safe in their local area and anti-social behaviour and crime – particularly environmental crime is reduced	Dave Brown	Joanne Cockbill / Dave Elrington	<p>-How safe or unsafe do you feel when out and about in your local area during the day (77%) and after dark (26%) - baseline from WAW 2040 Residents' Survey.</p> <p>- Number/size/ type of Flytipping incidents dealt with by Clean and Green (Flycapture)</p>	A	A	<p>In Q2 2022/23 1106 fly tipping incidents were dealt by Clean and Green and Community Protection, giving a cumulative total of 2171 incidents for the year to date. This is a decrease from Q1 &amp; 2 2022/23 when 2243 incidents were dealt with. Flytipping incidents reported: 1,065 in Q1.</p> <p>Fly tipping enforcement complaints Q1 = 265, Q2 = 219 downward trend.</p> <p>Fixed Penalty Notices for vehicle littering Q1 = 14 Q2 = 71 upward trend</p> <p>Locality Tasking meetings were held around fly tipping and ASB issues in Blakenall as well as a Boroughwide discussion around problem void and derelict premises. A substantial piece of work has begun around Off Road Bikes ASB with Police colleagues using drones and fixed wing aircraft.</p>

# Council Plan Markers of Success

Q2 22-23 (July-September)

Scrutiny Overview Committee, 16 March 2023



**Walsall** Council

Page 27 of 80



**IMPROVE**  
outcomes and  
customer experience



**IMPROVE**  
employee satisfaction  
and engagement



**IMPROVE**  
service efficiency  
and performance

# Introduction

## *Council Plan 2022-25*

- Updated 10 Outcomes and 20 Markers of Success (MoS)
- Reporting passed to Policy and Strategy (P&S) Unit Q1 22/23
- This year - continuing reporting as previously
- Presentation sets out the Outcomes/MoS and Q2 rating (Red, Amber, Green) and key issues.
- No significant changes from Q1



Page 28 of 81

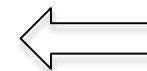
# Economic

*Enable greater local opportunities for all people, communities and businesses*

Outcomes	Markers of Success
1. Supporting a dynamic, resilient and diverse economy where businesses invest and everyone has the right jobs and the right housing in the right place	1a. Better connectivity, improved reliability and well maintained transport networks creating an environment where businesses are supported to thrive and grow
	1b. Regenerating the Borough to support places where people are proud to live and work, delivering affordable homes and attracting inward investment
2. Education, training and skills enable people to contribute to their community and our economy	2a. Provide access to education, apprenticeships and training to improve productivity and skills
	2b. Reducing unemployment through collaborative working with employers and partners

All MoS on track for Q2 and most rated Green.

Unemployment claimant numbers have reduced since last Qtr, but remain higher than national average, especially for over 55s – so has been rated Amber



# People

*Encourage our residents to lead active, fulfilling and independent lives to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing.*

Outcomes	Markers of Success
3. People can access support in their community to keep safe and well and remain independent at home	3a. People are supported to build on their strengths and those in their communities to sustain their independence.
	3b. People feel safe in their home and community
4. People are supported to maintain or improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life	4a. People know how to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing and get timely support for this, where required.
	4b. People can access timely social care support and reablement to prevent a hospital admission or facilitate a timely discharge

All MoS under this priority are rated Green based on the selected performance indicators

# Internal

*Council services are customer focused effective, efficient and equitable*

Outcomes	Markers of Success
5. We get things right, first time and make all services accessible and easy to use	5a. Services will be accessible and easy to use with improved customer satisfaction
	5b. Customers and partners report that they would recommend working with us in the future
6. The Council will deliver trusted, customer focused, and enabling services, which are recognised by customers and our partners for the value they bring	6a. Services will provide value for money measured through delivery of outcomes within agreed resources
	6b. Services are trusted and customer focused measured through staff satisfaction/ engagement scores.

MoS measures for this priority are still in development – as new infrastructures, workstreams and processes are rolled out.

Annual proxy measures and progress reports suggest these are all on track - so due to a lack of specific data have been rated Amber.

# Children

*Have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well*

Outcomes	Markers of Success
7. Children and young people thrive emotionally, physically, mentally and feel they are achieving their potential	7a. Children and young people have access to high quality education and training opportunities and schools are more inclusive
	7b. Children and young people with additional needs or in specific circumstances are identified and supported to have their health and education needs met.
8. Children grow up in connected communities and feel safe everywhere	8a. Services and support is responsive to needs of different communities, partners are proactive in responding to these needs and children and families have easier and timelier access to services.
	8b. Children and families are better connected with community resources to enable them to build resilience, are involved in developing their plans and can provide regular feedback.

A range of performance measures contribute to each MoS for this priority. On the whole, these are showing improving/stable performance.

Exception is 7b: where measures including ‘% EHC assessment completed within 20 weeks’ (12.7% year to end Sept 22) is below target and rated red.

Performance issues addressed via Children’s Performance Board



# Communities

*Empower our communities so that they feel they are connected and belong in Walsall, creating safe and healthy places whilst building a strong sense of community.*

Outcomes	Markers of Success
9. Our communities will be more resilient and supportive of each other	9a. There will be a vibrant and diverse community and voluntary sector providing help and support where people need it with a range of volunteering opportunities
	9b. Trust will be built within and between communities across the Borough
10. People are proud of their vibrant town, districts and communities	10a. The Borough's streets are clean, green and welcoming, with more waste recycled and less going to landfill
	10b. People feel safe in their local area and anti-social behaviour and crime – particularly environmental crime is reduced

Resilient Communities are developing metrics for 23/24. Narrative update for Q2 22/23 demonstrates the range of activity and plans in place.

Recycling rates are below target, but progress has been made on Household Waste recycling centres in Q2 with the tender documents for the new HWRC now published.

Enforcement activity around environmental crime is improving, and there has been partnership activity around tackling ASB.

# Conclusion

- No significant concerns highlighted on any of the MoS overall for Q2
- Services aware of any areas of underperformance or lack of performance information and working to address these
- Some priorities have more challenges measuring performance than others – these will be prioritised for 2023/24.

## Looking Ahead – 2023/24 onwards

- Moving towards a more effective ‘balanced scorecard’ approach: accurately measure MoS taking into account other factors (inc. financial, legal, staffing, national changes)
- Team will be focussed on identifying measures that allow for **benchmarking** with national data and with other local authorities
- Initially looking at priorities without well-developed performance reporting

**16 March 2023**

**School Gate Parking Working Group Report**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolios:** Cllr A. Andrew – Regeneration  
Cllr M. Statham – Education and Skills

**Report:**

This report outlines the work and recommendations of the School Gate Parking Working group which was created at the meeting of the Committee on the 16 June 2022. The work of the Group sort to review the current approach of the Council to School Gate Parking across the Borough and to make recommendations to improve it. The attached report outlines the work carried out by the Working Group and the recommendations made.

**Recommendations:**

- The scrutiny committee note and endorse the report.
- The scrutiny Committee endorse the recommendation made in the report.

Jack Thompson  
Democratic Services Officer

2022/23

# Improving School Gate Parking



Report of the School Gate Parking Working  
Group

By Nikki Gough and Jack Thompson

## Foreword

The issue of School Gate Parking is a national problem. In Walsall it effects many schools across the Borough causing daily disruption to residents with some drivers are parking with little to no regard of law or safety of others. Dangerous and illegal parking is creating a safety risk for children and is a general nuisance. With this in mind, the Working Group sought to ascertain how the Council could take a refreshed approach to tackling the issue of school gate parking.

By considering education/engagement, engineering, enforcement and partnership, the group were able to consider the issue in its widest sense and therefore the range of potential solutions that may improve the situation. A wide range of evidence was received by the Group, which informed its conclusions and recommendations.

The Group hopes that through its recommendations and the continued work of the Council a strengthened approach to school gate parking will be achieved. That this, with the continued expansion of programmes such as School Streets and A\*STARS, and the growth in partnership work will improve safety for pupils and parents and reduce the nuisance of school gate parking for residents who live near schools.

I would like to thank the witnesses who gave their time and advice to the Working Group as well as the support of officers, Kathryn Moreton, Paul Leighton, Matthew Crowton, Jack Thompson and Nikki Gough. I would also like to the thank Members of the Group for their constructive ideas and for their approach of putting the safety of our residents first.



***Councillor Suky Samra  
Chair, School Gate Parking Working Group***

## Contents

Foreword .....	1
Introduction .....	3
Terms of Reference .....	3
Membership .....	3
Witnesses .....	3
Findings.....	5
Education and Engagement.....	5
Engineering.....	6
Enforcement.....	7
Partnerships.....	9
Conclusion .....	12
Recommendations .....	13

## **Introduction**

At many locations across the borough, roads around schools experience a surge of traffic concentrated at school drop off and pick up times. This results in an increased risk of collisions with vulnerable road users and other motorists, unlawful parking, congestion and consequential impacts on air quality. Following a report at a meeting of the Committee on 13 December 2021, the Scrutiny Overview Committee resolved to set up a working group to consider the issue which was established on 16 June 2022. The Working Group wished to review the current approach to school gate parking across the borough and understand the different approaches that could be taken to managing school gate parking, namely engineering, enforcement, outreach and collaborating with partners. The Working Group wished to identify the challenges when dealing with school gate parking with particular focus on the restrictions of the council's powers and influence.

## **Terms of Reference**

The draft terms of reference were discussed and agreed by a meeting of the working group that took place 27 July 2022. The terms of reference were subsequently approved at a meeting of the Scrutiny Overview Committee 4 October 2022.

The full version of the working group's terms of reference can be found at **Appendix 1** to this report. The working group was supported predominantly by:

Paul Leighton	Group Manager – Highway Network
Kathryn Moreton	Head of Highways, Transport and Operation
Jack Thompson	Democratic Services Officer
Nikki Gough	Democratic Services Officer

## **Membership**

The Working Group membership consisted of the following Councillors:

Councillor S. Samra (Lead Member)  
Councillor A. Nawaz  
Councillor S. Cooper  
Councillor A. Hicken

## **Witnesses**

The Working Group met and interviewed the following witnesses:

Matt Crowton	Group Manager - Transportation & Strategy
Alana Saunders	Road Safety Manager
Sam Oliver	Strategy, Policy & Performance Officer
Alex Groom	Admissions and Education Sufficiency Manager
Inspector Jamie Hobday	West Midlands Police



## Findings

The Working Group heard evidence that the Council took a data led multifaceted approach to tackle the problem of School Gate Parking, which comprised of Education, Engagement, Engineering and Enforcement.

### Education and Engagement

The Working Group learned that the main tool used by the Council to educate pupils and parents across pre-schools, schools and colleges was the A\*STARS Programme. This programme was designed to encourage sustainable travel and road safety on journeys to and from schools. The programme supported staff, pupils, parents and governors to deliver public health objectives and the Black Country Healthy Schools Programme. The Council engaged with schools to produce an annual action plan tailored to the needs and requirements of each school. The initiatives included:

- Pedestrian training for pupils in reception and year 3;
- Transition training;
- Scooterbility;
- Safety in the car sessions;
- Smarter parking (**Appendix 2**);
- 5-minute walk zones;
- Streetwise (interactive workshop for students in year 7).

The Working Group heard that the A\*STARS programme currently had 77 primary schools (out of a total 86) and 13 secondary schools (out of a total 18) signed up, none of whom were charged to participate. Further information on the A\*STARS programme can be found within **Appendix 3**.

Members of the Working Group were supportive of the work the programme currently carried out and questioned how more schools could be encouraged to participate. Members also questioned whether any further work could be done through the programme to improve the problem of school gate parking.

The evidence presented did not show a correlation between schools that had issues with school gate parking and those schools not currently participating in the programme. It was suggested that some schools not participating in the programme were taking their own proactive steps in regard to school gate parking. Although the Council had an overall obligation to inform and educate on road safety it could not force schools to participate in this specific programme.

Members of the Working Group recognised that ideally parents/carers would access schools via sustainable modes, but if for those parents/carers where this was not possible, the creation of five-minute walk zones for schools, which were used to encourage parents to park a five-minute walk from the school gate were supported. An example of one of these five-minute walk zone maps can be found at **Appendix 4**. The Working Group was presented with a map of the Borough, which labelled schools and council car parks. Unfortunately this highlighted that there was not a good alignment of council car parks and schools, therefore, it was not feasible for the majority of the schools to use Council car parks. In addition, there may be a

reluctance for companies to allow the free use of private car parks (for insurance reasons).

The Working Group considered the staggering of school start times across year groups, as there had been anecdotal evidence that during the Covid-19 restrictions this had improved the issue of school gate parking. Members learned that this policy may cause further disruption (especially for parents with children in multiple year groups at the same school), could disrupt the schools teaching timetable and may exacerbate the problem as parents could be parked for longer. The Council did not have the powers to compel schools to stagger their opening and closing times.

The Working Group received information from the Admissions and Education Sufficiency Manager to discern whether any changes to the school admissions policy could help alleviate the problems around school gate parking. The Working Group heard that sometimes families moved away from the school once their child was attending, meaning that they had to commute further which was usually done by car. The reason that certain schools had more of an issue with school gate parking could be because they had a higher percentage of pupils travelling longer distances to attend school and this may have been exacerbated by the increase in the number of pupils travelling from outside of the Borough to attend school in Walsall. However, due to the restrictions in legislation, the Council's policies could not be amended to counteract this.

## **Engineering**

The Working Group met with the Road Safety Team and heard that an annual review of injury collisions was undertaken to prioritise engineering schemes where road safety interventions would be most effective in reducing casualties. Furthermore, the Council ran the Safer Routes to School programme, which aimed to improve the safety of journeys to and from school and to encourage sustainable travel choices. The schemes were designed to have community wide benefits extending beyond the locality of the school, and where possible were linked with pedestrian and cycling schemes forming part of a network.

The Working Group discussed the suggested introduction of 20mph zones around all schools within the Borough as part of 'We Are Walsall 2040'. The Working Group was advised that a 20mph zone required supporting traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds. It was noted that 20mph speed limits could only be implemented where average (mean) traffic speeds are likely to be 24mph or below. The Working Group were advised that implementation of such a policy would be subject to public consultation in respect to each site and could take over two years to implement as new Traffic Regulation Orders would need to be issued. Members were supportive the policy of 20mph speed limits being explored further as part of the Walsall 2040.

Members explored whether data collected by insurers could be used to determine which areas had issues with congestion and dangerous driving. However, the Working Group learnt that it would be challenging to collect this data due to General

Data Protection Regulations and that insurance companies charged for this information. Furthermore, - this data may not be relevant or aid in identifying problem areas for school gate parking. Members were assured that the Council already expended a large amount of resources on injury based data.

Members also enquired as to how the speeds and volume of traffic around schools could be monitored. The Working Group learnt that some of this information was already gathered by traffic signals, such as the volume of cars and their speed. Data was presented on modes of transport to school (see **Appendix 5**). The data evidenced that the Borough did perform under the national average for use of public transport, but a London bias was suspected in the national data. Data obtained via a survey sent out to all schools within the Borough during the autumn (as part of the A\*STARS programme) was considered which had received 11,232 responses and this data indicated that Walsall was in line with the Department for Transport target of 60% of all pupils walking or cycling to school by 2023.

The Council provided schools with banners to help deter illegal parking. These were used on a rotational basis because over time the banners lost their effectiveness at deterring illegal parking. Members considered that on the balance of the evidence it would be beneficial to produce standard road signage for use on school premises across the Borough. Although non-statutory, the signage would draw attention to the issue and without the constraints of legislation could be designed to capture the attention of school children, their parents, carers and visitors to the school.

## **Enforcement**

In order to understand the Council's existing powers in relation to enforcement, the Working Group received details on these and when they could be utilised. Members learnt that enforcement could only take place when the necessary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), traffic signs and road markings complied with the legal requirements and were compatible with the relevant TRO. Some examples of the possible enforcement measures were:

- Double Yellow Lines.
- Single Yellow Lines.
- Yellow Kerb Blips.
- Yellow Zig Zag Lines.
- Red Routes and Clearways.
- School Streets

Please see **Appendix 6** for more information on TROs.

Members discussed at length the possibility of implementing further TROs around schools to mitigate problems with school gate parking. The Working Group were informed that the majority of schools had keep clear lines (yellow zig zag lines) at the maximum legal length. In addition, it was not possible in most cases to use 'red routes' and double/single yellow lines around schools. However, there was the

option of the School Streets Programme, which would enable the Council to implement parking restrictions around schools at certain times of the day.

Additionally, the Working Group was informed that under the current legislation it was only possible for the Council to use CCTV cameras, which enabled the issuing of automatic fines of £35 per breach, to enforce existing TROs on 'Yellow Zig Zag Lines'. The Council already had a static CCTV camera scheme in place this purpose in partnership with Derby City Council. There were currently four CCTV cameras enforcing 'Yellow Zig Zag Lines' in the Borough but this would increase to fifteen shortly. Other road markings such as red routes and double yellow lines could not be enforced using this method.

The Working Group was notified that the Council had applied for Moving Traffic Contravention powers from the Department for Transport with the support of West Midlands Police. The powers are expected to come into effect during the summer of 2023 and include the enforcement of school streets. This means that the enforcement of moving traffic contraventions would be decriminalised allowing the council to enforce restrictions that can currently only be enforced by the Police alongside other high priority demands for their service.

Moving traffic contraventions include:

- Driving through a no entry sign
- Turning left or right when instructed not to do so
- Entering yellow box junctions when the exit is not clear
- Driving where and when motor vehicles are prohibited
- Driving on routes that are for buses and taxis only
- Driving the wrong way in a one-way street
- Ignoring a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

Existing TROs were enforced through Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs), delivered via a contract with APCOA. This contract provided 23 CEOs covering a pattern of shifts. In regard to schools, six to seven CEOs were on shift during peak times for school pick-up and drop-off. This included the use of a mobile CCTV camera car, foot patrols and planned duties on the road network.

Within the current resources, the Council aimed to carry out at least one visit per school per term. Additional enforcement was carried out in the first two weeks of September, at A\*STARS schools, known parking hotspots and in response to specific requests when possible.

In response to queries the Working Group were informed why the number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) was limited. This was due to various overlapping factors:

- The presence of CEOs deterred drivers from parking irresponsibly;
- Drivers moved on before the end of the observation period (**Appendix 6** for more information);
- Loading and unloading was permitted, even with some TROs in place;

- A proportion of poor/illegal driving reported took place in adjacent streets and not outside of the school gates;
- A proportion of poor/illegal driving took place on roads where no TRO was in place.

The Working Group were advised that evidence suggested that CCTV was a more effective deterrent of illegal parking (on keep clear lines outside of schools) as the enforcement measure was maintained constantly rather than periodically deterring the illegal parking. The location of CCTV camera deployment was based on data to ensure that problematic areas would be prioritised. The funds generated from Parking Charge Notices (PCNs) could be used to fund new static CCTV cameras.

Members expressed concern that some schools were being visited more frequently by CEOs, and were assured that this was due the data led approach. It was suggested that the redeployment of CEOs did change the behaviour of drivers; however this was not a permanent change. The Working Group suggested that the uniform of CEOs could be made more visible to further deter drivers from parking dangerously.

## Partnerships

The Working Group heard from West Midlands Police (WMP) on the approach they took to school gate parking and how future work with the Council could be undertaken to help address the issue. The Police explained the limitations that resources often placed on activities carried out by Police Officers, but advised that the Police were supportive of a community partnership approach and the A\*STARS programme, suggesting that schools should be rewarded for their participation.

The Police interacted with schools, which included attendance at governors meetings where beneficial, and Police Community Support Officers aimed to visit a school every month.

Information of a police scheme operating in Alumrock was considered by the Working Group. Members had previously queried whether it was possible for the Police to train members of the public to report illegal parking outside of schools. The possibility of such a scheme was discussed by the Working Group, however, the Police stressed that it was important that any volunteers be properly trained to avoid potentially dangerous confrontations and that these volunteers were proportionate in their approach.

The Working Group were informed that civil enforcement of moving traffic offences (including school streets) were important powers for the improvement of road safety, congestion management and public transport efficiency within the region. These powers were also core to the delivery of the West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025, which seeks collaboration between local authorities, West Midlands Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commission. It was acknowledged that achievement of this would require a short, medium and long term collaborative

approach in place and as such, the Police and Crime Plan looks to “support local authorities” and “work together” to realise the benefits of these powers.

It was noted that CEOs did not regularly work with the Police but did so on occasion in priority areas. In addition, it was acknowledged that CEOs in the Borough had experienced physical abuse however they were trained to risk assess situations.

The Working Group discussed ‘School Streets’ programme. This was an initiative introduced in 2020. It worked by applying a management order to streets around schools, temporarily restricting access for motorised vehicles. Times for the restrictions were determined in agreement with the individual school but these could be for 30-45 minutes and only on weekdays during term time.

The Council currently had a trial of ten school streets in the Borough. These were:

- Brownhills West Primary.
- Manor Primary.
- Pool Hayes Primary.
- Whetstone Field Primary.
- Palfrey Junior School.
- Holy Trinity Primary Brownhills.
- Lodge Farm Primary.
- Pinfold Street Primary.
- Old Church Primary.
- County Bridge Primary.

The schools had been selected based on the balance of severity of the parking problems experienced and the appropriateness of applying restrictions on the roads surrounding a school based on location. The trial had highlighted that amendments needed to be made for new and existing school streets to prevent parents circumventing the restrictions. Once powers of enforcement were implemented, this would enable the use of static CCTV cameras to monitor cars entering the street when the restrictions were in place and assist in the issuing of automatic PCNs. This would also free up CEOs to cover other parts of the road network.

The Council aimed for at least ten new ‘School Streets’ to be implemented each year, subject to the school suitability under the legislation. The cost of rolling out the static CCTV cameras could be funded through PCNs, and Members requested that the use of Section 106 monies (contributions from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure) for the rollout also be explored.

The Working Group were assured that Councillor feedback would be taken into account as to which schools would be added to the ‘School Streets’ initiative in the future.

Details of a charitable road safety and walkability grant provided from Churchill insurance to a school in Birmingham were considered, however it was acknowledged that this was similar to the A\*Stars programme and some of the activity that took place as part of the grant already took place in Walsall. Members were supportive of similar grants being sought in Walsall.

The Working Group discussed public transport provision and future funding for bus routes – they were advised that the current funding arrangement from the Government ran out in March 2023, it was hoped that further support would be provided to bus operators. It was noted that the West Midlands Combined Authority had control of a consolidated, devolved transport budget, the local roads network, and bus franchising. Challenges experienced by bus operators were considered including difficulties with staff recruitment and retention. It was acknowledged that operators needed to provide confidence to passengers that a service would be reliable in order for it to be an individual's main form of transport. The Working Group heard that a plan was being created at Transport for West Midlands to help improve issues with bus routes for schools and funding was being made available. However, it was considered important that pupils have access to public transport to reduce the reliance on cars as a mode of transport. It was suggested that this issue should be escalated at a strategic level.



## **Conclusion**

It seems to be universally agreed that school gate parking is a problem, in terms of safety, congestion and resident satisfaction. Currently there are various approaches to this issue, with education being one of the most important tools. The A\*Stars programme is embedded in many schools across the Borough and fulfils the Council's obligations to inform and educate on road safety. Based on the evidence presented, the Working Group were satisfied that the A\*Stars programme is effective; it is nationally recognised by Ofsted. However the A\*Stars programme cannot be the single solution to this problem.

In addition, the Council cannot solve the problem of school gate parking in isolation. The Working Group recognise that partnership working across council directorates and partnership working with organisations such as the Police, Combined Authority and schools will be important in dealing with the issue in a holistic way. The Council does and should take the lead on school gate parking but in order to do so more effectively in the future the legislative powers it holds need to be expanded.

Traffic powers currently held by the Council should be used to their maximum advantage to improve the safety of school streets through enforcement, although it is recognised that the powers currently held restrict the activity that the Council can undertake. Therefore, the Working Group would support the further rollout of powers to Councils to allow enforcement via CCTV Traffic Regulation Orders and for loopholes in the existing legislation to be closed. The Working Group consider that it would be beneficial for the Council to be granted 'Moving Traffic Offence' powers. These changes would mean that partnership work with the Police could take place to challenge the highest risk areas and issues around schools - ensuring the most efficient use of police time. Increasingly the use of CCTV has proved, through data, to be an effective deterrent and method of enforcement in relation to problematic parking around schools, and the Working Group recommends that investment in this technology would be beneficial.



## **Recommendations**

### **Engineering**

1. That the Council continue to support the roll out of the School Streets Programme through the continuation of investment into school enforcement static cameras.
2. The Head of Highways, Transport & Operations investigate, in consultation with the Head of Planning, the use of Section 106 contributions to improve the safety of roads surrounding schools.
3. That Head of Highways, Transport & Operations investigates the potential benefit of creating 20mph zones around schools as part of 'We Are Walsall 2040'.
4. That the Head of Highways, Transport & Operations investigate the creation of standard non-statutory signage for use on school premises outside schools in Walsall to encourage responsible driver behaviour with respect to parking and idling. The signage should include a warning that CEOs operate in the area.

### **Partnership**

5. That Officers of the Council work in partnership with West Midlands Police to combat problem areas for the school gate parking. The Working Group support the establishment of a liaison group (to discuss enforcement activity) between the Council and the Police.
6. Continue to encourage parents/carers and pupils to use alternative methods of travel to and from school
7. That the Council produce a new education campaign before the start of the new school year on the issue of road safety and school gate parking
  - a. To invite schools as part of this campaign to design new road signage and contribute to a road safety video aimed at parents and pupils.
8. To request that the Council's two representatives currently sitting on the Transport for West Midlands Transport Delivery Committee raise the relevant recommendations of this working group at a strategic level.
9. Request that the Portfolio Holder for Education and the Executive Director of Children's Services write to all head teachers in the Borough to highlight best practice, and provide guidance (including the A\*Stars programme) in relation to safety of children on roads near their schools.

### **Education**

10. That the Council continue to encourage schools currently not participating in the A\*STARS programme to become involved.

11. To encourage, through the A\*STARS Programme, parents/carers to access schools via sustainable modes, but if they must drive to park five minutes' walk from the school gate to alleviate congestion and to contribute to public health.
  - a. Schools are requested to identify local parking provision (where possible) to provide park and walk opportunities.

### **Enforcement**

12. That the Head of Highways Transport & Operations explores the extension of Traffic Regulation Officers surrounding schools to maximise their use to improve safety.
13. To request that the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask that the Government support the rollout of powers to Councils to enforce via CCTV Traffic Regulation Orders and that loopholes in the existing legislation be closed, including supporting the granting of powers to Councils to enforce obstructions of highways offenses.
14. That the Council uses the Moving Traffic Offences powers once granted.
15. That the Head of Highways Transport & Operations work with APCOA to explore changing the uniform of Civil Enforcement Officers to make them more visible to the public and act as a deterrent.
16. That the level of enforcement around schools is increased.

# Scrutiny Overview Committee – School Gate Parking Working Group

## Initiation Document

Working Group Name:	School Gate Parking Working Group
Committee:	Overview Scrutiny Committee
Municipal Year:	2022/23
Chair:	Cllr S. Samra
Lead Officers:	Kathryn Moreton – Head of Highways & Transport Jack Thompson & Nikki Gough – Democratic Services Officers
Membership	Cllr S.J. Cooper, Cllr A. Hicken, Cllr A. Nawaz, Cllr S. Samra
Co-opted Members	None

### 1. Context

- 1.1. At many locations across the borough, roads around schools experience a surge of traffic concentrated over a 50 minute period at school drop off and pick up times. This results in an increased risk of collisions with vulnerable road users and other motorists, unlawful parking, congestion and consequential impacts on air quality.
- 1.2. On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Overview Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the council's approach to school gate parking. The committee resolved to establish a working group to consider the issue in greater detail. However, due to staffing constraints with Democratic Services the original working group could not continue. On the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 the Overview Scrutiny Committee agreed to restart the School Gate Parking Group.

### 2. Objectives

- 2.1. The working group wishes to
  - a. Review the current approach to school gate parking across the borough.
  - b. Understand the different approaches that could be taken to managing school gate parking, namely engineering, enforcement, outreach and collaborating with partners.
  - c. Understand the challenges when dealing with school gate parking with particular focus on the restrictions on the council's powers and influence.
  - d. Explore the development of a borough wide strategy that establishes a suite of options for the management of school gate parking.

### 3. Scope

- 3.1. The working group will consider the issue of parking in the immediate vicinity of school entrances and the actions and engagement of the following council led services:
  - a. Road Safety
  - b. Traffic Management
  - c. Parking
  - d. Education
  - e. Public Health
  - f. Community Protection
- 3.2. The working group will identify key points for the development of a borough wide school gate parking strategy.

### 4. Equalities Implications

- 4.1. The Equality Act 2010 protects children, young people and adults against discrimination, harassment and victimisation in relation to housing, education, clubs, the provision of services and work.

- 4.2. The public sector equality duty in Section 149 of the Equality Act requires public bodies, including local authorities and schools, to take active steps to eliminate discrimination and to do positive things to promote equality.
- 4.3. An Equality Impact Screening for the work of this group can be found at Appendix A.

## 5. Who else will contribute

- 5.1. In addition to lead officers and members contributions will be required from the following partners and stakeholders:
- Education
  - Public Health
  - Community Protection
  - Children's Services
  - Secondary Schools Forum
  - Primary Schools Forum
  - West Midlands Police
  - Transport for West Midlands

## 6. Timescale and Reporting Schedule

- 6.1. The following dates are based upon the need for the working group to be completed in the same municipal year:
- Terms of Reference to be agreed virtually – 21 September 2022
  - Terms of Reference to be approved by Overview Scrutiny Committee – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022
  - Final report – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (to go to Cabinet 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022)
- 6.2. If officer resource means that the dates provided cannot be fulfilled, a revised reporting schedule will be submitted to the Chair of Overview Scrutiny Committee for approval.

## 7. Risk Factors

- 7.1. The following table documents potential obstacles to the progress of the working group:

Risk	Likelihood	Mitigation
Input from officers will detract from service delivery.	Medium	Identify a manageable scope.
A lack of engagement from external partners.	Medium	Early engagement to provide the best opportunity to identify a mutually convenient time for input.

## Appendix A – Equality Impact Screening

<b>Title:</b>	School gate parking working group	
<b>Officer completing:</b>	Kathryn Moreton	
<b>Description of proposal and/or objective:</b>	A members working group to consider the council's approach to the specific issue of school gate parking and explore the development of a borough wide strategy that establishes a suite of options for the management of school gate parking	
<b>Screening Questions</b>	Yes/No	Comments:
<b>Could the impact of the report affect one group less or more favourably than another on the basis of:</b>		
Age?	Yes	Improvements in school gate parking arrangements will be beneficial to children and young people attending the borough's schools both in respect to safety and air quality.
Disability?	Yes	Changes that improve the ease of access to school premises may be beneficial to children, young people and parents
Gender reassignment?	No	
Marriage or civil partnership?	No	
Pregnancy or maternity?	No	
Race?	No	
Religion or belief?	No	
Sex?	No	
Sexual orientation?	No	
If you have identified potential discrimination, are any exceptions valid, legal and/or justifiable?	Yes	The discrimination identified is positive in nature.
Is the impact likely to be negative?	No	
If yes, can it be avoided?	N/A	
Are there any alternatives that achieve the same objectives without the impact?	N/A	
Can the impact be reduced by taking a different action?	N/A	
If you have identified a potential discriminatory impact you will need to complete a full equality impact assessment.		
Is an EIA required:	No	

# Smarter School Parking

## Inconsiderate and dangerous parking around our schools puts children and others at risk.

We want your help to keep our children safe and to make a difference.

### The law says

#### School Keep Clear markings

Do not PARK, WAIT or STOP on these under any circumstances, these are there to protect school entrances and leave a clear view of the street for everyone.



#### Double/single yellow lines

Do not PARK, WAIT or STOP on double yellow lines at any time or single yellow lines during restricted times.

#### Double parking

Vehicles parked in the middle of the road can cause an obstruction for all road users and restrict visibility; these vehicles can be prosecuted by the Police with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or Walsall Council with a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).

#### Resident's driveways/dropped kerbs

Do not block pavements or driveways as this causes an obstruction. The Police can issue a FPN for this and the Council can also issue a PCN where a resident has signed up to the Council's 'Dropped Kerb Scheme'.

#### Junctions/Footpaths

Do not park within 10 meters of a junction as this restricts visibility, Police can issue a FPN for this. If parking is adjacent to yellow lines, the Council can also issue a PCN.

### How can you help?

- ✓ Leave the middle of the road free for other users especially emergency services
- ✓ Make sure your child gets in and out of the car on the pavement side
- ✓ Check for cyclists and pedestrians before opening your doors
- ✓ Try not to reverse near a school if possible
- ✓ Keep your speed down as pedestrians maybe crossing between parked cars
- ✓ Park away from the school and walk for the remaining 5-10 minutes
- ✓ Turn off your engine when parked. Idling vehicles outside schools can cause health problems, noise pollution and damage the environment

Walsall Council will continue to use the Camera Car to monitor parking on School Keep Clears. The Camera Car uses Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology to detect offences for review by Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) prior to a Penalty Charge Notice being issued through the post. CEO patrols and local Police also run joint enforcement initiatives outside schools.

- Local neighbourhood Police on **101** for any obstruction queries
- Parking Services on **01922 652433** for enforcement queries
- **A\*STARS** team for general queries regarding sustainable travel and road safety



## What is A\*STARS

The A\*STARS programme is a series of walking, cycling, scooting and road safety initiatives, along with training, expertise and support that is given to schools to help them to develop and promote safer, healthier lifestyle choices for all.

The programme promotes health and wellbeing by combining and providing road safety, health and sustainable travel education, training and awareness. It targets all educational establishments and school communities; supporting children's development at every stage from birth to adulthood.

### The Benefits of the A\*STARS Programme:

- Ensures that schools have access to road safety, sustainable travel, parking enforcement and other associated council traffic management and engineering services
- Offers a tailor made package of road safety and sustainable travel measures designed to suit an individual school's needs
- Offers free resources, training and support
- Raises awareness of road safety issues in and around school
- Provides opportunities to increase levels of physical activity
- Uses a dedicated A\*STARS website to support and deliver the programme

### Objectives:

- Increase the number of pupils using all forms of safer, sustainable travel on the journey to and from schools and provide evidence of modal shift
- Increase knowledge and understanding of healthy lifestyles, road safety and sustainable travel by providing education, training and encouragement
- Provide a safer, cleaner environment in the vicinity of schools to benefit everyone
- Enable schools to take ownership of the programme and promote its key messages to parents and the wider community

### Targets:

#### Short term

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase walking and cycling</li> <li>▪ Every school to participate in walking/cycling/road safety campaign</li> <li>▪ Provide training and volunteering opportunities for adults</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Every school to have a dedicated school champion</li> <li>▪ Every school to have student advocate groups to lead the programme (Sheriffs)</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

#### Long term

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Majority of schools registered on the A*STARS programme</li> <li>▪ Increase walking and cycling levels by 1% per annum</li> <li>▪ Increase the number of children between the ages of 10 and 16 participating in</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bikeability Training in line with Department for Transport targets</li> <li>▪ Every primary school participating in Child Pedestrian Training</li> <li>▪ Educate young adults about the benefits of safer driving and sustainable travel</li> </ul> |
|--|--|





## Palfrey Infant and Junior School

**5 Minute Walking Zones** aim to encourage children and families to walk at least part of their journey to and from school.

This can help to increase opportunities for healthy exercise, reduce traffic and congestion around the school gate and improve the local environment for the whole community.



**Active Sustainable Travel and Road Safety**







# Palfrey Infant and Junior School

A\*STARS sheriffs at your school have helped to develop this scheme by walking the routes to prove that they only take five minutes!!

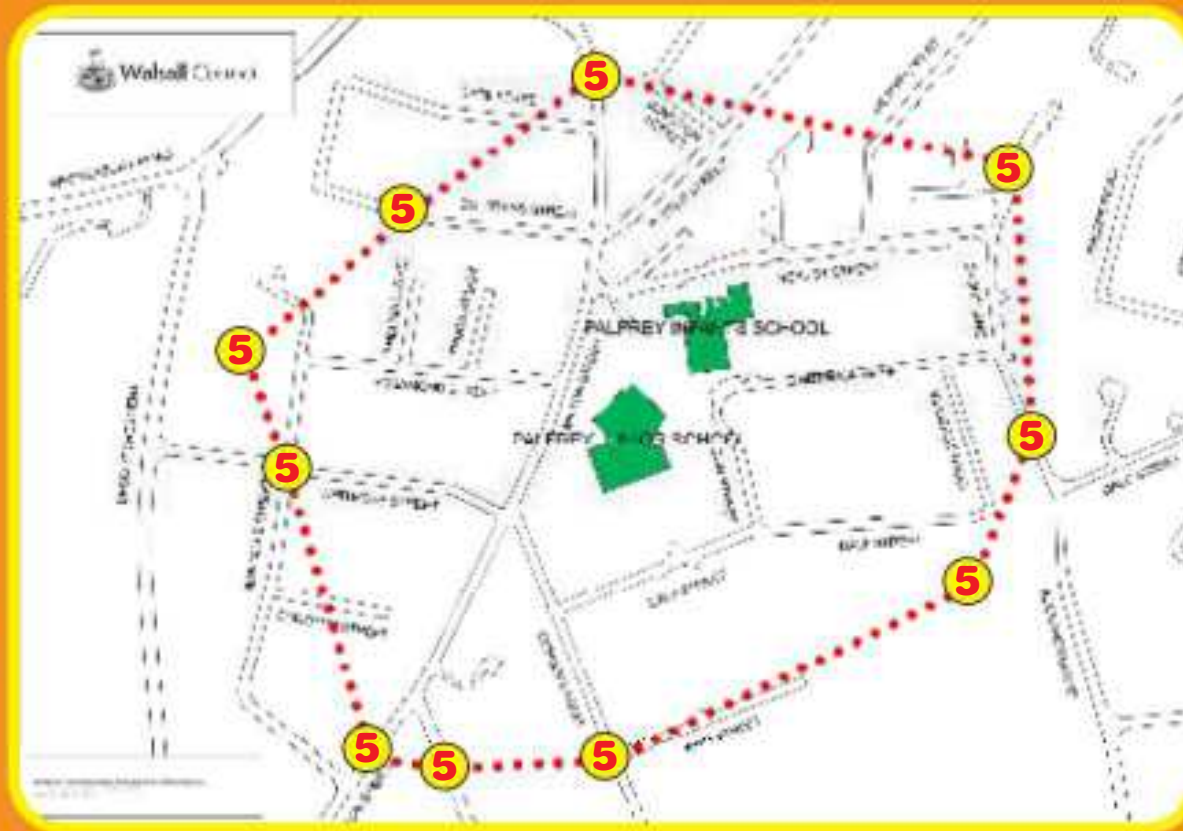
Your school has recently developed a **5 Minute Walk Zone** to encourage parents and children to change their habits by parking away from the school gates and walking the last part of the journey.

As you walk or drive around school, you will see green stickers attached to lamp posts showing where the **5 Minute Walk Zone** begins.

If you live inside the **5 Minute Walk Zone** you can walk, scooter or cycle to and from school every day.

If you live outside the Zone, try parking up where you see the stickers and travelling actively for the rest of the journey to school.

Not only does the Walk Zone keep the area around your school safer for children it also helps to develop better relationships with your neighbours and benefits the whole community.



Page 57 of 81

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Look out for the green stickers

## Benefits of walking:

- Improve your **Fitness**
- Spend time with your **Family**
- Have great **Fun**
- Build **Friendships**
- Save our planet for the **Future!**

**Need to drive? Why not car-share and use the 5 Minute Walk Zone.**



## Active Sustainable Travel and Road Safety

As you may be aware your school and the A\*STARS team are trying hard to reduce congestion outside school. We hope by introducing the **5 Minute Walk Zone**, the journey to school will be easier, safer and encourage more parents to walk their children to school.

The A\*STARS Programme is delivered by Walsall Council Road Safety and Sustainable Travel Team in partnership with Walsall Council Public Health. The programme promotes health and wellbeing by combining and providing road safety, health and sustainable travel education, training and awareness.

By working together, we can help to develop and promote safer, healthier lifestyle choices for all.

**Fitness • Family • Fun • Friendship • Future**



Visit [www.astarswalsall.co.uk](http://www.astarswalsall.co.uk) or email [astars@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:astars@walsall.gov.uk) for more information

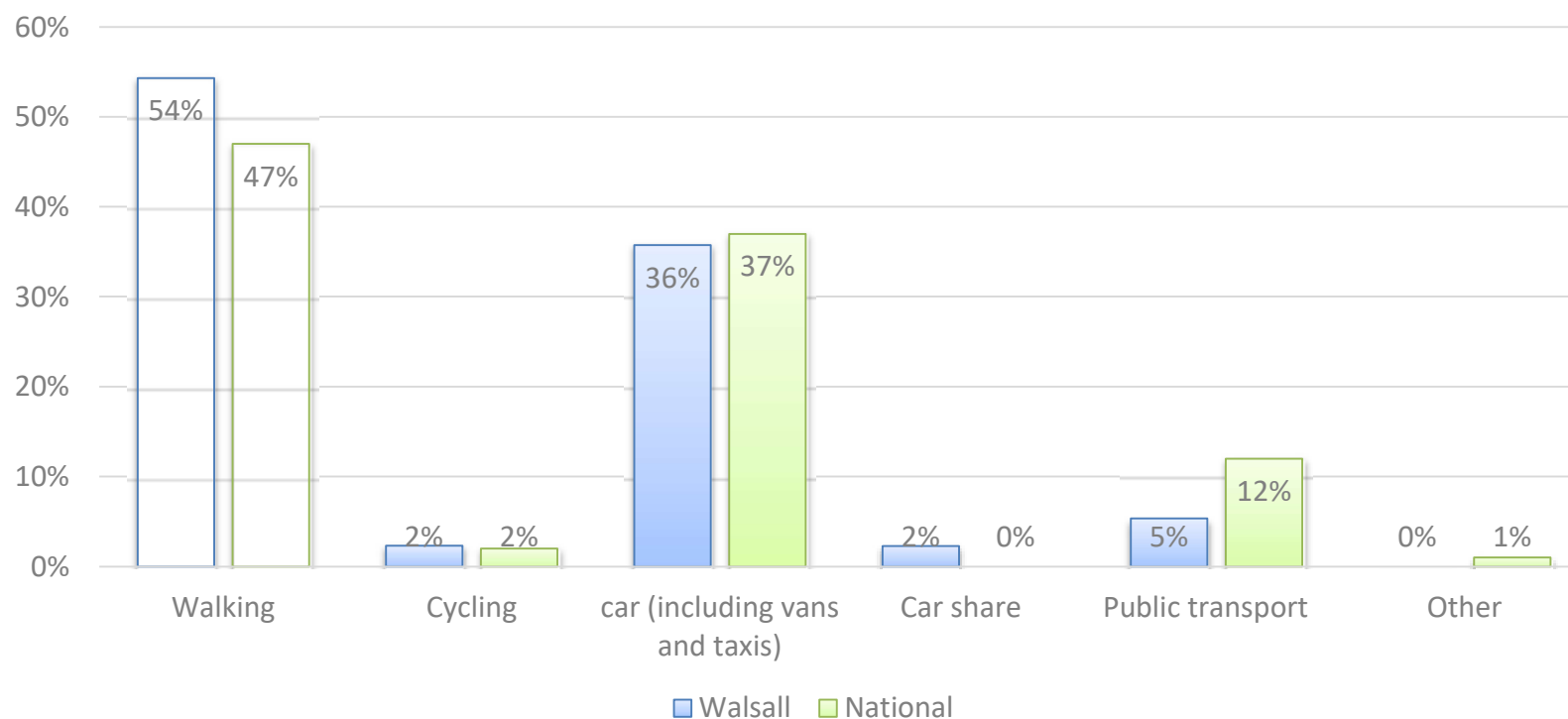








Active Sustainable Travel And Road Safety

# How children travel to school





Walsall figures compared to national figures



# Traffic Restriction Orders Table

Measure	Explanation	Subject to consultation*?	Limitations	Timescale for implementation	Indicative cost per site
	<b>Double yellow lines</b> Parking and waiting is restricted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week except for loading and unloading.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May simply displace the parking problems to adjacent thus moving rather than solving the problem.</li> <li>The requirement for an observation period of up to 10 minutes means that drivers often move on before a PCN can be legally issued.</li> <li>Imposes a restriction outside of peak school times and term times.</li> <li>Delivery of children who need to be escorted into school for whatever reason is classed as loading and unloading and is permitted according to TPT</li> <li>Blue badge holders are permitted to park for up to 3hrs</li> </ul>	18 months – 2 years	Up to £5,000
	<b>Single yellow lines</b> Parking and waiting are not permitted at the times shown except for loading and unloading.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May displace the parking problems to other nearby roads which may be even less suitable.</li> <li>The requirement for an observation period of up to 10 minutes means that drivers often move on before a PCN can be legally issued.</li> <li>Imposes a restriction all year round including outside of term times.</li> <li>Delivery of children who need to be escorted into school for whatever reason is classed as loading and unloading and is permitted according to TPT</li> <li>Blue badge holders are permitted to park for up to 3hrs</li> </ul>	18 months – 2 years	Up to £5,000
	<b>Yellow kerb blips</b> Loading and unloading is not allowed at all [double blips] or during the times shown single blips].	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May displace the parking problems to other nearby roads which may be even less suitable.</li> <li>Blue badge holders are not permitted to park on double or single yellow lines where kerb blips are present.</li> <li>Imposes a restriction outside of term times.</li> </ul>	12 months [If double/ single lines are already in place]	Up to £5,000
	<b>Yellow zig zag lines</b> Stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited during the prescribed times.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum permitted length of the restriction is 43.56m as these markings are designed to preserve visibility around the school entrance.</li> </ul>	18 months – 2 years	Up to £5,000



Measure	Explanation	Subject to consultation*?	Limitations	Timescale for implementation	Indicative cost per site
	<b>School Streets</b> A School Street is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May simply displace the parking problems to adjacent thus moving rather than solving the problem.</li> <li>Cannot currently be enforced by the council.</li> <li>Once moving traffic contravention powers are confirmed, there will be an ongoing operating cost [revenue] for enforcement.</li> </ul>	12 - 18 months	£5,000 - £50,000
	<b>Increased parking enforcement</b> Increase the number of Civil Enforcement officers working during peak school times.	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CEOs can only enforce where legal parking restrictions are in place.</li> <li>PCNs are intended to encourage compliance and not to generate sufficient income to fund service delivery.</li> <li>The presence of CEOs outside schools works more of a deterrent rather than accomplishing successful enforcement.</li> <li>CCTV vehicles are permitted to enforce SKC but are limited to the number of times a vehicle can drive by the restriction, and could possibly be seen to add to the congestion outside schools</li> <li>Increasing Parking Enforcement on SKC by CCTV static cameras is very successful. Once compliance is accomplished the CCTV camera can be moved to another school location. This is the only type of enforcement outside of schools which covers its running costs.</li> </ul>	6 months	£40,000 per CEO per year
	<b>Other engineering measures</b> Increased investment in safer routes to schools schemes to mitigate the risk of vehicle - pedestrian conflicts.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unless new investment could be identified, investment in Safer Routes to schools would be at the expense of the Promotion of Community Health and Safety programme which is also oversubscribed.</li> <li>Engineering measures are permanent installations and therefore impact all traffic and not just the traffic at peak school times.</li> <li>Engineering measures usually have the greatest impact on accident reduction when delivered as part of area-wide safety schemes rather than focusing only on selected individual sites such as immediately outside a school.</li> </ul>	2 years	£5,000 - £150,000
	<b>Education and engagement</b> Increased investment in road safety education and active engagement with schools.	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The success of road safety education is, in part, dependent on the level of engagement by schools and parents.</li> </ul>	3-6 months	Less than £1,000

**16 March 2023**

**Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

**Portfolios:** All

**Wards:** All

**1. Summary of report**

This report provides a short summary of the activity of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

**2. Recommendation**

**That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.**

**3. Report**

*Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

The Committee is scheduled to meet on 13 March 2023 to consider:

- Child Neglect Strategy
- Walsall Children and Young People Alliance Strategy

*Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

The Committee met on 16 February 2023 and considered:

- Children not in School: Attendance and exclusions, children missing education, elective home education and Fair Access (FAP)
- Vulnerable Learners Hub

*Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

The Committee met on 28 February 2023 and considered:

- Willenhall Framework Plan
- Public toilets across the borough
- Play Strategy
- Derelict Properties Taskforce

The Committee requested that the borough's Housing Strategy be referred to Scrutiny Overview Committee for consideration at a future meeting.

*Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

The Committee met on 21 February and considered:

- Primary Care Access
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Childhood Obesity
- Procurement of Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) services across the West Midlands consultation

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## Scrutiny Overview Committee – Recommendation Tracker (22/23)

Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action/Recommendation	Officer responsible	Status	Target Completion Date	Notes
15 March 2022	Fly Tipping Enforcement	A report on the use of 'electric refuse collection vehicles' be brought to a future meeting.	Dave Brown	In progress	n/a	Feedback provided to members (Sent 20.04.2022). Date for report to be agreed in new municipal year.
16 June 2022	Areas of Focus	A work programme for the municipal year be produced and be circulated to members of the Committee.	Craig Goodall	Complete	7 July 2022	Work programme drafted. Individual items to be scheduled.
		The suggested items of children's play strategy and associated children's health be referred to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Craig Goodall	Complete	26 July 2022	Members of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the item for inclusion on the Committee work program.
		That a working group be established to investigate the issue of School Gates Parking	Craig Goodall	Complete	27 July 2022	First meeting held on 27 July, with further meeting on 21 September 2022.



10 October 2022	Registered providers of social housing	<p>1. Scrutiny is concerned at the time taken to decide on planning applications delaying much needed housing as pointed out by Registered Social Housing landlords. The Scrutiny Overview Committee therefore asks Cabinet to look at the resources required to speed up the Planning process and further recommends that the Head of Planning and Development Control bring a report to the Committee on this issue at its meeting on 12 December 2022.</p> <p>2. The Scrutiny Overview Committee calls for the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities to attend a meeting in-person to report on steps to ensure that available land for housing development is utilised.</p> <p>3. The Scrutiny Overview Committee requests Cabinet to examine whether they feel there is a need for increased competition in the social housing sector within Walsall.</p>	<p>Simon Neilson</p> <p>Craig Goodall</p>	Complete	12 December 2022	<p>Recommendations reported to Cabinet on 19 October.</p> <p>Cabinet agreed to provide reports requested to SOC on 12 December 2022.</p>
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		<p>Walsall Housing Group provide Members with the following information:</p> <p>Number of right to buy and right to acquire sales;</p> <p>Contact details for community housing officers;</p> <p>Details of 'pin drop'.</p>	WHG	Complete	30 November 2022	Majority of information provided to Members in October 2022. Community Housing Officers shared 1 December 2022. Further details on pin drop e-mailed to Members on 2.3.23.
		<p>GreenSquareAccord provide Members with the following information:</p> <p>The Councillor enquiry email address;</p> <p>The number of right to buy sales;</p> <p>The energy costs savings for residents in the Darlaston 'wrapped house';</p> <p>How many new homes have been built and are planned to be built in Walsall;</p> <p>How many housing first schemes are there in Walsall;</p>	GreenSquareAccord	Complete	n/a	Information provided to Members via email in October 2022.

		The number of care schemes and managed agent properties operating in Walsall.				
	Effectiveness of Scrutiny	Financial scrutiny training be made available for all Council Members prior to December budget-scrutiny scrutiny committee meetings.	Craig Goodall	Complete	30 November 2022	All Members invited to Centre for Governance and Scrutiny Finance Scrutiny Seminar that took place on 17 October 2022.
10 November 2022	Council Plan Markers of Success Q1	<p>Officers provide Members with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The full data set which informed the presentation, as submitted as an appendix to the October 2022 Cabinet report;</li> <li>2. The weblink to the Local government Association's 'LG Inform' database and benchmarking system;</li> <li>3. Statistics regarding contamination rates in recycling services, on a ward-by-ward basis, or as close to a ward-by-</li> </ol>	Karen Griffiths	Complete	31 January 2023	E-mailed on 8.3.23

		ward basis as is possible.				
		4. That future quarterly reports on Council Plan Markers of Success incorporate and apply national benchmarking criteria, or benchmarking criteria from similar Local Authorities;				
		That the Council Plan Markers of Success be added to the Committee's work programme on following the end of Quarter 2;	Craig Goodall	Complete	2 December 2022	Added to work programme.
	Effectiveness of Overview & Scrutiny	An in-person budget scrutiny training session, open to all Members of the Council, be provided by the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation prior to the draft revenue and capital budget being presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committees in January 2023.	Deborah Hindson Craig Goodall	Complete	11 January 2023	Training session provided on 16 January 2023.
		That external training for overview and scrutiny members takes place annually and that all members should be required to attend.	Craig Goodall	In progress	30 June 2023	Email sent to Members by Craig Goodall, 28 February.

12 December 2022	Watmos Community Homes Constitution Change	That the report, when sent to Council, be amended to clarify whether tenant board members will always have a majority on voting matters.	Elise Hopkins	Complete	23 December 2022	Report considered at Council amended accordingly.
		That information regarding the skills matrices identified as required for future Board appointments and the Watmos succession plan, be provided to Members.	Watmos	Complete	16 March 2023	E-mailed on 8.3.23
	Customer Engagement	That an update on Member enquiries be provided at the meeting of the Committee on 7 February 2023, subject to the Member-Officer working group having met prior to that date	Elise Hopkins	Complete	16 March 2023	On the SOC agenda for 16 March 2023.
		That data be shared with Members regarding:  a. Demographics of users and issues raised at Walsall Connected; b. A detailed breakdown on the time it takes calls to be answered across the Council.	Elise Hopkins	In Progress	16 March 2023	
	Planning Services Performance & Resources to Deliver New Housing	That a breakdown of housing by type, as set out in paragraph 3.3 to the report, be provided to Members.	Alison Ives	Complete	16 March 2023	Shared 07/02/2023

07 February 2023	Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23 – 7 month position ended 31 October 2022	That the full list of mitigating actions taken in response to the forecast overspend, as set out in the report submitted to cabinet, be shared with members of the Committee.	Shaun Darcy	In progress	20 April 2023	
	Draft revenue budget and capital programme budget 2023/24 to 2026/27	That the recommendations of the Scrutiny Overview Committee regarding the draft revenue budget proposals be referred to Cabinet for consideration on 8 February 2023	Nikki Gough	Complete	8 February 2023	Feedback provided to Cabinet on 8 February 2023
		That the Scrutiny Overview Committee request that Cabinet produce a full options appraisal on the future use of the Civic Centre before allocating resources to its refurbishment.	Nikki Gough	Complete	8 February 2023	Feedback provided to Cabinet on 8 February 2023. Report on Council House and Civic Centre being considered by Cabinet on 22 March 2023.
		That Cabinet are requested to consider the impact of the financial overspend within Adult Social Care and Children's Services and that a robust action plan aimed at dealing with the overspend is produced for the next financial year.	Nikki Gough	Complete	8 February 2023	Feedback provided and noted by Cabinet on 8 February 2023.

		That information be provided on funding received for Clean and Green purposes via email.	Simon Neilson	In progress	20 April 2023	
		That information regarding the Aids & Adaptations budget and waiting list be provided to Members via email.		In progress	20 April 2023	
	Community Protection Enforcement	That information be provided regarding the number of scrap metal dealers licensed in Walsall.	David Elrington	In progress	20 April 2023	
	Areas of Focus 2022-23	That the following be added to the Committee's Areas of Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We Are Walsall 2040 draft strategy framework;</li> <li>the Walsall Local Plan (for consideration when appropriate during the next Municipal Year)</li> </ul>	Nikki Gough	Complete		Revised areas of focus submitted to meeting of 16 March 2023.
		That the Children's Play Strategy be referred to the Economy & Environment Committee for consideration as soon as practicable	Nikki Gough	Complete		Considered by the E&E OSC on 28 February 2023.
		That the Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark be referred to the Economy & Environment Committee for consideration at a future meeting	Nikki Gough	Complete		Added to the E&E OSC's work programme on 28 February 2023.





## Scrutiny Overview Committee – Area of Focus – 2022-23

	4 October 2022	10 November	12 December	7 February	16 March	20 April
<b>Economic Growth, for all people communities and businesses</b>  <i>Lead OSC: Economy &amp; Environment</i>			Planning			
<b>People have increased independence, improved health and positively contribute to their communities</b>  <i>Lead OSC: Social Care &amp; Health</i>						
<b>Internal focus, all Council services are efficient</b>  <i>Lead OSC: Scrutiny Overview Committee</i>	Effectiveness of scrutiny	Council Plan performance report  Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring  Effectiveness of scrutiny	Council Customer Engagement inc. member queries and responses	Draft Revenue & Capital Budget 2023/24	Council Plan performance report  Customer Engagement & member queries follow-up	Voting reforms, voter ID and raising awareness.  LGA Peer Review
<b>Children have the best possible start and are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well</b>  <i>Lead OSCs: Children's &amp; Education</i>					School Gate Parking Working Group	
<b>Communities are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion</b>  <i>Lead OSC: Scrutiny Overview Committee</i>	Social Housing  School gate parking		WATMOS	Enforcement		WAW2040 Draft Strategy

### Items to be scheduled

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

## **Scrutiny Overview Committee – Area of Focus – 2022-23**

### **To be scheduled**

- a) Housing strategy;
- b) Section 106 and the Infrastructure Levy;
- c) Role of Council Officers and their consultations;
- d) Proud workstreams (CX to attend);
- e) Recruitment and employee retention.
- f) West Midlands Police
- g) Walsall Local Plan (to be 2023/24)

### **Via Email**

Quarterly Financial Monitoring



## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Council House,  
Lichfield Street,  
Walsall, WS1 1TW**  
[www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk)

**6 March 2023**

## 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](mailto:craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk) and can also be accessed from the Council’s website at [www.walsall.gov.uk](http://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](mailto: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  
APRIL 2023 TO JULY 2023 (06.03.23)**

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
152/22 (7.11.22)	<b>Renewal of the Council's Oracle Cloud Licenses:</b>  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  <a href="mailto:Ian.Tuft@walsall.gov.uk">Ian.Tuft@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird  Cllr Ferguson	22 March 2023
162/22 (5.12.22)	<b>Approval of the Black Country Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement:</b>  Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation to enter into legal agreements with WMCA relating to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership Legacy funds.	Cabinet  Key Decision	Kelly Valente  <a href="mailto:Kelly.Valente@walsall.gov.uk">Kelly.Valente@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Cllr Bird	22 March 2023
10/23 (6.2.23)	<b>LGA Corporate Peer Challenge – Action Plan:</b>  To approve the Action Plan produced in response to the report by the Local Government Association following the January 2023 Corporate Peer Challenge.	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Karen Griffiths  ( <a href="mailto:Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk">Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk</a> )  Elizabeth Connolly  ( <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.Connolly@walsall.gov.uk">Elizabeth.Connolly@walsall.gov.uk</a> )  <a href="#">Page 77 of 81</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	22 March 2023

145/22 (7.11.22)	<b>Town Centre Theatre Project:</b>  To agree next steps for the Town Deal Theatre project, setting out funding implications and options.  <i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet  Key Decision	Philippa Venables  <a href="mailto:Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk">Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Cllr Andrew	22 March 2023
4/23 (9.1.23)	<b>West Midlands Local Transport Plan Settlement and Transport Capital Programme 2023/24:</b>  To approve West Midlands Local Transport Plan Settlement and Transport Capital Programme 2023/24.	Cabinet  Key Decision	Matt Crowton  <a href="mailto:Matt.Crowton@walsall.gov.uk">Matt.Crowton@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	22 March 2023
5/23 (9.1.23)	<b>Sandwell Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation:</b>  To approve Walsall's response to the Sandwell Local Plan consultation.	Cabinet  Key Decision	Neville Ball  <a href="mailto:neville.ball@walsall.gov.uk">neville.ball@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	22 March 2023
153/22 (7.11.22)	<b>Walsall's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 to 2027:</b>  To approve Walsall's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, 2022 to 2027.	Cabinet  Key Decision	Neil Hollyhead  <a href="mailto:Neil.HollyHead@walsall.gov.uk">Neil.HollyHead@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services, service users, external stakeholders	Cllr Ali	22 March 2023
11/23 (6.2.23)	<b>Walsall Civic Centre and Council House improvement works</b>  To approve Council House improvement works including heating and ventilation replacement; fire alarm replacement;	Cabinet  Key Decision	Ian Lister  <a href="mailto:Ian.Lister@walsall.gov.uk">Ian.Lister@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Ferguson	22 March 2023

	Civic Centre window replacement; Civic Centre ground floor refurbishment.					
12/23 (6.2.23)	<b>Street Scene Strategy:</b>  To approve the councils 5-year plan for residential streets	Cabinet  Key decision	Kathryn Moreton  <a href="mailto:Kathryn.Moreton@Walsall.gov.uk">Kathryn.Moreton@Walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Cllr Murphy	22 March 2023
13/23 (6.2.23)	<b>Trading Standards Letting Agents Enforcement Policy</b>  To approve Walsall Council's Trading Standards policy on the enforcement and determination of financial penalties in circumstances where persons engaged in letting agency work and property management business fail to comply with legislative requirements.	Cabinet  Key decision	David Elrington  <a href="mailto:David.Elrington@walsall.gov.uk">David.Elrington@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	22 March 2023
140/22 (10.10.22)	<b>High Needs Funding Formula:</b>  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  <a href="mailto:Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk">Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services, Schools Forum	Cllr M. Statham	22 March 2023
154/22 (7.11.22)	<b>Early Years Funding Formula:</b>  That Cabinet approves 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	Richard Walley  <a href="mailto:Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk">Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Schools Forum  Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	22 March 2023

14/23 (6.2.23)	<b>Growth Funding for Schools:</b>  To enable the Local Authority to fulfil its duty to secure sufficient primary and secondary school places, through the adoption of a policy for the application of revenue funding for school growth.	Cabinet  Key Decision	Alex Groom  <a href="mailto:Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk">Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services, Schools Forum	Cllr Statham	22 March 2023
155/22 (7.11.22)	<b>Council Plan: Review of Achievements 2021/22:</b>  To note the Review of Achievements for 2021/22, highlighting successes and progress towards achieving our Council priorities.	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Karen Griffiths  <a href="mailto:Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk">Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	19 April 2023
15/23 (6.3.23)	<b>Council Plan Markers of Success Q3:</b>  To note the Quarter 3 2022/23 (outturn) performance against the Markers of Success in the Council Plan 2022/25	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Karen Griffiths  <a href="mailto:Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk">Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	19 April 2023
6/23 (9.1.23)	<b>Borough Playing Pitch Strategy:</b>  To adopt and publish the Walsall Playing pitches strategy and the Black Country strategic framework	Cabinet  Key Decision	Liz Stuffins  <a href="mailto:Liz.Stuffins@walsall.gov.uk">Liz.Stuffins@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	19 April 2023
129/22 (5.9.22)	<b>Update on Resilient Communities Safer Streets Programme:</b>  To report back on Safer Streets activity and recommend any adjustments/additions to the programme.	Cabinet  Non-key Decision	Paul Gordon  <a href="mailto:Paul.Gordon@walsall.gov.uk">Paul.Gordon@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	19 April 2023



**Black Country Executive Joint Committee**  
**Forward Plan of Key Decisions Published up to June 2023**

<b>Date Created</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>	<b>Main consultee</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>
	<b>Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance</b>			
05/12/2022	<b>Approval of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement</b>  Approval of future arrangements for the Black Country Executive Joint Committee, and approval of the revised Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement setting out how legacy funds, including Enterprise Zones, will be dealt with.	Simon Neilson <a href="mailto:Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk">Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Walsall Council	19/04/2023