



# Walsall Council

## ACTION NOTES

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

**Date:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 11:30am - 1:00pm

**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.

### VOTING MEMBERS – Via Teams

#### Present:

Walsall Council (**Chair**) – Manjit Jhooty  
Walsall Council – Shaun Darcy  
Walsall Council – Mark Lavender  
Fairfax Saddles / Chair of Bloxwich Town Deal Advisory Board – Rupert Fairfax  
OneWalsall – David Benge  
University of Wolverhampton – Ray Flynn  
Mercian Trust – Kevin Davis  
Reach All Ltd / Chair of Walsall Town Deal Advisory Board - Karl Woodward  
Walsall College – James Norris  
Walsall College – Jat Sharma

### MEMBERS – Via Teams

Walsall Council – Alison Guerra  
Walsall Council – Keith Beech  
Walsall Council - Matt Lloyd  
Walsall Council – Helen Kirk  
Walsall Council – Richard McVittie  
Walsall Council – Actions/Minutes – Lucy Clarke  
Walsall Council (Note taker) – Jayne Hadley

#### Apologies

Robert Judson, Surinder Kaur

Manjit Jhooty stated this part of the meeting would be recorded. There were no objections to this. Jayne Hadley started recording the meeting at 11.32am

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The first part of this meeting will be in public session for agenda items 1-5, 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. Welcome and Introductions**

Apologies were received from: Robert Judson, Ray Flynn will join the meeting later.

Introductions were provided to the group by: Richard McVittie, attending for Liz Stuffins and Matt Lloyd, Project Officer, Programme Manager who will talk through the Item on Power BI slides.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

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

Jayne Hadley shared public minutes from the last meeting on 6 June 2023.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record by Manjit Jhooty and Jat Sharma seconded this.

**4. Invitations & Consultation Events**

Mark Lavender provided background information to these events:

- a. **Signing of the Promotion of Construction Skills through Regeneration Programme - Heads of Terms.**
- b. **Launch of the Open Call to RSL's, to submit their bids into the Promotion of Construction Skills through Regeneration Programme.**
- c. **Visit by DLUHC Colleagues to the Walsall Town Deal Programme**

The above 3 items were discussed, and following comments noted:

James Norris - the visit and opening events provided a really good way to showcase the projects. The fit out of the College extension will be complete this week, with students eager to commence their courses, as we have seen recruitment numbers higher than expected at this time for the new term, indicating that there will be significant and tangible benefits from this project.

Jat Sharma thanked Mark Lavender and the team for ensuring these events were successful. The project has been tough to complete given the current environment and inflation increasing costs etc. it's a good jointly delivered project and really positive news for Walsall.

Manjit Jhooty wished to thank Karl and colleagues on the Walsall Advisory Board for their work on this too.

Mark Lavender advised – DLUHC representatives who attended the site visit (13.07.23) provided feedback that their successful visit provided a clear introduction to the work that happening and planned across the Walsall Town Deal programme. They particularly liked the learning and empowerment themes that are emerging through the mix of projects.

Karl thanked everyone involved, and also the support from community groups.

**PUBLIC – FINAL VERSION**

**ACTIONS:**

**(i)Manjit Jhooty requested the Board write to the College to thank them formally for their hard work on this project - 23/TDB/061/ML**

**(ii)Manjit Jhooty requested a further site visit to be arranged in due course. 23/TDB/062/ML**

**5. Bloxwich Advisory Board – Chair’s update**

Rupert Fairfax provided an update:

Since the last Town Deal Board, the Bloxwich Advisory met on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.

Updates /presentations have been provided on all Bloxwich projects within the programme which are all progressing well with no current concerns. This included two technical presentations which will be shown to this board later on the agenda – (i) The Local Supply Chain Directory for Walsall, developed to aid local procurement that keeps the pound local that’s easy to use. (ii) Monitoring of projects through the introduction of the Verto and Microsoft BI platforms, both of which are included later in the agenda.

Project Updates

Active Travel – work has stated on junction improvements including road crossings and associated cycling and walking routes. Work to recommence the Bloxwich canal improvements will start soon.

All projects are progressing well and on target, with no concerns so far.

**6. Walsall Advisory Board – Chair’s update**

Karl Woodward provided an update:

Good progress is being made across the projects. Walsall Advisory Board met on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023, all actions were completed. The Advisory Board were given a presentation on the Verto Power BI platform, which includes a database for all projects and will have live updates for each of these. A piece of work was commissioned to produce a supplier list within the borough. The databased includes a footprint of suppliers for Walsall, Bloxwich and others known within these areas.

Project Officers will available moving forward to develop and maintain these systems. Project leads provided updates on their respective projects, with good progress being made on each of these. Comms and marketing highlights were also shared for the Borough as a whole and a significant increase in positive messaging noted. Due to the volume of the content of these boards we will extend the meetings to 90mins so thanks to those attendees for agreeing to this. We have also received buy in from the local communities. The next meeting is scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> September.

**Date and time of Next Town Deal Board Meeting – 11.10.23 @14:30**

**Public Session closed at: 11.48am**

**PRIVATE SESSION**

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