



Walsall Council

ACTION NOTES

- Title of Meeting:** Bloxwich & Walsall Town Deal Board Meeting
- Date:** Tuesday 6 June 2023 2.30pm – 3.45pm
- 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.

VOTING MEMBERS – Via Teams

Jhoots Pharmacy (**Chair**) – Manjit Jhooty
Walsall Council (**Vice Chair**) – Councillor Andrew
Walsall Council – Shaun Darcy
Walsall Council – Mark Lavender
Fairfax Saddles / Chair of Bloxwich Town Deal Advisory Board – Rupert Fairfax
Reach All Ltd / Chair Of Walsall Town Deal Advisory Board - Karl Woodward
One Walsall – Vicky Hines
University of Wolverhampton – Ray Flynn
Mercian Trust – Kevin Davis
Walsall MP – Eddie Hughes
Walsall College - Jatinder Sharma
Home serve - Robert Judson

MEMBERS – Via Teams

Walsall College – Deb Rajania
Canal and River Trust - James Dennison
Walsall College – James Norris
Walsall Council – Keith Beech
Walsall Council – Alison Guerra
Walsall Council – Kelly Valente
Walsall Council - Claire Wills
Walsall Council – Dean Stephens
Walsall Council – Actions/Minutes – Lucy Clarke
Walsall Council (Note taker) – Jayne Hadley
Walsall Council (Note taker) – Surinder Kaur
Walsall Council - Richard Ackerley
Walsall Council - Elizabeth Connolly

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Manjit Jhooty stated this part of the meeting would be recorded. There were no objections to this.

Lucy Clarke started recording the meeting at 2.32pm.

PUBLIC – DRAFT VERSION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The first part of this meeting would be in public session for agenda items 1-7, then the meeting moved into private session.

(Exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

1. Apologies

Natasha Mann, David Bengé, Eleanor Cooper, Dave Brown, and Patricia Willoughby.

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023/2024

Chair

Mark Lavender asked for nominations for Chairperson for 2023/24, Manjit Jhooty advised he would be happy to continue.

Recommendation 23/TDB/13/R

Mark Lavender moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of asking for a raised hand if a Board member wish to volunteer, or silence to be taken as agreement for Manjit to continue as Chairperson. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Town Deal Board appoint Manjit Jhooty as Chairperson of the Town Deal Board for the 2023/24 cycle.

Vice-Chair

Mark Lavender asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson for 2023/24, however, advised that Councillor Andrew would be happy to continue.

Recommendation 23/TDB/14/R

Mark Lavender moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of asking for a raised hand if a Board member wish to volunteer, or silence to be taken as agreement for Councillor Andrew to continue as Vice-Chairperson. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Town Deal Board appoint Councillor Andrew as Vice-Chairperson of the Town Deal Board for the 2023/24 cycle. Manjit Jhooty chaired the meeting from this point onwards. Councillor Andrew Confirms will continue as Vice Chair.

3. Acceptance / amendments to the Terms of Reference

Manjit Jhooty asked the board if they had read the Terms of Reference as circulated to the Board and asked if all were in agreement. There were no comments, the Terms of Reference were accepted, as circulated.

Recommendation 23/TDB/15/R

The Board members accepted the Terms of Reference as circulated.

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Timetable of meetings 2023/24

This was discussed under Any Other Business.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes (Public) of the previous meeting and actions update.

Lucy Clarke shared public minutes from the last meeting on 22 March 2023.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Invitations & Consultation Events

a. Children First Summit

These were consultation events or invites that board members may be interested in. The first one was an invitation to the Children's First Summit, the invite came from the Children and Young People Strategic Alliance. They were inviting key leaders from across Walsall to attend their first ever summit to inform their strategy, which would take place on the 23rd June between 9:00am - 3:30pm.

Mark Lavender shared a document and the below:

b. Transport Consultation – Bloxwich Cycling & Walking Improvements

This was a proposal to carry out improvements to two junctions and roads in Bloxwich to help connect the Town Centre to the Rail Station.

Mark Lavender shared the transport update on screen, which was also available in the Teams folder.

This showed the installation of new cycling lanes, new junction improvements and the introduction of a new pelican crossing were among the improvements to the town:

- Installing a new pedestrian crossing on Elmore Green Road, near to the junction with Croxdene Avenue.
- Upgrading the existing pedestrian crossing outside Elmore Green Primary School into a shared use facility for both pedestrians and cyclists.

5. Bloxwich Advisory Board – Chair's update

Rupert Fairfax provided an update:

The Bloxwich Advisory board met on 22nd May, everyone was engaged, well informed, and the overview was that the Board were pleased with the progress of the projects.

There was an overspend for Bloxwich, financially overachieved for the 2022/23 year end, this would hopefully off set the Walsall projects' underspend.

Project updates:

Promotion of Construction Skills Through Regeneration – A lot of behind-the-scenes work had been going on to lay the foundations, grant agreements, application process. A launch of the project would take place on the 15th of July.

PUBLIC – DRAFT VERSION

Consultation with the External Funding Team had taken place to establish additional or alternative funding streams that can support applications, maximising Community Capital Funding.

Incubation Space & Digital Access Centre – The Council exchanged contracts on the purchase of the building on 31st March. Completion was due middle of July 2023.

Green Bloxwich - Progress was running satisfactorily, a visual update was provided.

Active Travel & Connectivity - Work was ongoing on the towpath upgrade, the Contractors had been subject to some vandalism, so this had paused briefly, but would restart shortly once the problem had abated.

Community Capital - Seven expressions of interest for funding had been received. Five out of the seven groups had been invited to work through their full applications.

6. Walsall Advisory Board – Chair’s update

Karl Woodward provided an update:

The Advisory Board met on the 22nd of May 2023.

The Board had an introduction on the low carbon programme being applied to the projects around the sustainability.

Alison Guerra provided a financial status on the projects, which provided the board with the spend profile for Walsall at approximately £4.6 million. There was a shortfall, although not all the claims had been received yet. The project adjustments were to be made to the government to reflect the current project positions.

Active Public Spaces - Still at RIBA stage 3, final report due end of May. Engagement commenced with planners regarding the footbridge.

Construction Skills Academy - The build contractor was on site, images were shared with the Board of the steel frame in progress. Financially on target.

Advanced Electric Vehicle Technology Centre - Design submitted end of May, due to change of match funding. Currently at tender stage, requiring Board approval from the college, elements regarding land purchase had all been completed.

Digital Skills Hub - The shop units had been purchased, would be rebranded St Matthews Education Quarter and the opening was planned for the end of the financial year.

Creative Industries Enterprise Centre - Currently at RIBA stage 3, cost update would be provided in due course, planning application due to be submitted end of June.

Adult Learning Centre - No update was available at the time of the Advisory Board meeting.

Joint Projects

Active Travel & Connectivity - As detailed above in the Bloxwich update.

Community Capital - The programme had gone out for Expressions of Interest, some had been returned and the Board had been taken through the process. The Board had questioned about the signposting and events, but the voluntary sector had been extensively engaged and the programme would continue to be promoted.

Communications

A communication update was provided by Keith Beech, regarding the regeneration plans, the appointment of the dedicated comms officer and the workshops planned with the Town Deal Board members.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 19 July 2023.

Recording was stopped by Lucy at 2.56.

Public Session closed at 2.56pm

PRIVATE SESSION

(Exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

The meeting continued in private session - a summary of the discussion is below, the full notes are not published.