



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 SIXTH day of MARCH, 2006, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 24th day of February, 2006.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:-

1. Apologies.
2. To approve as a correct records and sign the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 16th January and 6th February 2006.
3. Declarations of interest.
4. Mayor's announcements.
5. To receive any petitions.
6. To answer any questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:-
 - (a) From the public.
 - (b) From members of the Council.

7. To confirm the following recommendations of **Cabinet:-**

(1) Capital programme 2006/7 to 2010/11

That the capital programme set out in the following tables be approved:-

MAIN STREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/7	
SCHEME	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Schools access initiative	521,579
New pupil places	916,056
Local Transport Plan	5,599,000
Mental health	141,734
Disabled Facilities Grants	347,000
Risk Management	100,000
Uninsured property damage	300,000
Contingency	250,000
Clear major adaptations	3,897,000
Environmental regeneration capital programme	230,000
Shop Maintenance	112,821
Priority 1 backlog - school building repair	3,000,000
Major repairs to non-education premises	2,000,000
Regenerating Walsall	500,000
Fibbersley Park primary school	266,154
Barcroft primary school	228,887
Housing benefit electronic document system	40,700
Walsall arboretum restoration programme	100,000
Palfrey Park HLF	75,000
Youth service building refurbishment	100,000
Access for disabled people (Buildings)	200,000
Asbestos removal	100,000
Public lighting PFI	200,000
Willenhall Lane travellers site	350,000
Replacement of SOSICIS - PARIS project	365,000
Highways maintenance	160,000
Greenspaces improvement strategy	100,000
Secondary school re-development of dining facilities	210,000
Improving security In local neighbourhoods	250,000
Strategic corridors and gateways	350,000
Walsall town centre public realm improvements	750,000
Central revitalisation areas	250,000
Relocation of the school library support service	40,000
Roof repairs to school premises	200,000
Decriminalisation of parking enforcement	100,000
New build Beacon View	100,000
New build Fallings Heath	200,000

Replacement of obsolete boilers in schools	200,000
Targeted capital bids	382,500
Streetly cemetery extension phase B	34,000
Memorial safety	100,000
Control of legionella in water systems	500,000
Energy efficiency improvements	250,000
Highways maintenance	1,000,000
Highways maintenance - capital rather than revenue funding	375,000
Regeneration schemes falling within the Council's priorities	2,000,000
Social work locality team (East)	174,000
Brownhills town hall library	60,000
Corporate PC refresh programme	504,000
Corporate Printer refresh programme	116,000
Corporate Server refresh programme	190,000
Network resilience	50,000
Additional data storage	100,000
Document management phase II rollout	250,000
Disaster recovery and business continuity	75,000
Replacement telephony switches	50,000
Contact centre (40 seats)	383,750
TOTAL	29,445,181

NON MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM GRANT 2006/7	
SCHEME	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Devolved formula capital	4,992,198
Modernisation - primary	2,009,678
Modernisation - secondary	1,842,306
Fibbersley Park primary school	1,064,618
Barcroft primary school	915,547
Targeted capital bids	1,530,952
Childrens centres - phase 2	1,287,255
Youth capital funding	132,000
Integrated children's system	86,000
Housing Benefit electronic document system	81,400
Walsall arboretum restoration programme	600,000
Palfrey Park HLF	225,000
Palfrey Park bowling green fencing project	5,000
Fibbersley local nature reserve pool improvement works	50,000
Pelsall Nest Common community play area	65,000
Palfrey Park bandstand	180,000
High Heath Park fencing and community improvements	15,000
Willenhall Memorial Park lido redevelopment	120,000
Manor Farm open space - toddlers play area	60,000

Willenhall Memorial Park gardeners stores	20,000
Willenhall Memorial Park sensory garden	30,000
Willenhall Memorial Park fishing pool wall/path repairs	30,000
Wallington Heath pool heritage scheme	55,000
Short Heath Park youth provision	70,000
Daw End limestone infilling	7,500,000
Town Centre Transport Package	8,290,000
Darlaston Strategic Development Area	500,000
Recycling initiatives	251,625
Community Regeneration in Walsall	562,500
Transforming your space	673,258
Bloxwich THI	69,218
Darlaston HERS	10,328
Darlaston PSCA	50,000
ERDF district centres (Brownhills)	340,000
ERDF central revitalisation areas	62,265
ERDF quality streets	369,701
Lichfield Street HERS	98,000
New deal for communities	3,500,000
Disabled Facilities Grants	520,000
Private sector renovation grants	3,000,000
Housing market renewal	350,000
Stock condition survey	50,000
Multi-sensory centre	50,000
Gypsy Council grant	200,000
Improving information grant (PARIS project)	153,000
TOTAL	42,066,849

LEASING PROGRAMME 2006/7	
DIRECTORATE	TOTAL BUDGET £ million
Neighbourhood Services	7.475
Social Care and Inclusion	0.900

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

(2) Corporate revenue budget 2006/7 to 2010/11

- (1) That the recommendations of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) in respect of the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations and the adequacy of reserves as set out in section 4.1 and Appendix 11 of the report be noted and endorsed;

- (2) That delegated authority be given to the Chief Finance Officer to make any necessary amendments to this resolution, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Finance, to take account of the final levies and precepts which have not yet been notified and to make any necessary amendments to the statutory determinations to take account of those changes and the resulting final analysis of the budget for 2006/7 and for that amended resolution to be submitted to Council at its meeting on 6 March.
- (3)(a) That the net levies for outside bodies be noted. At the time of despatch of this report, the environment agency had not formally notified the authority of their final levy and as such this will be reflected in a revised resolution to be tabled at the Council meeting of 6 March. An estimate has been used within this report based on informal notification from the agency.

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	12,556,531
Environment agency	82,488

- (b) That approval be given to an opening working balance for 2006/7 set at a prudent level of £4.6m in line with the council's medium term financial strategy.
- (c) That the following opening cash limited budgets for 2006/7 be approved.

BUDGET	2006/7 BUDGET (£)
DIRECTORATE BUDGETS:	
Corporate services	15,086,910
Social care and inclusion	63,799,230
Children and young people	70,189,790
Neighbourhood services	66,353,470
Regeneration	2,513,026
CORPORATE PROVISIONS/CONTINGENCIES ETC:	
Capital financing	14,637,575
Non-service specific central items	711,000
Contribution to general reserves	355,000
Less: Capital Charges	-42,306,481
LEVIES:	
Passenger Transport Levy	12,556,531
Environment Agency Levy	82,488
WALSALL MBC NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	203,978,539

- (d) That the following statutory determinations be noted (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992):
- a) **£612,466,801** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.

- b) **£408,488,262** being the aggregate income which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
- c) **£203,978,539** 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.
- d) **£112,651,396** 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 (£94,843,268); Revenue Support Grant (£18,308,128); and the Collection Fund Deficit (£500,000).
- e) **£91,327,143** being the amount at (c) above, less the amount at (d) above, all divided by the Council Tax Base of 76,095, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(f) **Valuation bands**

Being amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) 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
£800.12	£933.47	£1,066.82	£1,200.17
E	F	G	H
£1,466.88	£1,733.58	£2,000.29	£2,400.35

- (g) 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 6 March 2006.

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
Police	A	B	C	D
	£58.42	£68.16	£77.89	£87.63
	E	F	G	H
	£107.10	£126.58	£146.05	£175.26
Fire & Civil Defence	A	B	C	D
	£28.79	£33.59	£38.38	£43.18
	E	F	G	H
	£52.78	£62.37	£71.97	£86.36

- (h) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (f) and (g) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2006/7 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D
£887.33	£1,035.22	£1,183.09	£1,330.98
E	F	G	H
£1,626.76	£1,922.53	£2,218.31	£2,661.97

- (i) 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”; the “Express & Star” and “Evening Mail” being newspapers circulating in the Authority’s area.
- (j) That the appropriate officers 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.

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

(3) Annual treasury management and investment strategy

That the 2006/7 treasury management and investment strategy document set out in Appendix 1 and the adoption of the Prudential Indicators set out in section E of Appendix 1 be approved.

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

(4) West Midlands local transport plan 2006/7 to 2010/11

That the final West Midlands Local Transport Plan 2006/07 – 2010/11 be approved.

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

(5) Corporate Plan 2006-2007

That the Corporate Plan 2006-2007 be adopted.

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

8. Children and young people's plan 2006/7. Report to follow. Council to agree the recommendation set out in the report.

9. Proposal to consider revised governance arrangements for Local Neighbourhood Partnerships. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendation set out in the report

10. Membership of Employment Appeals Committee B:

Council to note the following change in membership for the remainder of the current municipal year:-

Councillor Underhill to replace Councillor Robinson.

11. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been submitted by Councillor Hughes:-

That in light of previous national revelations with regard to the employment of known sex offenders, this Council assures all partner organisations that it will continue to support them to ensure the continual safety of the children of Walsall and gives an additional assurance to all parents and children that it expects to be consulted if application is made for employment in a Walsall school by anyone who has committed offences against children.

12. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been submitted by Councillors Martin, Walker, Rose, Perry, Zahid, Andrew and M. Pitt:-

We believe that this Council should be committed to protecting our local police force. The policy of the Government to re-organise Police forces is a bad idea because it will result in:

- Less responsive – a regional force will make our emergency services less responsive to local needs.
- Rising crime – force restructuring will not tackle fundamental law and order issues such as rising crime, too few police officers and the amount of police time wasted on red tape.
- Less accountability – policing is essentially a locally derived service. Regions are far too big and unwieldy structures for the police forces as a whole.

- Rising cost – the police levy on Council tax bills in Walsall has already soared considerably since 1997, this expensive and time consuming restructuring could force up bills even further.

This Council therefore registers its opposition to the reorganisation of the West Midlands force.

13. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been submitted by Councillors Longhi and Walker:-

Council accepts its responsibility to protect the environment particularly through the recycling of household waste and recognises the need to further increase recycling within the Borough through further work in our neighbourhoods in order to reduce the volume of household waste which is landfilled.

This Council, therefore, resolves to provide leadership in this area by promoting recycling to all members of the community, including schools, community groups and business; and for Councillors, as community leaders, to set a positive example by personally utilising effectively their own green boxes, Council recycling sites and promoting the recycling message within their own communities.



REPORTS

To be presented to the Council at the meeting
to be held on **MONDAY 6TH MARCH 2006**

	Pages
(1) Recommendations of Cabinet:	
(a) Capital programme 2006/7 to 2010/11	2 - 16
(b) Corporate revenue budget 2006/7 to 2010/11	17 - 85
(c) Annual treasury management and investment strategy	86 - 104
(d) West Midlands Local Transport Plan 2006/7 to 2010/11	105 - 117
(e) Corporate plan 2006-2007	118 - 141
(2) Children and young people's plan 2006/7	To follow
(3) Proposal to consider revised governance arrangements for Local Neighbourhood Partnerships	142 - 146

ANNIE SHEPPERD,

Chief Executive,
Walsall.

JG/DL
27 February 2006
Mr. Garner
(01922) 653500

To: **All Members of the Council**

Dear Councillor,

Council – 6 March 2006

Item 7(2) – Corporate revenue budget 2006/7 to 2010/11

In the resolution of Cabinet from its meeting held on 8 February 2006, delegated authority was given to the Chief Finance Officer to make any necessary amendments to the resolution to take into account the final levies and precepts which had not yet been notified and to make any necessary amendments to the statutory determinations to take account of these changes.

I now attach a revised resolution reflecting the above which I would ask you to substitute for the item 7(2) which starts on page 4 of the Summons already despatched to you on Friday 24 February.

Yours faithfully,

John Garner
Constitutional Services Manager

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL – 6 MARCH 2006
AMENDED RESOLUTION**

7 (2) CORPORATE REVENUE BUDGET 2006/7 TO 2010/11

- (1) (a) That the net levies for outside bodies be noted.

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	12,556,531
Environment agency	81,106

- (b) That approval be given to an opening working balance for 2006/7 set at a prudent level of £4.6m in line with the council's medium term financial strategy.
- (c) That the following opening cash limited budgets for 2006/7 be approved.

BUDGET	2006/7 BUDGET (£)
DIRECTORATE BUDGETS:	
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WALSALL MBC NET BUDGET REQUIREMENT	203,978,539

- (d) That the following statutory determinations be noted (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992):
- a) **£611,581,074** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.
- b) **£407,602,535** being the aggregate income which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
- c) **£203,978,539** 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.

d) **£112,651,396** 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 (£94,843,268); Revenue Support Grant (£18,308,128); and the Collection Fund Deficit (£500,000).

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(f) **Valuation bands**

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£1,466.88	£1,733.58	£2,000.29	£2,400.35

(g) That the **final** precepts from the Fire & Civil Defence Authority and 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	A	B	C	D
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Fire & Civil Defence	A	B	C	D
	£28.79	£33.59	£38.38	£43.18
	E	F	G	H
	£52.78	£62.37	£71.97	£86.36

(h) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (f) and (g) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2006/7 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D
£887.28	£1,035.15	£1,183.02	£1,330.90
E	F	G	H
£1,626.66	£1,922.41	£2,218.18	£2,661.81

- (i) 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"; the "Express & Star" and "Evening Mail" being newspapers circulating in the Authority's area.
- (j) That the appropriate officers 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.

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