



# 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 27TH day of FEBRUARY 2020 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 19th day of February 2020.

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 6th January 2020.

4. Declarations of interest.

(Note: The Monitoring Officer has granted a dispensation to all members of the Council under Section 33 (3) of the Localism Act 2011 to allow members to participate, and vote, in the setting of the Council budget.)

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. Petition: “Stop the horrendous smell at Highfields Waste Disposal Site Walsall Wood”.** A petition was submitted to Council on 6th January 2020 by Councillor Worrall. The petition contains over 3,000 signatures. 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:

**Mr. P.E. Smith – Swannies Field and the Lea**

- “Given: (a) that in a recent Black County Green Belt study, one of the Walsall areas identified for possible (emphasis on the word possible) housing development, is an important stretch of green belt known locally as Swannies Field and the Lea, what I describe as the “lungs” of Goscote and situated in the Blakenall ward,
- (b) that at this stage in the process, it is acknowledged that Walsall Council has not made any decision on this piece of land or indeed any other named pieces of land, with regard to being sites for future housing development,
- (c) that local residents, especially those in the Goscote, Harden and Ryecroft areas of the Blakenall ward are aware of and grateful for the part Walsall Council under the leadership of Cllr. Mike Bird, played by withdrawing Council support in 2012 to build on the part of this green belt, known as the Lea, perceived locally at the time as the Council backing the local residents rather than the developers, and

- (d) that Walsall Council, since 2012 has “put its money where its mouth is” by upgrading the Lea and investing in its improvement and maintenance as well as supporting the investment on adjacent Swannies Field, where new pathways and a children’s park have been installed,

will the appropriate Portfolio holder inform me, the Council and the public of the approximate monetary cost to the Council since 2012 of its investment on Swannies Field and the Lea, which has been for the betterment of the local community?”

(b) From members of the Council:

(1) **Councillor Shires – Children living in poverty, employment and living wage**

“Some wards in Walsall have up to at least 40% of children living in poverty, the majority of which have at least one parent in full time work.

Can the Leader of this Council inform me and this Council of the following:

- The total % of working age people in the borough in employment
- The current average earnings across the borough
- What % of those in employment in the borough earning less than the living age?”

(2) **Councillor Shires –School funding**

“Would the portfolio holder for Education and Skills agree with me that education is one route out of poverty? But if you are attending school hungry you are clearly not going to achieve your education potential. Further, to stack the odds against these children, many schools in this borough receive considerably less funding per pupil than the national average.

University isn’t for everyone, but it is sobering to consider that your parents’ wealth rather than your intelligence is a more accurate indicator as to whether you will attend university. Can the portfolio holder for Education and Skills provide me and this Council with the % deviation in schools funding for schools in the borough from the national average?”

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

(a) **Corporate Budget Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 and treasury management and investment strategy 2020/21**

(Note: 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”.)

The budget report referred on from Cabinet on 12 February 2020 delegated authority to the s151 Officer to make any necessary amendments to the budget, statutory determinations and council tax bands, in consultation with the Leader (portfolio holder for finance), to take account of the final precepts, the final settlement, final grant allocations and any changes to technical guidance on the budget, and for amendments to those to be submitted and therefore recommended to Council at its meeting on 27 February 2020.

The final Police and Fire Precepts have now been received:

- West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner has increased the Police element of the council tax by an average band D of £10 for 2020/21, which equates to 6.56%.
- West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority have increased their element of the council tax by 1.99% for 2020/21.

Both represent no change to that previously reported to Cabinet on 12 February 2020.

The WMCA (Transport) Levy has also been finalised and is reflected in this report.

There are no amendments to Statutory determinations (council gross expenditure and income) at the time of despatch of this report.

We are still awaiting confirmation of our final 2020/21 finance settlement, which is expected to be confirmed on 24 February 2020. If there are any changes to the provisional 2020/21 finance settlement announced on 20 December 2019, then these will be notified to Council in a supplementary resolution.

There are also still a number of final grant allocations to be received at this time, and officers will ensure that spend is adjusted to reflect final grant allocations, as appropriate.

The following revised recommendation incorporates the above changes, along with an updated Corporate Budget Plan and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy at Section A.

That the following be approved:

(1) Revenue

- a) The financial envelope of resources for 2020/21 as set out in **Section A: Part 1** “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.

- b) A Walsall Council net council tax requirement for 2020/21 of £127.566m and a 3.99% increase in council tax (inclusive of 2% precept for Adult Social Care).
- c) That the recommendations of the S151 Officer 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 reserve of no less than £13.55m, as set out in **Annex 12** of the Budget Plan.
- d) The final levies below for outside bodies:

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Levy	<b>11,146,812</b>
Environment Agency	<b>82,739</b>

- e) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended), and subject to any final changes arising from receipt of final precepts and levies, receipt of final grant allocations, technical/legislative guidance and final specific grant allocations, **and Cabinet approve that these will be substituted** at the Council meeting on 27 February 2020 for the final figures once received:

- I. **£641,492,969** 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. **£513,926,831** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- III. **£127,566,138** 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. **£1,782.90** being the amount at (e) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of 71,549.80, 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.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
1,188.60	1,386.70	1,584.80	1,782.90
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
2,179.10	2,575.30	2,971.50	3,565.80

- f) The draft precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and 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 and Cabinet **approve** that the final figures **be substituted** once they are available at the Council meeting on 27 February 2020.

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
	Police And Crime	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
108.37		126.43	144.49	162.55
<b>E</b>		<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
Fire & Rescue	198.67	234.79	270.92	325.10
	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
	41.20	48.07	54.93	61.81
	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	75.54	89.27	103.01	123.61

- 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 2020/21 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below and Cabinet **approve** that the final figures **be substituted** once the final precepts are available at the Council meeting on 27 February 2020.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
1,338.17	1,561.20	1,784.22	2,007.26
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
2,453.31	2,899.36	3,345.43	4,014.51

- 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 “Express and Star” newspaper circulating in the Authority’s area.
- i) That the S151 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, billing, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- j) That the S151 Officer **be given delegated authority** to make transfers to and from Reserves in order to ensure that reserves are maintained as necessary and in particular, adjusted when reserves are no longer required, or need to be replenished.
- k) 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.

(2) Capital

- a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in **Section A: Part 1** “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- b) That the capital and leasing 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.
- c) That the S151 Officer be **given delegated authority** to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall capital programme and to alter the overall mix of financing as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the council.
- d) That the S151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader (portfolio holder for finance), be **given delegated authority** to release capital resources held back for any contingent items that may arise (earmarked capital receipts for essential or emergency spend), and also for any match funding requirements that may be required of the Council in order to secure additional external capital funding (e.g. bids for government or other funding).
- e) The Capital Strategy set out in **Annex 10** of the Budget Plan **be approved**.
- f) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy set out in **Annex 11** of the Budget Plan be approved.

<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME – COUNCIL FUNDED SCHEMES</b>			
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2020/21 £</b>	<b>2021/22 £</b>	<b>2022/23 £</b>
<b><i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i></b>			
Memorial Safety in Walsall cemeteries	40,000	20,000	20,000
Highway Maintenance Programme – legal responsibility to maintain the highway network	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
Aids and Adaptations, Preventative Adaptations and Supporting Independence	400,000	400,000	400,000
Health through warmth	75,000	75,000	75,000
Funding to support essential works including health and safety	750,000	750,000	750,000
<b><i>Ongoing implications of prior year approvals (new spend)</i></b>			
Supporting transformation - Looked after children – out of borough placements	150,000		
Traffic Signals - Replacement of obsolete traffic signal control equipment	200,000	200,000	200,000
Provision of community dropped crossings along footways	20,000	20,000	
Promotion of Community Health and Safety	120,000	120,000	
Open water safety schemes – signage	5,000	2,000	
M6 Junction 10 road improvements in partnership with Highways England (grant)			650,000
Walsall Arboretum Extension and Country Park – infrastructure improvements		190,000	
New rail stations at Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge – local 10% contribution		1,500,000	1,500,000
Yorks bridge – increased funding for construction of replacement bridge		750,000	750,000
Willenhall Lane Cemetery Extension / Development of land for burials	525,600		
Strategic Acquisition for Third Sector Hub and operational accommodation - purchase of accommodation to support the formation of a third sector co-located hub and provide additional office accommodation for the council to support its ongoing rationalisation of its operational estate.	1,845,550	219,373	
Regional Materials Recycling Facility Project – Cabinet on 4 September 2019 approved for the Council to enter into a Joint Working Arrangement with 5 partner councils in order to facilitate the delivery stage of a local authority owned Materials Recycling Facility.	2,429,000	4,758,000	2,722,000
DfT Highways Challenge Fund Bid – funding to improve the quality of roads	260,000	260,000	
Enterprise Zones business investment as part of the Black Country LEP	4,185,088	10,599,915	9,715,704
Willenhall Lane Travellers site pumping station pump replacement	44,400		
ICT telephony cloud based system	500,000		
Civic Centre window replacement – improving energy efficiency		1,307,025	
Civic Centre plumbing – non heating related		66,600	

Council House general heating	1,085,000	1,085,000	
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Council House internal decoration	55,500		
Walsall Proud Programme – Enabling Technology work stream	10,200,000		
<b>New Capital Bids</b>			
Darlaston Pool – health & safety fall arrest system	11,000		
Children’s Locality Model – transformation to connect services and professionals by integrating staff into communities	73,000		
Upgrade of CCTV cameras in Bloxwich, Leamore, Willenhall, Darlaston, Palfrey and Caldmore	432,000	200,000	
School estate condition surveys		250,000	250,000
School temporary classrooms – ongoing provision for improving / replacing permanent mobile classrooms when they reach a state of disrepair		250,000	250,000
Rolling capital maintenance – to fund essential maintenance of council owned buildings	250,000		
Council House roof repairs		750,000	750,000
Replacement of tablet technology – rollout of new technology to enable agile working			2,250,000
Smartphones – replacement of current mobile phone devices from 2021/22		200,000	200,000
Proud card payments, digital website – to ensure council remains PCI compliant and allows for citizens to pay for services on line	500,000	500,000	
Maintaining a safe and secure environment – hardware and software upgrade	100,000	100,000	200,000
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy	4,000,000	0	0
Revised council payments system linked to the Enabling Technology work stream	265,000	0	0
<b>Total Capital Programme – Council Funded Schemes</b>	<b>31,321,138</b>	<b>27,372,913</b>	<b>23,482,704</b>

<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21 - SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES</b>	<b>Estimated Value £</b>
Growth Deal (grant)	32,948,081
LTP Highway Maintenance Programme (grant)	1,943,000
West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (STP) 'Movement for Growth'	1,276,300
DfT Highways Maintenance Incentive Fund	405,000
DfT Pothole Action Fund	154,600
Land and Property Investment Fund	22,348,000
Disabled Facilities Grant –supports the council's statutory requirement to provide disabled facility grants (DFGs) (grant).	2,894,013
Integrated Community Equipment Store – specialised equipment as part of BCF (grant)	810,000
Basic Need school allocation (grant)	1,322,344
Devolved Formula Capital school allocation (grant)	544,028
Capital Maintenance school allocation (grant)	2,071,685
Special provision fund – provision for pupils with special educational needs (grant)	319,229
<b>Total Capital Programme – External Funded Schemes</b>	<b>67,036,280</b>

<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST 2020/21 – COUNCIL FUNDED SCHEMES</b>	<b>Estimated Value £</b>
Further provision for Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence	250,000
Further provision for Health Through Warmth – tackling fuel poverty	75,000
Darlaston Leisure replacement boilers	250,000
North Walsall Cemetery – drainage improvements to solve long standing localised flooding on site	252,000
Bloxwich Leisure landing remodel – invest to save	150,000
Oak Park poolside seating – invest to save	26,000
Darlaston Leisure steam room generator replacement	4,000
CCTV replacement for Darlaston Leisure	4,000
CCTV replacement system for Gala Baths and Oak Park overflow car park	12,000
Walsall Arena and Arts Centre – creation of new theatre bar and associated facilities – invest to save	15,000
Walsall Arena and Arts Centre – new tiered seating in theatre	15,000
Cemetery and Crematorium – replacement roads, pathways, pothole repairs	100,000
Registry Office phase 2 – redesign to reception and ceremony areas	10,000
Air Quality Monitoring stations – replacement units	70,000
Cloud 2 – ICT transformation as part of Walsall Proud Programme	500,000
Replacement guillotine in print room	35,000
Purchase of UV printer for promotional materials in print room	25,518
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,793,518</b>

<b>LEASING PROGRAMME 2020/21</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>
Refuse vehicles	1,860,000
Light commercial vehicles	1,892,000
Tractors and agricultural machinery	156,000
Welfare vehicles	496,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,404,000</b>

(3) Treasury Management

1. That Section A – Part 2A – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2020/21 onwards, including the council's borrowing requirement, borrowing limits, and the adoption of the prudential indicators, be approved.
2. That decisions to effect movements between conventional borrowing and other long term liabilities, such as leases, be delegated to the S151 Officer.
3. That decisions to use capital receipts or borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators be delegated to the S151 Officer.
4. That Section A – Part 2B – Treasury Management Policy statement, be approved.

**(Note: Report and Supplementary Report to Cabinet on 12th February 2020 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)**

(b) **Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2019-20**

That the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2019-20 be approved and adopted.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 12th February 2020 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

**11. Corporate Plan 2018-2021 refresh.** Cabinet on 12 February 2020 resolved to forward the refreshed Corporate Plan to Council. Report Cabinet reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Personnel Committee**:

**Pay policy statement and living wage 2020/21**

- (1) That Council approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2020 / 2021.
- (2) That Council approve the continuation of the living wage as detailed within the Pay Policy (section 6.5) and section 4.2, option a, of the report.
- (3) That Council approve delegation for the Executive Director of Resources and Transformation to authorise the Pay Policy to be updated to reflect any amended authorisation levels that may result in response to the implementation of One Source, the Council's new integrated HR / Payroll / Finance / Procurement system due to be implemented in 2020.

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

13. **Portfolio holder briefing.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from 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.)

14. **Changes in membership of Committees:**

- (a) **Audit Committee:** To note that the Conservative Group have nominated Councillor Rasab as Vice-Chair of the Committee in place of Councillor Craddock for the remainder the of the municipal year.
- (b) **Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee:** To note that the Conservative Group have nominated Councillor Johal in place of Councillor Craddock for the remainder of the municipal year.
- (c) **Health and Wellbeing Board:** To note that the Conservative Group have nominated Councillor Craddock as Chair of the Board for the remainder of the current municipal year.

15. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillor Shires (lead member) and Councillor Barker**:

The World Health Organisation has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife in recognition of the work done throughout the world by health professionals. This motion calls for their contribution to our communities to be recognised and reminds us of the progress that has been made.

Council notes that:

World Health Organisation has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, and that this will be celebrated across the world.

- Internationally, nurses undertake valuable services in hospitals and community settings for the prevention, treatment and after care of people from all age groups, despite social status, creed or ethnicity.
- Two hundred years ago in the UK, Florence Nightingale was born in May 1820 and went on to become a social reformer and founder of modern nursing. The reforms that Florence brought to hospitals and health care made a marked difference, and her influence remains to this day. This anniversary will also be celebrated.

Council also notes that:

- For hundreds of years, Walsall's citizens have benefitted from the provision of an assortment of clinics, dispensaries, alms-houses, workhouses and hospitals to treat a range of conditions and illnesses.

Considering these developments in health care provision, Council recognises:

- Council was for many years the employer of hundreds of nurses who served our population as Hospital staff, District Nurses, School Nurses and Health Visitors.
- That nurses provide 50% of the health care workforce locally, nationally and internationally and that many more are needed to continue health provision.
- The contribution of a wide range of health professionals to the development of comprehensive health care from emergency to community care for our citizens.

In consideration of the WHO International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, Council therefore resolves:

- To recognise the contribution of Nurses and Midwives to the health and wellbeing of Walsall by a series of special events such as special wall plaques, a reception, letters of appreciation and exhibitions in libraries, museums and public spaces.