

Recorded & Shared Meeting Session – FINAL VERSION

ACTION NOTES

Title of Meeting: Bloxwich & Walsall Town Deal Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday 30 April 2025 14:30 – 16:00pm

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.

Present:

VOTING MEMBERS – Via Teams

Manjit Jhooty – Jhoots Pharmacy (Chair)

Robert Judson (RJ) – Homeserve

David Moore (DM) – Walsall Council

Rupert Fairfax (RF) – Fairfax Saddles / Chair of Bloxwich Advisory Board

Karl Woodward (KW) - Reach All Ltd/Chair of Walsall Advisory Board

Ray Flynn (RFL) – University of Wolverhampton

Kevin Davis – (KD) The Vine / Mercian Trust

Mark Lavender (ML) – Walsall Council

James Norris (JN) – Walsall College

MEMBERS – Via Teams / Guests:

Richard Ackerley (RA) – Walsall Council

Kelly Valente (KV) – Walsall Council

Helen Kirk (HK) – Walsall Council

Dan Johnson (DJ) – Walsall Council

Jayne Hadley (JH) – Walsall Council

Matthew Lloyd (MLO) – Walsall Council

Natsha Mann (NM) – Walsall Council

Peter Hoarle (PH) – Enterprise Manager, Canals and Rivers Trust

Peter Poolton (PP) – West Midlands Police Inspector

Town Deal Board - Public - Recorded & Shared Meeting Session

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The first part of this meeting will be recorded and subsequently placed onto the Town Deal Website and shared with the public, covering agenda items 1-5, then the meeting will move into private session.

1. Welcome and Introductions /Apologies

Hannah Cashmore, Simon Tranter, Tarra Simmons, Keith Beech, Jat Shama, Deb Rajania Councillor Andrews

Introductions were provided to Pete Poolton (representative and local inspector from West Midlands Police)

2. Declarations of Interest

Manjit Jhooty asked if there were any declarations of interest, none were declared.

3. Minutes (Public) of the Previous Meeting

Jayne Hadley shared public minutes from the last meeting on 29 January 2025 on screen.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record by Manjit Jhooty and seconded by Karl Woodward.

4. Bloxwich Advisory Board – Chairs Update

(Aim – RF to update Board members on the work conducted at previous AB meetings)

Rupert Fairfax advised that the Bloxwich Advisory last met on the 06 March 2025. A further meeting was scheduled for 10 April, however due to a large number of apologies and being unable to rearrange there is unfortunately no update from Bloxwich Advisory Board.

5. Walsall Advisory Board – Chairs Update

(Aim – KW to update Board members on the work conducted at previous AB meetings)

Karl Woodward provided an update: since the last Town Deal Board, the Walsall Advisory Board met on the Wednesday 2 April 2025. There was good attendance with the usual format of agenda items. The finance update identified some risks for some projects, and some changes to projected outputs and outcomes. We are advised we are report back to Government in May. The Verto system will be used to identify any risks. There were no further project adjustments required so credit to all officers involved in these projects.

There was an update on Marketing/Communications, some campaigns are ongoing, with others soon to start. There will be more focus on communications and tie in with partners/contractors involved.

From the Power BI update, we have moved from red to amber based on the milestone reporting, we reiterated the importance of project leads requiring assistance and for them speak to Matt Lloyd on this. Also, we need to ensure guidance is clear as there are a number of new projects i.e. within CRP.

The Active tTravel update indicated there are some delays, but overall good progress is being made.

Community Capital – 3 projects have commenced, 2 planning applications approved. Helen Kirk and Claire Wills are managing this well. Some smaller projects require support. David Moore updated on CRP and the alliance with some grant agreements, good progress is being given the tight timeframes.

Karl Woodward wished it be noted that officers and project leads are working tirelessly on these projects to keep them on track.

Adult Learning Centre – this is ongoing

Connected Gateway – comms are required for this project

Active public spaces – improvements have been made, with some future considerations to be progressed.

Digital Hub – this project is reporting positive results so far.

Karl Woodward stated there was some observations from the Walsall Advisory Board from some of the recently delivered projects and how we consider the environments around those assets – this would be discussed further at a future meeting but from the feedback received from Walsall Advisory Board we need to ensure those new assets are protected.

Next meeting is June 2025.

Date and time of Next Town Deal Board Meeting 26 June 2025 – @14:30

Shared Session closed at: 14:47

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