



**Walsall Council**

## **Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting to be held on: **18 January 2021 AT 6.00PM**

Meeting to be held at: Council Chamber

Public access to meeting via: <https://youtu.be/X9lj-eSeo8E>

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Councillor L. Harrison (Chair)  
Councillor M. Follows (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor B. Allen  
Councillor P. Bott  
Councillor L. Jeavons  
Councillor E. Lee  
Councillor P. Kaur  
Councillor G. Singh Sohal  
Councillor J. Whitehouse  
Councillor R. Worrall

### **PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:**

Councillor A. Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration  
Councillor G. Perry – Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities  
Councillor O. Butler – Clean and Green  
Councillor C. Towe – Education and Skills

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.	
5.	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b> To approve the minutes of the meeting on 18 November 2021.	Enclosed
<b>ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY</b>		
6.	<b>Town Deal</b> The Town Deal, initiated by Government and developed by a group of partners facilitated by Walsall Council, was announced in February 2019 and is now moving towards delivery. The aim of the fund is to develop local infrastructure and skills which will support growth of the local economy, increasing the town's opportunities and offer.	Enclosed
7.	<b>Climate Change</b> To receive a presentation from Professor Gatrad on sustainability following Cop26.	Presentation
8.	<b>Climate Emergency Action Plan</b> Significant climate change would threaten the wellbeing of our residents and disrupt our economy. By achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 the council will help to manage this risk.	Enclosed
<b>ITEMS FOR OVERVIEW</b>		
10.	<b>Areas of focus – 2021/22</b> To consider the areas of focus for the Committee during 2021/22.	Enclosed
11.	<b>Forward Plans</b> To receive the latest Forward Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabinet</li> <li>Black Country Joint Executive Committee</li> </ul>	Enclosed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Midlands Combined Authority Board</li> </ul>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> To note the next scheduled meeting is due to take place on 3 March 2022.	

## 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:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Prescribed description</b>
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

**Minutes - 18 November 2021 at 6.00pm held at Walsall Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW.**

### **Committee Members**

#### **Present:**

Councillor L. Harrison (Chair)  
Councillor B. Allen  
Councillor P. Bott  
Councillor L. Jeavons  
Councillor E. Lee  
Councillor P. Kaur  
Councillor J. Whitehouse  
Councillor R. Worrall

### **Portfolio Holders**

*(attending remotely)*

Councillor A. Andrew      Deputy Leader and Regeneration  
Councillor C. Towe      Education and Skills

### **Officers**

*(Present)*

Paul Gordon      Director Resilient Communities  
Helen Owen      Democratic Services Officer

*(Remote)*

Matt Crowton      Transportation Manager, Major  
                                 projects and Schemes  
Jane-Kaur Gill      Employment and Skills Manager  
Fraz Hussain      Lead Accountant

### **19/21 Apologies**

Councillors Singh Sohal, S. Coughlan, and Follows.

### **20/21 Substitution**

No substitutes attended.

### **21/21 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations of interest or party whips.

### **22/21 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to consider in private session.

**23/21 Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021, a copy having been sent to each member of the committee, be approved and signed as a true and accurate record subject to the inclusion of Councillor P. Bott on the list of members present.

**24/21 Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2022-23 to 2025-26**

The Lead Accountant, Mr F. Hussain presented the report which provided an extract of the Proud draft revenue savings proposals and Investments/Cost Pressures for 2022-23 to 2025-26 which fall within the remit of this committee for consideration. The report also provided a summary of the draft capital programme for schemes within the remit of this committee.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Mr Hussain confirmed that any feedback from this committee would be reported to the Cabinet on 12 December 2021 to inform the final budget recommended to Council on 24 February 2021

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**25/21 Corporate Financial Performance – Quarter 2**

The Lead accountant, Mr F. Hussain presented the report which was submitted at the request of the Chair and which provided the budget monitoring position for the period 5 2021-22.

(see annexed)

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**26/21 Employment and Skills Support**

The Employment and Skills Manager, Ms J. Kaur-Gill presented a report which explained the current programmes of support and how the programmes delivered contributed to the Corporate Plan priorities and the positive outcomes secured for our customers from each of the employability programmes.

(see annexed)

Ms Kaur-Gill responded to a number of questions and points of clarification from committee members during which time she explained that the programme was promoted actively by the Walsall Works team on social media such as Facebook and Twitter by paid and unpaid marketing campaigns. She said that it was clear that the paid campaigns which were used to drive interest to key vacancies were more successful. She also reported there was limited interest for the current apprenticeship vacancies, which was a national challenge particularly as the Kickstart scheme may have displaced the apprenticeship scheme given that it was fully funded paid work placements. To mitigate this, Ms Kaur-Gill said that the team were looking to actively promote apprenticeship incentives to employers as a 'bolt-on' to the Kickstart scheme. In addition she assured members that Walsall College were trying hard to sustain apprenticeships in host employers and were actively marketing the incentive funding available. The Cabinet portfolio holder for Education and Skills, Councillor Towe, also advised that the number of apprenticeship places available with local training providers were also less than usual and that this had been compounded by the difficulty training providers were finding not being allowed into schools to promote what was available to year 11 and year 13 leavers.

In answer to a further question on the new Community Renewal Fund project Works+, Ms Kaur-Gill confirmed that the Walsall Works team were working in partnership with Walsall Housing Group (whg) to identify social housing tenants and unemployed residents in the seven most deprived wards of the borough who would be in scope for support. She said that whg would promote the opportunities to their tenants via an extensive marketing campaign through their communication channels including their newsletters.

At this point both the Deputy Leader for Regeneration, Councillor Andrew, and Councillor Towe extended their thanks to Ms Kaur-Gill and her team for the excellent work and she and her team undertake to support employers and tackle youth unemployment. Councillor Harrison concurred and extended her thanks on behalf of the committee. She asked for an update to be submitted to the committee in the new year.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the current Employment and Skills Support services and the level of dependency on grant funded programmes be noted.
- (2) That the commencement of planning for future resource to sustain services beyond grant end dates be supported.
- (3) That the committee receives a progress report in the new year.

## **27/21 M6 Junction 10 Transport Scheme**

The Transportation Manager for Major Projects, Mr M. Crowton presented a report which provided an update on project progress and information about the remaining construction timeline.

(see annexed)



In presenting the report, Mr Crowton said that he would circulate photographs of the bridge works to the committee members to show the scale of the works.

Mr Crowton and the Cabinet portfolio holder, Councillor Andrew then responded to questions and points of clarification from committee members during which time members were advised as follows:

*Traffic flow on the motorway, across the junction and on local roads:* The J10 scheme would help traffic to move more easily on and off the motorway and across the junction from Walsall to Wolverhampton, improving the capacity and easing the congestion on the local road network. The junction would be managed by significantly enhanced intelligent traffic signals which would help to control the traffic on the junction. However, this stretch of motorway was the busiest in the country and so it would not relieve the traffic flow on the motorway itself which was the responsibility of National Highways (formerly Highways England), which much of this traffic simply passing through the West Midlands.

*Cycling and walking benefits of the scheme:* Improving facilities for cyclists and pedestrians is one of the key objectives of the scheme and therefore a series of crossing facilities for cyclists and pedestrians were planned to enable safe negotiation through the junction using signalised crossings. Currently, an improved alternative cycling route, funded from separate external monies, was in place which would remain after the main junction opened.

*Public transport benefits of the scheme:* The junction was used by a high frequency bus service between Walsall, Willenhall and Wolverhampton centres and the new junction would assist with the overall reliability of the service in the future.

*Air Pollution:* Some analysis had been undertaken on the air quality impact of the scheme as part of the development of the business case however, whilst the scheme would reduce congestion on the local road network, there was likely to be more background traffic from new developments on sites in the vicinity and more traffic encouraged to use the new junction by those who had avoided it previously. Therefore, on balance, the overall effect was neutral. Notwithstanding this, the local transport plan was being refreshed in conjunction with neighbouring authorities and one of the key planks of this was recognising the contribution that transport needed to make and how to achieve climate targets.

*Further closures:* Although there were challenges with such a large scheme, it was on schedule to be completed before the Commonwealth Games next Summer. In the meantime, there were two further planned closures in May 2022 when the existing life expired bridges would be demolished. With regard to reports of HGV lorries skipping diversions to find quicker ways through smaller lanes, whilst there had been engagement with all of the large businesses and logistics companies in the borough, further work could be done with those organisations to explain the timetable for operational changes and closures and actively address the concerns in this respect at the relevant time.

*Resurfacing and landscaping:* the scheme included an intention to create an aesthetically pleasing junction as a main gateway to the borough. The planning approval process for this had been completed for a full landscaping design to be implemented in the coming months although it would take some time to establish itself

Members suggested that reports of this nature should include climate impact given the focus and commitment to this by the Council and nationally.

The Chair thanked Mr Crowton for his presentation and asked for a further update to be presented before Spring 2022.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the report be noted
- (2) That a final progress update be received before the main construction phase concludes in Spring 2022
- (3) That consideration be given to the inclusion of a heading “climate Impact” in the template for future reports to this committee.

## **28/21 Areas of focus – 2021/22**

The Work Programme was submitted

(see annexed)

The Chair gave an overview of the work programme for 2021/22 and asked Members for their suggestions regarding items to be scheduled for the next meeting.

It was agreed to include the following matters:

- Update on the Employability and Skills support in the new year.
- Walsall Council Tree planting strategy.
- Carbon Neutral Council
- Update on J10 scheme prior to completion of construction phase – Spring 2022

In discussion it was noted that an update on the Sprint project would be submitted to the Scrutiny Overview committee.

### **Resolved:**

That the Areas of Focus as amended, be noted

## **29/21 Forward Plans**

The latest Forward Plans for the Cabinet, the Black Country Joint Executive Committee and the West Midlands Combined Authority Board were submitted for information.

A member referred the Green Spaces Strategy included on the Cabinet Forward Plan and asked for a report on the usage of Green Gyms across the Borough. It was agreed to forward this to Councillor Butler as Cabinet portfolio holder to consider.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the forward Plans be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet portfolio holder, Councillor Butler, be asked to report on the usage of the Green Gyms across the Borough.

**30/21 Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 18 January 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.02pm.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

**18 January 2022**

**Town Deal**

**Ward(s): All**

**Portfolios: Regeneration**

**1. Aim**

The Town Deal, initiated by Government and developed by a group of partners facilitated by Walsall Council, was announced in February 2019 and is now moving towards delivery. The aim of the fund is to develop local infrastructure and skills which will support growth of the local economy, increasing the town's opportunities and offer. The Town Deal Board, made up of local partners, is the body charged with overseeing this work.

**2. Recommendations**

Members are asked to consider the progress so far and provide challenge on the process and the interventions agreed.

**3. Report detail – know**

**Background**

- 3.1 In September 2019, the government launched the Towns Fund programme, inviting 100 towns to develop their £25million proposals for each place, identified by government.
- 3.2 This funding tranche is within the context of wider investment which will support Walsall Council to deliver on key elements of the Town Centre Masterplan, also to meet its regeneration priorities across the borough to create an environment in which the right homes, jobs and growth opportunities come forward. The Council is working with government and other partners to create funding packages which will deliver real change for the town.
- 3.3 The Council has been successful in securing the government's Future High Streets Fund as a significant contributor (£11.4m) to the Connected Gateway scheme which is at the heart of the town centre transformation and will deliver a landmark transport gateway to and from Walsall. Creating a connected, modern interchange on the high street with high quality rail concourse and good links to bus services, this will ensure a high quality experience at the heart of the high street with a more

diverse mix of uses. It will increase footfall and aim to reduce vacancy rates to improve the vibrancy of the high street, encouraging dwell time and spend.

- 3.4 We look forward to further announcements on the next phase of the government's Levelling Up Fund, which will also support capital projects – Walsall has been identified as a priority area and work is ongoing to ensure that projects have reached a sufficient stage of development to access this fund which is aimed at the more “shovel-ready” schemes. Walsall Council is working well with the West Midlands Combined Authority, Black Country Consortium and other partners to ensure that there is sufficient support for schemes to achieve investment readiness. With the Community Renewal Fund as revenue support for some of our skills and employment interventions which will help create a successful workforce for a repurposed town, this will create a rounded blend of funding that will help us to deliver on our core objectives for the residents of Walsall. In addition, Walsall has also been identified by Arts Council England as a Priority Place and we are already accessing advice and support to engage stakeholders and (develop related projects in the borough.
- 3.5 In January 2020, government asked Walsall Council to form a Town Deal Board in line with guidance given to 100 towns identified for the initiative, to take up the offer to submit applications for £25million for both Bloxwich and Walsall. To achieve this the Walsall Economic Board's membership was enhanced in accordance with that guidance, to act as the initial Town Deal Board for both areas.
- 3.6 In June 2020 government released further Towns Fund guidance covering a range of requirements; including the preparation of Town Investment Plans for each of the eligible towns and the roles, responsibilities and governance arrangements required for the Town Deal Board, confirmed in a Heads of Terms document. This set out a vision and strategy for the towns, together with what each party agreed to do to achieve this vision. This was the formation of the Town Deal, being an agreement in principle between government, the Lead Council and the Town Deal Board.
- 3.7 Government guidance included the following which set out the requirements of the Town Deal Board:
- Town Deal Boards are responsible for producing Town Investment Plans, including putting forward suitable projects, which align with the objectives of the Towns Fund, and for overseeing compliance with the Heads of Terms Agreement with government.
  - A Town Deal Board should operate in a transparent and objective way for the benefit of the town it represents. This should fit within and complement existing arrangements for governance, assurance, audit etc. in the local authority, and does not need to be wholly separate.
  - The Town Deal Board's membership should reflect the diversity of the town and surrounding area. The Towns Fund Prospectus stated that membership of Town Deal Boards should comprise:
    - A private sector chair
    - All tiers of local government for the geography of the town

- The MP(s) representing the town
  - The Local Enterprise Partnership
  - Local businesses and investors
  - Community/local voluntary community sector representatives
  - Other relevant local organisations, such as FE colleges or Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- All Town Deals will need to have an Accountable Body which will be a council through which funding will flow. Walsall Council will deliver this responsibility through the Programme Management service area, having a seat on the board in a secretariat capacity as a non- voting member, and be represented at all board meetings
- Lead Councils will have a seat on the board as a voting member and will take responsibility for ensuring that all decisions made by the Town Deal Board are in accordance with good governance principles. These principles will be set into place and published on the council website, together with other information as required by government through its published guidance

3.8 Guidance also included the Town Deal Board roles and responsibilities as follows:

- The Town Deal Board will sign off each stage of a Town Investment Plan and Town Deal
  - Upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles)
  - Developing and agreeing an evidence-based Town Investment Plan
  - Establishing a clear programme of interventions
  - Embedding arrangements in local plans (where appropriate) and undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments, and fulfilling duties on public authorities under the Equalities Act, in particular, and the public sector equality duty
  - Coordinating resources and engaging stakeholders
  - Ensuring communities' voices are involved in shaping design and decision making at each phase of development
  - Ensuring diversity in its engagement with local communities and businesses
  - Helping develop detailed business cases
  - Overseeing each step of agreeing a Town Deal, and overseeing compliance with the Heads of Terms Agreement with government

3.9 In September 2020, Cabinet approved the formation of the Town Deal Board in accordance with government guidance to represent both Bloxwich and Walsall areas, supported by an Advisory Board for each area. Each area would develop a Town Investment Plan setting out the strategic priorities, economic evidence and spending plans against the nominal allocation of £25m per area. The Town Investment Plans would act as bid documents to government, in order to secure as much of this allocation as possible.

### Accelerated Towns Fund

3.10 In June 2020, the Prime Minister announced £5bn of Accelerated Town Funds capital funding to bring forward investment projects that supported jobs and

economic recovery, complementing the main programmes under development. As part of this announcement, £750,000 was offered to support both Bloxwich and Walsall Towns Fund areas.

- 3.11 The government encouraged projects that supported towns to respond to challenges, including;
- Improvement to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links
  - Improvements to town centres including repurposing empty commercial properties
  - Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit
- 3.12 Council officers, stakeholders, partners, appointed consultants and the Deputy Leader worked together to develop a list of projects that fulfil the requirements of the Towns Fund that were capable of spending the £1.5m before 31 March 2021. The projects were considered and approved by the current Town Deal Board on 11 August 2020, and the Council's Corporate Management Team on 13 August 2020.
- 3.13 Projects included public realm enhancements, parks and green spaces improvements, CCTV provision, transport links and control measures, in summary two local packages of measures that could be delivered within a shorter timeframe and contribute to improved experience and accessibility within the two Town Deal areas.
- 3.14 This was then, in line with government guidance, followed by the submission of a letter to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) confirming the delivery plans for the £1.5million grant. This included confirmation from the Council's S151 officer that this spending was in line with the Towns Fund intervention framework as set out below. This also set the framework for the wider Town Deal investment. Cabinet authorised the formation of the Town Deal Board and the Accelerated Town Deal projects in September 2020.

Intervention Theme	Outputs	Target Outcomes
<b>Local Transport</b>	Increase in the number of bus services; new or upgraded cycle and walking routes; new or upgraded road infrastructure; pedestrianised streets	Improved affordability, convenience, reliability, and sustainability of travel options to and from places of work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved affordability, convenience, reliability, and sustainability of travel options to and from places of interest (especially shops and amenities)</li> <li>• Reduced congestion within the town</li> <li>• Enhanced high street and town centre experience that prioritises the health, safety and mobility of pedestrians</li> </ul>



<b>Digital Connectivity</b>	Provision of full fibre infrastructure with local authority as anchor tenant	Increased utilisation of digital channels, by businesses, to access and/or supply goods and services • Increased ability for individuals to work remotely/flexibly • Encouraging further investment from network operators
<b>Urban regeneration, planning and land use</b>	Remediation and/or development of previously abandoned or dilapidated sites	• Enhanced townscape that is more attractive and more accessible to residents, businesses and visitors
<b>Arts, culture and heritage</b>	New or upgraded museums, theatres, community spaces, etc	Improved arts, cultural and heritage offer that is more visible and easier for residents/visitors to access
<b>Skills Infrastructure</b>	Increase in the capacity and accessibility to new or improved skills facilities	Increased share of young people and adults who have relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship
<b>Enterprise Infrastructure</b>	Increase in the amount of high-quality and affordable commercial floorspace; increase in the number of shared workspaces or innovation facilities	Increased number of enterprises utilising high-quality, affordable and sustainable commercial spaces • Increased number of start-ups and/or scale-ups utilising business incubation, acceleration and co-working spaces

### Town Investment Plans

- 3.15 Town Investment Plans were worked up by the Town Deal Board in consultation with stakeholders and consultants. These documents were evidence based and driven by the intervention framework as set out above, determined by government. Bloxwich and Walsall plans were submitted by Walsall Council on behalf of the Town Deal Board as per the prescribed deadline of February 2021.
- 3.16 The plans contained a list of projects that were deemed by the Town Deal Board to fit the need within the designated areas; the projects were led either by Walsall Council or by partners within the Town Deal Board membership. Government response to the submissions was received in June 2021 for Walsall and July 2021 for Bloxwich; each Town Investment Plan bid was successful in securing £21.3m, resulting in a £42.6m grant for the borough. Successful projects were as follows:

### **Walsall**



Construction Skills Academy	Providing a range of construction skills training to ensure Walsall residents benefit from the investment in house building and construction in the town and the wider area. Supporting entry level construction skills training, creating apprenticeships and providing training in advanced methods of construction to support supply chain development. Relocating the existing activity at Hollemeadow Avenue in Bloxwich and building on the activity on the Green Lane Campus (close to Walsall Town Centre) and creating a new, improved facility which will provide lasting and sustainable impact on communities accessing training and employment.
Advanced Electric Vehicle Technology Centre	The provision of a new training facility that will meet the skills ambition of the West Midlands to become a centre for advanced vehicle technology. The facility will provide learning opportunities in the new and emerging electric vehicle market and will be delivered in partnership with Walsall College within their Wisemore Campus. This will create the skills to service a more sustainable town, region and nation which is shifting to lower carbon emitting electric vehicles which contribute toward to the Government's Clean Growth and Road to Zero strategy.
Town Centre Performing Arts Venue	The creation of a modern, multi-use entertainment and performance arena within Walsall Town Centre aligned to the ambitions of the Walsall Town Centre Masterplan. The multi-function 1,000 seat performing arts and cultural space will replace a poorly located out-of-centre existing venue. The new arena will be accessible to all communities and organisations across the borough, located on Walsall high street and adjacent to the transport hubs providing sustainable connectivity for all. This project will drive footfall and spending at the town core, thereby supporting the vitality of the town centre day and evening economy.
Active Travel and Connectivity	Delivering interventions which create active connections - including cycling and walking - between Walsall town centre, Bloxwich high street, and local employment sites such as Phoenix 10. This will involve a range of interventions to the road and canal infrastructure which improve the pedestrian experience and safety through improved footways, lighting, CCTV, signage following Secured by Design and accessibility principles.
Digital Skills Hub	Creating a new digital skills hub in Walsall town centre. Aimed at accelerating digital growth and a 'ready to go' employable workforce with the skills, knowledge and experience to succeed. This will further build on the Mercian Trust investments in the town centre. The project will provide ample upskilling and lifelong learning opportunities, accessible digital infrastructure and connectivity and will improve future career opportunities.

Creative Industries Enterprise Centre	Creation of a makerspace, creative incubator and skills development hub. Aimed at small enterprises and local residents and to be integrated within the wider ecosystem of support to our creative industries sector. Providing a high street presence, with the potential to create Walsall's version of the Digbeth Custard Factory or Bristol Engine Shed. This will build on the Mercian Trust investments in the St Matthew's area of Walsall.
Active Public Spaces	Developing an inviting, engaging and quality public space which better links the high street to the New Art Gallery and edge of town retail. Aligned to the ambitions of the Town Centre Masterplan this project will help to change the Walsall Experience through physical and visual links which draw people into the town and Waterfront. This high-quality space will put Walsall New Art Gallery at its heart and improve this critical space for town centre users and canal boaters. The project will deliver facilities which will encourage boaters to visit and extend their stays around the Canal Basin, creating a vibrant and active waterfront.
Community Capital	Grants programme, seeks submissions for funding from local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and social enterprise organisations. All supported activities must be linked to supporting the economic development of local people or companies and meet town deal capital rules criteria. Examples include; the provision or improvement of learning venues that provide skills and employment support for local people, that drive economic growth.

## Bloxwich

Active Travel and Connectivity	Physical interventions which create active connections - including cycling and walking - between Bloxwich high street, Walsall town centre and local employment sites. This will involve a range of interventions to the road and canal infrastructure which improve the pedestrian experience and safety through improved footways, lighting, CCTV, signage following Secured by Design and accessibility principles. The extent of the works will cover the station to the town centre, high street and canal towpaths.
Promotion of Construction Skills through Regeneration	Promoting long term local employment and construction skills training for Bloxwich residents through a fund that will deliver neighbourhood renewal. The fund will seek applications from local housing associations and developers to financially support the remediation of existing derelict brownfield sites, and the environmental upgrading of existing dwellings. To access the fund applicants will be asked to make commitments to providing local jobs for local people, the use of local supply chains and the delivery construction skills and training for local people by developers. Outcomes will

	include; improved quality of neighbourhood, reduced carbon emissions and costs, together with people trained and employed. Through this fund strong partnerships with new and existing skills centres/social enterprise projects will be built.
Community Capital	Grants programme, seeks submissions for funding from local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and social enterprise organisations. All supported activities must be linked to supporting the economic development of local people or companies and meet town deal capital rules criteria. Examples include; the provision or improvement of learning venues that provide skills and employment support for local people, that drive economic growth.
Incubation Space and Digital Access Centre	This project will provide an incubation hub in Bloxwich High Street which can be accessed by a range of partners. The facility will provide incubation space for local start-ups and small businesses and allow access to digital connectivity for local residents who do not have home access to broadband. The facility will also include the provision of co-working rented spaces which allows the businesses to collaborate and provides an income stream for the facility.
Green Bloxwich	<p>Creating multi-use spaces which will incorporate new parks, sports arenas, allotment spaces for growing food and zones to attract and encourage wildlife. The spaces will include a social events and public space for festivals and presentations and events. It will provide children, young people and adults a space to dwell and socialise providing positive social and health benefits and assist in providing the residents with local access to the outdoors which supports with Covid-19 resilience.</p> <p>This project also includes the refurbishment of heritage buildings in King George's V Park to bring them into economic use such as the conversion to community café and skills training facility.</p> <p>As the project develops it will focus on designing out crime and anti social behaviour to create a space which attracts positive use.</p>

### Next Steps – Business Case development and submission

- 3.17 The above projects, while nominally approved within the funding envelope, are now subject to further scrutiny at the next stage of development. Project leads are currently developing business cases as prescribed by HM Treasury Green Book, a standard method of investment appraisal. This is based on “the 5 cases”, these being Strategic, Economic, Financial, Commercial and Management. These will set out the case for change, the financial proposition, value for money, commercial and legal arrangements and delivery milestones, as well as full risk assessments. When the business cases have been developed they will be independently appraised for the Town Deal Board which will recommend them to the Executive Director of Resources and Transformation for approval in consultation with the

Deputy Leader of the Council. the Town Deal Board for approval. Should the Board approve the business cases then this transparent appraisal process will be shared with government to secure the funding for approved projects.

- 3.18 Government has set timescales for the next stage of approval and the Town Deal Board must have completed the appraisal process for submission to government by June 2022. This will release funding an enable projects to enter delivery phase for completion by March 2025.
- 3.19 In December 2021 Cabinet agreed to delegate authority of business case approval, on the recommendations resulting from the processes set out above, to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration. It also authorised submission of these approvals to the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, which will trigger the release of the £42.6m funding. Cabinet also agreed the financial proposition as set out below in Section 4.

#### **4. *Financial information***

- 4.1 The Town Investment Plans were submitted to Government in February 2021, each requesting £25m, a total of £50million for both towns. Subsequently government made £21.3m available for each town, a combined total of £42.6m. This was subject to agreeing and signing off the Head of Terms accompanying these offers, and the submission of Project Confirmation Tables for each project. These requirements were completed successfully, enabling both Bloxwich and Walsall programmes to move to the next stage, the completion of their individual Businesses Cases.
- 4.3. To accommodate the £42.6m offered a mixture of measures was agreed by both the Council and Town Deal Board, including; the withdrawal of one Walsall Project, proportionate allocation reductions, together with the council underwriting the balance of £4.229m. This being subject to projects considering cost reductions / value engineering, seeking out external funding and the completion and approval of their Business Cases to minimise the eventual underwriting required. These details are included within the Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2025/26 cabinet report approved on the 20 October 2021.
- 4.4. The following table sets out the financial details associated with both the Bloxwich and Walsall Town Deal programmes, including the Towns Fund offers for each at £21.3m including the details of the council underwriting and matching funding, together with funding provided by project stakeholders, with the combined totals now exceeding £65million

PROJECTS	Town Deal DLUHC grant award (£)	Council underwriting (£)	Town Deal + Council underwriting (£)	Council Match Funding	Total budgets administered by Walsall Council	External Funding Match	Total Funding Package
Construction Skills Academy	1,314,000	0	1,314,000	0	1,314,000	2,559,000	3,873,000
Advanced Electric Vehicle Technology Centre	909,000	0	909,000	0	909,000	2,063,000	2,972,000
Town Centre Performing Arts Venue	9,382,000	318,160	9,700,000	1,250,000	10,950,160	0	10,950,160
Active Travel and Connectivity	968,000	32,592	1,000,592	0	1,000,592	0	1,000,592
Digital Skills Hub	908,000	0	908,000	0	908,000	13,032,200	13,940,200
Creative Industries Enterprise Centre	1,783,000	0	1,783,000	0	1,783,000	62,000	1,845,000
Active Public Spaces	4,493,000	162,960	4,655,960	0	4,655,960	0	4,655,960
Community Capital	904,000	0	904,000	0	904,000	0	904,000
Programme Management	639,000	15,888	654,888	0	654,888	0	654,888
<b>Walsall Totals</b>	<b>21,300,000</b>	<b>529,999</b>	<b>21,829,888</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>23,079,600</b>	<b>17,716,200</b>	<b>40,795,800</b>
Active Travel and Connectivity	3,620,000	0	3,620,000	0	3,620,000	0	3,620,000
Construction Skills Through Regeneration	10,617,000	0	10,617,000	0	10,617,000	0	10,617,000
Community Capital	2,498,000	0	2,498,000	0	2,498,000	0	2,498,000
Incubation Space & Digital Access Centre	1,562,000	1,435,600	2,997,600	0	2,997,600	0	2,997,000
Green Bloxwich	2,364,000	2,153,400	4,517,400	0	4,517,400	0	4,517,400
Programme Management	639,000	111,000	750,000	0	750,000	0	750,000
<b>Bloxwich Totals</b>	<b>21,300,000</b>	<b>3,700,000</b>	<b>25,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,000,000</b>
<b>TOWNS FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>42,600,000</b>	<b>4,229,600</b>	<b>46,829,600</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>46,829,600</b>	<b>17,716,200</b>	<b>65,795,800</b>

- 4.5 On 6 December 2021, Cabinet approved a further contribution of £1,250,000 to replace lost match for the Town Centre Performing Arts Venue project, as a result of the withdrawal of the Town Centre Community Learning Campus; although reducing the programme shortfall by £3,000,000, also removed an opportunity to generate matching funding from potential revenues from the sale of an existing site.

## 5. *Reducing Inequalities*

- 5.1 There are no direct equalities impacts as a result of the decisions recommended in this report. For individual projects EQIAs will be carried out once the exact scope and nature of the schemes is sufficiently clear and these will go through due process as the projects move out of business case development.

## 6. **Decide**

- 6.1 The committee will decide and advise as to whether the information above is satisfactory and whether further information is required.

## 7. **Respond**

- 7.1 Town Deal programme will continue with the development, drafting and submission of the required (by government) business case documents, so that the Towns Fund resources can be unlocked. In doing so officers will incorporate any response or recommendation from this committee.

## 8. **Review**

- 8.1 The programme will continue to be reviewed by council officers and reported to the Town Deal board and internally as required. An update will be submitted to Cabinet in Spring 2022 along with requests for any further approvals as required

**Background papers**

None

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**18 JANUARY, 2022**

**Climate Emergency Action Plan Update**

**Ward(s):** All

**Portfolios:** Councillor Bird, Leader of the Council

**1. Aim**

- 1.1 Significant climate change would threaten the wellbeing of our residents and disrupt our economy. By achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 the council will help to manage this risk.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the progress made in delivering the measures identified in the climate emergency action plan, as detailed in Appendix 1.

**3. Report detail – know**

- 3.1 In June 2019, the UK became the world's first major economy to legislate a commitment to cut emissions to net zero by 2050. The Environment Bill 2020 is one of the government's key vehicles for delivering the bold vision as set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan. It is part of a step-change in environmental protection and recovery, setting a new and ambitious domestic framework for environmental governance and one which places greater responsibility on councils, specifically in their roles as local planning, highway and drainage authorities.
- 3.2 The Council declared a climate change emergency on 16 September 2019 and committed to becoming a net zero carbon authority by 2050. In 2020, the WMCA pledged to reach net zero carbon emissions no later than 2041 publishing "WM2041 – A Programme for Implementing an Environmental Recovery." The Council continues to play a key role working alongside regional partners to tackle climate change and is operating within the framework established by the UK Parliament.



- 3.3 On 21 October 2020 Cabinet approved a climate emergency action plan to address the commitments of the declaration passed in 2019. The first phase of the action plan covers 'Scope 1' and 'Scope 2' emissions using best practice guidance as set by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.
- 'Scope 1' covers all direct emissions from the activities of the Council or under the Council's control. This includes fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, fleet vehicles and air-conditioning leaks.
  - 'Scope 2' covers indirect emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation. Emissions are created during the production of the energy and eventually used by the organisation.
  - 'Scope 3' covers all other indirect emissions from activities of the organisation, occurring from sources that the Council does not own or does not control.
- 3.4 The action plan set out the initial opportunities the Council had identified to reduce carbon emissions relating to its own estate and operations. The Council will continue to engage staff and stakeholders to expand the range of actions that will enable us to meet our target.
- 3.5 The first phase of the action plan covers a five-year period up to 2025. There are established tools available to support carbon budgeting and reporting, and these will be utilised to set specific targets as individual project detail is developed.
- 3.6 The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on many Council services and changed the way the Council operates. On 16 June 2021 Cabinet approved a reset action plan aligned to the Walsall Proud Promises and Corporate Plan outcomes. This builds on the new ways of working expedited by the pandemic and will guide the work of the Council over the coming months. The reset action plan has the potential to significantly accelerate progress towards net zero.
- 3.7 In addition to reducing carbon emissions, 'carbon offsetting' can be achieved through tree planting. Applications for grant aid have been submitted to a variety of schemes to support tree planting across the borough. The successful application to the Tiny Forest programme will enabled nine miniature woodlands to be planted during January 2022.
- 3.8 Details of progress against the action plan are contained in Appendix 1. As the plan covers the period up to 2025 there are some measures that have not been progressed. COVID has also had in impact on delivery, with some short-term measures being delayed and some medium and long term measures being delivered sooner than planned. Measures without progress have been omitted; however, the original full action plan can be found [here](#) (also see background papers).



#### **4. Financial information**

- 4.1 Delivery of the action plan will have a range of financial implications. The plan includes the preparation of a business case for a climate change programme manager. It may be possible to find external funding for this post.

#### **5. Reducing Inequalities**

- 5.1 Climate change affects all sections of society. However, some groups may require additional support to make the necessary lifestyle and behavioural changes than others. Equality impact screening will be undertaken against all actions and equality impact assessments will be carried out where necessary.

#### **6. Decide**

- 6.1 No decisions are required as this is a progress report for noting.

#### **7. Respond**

- 7.1 Delivery of the climate action plan will continue, with business cases brought forward on specific measures, as required.

#### **8. Review**

- 8.1 The Council will monitor achievements against measures set out in the action plan, using established tools to support carbon budgeting and reporting. An annual review of the action plan will continue to be presented to cabinet and scrutiny.

#### **Background papers**

Cabinet – 21st October 2020, Agenda Item 12, Carbon Neutral Council

Cabinet – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021, Agenda Item 13, Climate Emergency Action Plan Update

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Executive Director

Councillor Mike Bird  
Leader of the Council

## Appendix 1 – Climate Emergency Action Plan Progress

Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
<b>Theme 1. Strategy</b>			
1.1 Establish effective governance for the #WalsallZero2050 Programme & identify dedicated resource.	a) Formalised internal governance structure with the establishment of an internal Climate Action Taskforce meeting every 4 weeks with regular online communication via 'office teams'.	Short	Ongoing – Task force of those delivering measures in the action plan is continuing to meet every 4 weeks with cross-directorate membership.
	b) Climate Change Programme Manager (CCPM) recruited as a priority to 3 year fixed term post to lead on programme planning & monitoring & to populate carbon savings per action measure.	Short	Cabinet approved the integration of a fixed term Climate Change Programme Manager into the Clean and Green service structure as part of the wider Proud Transformation. While this is in progress an officer is picking up the role 2 days per week.
	c) Council to establish an internal project team identifying Officer 'champions' within each service area for cross-departmental engagement & aligned to change management process.	Short	This will be picked up by the Councils cross-directorate Change Champions, chaired by Director of Place & Environment.
	e) Annual performance review for cabinet and scrutiny.	Short	The first annual update report was presented to cabinet in October 2021.
1.2. Climate Change embedded within decision-making.	a) Climate Change integrated into Council Reset Strategy.	Short	The blended working approach will allow a rationalisation of property assets, with associated reductions in direct CO2 emissions. It should be noted that disposal of building assets that continue to be used by another party may help achieve the Council's current objective of being carbon neutral by 2050, but may not contribute to the national objective without action by the new owner.
	c) Climate Change reflected within committee reporting process i.e. sustainability appraisal.	Short	Ongoing - All Council reports now include a statement referencing Climate Change implications.
	d) Climate Change integrated into immediate to longer-term financial strategy & external funding priorities.	Short	External Funding Strategy is in development. Funding has been secured for a number of 'green' initiatives e.g. Defra Green Recovery Fund £1.7M bid via CRT to support improvements to the nature recovery network and Veolia Charitable Trust upgrade to Ryecroft Route 5 Cycle Route (£57k). £2.6M pending bid for Darlaston Baths - Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. EOI submitted via Midland Energy Hub for business case consultancy support; prioritisation of 4 buildings 1) Civic 2) Council House and Town Hall 3) Art Gallery 4) Active Living Centres.
1.6 Promote Sustainable Procurement.	a) Review Procurement Policy & consider extent to which Social Value Act can be used to help achieve Council's Climate Change Strategy	Medium	The Council's procurement social value policy includes the following: promoting environmental sustainability by reducing wastage and climate impacts, limiting energy consumption, improving and procuring materials from renewable and sustainable sources.
1.7 As part of a longer-term vision of a net zero carbon borough, to encourage environmental education and promote climate action amongst	b) Encourage a low carbon economy by supporting local businesses to adopt energy efficiency measures and signposting to relevant services and funding opportunities.	Short	We continue to work with partners like the University of Wolverhampton to promote their programmes, including EnTress and the Brownfield Research Innovation Centre. We also signpost to the Black Country Growth Hub energy efficiency resources and are well linked into the 'Repowering the Black Country' programme and have actually lined them up with some of our local businesses

Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
residents, schools, businesses and communities.	c) Support green jobs recovery in the borough.	Short	We are aligned with the Manufacturing Technology Centre and the catapult system, as well as working with Innovate UK and our local Growth Hub to buy new pieces of kit/ machinery, as well as delivering our own AIM for Gold programme which supports local businesses in their endeavours to innovate.
	e) Work in partnership with local businesses to reduce litter through promotion and sign up to Walsall's Litter Charter and development of 'Green' Corporate Social Responsibility Programmes.	Short	Walsall Council's innovative Community Litter Watch initiative won this year's Keep Britain Tidy community engagement award and has been shortlisted for Local Government Chronicle award. The impact of the programme includes:
	f) Implementation of a Green Community Engagement Programme including Volunteer Litter Picker Leader Training, Community Group Workshops & Events to promote behavioural change.	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 750% increase in the number of new litter picker volunteers, from 70 to 596</li> <li>• 111 community litter picking events since its inception, removing 3,525 bags of litter</li> <li>• 1,263 total attendances lasting 4,939 hours</li> <li>• Active litter picking groups doubled from 16 to 32</li> <li>• 10 litter picking stations have been created across the borough</li> <li>• Active Facebook group with 890 active members and sustained engagement</li> <li>• 169 businesses/shops have expressed an interest in signing up to the Litter Charter</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 2. Energy</b>			
2.1 Estates Strategy aligned with climate action plan	a) Review usage of Council properties & consider removal (by disposal, sale or demolition) of the most energy efficient buildings.	Long	<p>An interim Strategic Asset Plan for 2021 to 2025 has been drafted, which references the climate change action plan. One of the principles of the plan is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To align the Corporate Estate with the Council's Strategic Plan as well as the Carbon Neutral target.</li> </ul>
	b) Align climate action closely with refreshed Estate Strategy	Long	
2.2 Implement and review a Council wide Energy Savings Campaign Programme (gas/electricity) across Council buildings and schools where practical.	a) Ongoing review of the Council's energy purchasing strategy and the potential for green supplies.	Short	<p>The plan includes the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 31 March 2022 have in place an Energy Strategy to minimise energy demand, supply remaining requirements efficiently and reduce carbon emissions.</li> </ul> <p>The plan includes an environmental, green energy and carbon policy which states: The environmental impact of everything that we do is becoming more significant as time goes by. There are multiple opportunities to reduce this impact when it comes to owning and managing property. The council will do everything that it can to take advantage of these opportunities. The council will as part of the Asset Management process continue to monitor and improve where possible, council owned / occupied buildings environmental impact and it will work with partners to ensure the use of the most environmentally friendly systems of energy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon Emissions</li> <li>• Water Management</li> </ul>
	b) Dependent on 2.1.a. - New heating and ventilation system for the Civic Centre & Council House designed with A rated boilers and more manageable heating controllers to improve efficiency (Estimate 2 year programme)	Medium	
	c) Dependent on 2.1.a - Installation of LED lighting within buildings and light dimming technology expanded from Civic Centre to Council House ( Estimate 19 month programme)	Medium	
	d) Continue purchase of white goods - A or A* rated electrical equipment only.	Short	
	e) Dependent on 2.a - Replacement of windows to energy efficient units (A+) in the Civic Centre and Council House as part of a 2 year programme.	Medium	
	f) Review Civic Centre air conditioning systems including staff feedback survey on civic centre ventilation.	Medium	
	g) Implement Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates & Inspections)	Short	

Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
2.3 Encourage and enable energy saving behaviour by all Council staff.	h) Support Walsall schools to implement a schools energy policy & investigate Invest-to-Save and Salix for Schools funds to implement energy/carbon efficiency measures.	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Management</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Travel &amp; Transport</li> <li>• Biodiversity and Ecosystems</li> </ul> <p>The Council is committed to becoming a net zero carbon authority by 2050.</p> <p>The Council will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play a key role working alongside regional partners to tackle climate change and will operate within the framework established by the UK Parliament.</li> <li>• Ensure that direct emissions from the activities of the Council or under the Council's control, including fuel combustion on site such as gas boilers, are reduced.</li> <li>• Ensure that indirect emissions from electricity purchased and used by the organisation are reduced.</li> <li>• Engage staff and stakeholders in actions that will enable us to meet our target.</li> <li>• Introduce offsetting initiatives including solar energy and solar farm(s).</li> <li>• Review its maintenance policies to specify highly efficient plant and services, rather than replacing like-for-like.</li> <li>• Reduce energy use and improve building efficiency within the Council's Estate.</li> <li>• Carry out feasibility studies on cost effective improvements for 'high energy users' such as Active Living Centres and Crematoria.</li> <li>• Undertake energy savings campaigns and integration of low carbon and renewable energy options where feasible.</li> <li>• Explore a wide range of external funding options including the Government's £3billion Green Investment Package which includes £1billion for public retrofit to reduce emissions and invest in green heating technology.</li> </ul> <p>A bid to develop a Net Zero Neighbourhood in the west of the borough is being drafted, with funding from WMCA.</p>
	i) Review energy usage of Active Living Centres, Crematoria, and Streetly Cemetery and implement any cost-effective improvements as a matter of priority.	Medium	
	a) Improve individual accountability. Energy savings achieved through awareness campaigns aimed at Council staff will cut energy bills and reduce carbon emissions each year.	Short	
2.4 Replace streetlights with energy efficiency lighting systems by 2023.	a) 22,856 LED street light bulbs will be installed across Walsall by September 2023 (ERDF funded).	Medium	On 16/06/21 Cabinet approved a £10.5 LED street lighting invest to save programme that will upgrade 23,000 street lights across Walsall to LED from December 2021 with completion due by December 2024.
2.5 Conduct a viability study on Council sites to integrate low carbon and renewable energy options such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps.	a) Conduct feasibility study, obtain quotes & submit CMT/cabinet report for use of solar panels / PV across Council sites.	Medium	See 2.1 – Estates Strategy
	b) Monitor impact of 49.8KW solar panel system on Civic Centre for possible replication on Town Hall.	Long	
	c) Investigate low carbon & renewable energy options for leisure centres.	Medium	



Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
	d) Deliver the heat mapping and master planning programme.	Long	Progress will be monitored when each area masterplan is developed and the accompanying energy work is carried out
	f) Investigate use of wasteland for solar farm development.	Long	Work yet to be carried out to identify possible locations and delivery models. Initial scoping to be complete by year end.
2.6 Tackle fuel poverty and improve home energy as part of the Council's long term vision of a net zero borough.	a) Implementation of the Council's HECA Plan to tackle fuel poverty, excessive winter deaths, residential carbon emissions, and poor health resulting from cold / damp homes.	Medium	Progress against the plan is reported in the latest HECA report (July 2021) which can be found using the link below:
	b) Continue promotion of the Council's home energy saving initiatives and collective energy switching schemes to residents (From autumn 2020 the fuel switches will require all bidding companies to use 100% renewable power).	Medium	<a href="https://go.walsall.gov.uk/Portals/0/Uploads/Housing/Housing%20and%20welfare/heca%20update%20July%202021%20Final%20.pdf?ver=MRq2ls331qhSVuXkx6BILA%3d%3d">https://go.walsall.gov.uk/Portals/0/Uploads/Housing/Housing%20and%20welfare/heca%20update%20July%202021%20Final%20.pdf?ver=MRq2ls331qhSVuXkx6BILA%3d%3d</a>
	c) Work with our partners (including energy companies, Registered Social Landlords, NHS Walsall, Private Landlords) to reduce fuel poverty by targeting any discretionary assistance (capital investment, advice and support) and seeking external funding /advice to help residents of these properties.	Medium	This Includes securing £10M+ of funding via competitive routes for energy and insulation works to residents homes.
	d) Continue to ensure that landlords, agents and those selling or letting their homes are aware of their legal obligation to provide and make available Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and take appropriate action against those who fail in this obligation.	Medium	From April 2020 to Sept 2021 we secured 594 new upgraded or valid EPCs from private landlords. A total of 255 of these were originally F or G rated with a further 130 not having any EPC at all
<b>Theme 3. Waste &amp; Consumption</b>			
3.1 Reduce the total volume of waste and associated costs through technological and behavioural change.	a) Develop an action plan to reduce waste arisings and increase reuse & recycling across council premises and operations.	Medium	New government legislation is expected in 2022 which will require the Council to refresh its current waste strategy. Greater emphasis will be placed on waste prevention including new duties on waste producers to increase % recycling content in packaging. A new waste strategy will be prepared and presented to Cabinet setting out a detailed action plan to meet the requirements of the expected Environment Act.
	b) Develop a communication strategy which engages residents, schools, communities and businesses with measures to reduce the volume of waste they produce and increase participation / quality of reuse & recycling. Explore incentive schemes via external funding.	Medium	
	c) Continue to support and promote community initiatives to reduce waste & fly-tipping e.g. Walsall Litter Charter, Green CSR Programmes, ACT Initiative, and WASSUP 2022 Litter Challenge.	Medium	
	d) Increase the amount of waste composted from council and school premises. Waste from parks / green spaces is composted / biomass and sold for power.	Medium	
<b>3.2 Work towards the Council becoming plastic free.</b>	e) Work with local businesses to develop ambitious alternative to plastics (for example by accessing Innovate UK funding).	Medium	Package to be developed to advise businesses of available support for innovation and to match interested businesses with funding sources and development partners such as HE institutions.
	a) Explore feasibility of moving to mandatory E-payslips.	Medium	Implemented.

Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
3.3 Reduce the Council's paper waste.	b) Implement a print reduction campaign e.g. reduced printer availability, limit colour printing, MFD removal, staff awareness campaigns, promote use of Office 365.	Short	On 16/06/21 Cabinet approved a reset action plan aligned to the Walsall Proud Promises and Corporate Plan outcomes that builds on the new ways working expedited by the Covid-19 pandemic and guides the work of the council over the coming months. The reset action plan recognises that printing has been significantly reduced.  The appended action plan includes a review of the impact of blended working on all support services including printing.
3.4 New HWRC sites - Middlemore Lane & Fryers Road	a) Introduce reuse shops at both sites. - Residents can take unwanted items which can be upcycled or repaired. - Residents can buy pre-owned, repaired and refurbished items cheaply. b) Introduce a facility for local small businesses. c) Generate renewable energy by installing solar panels on both sites. d) Reduce the amount of Walsall's waste going to landfill and improve Walsall recycling rates.	Long	Planning application for Middlemore Lane due to be submitted to Council early 2022. Provisional design includes new reuse shop and solar farm.
<b>Theme 4. Transport</b>			
4.1 Development and implementation of a Staff Green Travel Plan.	a) Corporate Staff Travel Survey conducted, which provides baseline for a new Council Staff Green Travel Plan. Integrate planning into Culture & Behaviours workstream as part of the Thrive Workplace Health Programme.	Medium	The response to COVID has transformed staff travel patterns. An employee survey was undertaken in June 2020 and repeated again during May 2021, which fed into to reset action plan approved by Cabinet on 16/06/21.
	b) Development of smarter working initiatives including permanent agile / home working arrangements and use of technology to reduce employee travel to workplace.	Short	The reset action plan included a number of principles of blended working, including: 'staff currently working from home will continue to do so and will only meet in buildings for the purposes of collaboration, team building, on boarding and development opportunities'.
4.2 Develop public transport initiatives which enable a rapid shift towards active and sustainable travel modes.	a) Explore and develop digital wayfinding measures and provide real time travel updates via e-totems (ERDF funded).	Medium	Enhanced wayfinding options for Bloxwich Station are being drawn up as part of the Bloxwich Towns Fund programme; these include provision of a new totem information board outside the station and more signage to provide better connectivity between the rail station and Bloxwich High Street. Walsall Station is being improved by the FHSF Connected Gateway project.
	b) Implement the Emergency Active Travel Fund Grant to encourage more / safer cycling and walking in the borough including temporary traffic management measures, a new 'pedestrian and cyclist friendly zone' in Walsall Town Centre, installing additional cycle parking on council owned land, as well as remarking and resigning existing cycle routes/infrastructure.	Short	The Emergency Active Travel Tranche 1 Grant was fully utilised in Summer/Autumn 2020 to implement measures to encourage more/safer cycling and walking in the borough. Measures include: a new pedestrian and cyclist friendly zone on Wolverhampton St in Walsall Town Centre, 4 additional 'Cyclehoop' cycle planters being installed on council owned land, School Streets being implemented on a trial basis at 5 locations across the borough, as well as re-marking and re-signing existing cycle routes and infrastructure. Walsall Council are currently using Active Travel Tranche 2 funding to deliver two additional cycling and walking projects. These are: Connecting Bentley Phase II and School Streets Phase II.

Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
	c) Implement LCWIP Cycling and Walking Measures to make significant improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure (subject to funding) including: 1) LCWIP Corridor: Rushall to Brownhills via B4152 2) LCWIP Corridor: Darlaston to Walsall town centre via A4038 3) LCWIP Corridor: Wolverhampton City Centre to Walsall 4) LCWIP Corridor: A34 Perry Barr Extension through to Walsall 5) Core Walking Zone: Walsall to Willenhall.	Long	Ongoing design work in progress - improvements implemented to NCN 5 in 2021
	d) Review potential railway station developments,	Long	New stations in development at Darlaston and Willenhall (fully funded by WMCA and DfT/GRIP Stage 5 in progress); proposal for Aldridge Station in development (currently unfunded/GRIP2 completed); improvements to Walsall Station in development (funded from FHSF/Basic Asset Protection Agreement currently being negotiated with Network Rail).
	e) Review electric bus feasibility options.	Long	TfWM are leading work to electrify the West Midlands bus fleet via a current ZEBRA bid and the Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP), with project funding via the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for the West Midlands covering the period 2022-27.
4.3 Promote and encourage ultra-low and low emission vehicles in Walsall and sustainable transport options in accordance with the Transport in Walsall Strategy 2017-22 and the West Midlands / Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy.	a) To accelerate and amplifying the EV transition in anticipation of a 2035 ban on the sale of conventional vehicles, including coordinating with TfWM to support installation of additional rapid and ultra-rapid chargers.	Long	Work is underway to refresh the West Midlands Local Transport Plan (to be adopted by 2022) and develop a complementary Black Country Transport Strategy/Local Transport Plan Area-Based Strategy for the Black Country, plus the Black Country Plan refresh, all of which have decarbonisation and net zero targets at their core.
	b) Publishing a local public transport decarbonisation action plan;	Long	
	c) Review off-street electric vehicle charging in Council owned car parks.	Long	ON HOLD as these items were to be delivered and funded from the £5m conversion to a low carbon economy bid that we submitted to government for ERDF funding - the funding offer was withdrawn by MHCLG.

Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
	e) Monitor and review air quality across the borough to determine whether national air quality objectives are being met	Short	<p>As part of upgrading and future-proofing of its air quality monitoring network The council has now deployed 4 continuous real –time particle samplers in place of older, gravimetric units, which cater for multiple PM size fractions. A fifth sampler is scheduled to be deployed in October 2021.</p> <p>A predictive nitrogen dioxide (NO2) rad traffic model has been completed and is published on the council's web site for 2020. This is the first wholly predictive borough-wide model to be produced, and details areas and locations of known or likely exceedance and concern in regard to the National Air Quality Objective. This informs planning development proposals and highway/road scheme interventions and improvement works.</p> <p>Work is now commencing on the borough-wide 2022 NO2 model.</p> <p>On account of the influence of neighbouring councils, work has also been completed on a 2021 Black Country NO2 model which will in due course be published following consultation with BC authorities.</p> <p>Review of air quality monitoring requirements is on-going which will take into account in due course requirements of the forthcoming Environment Act .</p>
4.4 Explore and deliver a transition of the council's own fleet to electric	a) Development of a fully costed 'Green Fleet Proposal' to manage and reduce the environmental impact of Council fleet on emissions.	Medium	A review of the electric RCV concluded that significant additional charging infrastructure will be required to ensure a successful pilot. A draft investment proposal identified need for <i>c20k investment to upgrade electrical power system at Pelsall depot.</i>
	b) Reduce unnecessary miles/trips and fuel costs by investigating optimum routes and maximising performance of the vehicles making use of Quartix telematics system currently installed on all vehicles.	Long	Alloy ICT upgrade went live in June 2021 - routes on domestic rounds already optimised. Development work in progress for trade waste and bulky waste collections
<b>Theme 5. Nature</b>			
5.1 Enhancing the borough's parks and green spaces to increase meadow, wetland, and green areas in Walsall.	a) Implementation of the Black Country Blue Network 2 ERDF Programme to March 2023- 16.85 hectares of woodland management, wildflower meadows, linear habitat features, hedge planting, pond desilting and enhancement, bulb planting, interpretation and sign posting and upgrading access. Delivered at several sites that are connected by greenways, canal network and public rights of way including Victoria Park, Kingshill Park, George Rose Park, Moorcroft Wood and Walsall Canal in Darlaston.	Medium	Implementation of some of the wildflower areas has progressed and some consultation has taken place with Key stakeholders
	c) Secure external funding for the development of a 'Love Exploring App' which using augmented reality, mapping and trails, engages people with nature and encourages walking and active travel.	Short	Completed - App launched in 2020 and now includes seasonal themes e.g Halloween AR



Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
<b>5.2 Investigate and cost opportunities to increase urban greening.</b>	a) Develop greening strategy and Identify land to offset carbon through increased tree planting and creating wildlife friendly corridors.	Medium	New DEFRA fund for developing pipeline projects EOI submitted for carbon offsetting schemes. Unsuccessful with first round application. Review and resubmit. Dec 21  Black Country Consortium grant from the Woodland Trusts Emergency Treet Fund to commission Treeconomics to carry out a tree survey of the Black Country. Will give accurate idea of tree cover and condition. Results will be used to better plan where to plant and the benefits they bring. Survey until Autumn 2021, project reports written for each Local Authority. Drafts have been seen. Software = iTree Eco.
	b) Integrate the management of green spaces with town centre master planning and regeneration strategies to allow the mitigation and adaptation benefits to be realised.	Short	Small number of Greening schemes delivered as part of Town Centre improvements. New schemes being developed as part of Town Centre Plan.
	e) Alignment with WMCA Virtual Forest Campaign and carbon offsetting.	Short	Some planting schemes delivered and data input onto WMCA virtual Forest, new Tiny Forests being implemented Jan 22. With further projects being developed.
	f) Pledge to plant more trees.	Medium	Tiny Forests being delivered in January 2022, 9 sites with 600 trees.
5.3 Conduct a viability study on parks and green spaces to integrate renewable energy such as solar thermal, PV or heat pumps and LED technology.	a) Conduct audit and cost options to introduce of lighting across parks building on installation of LED lighting in the Arboretum to increase efficiency savings.	Medium	New projects being developed for sustainable buildings on Bloxwich Greening project in King George 5th Park and Leamore Park, as part of Towns Fund project.
	b) Review equipment and replace with more efficient or battery operated technology.	Medium	Led by H&S team on a risk assessment basis - replacement of operational equipment with new electric / battery powered tools continues to roll out across Clean & Green services.
5.4 Renewal of the Green Space Strategy to raise additional parks to Green Flag standard.	a) Green Space Strategy renewal in 2022 to consider an increase of parks to Green Flag status.	Medium	Two parks (King George V and Pleck Park) have been submitted for judging and results will be known by end of 2021.  New submissions at Barr Beacon and Leamore Park for 2022. Improvements to monitoring and development at Rough Wood Chase. Bio-diversity and heathland restoration as part of Purple Horizons Natural England project
<b>Theme 6. Resilience &amp; Adaptation</b>			
6.1 Ensure all Council services and operations are adaptable to a changing climate.	a) Review of Walsall Resilience Strategy ensuring plans are updated to reflect the changing climate risk.	Short	Business Continuity plans are being reviewed in partnership with a range of council services including Environmental Health, Pollution Control, Legal Services etc. The plans ensure that in the advent of a incident/climate change event such as flooding we are prepared and can continue services.
	b) A. Work with our partners to understand the current and future risks of flooding and review plans with West Midlands Local Resilience Forum & Black Country Local Resilience Forum.	Short	This work is ongoing on forms part of yearly LRF planning. A flooding response platform has been proposed to further support the region. This is being funded and led by an external partner. Completion will likely be in 2022.
	c) The development of Walsall Resilience Risk Register.	Medium	Formation of a Walsall specific risk register is under way. However, the risk registrar for the region covers Walsall as a part of the LRF Risk Planning Group.

Action	Measure	Timeline	Progress
	d) We will ensure business continuity planning at the council is resilient to climate impacts - preparing and assessing business continuity plans climate impacts - preparing and assessing business continuity plans.	Medium	Business Continuity plans are due to be refreshed by December 2021. The process has been made more fluid and adapted to changes brought about by Proud changes and the Covid-19 pandemic.
6.2 Integrate climate change into regeneration and planning to enable economic prosperity and promotion of sustainability.	a) Review of the Black Country Plan with further regard to sustainable development and the governments emerging proposals in the Environment Bill and other planning regulations.	Medium	The draft Black Country Plan has been published for consultation (link below): <a href="https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/t2/p5/">https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/t2/p5/</a>
	b) Promote sustainable design in buildings & review planning policies to reflect changes in national planning inc support for new homes built to net zero carbon standards.	Medium	A sustainability appraisal has been completed, which can be found here: <a href="https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/media/18501/bcp-reg18-sa_appendices-july-2021-vol-2of2.pdf">https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/media/18501/bcp-reg18-sa_appendices-july-2021-vol-2of2.pdf</a>
	c) Determine planning applications requiring approval for Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) systems.	Medium	Ongoing – the current Black Country Plan states: Policy in the Black Country Core Strategy Policy ENV5 (adopted 2011) states that all developments should “Incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs), unless it would be impractical to do so, in order to significantly reduce surface water run-off and improve water quality.
	d) Promote sustainable modes of travel for new developments by securing Travel Plans as part of planning decisions	Medium	Ongoing – current planning policy requires, where appropriate, the submission of Green Travel Plans to demonstrate how access to developments by more sustainable forms of transport will be maximised.
6.3 Reduce risk of flooding to estate, properties and infrastructure	a) Review and update of Walsall Flood Management Plan 2020-23.	Short	The Flood plan is currently being reviewed.
	b) Annual training and exercise (multi agency every 3 years)	Short	Ongoing - The Resilience Unit and other teams take part in exercising and training across the LRF and within Walsall Council.
6.4 Plans in place for emergencies - Issuing alerts in the events of severe weather, increased temperatures and flooding	a) To review and update 'Warning & Informing Policy' to reflect climate change risk.	Medium	In place. Undertaken by Highways, supported with Environment Agency and Met Office, with direct updates to the Resilience Unit. Severe weather reports are submitted to CMT, detailing the actions taken to mitigate the impacts.
	b) We will work with communities and businesses to increase resilience to future changes in climate including the development of an engagement programme (briefing events / toolkit) to support Walsall businesses and community groups with continuity planning.	Medium	This work is ongoing and forms part of yearly LRF planning. A flooding response platform has been proposed to further support the region. This is being funded and led by an external partner. Completion will likely be in 2022. In addition to this, consultation with highways and comms will be needed to address engagement with communities and the public.

## Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Area of Focus – 2021/22

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

Agenda Items						
Theme	16 September 2021	21 October 2021	18 November 2021	18 January 2022	03 March 2022	14 April 2022
Economy			M6 J10  Employment, Growth & Skills	Town Deal	Phoenix 10  Willenhall Masterplan  Bonfires	
Environment	Petition: Riverpoint Estate, Willenhall	Petition: traffic calming in Pelsall Lane  Electric Vehicle charging		Cop26  Carbon neutral council		Electric Vehicle Charging
Cross cutting both Economy and Environment	West Midlands Local Transport Plan		Quarter 2 2020/21  Budget Setting			

## **Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Area of Focus – 2021/22**

\*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. Carbon Neutral Council – *Scheduled update for 2021*
3. Town Deal Board – *Scheduled update for 2021*
4. The Council's Waste Strategy – In tandem with the Environmental Bill 2020, scheduled for late 2021/early 2022.
5. Road safety action plan – *Delayed until June 2021*
6. Partnership working with West Midlands Police on traffic speed enforcement.
7. School Streets (being considered by the Scrutiny Overview Committee)
8. Cycling provision – *Outreach/Government*
9. Ban on evictions for social landlords
10. Off-Road Bikes Working Group
11. Council's Tree Planting Strategy
12. Black Country Plan
13. Maximising Council Income and Assets.
14. Council Bonfire and Fireworks Update



**Walsall** Council

## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

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

**6 December 2021**

## 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 [helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:helen.owen@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 ([helen.owen@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:helen.owen@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.

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**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS  
JANUARY 2022 TO APRIL 2022 (6.12.21)**

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
61/21 (6.9.21)	<b>Corporate Financial Performance 2021/22 and Covid-19 update</b> – To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2021 and impact of Covid-19.	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326  <a href="mailto:Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	9 February 2022
83/21 (1.11.21)	<b>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2021:</b> To note the refresh of the updated data by Council and partner officers and to assist with identification of priorities in the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-25.	Cabinet  Non-key decision  Council	Stephen Gunther  <a href="mailto:Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk">Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services & Council partners through the Health and Wellbeing Board.	Councillor Bird  Councillor Craddock	Cabinet 9 February 2022  Council 24 February 2022
85/21 (1.11.21)	<b>Corporate Plan 2022-25:</b> To agree the 2022-25 Corporate Plan which outlines the council's future priorities and objectives and recommend Council to approve.	Cabinet  Non-key decision  Council	Stephen Gunther  <a href="mailto:Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk">Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	Cabinet 9 February 2022  Council 24 February 2022
62/21 (6.9.21)	<b>Corporate Budget Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25, incorporating the Capital Strategy; and the Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2022/23:</b> To recommend the final budget and Council tax for approval by Council	Cabinet  Key decision  Council	Vicky Buckley 01922 652326  <a href="mailto:Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk">Vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations	Councillor Bird	Cabinet 9 February 2022  Council 24 February 2022



78/21 (1.11.21)	<b>Upgrade of education IT systems:</b> Authority to procure software as a service (SaaS) cloud based education system via relevant procurement frameworks and associated costs	Cabinet  Key decision	Helena Kucharczyk <a href="mailto:Helena.kucharczyk@walsall.gov.uk">Helena.kucharczyk@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	9 February 2022
37/21 (7.6.21)	<b>Sale of Council land in Blakenall:</b> To seek approval to the freehold disposal of Council land in Blakenall  <i>Contains commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet  Key decision  Private	Nick Ford, Team Leader – Asset Management  <a href="mailto:Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk">Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022
14/21 (8.3.21)	<b>Willenhall Masterplan: Strategic Land Acquisitions:</b> In-principle approval for the use of Compulsory Purchase Order powers.  <i>Contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person</i>	Cabinet  Key decision  Private Session	Willenhall Masterplan: Strategic Land Acquisitions.  <a href="mailto:Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk">Joel.maybury@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022
79/21 (1.11.21)	<b>Riverpoint Estate – response to recommendations of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</b> To consider options with regard to land between Riverpoint Estate and the former Willenhall Sewage Works.	Cabinet  Key decision depends on options being developed	Nick Ford <a href="mailto:Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk">Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022



86/21 (1.11.21)	<b>Award of new contract(s) for Disabled Facility building works and other Housing related Works and Services</b>  To approve the award of new contracts for the period 1 march 2022 to 22 February 2027  <i>Note: The report contains commercially sensitive information to be considered in private session.</i>	Cabinet  Key decision  Private session	David Lockwood <a href="mailto:David.lockwood@walsall.gov.uk">David.lockwood@walsall.gov.uk</a>  Bill Weston <a href="mailto:William.weston@walsall.gov.uk">William.weston@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022
89/21 6.12.21	<b>Contractor Procurement Strategy for Connected Gateway Project:</b> to approve a procurement strategy for the project which is a £36m project, part funded by Government's Future High Street Fund, which aims to better connect Walsall rail and bus stations, providing improvements to the Saddlers Centre and transformed public spaces.	Cabinet  Key decision	Peter Wright Interim Town Projects Manager. <a href="mailto:Peter.wright@walsall.gov.uk">Peter.wright@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services	Councillor Andrew	9 February 2022
67/21 (4.10.21)	<b>Green Space Strategy:</b> To agree an updated Green Space Strategy including a programme to improve and update/upgrade our children's playgrounds and to consider new/improved outdoor gym facilities	Cabinet  Key decision	Alan Bowley <a href="mailto:Alan.bowley@walsall.gov.uk">Alan.bowley@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services  Ward Councillors	Councillor Butler	9 February 2022
90/21 (6.12.21)	<b>Fly tipping:</b> To increase capacity and provide streamlined systems to ensure that fly-tipping and littering in the borough is reduced by focusing on key hotspots, identifying and fining perpetrators	Cabinet  Key decision	<a href="mailto:Paul.gordon@walsall.gov.uk">Paul.gordon@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Butler	9 February 2022

46/21 (2.8.21)	<b>Emotional Wellbeing and Therapeutic Support for Children and Young People in need:</b> To approve entering into an appropriate agreement with the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to provide therapeutic services for children and young people in need, including those who are looked after.	Cabinet  Key decision	David DeMay  <a href="mailto:David.demay@walsall.gov.uk">David.demay@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services, Walsall CCG and Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Councillor Wilson	9 February 2022
84/21 (1.11.21)	<b>Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-25:</b> To agree the 2022-25 Joint Health and wellbeing Strategy which outlines agreed priority areas and how the Council and NHS will work together to improve health and reduce health inequalities in the borough; and to recommend Council to approve.	Cabinet  Non-key decision  Council	Stephen Gunther, Director of Public Health  <a href="mailto:Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk">Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal services, Integrated Care Partnership, Council partners through Health and Wellbeing Board.	Councillor Craddock  Councillor Bird	Cabinet 9 February 2022  Council 24 February 2022
49/21 (2.8.21)	<b>Domestic Abuse services contract award:</b> To approve the contract awards for the provision of Domestic Abuse emergency accommodation and support; and support to Domestic Abuse victims and their children  <i>Note: There may be commercially sensitive information to be considered in private session.</i>	Cabinet  Key decision	Neil Hollyhead  Isabel Vanderheeren <a href="mailto:Isabel.vanderheeren@walsall.gov.uk">Isabel.vanderheeren@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services, Service users external stakeholders	Councillor Andrew  Councillor Wilson	9 February 2022
74/21 (4.10.21)	<b>COVID Memorial Garden:</b> To consider options for a COVID Memorial Garden	Cabinet  Key decision	Dave Brown <a href="mailto:Dave.brown@walsall.gov.uk">Dave.brown@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services. Stakeholders dependent upon options being developed	Councillor Perry	9 February 2022

87/21 (1.11.21)	<b>Statutory Advocacy Services:</b> To receive an update on the recommissioning of these services and delegate authority to accept and award a contract	Cabinet  Key Decision	<a href="mailto:Tracy.simcox@walsall.gov.uk">Tracy.simcox@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Pedley	9 February 2022
75/21 (4.10.21)	<b>General building Repair and Maintenance Contract:</b> To award the contract for the Council's general building repair and maintenance.  <i>Note: Contains confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person</i>	Cabinet  Key decision  Private Session	Ian Lister <a href="mailto:Ian.Lister@walsall.gov.uk">Ian.Lister@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	9 February
76/21 (4.10.21)	<b>Mechanical and Electrical Service and Maintenance Contract:</b> To approve the award of the contract award the contract for the Council's mechanical and electrical service and maintenance contract.  <i>Note: contains confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.</i>	Cabinet  Key decision  Private Session	Ian Lister <a href="mailto:Ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk">Ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	9 February 2021
77/21 (4.10.21)	<b>Supported Housing Repair and Maintenance Contract:</b> To approve the award of the contract.	Cabinet	Ian Lister <a href="mailto:Ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk">Ian.lister@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Statham	9 February
88/21 (1.11.21)	<b>Corporate Plan 2021/22:</b> To note the Quarter 3 performance against the Measures of Success in the Corporate Plan 2021/22	Cabinet  Non-key decision	Stephen Gunther <a href="mailto:Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk">Stephen.gunther@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Internal Services	Councillor Bird	16 March 2022

22/21 (8.3.21)	<b>Walsall Council Housing Allocations Policy:</b> To update the policy which sets the principles for the allocation of affordable housing	Cabinet  Key Decision	Neil Hollyhead <a href="mailto:Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk">Neil.hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk</a>	Public, Housing Associations, Internal Services	Councillor Andrew	16 March 2022
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**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**  
**Published up to May 2022 (for publication 10/01/2022)**

**Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement - Deed of Variation**

**Key Decision to be considered:**

Approval of the proposed amendments, as highlighted, to the Collaboration Agreement covering the removal of the Advisory Board and revised Black Country Executive Joint Committee governance, and Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones, included as Appendix 1 to this report.

**Date first entered into the plan:**

02 August 2021

**Contact Officer:**

Simon Neilson [Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk)

**Main consultees:**

Walsall Council

**Date Item to be considered:**

09 February 2022

**Local Growth Fund (LGF) Programme changes**

**Project Name - Hatherton Street Phase 2**

**Key Decision to be considered:**

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Jessups Brothers Ltd, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Hatherton Street Phase 2 project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year.

Note that change request relates to a change in match funding and outputs.

**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**  
**Published up to May 2022 (for publication 10/01/2022)**

**Date first entered into the plan:**

01 November 2021

**Contact Officer:**

Simon Neilson [Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk)

**Main consultees:**

Walsall Council

**Date Item to be considered:**

30 March 2022

**Project Name – i9 Wolverhampton**

**Key Decision to be considered:**

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Ion Projects Limited, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the i9 Wolverhampton project with delivery to continue in the 2021/22 financial year. Note that change request relates to a change in outputs.

**Date first entered into the plan:**

01 November 2021

**Contact Officer:**

Simon Neilson [Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk)

**Main consultees:**

Walsall Council

**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**  
**Published up to May 2022 (for publication 10/01/2022)**

**Date Item to be considered:**

30 March 2022

**Project Name – Dudley Advanced Construction Centre**

**Key Decision to be considered:**

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Dudley College, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Dudley Advanced Construction Centre project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.

Note that change request relates to a change in outputs.

**Date first entered into the plan:**

06 April 2021

**Contact Officer:**

Simon Neilson [Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk)

**Main consultees:**

Walsall Council

**Date Item to be considered:**

30 March 2022

**Project Name - Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills**

**Key Decision to be considered:**

**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**  
**Published up to May 2022 (for publication 10/01/2022)**

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with the University of Wolverhampton, to deliver the Local Growth Fund (LGF) funded elements of the Elite Centre for Manufacturing Skills (ECMS) project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.

Note that change request relates to a change in outputs

**Date first entered into the plan:**

06 September 2021

**Contact Officer:**

Simon Neilson [Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk)

**Main consultees:**

Walsall Council

**Date Item to be considered:**

30 March 2022

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**Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) Programme changes**

**Project Name - Sandwell Housing Gap Funding**

**Key Decision to be considered:**

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the Grant Agreement with Sandwell Council, to deliver the Land & Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Sandwell Housing Gap Funding project with delivery to continue in the 2022/23 financial year.

**Date first entered into the plan:**

10 January 2022



**BLACK COUNTRY EXECUTIVE JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**  
**Published up to May 2022 (for publication 10/01/2022)**

**Contact Officer:**

Tony McGovern [Tony.McGovern@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:Tony.McGovern@sandwell.gov.uk)

**Main consultees:**

Sandwell Council

**Date Item to be considered:**

30 March 2022

**Project Name – Globe House, Walsall**

**Key Decision to be considered:**

Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Globe Property Limited, to deliver the Land & Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Globe House project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.

**Date first entered into the plan:**

06 December 2021

**Contact Officer:**

Simon Neilson [Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.Neilson@walsall.gov.uk)

**Main consultees:**

Walsall Council

**Date Item to be considered:**

30 March 2021

## WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN: FEBRUARY 2022 - MARCH 2022

Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
<b>Meeting 11 February 2022</b>					
<b>Final WMCA Budget 2022/23</b>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> To present the final proposed budget of the WMCA (and TfWM) for 2022/23 to approval.</p> <p><b>Recommendation(s):</b></p> <p><b>Rationale/Background:</b></p>	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>Regional Air Quality Framework</b>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> To consider two options for the approach we need to take as a region in order to address the new standards that are being set by the Environment Act 2021 in relation to improving air quality.</p> <p><b>Recommendation(s):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the report and growing importance of particulate matter in addressing air quality.</li> <li>2. Note the relationship between local authorities and combined authorities now put in place by the Environment Act 2021.</li> </ol>	Cllr Ian Courts	Ed Cox	No	Environment & Energy

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	<p>3. Consider a new a more proactive collaborative working arrangement with local authorities developing air quality plans within a wider West Midlands Air Quality Framework which clarifies roles for different parties and identifies a number of shared working practices.</p> <p><b>Rationale/Background:</b> This report aims to give an overview of the sources, levels and impacts of air pollution across the West Midlands. It briefly reviews existing work that is taking place to address poor air quality, and provides an indicative summary of additional interventions that might be adopted.</p>				
<b>Meeting 18 March 2022</b>					
<b>Financial Monitoring 2021/22</b>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> To outline the latest financial position of WMCA and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA.</p> <p><b>Recommendation(s):</b></p> <p><b>Rationale/Background:</b></p>	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
<b>cEMV (Contactless Ticketing) Broker</b>	<p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p><b>Recommendation(s):</b></p> <p><b>Rationale/Background:</b></p>	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Summary of purpose and recommendations</b>	<b>Lead Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Confidential</b>	<b>Category</b>
<b>Ultra-Rapid Charging Spine</b>	<b>Purpose:</b> <b>Recommendation(s):</b> <b>Rationale/Background:</b>	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport
<b>Mobility Hubs</b>	<b>Purpose:</b> <b>Recommendation(s):</b> <b>Rationale/Background:</b>	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport
<b>Enhanced Bus Service Corridor</b>	<b>Purpose:</b> <b>Recommendation(s):</b> <b>Rationale/Background:</b>	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport