



## **ACTION NOTES**

**Title of Meeting:** Bloxwich & Walsall Town Deal Board Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday 15 December 2020: 16:00 – 17:30

**Venue:** Microsoft Teams 'Virtual' Meeting

### **VOTING MEMBERS - via Teams**

Jhoots Pharmacy / Group (**Chair**) - Manjit Jhooty  
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration – Councillor Adrian Andrew  
West Midlands Combined Authority – Adam Hawksbee  
OneWalsall – Davina Lytton  
Walsall North – Eddie Hughes MP  
Walsall College – Jat Sharma  
Fairfax Saddles / Chair of Bloxwich Town Deal Advisory Board – Rupert Fairfax  
Barhale Construction / Chair of Walsall Town Deal Advisory Board – Karl Woodward  
The Vine Trust - Kevin Davis  
Homeserve NOW – Robert Judson  
Midcounties Co-operative – Tarra Simmons  
University of Wolverhampton – Katharine Clough  
Walsall Council – Neil Taylor  
Walsall Council – Mark Lavender

### **MEMBERS – via Teams**

Arcadis – Brett Chambers  
Arcadis – Daniel Gregory  
Walsall College – James Norris  
Walsall Council – Zoey West  
Walsall Council – Simon Tranter  
Walsall Council (Note taker) – Lucy Clarke  
Walsall Council – Elizabeth Connolly  
Walsall Council – Jon King

Manjit Jhooty welcomed all to the meeting, asked for live-streaming to commence and asked all to introduce themselves.

### **1. Apologies**

Walsall Together, Daren Fradgley  
McDonalds Franchise, Doug Wright  
Arcadis, Kaushal Patel  
ZF Lemforder, Tim Kibble  
Walsall South, Valerie Vaz MP

## **2. Town Deal Board – Governance and Responsibilities**

### Declarations / Conflicts of Interest

No declarations or conflicts of interest were raised.

## **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Action Points**

The minutes from the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were agreed to be an accurate record.

Lucy Clarke took the Board through the outstanding actions. Further updates would be brought to the Board at the next meeting.

## **4. Bloxwich Advisory Board Update**

Rupert Fairfax (Chairperson of the Bloxwich Advisory Board) updated the Board that the fourth Bloxwich Advisory Board had taken place this morning. There were five project strands in development that will look to utilise the full £25m available, under the themes of;

- Improving active connectivity;
- Neighbourhood Renewal
- Revitalising the Town Centre and Communities and bringing derelict sites back into use;
- Community Capital Grants Programme;
- Multi Agency Incubation Space and Digital Access.
- Green Bloxwich (improvements to allotments and bringing heritage buildings back into use etc).

Rupert felt that work was progressing well in the development of projects, with all members actively supporting the work so far.

## **5. Walsall Advisory Board Update**

Karl Woodward (Chairperson of the Walsall Advisory Board) advised the Board that the Walsall Advisory Board were meeting tomorrow morning.

Each of the members were shaping and inputting into the projects which was circa the £25m target.

Tomorrow the Advisory Board would move further into the detail of the projects, which covered six areas:

1. Supporting skills, construction training, advanced methods of construction and supply chain development;
2. Supporting new learning and employment opportunities in advanced Vehicle Technologies;
3. Improving active connectivity to town centres and employment locations for local people;
4. Developing new town centre education and performance venues;
5. Creating a town centre creative arts / social enterprise facility; and
6. A Community Capital Grants Programme that supports local community groups.

## PUBLIC Minutes

Zoey West talked through the Vision that Advisory Board members had worked on and had input from government advisors. The proposed vision was:

*“In the historic home of leather and locks – ‘the town of a hundred trades’ – we will build on our culturally rich and industrious past, to transform the historic market town of Walsall, into a peaceful and prosperous place that empowers its wider residents, encourages enterprise and welcomes visitors to share in a creative and sustainable future.”*

A deliberate connection with the Bloxwich Vision had been made to make the vision stronger and join up the two towns.

The Walsall Advisory Board would review the vision at the meeting tomorrow and consider it for approval.

### **6. Any Other Business**

None.

### **7. PRIVATE SESSION**

#### **Exclusion of the Press and Public: -**

**Agreed** that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 for the reasons stated on the agenda.

The Board were informed that the Town Investment Plan (TIP) needed to be submitted by the end of January. The team were aiming to have a version for the Board to review / comment on as soon as possible.

If the Town Deal Board were happy with the bids and Central Government liked them, progression to Heads of Terms would be the next step.

The board went on to discuss the proposed projects for both Bloxwich and Walsall.

The private minutes from the meeting held on 17 November 2020 were agreed to be an accurate record.

### **8. Date of Next Meeting**

14 January 2021, 4:30pm – 6:00pm