



Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

10 September 2024 at 6:00PM

Meeting Venue: Council Chamber at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall

[Livestream Link](#)

Membership:

Councillor M Follows (Chair)
Councillor J Whitehouse (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Bott
Councillor S Cheema
Councillor P Gill
Councillor F Hassan
Councillor A Hicken
Councillor I Hussain
Councillor R Larden
Councillor K Margetts
Councillor G Singh-Sohal

Portfolio Holder(s):

Councillor G. Perry – Leader of the Council and Strategy, Partnerships and Communities
Councillor A. Andrew – Associate Leader and Economic Growth and Regeneration
Councillor G. Flint – Health and Wellbeing
Councillor A. Garcha – Resident Access and Housing Support
Councillor P. Kaur – Education and Skills
Councillor K. Murphy – Street Pride

Quorum:

4 Members

Democratic Services, The Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW
Contact name: Matt Powis Telephone: 01922 652156 Email: matthew.powis@walsall.gov.uk
[Walsall Council Website](#)

**If you are disabled and require help to and from the meeting room,
please contact the person above**

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>
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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.

Part 1 – Public Session

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. Minutes

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2024.

(Enclosed p6 - 8)

4. Declarations of Interest and party whip

To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

5. 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.

6. Portfolio Presentations and Update on the Chemical Spill

To receive verbal presentations from Portfolio Holders on their priorities for the municipal year.

(Enclosed p9 – 16)

7. Community Cohesion

For Members to receive an overview of the Council's approach to community cohesion in the Borough.

(Enclosed p17 – 20)

8. Areas of focus – 2023/24

To consider the areas of focus for the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

(Enclosed p21-22)

9. Forward Plans

To receive the latest Forward Plans in respect of the following:

- Executive Forward Plans.
- Black Country Joint Executive Committee.
- West Midlands Combined Authority Board.

(Enclosed p23-39)

10. Recommendations Tracker

To consider progress on recommendations from the previous meeting.

(Enclosed p40)

11. Date of next meeting

To note that the next scheduled meeting will take place on 24 October 2024.

Minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Walsall Council House

Tuesday, 9 July 2024 at 6.00p.m.

Committee Members present: Councillor M Follows (Chair)
Councillor J Whitehouse (Vice-Chair)
Councillor E Russell
Councillor S Cheema
Councillor A Hicken
Councillor I Hussain
Councillor R Larden
Councillor K Margetts
Councillor G Singh-Sohal

Officers present: Katie Moreton - Director of Place and Environment
Paul Gordon – Director of Resilient Communities
Matt Powis – Senior Democratic Services Officer

74. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Bott.

75. Substitutions

Councillor Russell substituted for Councillor Bott.

76. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

77. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

There were no items to consider in private session.

78. Minutes

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 April 2024 was submitted. [annexed].

Resolved

That, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2024 copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

79. Areas of focus – 2023/24 and Forward Plans

The Committee noted the proposed areas of focus for the remaining meetings of the municipal year. [annexed]

The Chair highlighted that the Executive Portfolio Lead presentations would be presented at the next meeting of the Committee. This was due to recent appointment of a new executive administration. As such, Members welcomed and received presentations from the Director of Place and Environment and the Director of Resilient Communities on behalf of the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Communities.

The presentations outlined the key services within directorates which fall under the remit of the Committee, the structure of directorates, priority focuses within service areas, and suggested areas of focus for the Committee.

The Democratic Services Officer provided an overview of the outstanding items identified in the previous municipal year. Following a lengthy debate, it was resolved that the following items be included in the work programme for the 2024/2025 municipal year:

- Town Deals and District Centres
- Protection of Trees, Wildlife and Biodiversity
- Markets
- Willenhall and Darlaston Train Stations
- Rewilding and Grass cutting
- Section 125
- Derelict Building Taskforce
- Devolution Deal and Levelling Up.
- Recycling and Waste Collection
- Heritage Assets
- Net Zero
- Planning Enforcement
- Decarbonisation Building Programme
- Underutilisation of Community Assets (Town Hall)
- Community Cohesion
- Flood Management

The Chair requested suggestions for working groups in relation to the remit of the Committee. Following a brief discussion, two items on Borough High Streets and Enforcement (All-Encompassing) were recommended for inclusion into the work programme. The Senior Democratic Services Officer advised that final working group topics would be agreed once all Scrutiny Committees had considered their work programmes.

Resolved

That, forward plans be noted.

80. **Recommendations Tracker**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer updated Members on the recommendations from previous meetings of the Committee. [annexed]

Resolved:

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

81. **Date of next meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 6.40p.m

It was noted that the date of the next meeting would be 10 September 2024.

Signed:

Date:

10 September 2024

Portfolio Holder Presentations

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Councillor Perry – Leader of the Council and Strategy, Partnerships and Communities
Councillor Andrew – Associate Leader and Economic Growth and Regeneration
Councillor Flint – Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Garcha – Resident Access and Housing Support
Councillor Kaur – Education and Skills
Councillor Murphy – Street Pride

Report

At the previous meeting of the Committee, it was noted that Portfolio Holder presentations would be presented at the next scheduled meeting, due to recent appointment of a new executive administration.

This item aims to inform the Committee about the Portfolio Holder priorities for the municipal year. The following Portfolio Holders have been allocated to the Committee in accordance with its remit:

Councillor G. Perry – Leader of the Council and Strategy, Partnerships and Communities
Councillor A. Andrew – Associate Leader and Economic Growth and Regeneration
Councillor G. Flint – Health and Wellbeing
Councillor A. Garcha – Resident Access and Housing Support
Councillor P. Kaur – Education and Skills
Councillor K. Murphy – Street Pride

Following consideration of the presentations, the Committee may decide to consider any additions to the work programme for the municipal year. However, when debating items, it is important for the Committee to prioritise work based on strategic importance, data and timing.

Remit

All aspects and general services related to the Economy and Environment.

Scrutiny of the exercise of flood risk management functions which may affect the local authority's area as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 within the functions set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (as amended).

The scrutinising of performance in relation to the relevant priority in the Council Plan:

- *Enable greater local opportunities for all people, communities and businesses.*

Recommendation:

That, the Committee consider presentations from Portfolio Holders and determine whether to add or amend any items in the work programme for the municipal year.

Contact Officer:

Matt Powis

Senior Democratic Services Officer

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✉ matthew.powis@walsall.gov.uk

Economy, Environment & Communities 2024/25

Dave Brown (Executive Director EE&C)



Walsall Council

PROUD OF OUR **PAST** OUR **PRESENT** AND FOR OUR **FUTURE**

Directorate Overview

- Many frontline and visible services for our residents and businesses.
- Strategic leadership of major outcomes across place, environment, communities, economy and regeneration.
- 1,800 staff, £100m gross revenue budget and £91m capital budget.



Economy, Environment & Communities



Dave Brown
Executive Director
Economy, Environment & Communities



Philippa Venables
Director
Regeneration & Economy



David Moore
Director
Special Programmes



Paul Gordon
Director
Resilient Communities



Kathryn Moreton
Director
Place & Environment

EE&C Overview

Regeneration & Economy

Philippa Venables

Planning

Building control

Regeneration

Skills & employment

Business support

Culture & heritage

Corporate landlord

Special Programmes

David Moore

Connected gateway

Town deals

Healthy levelling up partnership

Resilient Communities

Paul Gordon

Environmental health

Licensing

Trading standards

Community safety

Libraries

Community building

Cohesion

Community Protection

Place & Environment

Katie Moreton

Highways & Transport

Waste Management

Grounds Maintenance

Street Cleansing

Parks & Green Spaces

Leisure Services

Bereavement & Registrars

Soft Facilities Mgmt

Emergency Planning



Portfolio Overview

Leader & Strategy, Partnerships and Communities

Cllr Perry

Community development
and diversity

Community associations

Voluntary and
community sectors

Community safety

Community Protection

Environmental Health

Emergency planning

Economic Growth & Regeneration

Cllr Andrew

Regeneration

Economic Development

Planning Policy

Planning and Building
Control

Employment Growth

Strategic Housing

Strategic Use of Assets

Strategic transport

Street Pride

Cllr Murphy

Waste collection and
management

Street Cleansing

Grounds Maintenance

Fleet

Highways

Environmental Protection

Parking

Traffic Management

Wellbeing, Leisure & Public Spaces

Cllr Flint

Heritage, Tourism and
Culture

Leisure, including Active
Living Centres

Bereavement and
registration services

Healthy spaces (parks
and open spaces)

Net Zero

EE&C – Priorities

Strategies & Plans

Local plan

Economic strategy
action plan

Trailblazer deeper
devolution deal

Waste & recycling

Regen Projects

Willenhall (LUF2)

Walsall & Bloxwich town
deal

Darlaston long term
plan

Walsall healthy LUP

Other Projects

Middlemore lane HWRC
and transfer station

Material recycling
facility JV

Food waste

Rail stations

Service Priorities

Fly tipping & cleanliness

Violence reduction

Resilient communities

Planning performance



10 September 2024

Community Cohesion

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Leader of the Council

1 Aim

- 1.1 The aim of community cohesion is to foster a sense of belonging and unity among diverse groups. It focuses on reducing inequalities, improving living standards, and promoting cultural competencies. By addressing barriers to education, employment, and health, it seeks to create inclusive, resilient communities where everyone feels valued and connected.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are recommended to support the current approach to Community Cohesion aligned to Community Building and Resilient Communities and advise on how to best embed it with the four locality areas from their perspective.

3 Report detail – know

- 3.1 Walsall has a long history of welcoming new communities that had settled in the town seeking work, education, affordable housing, or refuge. Whilst the borough is still moderately diverse compared to our black country neighbours such as Wolverhampton or Sandwell, we are amongst the 20 fastest changing local authorities considering the increase of population from diverse cultural backgrounds during the last decade¹.
- 3.2 Walsall Council has a well-established community cohesion service that sits within the Community Building and Cohesion function aligned to Resilient Communities. This function includes support services for voluntary and community sector and operational management of libraries. One of the key priorities of this service is to utilise the 'ABCD - asset based community building' model in codesigning council provision with residents and partners on the grass-root level, maximising the assets in each area. This ensures that provision reflects the diversity of each area.
- 3.3 In 2017, a cross-party working group made a recommendation to Scrutiny for the Council to develop a standalone 'cohesion and social integration strategy'. The recommendation included a specific reference to social integration of newly settled communities as one of the key priorities. The *Walsall Council Community Cohesion and Integration strategy* published in 2018 was recommended as best practice by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and this led

¹ Census 2021 and Cohesion Atlas.

to Walsall being chosen as one of the 5 local authorities for the 'Integrated Area' investment.

- 3.4 The Integrated Area Programme assisted the Council in codesigning Walsall for All as our community cohesion delivery vehicle between 2019-2023. Over 15,000 people benefited from the funding as direct beneficiaries, taking part in social mixing and school linking programme, community dialogue, hate crime reduction, English as a Second Language learning, women empowerment, and job support as well as the Covid-19 prevention project run by our Covid-19 community champions. The Walsall for All social media platform was created attracting 177,000 engagements and 3.6 million impressions only in 2 years.
- 3.5 The programme helped us expand our ambitions and connect with government benchmarks, while letting us test innovative ideas with partners like the college, DWP, WHG, and the West Midlands Combined Authority. We completed it with an evaluation report² and celebration video³ in June 2023.
- 3.6 The current Executive Leadership Team recognises the Walsall Council's current ambition is to make social cohesion and integration a foundational policy that fits into our *Equality and Diversity strategy, the Council plan and We are Walsall 2040*. The legacy of Walsall for All partnership continues to be the main vehicle for a community cohesion. The partnership currently leads development of the new Community Cohesion and Integration strategy 2024-2030, co-produced with our partners and diverse community representatives. The strategy is due to be published in November 2024.
- 3.7 Walsall continues to be the best practice and one of the founding members of Belong: The Cohesion and Integration Network who are the leading charity in this field. Walsall featured in several academic studies including:
- **Beyond Us and Them** research⁴ developed in partnership with the University of Kent, MHCLG, Go-Science and SAGE. The key finding was that those local authorities that had invested in social cohesion/integration prior to the Covid-19 pandemic managed much better during the pandemic in terms of building trust, health prevention and good community relations.
 - **Power of Connection Through Volunteering**⁵ a partnership project evidencing that there is a virtuous circle between volunteering and strengthening social cohesion at local level.
 - Since 2023, Walsall Council had a privilege of **chairing their Local Government Network** and shaping the agendas on a national level.

4 Financial information

- 4.1 The statutory function of Community Cohesion services is funded as a core service within the Resilient Communities - Community Building and Cohesion department. There are two specialists 'community cohesion officer' roles. This service oversees community cohesion micro-grants totalling £87,000 and provides funding amounting to £150,000 for the key priorities of Walsall for All, which include community ESOL,

² <https://www.walsallforall.co.uk/evaluation>

³ https://youtu.be/hP0X0sOtt8U?si=sukV5DPW_uswApZE

⁴ <https://www.belongnetwork.co.uk/project/beyond-us-them/>

⁵ <https://www.belongnetwork.co.uk/project/the-power-of-connection-through-volunteering/>

alternative formats, Spaces for All, and partnership management. The partnership has now been constituted as an independent CIC (Community Interest Company) and plans to secure its own funding starting in 2025. This allows current administrative costs to be reallocated towards implementing new priorities associated with the updated strategy.

5 Reducing Inequalities

- 5.1 The Community Cohesion and Integration Strategy that is currently being coproduced with Walsall for All partnership has a strong focus on reducing inequalities identified in the Marmot review. The key areas of action planning focus on building ‘cultural competencies’ into services and reducing barriers to education, employment, improving living standards, ill-health, and discrimination for all our communities. There is a particular emphasis on aligning this strategy with Children and Young People’s Alliance priorities.

6 Decide

- 6.1 It is being proposed that the new strategy will also be aligned to Resilient Communities model particularly in these areas:

- **Community led solutions** and enabling people to have **personal responsibility**: An example of this principle would be **VCS Locality Leads** - communities in various parts of Walsall cooperate and codesign interventions together to make their area inclusive and welcoming, from external grants’ identification to celebration of events. This feeds into **Team Walsall** approach and ‘a virtual circle between increasing volunteering and strengthening cohesion.’
- **Integrated services** – an example of this would be a **Shared Ground** learning programme with Belong - focusing on management of hate crime and community tensions. Several agencies took part in this learning programme together including the Council’s community safety, Police and VCS. Other examples include the **Hate Crime research** conducted with DE Montfort University and the launch of the multi-agency **Walsall Resilience Forum** as part of the counter-terrorism strategy. Further work on integrated services will take place as we are currently transforming our libraries and Walsall Connected, increasing cohesion and volunteering.

- 6.2 **EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) approach** – seeking to balance cultural competency with British values and common purpose – the example would be an annual inter-faith Iftar, Walsall Asian Sports Association tournament, Walsall Pride, International Women’s Day celebrations that focus on breaking down barriers in an inclusive and inter-sectional way so that all can get involved.

7 Respond

- 7.1 Walsall Council is currently co-producing its new Community Cohesion strategy developed as an external element of our EDI strategy. This new strategy is underpinned by ABCD principles of codesign and maximising our assets on the ground. At the same time, it will serve as an example of good practice in Council’s efforts to progress the Council’s accreditation with the Equality Framework for Local Government of Local Government Association planned for 2026.

- 7.2 To further our ambitions, it is important that Walsall keeps active membership of Belong as it is a cost-effective way of gaining access to knowledge, research, feedback, and free resources relating to fulfilling our statutory duties under Equality Act 2010 as well as the Council plan.

8 Review

- 8.1 The Council currently has an interim Corporate Performance Framework. Community cohesion indicators are being developed as cross-cutting indicators linked to several performance areas, including customer services, children services, adult social care, and public health. This is being considered as part of the discussion on the new EDI strategy with ELT. Feedback from elected members will be sought as part of the EDI strategy finalisation.

Author

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Economy and Environment – Area of Focus – 2024/25

9 July 2024	10 September 2024	24 October 2024	21 November 2024	14 January 2025	24 February 2025	10 April 2025
Prioritisation of work programme	Community Cohesion Portfolio Presentations	Draft Budget and Capital Programme Quarter 2 Financial Monitoring Terms of Reference for High Streets Working Group Terms of Reference for Enforcement (All Encompassing) Working Group	Rewilding and Grass Cutting		Flood Management (Pending)	

*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 unless specially requested by the Committee.

Economy and Environment – Area of Focus – 2024/25

Items to be scheduled	Notes
Public Toilets Pilot Update	
Cycling Infrastructure Programme	
Government Recycling Strategy	
Darlaston Town Funding – Referral by SOC	
Recommendation Monitoring:	Regeneration Update (Masterplan) – Considered by Cabinet on 7 February 2024.
	Fly Tipping Enforcement and Activity – Considered by Cabinet on 17 April 2024.
	Derelict Sites Taskforce Update – To be considered by Cabinet.
Prioritisation topics to be scheduled:	<p>Town Deals and District Centres</p> <p>Willenhall and Darlaston Train Stations</p> <p>Derelict Building Taskforce</p> <p>Devolution Deal and Levelling Up.</p> <p>Recycling and Waste Collection (Super Tip)</p> <p>Heritage Assets</p> <p>Net Zero</p> <p>Decarbonisation Building Programme</p> <p>Underutilisation of Community Assets (Walsall Town Hall)</p> <p>Protection of Trees, Wildlife and Biodiversity</p>

*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 unless specially requested by the Committee.



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

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

5 August 2024

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
SEPTEMBER 2024 TO DECEMBER 2024
(05.08.2024)**

7	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	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
	42/24 (2.7.24)	Article 4 direction for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs): To approve the making of a borough-wide, non-immediate Article 4 direction to remove permitted development rights for the change of use from dwellinghouses to smaller HMOs. To issue public notice of the Article 4 direction for a period of at least 6 weeks to allow for representations.	Cabinet Key Decision	David Holloway David.Holloway@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	11 September 2024
	44/24 (5.8.24)	Walsall Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Strategy: To approve the Walsall Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Strategy.	Cabinet Key Decision	Nicola Byrne Nicola.Byrne@walsall.gov.uk Matt Crowton	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	11 September 2024

			Matt.Crowton@walsall.gov.uk			
32/24 (4.6.24)	Appointment of Contractor for Civic Centre and Council House Decarbonisation Works: To appoint a contractor for decarbonisation works at the Civic Centre and Council House. <i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i>	Cabinet Key Decision	Nick Ford Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	11 September 2024
23/24 (18.3.24)	Commercial Strategy: To agree the strategic approach to generating income, reducing costs, fostering an entrepreneurial culture, forming partnerships, and investing in businesses to support local economies and social objectives	Cabinet Key Decision	Michele McPherson Michele.McPherson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	11 September 2024
33/24 (4.6.24)	West Midlands Children's Residential Homes Framework: To agree call off contracts with Residential Children's Homes providers under the West Midlands Regional Framework.	Cabinet Key Decision	Sally Gamston Sally.Gamston@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services Regional stakeholders (during tender development)	Cllr Elson	11 September 2024

45/24 (5.8.24)	Walsall Youth Justice Strategic Plan 22/25 Annual Update Report: To receive and recommend to Council for approval, the annual youth justice plan and update report.	Cabinet Council Non-key Decision	Phil Rutherford Philip.Rutherford@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Elson	11 September 2024
50/24 (5.8.24)	Black Country Family Drugs and Alcohol Court (FDAC) Partnership contract: To approve a variation to the Black Country Family Drugs and Alcohol Court (FDAC) Partnership contract, to further extend the original term by 12 months.	Cabinet Key Decision	Paula Wilman Paula.Wilman@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Elson	11 September 2024
34/24 (4.6.24)	Temporary Accommodation Regulator Registration: To approve registration with the Regulator of Social Housing for the purpose of providing additional Temporary Accommodation for homeless people.	Cabinet Key Decision	Neil Hollyhead Neil.Hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Garcha	11 September 2024
43/24 (2.7.24)	Secondary School Sufficiency: To consider the expansions of secondary schools in Walsall to support the requirement for additional school places to meet the Local Authorities statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places available across the borough for all Walsall residents.	Cabinet Key Decision	Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Kaur	11 September 2024

46/24 (5.8.24)	Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): To approve a draft SPD for consultation.	Cabinet Key Decision	David Holloway David.Holloway@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Andrew	16 October 2024
40/24 (1.7.24)	Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2028/29: To provide an updated medium term financial outlook, draft revenue budget and capital programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29, including savings proposals.	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Ross Hutchinson Ross.Hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk	Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations, Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	16 October 2024
41/24 (1.7.24)	Corporate Financial Performance 2024/25: To report the financial position based on 6 months to September 2024.	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Ross Hutchinson Ross.Hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr M. Statham	16 October 2024
35/24 (4.6.24)	Walsall Housing Allocations Policy: To approve Walsall's Housing Allocations Policy which details how the Council will prioritise applicants for nomination to housing association properties.	Cabinet Key Decision	Neil Hollyhead Neil.Hollyhead@walsall.gov.uk	Public Consultation Internal Services Housing Associations	Cllr Garcha	16 October 2024
47/24 (5.8.24)	Council Plan 2025-2029: To consider the final version of the Council Plan following consultation and recommend this to Council for approval.	Cabinet Council Key Decision	Karen Griffiths Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk Elizabeth Connolly	Internal Services, external stakeholders, other interested parties (via Public	Cllr Perry	11 December 2024

			Elizabeth.Connolly@walsall.gov.uk	Consultation exercise)		
48/24 (5.8.24)	Draft Revenue Budget and Draft Capital Programme 2025/26 to 2028/29 – Update: To provide an updated medium term financial outlook, draft revenue budget and capital programme for 2025/26 to 2028/29, including update to savings proposals, impact of Autumn Statement, and progress on budget consultation to date including feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees on the draft revenue and capital budget.	Cabinet Non-key Decision	Ross Hutchinson Ross.Hutchinson@walsall.gov.uk	Council tax payers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations, Internal Services	Cllr Perry	11 December 2024
49/24 (5.8.24)	Treasury Management Mid Year Position Statement 2024/25: To note and forward to Council, for consideration and noting (and in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017), the mid year report for treasury management activities 2024/25 including prudential and local indicators.	Cabinet Council Non-key Decision	Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services	Cllr Perry	11 December 2024
39/24 (1.7.24)	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2029:	Cabinet Key Decision	Karen Griffiths Karen.Griffiths@walsall.gov.uk	Internal Services, external stakeholders, other interested parties	Cllr Lee	11 December 2024

	To approve the final version of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy following consultation.		Elizabeth Connolly Elizabeth.Connolly@walsall.gov.uk	(via Public Consultation exercise)		
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Black Country Executive Joint Committee
Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Published up to January 2025

Date Created	Key Decision	Contact Officer	Main consultee	Date of meeting
	Black Country Enterprise Zone			
05/08/2024	<p>Gasholders</p> <p>Approval of the Gasholders project (Walsall Council) for grant funding from the Black Country Enterprise Zone (BCEZ) business rate surpluses.</p> <p>Approval for the City of Wolverhampton Council and Walsall Council to proceed to enter into a separate Grant Agreement which will set out the terms and conditions of the funding.</p>	<p>Simon Tranter simon.tranter@walsall.gov.uk</p>	Walsall Council	30/09/2024
	Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF)			
02/09/2024	<p>Approval for the remaining £1,203,740 of the Land and Property Investment Fund (LPIF) programme funds to be awarded to the 2 selected projects - Alfred Gunn House (Sandwell Council) and Oxley Health & Wellbeing Facility (Wolverhampton City Council).</p>	<p>Tammy Stokes tammy_stokes@sandwell.gov.uk</p> <p>Simon Tranter simon.tranter@walsall.gov.uk</p> <p>Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk</p>	<p>Sandwell Council</p> <p>Walsall Council</p> <p>Wolverhampton City Council</p>	30/09/2024

	<p>Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) for the LPIF programme to proceed to enter into grant agreement with the Alfred Gunn House project (Sandwell Council).</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body (Walsall Council) for the LPIF programme to proceed to enter into grant agreement with the Oxley Health & Wellbeing Facility project (Wolverhampton City Council).</p>			
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West Midlands Combined Authority

Forward Plan

Forthcoming key decisions

Title of key decision:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Open or Exempt:	Executive Director:
WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the latest financial position.	WMCA Board 11 October 2024	Open	Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub (Linda Horne)
Single Settlement Update To consider the work undertaken to-date between the WMCA and constituent authorities to develop functional and place-based strategies that will underpin the delivery of the Single Settlement.	WMCA Board 11 October 2024	Open	Executive Director of Strategy, Economy & Net Zero (Ed Cox)
Culture, Creative and Heritage Infrastructure Programme To seek permission to undertake the Culture, Creative & Heritage Infrastructure programme of activity.	WMCA Board 11 October 2024	Open	Executive Director of Strategy, Economy & Net Zero (Ed Cox)
Update on Bus Network Proposals from January 2025 To consider proposals for the region's bus network in 2025.	WMCA Board 11 October 2024	Open	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands (Anne Shaw)
Bus Depot Strategy To approve the funding strategy for Transport for West Midlands to acquire sites for bus depots.	WMCA Board 11 October 2024	Open	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands (Anne Shaw)

Title of key decision:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Open or Exempt:	Executive Director:
Provision of Ring & Ride and Demand Responsive Transport for the Region To consider the proposed outcome of the introduction of the revised target operating model of the West Midlands Ring & Ride and Demand Responsive Transport service.	WMCA Board 11 October 2024	Open	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands (Anne Shaw)
Regional Road Safety Action Plan 2024-2030 Endorsement of the Regional Road Safety Action Plan 2024-2030 following completion of public consultation and validation from the Regional Road Safety Strategic Group.	WMCA Board 11 October 2024	Open	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands (Anne Shaw)
WMCA Brownfield Land Remediation - Report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee To consider the findings of Overview & Scrutiny Committee's review into how the WMCA exercises its powers and funding in respect of brownfield land redevelopment and how the region's communities have benefited from this.	WMCA Board 11 October 2024	Open	Interim Executive Director of Housing & Regeneration (John Godfrey)
WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the latest financial position	WMCA Board 15 November 2024	Open	Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub (Linda Horne)
Regional Energy Strategy To consider the WMCA's Regional Energy Strategy.	WMCA Board 15 November 2024	Open	Executive Director of Strategy, Economy & Net Zero (Ed Cox)
Innovation Update To provide an update on recent highlights from the Innovation Board, including the current position regarding the Innovation Accelerator.	WMCA Board 15 November 2024	Open	Executive Director of Strategy, Economy & Net Zero (Ed Cox)

Title of key decision:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Open or Exempt:	Executive Director:
Best Value Fare Capping for Bus (cEMV Broker) To consider the Full Business Case for the national cEMV Broker pilot and West Midlands roll-out which will enable best value fare capping for bus users to be delivered for travellers using their contactless debit card or other device. The Board will also be asked to approve the legal partnership arrangements with the collaborating delivery entities.	WMCA Board 15 November 2024	Open	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands (Anne Shaw)
Bus Franchising: Audit Outcome and Decision To Consult To consider the outcome of the audit, and to agree to undertake public consultation on the next steps.	WMCA Board 15 November 2024	Open	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands (Anne Shaw)
Key Route Network Review 2023/24 To gain approval to update the Key Route Network.	WMCA Board 15 November 2024	Open	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands (Anne Shaw)
Local Transport Plan Adoption To consider recommendations to approve the final version of the LTP suite of documents (including Area Based Strategies) which have been adapted to align fully with the WMCA Functional and Place Based Strategies.	WMCA Board 15 November 2024	Open	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands (Anne Shaw)
Wednesbury Brierley Hill Metro Extension Phase2 Report to seek approval to release funding to complete construction of the Phase 2 WBHE Metro.	WMCA Board 15 November 2024	Open	Executive Director of Transport for West Midlands (Anne Shaw)

Title of key decision:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Open or Exempt:	Executive Director:
A Review of the Effectiveness of Member Engagement and Development within the WMCA To consider the findings of a scrutiny review undertaken to examine the effectiveness of member engagement and development within the WMCA.	WMCA Board 15 November 2024	Open	Director of Law & Governance (Helen Edwards)
Draft WMCA Budget 2025/26 To consider the draft budget for the 2025/26 fiscal year.	WMCA Board 10 January 2025	Open	Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub (Linda Horne)
WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the latest financial position	WMCA Board 10 January 2025	Open	Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub (Linda Horne)
WMCA Budget 2025/26 To approve the 2025/26 budget.	WMCA Board 7 February 2025	Open	Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub (Linda Horne)
WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the latest financial position	WMCA Board 14 March 2025	Open	Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub (Linda Horne)
WMCA Financial Monitoring Report To provide an update on the latest financial position and provisional outturn for the 2024/25 financial year.	WMCA Board 13 June 2025	Open	Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub (Linda Horne)

The Forward Plan

This document sets out known 'key decisions' that will be taken by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) over the coming months.

Forthcoming key decisions are published online to meet the statutory 28 day notification rule for each meeting where a key decision will be taken. Where it has not been possible to meet the 28 day rule for publication of notice of a key decision or an intention to meet in private, the relevant notices will be published as required by legislation as soon as possible.

What is a key decision?

A 'key decision' means a decision of the Mayor, WMCA or officer which is likely:

- (a) to result in the WMCA incurring expenditure, making savings or generating income amounting to £1m or more; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the WMCA.

The report relating to a decision, together with any other documents being considered, will be available five clear working days before the decision is to be taken (unless the documentation contains exempt information).

Title of key decision:	Decision to be taken by and date:	Open or Exempt:	Executive Director:
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The forward plan also provides notice of when the WMCA may decide to exclude the press and public during consideration of a particular matter due to the potential for disclosure of confidential or exempt information. The grounds upon which local authorities can exclude the press and public are specified by law and details of the exempt categories are available on request from the Governance Services team (governance.services@wmca.org.uk).

Councillors or members of the public wishing to:

- make a representation about why a matter should be heard in public, or
- submit information to the decision-making body about an item in the forward plan, or
- request details of relevant documents, or
- seek advice about the WMCA's decision-making arrangements,

should contact the Governance Services team: governance.services@wmca.org.uk

Recommendation Tracker

Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action/Recommendation	Officer responsible	Status	Target Completion Date	Notes
23 November 2023	Draft Budget and Capital Programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost benefit analysis in respect of preventative measures with fly tipping compared to 2022. 2. Clarification on whether the Council could recover costs associated with fly tipping from a Magistrates' or Small Claims Court. 	Dave Elrington	In progress		
16 January 2024	Off-Road Vehicles	Conviction data relating to off-road vehicles to be circulated to the Committee.	Dave Elrington	In progress	TBC	
27 February 2024	Minutes of the previous meeting	A Member sought clarification on the number and location of leaflets for Darlaston South in respect of Minute No. 47, Off-Road Vehicles – Updates.	Dave Elrington	In progress		
11 April 2024	Derelict Sites: Taskforce Update	That, the Cabinet seek to secure a new staff appointment to specifically monitor and progress derelict properties in the Borough	Philippa Venables	In progress		To be presented at the next available Cabinet meeting.