



ACTION NOTES

Title of Meeting: Bloxwich & Walsall Town Deal Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday 25 May 2022 2.00pm-3.00pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams 'Virtual' Meeting

Quorum - Minimum of 6 voting members, with at least one representative from: Private, Local Government and Communities membership categories, together with Walsall Council.

Attendees:

Name	Job Title, Company	Present/ Apols
Manjit Jhooty (Chair) (MJ)	CEO of Jhoots Pharmacy / Group	Apologies
Cllr Adrian Andrew (Cllr A)	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration / Deputy Chair of the Board	Present (Chair)
Alison Guerra (AG)	Programme Management Team Leader Growth Deal, Walsall Council	Present
David Benge (DB)	Acting Joint Chief Officer, OneWalsall	Apologies
Olaitan Alabi (OA)	OneWalsall representative	Present
Doug Wright (DW)	CEO, McDonalds Franchise	Not Present
Eddie Hughes MP (EH)	Member of Parliament, Walsall North	Not present
Elizabeth Connolly (EC)	Economic Intelligence, Walsall Council	Apologies
James Norris (JN)	Chair of WEB Employment & Skill Board, Walsall College	Present
Jat Sharma (JS)	Principal and CEO, Walsall College	Apologies
Jayne Hadley (JEH)	Business Support Officer, Walsall Council (Note taker)	Present
Jon King (JK)	Marketing Officer, Walsall Council	Present
Karl Woodward (KW)	Reach All Ltd/Chair of Walsall Advisory Board	Present
Kelly Valente (KV)	Finance Manager – External Funding & Projects, Walsall Council	Present
Kevin Davis (KD)	CEO, The Vine Trust	Present
Lucy Clarke (LC)	Delivery & Governance Officer, Walsall Council	Present
Mark Lavender (ML)	Head of Programme Management, Walsall Council	Present
Patricia Willoughby (PW)	Head of Policy, Housing & Regeneration - WMCA	Present
Philippa Venables (PV)	Director of Regeneration & Economy, Walsall Council	Present
Ray Flynn (RFI)	Associate Director, Place - University of Wolverhampton	Present
Robert Judson (RJ)	CEO, Homeserve	Present
Rupert Fairfax (RF)	CEO Fairfax Saddles & Chair of the Bloxwich Advisory Board	Present
Shaun Darcy (SD)	Director of Finance, Corp Perf, Corp Landlord, Walsall Council	Present
Simon Tranter (ST)	Head of Regeneration, Housing & Economy, Walsall Council	Present
Tarra Simmons (TS)	General Manager Co-operative Social Responsibility, Midcounties Co-operative	Present
Tim Kibble (TK)	Managing Director, ZF Lemforder	Apologies
Guests		
Bryte Legister (BL)	Town Centre Projects Director	Present
Philip Singleton (PS)	Arcadis	Present
James Dennison (JD)	Canal & River Trust	Present
Eleanor Cooper (ECo)	Principal Transport Planner	Present

Matt Crowton (MC)	Transportation Major Projects & Strategy Manager	Present
Lynn Pritchatt (LP)	Walsall College	Present

Item	Topic of Discussion	Action Lead
	PUBLIC SESSION	
	ML stated this part of the meeting will be recorded. There were no objections to this.	
	Welcome & Introductions	
	Cllr A welcomed all to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.	
1.	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from Manjit Jhooty, David Benge, Elizabeth Connolly, Jat Sharma and Tim Kibble.	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	None declared.	
3.	Bloxwich Town Deal Programme - Programme Development Update (14:00 – 14:05) (Aim – ML To update Board members on the work completed so far relating to the five Bloxwich, two of which link into the Walsall TD Programme, and the next steps towards approval and submission to government).	
	ML shared his presentation and talked through this highlighting the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 5 projects on the list. • There will be 2 business cases presented today: Active Travel & Connectivity and Community Capital Programme, these are joint programmes for Walsall and Bloxwich and further detail will be shared by their presenters later on the agenda. • <u>Specific Bloxwich Projects are:-</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Bloxwich – led by Liz Stuffins - Promotion of Constructions skills Academy (Walsall College) - Incubation Space and Access Centre (Walsall Council) <p>The next meeting (7th June) of Advisory Board for Bloxwich will discuss these further.</p>	
4.	Walsall Town Deal Programme - Programme Development Update (14:05 – 14:10)	

	<p>(Aim – PV / BL to update Board members on the work completed so far relating to the eight Walsall projects, two of which link to the Bloxwich Programme, and the next steps towards approval and submission to government).</p>	
	<p>PV talked through this update and advised some of these business cases were also presented to our Strategic Investment Board – Funding Sub Group yesterday. It is positive to see progress being made.</p> <p>PV highlighted the following points:</p> <p>Performing Arts Venue – BL is leading, with the business case being drafted by Arcadis, assisted by theatre consultants. Due to the financial complexity of this project, the business case will be submitted later than planned. Work is being done on the concept design and is linked to the Town Centre Regeneration Project. Also Network Rail and other partners have been consulted so that everything is aligned.</p> <p>Creative Industries Hub – BL is leading, there are 3 potential venues and negotiations with owners are ongoing to agree a price. The financial analysis work for both revenue and capital elements means that the business case will be submitted later than planned.</p> <p>Active Public Spaces – BL is leading, there are various elements to really improve the public realm and public space around Gallery Square. To ensure continuity of design we need to design this work together with complementary elements, for example the designer has suggested links with CCTV, which weren't originally captured in the brief. This project will also be submitted later than planned.</p> <p>Constructions Skills Academy – this is being led by Walsall College, a design team are in place, the business case is drafted and looking to be on target to issue a tender in June, the business case is on track for May submission.</p> <p><i>BL queried – the summaries were produced in conjunction with Deb Rajania at Walsall College so is the detail applicable?</i> JN agreed – Deb will catch up with you on his return from annual leave.</p> <p>Electric Vehicle Sustainability Centre – Walsall College is leading on this. Currently working through commercial land options, the design is underway and a report has been presented to the College Board and another report to be submitted in July, the business case is due to be completed in June.</p> <p>Digital Skills Hub – this is being led by the Mercian Trust, the proposition is being worked through, the outline business case has been drawn up and some design work is underway, the business case is on track to be delivered by the end of May.</p> <p><u>Questions/Comments</u> <i>TS – at previous meetings we have talked about how we will consult and galvanise views of our young people across all of these projects as they are the future and they will be using these facilities, can you confirm what has been done and what is in the business case?</i> PV responded – due to tight timescales we are working up a comms strategy, we have been liaising with the College and our Employment and Skills team</p>	

as to how best to do this, we will be working this out now as all our resources were needed to complete the business case.

We can also work with any board members who wish to help to draw up a comms strategy with our young people.

Cllr A added – agree, this is key - when we were pulling together our masterplan a few years ago this was seen as crucial, because of the amount of schools in the town centre, a lot of bus journeys are taken by young people and the key thing for Walsall is when all of those youngsters have left school will they still come into Walsall.

TS agreed, I appreciate the timescales and restrictions around business cases and the financial point of view but we do need to quote young people's views in those, we need to see a plan of that consultation, we can conduct on line forums.

JK - picking up on TS point – behind the scenes we have engaged with the project leads. For the Walsall Story launch we will be engaging with young people digitally. Considerable restructuring of the comms team at Walsall Council has taken place to enable projects to be supported.

Cllr A to JN – is there more we can do via the College to engage with students?

JN – we have a number of Student Voice focus groups but we could engage quite rapidly on this – perhaps raise it at our meeting with students tomorrow at the Walsall Story Launch and seek their views, perhaps also via the communications team to reach all demographics across our campuses.

Cllr A – the Walsall Story could be presented at a future Board too.

KW – with regards to the Theatre – what are the thoughts around the agility and flexibility of this venue - can the premises be used for different themes to ensure it can accommodate other users?

PV – the whole concept is that the offer can grow in the future, in increasing the audience numbers it will bring in larger productions /shows, and will broaden the appeal.

Cllr A added – it's certainly been part of the discussions around this venue being flexible. Other points made were – this venue will be active 7 days a week i.e. for school award ceremonies and having a community focus. Further discussion will take place when this business case is presented to a future Town Deal Board.

RJ – there is a fair amount of time in between meetings – from an accountability point of view – what is our success rate against delivering against these targets, is there governance around this tracking?

PV advised – I don't think we can move it any further due to Government deadlines.

ML added – we have a route planner for business cases – Advisory Boards are 7th and 8th June and another Town Deal Board on 15th June. We are not asking approval of these business cases today just to review, they will be presented to Advisory Boards in June for their input and agreement. There

	<p>will be another 2 business cases for review, we will then schedule regular meetings monthly from then. There is the potential to seek some extensions to some business cases due to the technical nature of these.</p> <p>RJ requested one overarching timeline for all projects.</p> <p>ACTION: ML to produce overarching progress/approval timeline for all projects.</p> <p><i>RF commented– I appreciate we look at the risks at a project level, do we have a programme level risk register that as a Board we have access to and oversight of?</i></p> <p>PV – that was always the aspiration, once we have funding secured then we will move forward as a programme.</p> <p>ML advised – one of the outcomes of the business cases are also that the risk plans will flow from these.</p>	<p>21/TDB/033/ML</p>
	<p>Date and time of Next Meeting 15.06.22 @11:00</p>	
	<p>PRIVATE SESSION</p>	
	<p>(Exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)</p>	