



# Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Monday 23rd February, 2009, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

## Present

### Councillor T.G. Ansell (Mayor) in the Chair

#### Councillor A.G. Clarke (Deputy Mayor)

“ K. Aftab  
“ A.J.A. Andrew  
“ D.A. Anson  
“ M. Arif  
“ C.M. Ault  
“ J.M. Barton  
“ L.A. Beeley  
“ M.A. Bird  
“ P. Bott  
“ B. Cassidy  
“ S.P. Coughlan  
“ C.U. Creaney  
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul  
“ M. D. Flower  
“ A.E. Griffiths  
“ A.D. Harris  
“ L.A. Harrison  
“ E.F. Hughes  
“ P.F. Hughes  
“ A.D. Johnson  
“ H. Khan  
“ M. Longhi  
“ S.W. Madeley  
“ Mrs. B.V. McCracken  
“ Mushtaq Ahmed

#### Councillor M. Nazir

“ J.G. O'Hare  
“ T.S. Oliver  
“ A.J. Paul  
“ G. Perry  
“ K. Phillips  
“ D.J. Pitt  
“ Mrs. E.E. Pitt  
“ M.G. Pitt  
“ I.C. Robertson  
“ J. Rochelle  
“ B. Sanders  
“ H.S. Sarohi  
“ K. Sears  
“ Mrs. D.A. Shires  
“ I. Shires  
“ P.E. Smith  
“ C.D.D. Towe  
“ D.J. Turner  
“ W.T. Tweddle  
“ A. Underhill  
“ R.A. Walker  
“ G. Wilkes  
“ V.G. Woodruff  
“ M. Yasin  
“ P.A. Young  
“ Zahid Ali

**76. Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors C. Bott, Chambers, Cook, Martin and Munir.

**77. Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2009, copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

**78. Declarations of interest**

Councillor Oliver declared a personal interest in Item 9 as an employee of Palfrey Community Association.

**80. Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor informed the Council that there may be a number of amendments proposed to the motion on the Council's budget. Members will be aware of the rules regarding amendments to motions but it may be useful to remind everyone. We will consider each amendment one at a time and take a vote on each amendment. If the vote is carried, the amendment becomes part of the substantive motion. If the vote falls then the amendment falls, we cannot have amendments proposed to amendments.

The Chief Finance Officer has received a number of proposed amendments and has provided his financial advice on the robustness of these proposals. If there are any other proposed amendments can you please supply them to him in writing at the start of this meeting so that he can advise the Council appropriately.

**81. Petitions**

The following petitions were submitted:

- (1) Councillor Smith – Residents of Essex Street provision of brown bins
- (2) Councillor Aftab – Installation of zebra crossing on Stafford Street, North Walsall near to Croft Street and the church
- (3) Councillor Madeley – Restoration of chapel at Bentley Cemetery

## 82. Questions by members of the Council

### (1) Sickness absence

Councillor Robertson asked the following question of 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?”

Councillor Griffiths replied that the average number of days sickness absence per employee within Walsall Council for 2007/08 was 11.21 days. This placed Walsall Council within the average of metropolitan and single tier Councils in the West Midlands, the actual position being fourth out of 7. Walsall does not have the highest sickness absence levels in the West Midlands, and therefore not in the country.

In the previous year sickness absence was reported as 14.5 days per employee and for the first 3 quarters of 2008/09 the average number of days sickness absence per employee is 9.54 days.

Indicative information from other Councils shows that the trend of sickness absence is increasing with many Councils expecting a similar increase of employee absence to our own. Within Council Directorates the sickness absence level is as follows:

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Average number of days absence from 1.4.08- 30.12 08</b>
Resources	5.25
Regeneration	5.53
Children & Young People (including schools)	7.54
Social Care & Inclusion	16.80
Neighbourhood Services	13.02

Nationally absence levels are much higher in the social care sector due to the nature of the work and the 24 hour service that is provided. Typically the average number of days absence per employee will range between 12 and 20 days across the social care sector. It is also worthy of note that the amount of long term sickness absence in Walsall is declining. In 2007/08 long term sickness absence (i.e. 20 days or more) accounted for 78% of all employee absence. This has now declined to 62% and is due to a more effective management of these cases by the Council. Action is currently being taken to bring these figures to a lower level.

Councillor Robertson asked the following supplementary question:

Does this situation not show that we need an urgent review of the level of occupational health service which stands at 0.6 fte of a doctor and 0.4 fte of a nurse and will you report back your response to the Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel?

Councillor Griffiths replied that the Council was seeking to obtain assistance from outside companies who were experienced in this field.

## **(2) Brown bins**

Councillor Smith asked the following question of 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?”

Councillor Walker replied that residents who do not currently have a brown bin can put small amounts of garden waste in their grey bin or take it to one of our household waste recycling centres at Merchants Way, Aldridge or Fryers Road, Leamore, Bloxwich.

Councillor Smith asked the following supplementary question:

Would Councillor Walker (a) agree in terms of services mentioned residents are treated unfairly and unequally and (b) can you define what is meant by a limited amount of garden waste in the grey bin?

Councillor Walker said that she did not agree that residents were treated unfairly and unequally and in answer to the second part of the supplementary question Councillor Walker replied that residents should ensure that the lid of the grey bin can be shut.

## **(3) Public lighting PFI**

Councillor Young asked the following question of 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?”

Councillor Harris replied that Walsall provides its street lighting service through a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract which started in May 2002. This followed detailed Government checks to ensure value for money. The Council was awarded a PFI credit of £18.6 million. This grant funding, together with existing Council revenue budgets, make up the payments for the service. We have already seen the installation of 17,000 new lighting columns and maintenance of the full lighting stock of about 29,000 units to the latest European and national standards.

We are expecting the service to cost £144 million, which includes inflation, over the 26 year period. The payments to our partner will be around £85 million. As part of the agreement, and to ensure the project remained affordable to the Council, the contractor offered us a discount based on £7 million revenue to be generated from advertising on lighting columns. In the early years the advertising companies were unsuccessful in obtaining necessary planning approvals or market interest. Over recent years there has been a different approach with more interested advertising companies and market interest together with success in obtaining planning approvals. However in the current economic climate much of the advertising interest has declined and so little revenue has been obtained. Members can see the full details in an information report to the Neighbourhood Scrutiny Panel on 22nd January 2009.

Councillor Harris continued that in answer to the specific query I can confirm that from the start date of November 2003 to January 2009 the Council has paid our partner £1.3 million. Future payments will of course depend on the rate of inflation. We hope, when the economy begins to improve that there will be a corresponding increase in the market for advertising of this kind and that we will see steady growth in income to the Council.

Councillor Young asked the following supplementary question:

Which Tory Cabinet member and relevant Council officer carries the responsibility for this gross incompetence both in handling the final contract negotiations and the subsequent needless loss at a conservative estimate of £6.25 million to the residents of Walsall from payments out of their Council tax?

Councillor Harris replied that he did not carry any responsibility but would be interested to discover whether this decision was taken by the Conservatives or as part of the coalition with the Liberal Democrat group. He went on to say that there was a meeting with the contractor in March to discuss the discount offer, but that an upturn in the economy was needed to bring in more advertising interest.

#### **(4) Town Centre Ring Road**

Councillor Anson asked the following question of Councillor Harris:

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

Councillor Harris replied that there was a penalty clause.

Councillor Anson asked the following supplementary question:

It is said in the papers that the reason for the 12 month delay in Pleck Road was well known and that in regard to Blue Lane the road could not be re-surfaced because of pipes which were close to the surface. Why with new technology available to us did this situation not prove easier to resolve.

Councillor Harris replied that he had been reliably informed that systems were not in place to complete this work. There is a system of penalty clauses which Norwest Holst allow to obtain an extension due to the issues being outside of their control. He assured Council that the project has benefited from very strong project management which has dealt effectively with all matters within the control of the Council. This has been recognised by both the Government Office of the West Midlands and the Minister for Transport when awarding the Council an increase in grant of £4.6 million to meet eligible costs. Councillor Harris continued that this particular issue had been difficult to resolve and that the contractors had done their best with the equipment available. He went on to say that the Labour government had failed to ensure that the utility companies had performed and that the Council can only request the utility companies to commence the work and that we have no further ability to take action against the companies when the work is not completed on time.

**83. Statutory Officer posts**

The report was submitted.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the nominated Deputy Director of Children's Services be designated as Interim Executive Director, Children's Services until such time as a new Executive Director, Children's Services is appointed.
- (2) That the post of Assistant Director of Finance be designated permanently as Section 151 Chief Finance Officer.

**84. Recommendation of Cabinet**

**(1) Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy**

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor O'Hare and:

## Resolved

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.

### (2) Corporate Revenue and Capital Programme Budget plan 2009/10 to 2012/13

In **moving** the motion which was duly seconded, Councillor Griffiths informed the Council of a minor amendment to saving 62 (Annexe 5, page 58) "reduce one post of support to Mayor's office £25,000" with "delete one post of Personal Assistant to Assistant Director linked to the overall senior management reorganisation, £25,000".

- (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 final levies for outside bodies be noted:

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	13,586,602
Environment agency	82,963

- (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 (£)
<b>DIRECTORATE BUDGETS:</b>	
Resources	14,699,300
Social care and inclusion	74,468,399
Children and young people	55,582,492

Neighbourhood services	<b>62,865,576</b>
Regeneration	<b>3,958,216</b>
<b>CORPORATE PROVISIONS/CONTINGENCIES ETC:</b>	
Capital financing	<b>17,036,928</b>
Non-service specific central items	<b>13,763,232</b>
Contribution to general reserves	<b>2,000,000</b>
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>2009/10 BUDGET (£)</b>
Less: Capital Charges	<b>-20,850,011</b>
<b>LEVIES:</b>	
Passenger Transport Levy	<b>13,586,602</b>
Environment Agency Levy	<b>82,963</b>
<b>WALSALL MBC NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>237,193,697</b>

- (d) That the following statutory determinations be noted (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992):
- I. **£689,555,952** 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. **£452,362,255** 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 (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (II), 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 (v) 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.

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



- (e) That the precept from the Fire & Civil Defence Authority and the 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.

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
Police	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
	£65.32	£76.20	£87.09	£97.98
	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£119.75	£141.52	£163.30	£195.96
Fire & Civil Defence	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
	£31.27	£36.48	£41.69	£46.90
	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£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.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
£985.03	£1,149.19	£1,313.37	£1,477.54
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
£1,805.88	£2,134.21	£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 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.

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	2,287,000
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,029,952</b>

<b>MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10</b>	
<b>RESERVE BIDS</b>	<b>ESTIMATED VALUE £</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,453,631</b>

<b>NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM GRANT 2009/10</b>	
<b>NON MAINSTREAM SCHEMES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED VALUE £</b>
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
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
Bus showcase	1,000,000
Local transport plan	2,934,000
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	1,215,000
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,615,209</b>

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

**Amendment** moved by Councillor I. Shires and seconded by Councillor E.E. Pitt:

That the budget be amended by removing the fees and charges increases and savings totalling £925,077 detailed below, to be funded from general reserves, with replenishment of reserves taking place in 2009/10 through an in-year identification of efficiencies through an all party root and branch review of back office Council functions.

Fees and Charges (Annex 4, page 54):

No. 24 – Home care and day care increase in charges - £48,809

No. 25 – Meals on wheels increase in charges - £26,576

Efficiencies / Savings (Annex 5, page 55 onwards)

No. 17 – Ready Steady Summer removal of funding - £50,000

No. 36 – Reduction in library opening hours - £130,000

No. 40 – Cease funding LNP community cash scheme - £24,000

No. 146 – Reduction in posts in older people assessment and care management teams - £377,701

No.148 - Older People respite care - £85,541

No. 157 – Mental health respite care - £57,060

No. 162 – Learning disability respite care - £125,390

Total £925, 077.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared **lost** – 22 members voting in favour and 32 voting against.

**Amendment** moved by Councillor Wilkes and duly seconded:

That saving number 43, page 57, relating to CCTV at £33,500 be removed, funding to be provided from a reduction to the communications and media unit budget of £33,500.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared **lost** – 22 members voting in favour and 31 voting against.

**Amendment** moved by Councillor Khan and duly seconded:

That grant/SLA funding of £287,290 to Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau be approved, but further that this issue be referred to the Corporate Scrutiny Panel for consideration as to the pressures, outcomes and amount of this funding.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared **carried** unanimously.

**Amendment** moved by Councillor Coughlan and duly seconded:

That the budget be amended to remove saving number 135, page 37, relating to a reduction in youth services budget of £68,366, funding to be provided from a reduction in the amount of general (supplies and services) inflation allocated to services in 2009/10.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared **lost** – 22 members voting in favour and 31 voting against.

**Amendment** moved by Councillor Cassidy and duly seconded:

That the budget be amended to remove saving number 9, page 55 relating to reduced HWRC Site operating days/hours of £100,000, funding to be provided from a reduction in the amount of general (supplies and services) inflation allocated to services in 2009/10.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared **lost** – 21 members voting in favour and 31 voting against.

**Amendment** moved by Councillor Robertson and duly seconded:

That the budget be amended to remove saving number, 6 page 30 relating to a reduction in highways maintenance repairs budget of £75,000, funding to be provided from a reduction in the amount of central (supplies and services) inflation allocated to services in 2009/10.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared **lost** – 20 members voting in favour and 31 voting against.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared carried – 32 members voting in favour and 21 voting against and subject to the amendments agreed above it was:

### **Resolved**

- (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 final levies for outside bodies be noted:

<b>LEVY</b>	<b>AMOUNT (£)</b>
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	<b>13,586,602</b>
Environment agency	<b>82,963</b>

- (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.

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<b>CORPORATE PROVISIONS/CONTINGENCIES ETC:</b>	
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<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>2009/10 BUDGET (£)</b>
Less: Capital Charges	<b>-20,850,011</b>
<b>LEVIES:</b>	
Passenger Transport Levy	<b>13,586,602</b>
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<b>WALSALL MBC NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>237,193,697</b>

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

- (e) That the precept from the Fire & Civil Defence Authority and the 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.

<b>PRECEPTING AUTHORITY</b>	<b>VALUATION BANDS</b>			
<b>Police</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
	£65.32	£76.20	£87.09	£97.98
	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£119.75	£141.52	£163.30	£195.96
<b>Fire &amp; Civil Defence</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
	£31.27	£36.48	£41.69	£46.90
	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£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.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
£985.03	£1,149.19	£1,313.37	£1,477.54
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
£1,805.88	£2,134.21	£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 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.

<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10</b>	
<b>MAINSTREAM SCHEMES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED VALUE £</b>
Education basic need	1,443,204
Modernisation - all schools	1,947,980
Schools access initiative	586,620
Local Transport Plan	2,287,000
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,029,952</b>

<b>MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10</b>	
<b>RESERVE BIDS</b>	<b>ESTIMATED VALUE £</b>
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,453,631</b>

<b>NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM GRANT 2009/10</b>	
<b>NON MAINSTREAM SCHEMES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED VALUE £</b>
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
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
Bus showcase	1,000,000
Local transport plan	2,934,000
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	1,215,000
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,615,209</b>

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

#### 85. **Willenhall Housing Group**

It was reported that Councillor Cook had resigned as a representative on the Willenhall Housing Group.

The following members were nominated:

Councillor Creaney (nominated by Councillor Coughlan)  
Councillor P. Hughes (nominated by Councillor I. Shires)

On being put to the vote Councillor Creaney received the majority of votes cast and it was:

#### **Resolved**

That Creaney be appointed to serve on the Willenhall Housing Group for the remainder of the municipal year.

The meeting terminated at 8.50 p.m.