



Walsall Council

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the TWENTY-THIRD day of FEBRUARY, 2009 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 13th day of February , 2009.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:-

1. To elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.
2. Apologies.
3. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th January 2009.
4. Declarations of interest.
5. Mayor's announcements.
6. To receive any petitions.

7. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:

(a) From the public - **None**

(b) From members of the Council.

(1) Councillor Robertson – Sickness absence (Councillor Griffiths)

“What are the latest figures in numbers as well as percentages for sickness absences for employees of this Council in each directorate and is it still correct that we have the 2nd highest levels for sickness absence in the country?”

(2) Councillor Smith – Brown bins (Councillor Walker)

“Will the portfolio holder for Environment inform me, this Council and the public when those households with gardens, many of which are quite substantial who live in Kent Street, Essex Street, Hereford Street, Derby Street, Alderley Crescent, Deans Place, Whateley Road, Whateley Place, Cartbridge Crescent and Cartbridge Walk (all in the Blakenall Ward), will be treated equally and fairly by Walsall Council and issued with garden waste recycling “brown bins” so that they are no longer excluded from the Council’s recycling scheme, especially as they have recently been informed that they cannot put garden waste in either the green bin or the new grey “granny” bins?”

(3) Councillor Young – Public lighting PFI (Councillor Harris)

“How much has this Council paid to date to compensate the PFI public lighting partners, for the loss of revenue from advertising, which was designed to make up the £7 million shortfall in the Government grant and how much more will realistically have to be paid by the end of the PFI contract?”

(4) Councillor Anson – Ring Road (Councillor Harris)

“Was there a penalty clause in the contract for the inner ring road and if not why not?”

8. Designation of Statutory Officer posts. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting

9. To confirm the following recommendations of the **Cabinet**:

(1) Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy

That the 2009/10 treasury management and investment strategy document set out in Appendix A to the report and the adoption of the prudential indicators set out in Appendix B to the report be approved.

(Note: The report to Cabinet relating to this recommendation is reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

(2) Corporate Revenue and Capital Programme budget plan 2008/09 to 2012/13

- (1) That delegated authority be given to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader to allow reserve list items in the draft capital programme 2009/10 to commence following confirmation that funds are available.
- (2) That the following changes to Annex 5 and 13 of the report be approved:
 - (a) Replace saving number 164 Annex 5 (agency savings housing - £45,657) with restructure of management within residential homelessness projects.
 - (b) Replace £150,000 of saving number 115 Annex 5 (agency savings regeneration) with WNF funding in 2009/10 and 2010/11.
 - (c) Replace £106,000 of saving number 46 Annex 5 (agency savings neighbourhood services) with a reduction of 9 permanent posts and an increase in 9 summer agency employees.
 - (d) The revised draft capital programme reserve list Annex 13 (attached to the Council Summons).
- (3) (a) That the net levies for outside bodies be noted. At the time of despatch of this report, we had not been formally notified by the authorities of their final levy and as such this will be reflected in a revised resolution to be provided to the Council meeting of 23 February 2009. An estimate has been used within this report based on informal notification from the authorities.

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	13,587,000
Environment agency	82,930

- (b) That approval be given to an opening working balance for 2009/10 set at a prudent level of £6.99m in line with the council's medium term financial strategy.
- (c) That the following opening cash limited budgets for 2009/10 be approved.

BUDGET	2009/10 BUDGET (£)
DIRECTORATE BUDGETS:	
Resources	14,699,300
Social care and inclusion	74,468,399
Children and young people	55,582,492
Neighbourhood services	62,865,576
Regeneration	3,958,216
CORPORATE PROVISIONS/CONTINGENCIES ETC:	
Capital financing	17,036,928
Non-service specific central items	13,762,867
Contribution to general reserves	2,000,000
Less: Capital Charges	-20,850,011
LEVIES:	
Passenger Transport Levy	13,587,000
Environment Agency Levy	82,930
WALSALL MBC NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	237,193,697

(d) That the following statutory determinations be noted (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992):

- I. **£688,797,690** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.
- II. **£451,603,993** being the aggregate income which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
- III. **£237,193,697** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32 (4) as its budget requirement for the year.
- IV. **£133,321,859** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates (**£108,297,234**); Revenue Support Grant (**£24,996,399**); and the Collection Fund Surplus (**£28,226**).
- V. **£103,871,838** being the amount at (d iii) above, less the amount at (d iv) above, all divided by the Council Tax Base of **77,943.24**, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

VI. Valuation bands

Being amounts given by multiplying the amount at (d) above by the proportions set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act and calculated in accordance with Section 36 (1) of the Act of the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands.

A	B	C	D
£888.44	£1,036.51	£1,184.59	£1,332.66
E	F	G	H
£1,628.81	£1,924.95	£2,221.10	£2,665.32

- (e) That the estimated precept from the Fire & Civil Defence Authority and the estimated precept for the Police Authority, issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below be noted and that the final figures be substituted for these provisional ones once they are available at the Council meeting on 23 February 2009.

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
Police	A	B	C	D
	£65.32	£76.21	£87.09	£97.98
	E	F	G	H
	£119.75	£141.53	£163.30	£195.96
Fire & Civil Defence	A	B	C	D
	£31.27	£36.48	£41.69	£46.90
	E	F	G	H
	£57.32	£67.74	£78.17	£93.80

- (f) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (d) and (e) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2009/10 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

A	B	C	D
£985.03	£1,149.20	£1,313.37	£1,477.54
E	F	G	H
£1,805.88	£2,134.22	£2,462.57	£2,955.08

- (g) That notice be given of the council tax within twenty one days of it being set by publishing details of the same in the "Walsall Observer"; and the "Walsall Advertiser" being newspapers circulating in the Authority's area.
- (h) That the chief financial officer be instructed to take all necessary action in relation to council tax, community charge and national non-domestic rates, including, where appropriate, the signing of all documents, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- (i) That the draft capital programme set out in the following tables be approved bearing in mind the principle that unless affordable from within current resources, specific projects funded by unsupported borrowing will not be commenced until a payback agreement is in place.

DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10	
MAINSTREAM SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Education basic need	1,443,204
Modernisation - all schools	1,947,980
Schools access initiative	586,620
Local Transport Plan	2,610,500
Risk Management	100,000
Uninsured property damage	100,000
Contingency	350,000
Finance Direct/Oracle	4,665,000
Redhouse community centre	300,000
Walsall arboretum restoration programme	374,233
Walsall TCTP ring road land acquisition	480,000
Engineers– Town Centre Transport Package	5,400,000
Asbestos removal	200,000
Civic building air condition replacement	300,000
Legionella	300,000
Regenerating Walsall	500,000
Barcroft primary	3,246,398
Targeted capital fund	500,000
BSF	900,000
Clear major adaptations	224,517
Palfrey Park HLF	75,000
Pelsall library, childrens centre and health centre	350,000
Academies	400,000
TOTAL	25,353,452
MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10	
RESERVE BIDS	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Clear major adaptations	354,000
Structural repairs to central library	250,000
Memorial safety	100,000
Eldon House Reprovision	1,028,148
Statutory testing of building services & resulting work	300,000
Essential repairs to Norfolk Place depot	163,500
Clear major adaptations	421,483
Planned property maintenance (non-educational bldgs)	500,000
Highways maintenance	750,000
Demolition of redundant buildings to save on rates	200,000
Provision of alternative accommodation to release leased premises	1,000,000
Shop maintenance	120,000
Additional contingency	266,500
Additional projects to support regeneration within Walsall which meet Council priorities	1,000,000
TOTAL	6,453,631

NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM GRANT 2009/10	
NON MAINSTREAM SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
14-19 diplomas, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	2,000,000
Barcroft primary	1,332,089
Devolved formula capital	4,821,184
Early years	1,015,217
Extended schools	537,679
Harnessing technology grant	1,016,288
Modernisation	1,367,962
Primary capital programme	4,357,729
Sure start, early years and child care grants	546,966
Targeted capital fund	2,000,000
Youth capital fund	181,600
Pathfinder short breaks	117,300
Bloxwich library project	1,269,900
Walsall's childrens play portfolio	247,650
Greenspaces improvement	50,000
Pelsall library, childrens centre and health centre	550,000
Palfrey park restoration programme	296,500
Walsall arboretum restoration programme	720,574
Waste infrastructure capital fund	443,608
Safer Stronger Community Fund	106,655
Bridge Street/Ablewell Street Townscape Heritage Initiative – Advantage West Midlands	175,000
Bridge Street/Ablewell Street Townscape Heritage Initiative – Heritage Lottery Fund	201,194
NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM GRANT 2009/10 CONTINUED	
NON MAINSTREAM SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Bus showcase	1,000,000
Local transport plan	2,610,500
Local transport plan – Darlaston project development	150,000
New deal for communities	0
Red routes	2,000,000
Willenhall Townscape Heritage Initiative - Heritage Lottery Fund	150,000
Willenhall Townscape Heritage Initiative – Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall contribution	150,000
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,500,000
PARIS implementation - single capital pot	129,000
ICT infrastructure	95,424
Regional Housing Pot - Kickstart	971,690
Regional Housing Pot – Regeneration and Growth	3,328,000
Mental health	137,000
TOTAL	35,576,709

LEASING PROGRAMME 2009/10	
DIRECTORATE	TOTAL BUDGET £'000
Neighbourhood Services	3,400
Social Care and Inclusion	328
Childrens Services	36
TOTAL	3,764

(Note: The report to Cabinet relating to this recommendation is reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

10. Willenhall Housing Group

- (a) To report the resignation of Councillor Cook.
- (b) To appoint a representative to serve on Willenhall Housing Group for the remainder of the municipal year.

CAPITAL BIDS 2009/10 : RESERVE LIST

DIRECTORATE	PROJECT	CAPITAL BIDS 2009/10	COMMENTS
RESERVE LIST SCHEMES			
Priority 1: Requested to proceed during 2009/10:			
Social Care	Clear major adaptations	354,000	To maintain independence for disabled clients in their own homes by providing relevant equipment and adaptations to property. Funding to complete current priority list.
Regeneration	Structural repairs to the central library	250,000	To enable structural repairs to the central library to commence.
Priority 2: Health and Safety / Statutory Requests:			
Neighbourhood	Memorial Safety	100,000	All burial authorities are required to control the risk associated with the operation or their cemeteries, including risks from unsafe memorials. This project provides funding for continual safety work on memorials.
CIPS	Eldon House reprovion	1,028,148	To reprovide Eldon House children's home to increase the capacity by one placement per night and bring the built environment up to the standard required to appropriately and consistently meet the needs of children and young people with disabilities and to meet statutory requirements.
Regeneration	Statutory testing of building services and resulting work	300,000	To maintain a detailed programme to ensure that all buildings have appropriate electrical and mechanical testing.
Neighbourhood	Essential repair works to Norfolk Place depot	163,500	Repair works to include repairs to workshop building, drainage improvements to prevent flooding, removal of asbestos, repairs to concrete floor in garage and fire alarm improvements
Social Care	Clear major adaptations	421,483	Additional funding over and above Priority 1 to maintain independence for disabled clients in their own homes by providing relevant equipment and adaptations to property
Priority 3: To Mitigate Risk of Future Additional Costs:			
Regeneration	Planned property maintenance (maintenance of non-education premises)	500,000	Maintenance and repairs that have been identified in the rolling condition surveys.
Neighbourhood	Highways maintenance	750,000	This project is to support progress made in the condition of Walsall's classified highway network and maintain service levels.
Regeneration	Demolition of redundant buildings to save on rates	200,000	To ensure buildings can be made safe and remove the rates requirement and also associated security issues.
Regeneration	Provision of alternative accommodation to release leased premises	1,000,000	To release accommodation by 2012 to provide alternative premises. This funding will allow conversion of existing council buildings to enable office use.
Regeneration	Shop Maintenance	120,000	Ongoing maintenance requirement to tenants
Resources	Additional contingency	266,500	To manage unforeseen expenditure following budget approval in February 2009.
Priority 4: Should additional funding become available (these projects would only commence following CFO confirmation and approval of funds availability)			
Council Wide	Additional projects to support regeneration within Walsall which meet Council priorities	1,000,000	Option appraisal/risk assessment would be required at minimum and funding confirmed prior to start. Projects would be assessed in accordance with council priorities.
TOTAL RESERVE LIST		6,453,631	