

**8 June 2010**

**Consideration of Panel Work Programme for 2010/11**

**Ward(s)**                      All

**Portfolio Holders:**

**Summary of report:**

The purpose of this report is to provide relevant background information for Members so that the Panels work programme can be agreed for 2010/11.

It is important for Members to consider the wide range of potential issues within their remits that they could consider during the year which could range from council specific to completely external issues.

When agreeing items it is important that consideration is given to what, value the Panel can add and what tools and performance measures are available to support them in their work.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That Member's consider the range of items within their remit available to them and agree a work programme for 2010/11 along with any potential working groups and their membership.**

**Background papers:**

Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10  
Minutes of previous meetings  
Citizen Panel Consultations

**Resource and legal considerations:**

In terms of resources it is important that the right balance and number of items and working groups are selected so that the work programme can be completed during the year without placing undue pressure on Member capacity.

Legal considerations for specific items will need to be addressed as and when necessary based on the items that are selected for inclusion on the work programme.

**Citizen impact:**

An effective work programme will enable the Panel to focus its work on the most important issues within its remit. Consideration of these issues and subsequent recommendations, if accepted, could improve the quality of services delivered to local residents.

**Environmental impact:**

The level of environmental impact will be dependant on which issues are selected to become a part of the panels work programme for 2010/11. The borough's Sustainable Community Strategy places an importance on considering the impact of present decisions on future generations which includes environmental issues.

**Performance management:**

The report asks Members to consider performance management information when deciding on their work programme, and also to consider how they wish to use performance management information and tools in assisting them with their work over the course of the year.

**Equality Implications:**

Ensuring equality for all is a key theme in the boroughs Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement as well as being one of the Council's core values. Members are advised to consider what, if any, equality implications there are for any items on their work programme.

**Consultation:**

Members may wish to consider the results of any formal or informal consultation exercises, including that with the public and partners, when considering what items they wish to include in their work programme. Whilst Council officers carry out a range of consultation activity on behalf of the Council, Members themselves engage with the public on a much more frequent basis and it is valuable to consider feedback from these sources as well.

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## **Introduction**

At the start of each municipal year it is good practice for scrutiny and performance panels to spend some time discussing and agreeing its work programme for the year ahead for issues within its remit.

As Members will already be aware scrutiny and performance panel remits were amended by Council at its meeting on 24 and 26 May 2010. For information the Panels remit in Article 6 of the Walsall Council Constitution now reads as:

### **Community Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel**

All aspects and general services related to serving the community, for example community safety, leisure and culture, the local strategic partnership, third sector co-ordination and to review or scrutinise decisions made or other actions taken in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions (no less than twice in every 12 months) as required by the Police and Justice Act, 2006, within the functions set out in section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

## **Work Programme**

In agreeing its work programme for 2010/11 the Panel will be informed from a range of sources, including all 60 Members, last years Panel work streams and suggested carry over items , Council Officers, Partners and the Public.

When agreeing the items to be included in its work programme focus should be given to the range of performance management information available that could assist the Panel with each particular issue. A whole host of performance information is available on a range of subjects that Members could utilise to measure success or otherwise.

## **Working Groups**

Members need to decide whether they want to operate any working groups for this year. Working Groups are at their most effective when they are considering broad policy areas that require detailed investigation time that cannot be completed at Panel level. The Panel will set the working group remit, its membership and once a working group has completed its investigations it will report its findings and recommendations to the Panel for consideration and adoption.

It is very important that Member capacity is considered when deciding on what working groups are formed as many members sit on more than one panel and their respective working groups. As such getting suitable dates in the municipal diary and getting suitable attendance at those meetings is difficult if too many working groups are formed. In previous years experience and given the increased number of Panel's in this years municipal diary, it is suggested that each Panel should look to run only one working group at any one time. Panels that wish to operate more than working group during the year could timetable the second to start as the first finishes.

A copy of the councils working group toolkit has been despatched separately to Members and is available to members of the public by request. Member's are asked to familiarise themselves with this toolkit ahead of deciding what, if any, working groups they wish to run.

## **Value for Money Service Reviews**

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel has developed a value for money (vfm) toolkit to assist Members if it is decided to complete a service review. Last year the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel used the value for money toolkit to review the Councils Communication and Payroll and Pensions services. The two reviews were well received by both Members and Officers and resulted in positive recommendations for both services. The Corporate Panel recommended that other Panels also look to use this toolkit and this recommendation was endorsed by the scrutiny working group of Chair's and Vice-Chairs.

The vfm assessment tool provides a framework for members in partnership with services to work through and is divided into 3 broad themes:

1. What does it cost to provide this service? (economy)
2. How is this service performing? (efficiency)
3. What quality is the service being provided? (effectiveness)

For each of these themes there is the opportunity/potential for scrutiny panels with the service being assessed to benchmark with other service providers to give a clearer picture of relative performance.

The aim is that on completing this assessment scrutiny members will be able to make a judgement regarding the vfm provided by the service and identify and recommend any potential further action.

The vfm toolkit can be used to support the investigations of working groups or independently. When used independently the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel appointed a lead member who liaised with the service area whilst the toolkit is completed and then reports back their findings to the Panel for agreement of recommendations and any other further action that may be necessary.

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1: RESIDENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITY FINDINGS**

This briefing note sets out findings from the local place survey and budget consultation. Members may wish to consider the findings of this community engagement work and use it to influence the selection of work programme topics.

Further to this is a series of tables illustrating the outcome of the place survey consultation by question and neighbourhood management areas.

## Suggested Items

**Appendix Two** contains a number of suggested items completed on a standard template to assist Members with deciding what they wish to include on their work programme. This template requires the following points to be considered-

- o **What the Issue Is**
- o **Where it has come from-** for example it could be a carry over item from last year's panel, a suggestion from a Councillor or member of the public or it could be a new item officers are aware of that is coming up this year,
- o **Why it is important-** with limited time available to Members they need to be able to prioritise their work and concentrate on those things that really matter.
- o **Who it affects-** Does it impact on any particular ward or user group? Does it concern partner agencies or staff groups? Any potential equalities issues may be highlighted here if the item is likely to have a disproportionate affect on any particular group.
- o **How can scrutiny add value-** What specifically can Scrutiny do? E.g. provide feedback and recommendations ahead of a Cabinet (or partner executive) decision, support the development of policy, service review, public engagement etc. Suggestions have also been made here for it the item is particular suited to a particular method of scrutiny such as a working group or value for money review.
- o **Timings-** This will highlight any critical timings that would need to be taking into consideration such as statutory deadlines which would dictate when scrutiny would need to have considered the item by if they are to have any valuable input
- o **Performance Information-** This includes any relevant performance indicators that can provide Members with a guide on current levels of performance and also give a benchmark to measure future improvement.

The items highlighted at appendix one are not an exhaustive list, but only those that it is possible to provide in advance of the meeting. Members should consider these alongside any items they wish to raise themselves and use them to develop a balanced work programme that concentrates on what is important to them and on where they believe they can make a difference.

**Appendix Three** is a copy of the forward plan for May to September 2010.

**Appendix Four** is the outcome of a recent public survey on what local residents believe scrutiny and performance panels should consider. The survey closed on 31 May 2010 so the results of the survey will be tabled at the meeting.

**BRIEFING NOTE****TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL****DATE: 8 JUNE 2010****RE: RESIDENT CONSULTATION ACTIVITY FINDINGS****Purpose**

To inform the Panel regarding recent consultation activity which provides guidance regarding local residents views on what should be the council's priorities. The Panel may choose to use this guidance to inform their decisions in relation to the work programme for this year.

**Consultation activity**

A budget consultation event was held in October 2009. The attendees heard about the council's budget setting process as well as current and future spending and savings targets. Through informal discussion in small groups, local residents had the opportunity to give their views as to what should be the council's spending priorities for the coming financial year. In addition, between September and December 2008 the national Place Survey was undertaken. This was a statutory consultation used to identify, from the perspective of local residents, priorities for Walsall.

**Findings****Budget consultation October 2009:**

Event attendees wanted a borough to be proud of, one where people respect one another and their surroundings, is safe, clean and easy to get around. Where young people and adults are aspiring and do well in education and training. Whilst continuing to deliver services to those who are vulnerable, attendees want to see a greater allocation of money to make the borough a more attractive place to live in, with the regeneration of all areas not just Walsall town centre. Clean streets and level of crime are both important to local quality of life.

**The Place Survey 2008:**

Respondents identified the following top 5 priorities for improvement:

- Activities for teenagers;
- Road and pavement repairs;
- Level of crime;
- Clean streets;
- Level of traffic congestion.

Respondents identified the following top 5 issues as most important for quality of life:

- Level of crime;
- Clean streets;
- Health Services;

- Affordable decent homes;
- Public transport.

A number of other issues and concerns were raised by respondents:

- Anti-social behaviour remains a concern for residents, with many feeling a lack of activities for children and young people in need of improvement;
- Residents want to see continued regeneration of the borough with a focus on stimulating a thriving economy. Residents are concerned that about the job situation and ensuring that buildings are not left derelict, and that empty shops are reused. Residents want to see investment across the whole borough;
- Investment and regeneration is thought to be a key catalyst for prompting community spirit and proactive behaviour, whilst also helping raise the aspirations of residents and the feeling of pride;
- Whilst views about the impact of the new Walsall ring road are generally divided, residents feel that further improvements to transport links and services could be made. Walsall bus station and town centre car parking being highlighted as particular areas requiring attention;
- Residents want a borough that is clean and tidy, a borough they can feel proud of. Litter picking and street sweeping in all areas of the borough is important to residents, as well as targeting run down areas and maintaining the borough's roads, pavements and footpaths;
- Whilst residents feel it is important to ensure a clean and green borough, it should not be at the detriment of other critical services e.g. care for the vulnerable, adults and children, which are seen as a priority. Residents are worried that cuts may lead to reduced services which then impact on the most vulnerable. Maintaining quality services, particularly in the current economic climate and the years ahead is of vital importance;
- Throughout the challenging economic climate, supporting people when they need it most and the delivery of preventative services is seen by some as a key area for investment. The community and voluntary sector want the council working hard to support families throughout the borough to help prevent them breaking down and prioritising those most at risk from harm;
- Investing in education is a top priority for many, particularly basic skills and life-long learning. Libraries are seen as a potentially vital resource;
- Concerns were expressed that young professionals and graduates may not take up jobs here. Regenerating the borough so that it is attractive to young qualified professionals and businesses is seen as a priority;
- When recruiting staff, businesses most frequently state that accessing the right higher level skills, lack of basic skills and recruitment costs are barriers;
- Businesses identify costs in the form of overheads including business rates, high cost of energy and premises costs as barriers to operating in the borough;
- Residents and representatives from the community and voluntary sector feel that there are emerging opportunities arising from the current economic climate. Investing in and supporting volunteering opportunities in the borough and working more closely with the voluntary sector was thought to offer many benefits and cost savings;

## Appendix 1

- There is widespread consensus that the council needs to do more to tap into the expertise, knowledge and skills of the community and voluntary sector, which would in turn help the council achieve its efficiency targets and help this sector survive.
- Residents expressed the view that they were generally unable to influence decisions in their local area;
- Considering the role of local people in decision-making, a majority of respondents to the Place Survey feel that they currently are not adequately informed about local public services. Research has highlighted the link between the extent to which residents are informed about local services and their level of satisfaction;
- Representatives from the community and voluntary sector feel that local people don't adequately understand what services the council provides. Having a better understanding is thought to benefit local people and the council;
- There was strong consensus that working more closely with the community and voluntary sector is very important and that this sector can help spread information about council services to the people and communities they work with.

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## Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

<b>Issue</b>	Strategic Leisure Centre / facilities review.					
<b>Who from</b>	Previous years panel ✓	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
<b>Why is it important?</b>	Walsall currently has 27 pools in its ownership: 5 Leisure Centres and 22 school pools. The Council needs to reduce the borough-wide provision of swimming pools from 4,800m <sup>2</sup> to about 2,000m <sup>2</sup> ; sufficient for current and future demand. Work on BSF (5 of the 6 schools have pools) needs clarifying and this does also feed into the AM2010+ Working Smarter programmes, as well as the corporate budget process for 2011/12					
<b>Who does it affect?</b>	All residents through the health, lifestyle, Every Child Matters and well-being agenda.					
<b>Who needs to be involved?</b>	Scrutiny Panel members.					
<b>How can scrutiny add value?</b>	To provide a recommendation to Cabinet on a proposed way forward.					
<b>Timings</b>	First meeting mid June; site visits (Rotherham and Bolton) in late June/early July, report drafted by end August: to September Cabinet.					
<b>Performance Information</b>	<p>Please see attached spreadsheets.</p> <p>NI 8 – Adult participation in sport and active recreation  NI 56 – Obesity among primary school age children in year 6  NI 57 – Children and Young people’s participation in sporting opportunities  NI 110 – Young people’s participation in positive activities</p> <p>Of the four indicators above only NI 57 is not in Walsall’s LAA. There is currently no available data for NI 57 but the other three indicators all have a Green/Amber/Red rating of</p>					

	<p>Red.</p> <p>NI 8 currently performs at 16.8% of adults participating in the desired level of activity per week in 09/10 against a target of 19.1%. Although the direction of travel is upward showing improvement and we are hopeful of a significant increase this year.</p> <p>NI 56 was last updated in Dec 09 and has a figure of 21.93% of children in year 6 to be obese against a target of 18.8%. This figure has increased from the previous year and is thus on a downward trend.</p> <p>NI 110 was recently out turned by the TellUs4 survey and has shown a drastic decline from 71.3% of young people involved in positive activities to 57.6%. This is against a target of 74% and shows a significant downward trend.</p>
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Improving Health

Appendix 1 Leisure Centre Performance 2008/9

	Bloxwich	Darlaston	Gala Baths	Oak Park	Willenhall	Bentley	All Centres
<b>Employees</b>	£461,183	£324,398	£394,067	£437,196	£320,400	£53,644	£1,990,888
<b>Premises</b>	£222,086	£241,936	£233,452	£204,850	£125,770	£22,723	£1,050,818
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>	£79,298	£79,670	£71,437	£83,960	£38,696	£11,260	£364,320
<b>Total Expenditure (excl Cost of capital, CSS &amp; FRS17)</b>	£762,568	£646,003	£698,957	£726,005	£484,866	£87,628	£3,406,026
<b>Income</b>	-£364,202	-£331,647	-£355,273	-£472,412	-£160,636	-£33,488	-£1,717,659
<b>Net Expenditure (excl Capital, CSS &amp; FRS17)</b>	£398,366	£314,356	£343,683	£253,593	£324,229	£54,140	£1,688,367
<b>Attendances 2008/9</b>	187,752	147,038	164,751	266,798	80,784	22,971	870,094
<b>Subsidy per user (excl Cost of capital, CSS &amp; FRS17)</b>	£2.12	£2.14	£2.09	£0.95	£4.01	£2.36	
<b>Average subsidy per user (excl Capital)</b>	£1.94	£1.94	£1.94	£1.94	£1.94	£1.94	
<b>Subsidy per user variance from average</b>	£0.18	£0.20	£0.15	-£0.99	£2.07	£0.42	

## Appendix 2 Leisure Centre Performance 2009/10

	Bloxwich	Darlaston*	Gala Baths	Oak Park	Willenhall	Bentley	All Centres
<b>Employees</b>	£469,283	£350,342	£408,049	£468,813	£290,713	£49,465	£2,036,665
<b>Premises</b>	£203,120	£221,696	£188,339	£193,034	£130,748	£22,162	£959,099
<b>Supplies &amp; Services</b>	£66,942	£71,586	£72,906	£66,566	£35,238	£8,726	£321,964
<b>Total Expenditure (excl Cost of capital, CSS &amp; FRS17)</b>	£739,345	£643,624	£669,294	£728,413	£456,700	£80,353	£3,317,728
<b>Income</b>	-£402,714	-£320,659	-£403,448	-£479,024	-£178,725	-£26,806	-£1,811,376
<b>Net Expenditure (excl Capital, CSS &amp; FRS17)</b>	£336,631	£322,965	£265,846	£249,389	£277,975	£53,547	£1,506,353
<b>Attendances 2009/10</b>	194,679	143,606	178,825	280,653	91,993	20,227	909,983
<b>Subsidy per user (excl Cost of capital, CSS &amp; FRS17)</b>	£1.73	£2.25	£1.49	£0.89	£3.02	£2.65	
<b>Average subsidy per user (excl Capital)</b>	£1.66	£1.66	£1.66	£1.66	£1.66	£1.66	
<b>Subsidy per user variance from average</b>	£0.07	£0.59	-£0.17	-£0.77	£1.37	£0.99	

\*The apparent deterioration in the performance

## Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

<b>Issue</b>	First Stop Express (customer service bus)					
<b>Who from</b>	<b>Previous years panel</b>	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
<b>Why is it important?</b>	The vehicle provides a useful tool for providing residents with local access to services and information and a means for community engagement across the borough. Scrutiny provides an appropriate forum to monitor the service and customer take up and ensure best usage and value for money. Following a report to the panel in November 2009 it was agreed to report back in 2010. The proposed timing of the report will allow for sufficient data to be collected to allow comparisons between the respective years					
<b>Who does it affect?</b>	Customers and providers of key council services					
<b>Who needs to be involved?</b>	Service users including members of the public and local businesses, council service providers and potential partner agencies e.g. NHS					
<b>How can scrutiny add value?</b>	Members knowledge of the needs of residents within their wards and across the borough as a whole will assist officers in ensuring the most appropriate use of the vehicle and where and when it can be deployed					
<b>Timings</b>	At its meeting in November 2009 it was agreed that a follow up report would be presented to monitor progress of this project. While the initial proposal was to report back in June the service was severely hampered by inclement weather and a new timetable not introduced until March 2010. A report in October is recommended as it will provide time to analyse the data from March – Aug 2010 and allow a comparison with the same period for 2009 previously reported to the panel					
<b>Performance Information</b>	<i>NI 14 (avoidable contact) has been deleted from the National Indicator Set. Although discussions are on-going about this becoming a local indicator as it relates to stakeholder</i>					

Appendix 2

	<i>interactions. Avoidable contact has reduced from 29.2% in 2008/09 to 25.0% in 2009/10. The FSS Express could aid in reducing this figure further.</i>
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Developing Strong and Dynamic Communities

## Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

<b>Issue</b>	The future of the public library service in Walsall					
<b>Who from</b>	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer Jamie Morris	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
<b>Why is it important?</b>	In March 2010, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport published a Modernisation Review of the Public Library Service. In the light of this and the rapidly changing economic, social, learning and information needs of the residents of Walsall, Library Services need to examine how they will shape and develop services to meet the current and future needs of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities.					
<b>Who does it affect?</b>	Every resident of the Borough					
<b>Who needs to be involved?</b>	Staff, stakeholders and residents					
<b>How can scrutiny add value?</b>	Scrutiny can challenge stereotypical thinking, investigate options and suggest innovation. Play a key role in the shaping of the Library Service of the future					
<b>Timings</b>	Options appraisal September.					
<b>Performance Information</b>	<p><i>The Library Service currently operates through a network of 16 branch libraries, a mobile and housebound library service. This network received 1,289,324 visits in 2009/10 and delivered 320,736 computer sessions.</i></p> <p><i>NI 9 – Use of public libraries (Green)</i></p> <p><i>NI 110 – Young people's participation in positive activities (Red)</i></p> <p><i>NI 9 measures the percentage of adults in a LA who have used a public library service in the past 12 months, in 09/10</i></p>					

	<p><i>the figure was 45.5%. This had decreased from 49.4% in 08/09, but this was seen as no significant change and performs just below the national average and above the regional average.. The data is collected via the Tellus surveys and thus are open to fluctuations.</i></p> <p>NI 110 was recently out turned by the TellUs4 survey and has shown a drastic decline from 71.3% of young people involved in positive activities to 57.6%. This is against a target of 74% and shows a significant downward trend.</p>
<p><b>Corporate Priority</b></p>	<p>Developing Strong and Dynamic Communities  Improving Education and Skills  Reducing Worklessness and Creating Opportunity and Potential</p>



### Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

<b>Issue</b>	Scrutiny of Local Area Agreement Targets																	
<b>Who from</b>	Previous years panel	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other Walsall Partnership												
<b>Why is it important?</b>	<p>The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is the delivery vehicle for the areas Sustainable Community Strategy. There are 31 targets in Walsall's LAA. In previous years scrutiny and performance panels have taken an overview of the LAA indicators that fall into their specific remits. This year it is suggested that Members focus their attention on LAA that are below target indicators and consider the range of action that is taking place to achieve it.</p> <p>LAA indicators where performance could be improved for this panel include:</p> <p>Red:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">NI 004 (see separate sheet)</td> <td>% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality (PSA 21) (place survey)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NI 008</td> <td>Adult participation in sport (DCMS DSO)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Amber:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">NI 001</td> <td>% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area (PSA 21)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NI 005</td> <td>Overall/general satisfaction with local area (GLG DSO) (place survey)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NI 007</td> <td>Environment for a thriving third sector</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NI 17</td> <td>Perceptions of anti-social behaviour (PSA 23) (place survey)</td> </tr> </table>						NI 004 (see separate sheet)	% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality (PSA 21) (place survey)	NI 008	Adult participation in sport (DCMS DSO)	NI 001	% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area (PSA 21)	NI 005	Overall/general satisfaction with local area (GLG DSO) (place survey)	NI 007	Environment for a thriving third sector	NI 17	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour (PSA 23) (place survey)
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<b>Who does it affect?</b>	All Walsall Residents																	
<b>Who needs to be involved?</b>	A range of partners as may be necessary																	

<b>How can scrutiny add value?</b>	Scrutiny can add value by ensuring achievement of and making suggestions to assist in achieving with the LAA.
<b>Timings</b>	TBC

## Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

<b>Issue</b>	NI 4:% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality					
<b>Who from</b>	<b>Previous years panel</b>	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
<b>Why is it important?</b>	<p>The Government aims to build communities where individuals are empowered to make a difference both to their own lives and to the area in which they live. A key indicator of community empowerment is the extent to which people feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area.</p> <p>The question that feeds this particular National Indicator is derived from the Place Survey. Local authorities will then submit data to the Audit Commission, who will then weight and submit it to DCLG directly. Following this process Local Authorities will be provided with weighted copies of their own data sets.</p>					
<b>Who does it affect?</b>	<p>Due to the nature of this indicator it impacts on all Council Services along with elected members.</p> <p>The new Neighbourhood Management structure and the appointment of Area Managers should help the achievement of this particular indicator, acting as the interface of Public Sector services for the borough, ensuring that resident's views are helping to influence decisions in their locality.</p>					
<b>Who needs to be involved?</b>	<p>The main issue around this indicator is that it is based on residents perceptions which can be influenced through stories depicted in both the national and regional press.</p> <p>As a consequence of this a 'Communications Strategy' has been drafted in conjunction with the newly appointed Area Managers to help raise residents awareness of the work undertaken by the Council and its partners in conveying messages of how their views are influencing decisions in their area.</p> <p>The ethos adopted throughout this process is "We asked, You said, We did" reinforcing the message that residents can influence decision making in their local area.</p>					

<b>How can scrutiny add value?</b>	This particular indicator affects all of the council's services and is solely based on resident's perceptions through a biennial survey. As a result members of the Community Services panel may find it difficult to directly add value to this indicator. However the panel could consider requesting regular updates on the process and performance of the Neighbourhood Management Structure.
<b>Timings</b>	The next Place Survey will be distributed to residents during September with the deadline for responses being December 2010.
<b>Performance Information</b>	<p><i>Include any relevant performance information that will inform members of current performance levels and provide baseline for future monitoring.</i></p> <p><i>Actual Data – 22.70% (2008/09)</i>  <i>2010/11 Target – 25.60%</i></p>

## Proposed Items for Scrutiny Work Programme

<b>Issue</b>	Recommendations made by the Previous Panel					
<b>Who from</b>	<b>Previous years panel</b>	Individual Member	Officer	Public	Other Council Committee	Other
<b>Why is it important?</b>	<p>It is important that scrutiny and performance panels revisit previous recommendations that they have made to ensure that suitable action has taken place on the topics concerned.</p> <p>Previously considered topics that Members may wish to revisit include:</p> <p>Bryntysilio  Anti-Social Behaviour  Alcohol Related Anti-Social Behaviour  Enforcement and Private Property  Community Gardens  Neighbourhood Management</p>					
<b>Who does it affect?</b>	All residents					
<b>Who needs to be involved?</b>	Varies by topic, typically council officers, partners and stakeholders.					
<b>How can scrutiny add value?</b>	Scrutiny can add value by maintaining momentum and progress in topics that they've previously considered.					
<b>Timings</b>	TBC					



**Walsall Council**

## **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

**Civic Centre,  
Darwall Street,  
Walsall, WS1 1TP  
[www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk)**

**7 May 2010**

## FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” which the Executive (Cabinet) intend to take over the following 4 months. 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. The plan is available for public inspection at the Civic Centre Reception, Darwall Street, Walsall. Copies of the plan can be obtained from John Garner, Constitutional Services, Walsall MBC, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1TP, 01922 653500 or e-mail [cabinetoffice@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:cabinetoffice@walsall.gov.uk). The forward plan can also be accessed from the Council’s website at [www.walsall.gov.uk](http://www.walsall.gov.uk). The Cabinet are allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan.

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 Members and their responsibilities are as follows: **(to be approved by the Leader of the Council)**

Leader of the Council

Deputy Leader and Regeneration

Business support services

Children’s services

Communities and partnerships

Environment

Finance and personnel

Leisure and culture

Social care, health and housing

Transport

The Cabinet agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet. The papers can be seen at First Stop Shop at the Civic Centre, Walsall. The papers are also available on the Council’s website referred to above shortly before the meeting. 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 and take place in Conference Room 2 at the Council House, Walsall on a monthly basis. 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 does not list all decisions which have to be taken by the Council only “key decisions” which are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. The Council’s Constitution defines a key decision as an executive decision which is likely:

- “(1) to result in the Council in incurring expenditure which exceeds that included in any approved revenue or capital budget or the limits set out within an approved borrowing or investment strategy and was not the subject of a specific grant;
- (2) to result in the Council incurring expenditure, or the making of savings, which are equivalent to or more than 5% of any approved revenue budget or 10% of any capital budget, whichever is the lower, subject to a de minimus level of £50,000;
- (3) to be significant in terms of its direct effects on communities in an area comprising two or more wards in the Borough.”

**Dates of Cabinet meetings for 2010/2011 (To be approved at Adjourned Council meeting on 26 May 2010)**

**2010**

16 June  
14 July  
15 September  
13 October  
17 November  
15 December

**2011**

12 January  
9 February  
16 March  
13 April



**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS  
JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2010 (7.5.10)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Key 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
86/09 (9.11.09)	<b>New Horizons Community Enterprise</b> Walsall's New Deal for Communities end 31.3.2011. The Department for Communities and Local Government are encouraging New Deal partnerships to develop succession strategies beyond the end of the programme. As accountable body the Council is required by the DCLG to formally approve the succession strategy.	Cabinet	Paul Rowlands 712858	New Horizons Community Enterprise, Department for Communities and Local Government, Government Office, West Midlands	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
28/09 (8.5.09)	<b>Walsall Gigaport</b> – To consider and agree the principles of the partnership agreement with Advantage West Midlands for the delivery of the Gigaport, to advise on the bid to AWM for project, funding, to endorse, in principle, the use of compulsory purchase powers where necessary, to agree the process for the procurement of a development partner and the identification of a delivery model	Cabinet	Paul Nicholson 652489 Richard Chadwick 652576	Walsall Regeneration Company	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
10/10 (8.2.10)	<b>Building Schools for the Future</b> – approve the strategy for change part 2 prior to submission to Partnership for Schools. The document sets out a clear, robust and resourced plan to deliver educational transformation across the secondary school estate in Walsall.	Cabinet	Alison Butcher 655489	Schools, partners, scrutiny members, trade unions, community representatives	Regeneration portfolio Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010

32/10 (7.5.10)	<b>Regional Housing Pot</b> – approve programme of projects to be funded in 2010/11 and delegate the Executive Director in consultation with the portfolio holder authority to approve any amendments to the programme during the year to maximise the Regional Housing Pot	Cabinet	Andrea Potts 652633	Legal services, finance	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
33/10 (7.5.10)	<b>Housing Renewal Assistance</b> – seek enders to deliver capital grant and other assistance projects in line with the Housing Renewal Assistance policy and delegate to the Executive Director, Regeneration authority to accept tenders	Cabinet	Andrea Potts 652633	Audit, procurement, legal, finance	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
34/10 (7.5.10)	<b>Redevelopment of the Old Square, Walsall</b> – to agree to the disposal of the Council’s interests and in principle approval, to use compulsory purchase powers to facilitate the phased redevelopment of the Old Square area.	Cabinet	Richard Chadwick 652576	Walsall Regeneration Company	Regeneration portfolio	16 June 2010
22/10 (31.3.10)	<b>Primary Strategy – transforming learning</b> – to seek approval on the primary strategy which will outline the strategic direction of primary education for 2009-2012	Cabinet	Sue Wedgwood, Walsall Children’s Services Serco 686369	Finance, legal, HR and Ward Councillors	Children’s services portfolio	16 June 2010
23/10 (31.3.10)	<b>Education capital programme</b> – to seek permission to progress further projects	Cabinet	Susan Lupton, Walsall Children’s Services Serco 686231	Finance, legal, HR, ward Councillors	Children’s services portfolio	16 June 2010
35/10 (7.5.10)	<b>Early Years – Quality access childcare grant</b> – to seek approval of the use of the Early Years Childcare grant	Cabinet	Carol Boughton Walsall Children’s Services Serco 686420	Finance, legal, HR, ward Councillors	Children’s services portfolio	16 June 2010

90/09 (9.11.09)	<b>Project W2R – provision of energy from waste capacity from Staffordshire County Council</b> – To consider the affordability of the W2R contract over the life time of the project	Cabinet	Keith Stone 652100	Legal, procurement, finance, Staffordshire County Council	Children's services portfolio	16 June 2010
30/10 (7.5.10)	<b>Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre</b> – consider progress by schools to buy into proposed additional bed space and whether there is a need to commit significant expenditure to modernise the Top Lodge	Cabinet	Chris Holliday 650339 Ben Percival 605500	Bryntysilio trustees, Primary School Head Teachers Forum, Property Services	Leisure and culture portfolio	16 June 2010
31/10 (7.5.10)	<b>Willenhall Leisure Centre</b> – update on progress to reduce costs and increase income and to make a decision on the future of the centre	Cabinet	Chris Holliday 650339 Ben Percival 605500	Ward Councillors, Project Reference Group, Property Services	Leisure and cultur portfolio	16 June 2010
16/10 (8.2.10)	<b>Walsall Partnership Programmes and Resources</b> – approval of proposed funding allocations recommended by Walsall Partnership thematic groups to deliver the Local Area Agreement and national indicator set	Cabinet	Jo Lowndes	Council and partners	Leader of the Council	14 July 2010
8/10 (8.2.10)	<b>Designation of Jane Lane and Castle Schools</b> – to seek permission for changes in designations of Jane Lane and Castle Schools	Cabinet	Connie Mergen, Walsall Children's Services, Serco 686232	Finance, legal, HR and ward Councillors	Regeneration portfolio	14 July 2010
25/10 (31.3.10)	<b>Education capital programme</b> – to seek permission to progress further projects	Cabinet	Susan Lupton, Walsall Children's Services Serco 686231	Finance, legal, HR, ward Councillors	Children's services portfolio	14 July 2010
36/10 (7.5.10)	<b>Waste Strategy review</b> – to approve the draft waste strategy prior to going out to public consultation	Cabinet1	Keith Stone 653301	Approval required for public consultation	Environment portfolio	14 July 2010

37.10 (7.5.10)	<b>Replacement wheelie bins</b> – implementation of charging policy for replacement bins that have come to end of their natural life	Cabinet	Dave Roberts 653957	Leisure services, finance, procurement	Environment portfolio	14 July 2010
58/09 (7.8.09)	<b>Corporate Asset Management 2009-2014</b> – approval of plan which sets out the approach to the strategic management of the Council's property portfolio	Cabinet	Steve Law 652075	Executive Directors, Corporate Property Group	Regeneration portfolio	15 September 2010
38/10 (7.5.10)	<b>Integrated Youth capital strategy and youth offer</b> – approval of strategy and related implementation plan	Cabinet	Alan Michell	Young people, stakeholders (including third sector)	Children's services portfolio	15 September 2010
27/10 (8.3.10)	<b>Community equipment service</b> – To approve the transformation of the service from the current equipment store system to a retail model for small items of equipment	Cabinet	Andy Rust	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Social care, health and housing portfolio	15 September 2010
28/10 (31.3.10)	<b>Frail elderly pathway</b> – to approve changes in working practice within in-house home care, to ensure that intermediate care services can be provided to people in their own homes that more effectively prevents avoidable hospital admissions to the Manor	Cabinet	Andy Rust	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Social care, health and housing portfolio	15 September 2010
29/10 (31.3.10)	<b>Tender for Domiciliary care</b> – to change procurement arrangements for independent homecare services from the current block contract to framework agreements so that the Council is better placed to support individuals to choose their own service provider in line with government policy as set out in "Putting People First".	Cabinet	Andy Rust	Staff, partner organisations, users, carers	Social care, health and housing portfolio	15 September 2010

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS  
FROM OCTOBER 2010**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan	Key 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
(7.5.10)	<b>Contracts for treatment, recovery and final disposal of municipal waste</b> – award of contract for waste disposal – medium term arrangements, 5 year contract to various contractors	Cabinet	Dave Roberts 653957	Internal	Environment portfolio	December 2010