

WALSALL SOUTH AREA PANEL

Monday, 4 April, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room 2, Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor M. Arif (Chair)
Councillor K. Hussain
Councillor A. Nawaz
Councillor E. Russell
Councillor G. Sohal
Councillor H. Sarohi

Officers in attendance

Jo Lowndes	Partnership Manager
Paul Gordon	Head of Business Change
Nikki Gough	Committee Business & Governance Manager
Sandy Urquhart	Principal Regeneration Officer
Charis Blythe	Senior Planning Policy Officer

27/15 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting. Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor A Ditta, and Councillor M. Nazir.

28/15 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February, 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record.

29/15 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

30/15 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

None.

31/15 Walsall's Local Plan Consultation

The report advised Members about the latest stage of consultation on three planning documents:

- Site Allocation Document
- Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan
- Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule

The documents were intended to help deliver regeneration, growth and environmental protection, and invited comments about the proposals themselves as well as ideas about how they might be publicised in local areas. It was vitally important to have a plan for the area to prevent the area developing in a way which is not in the best interests of the community. The next stage for the plan would be for it to be presented at full Council and then on to Government with its adoption in 2016- 17.

Officers informed Members that changes had been made to the documents in consideration of consultation responses. Members considered the sites previously and currently on offer to Walsall College. It was clarified that the land was a mix of ownership. Concern was expressed that town centre development was 'stretching' the retail area of the town with certain areas of the town benefitting from development more than others. District Centres were also discussed and Officers stated that the smaller centres were allocated for protection.

The plan for a new multi story car park in the town centre was discussed. In response to challenge about this Officers' stated that it was questionable if free parking could be provided in the current economic climate. Also other sustainable methods of transport needed to be encouraged.

Members expressed concern that enforcement action was not taken in areas where there was excess rubbish and parking on grass verges. Members were thanked for their views and advised to contact officers if they had any further comments.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

32/15 Area Managers Report

Members asked for clarification on the status of Area Panels and the status of funding. The Head of Business Change stated that Area Panels would exist until after annual Council in May. A report on funding arrangements would be considered by Cabinet in April and in June Cabinet would make a decision on the future of the Panels. However Area Managers would continue in their role.

Resolved:

That the Committee thanked the Chair and the Area Manager of the Committee for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

33/15 Funding Report

The Panel considered the report.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

35/15 Date and venue for next meeting

Termination of meeting

The meeting closed at 6.35 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: