

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

<b>Committee Members</b>	Councillor M. Follows (Chair) Councillor B. Allen Councillor P. Bott Councillor A. Garcha Councillor P. Kaur Councillor R. Larden Councillor A. Nazir Councillor J. Whitehouse Councillor R. Worrall	
<b>Portfolio Holders</b>	Councillor M. Bird Councillor A. Andrew Councillor K. Murphy Councillor G. Flint	Leader of the Council Deputy Leader and Regeneration Clean and Green Health and Wellbeing
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Dave Brown Kathryn Moreton Simon Tranter Alan Bowley Sian Lloyd	Interim Executive Director, Economy, Environment and Communities Head of Highways, Transport and Operations Head of Regeneration, Housing and Economy Head of Environment, Leisure and Commercial Democratic Services Officer
<b>Invited Attendees:</b>	Liam Brooker Hayley Bradbury	West Midlands Rail Executive West Midlands Rail Executive

**64/22 Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor I. Hussain.

**65/22 Substitutions**

There were no substitutions.

**66/22 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

**67/22 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to consider in private session.

## 68/22 Minutes of the previous meeting

### **Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2023, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.**

## 69/22 Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Railway Stations

Representatives of the West Midlands Rail Executive presented the Committee with the latest information in regards to Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge railway stations, noting that the Planning Inspectorate felt there was a very strong public case for the works going ahead as planned. They informed the Committee that there had been challenges throughout the process including concerns around land contamination and plans of the land not identifying any underground installations. The Head of Highways, Transport and Operations confirmed that the council were working very closely with the West Midlands Rail Executive on these matters with monthly meetings taking place in which council officers offered their local knowledge and visited the sites of the stations.

The representatives of the West Midlands Rail Executive highlighted that the station planned for Aldridge was at a much earlier stage of its development and that consultation with residents over the scope and design was still required and would take place alongside the planning process.

Following questions from Members of the Committee the West Midlands Rail Executive confirmed that the lines would initially be serviced by diesel fuelled trains and it was Network Rail who was responsible for the electrification of the lines moving forwards. They also stated that 1-2 trains per hour were planned initially and the line capacity would have to be reviewed before any further services could be added in the future.

### **Resolved:**

#### **That:**

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

## 70/22 Phoenix 10

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration introduced the item on Phoenix 10, firstly drawing the Committee's attention to the fact that the project had been rebranded as Spark. It was acknowledged that there had been a great deal of progress since the last report to the Committee in March 2022 with site remediation having begun in April 2022 and expected to be completed in mid-2024.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration re-emphasised the importance of the roughly 1000 jobs that would be created for the local economy

and advised that it was vital that the right end users were selected who would provide jobs for local residents and also offer apprenticeship opportunities.

**Resolved:**

**That:**

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

## **71/22 Waste Management Strategy**

The Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green introduced the report in relation to the Waste Management Strategy, particularly as it pertained to the new household waste recycling centre and transfer station that, at the time of writing the report, was in the process of tender evaluation. She highlighted that it was expected that construction would begin in October 2023 and take roughly a year to complete.

The Interim Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities added that the outline plan for the current transfer station at Friars Road would need to be considered by Cabinet and Council, although it was thought that this may include the demolition of the current building and creation of a new bigger facility with more parking available.

Following questions from the Committee the Head of Environment, Leisure and Commercial advised that decisions still needed to be made in relation to the planned re-use shop and its model of operation but it was important that the materials and products available were of a good quality. He also advised that food waste collections would be re-introduced with a more unified approach across local authorities following new legislation, but this was unlikely to happen until at least 2025.

**Resolved:**

**That the Committee notes the contents of the report.**

## **72/22 Areas of focus – 2022/23**

The Committee noted the proposed areas of focus which had not been completed during the municipal year.

**Resolved:**

**That:**

- 1. The outstanding areas of focus 2022/23 and forward plans be noted; and**
- 2. Any outstanding items to be recommended to the Committee next municipal year for their consideration.**

**73/22 Recommendation Tracker**

The Democratic Services Officer updated the Committee on the recommendations from previous meetings of the Committee. It was noted that all items had been completed.

**Resolved:**

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

**74/22 Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be determined at Annual Council.

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

Signed: .....

Date: .....