

**26 July 2016**

**Petition: Defending Walsall Jobs**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolio:** Cllr L. Jeavons – Deputy Leader and Economy, infrastructure and Development

**Executive Summary:**

A petition was presented to Cabinet on 15 June 2016 by Councillor L. Jeavons entitled 'Defending Walsall Jobs'.

The petition contains over 500 signatures and is worded as follows:

*'In November 2015 HMRC (the UKs tax collection department) announced that the Walsall HMRC site will close in March 2017. This will mean:*

- *That over 60 reasonably paid permanent jobs will be lost from Walsall.*
- *HMRC will no longer have a presence in Walsall.*
- *The estimated loss to the Walsall economy is £1million per year. This loss will inevitably impact on other businesses in the area.*

*We the undersigned call on Walsall Council to debate this issue, oppose the loss of jobs in Walsall and join the campaign to keep the office door open.'*

The Councils petitions scheme requires the relevant senior officer to give evidence at an overview and scrutiny committee should a petition be received with over 500 signatures. In this instance the Council has no direct responsibility for the decision being taken to close the local HMRC office so the following organisations have been invited to attend the meeting:

- The Public and Commercial Service Union (the organisers of the petition);
- HMRC.

The Local Government Act 2000 makes provision for overview and scrutiny committees to be able to discuss and make recommendations on any issue that affects the authority's area of the inhabitants of the local area.

**Recommendation:**

That the Committee hear the petition and the response to it and consider whether to make any recommendations.

## **Report author**

Craig Goodall

Democratic Services Officer

☎ 01922 654765

✉ [craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk)