



Walsall Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **THURSDAY the 25TH day of FEBRUARY, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 17th day of February, 2016.

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 11th January 2016.
4. Declarations of interest.
5. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**
To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
6. Mayor's announcements.
7. To receive any petitions.

8. Petitions:

(a) **Against the proposed closure of Pleck Library:**

A petition with regard to the above containing over 1,500 signatures was submitted to Council on 11th January 2016 by Councillor Anson.

(b) **Against the proposed closure of Beechdale Library**

A petition with regard to the above containing over 1,500 signatures was submitted to Council on 11th January 2016 by Councillor Jukes.

- Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

(Note: The Council's petitions scheme states:

“Council debate - If a petition contains at least 1,500 signatures it will be debated at a meeting of the Council. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting to which all Councillors can attend and speak. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action that the petition requests; not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to ask for further information. Where the issue is one where the Cabinet are required to make the final decision the Council will decide to make recommendations to the Cabinet. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision and this will be published on our website.”)

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

(a) From the public:

(b) From members of the Council:

(1) **Councillor Worrall – Ombudsman’s Complaint re: Garage at Shelfield**

“Given the need for the Council to operate with openness and transparency in general, and more particularly in the case of the Garage, with a long history of serious planning issues, including the recent adverse finding of the Planning Ombudsman identifying multiple instances of maladministration involving both officers and senior members of this Council, would Councillor Perry agree to reverse his decision not to allow an update report to Planning Committee, and this

at a time when the owner has allegedly been running a business from these premises for over two months without the benefit of planning consent, and with no indication of when, or if, he will ever submit a planning application for these new-build premises which currently have no planning use?”

(2) Councillor Russell – “The Pigeon Fanciers” Painting

“Will the portfolio holder for Art, Leisure and Culture undertake to restore at the earliest opportunity the Andrew Tift painting ‘The Pigeon Fanciers’, to its previous hanging position on the Council House staircase where it complements the other Tift painting? ”

(3) Councillor Hicken – Scrutiny of Library Service

“Councillor Nazir can you tell me, this Council, and the people of Walsall, what work your panel have done to scrutinise the improvement and modernisation of the library service”.

(4) Councillor Worrall – Winterley Lane, Rushall infilling of mineshafts

“Site operators at land off Winterley Lane, Rushall, adjacent to the canal have planning consent to infill sixteen limestone shafts on this former grazing land. The consent expires next month. Could the Chair of Planning Committee advise me and Council how many shafts have been filled to date, how many remain to be filled and whether the infilling will be completed by the end of March in readiness for subsequent site clearance and restoration to idyllic green belt grazing land?”

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

**(1) Corporate Budget Plan and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy
2016/17**

That the following be approved :

2.3.1 Revenue

- a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2016/17 as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- b) A Walsall council net council tax requirement for 2016/17 of £100.99m – with a 3.99% increase in council tax, 2% of which is earmarked for Adult Social Care.

- c) That the recommendations of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in respect of the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations and the adequacy of reserves **be approved**, including the levels of central contingency and an opening general reserves of not less than £12.4m, as set out in **Annex 3** of the budget plan.

- d) The levies below for outside bodies:

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	12,186,851
Environment agency	77,207

- e) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended):

- I. **£617,568,982** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
- II. **£516,578,089** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- III. **£100,990,893** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (e) (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (e) (II), calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
- IV. **£1,495.71** being the amount at (e) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of **67,520.37**, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (average council tax at band D).
- V. Valuation bands
Being amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) (iv) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Local Government Act 1992, is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Act as 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
997.14	1,163.33	1,329.52	1,495.71
E	F	G	H
1,828.09	2,160.47	2,492.85	2,991.42

The above table is split as follows:

Council Tax - General (1.99% increase)

A	B	C	D
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977.96	1,140.96	1,303.95	1,466.94
E	F	G	H
1,792.93	2,118.92	2,444.90	2,933.89

Council Tax – Adult Social Care Precept (2% increase)

A	B	C	D
19.18	22.37	25.57	28.77
E	F	G	H
35.16	41.55	47.95	57.53

- f) The precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and the precept for the Police and Crime Commissioner, 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:

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
Police And Crime Commissioner	A	B	C	D
	74.37	86.76	99.16	111.55
	E	F	G	H
	136.34	161.13	185.92	223.10
Fire & Rescue Authority	A	B	C	D
	37.35	43.58	49.80	56.03
	E	F	G	H
	68.48	80.93	93.38	112.05

- g) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (e) (v) and (f) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D
1,108.86	1,293.67	1,478.48	1,663.29
E	F	G	H
2,032.91	2,402.53	2,772.15	3,326.57

- h) 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 Advertiser” newspaper circulating in the Authority’s area.
- i) 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.
- j) That, pursuant to Section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the relevant basic amount of council tax for the Council

is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required.

- k) That Area Panels be disestablished with effect from 1 April 2016 (saving proposal number 80).
- l) That officers take action to ensure grant related expenditure is managed within the final grant allocation.

2.3.2 Capital

- a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- b) That the 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 borrowing will not be commenced until a payback agreement is in place. Schemes funded from grant will commence when final allocations are published. Reserve list items will only commence should funding become available during the financial year.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
<i>Prior Year Approvals</i>	
Mayrise system mobile working – additional hardware / software to enable in cab and mobile working within Waste Management	18,000
Libraries Universal Digital Offer – a 21 st century Public Library service	54,840
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	1,881,306
Traffic signals – replacement of obsolete equipment	150,000
Smarter workplaces programme to reduce the number of council buildings	220,000
M6 junction 10 improvements	650,000
<i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i>	
Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence/Integrated Community Equipment Service	2,000,000
Health Through Warmth – Safety Net support	150,000
Proactive Memorial Safety in Walsall cemeteries	30,000
Highway Maintenance Programme	2,810,745
<i>New Capital Bids</i>	
Integrated Community Equipment Service office accommodation	110,000
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
<i>New Capital Bids continued</i>	
PARIS replacement software	31,500
Windows server 2012 –review of Capita One system in Children’s Services	21,100
New wheeled bins – purchase of bins to support revenue proposal to move	653,470

to alternate weekly collections	
Extra land at Borneo allotments	25,000
Arboretum car park improvements	434,242
Open + in retained libraries, linked to revenue savings proposal	300,000
Highway Maintenance DfT Challenge Fund local contribution	210,000
Migration of existing Urban Traffic Control communication network	125,000
Council building information modelling – new statutory requirement	272,174
Hatherton Road multi-storey car park structural survey	80,000
Customer facing services being accessed by citizens electronically	53,000
Data back up system replacement	220,000
Money Home Job core IT system hardware and support refresh	51,500
Data centre air conditioning	130,000
Data centre power backup	310,000
Council Wide bids	
Funding to support essential works including Health & Safety, and other projects that cannot be guaranteed at start of year	750,000
Total	11,741,877

NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES 2016/17	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Heritage centre for Walsall – relocation of existing facilities	230,000
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	143,159
Local Transport Plan - Highway Maintenance Programme	2,400,000
Highways Maintenance DfT Challenge Fund	1,600,000
Integrated Transport Block / Local Transport Plan 2016/17	1,286,000
Darlaston Strategic Development Area Access Project	535,000
Growth Deal – creation of skills, connections for manufacturing	44,000,000
Basic Need school allocation	4,612,807
Devolved Formula Capital school allocation	553,772
Capital Maintenance school allocation	2,222,387
Disabled Facilities Grant	2,895,213
Total	60,478,338

CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST ITEMS 2016/17	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Shop maintenance	120,000
Regenerating Walsall	100,000
CCTV Public Space surveillance system	TBA
Promotion of Community Health & Safety	240,000
CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST ITEMS 2016/17 continued ...	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £

Aldridge Airport resurfacing of access road and car park	300,000
Walsall Town Hall refurbishment	500,000
Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence	1,150,000
Retender of Wide Area Network Connections	300,000
Total	2,710,000

c) That the leasing programme set out in the following table be approved.

LEASING PROGRAMME 2016/17	
	EXPENDITURE £
Refuse vehicles	311,858
Light commercial vehicles	430,181
Tractors and agricultural machinery	199,026
Welfare vehicles	53,134
Community equipment	224,098
Total	1,218,297

d) Delegated authority be given to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council/Portfolio Holder for Finance to make use of the “Flexible Use of Capital receipts” in line with guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003 (final guidance is still awaited) and to report back on its use, as appropriate.

2.3.3 Treasury Management

- Section B – Part 2 – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2016/17, including the council’s borrowing requirement and the adoption of the prudential indicators, **be approved**.
- That decisions to effect movements between conventional borrowing and other long term liabilities, such as leases, **be delegated** to the Chief Financial Officer.
- That decisions to use capital receipts or borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators **be delegated** to the Chief Financial Officer.

(Note: 1. Report to Cabinet on 3rd February 2016 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

2. In accordance with Council procedure rule 17.8 “A recorded vote will be taken on any decision relating to the Council’s budget or Council tax”.)

(2) **Corporate Plan 2016-2020**

That the Corporate Plan 2016-20 be approved.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 3rd February 2016 reproduced in the reports booklet

for this meeting.)

11. To confirm the following recommendation of **Audit Committee**:

Independent member on Audit Committee

That approval be given to an extension to Mr F Bell's term of office commencing from the start of the 2016/17 municipal year, ending at the conclusion of the 2017/18 municipal year.

12. **Pay policy 2016/17.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

13. **Designation of Statutory Scrutiny Officer.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

14. **Appointment of independent member of Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Ltd. (VIEW) Board.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

15. **North Walsall Area Panel.**

That Mr Pat Dean be appointed a co-opted member of the North Walsall Area Panel for the remainder of the municipal year.

16. **Portfolio holder briefings.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the the portfolio holder for Personnel and business support.

(Note: A member of the Council may ask the portfolio holder any question and another associate question without notice upon each report. Questioning by members is limited to 10 minutes for each report presented.)

(Note: Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)