



Walsall Council

Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on: **13 April 2023 AT 6.00PM**

Meeting to be held at: Conference Room 2

Public access to meeting via: www.walsallcouncilwebcasts.com

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillor M. Follows (Chair)
Councillor B. Allen (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P. Bott
Councillor C. Creaney
Councillor A. Garcha
Councillor I. Hussain
Councillor P. Kaur
Councillor R. Larden
Councillor A. Nazir
Councillor J. Whitehouse
Councillor R. Worrall

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Councillor M. Bird – Leader of the Council
Councillor A. Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor G. Perry – Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor K. Murphy – Clean and Green
Councillor M. Statham – Education and Skills
Councillor G. Flint – Health and Wellbeing

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1.	Apologies To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee.	
2.	Substitutions To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.	
3.	Declarations of interest and party whip To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.	
4.	Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.	
5.	Minutes of the previous meeting To approve the minutes of the meeting on 28 February 2023.	Enclosed
ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY		
6.	Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Railway Stations To provide the Committee with a brief overview of the railways projects planned in Walsall, a summary of the business case and benefits and an update on progress and activities to date.	Enclosed
7.	Phoenix 10 To update the Committee on progress since the last discussion of this item at the Committee in March 2022.	Enclosed
8.	Waste Management Strategy To provide the Committee with details regarding the council's new waste strategy, the household waste recycling centre and transfer station and government waste policy.	Enclosed
ITEMS FOR OVERVIEW		
9.	Areas of focus – 2022/23 To consider the areas of focus for the Committee during 2022/23.	Enclosed
10.	Forward Plans To receive the latest Forward Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet • Black Country Joint Executive Committee • West Midlands Combined Authority Board 	Enclosed

11.	Recommendation Tracker To consider progress on recommendations from the previous meeting.	Enclosed
12.	Date of next meeting To note the date of the next meeting will be confirmed at Annual Council.	

The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests which are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 are the interests specified in the second column of the following:

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of a member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority;</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:</p> <p>(a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)

Access to information: Exempt information

Part 1

Descriptions of exempt information: England

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
 - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
 - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
 - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
 - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28 February 2023 at 6.00pm held at Walsall Council House, Lichfield Street,
Walsall, WS1 1TW.

Committee Members	Councillor M. Follows (Chair) Councillor B. Allen Councillor P. Bott Councillor P. Kaur Councillor R. Larden Councillor A. Nazir Councillor R. Worrall Councillor L. Harrison Councillor V. Waters	
Portfolio Holders	Councillor M. Bird Councillor A. Andrew Councillor G. Flint	Leader of the Council Deputy Leader and Regeneration Health and Wellbeing
Officers Present:	Simon Neilson Dave Brown Joel Maybury Nick Ford Liz Stuffins Sian Lloyd	Executive Director, Economy, Environment and Communities Director, Place and Environment Team Leader – Borough Wide Development Head of Property PHP – Service Development Manager Democratic Services Officer

52/22 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Creaney, Garcha, I. Hussain and Whitehouse.

53/22 Substitutions

Councillor Harrison substituted for Councillor Garcha and Councillor Waters substituted for Councillor Whitehouse.

54/22 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

55/22 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to consider in private session.

56/22 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2022, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

57/22 Willenhall Framework Plan

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration presented a report providing an update of work undertaken to date in relation to the Willenhall Framework Plan which focused on the delivery of Phase 1, Moat Street and Villiers Street. He acknowledged that this represented a plan that was a long time in the making and that the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders in the Willenhall area was designed to bring landowners around the table to discuss and negotiate over derelict sites. The Leader of the Council commented that regeneration of an area can take a substantial amount of time but it was positive to see progress in this regard.

Members of the Committee praised the work of the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities stating that the Willenhall Framework Plan would form part of his legacy in Walsall. They also voiced their appreciation for the quality of the successful bid submitted for the Levelling Up Fund and the opportunities this created for the Walsall North constituency.

Resolved:

That:

- 1. The contents of the report be noted; and**
- 2. A further report be considered by the Committee in due course.**

58/22 Public Toilets across the Borough

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration introduced the item on public toilets across the borough, acknowledging that there was significant demand from residents for public toilets to be re-instated but that it was of paramount importance that this was done in such a way that ensured that they were not subject to anti-social behaviour as had been the case in the past. He expressed that the pilot scheme would also be involving local residents and businesses to seek their views and try to make sure that any concerns can be managed appropriately.

Following questions from Members of the Committee the Head of Property clarified that the funding for this pilot scheme was to be available in the 2023/2024 financial year and currently work was ongoing with Procurement to source providers, the details of which could be reported to a future meeting of the Committee. He also underlined the importance of ensuring that all disabilities were covered and the guidelines of Changing Places were adhered to.

Resolved:

That:

- 1. The contents of the report be noted; and**
- 2. A further report be considered by the Committee in due course.**

59/22 Play Strategy

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing introduced the report on the borough's play strategy, noting that a large amount of investment had been made into green spaces across the borough in the hopes of modernising them. He drew the Committee's attention to the fact that there was still a live public consultation on this topic.

The Committee asked a number of questions in relation to the accessibility of the play equipment for all and the methods being used for the public consultation. The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing responded that the consultation was being conducted using a new platform called Commonplace and leaflets had been posted in areas close to green spaces to encourage local residents to have their say. He also commented that the aim was to ensure that the play equipment was as accessible as possible to all children, including those with disabilities.

Resolved:

That the Committee notes the contents of the report.

60/22 Derelict Properties Taskforce

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration provided details in relation to the derelict properties taskforce, which had been established within the council to bring together different departments who had responsibilities in relation to derelict properties to work in a united effort to tackle sites that had been left derelict for several years. He stated that it was important that the council take this issue seriously to assist with regeneration.

The Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities emphasised that there was a formal legal process to be followed that must be applied consistently and fairly.

Following questions from Members of the Committee it was clarified that the taskforce was an internal operational group and locations and ownership details of such sites could be shared with Members but could not be shared in the public domain, so as not to prejudice commercial negotiations.

Resolved:

That:

- 1. The Committee notes the report; and**
- 2. An update on the works of the taskforce to be received in due course.**

61/22 Areas of focus – 2022/23

The Committee noted the proposed areas of focus for the remaining meetings of the municipal year.

Resolved:

That:

- 1. The areas of focus 2022/23 and forward plans be noted; and**
- 2. CCTV provision in housing estates be added to the list of items to be considered.**

62/22 Recommendation Tracker

The Democratic Services Officer updated the Committee on the recommendations from previous meetings of the Committee. She advised that the item on Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge railway stations would be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee on 13 April.

Resolved:

That the progress on recommendations from the previous meeting be noted.

63/22 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 13 April 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated 7.05pm.

Signed:

Date:

13 April 2023

Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Railway Stations

Ward(s): _Bentley & Darlaston N, Darlaston S, Willenhall N, Willenhall S, Pleck

Portfolios: Regeneration

1. Aim

This report is to provides the Scrutiny Committee with:

- A brief overview of the railway projects planned in Walsall (Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge)
- A summary of the business case and benefits for these projects
- An update on progress and activities to date

2. Recommendations

The committee is requested to:

- **note** of the contents of the Report
- **provide feedback** on options around future engagement activities with local communities

3. Willenhall and Darlaston Stations

3.1 Project Overview

The two stations at Willenhall and Darlaston were closed in 1965 as part of the Beeching cuts that looked to rationalise the rail network. Growth in the wider areas around these stations mean that there is a strong case to deliver new stations in these locations, and this was identified as a priority by the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Mayor of the West Midlands.

These stations sat on the line between Wolverhampton and Walsall which is currently mainly used for freight. The previous station sites have been redeveloped over the past sixty years, and therefore reintroducing services to these communities requires the construction of new stations to modern standards.

The project to re-open these stations (known as 'Rail Package 1') is being taken forward through the West Midlands Rail Programme, a partnership that includes Network Rail as infrastructure owner, and West Midlands Trains as the rail operator.

3.2 Project Scope

Willenhall and Darlaston Station will each have two platforms suitable for 4-car trains. The stations will also have:

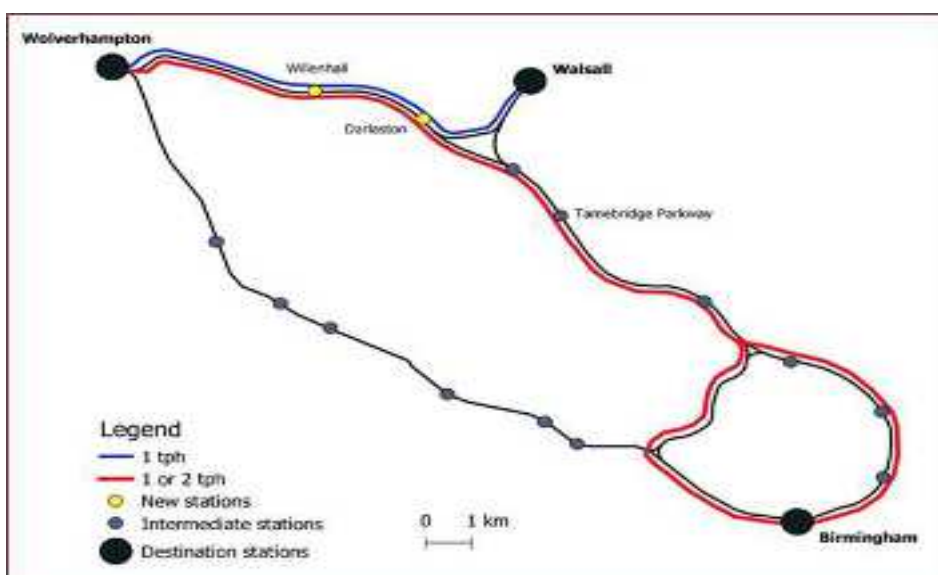
- pedestrian footbridges, stairs and lifts to provide access for passengers with mobility needs
- ticket machines and information systems
- passenger help points on each platform
- secure bike parking
- car parks, accommodating c. 35 cars at Willenhall and c. 300 cars at Darlaston
- flood remediation meadows on previously brownfield land
- a pick-up and drop-off area

No station buildings will be delivered as part of these projects, although there will be space left to futureproof for buildings in future if required.

The two stations are proposed at Willenhall and Darlaston to be served with one hourly service between Wolverhampton and Walsall, delivered by a new shuttle, and one hourly service between Wolverhampton and Birmingham New Street (see figure 1), delivered by diverting the existing Birmingham to Crewe service. This service is already running on the diverted route in anticipation of the stations opening.

The final details of the train service are subject to confirmation as part of on-going timetable development work and wider industry business planning and funding processes.

Figure 1.



3.3 Benefits

We have undertaken analysis of the case for the schemes, including consideration of the impact of COVID-19, and this demonstrates that the investment remains very high value for money, in addition to the wider strategic benefits.

It is estimated that 29,500 residents live within 1.2km of the stations, with car parking at Darlaston providing a wider catchment for the park and ride market. These stations will deliver transformative improvements in connectivity for local communities, dramatically reducing journey times by public transport to key centres of employment, education and leisure.

The estimated journey times to Birmingham New Street compared with existing public transport journey times are:

- 25 minutes from Willenhall, saving 46 minutes
- 22 minutes from Darlaston, saving 53 minutes

The estimated journey times to Wolverhampton are:

- 8 minutes from Willenhall, saving 10 minutes
- 11 minutes from Darlaston, saving 17 minutes

The estimated journey times to Walsall are:

- 8 minutes from Willenhall, saving 10 minutes
- 14 minutes from Darlaston, saving 9 minutes

The impact of these journey time benefits will be further magnified through improved access to HS2 when Curzon Street Station opens.

By providing a viable alternative to travel by road, these stations will also deliver journey time and environmental benefits through reducing congestion on the highway network. This means that benefits will be enjoyed by travellers who do not use the rail network.

As well as the benefits delivered by the scheme on completion, the contractors for the scheme have also made significant social value commitments, including provision of employment and training opportunities for local residents. The scheme is anticipated to generate 120 jobs during construction, aside from the wider economic benefits.

The case for the scheme was underlined during the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process discussed below. The public interest case for the scheme was a fundamental element of the case for the WMCA CPO, and the planning inspector identified the strong public interest case for these schemes to proceed in his determination.

3.4 Progress to date & risks

Walsall Council granted planning permission with conditions in October 2020, enabling us to move forward with further approvals. WMCA approved the Full Business Case for the project in January 2021, with DfT funding approved in March 2021.

The challenges outlined below meant that further work was required before a contract could be let to our principal contractor, Buckingham Group. To mitigate this impact, we agreed a mechanism to allow for some initial work to take place before the full award. The contracts were signed in Spring 2022, and since then a range of approvals and physical works have taken place, including:

- Diversion of the Birmingham – Crewe West Midlands Trains service to follow the proposed route
- Compound site set up and de-vegetation at Darlaston
- Planning permission (with conditions) granted
- Substantial de-vegetation and Japanese Knotweed Removal in Willenhall
- Survey works including invasive mining surveys/ground investigation works at both sites, required to inform the next stage of designs
- Demolition of buildings at Darlaston

Land

In order to construct the stations, complex and lengthy land negotiations have been required at both Willenhall and Darlaston. We seek to acquire all land through negotiated agreement, and have been successful in doing so in the vast majority of cases, despite challenges including the need for one business owner to secure additional EU permits which delayed completion of a key deal.

Nevertheless, as previously briefed, the project needed to pursue a CPO to secure all the land required. Whilst this introduced some delay, it was essential to ensure that we secured good value for money for the public purse. WMCA agreed to pursue a CPO in November 2021, and we believe this to be the first time a Combined Authority has used its powers in this way. Following an inquiry in July 2022, the CPO was confirmed in September 2022. The rapid confirmation of the CPO underlines the strong case for these schemes.

Further land deals are under negotiation and are dependent on managing the interface between station development and the landowner's development aspirations.

As we develop the designs further, there remains a risk that further land is required. We are mitigating this risk by engaging actively with landowners and Network Rail and assessing a range of design options.

Ground conditions

Ground conditions remain a significant risk to the project. This area of the Black Country was historically highly industrialised with activities including coal mining

and manufacturing. This means ground conditions are challenging because of contamination from industry, and the need to remediate mine workings to address the risk of subsidence and collapse. Although complex this is critical to ensure that the stations can operate safely in the long term.

The main activity required is grouting, a process in which historic mine workings are filled with material to stabilise the ground. The scope had originally been contained to the areas under the new platforms, however re-assessment by Network Rail has led to a significant increase in scope and risk. Now it has been established that we need to grout under the tracks as well as the platforms, and treat deeper mine seams.

The under-track grouting in particular poses further risk as we anticipate it cannot be undertaken during train operations. Currently we are working with Network Rail on a plan for an extended blockade in Spring 2023 which may allow for some of this work to be undertaken.

We are continuing to work on this challenge with our designers and Network Rail to reach a solution which offers the right balance of intervention and benefit.

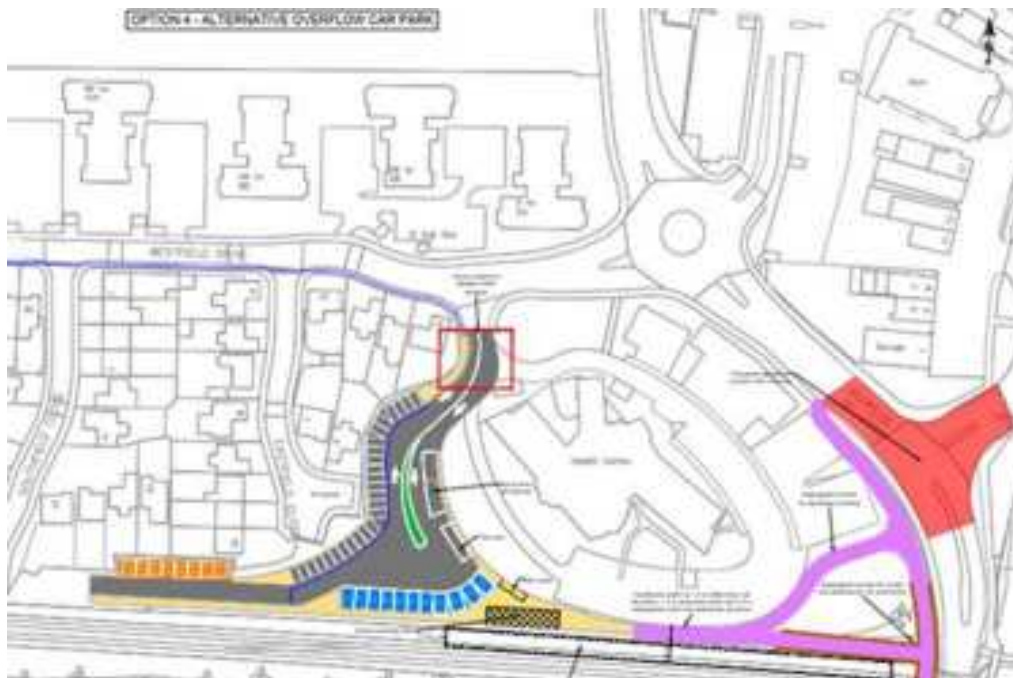
3.5 Next Steps

We have committed previously to target opening dates of early-2024 for Willenhall Station and summer 2024 for Darlaston Station. Work is progressing on these projects with our principal contractors preparing for major works this spring. Like on all projects we are encountering emerging risks and are in the process of working through these.

3.6 Aldridge

The Aldridge project is at a much earlier stage of development than the Package 1 scheme, with a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) currently being revised for approval.

This project will see a new station delivered on the site of the historic Aldridge Station, which was again closed in the 1960s. The proposed scope is for a single platform station with parking and new pedestrian connections into the nearby town centre. Reopening rail services would deliver accessibility improvements for residents who are currently forced to rely on the road network to access key local and regional centres.



Indicative Aldridge Station layout

The line on which Aldridge Station would be located, the Sutton Park Line, is currently not electrified and we have been working with Network Rail to establish how this links with the proposed Aldridge Station project. At the moment any electrification plans would not be complete within the same timescales as the station. We are therefore developing plans to futureproof the station for future electrification.

This also has an impact on the proposed train service. Prior to electrification it is proposed that Aldridge be served by a shuttle to Walsall. This would provide a simple cross-platform interchange at Walsall to allow connections to Birmingham New Street. Following the electrification of the Sutton Park Line, services could run directly between Aldridge and Birmingham New Street.

£30m has been allotted to Aldridge from the DfT City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement. We have prepared a business case to enable us to draw down the first tranche of this funding from DfT to allow the next stage of design to start and we hope to receive approval by Spring.

We aim to complete the project within the lifecycle of the current funding, by March 2027. We are working with DfT and Network Rail to identify lessons learned and opportunities to accelerate project delivery.

4. Financial information

The current estimate for Willenhall and Darlaston Stations is £55.84m.

This is fully funded on the basis set out below:

Funding Source	Rail Package 1 £m
WMCA Investment Programme	16
Walsall MBC	0.2
DfT: Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline	39.7
GRAND TOTAL	55.84

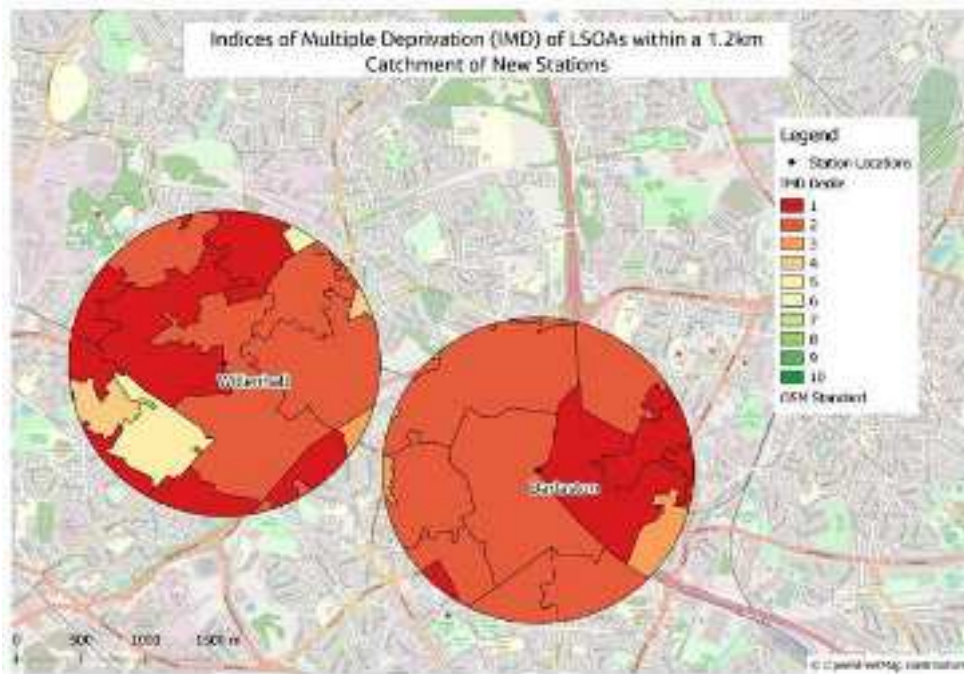
A detailed estimate for Aldridge will be established as part of the next phase of work. However we expect this project to be brought in within the £30m funding envelope identified in CRSTS.

5. Reducing Inequalities

Delivery of the stations at Willenhall and Darlaston delivers strong public benefits to some of the West Midlands' most deprived communities. By delivering a step-change in transport connectivity both in terms of accessibility and connectivity, the scheme will transform people's opportunities to access work, education and leisure, as well as widening about market access for local employers.

The map below shows the high levels of deprivation currently experienced in the areas surrounding the stations. Currently these communities have poor transport connectivity to the West Midlands' major urban centres.

One of West Midlands Combined Authority's priorities is to support inclusive growth, ensuring that economic growth benefits all citizens across the region. By ensuring that the stations we deliver will be accessible to all travellers, meeting stringent requirements for access by people with reduced mobility, the provision of the two new stations will support WMCA's objectives for inclusive growth by enabling more people to travel.



6. Decide

The report is presented primarily for information and noting with no decisions at this juncture.

7. Respond

WMRE are excited by the benefits that these new stations will delivery. WMRE and Walsall Council officers welcome feedback from the Scrutiny Committee about how best to engage with local communities as we take the projects forward.

Background papers

None.

Author

Hayley Bradbury & Liam Brooker
West Midlands Rail Programme

APPENDIX 1: Artist Impressions



Willenhall station



Darlaston station

13 April 2023

7

Phoenix 10

Ward(s): Pleck

Portfolios: Regeneration

1. Aim

- 1.1 The aim of the Phoenix 10 project is to secure major investment in the borough that will enable substantial new employment floorspace and significant job creation. Jointly owned by the Council and Homes England, Phoenix 10 is located within the Black Country Enterprise Zone (BCEZ) and is the key strategic employment development site in the borough and the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BCLEP) area. The project benefits will make a significant contribution to economic recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic while providing significant investment and employment opportunities for Walsall. Its prominent location directly adjacent to the M6 Motorway will also raise the borough's profile and act as a catalyst for the development of other sites. However, the legacy of former uses of the land mean that public sector support is needed to achieve these outcomes. As joint landowners the Council and Homes England have procured Henry Boot Developments as development partner to undertake the remediation and development of the site.
- 1.2 This report presents the Committee with a summary of the work undertaken to progress the project to its current position and information about the future programme towards completion.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Committee is recommended to:
- Consider the progress on this project to date.
 - Agree to receive a further report upon completion of the site remediation phase.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 At its meeting on 3 March 2022 Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee received a report setting out the background to this important project and the significant work that had been undertaken to progress to the stage where site remediation was due to commence.

- 3.2 The report noted that, as joint landowners, the Council and Homes England had appointed Henry Boot Developments (HBD) as development partner to lead the remediation and development of the site.
- 3.3 Shortly following that meeting the final contract conditions were satisfied and pre-commencement planning conditions were discharged such that the detailed programme of site remediation was able to begin in April 2022.
- 3.3 HBD have appointed John F Hunt Regeneration to undertake the site remediation and they have been carrying out the required works since that time supported by specialist sub-contractor Forkers Ltd.
- 3.4 Forkers Ltd's role has been to locate, treat and cap the large number of mine entries and mine shafts that existed across the site. This work was substantially completed between April and December 2022.
- 3.5 John F Hunt Regeneration have been overseeing the work by Forkers Ltd while also undertaking a number of other activities including demolition of the Reservoir Place industrial unit, excavating and processing made ground, groundwater treatment and concrete breakout

Figure 1 – Aerial photo of work on site



- 3.6 To date good progress has been made with the site remediation works and these are currently expected to complete by mid 2024 in line with the programme. With completion of the works around one year away greater focus can now being given to the future development of the site.
- 3.7 On 7 March 2023 HBD launched a new name for Phoenix 10 to reflect the role of the scheme in supporting occupier growth, creating the perfect conditions for logistics and manufacturing operators to thrive. The site is now known as SPARK and to coincide with this announcement a new CGI was released to illustrate how the development could look in the coming years.

Figure 2 – CGI of SPARK



3.8 SPARK is now being marketed by HBD’s joint agents Knight Frank and Cushman & Wakefield with a view to securing occupiers for the circa 620,000sqft of new employment floorspace that will be created. In addition it is expected that a reserved matters planning application will be submitted later in 2023 for development of the site following the previous outline approval. At this stage it is anticipated that construction works could start in the latter part of 2024.

3.9 In addition to the development of the site the project is also providing social value benefits. John F Hunt have employed local people and provided work placements while HBD staff have engaged in local volunteering and undertaken careers sessions with local education establishments.

4. *Financial information*

4.1 The overall value of the project is circa £100m. The remediation of the site is supported by significant grant funding package comprising Local Growth Fund, BCLEP’s Land and Property Investment Fund, the BCEZ funding mechanism and a Homes England contribution.

5. *Reducing Inequalities*

5.1 The development of employment sites in the borough seeks to support economic growth for all people, communities and businesses. Enabling job creation, skills development and increasing incomes will contribute towards reducing inequalities.

6. Decide

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to consider the content of this report, provide comments on progress to date and confirm any specific information required for a subsequent project update.

7. Respond

- 7.1 The next key milestone for this important project will be completion of the site remediation works which is expected to occur in mid 2024.

8. Review

- 8.1 In order to progress the project to this stage the Council, Homes England and HBD have held regular project meetings and these will continue throughout the delivery phase to monitor progress and deal with any issues as they arise.
- 8.2 The Reserved Matters planning application for the development of the site will be subject to the statutory consultation process.

Background papers

Phoenix 10 Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee report – 3 March 2022

Author

Joel Maybury
Team Leader - Development
☎ 654748
✉ joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk

13 April 2023

8

Waste Management Strategy – Waste Transfer Station (WTS) and Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) Update

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Councillor A Andrew – Deputy Leader & Regeneration
Councillor K Murphy – Clean and Green

1. Aim

To provide a new waste transfer station (WTS) and household waste recycling centre (HWRC) at Middlemore Lane in Aldridge. The existing HWRC at Fryers Road may be upgraded at a later date. Merchants Way HWRC will be closed once the new facilities are open to residents.

2. Recommendations

That the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the procurement and evaluation approach for the WTS and HWRC at Middlemore Lane in Aldridge.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 Planning applications for Middlemore Lane WTS and HWRC were submitted on 27 January 2022 and approved on 26 May 2022. The outline design is shown in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 In July 2022, a pre-market engagement exercise was undertaken to determine interest in constructing a new WTS and HWRC at Middlemore Lane with appropriate civil engineering contractors on the Pagabo procurement framework.
- 3.3 In October 2022, Cabinet delegated authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Regeneration and Clean and Green, to approve the award of contract for the design and build of Middlemore Lane WTS and HWRC.
- 3.4 At the same meeting, Cabinet decided that the contract would consist of two stages, Stage 1 Design and Stage 2 Build and be tendered via the Pagabo Major Works Framework, Lot 2 for projects valued between £15 million - £30 million.
- 3.5 At the end of Stage 1, the preferred option would be to continue with the same contractor to complete Stage 2. However, the council will own the final design and another contractor could complete the project if necessary.

- 3.6 Four contractors on the framework declared their interest for the design and build stages of Middlemore Lane. They were:
- John Graham Construction
 - Kier Construction
 - Morgan Sindall
 - Willmott Dixon
- 3.7 Interested contractors received tender documents via the In-Tend portal on 01 November 2022 with a return date of 22 December 2022. All four contractors returned compliant bids.
- 3.8 A panel consisting of fourteen members evaluated the returned bids. They were a mixture of Walsall Council employees, consultants Wardell-Armstrong who are advising on the project, Faithful and Gould as quantity surveyors providing technical advice. Members evaluated areas specific to their expertise. The evaluation factors were based on:
- Price – 20% - Design Activity Schedule
 - Quality – 80% (includes the Construction Activity Schedule for estimated construction cost)
- 3.9 The rigorous and robust evaluation and moderation exercise took place during January 2023 and concluded early March 2023.
- 3.10 At the time of writing this report, corporate procurement are finalising the evaluation outcome and writing the procurement report to be signed by Executive Director, Economy, Environment and Communities, prior to the successful contractor being notified by mid-April 2023.
- 3.11 Design work will commence in May 2023 and construction work will begin late September 2023 with an 18-month delivery programme.

4. *Financial information*

All four contractors returned compliant bids within the financial envelope approved by Cabinet in October 2022 of approx. £30m for the design and build stages of Middlemore Lane. The capital funding is available in 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

5. *Reducing Inequalities*

- 5.1 The original Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) will be updated through the project life cycle for the delivery of the new WTS and HWRC at Middlemore Lane.
- 5.2 The Middlemore Lane site will have blue badge car parking facilities for customers with mobility issues and there will be on-site support to assist customers with physical disabilities for unloading items.
- 5.3 The reuse shop would provide low cost goods or items for disadvantaged families.

6 Decide

- 6.1 The committee is to consider the content of this report, provide comments on progress to date and confirm any specific information required for a subsequent project update.
- 6.2 This investment in the waste management infrastructure will enable sustainable delivery of the council's waste services, improve recycling performance and facilitate the introduction of mandatory food waste collections.

7. Respond

The next steps for officers are:

- a) Award of design contract – Stage 1
- b) Appointment of specialist project management resource to act on behalf of the council for duration of the project
- c) Develop and agree the final engineering drawings
- d) Develop and agree final construction costs
- e) Award of build contract – Stage 2
- f) Develop construction delivery programme
- g) Effective communication with stakeholders

8. Review

There will be updates to the project board, Portfolio Holder, Scrutiny and Cabinet as necessary.

Appendices

Appendix A – Outline Design

Background papers

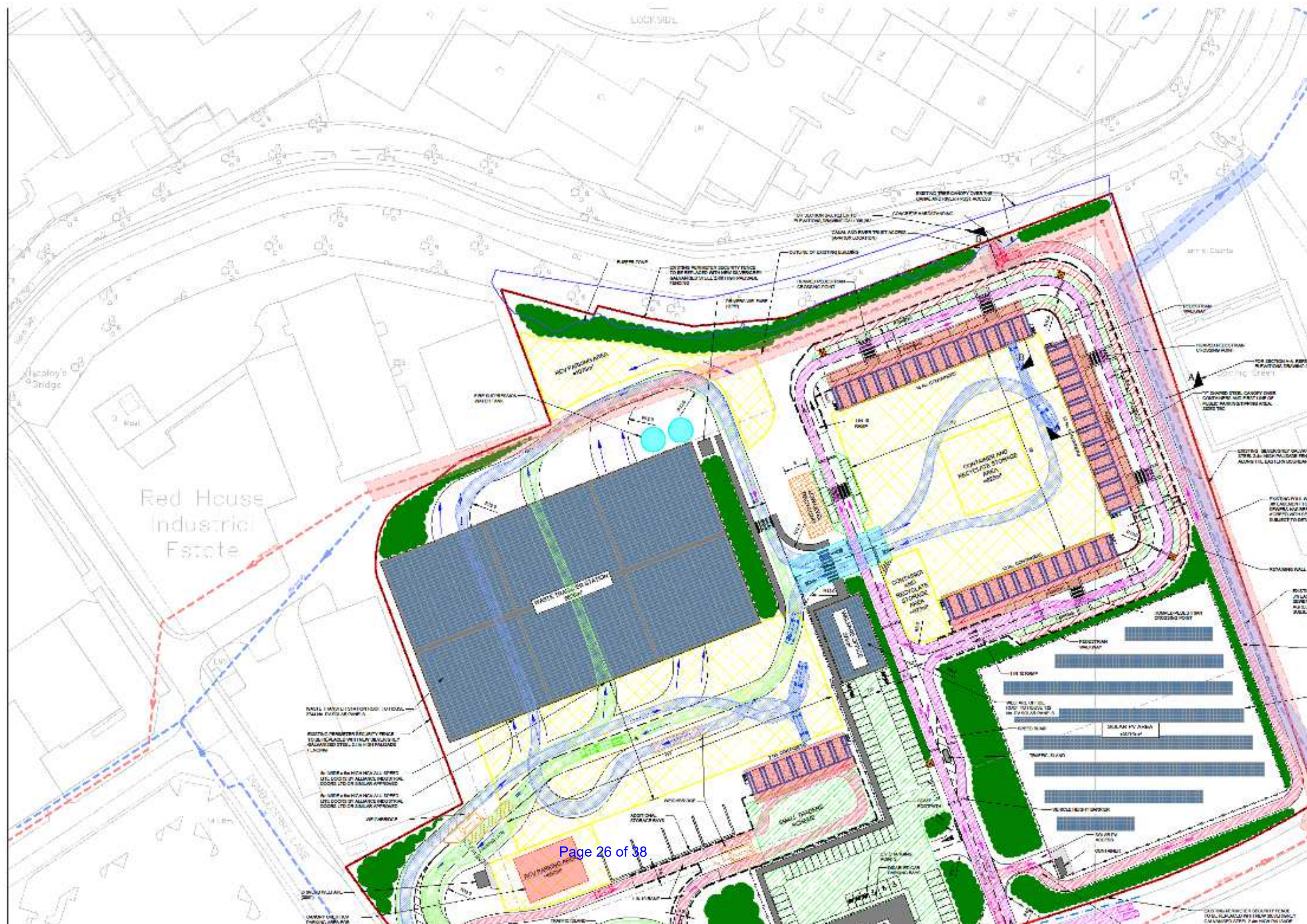
None

Author

Stephen Johnson
Service Manager

☎ 654227

✉ Stephen.Johnson@walsall.gov.uk



Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Area of Focus – 2022/23

Committee responsible for all aspects and general services related to the economy and environment including:

Responsibility of scrutiny of flood risk management functions which may affect the Local Authority's area as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

And the scrutinising of performance in relation to the relevant priority in the Council Plan: Enable greater local opportunities for all people, communities and businesses.

Agenda Items							
Theme	7 July 2022	29 September 2022	20 October 2022	24 November 2022	2 February 2023	28 February 2023	13 April 2023
Economy		LEP Report	Bus Network Update		Willenhall and Darlaston, Aldridge Railway Stations	Willenhall Framework Plan	Phoenix 10 Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Railway Stations
Environment	Petition regarding pedestrian crossing on Birmingham Road, Aldridge	Cemetery Maintenance	Street Scene Strategy	Off-road Bikes	Bonfires	Public Toilets Play Strategy	The Council's Waste Strategy – new HWRC and Transfer Station
Cross cutting both Economy and Environment	Areas of Focus Portfolio Holder Presentations	Portfolio Holder Presentations – Cllrs Andrew and Perry		Town Centre Regeneration Update Quarter 2 Budget monitoring	Budget	Derelict sites Task Force	

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Area of Focus – 2022/23

*Quarter 1 and Quarter 3 Financial reports will be circulated via e-mail to Members of the Committee and will not form part of the Committee's Agenda.

Items to be scheduled:

1. District Town Centres Update;
2. Partnership working with West Midlands Police on traffic speed enforcement;
3. West Midlands Local Transport Plan;
4. An update on Walsall's Heritage strategy;
5. Geoparks;
6. CCTV Provision in housing estates;
7. E-scooters.

Items suggested for next municipal year:

1. Derelict Properties Taskforce
2. Issues surrounding town centre car parking



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

3 April 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 and can also be accessed from the Council’s website at www.walsall.gov.uk. The Cabinet is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan, however, a notice will be included on the agenda for the relevant Cabinet meeting which explains the reasons why.

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

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

Meetings of the Cabinet are open to the public. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are confidential and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting. The forward plan will show where this is intended and the reason why the reports are confidential. Enquiries regarding these reasons should be directed to Democratic Services (craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk).

“Key decisions” are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. With regard to key decisions the Council’s Constitution states:

- (1) A key decision is:
 - (i) any decision in relation to an executive function which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates or
 - (ii) any decision that is likely to have significant impact on two or more wards within the borough.
- (2) The threshold for “significant” expenditure/savings is £500,000.
- (3) A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
MAY 2023 TO AUGUST 2023 (03.04.23)**

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
15/23 (6.3.23)	Council Plan Markers of Success Q3: 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 Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	19 April 2023
16/23 (22.3.23)	Adult Social Care budget increase: To seek Cabinet approval of an increased budget to Adult Social Care to fund adult social care market rate pressures. <i>This will be a private session report containing exempt information.</i>	Cabinet Key Decision	Tony Meadows Tony.Meadows@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Pedley	19 April 2023
20/23 (3.4.23)	Temporary Workers (Agency) Provision: To appoint the Council's temporary agency provider. <i>This will be a private session report containing exempt information.</i>	Cabinet Key Decision	Michelle Leith Michelle.Leith@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Ferguson	19 April 2023

155/22 (7.11.22)	Council Plan: Review of Achievements 2021/22: To note the Review of Achievements for 2021/22, highlighting successes and progress towards achieving our Council priorities.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Karen Griffiths Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Leader of the Council	June 2023
17/23 (3.4.23)	Pre-Audit Outturn 2022/23: To receive the pre-audit revenue and capital financial outturn position for 2022/23 and approve recommended carry-forwards, and financial and treasury indicators for 2022/23.	Cabinet Key decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Leader of the Council	June 2023
18/23 (3.4.23)	Treasury Management Annual Report 2022/23: To note and forward to Council, for consideration and noting (and in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017), the annual report for treasury management activities 2022/23 including prudential and local indicators.	Council Non-key decision	Treasury Management Code of Practice. Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Leader of the Council	June 2023
6/23 (9.1.23)	Borough Playing Pitch Strategy: To adopt and publish the Walsall Playing pitches strategy and the Black Country strategic framework	Cabinet Key Decision	Liz Stuffins Liz.Stuffins@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing	June 2023
129/22 (5.9.22)	Update on Resilient Communities Safer Streets Programme: To report back on Safer Streets activity and recommend any	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Paul Gordon Paul.Gordon@walsall.gov.uk Page 33 of 38	Internal Services	Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities	June 2023

	adjustments/additions to the programme.					
14/23 (6.2.23)	<p>Growth Funding for Schools:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Alex Groom</p> <p>Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Internal services, Schools Forum</p>	<p>Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills</p>	<p>June 2023</p>
19/23 (3.4.23)	<p>Corporate Financial Performance 2023/24, approach to Budget Setting for 2024/25, and changes to the council's Tax Strategy:</p> <p>To report the financial position based on 3 months to June 2023, and to set out our approach and timeline for the 2024/25 budget process and amendments to the Tax Strategy.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Non-key decision</p>	<p>Vicky Buckley</p> <p>Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Internal Services</p>	<p>Leader of the Council</p>	<p>July 2023</p>

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

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance			
05/12/2022	<p>Approval of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement</p> <p>Approval of the revised Black Country Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement, attached as Appendix A.</p>	<p>Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Walsall Council	19/04/2023
06/03/2023	<p>Constitution and Timetable of meetings</p> <p>Approve the timetable of meetings for 2023/24.</p> <p>Approve the amendments to the BCJC Constitution and Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Approve the amendments to the BCJC Working Protocols.</p>	<p>Deborah Hindson ChiefExecutive@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Dudley Council Sandwell Council Walsall Council City of Wolverhampton Council</p>	26/07/2023

Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action/Recommendation	Officer responsible	Status	Target Completion Date	Notes
7 July 2022	Response to petition: 'Pedestrian Crossing for Birmingham Road, Aldridge, enabling the safety of school children'	S106 funding schemes in Aldridge to be reviewed to see if any funding could be secured for the crossing in this way.	Katie Moreton	Completed		The Development Monitoring Officer who starts on 3 October will provide improved resource to review this matter. Unlikely that previous S106 funds can be used as each S106 specifies what works the obligations are to cover as it has to be related specifically to the development proposed.
20 October 2022	Urgent Item: Bus Matters – Bus Network Update	Presentation and report be circulated to all Members of the Council.	Sian Lloyd	Completed		Sent out by email 21/10/2022.
24 November 2022	Off-Road Bikes	The Committee recommends Cabinet to investigate the acquisition of a drone or drone service for community protection to use in conjunction with West Midlands Police.	Sian Lloyd/Simon Neilson	Completed		Report discussed at Cabinet on 8 February. Further fuller details to be discussed at next Cabinet meeting on 22 March.
2 February 2023	Willenhall, Darlaston and	Report to be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.	Sian Lloyd	Completed		Discussed at the meeting of the

	Aldridge Railway Stations					Committee on April 13.
	Areas of Focus 22/23	Report on public toilet provision to be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.	Sian Lloyd	Completed		Report on public toilets brought to meeting on 28 February.
28 February 2023	Area of Focus 22/23	CCTV provision in housing estates be added to the list of items to be considered.	Sian Lloyd	Completed		Added to areas of focus document.