



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 13th November 2017 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor M. Longhi (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor P. Bott (Deputy Mayor)

“ B. Allen
“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.J. Barker
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ K. Chambers
“ A.G. Clarke
“ C.E. Clews
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ A. Ditta
“ S.K. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ K. Ferguson
“ M. Follows
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ D.T. Hazell
“ E.A. Hazell
“ A.J. Hicken

Councillor K. Hussain

“ L.D. Jeavons
“ C. Jones
“ A. Kudhail
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ A.S. Nazir
“ G. Perry
“ K. Phillips
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ I.C. Robertson
“ J. Rochelle
“ E.B. Russell
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ I. Shires
“ G.S. Sohal
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ A. Underhill
“ M. Ward
“ P. Washbrook
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

On behalf of the Council the Mayor welcomed the new Chief Executive, Dr. Helen Paterson and Sally Rowe, the new Executive Director (Children's Services) to their first Council meeting.

44. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bennett, Cooper, James, Jukes and Martin.

45. Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2017 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

46. Declarations of interest

Councillors Craddock, Douglas-Maul and Young declared an Pecuniary interest in Item 9 – West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority governance review as the Council's representatives on the Fire and Rescue Authority and left the meeting during deliberation of this item.

47. Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

48. Mayors Announcements

As this was the last meeting of the year, the Mayor invited members to join him in the Mayor's Parlour at the conclusion of the meeting.

49. **Petitions**

The following petitions were submitted:

- (1) Councillor Murray: Against travellers setting up illegal camps on Aldridge Airport or adjoining fields.
- (2) Councillor Harrison: Community Hub for Mossley.
- (3) Councillor Nazir: Keep Sure Start Palfrey Children's Centre local.
- (4) Councillor Hicken: Protect our parks – injunction to prevent travellers using parks and playing fields in Willenhall North for unauthorised encampments

50. **Questions by member of the public**

There were no questions by members or members of the public.

At this point, Councillors Craddock, Douglas-Maul and Young left the meeting having declared an interest in the item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

51. **West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority governance review**

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

The following recommendation of Cabinet from its meeting earlier in the afternoon was submitted:

- (1) That Cabinet, as a Constituent Member of the West Midlands Combined Authority agrees the Governance Review (Appendix A) and Scheme (Appendix B) and that the proposed arrangements for West Midlands Fire Service should include the WMCA Fire Service budget being ring fenced for Fire Service functions.
- (2) That Cabinet agrees to move forward to public consultation for the Scheme and proposed governance model and support that consultation in Walsall.
- (3) That approval be given to delegate authority as required to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to make minor amendments to the Governance review and Scheme on completion of the Local Authority approval process and prior to public consultation.

To recommend the Council

That the Governance Review (Appendix A) and Scheme (Appendix B) be approved.

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Jeavons and:

Resolved

That the Governance Review (Appendix A) and Scheme (Appendix B) be approved.

Councillors Craddock, Douglas-Maul and Young returned to the meeting.

52. Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2017-2020

A report was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Shires, seconded by Councillor Nawaz and:

Resolved

That the Cohesion and Integration Strategy 2017-2010 and related action plan be approved.

53. Portfolio holder reports

(a) Clean and green

A report was submitted.

Councillor Jones, portfolio holder for clean and green invited and duly responded to questions from Members.

(b) Health

A report was submitted.

Councillor Robertson, portfolio holder for health gave a presentation.

Members asked questions in relation to the presentation which were responded to by Councillor Robertson.

54. Notice of motion – Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

A report was submitted.

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given, was **moved** by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Nawaz and:

Resolved

Council notes that the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) analysis reveals that the results of a survey shows that 25% of all secondary schools failed to provide a weekly Religious Education (RE) lesson. This percentage rose to 34% for 11 to 13 year olds and 44 % of 14 to 16 year old in academies and free schools. This survey took evidence from over 790 secondary schools.

Council acknowledges the high importance of RE in promoting a cohesive society. A Cohesion and Integration Strategy is being developed here in Walsall, that will, amongst other objectives, equip pupils with the vital knowledge about different faiths and beliefs in community, public and world affairs and so resolves to:

- (1) support the actions of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) here in Walsall in researching the level of RE provision particularly KS4, in Walsall secondary schools.
- (2) join with Walsall SACRE to write to the Secretary of State for education to urge that Central Government will instruct OFSTED to also check on curriculum provision to ensure that schools comply to provide a legal amount of RE.
- (3) write to all secondary schools here in Walsall to remind them of their legal obligation to provide RE under the 1998 school standards and framework act.

55. Private Session

Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Council considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the item in private.

Summary of item considered in private session

56. Amendment to Capital Programme 2017/18 – Aldridge Manor House

A report was submitted:

The Council approved an amendment to the 2017/18 Capital Programme to include a budget for the development of the Aldridge Manor House site.

[Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

The meeting terminated at 8.00 p.m.