



Walsall Council

Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on: **20 October 2022 AT 6.00PM**

Meeting to be held at: Council Chamber

Public access to meeting via: www.walsallcouncilwebcasts.com

MEMBERSHIP:

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

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

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

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1.	Apologies To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee.	
2.	Substitutions To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.	
3.	Declarations of interest and party whip To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.	
4.	Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.	
5.	Minutes of the previous meeting To approve the minutes of the meeting on 29 September 2022.	Enclosed
ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY		
6.	Street Scene Strategy To receive details of the proposed scope for a street scene strategy and provide initial feedback from the We Are Walsall 2040 consultation in relation to street scene.	Enclosed
ITEMS FOR OVERVIEW		
7.	Areas of focus – 2021/22 To consider the areas of focus for the Committee during 2022/23.	Enclosed
8.	Forward Plans To receive the latest Forward Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet • Black Country Joint Executive Committee • West Midlands Combined Authority Board 	Enclosed
9.	Recommendation Tracker To consider progress on recommendations from the previous meeting.	Enclosed
10.	Date of next meeting To note the date of the next meeting will be 24 November 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:

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

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

Access to information: Exempt information

Part 1

Descriptions of exempt information: England

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

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29 September 2022 at 6.00pm held at Walsall Council House, Lichfield Street,
Walsall, WS1 1TW.

Committee Members

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

Portfolio Holders

Regeneration

Councillor M. Bird Leader of the Council
Councillor A. Andrew Deputy Leader and

Councillor G. Perry Deputy Leader and Resilient
Communities

Officers Present:

Simon Neilson Executive Director, Economy,
Environment and Communities
Dave Brown Director, Place and
Environment
Sian Lloyd Democratic Services Officer

Invited Attendees:

Sarah Middleton Chief Executive, Black
Country Consortium

10/22 Apologies

Councillor Larden submitted an apology for absence.

11/22 Substitution

Councillor Hicken substituted for Councillor Larden.

12/22 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whips.

13/22 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to consider in private session.

14/22 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2022, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

15/22 **Local Enterprise Partnership Annual Report**

The Committee received a presentation from the Chief Executive of the Black Country Consortium which laid out their approach with regards to economic intelligence, highlighted key schemes in relation to green infrastructure and capital investment and the transition from Local Enterprise Partnership to future partnership support.

The Chief Executive of the Black Country Consortium explained that they had a strong focus on evidence led works and therefore had an Economic Intelligence Unit which collected key data on various demographics and in various sectors. She shared several pieces of data highlighting the successes and challenges in the borough in sectors such as housing and education and emphasised the importance of utilising the evidence base to provide a direction of travel thematically and spatially. Overall she stated that the evidence for Walsall and the Black Country more broadly was in main reflective of the overall UK economy with positive growth in wages and employment but challenges in other areas such as the high levels of risks due to rising costs and energy prices in key industries in Walsall including metal manufacturing.

The five steps of the Recovery Plan were then laid out by the Chief Executive of the Black Country Consortium which were backing Black Country businesses, delivering skills for today and the future, nurturing green growth, creating vibrant, safe and healthy places and mobilising devolution and public service reform. Examples were given of works undertaken in each area in which the Black Country Consortium and Local Enterprise Partnership had played a role.

Following questions from Members of the Committee the Chief Executive of the Black Country Consortium explained that there were several considerations when designating living parks in terms of safety, accessibility and strategic locations but that multiple sites could be considered as part of the process. She also discussed towpath investment and how there would need to be a careful balance of usage for all those who access the towpaths such as fishers, cyclists and pedestrians. It was emphasised by both the Chief Executive of the Black Country Consortium and the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Communities that the Consortium took on an enabling role in these types of projects and provided fundamental economic intelligence.

Resolved:

That the Committee notes the presentation and its contents.

16/22 Cemetery Maintenance Report

The Director of Place and Environment presented a report in relation to the current maintenance and security arrangements in place at the eight council-run cemeteries in the borough. He explained that each site had slightly different arrangements and that the emphasis was on not intruding on the grieving process which it was understood was very sensitive and personal. The Director of Place and Environment acknowledged that grounds maintenance and security patrols took place on sites throughout the working day but road and pathway maintenance was usually reactive and memorials on graves remained the property of the owner of the exclusive right of burial and it was that owner who was responsible for ensuring that memorial was maintained in a safe condition. He updated the Committee on the progress seen in community engagement through the customer access management workstream and work with The National Federation of Cemetery Friends to establish groups of volunteers for cemeteries and developing an understanding of what types of assistance they can provide.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities expressed his thanks to the Bereavement Services team who, he emphasised, had worked throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and adapted quickly to the multiple changes implemented in this period. He added that it was timely to consider rules and regulations whilst still maintaining the compassionate approach and avoiding excessive rules being put in place and praised the resilient communities approach to this.

Following questions from Members of the Committee the Director of Place and Environment advised that a restructure was currently taking place within the Directorate and customary practice regarding items on graves for example would need to be encoded in policy to ensure it was adhered to universally. He welcomed Member's suggestions in relation to public consultation on the review process and confirmed that staff stationed at the Bereavement Centre would be available to the public. It was suggested by a Member of the Committee that materials in relation to Friends Groups be shared with all Members.

Resolved:

That the Committee notes the report and its contents.

17/22 Areas of focus – 2022/23

The Committee received the outstanding presentations from Cabinet Portfolio Holders on services within the remit of the Committee.

Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities informed the Committee of developments in his portfolio which were within the remit of the Committee and advised that he had circulated a briefing note to all Members in relation to the other aspects of his portfolio. He emphasised his priorities in relation to activities in leisure centres and libraries and We are Walsall 2040, noting that some leisure centres were almost back at pre-covid levels of income generation and libraries were playing a key role in the Walsall Connected scheme and in cost of living support as warm hubs. Regarding We Are Walsall 2040 he highlighted that consultation had taken place over the summer.

Deputy Leader and Regeneration

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration advised of works within his portfolio designed to enhance transportation and investment in the borough, highlighting works at M6 Junction 10, railway stations in progress in Darlaston, Willenhall and Aldridge and the Town Centre Masterplan. He also emphasised the Street Scene Strategy which was to be the focus of the next meeting of the Committee.

Following questions from the Committee the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration advised that a derelict sites taskforce had been launched to strategically tackle derelict land and properties with the aim of pursuing CPOs on privately-owned derelict sites.

Resolved:

That the areas of focus 2022/23 and forward plans be noted.

18/22 **Recommendation Tracker**

The Democratic Services Officer updated the Committee on the progress of the 3 completed recommendations from the last meeting of the previous municipal year and the one outstanding recommendation from the last meeting of the Committee. She advised that she had been in contact with all the lead officers concerned and requested updates on progress.

Resolved:

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

19/22 **Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 20 October 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated 7.40pm.

Signed:

Date:

20 October 2022

Street Scene Strategy

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Cllr Andrew – Deputy Leader of the Council and Regeneration
Cllr Perry – Deputy Lead of the Council and Resilient Communities
Cllr Murphy – Portfolio Holder for Clean & Green

1. Aim

- 1.1. Our streets are important places. They can encourage people to be more active, improve health and well-being, reduce pollution, bring neighbours together and discourage crime. By developing a strategic approach to improve and maintain our street scene, the council will contribute to positive outcomes for our residents and create a better environment in which to run a business.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The council manage and maintain over 520 miles of road. A significant proportion of these are residential streets. This report outlines the proposed scope for a street scene strategy. In December 2021, Cabinet approved the development of a strategy document that concisely identifies the key issues and sets out a series of actions associated with each priority.

3. Recommendations

This report recommends that the Scrutiny Committee:

- i. Note the Street Scene Strategy scope, set out in paragraphs 4.4 to 4.7 and provide feedback.
- ii. Note the initial feedback from the We Are Walsall 2040 consultation in relation to street scene.

4. Report detail - know

Context

- 4.1. When our streets are clean and safe, we can create an environment that residents are proud to call home, visitors return, and businesses want to invest

in. Additionally, well-designed, and well-maintained streets can encourage people to be more active, improve health and well-being, reduce pollution, bring neighbours together and discourage crime.

4.2. The creation of great neighbourhoods is not without its challenges.

- i. Flytipping and littering remain problematic.
- ii. A high demand for on street parking competes with a desire for greener streets.
- iii. Budget pressures mean that the council can no longer provide services to communities in the way they that they used to.
- iv. We have to embrace new technology, empower communities, change behaviour and, in some cases, charge for what we do.

4.3. It is proposed that the street scene strategy should focus on four priorities, each of which will be considered in the context of four different approaches:

4.4. Priority One: **Safer Streets** – Our streets are place where anti-social behaviour and nuisance is tackled and people feel safe to live, learn, work and play.

- i. **Empower:** Initiatives to engage local communities and help them to influence and affect the safety of their neighbourhoods e.g. community speed watch schemes and easy, responsive reporting mechanisms for highway safety issues and concerns about anti-social behaviour.
- ii. **Educate:** Opportunities to educate residents, businesses and communities and change behaviours, e.g. road safety initiatives such as ‘Don’t hurt the one you love’ which is aimed at younger drivers and focuses on the responsibilities associated with driving for the individual, passengers and other road users and discussing coping strategies for young passengers if they find themselves in a situation within which they do not feel comfortable.
- iii. **Enforce:** Actions the council will take to safeguard our streets from anti-social behaviour and irresponsible driver behaviour, e.g. parking enforcement outside of schools and tackling street drinking.
- iv. **Deliver:** Services and initiatives that the council will deliver to maintain our streets in a safe condition, e.g. highway safety inspections; maintenance of signing, lining and pedestrian guard rail and road safety engineering.

4.5. Priority Two: **Cleaner Streets** – Our streets look and feel clean and tidy, and our communities take pride in their surroundings.

- i. **Empower:** Continuing to build on existing community and business engagement, e.g. community action days and the Litter Charter.
- ii. **Educate:** Opportunities to educate residents, businesses and communities and change behaviours, e.g. issues around recycling and promoting the importance of using the correct bin to dispose of waste.
- iii. **Enforce:** Actions the council will take to challenge environmental crime such as dog fouling, flytipping and dropping litter.
- iv. **Deliver:** Services that the council will deliver to maintain the cleanliness of our streets, e.g. street cleansing; bin provision; sign cleaning and bulky waste collections.

4.6. Priority Three: **Greener Streets** – Our streets have a positive impact on wellbeing, connect communities to nature and support carbon reduction.

- i. **Empower:** Opportunities for communities to create a natural environment that gives them a sense of pride and ownership e.g. schemes such as community gardening, verge adoption and “Walsall in Bloom”.
- ii. **Educate:** Initiatives to raise awareness and encourage carbon reduction and measures to improve air quality e.g. promotion of active and sustainable travel choice and advice on domestic bonfires.
- iii. **Enforce:** Steps the council will take to ensure that unauthorised commercial and industrial activities do not impact residential areas e.g. regulation of industrial premises to ensure that air quality is not adversely impacted
- iv. **Deliver:** Actions that the council will take to improve air quality and make it easier for residents to make sustainable choices.

4.7. Priority Four: **Stronger Streets** – Our streets are a place for strong, inclusive communities. They are designed encourage physical activities and have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents.

- i. **Empower:** Initiatives facilitate community events, e.g. easy to do road closure applications for street events such as gardening days, film screenings and street parties for events such as the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

- ii. **Educate:** Sign posting to Healthy Walsall initiatives and promoting programmes such as A*STARS and Bike-ability which encourage residents to be more active by promoting the health and wellbeing benefits.
 - iii. **Enforce:** Ensuring initiatives such as school streets and play streets are supported by effective enforcement to ensure their safe and sustained operation.
 - iv. **Deliver:** Investing in active travel measures, e.g. walking and cycling provision including safe cycle parking and ensuring that our streets are accessible so that those with limited mobility are empowered to access facilities and initiatives that will support their health and wellbeing.
- 4.8. The street scene strategy will briefly identify the key issues and set out a series of actions that are needed to create an environment, that our residents and wider communities can be proud of. Some of the actions identified will already be underway, some will already be planned for the future, and some may be completely new initiatives. The purpose of the strategy will be to bring them together into a single document to create an overarching coherent and coordinated approach.
- 4.9. It is recognised that the council has a key role to play in delivering the actions but help and support of key partners and local residents will also be essential. There will be a need to help and support local community groups to do more and to encourage local people to change their behaviours to help develop improved streets.

Council Corporate Plan priorities

- 4.10. Create a clean, safe environment that residents are proud to call home, visitors return, and businesses want to invest in is critical to the future of the borough's quality of life. It is therefore fully consistent with the five strategic priorities identified in the council plan.

Risk management

- 4.11. The street scene strategy will be supported by risk assessments for proposed service changes. The assessments will consider how the proposed actions align with council objectives, evaluate the consequences of identified risks and detail any mitigations considered necessary.

Financial implications

- 4.12. Delivery of the street scene strategy will have a range of financial implications. The strategy will be supported by a series of business cases for proposed

service change. Where feasible, external funding or alternative delivery models will be considered.

- 4.13. The cost of current enhancements to the street cleaning service (additional barrow routes, agency staff and hawking) were funded from a one-off allocation. New service standards for street cleaning will be established as part of this strategy and will need to be reflected in the budget setting process.

Legal implications

- 4.14. The council has a wide range of powers available to it, which may be used to facilitate the implementation of the strategy once drafted. These powers include, but are not limited to, the power to make traffic regulation orders; powers to make local byelaws; and various highways and environmental enforcement powers.
- 4.15. The council also enjoys a general power of competence by virtue of section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

Procurement implications/social value

- 4.16. Any contractual arrangements, including entering into any framework agreements for service delivery, must be procured in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, if applicable; and with the council's contract rules. The council's procurement and legal services teams will continue to work with officers from the service areas to ensure that mini-tenders and call-offs from any such frameworks are conducted in compliant ways and that any contracts will be validly entered into before any services are provided to the council.

Property implications

- 4.17. The scope of the proposed strategy includes residential streets which form part of the council's adopted highway and associated council owned green spaces and public realm. Consequently, a proportion of the action will either be delivered on land already owned or managed by the council. Where necessary, agreements will be in place for the use or enhancement of third-party land.

Health and wellbeing implications

- 4.18. Our streets and outdoor spaces have a part to play in delivering a range of benefits with respect to health and wellbeing. They can encourage people to be more active, reduce pollution, bring neighbours together and discourage crime.

Staffing implications

- 4.19. Delivery of the street scene strategy will require contributions from across the council, partners and community representatives. If required, a business case

will be developed for additional resources to coordinate the development, delivery and monitoring of the strategy.

Reducing Inequalities

- 4.20. The adoption of a street scene strategy will have a positive impact by making streets safer and more attractive to use by all sections of the local community, but specifically those who may feel less confident currently including young people, older people and people with disabilities. Specific actions will result in the car being less dominant so allowing for an increase in cycling and walking, especially around routes to schools which will benefit young people.
- 4.21. It is recognised that some groups may require additional support to adapt to any changes in service provision and make the necessary behavioural changes than others. Equality impact screening will be undertaken against all actions and equality impact assessments will be carried out where necessary.

Climate Change

- 4.22. It is proposed that creating streets that connect communities to nature and, support carbon reduction, is a key priority of the street scene strategy.

Consultation

- 4.23. We are Walsall 2040 will be shaped by the views, experiences, ideas and ambitions of those who live, work, visit and do business in the borough. Earlier this year, the council commenced a 5-month programme of engagement with the community to inform this strategic partnership borough plan for the next 18 years.
- 4.24. As part of this, the council commissioned BMG Research to carry out a borough-wide survey of residents. The aim of this survey is to provide an up to date and accurate understanding of the priorities, concerns, hopes, wishes and aspirations of residents living in the borough. The consultation questionnaire included a specific focus on the borough's street scene.
- 4.25. A postal survey booklet was sent to 10,000 Walsall addresses, sampled to be representative of the number of households by ward and index of multiple deprivation (IMD) quintiles. Fieldwork took place between the 9 June and 15 July 2022 and 1,490 residents responded. Data collected is weighted and significance tested to 95% within subgroups and against the total.
- 4.26. Analysis of the consultation is ongoing but initial findings indicate the following in respect to street scene:

- i. Walsall residents consider safety, cleanliness and decent housing as key factors in making somewhere a good place to live.
 - ii. Overall priorities over the next 18 years should be surrounding police and crime, as well as cleanliness and local regeneration.
 - iii. Two out of three residents are concerned about climate change and 9 in 10 believe it's important for Walsall's organisations and residents to come together to tackle it.
 - iv. Looking ahead to 2040 residents want Walsall to be seen as a thriving, safe and clean place to live.
- 4.27. Once complete, the consultation findings will be used to inform the street scene strategy.

5. Decide

- 5.1. A range of local authority street scene strategies have been considered in evolving this proposed approach.
- 5.2. Taking a concise and focused approach is intended to make the final document accessible, giving our residents and stakeholder's clarity around the council's aspirations and approach to delivery.
- 5.3. The four priorities have been identified in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Regeneration, Clean and Green and Resilient Communities with a view to reflecting the council's wider aspirations and corporate priorities.
- 5.4. The four phased approach to delivery is intended to reflect both the breadth of opportunities to achieve the council's aspirations and a holistic approach to service delivery.

6. Respond

- 6.1. Over the coming months, pilot projects will be used to inform the drafting of the street scene strategy.
- 6.2. Operation Clean Up will target three residential streets that are hot spots for side waste and litter. The pilot will aim to educate and empower residents and local school children to dispose of their household waste appropriately. Having set out the council's expectations and services, e.g. HWRC locations and options for bigger bins, a deep clean will be carried out giving the residents and visitors

to the street a fresh start. Finally, where necessary, a three phased approach will be taken to enforcement: inform, warn, enforce.

- 6.3. The project will take place over a period of 12 weeks with success measures focused on the amount of side waste and other domestic flytipping.
- 6.4. In September, officers were approached by a group of residents who were keen to work with the council to protect their grass verges and tackle antisocial behaviour. This aligns with the council's aspiration to create resilient communities and empower residents and presents an opportunity to trial approaches that may be considered as part of the street scene strategy.
- 6.5. Over the coming months, the council will prepare a final version of the street scene strategy. This will be presented to Cabinet for approval, along with business cases for any elements of the strategy that require investment.

7. Review

- 7.1. A street scene strategy project board has been established to provide appropriate oversight of progress in developing the council's street scene strategy in readiness for presenting the final version to Cabinet.

Author

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

Committee responsible for all aspects and general services related to the economy and environment including:
 Responsibility of scrutiny of flood risk management functions which may affect the Local Authority's area as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Agenda Items							
Theme	7 July 2022	13 September 2022	20 October 2022	24 November 2022	17 January 2023	28 February 2023	13 April 2023
Economy		LEP Report			Willenhall and Darlaston Railway Stations	Willenhall Framework Plan	Phoenix 10
Environment	Petition regarding pedestrian crossing on Birmingham Road, Aldridge	Cemetery Maintenance	Street Scene Strategy	Off-road Bikes	Bonfires		
Cross cutting both Economy and Environment	Areas of Focus Portfolio Holder Presentations	Portfolio Holder Presentations – Cllrs Andrew and Perry		Derelict Properties	Quarter 2 Budget		

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

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

*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. The Council's Waste Strategy – new HWRC and Transfer Station
 3. Partnership working with West Midlands Police on traffic speed enforcement.
 4. West Midlands Local Transport Plan
 5. Derelict properties taskforce
 6. Off-road Bikes
 7. Willenhall and Darlaston railway stations
-
- An update on Walsall's Heritage strategy



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

10 October 2022

FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive (Cabinet). Also included on the plan are other decisions to be taken by the Cabinet (“non-key decisions”). Preparation of the forward plan helps the Council to programme its work. The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The plan is updated each month with the period of the plan being rolled forward by one month and republished. Copies of the plan can be obtained from Democratic Services, Walsall MBC, Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk and can also be accessed from the Council’s website at www.walsall.gov.uk. The Cabinet is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan, however, a notice will be included on the agenda for the relevant Cabinet meeting which explains the reasons why.

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

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

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

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

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

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
NOVEMBER 2022 TO FEBRUARY 2023 (10.10.22)**

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
111/22 (6.6.22)	<p>Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23:</p> <p>To report the financial position based on 5 months to August 2022, including the impact of Covid-19.</p>	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Public Internal Services	Cllr Bird	18 October 2022
127/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Council Plan 2022/25:</p> <p>To note the Quarter 1 2022/23 (outturn) performance against the Markers of Success in the Council Plan 2022/25</p>	Cabinet Non-key decision	Elizabeth Connolly Elizabeth.Connolly@walsall.gov.uk Policy & Strategy Unit policyandstrategy@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	18 October 2022
108/22 (6.6.22)	<p>Town Deal:</p> <p>To report for consideration business cases for the Town Deal.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Philippa Venables Philippa.Venables@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services, Town Deal Board members	Cllr Andrew	18 October 2022

126/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Strategic acquisition of a freehold heritage building in Walsall Town Centre:</p> <p>To seek approval to the freehold acquisition of a heritage property in Walsall Town Centre to support the preservation of the property.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Nick Ford</p> <p>Nick.ford@walsall.gov.uk</p> <p>Bryte Legister – Bryte.Legister@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	18 October 2022
114/22 (4.7.22)	<p>West Midlands Enhanced Partnership Scheme for Buses (Variation):</p> <p>To approve a revised scheme to improve bus travel in the West Midlands.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Matt Crowton</p> <p>Matt.Crowton@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	18 October 2022
133/22 (20.09.22)	<p>Waste Management Strategy – Waste Transfer Station (WTS) and Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC):</p> <p>To seek approval for the pre-tender budget and amendment of the Capital Programme, to provide a new waste transfer station (WTS) and household waste recycling centre (HWRC).</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	<p>Stephen Johnson</p> <p>Stephen.Johnson@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	18 October 2022

116/22 (4.7.22)	<p>Young person homelessness accommodation and support contract awards:</p> <p>To approve the contract awards for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Dispersed temporary accommodation and intensive housing management 2) Supported lodgings, and Night Stop and Day Stop facility 	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Rashida Hussain</p> <p>Rashida.Hussain@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Internal Services, Service Users, External Stakeholders</p>	<p>Cllr Ali</p> <p>Cllr Wilson</p>	<p>18 October 2022</p>
139/22 (10.10.22)	<p>Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) Round 2</p> <p>To authorise that a bid to be made to The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for Home Upgrade Grant Round 2 (HUGs 2), by the first application deadline of 18 November 2022, in line with the Grants Manual.</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services to enter into the relevant agreements with BEIS if HUGs 2 funding is subsequently approved.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>David.Lockwood@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Internal Services</p> <p>Residents</p>	<p>Cllr Ali</p>	<p>18 October 2022</p>
128/22 (5.9.22)	<p>Climate Change Action Plan:</p> <p>To provide an update on the Climate Change Action Plan and agree a new target.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Dave Brown</p> <p>Dave.Brown@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Internal Services</p>	<p>Cllr Flint</p>	<p>18 October 2022</p>
113/22 (20.6.22)	<p>Adult Social Care – Extension of contractual arrangements:</p> <p>To approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the extension of the interim contracts for Residential and Nursing Care Services 	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Grace Charles</p> <p>Grace.Charles@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Internal Services</p>	<p>Cllr Pedley</p>	<p>18 October 2022</p>

	<p>for Older People, Complex Care and Mental Health Services from 1.4.23 to 31.3.24 with an option for a further 12 months should this be necessary.</p> <p>2) the extension of the current contractual arrangements for Community Based Services from 1.4.23 to 31.3.24 with an option for a further 12 months should this be necessary.</p>					
129/22 (5.9.22)	<p>Update on Resilient Communities Safer Streets Programme:</p> <p>To report back on Safer Streets activity and will recommend any adjustments/additions to the programme.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Non-key Decision</p>	<p>Paul Gordon</p> <p>Paul.Gordon@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	18 October 2022
109/22 (6.6.22)	<p>Schools Mainstream Local Funding Formula 2023/24:</p> <p>To approve a full consultation with all schools for the Mainstream Local Funding Formula, to be used for the allocation of mainstream funding to schools in Walsall</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Schools Forum</p> <p>ESFA – Schools revenue funding operation guide</p> <p>Richard Walley</p> <p>Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Schools Forum</p> <p>Internal Services</p>	Cllr M. Statham	18 October 2022
130/22 (6.9.22)	<p>Sexual Health and 0-19 Contracts:</p> <p>To approve the extension of the integrated sexual health service, contract delivered by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024; and</p> <p>To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Public Health</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Key Decision</p>	<p>Tony Meadows, Interim Director of Commissioning</p> <p>Tony.Meadows@walsall.gov.uk</p> <p>Page 25 of 37</p>	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	18 October 2022

	and Hub in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing to extend contracts on behalf of the Council and to subsequently authorise the variations to the contractual arrangements for the services should this be required at any time during the term, in line with Public Contract Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules to 31 March 2024.					
131/22 (6.9.22)	Community Based Services (Adult and Children's) and Complex Needs (Children's): To approve the extension of the two current framework agreements.	Cabinet Key Decision	David DeMay David.Demay@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Pedley Cllr Wilson	18 October 2022
110/22 (6.6.22)	Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2026/27: To provide an updated medium term financial outlook, draft revenue budget and capital programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27, including savings proposals, and to set out the process and timescales for setting a legally balanced budget for 2023/24.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Public Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
121/22 (8.8.22)	Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23: To report the financial position based on 7 months to October 2022, including the impact of Covid-19.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022

122/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Autumn Budget and Spending Review, and feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees on draft revenue and capital budget proposals, 2023/24 to 2026/27:</p> <p>To provide an update on the impact of the Autumn Budget and Spending Review on the medium term financial outlook, and to consider feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the draft revenue and capital budget.</p>	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Public Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
123/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Treasury Management Mid-Year Position Statement 2022/23:</p> <p>The council is required through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce a mid-year position statement reviewing treasury management activities and prudential and treasury indicator performance.</p>	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
134/22 (10.10.22)	<p>Microsoft Services Contract Award:</p> <p>To award a 3 year contract to a Microsoft Reseller for the supply of Microsoft Licences and Microsoft Cloud Services.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Sharon Worrall Sharon.Worrall@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022

135/22 (10.10.22)	Renewal of the Council's insurance arrangements from 1st April 2023: To seek delegated authority to renew the Council's insurance arrangements from 1 April 2023	Cabinet Key Decision	Marc Cox Marc.Cox@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
132/22 (20.09.22)	Black Country Plan Regulation 19: To approve consultation on Publication (Regulation 19) version of the Black Country Plan, and to delegate authority to submit the Publication Black Country Plan and any recommended minor modifications to the Secretary of State.	Council Key Decision	Neville Ball Neville.Ball@walsall.gov.uk Patrick Jervis Patrick.Jervis@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Bird	14 December 2022
107/22 (6.6.22)	Procurement of Corporate Landlord Strategic Partner: To seek approval to the appointment of a strategic partner to support the programme of capital schemes related to the council's property portfolio.	Cabinet Key Decision	Nick Ford Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
136/22 (10.10.22)	Black Country Enterprise Zone-Gasholders Site: To update on the direction of travel and seek approvals in relation to the preferred delivery approach, project funding and next steps to bring forward the site for employment generating uses. <i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet Key Decision	Caroline Harper Caroline.Harper@walsall.gov.uk Page 28 of 37	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022

137/22 (10.10.22)	<p>Willenhall Framework Plan: Phase 1 Developer Partner Procurement Approach and Funding Update:</p> <p>To provide an update on the preferred developer partner procurement approach and funding position.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Kausar Agha Kausar.Agha@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Legal (External)	Cllr Andrew	14 December 2022
124/22 (8.8.22)	<p>Schools Mainstream Local Funding Formula 2023/24:</p> <p>That Cabinet approves the Mainstream Local Funding Formula, to be used for the allocation of mainstream funding to schools in Walsall</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	ESFA – Schools revenue funding operation guide Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Schools Forum	Cllr M. Statham	14 December 2022
138/22 (10.10.22)	<p>Food for Life Contract</p> <p>Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to enter into appropriate contractual arrangements from 1st April 2023 until 31st March 2024, and subsequently authorise the sealing or signing of associated contracts, deeds or other related documents for the Food for Life contract.</p>	Cabinet Key Decision	Esther Higdon Esther.Higdon@walsall.gov.uk Paul Nelson Paul.Nelson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Flint	14 December 2022

125/22 (8.8.22)	Housing First contract award: To approve the contract award enabling the continuation of flexible support to former rough sleepers housed through the Housing First initiative	Cabinet Key Decision	Neil Hollyhead Neil.Hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk	Internal services, service users, external stakeholders	Cllr Ali	14 December 2022
140/22 (10.10.22)	High Needs Funding Formula: To approve changes to the High Needs Funding Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used for the allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block to schools in Walsall for the 2023/24 financial year	Cabinet Key Decision	Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk	Schools Forum Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	8 February 2023
141/22 (10.10.22)	Corporate Financial Performance 2022/23: To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2022, including the impact of Covid-19.	Cabinet Non-key decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Corporate Management Team and Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 2023
142/22 (10.10.22)	Corporate Budget Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27, incorporating the Capital Strategy and the Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2023/24: To recommend the final budget and council tax for approval by Council.	Council Cabinet Key Decision	Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk	Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations, Corporate Management Team and Internal Services	Cllr Bird	8 February 202

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

<u>Date created</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>	<u>Main Consultee</u>	<u>Date of meeting</u>
Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)				
25/08/2022	<p>Swan Lane West Bromwich</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Green Square Accord Ltd, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Swan Lane West Bromwich project with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.</p>	<p>Tony McGovern Tony.McGovern@sandwell.gov.uk</p>	Sandwell Council	19/10/2022
Local Growth Fund (LGF)				
25/08/2022	<p>Mill Lane Bridge GRIP 3 Study & Aldridge Line Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Growth Deal (Walsall Council) to proceed to amending the internal Grant Agreement for the Mill Lane Bridge GRIP 3 Study & Aldridge Line Aqueduct GRIP 3 Study project.</p> <p>Note that change request relates to a change in match funding.</p>	<p>Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Walsall Council	19/10/2022

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

<u>Date created</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>	<u>Main Consultee</u>	<u>Date of meeting</u>
Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance				
09/05/2022	<p>Future working arrangements of the Black Country Executive Joint Committee</p> <p>Consider the future working arrangements in light of the receipt of Government correspondence dated 31 March 2022: Integrating Local Enterprise Partnerships into local democratic institutions.</p>	<p>Sarah Middleton Sarah.Middleton@blackcountryconsortium.co.uk</p>	<p>Dudley MBC Sandwell MBC Walsall MBC City of Wolverhampton Council</p>	01/02/2023
06/06/2022	<p>Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones</p> <p>Approval of the amended Supplemental Deed of <i>Governance Principles: Enterprise Zones</i>, relating to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement.</p>	<p>Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Walsall Council</p>	01/02/2023
Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)				
03/10/2022	<p>Willenhall Garden City - Phase 1 (Moat Street and Villiers Street)</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with</p>	<p>Simon Neilson Simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk</p>	<p>Walsall Council</p>	01/02/2023

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

<u>Date created</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>	<u>Main Consultee</u>	<u>Date of meeting</u>
	Green Square Accord Ltd for £3.2m, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Willenhall Garden City – Phase 1 (Moat street and Villiers Street) with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.			
03/10/2022	Dudley Brownfield Land Programme Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment Fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Dudley Council for £1.1m, to deliver the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF), funded elements of the Dudley Brownfield Land Programme with delivery to commence in the 2022/23 financial year.	Helen Martin Helen.Martin@dudley.gov.uk	Dudley Council	01/02/2023

WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY FORWARD PLAN: SEPTEMBER 2022 - MARCH 2023

Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Meeting September 2022					
Independent Remuneration Panel	<p>Purpose: To consider the recommendations arising out of the independent review of members allowances.</p> <p>Recommendation(s): To consider the recommendations.</p>	n/a	Satish Mistry	No	Governance
Trailblazer Devolution Deal Update	<p>Purpose: To provide an update on the latest work being undertaken in support of the WMCA's Trailblazer Devolution Deal.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p>	Cllr Brigid Jones	Ed Cox	No	Levelling Up
Financial Monitoring 2022/23	<p>Purpose: To outline the latest financial position of WMCA and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA.</p> <p>Recommendation(s):</p>	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Meeting November 2022					
Transport Governance Review	<p>Purpose: To consider the recommendations arising from a review into the WMCA's transport governance arrangements.</p>	Cllr Ian Ward	Satish Mistry / Anne Shaw	No	Governance

Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
	Recommendations(s): To approve the recommendations proposed to improve the WMCA's transport governance.				
Trailblazer Devolution Deal Update	Purpose: To provide an update on the latest work being undertaken in support of the WMCA's Trailblazer Devolution Deal. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Brigid Jones	Ed Cox	No	Levelling Up
WMCA Aims & Objectives Annual Review	Purpose: To review the WMCA's Aims & Objectives previously agreed in November 2021. Recommendations(s):	n/a	Laura Shoaf	No	Governance
Financial Monitoring 2022/23	Purpose: To outline the latest financial position of WMCA and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Mobility Hubs	Purpose: To approve the Outline Business Case for the Mobility Hubs project to provide multi-modal sustainable transport facilities. Recommendation(s): That the Outline Business Case be approved.	Cllr Ian Ward	Anne Shaw	No	Transport

Title of Report	Summary of purpose and recommendations	Lead Portfolio Holder	Lead Officer	Confidential	Category
Meeting January 2023					
Draft WMCA Budget 2023/234	Purpose: To approve the WMCA's draft 2023/24 budget for consultation. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
Financial Monitoring 2022/23	Purpose: To outline the latest financial position of WMCA and provide an update on any current financial matters affecting WMCA. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance
LEP Integration Plan	Purpose: To approve the proposed integration plan for LEPs. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Ian Brookfield	Julie Nugent	No	Economy & Innovation
Meeting February 2023					
WMCA Budget 2023/234	Purpose: To approve the WMCA's 2023/24 budget. Recommendation(s):	Cllr Bob Sleigh	Linda Horne	No	Finance

Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action/Recommendation	Officer responsible	Status	Target Completion Date	Notes
7 July 2022	Response to petition: 'Pedestrian Crossing for Birmingham Road, Aldridge, enabling the safety of school children'	S106 funding schemes in Aldridge to be reviewed to see if any funding could be secured for the crossing in this way.	Katie Moreton	In Progress		The Development Monitoring Officer who starts on 3 October will provide improved resource to review this matter. Unlikely that previous S106 funds can be used as each S106 specifies what works the obligations are to cover as it has to be related specifically to the development proposed.