



ACTION NOTES (Public)

Title of Meeting: Bloxwich & Walsall Town Deal Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday 15 June 2022 10.30am-12.30pm

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	Present
Cllr Adrian Andrew (Cllr A)	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration / Deputy Chair of the Board	Apologies
Alison Guerra		Present
David Benge (DB) Olaitan Alabi (LA)	OneWalsall Attended on David Benge's behalf	Apologies Present
Doug Wright (DC)	CEO, McDonalds Franchise	Present
Eddie Hughes MP	Member of Parliament, Walsall North	Apologies
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	Finance Manager	Present
Kevin Davis (KD)	CEO, The Vine Trust	Present
Lucy Clarke (LC)	Senior Business Support Officer, Walsall Council (Note taker)	Present
Mark Lavender (ML)	Head of Programme Management, Walsall Council	Present
Patricia Willoughby	WMCA	Apologies
Philippa Venables (PV)	Director of Regeneration & Economy, Walsall Council	Present
Ray Flynn (RF)	University of Wolverhampton	Present
Robert Judson (RJ)	CEO, Homeserve	Apologies
Rupert Fairfax (RF)	CEO Fairfax Saddles & Chair of the Bloxwich Advisory Board	Present
Shaun Darcy	Director of Finance, Corp Perf, Corp Landlord, Walsall Council	Present
Simon Tranter (ST)	Head of Regeneration, Housing & Economy, Walsall Council	Apologies
Tarra Simmons (TS)	General Manager Co-operative Social Responsibility, Midcounties Co-operative	Present
Tim Kibble (TK)	Managing Director, ZF Lemforder	Apologies
Guests		
Bryte Legister	Town Centre Projects Director	Apologies
James Dennison	Canal & River Trust	Present
Eleanor Cooper	Principal Transport Planner	Present
Matt Crowton	Transportation Major Projects & Strategy Manager	Present
Deb Rajana	Walsall College	Present
Lynn Pritchatt	Walsall College	Apologies



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	
	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting	
1.	Apologies	
	As above	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
	- Declarations / Conflicts of interest None declared	
3.	Bloxwich Town Deal Programme – Programme Development Update (10:35 – 10:40) (Aim – ML to update Board members on progress and next steps towards approval and submission to government).	
	<p>ML provided an update on the Bloxwich Town Deal Programme and highlighted the following points:</p> <p>There are 5 projects within Bloxwich TD programme, 2 of those business cases are being presented today - Active Travel (2 business cases - CRT & Walsall Transport) & the Community Capital Programme.</p> <p><i>The Promotion of Construction Skills Through Regeneration</i> – discussions are taking place with key stakeholders including the College and RSL's.</p> <p><i>Incubation Space</i> – looking for locations for buildings we can use within the Town Centre curtilage, this work is progressing.</p> <p><i>Green Bloxwich</i> – the business case is being pulled together, work is well underway.</p> <p>ML wished to thank all members of Town Deal Board and Advisory Boards for their hard work and support in helping to shape this work so far – this was noted.</p>	



4.	Walsall Town Deal Programme - Programme Development Update (10:40 – 10:45) (Aim – PV / BL to update Board members on the work completed so far and the next steps towards approval and submission to government).	
	<p>PV provided an update:</p> <p><i>The Town Centre Theatre project</i> – stakeholder meetings continue to clarify requirements for the building, the outline business case (OBC) will be submitted in August, project costs will exceed Town Deal funds so we will be applying to the Levelling Up fund, bid to be submitted in July. The project is at the concept design stage and also aligns with the Connected Gateway project. There are lots of synergies with others projects i.e. Railway station upgrade, Station Street. We have met with Network Rail and agreements being drawn up,</p> <p><i>Creative Industries project</i> – with regards to the “acquiring a building” element, we know what the preferred option is but the sale price is still to be confirmed with current owners so we are also looking at other options, we will require further funding from Heritage Fund, the business case is on track for completion in August.</p> <p><i>Active Public Spaces</i> – the focus is on the Public Realm and around Gallery Square, the outline business case (OBC) will be submitted in August.</p> <p><i>Construction Skills Academy</i> - the initial proposal has been approved by the College Board, there are no objections from planning so approval is set for July.</p> <p><i>Advanced Electric Vehicle Sustainability Centre</i> – a site is currently being sought, there is good partnership working between Walsall Council and the College. The planning application is to be submitted early next year. A report will be submitted to the Walsall College Board on 7 July regarding land transfer.</p> <p><i>Digital Skills hub</i> – preferred site work has been completed, an initial OBC has been produced, information is required by the Planning Authority. PV further added – JK can provide an update on engagement with young people with regards to our projects.</p> <p>JK advised – we were successful in a bid for support from PropTech – to encourage digital engagement, initially for the planning process for this project but also around other Town Deal projects in pipeline. We have completed the procurement selection and have 2 options – this is to enable us to have a platform for all, residents can participate in</p>	



engagement, its mobile phone friendly and that will deploy information alongside traditional forms of engagement too.

PV – there are also conversations with the College to encourage students to engage in our projects.

JK added – at the launch of ‘We are Walsall’ we spoke about engaging with the next academic year and our specialists to explain to students how the projects are developing and give an insight into place changing, there is an appetite to do this with project partners too. It’s an opportunity for them to shape the environment they currently live in, this is part of the broader Walsall story.

Questions/Comments

KW reiterated - the team support and partnership working so far, for 2 of the projects there are lots of stakeholders which will in turn have challenges, as Advisory Boards this has worked well. It is very positive to see where we are currently.

DW commented – How do we get everyone engaged and make it real? Can we work with Walsall College and organise for a student who is training in Media and perhaps sponsor them to become our social media “adviser” to help us build a platform. We could also arrange a competition to be the face of the Advisory Boards and create videos/social media content. DW asked for views All agreed with this suggestion.

DW also wished to thank everyone who has already participated in the work done to date.

JK responded that - communications for Walsall has changed dramatically, we now have social media experts, a Senior Marketing Officer, our new Head of Marketing can also attend a future meeting of this Board.

DW added – he wished to volunteer to be part of this engagement given he is involved in a new engagement exercise with his business and young people of Walsall. We can also we look at contacting an influencer in Walsall who has a lot of followers to assist this with too.

ACTION: JK and DW to arrange meeting outside of this meeting to discuss this further.

22/TDB/036/JK/DW

KW advised – an action from the last Walsall Advisory Board was for myself and JHa to meet to discuss further media and engagement with young people. There is a visit planned to Asgards tomorrow where young people meet so this could be an avenue to use too.

TS commented – we should be engaging with even younger students ie 9 year olds and upwards, they are people who will decide to invest, stay in Walsall in the future, the Walsall college link is good but we also need to engage with Primary schools too, there needs to be Youth reps on this Board – perhaps 3 people under 25 years old in order that they can influence this projects going forward. We should be seen to be proactively targeting the youth of this town and celebrating that they

