

Walsall Council Overview & Scrutiny Working Group
Initiation Document

Work Group Name:	High Streets Working Group
Committee:	Economy and Environment
Municipal Year:	2024/25
Lead Member:	Councillor Cheema
Lead Officer:	Simon Tranter
Support Officer:	Nikki Gough
Membership:	Councillor S. Cheema Councillor A. Hicken, Councillor R. Larden.
Co-opted Members:	N/A

1.	Context
	On 9 July 2024, the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered topics for potential working groups for the year. Following, a lengthy debate, Members agreed to establish a working group on High Streets.
2.	Objectives
	<p style="color: red;">What do you want it to achieve? It is important to have clearly defined outcomes at the start to give the working group direction and ensure it adds value.</p> <p>To make lasting legacy recommendations considering to identify common themes and establish what the future of high streets is.</p> <p>The high streets in scope are:</p> <p>Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Daralaston, Walsall and Willenhall.</p>
3.	Scope
	<p style="color: red;">What should be included and excluded?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand what activities are already planned, for example: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Town Centre masterplan and Connected Gateway b. Bloxwich Town Deal c. Willenhall Masterplan 2. What is working well? 3. What are the local difficulties? 4. What blockers exist? 5. What role can the Council play in stimulating high streets? 6. What do people want/need from local high streets?
4.	Equalities Implications
	<p>The public sector equality duty in Section 149 of the Equality Act requires public bodies to take active steps to eliminate discrimination and to do positive things to promote equality.</p> <p>The working group will consider the equality impact of their recommendations.</p>
4.	Who else will you want to take part?

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	<p style="color: red;">Think about who else, other than lead officers and members, it would be useful to include either as part of the working group or to bring information at specific points. For example- partners, stakeholders, other authorities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Benchmarking with statistical neighbours; 2. CBRE 3. Local Businesses – multinational, national and local 4. Local residents including young people <p>*with local businesses and local residents the intention is to use existing consultation data in the first instance to inform the working group.</p>									
5. Timescales & Reporting Schedule										
	<p>The following dates are based upon the need for the working group to be completed in the same municipal year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Terms of Reference – 18 October 2024 b. Terms of Reference to be approved by Economy and Environment OSC – 24 October 2024 c. Information and evidence gathering meetings – November 2024 – February 2025 d. Conclusions and recommendations considered by the Group – March 2025 e. Final report to be considered by Economy and Environment OSC – 10 April 2025 									
6. Risk factors										
	<p style="color: red;">Are there any obstacles that can be predicted? For example, is it dependent on other organisations outside your control and duty to cooperate? Identifying these factors early and how they will be mitigated should help minimise their impact.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Risk</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Likelihood</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Measure to Resolve</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Availability of witness and elected members</td> <td>Medium</td> <td>Organise a schedule of meetings to assist planning</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Large/borough wide remit</td> <td>Medium</td> <td>Plan schedule of meetings. Choose to refocus of select areas as work progresses if required.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Risk	Likelihood	Measure to Resolve	Availability of witness and elected members	Medium	Organise a schedule of meetings to assist planning	Large/borough wide remit	Medium	Plan schedule of meetings. Choose to refocus of select areas as work progresses if required.
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Date Agreed:		Date Updated:	
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Timetable:

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