



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 9TH day of JANUARY, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2011.

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 9th November, 2011.
4. Declarations of interest.
5. Mayor's announcements.
6. To receive any petitions.

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

(a) From the public

None

(b) From members of the Council

(1) Councillor Robertson – Upgrade of properties in Blakenall ward

“Will the same offer of free improvements to their properties , as was given recently to privately owned homes in Bloxwich East, be given to residents in my ward in Dolphin Close, Goscote Close and Place, now that Walsall Housing Group have upgraded their properties in that part of Blakenall ward?”

(2) Councillor Robertson – Communications Unit

“What is the projected cost of running our communications unit of this Council for the current financial year and full costs for the previous five years, broken down, if possible please, into categories such as staff and all overheads?”

8. **Mayorality 2012/2013.** Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 2(vi) to name the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for 2012/2013 in accordance with the powers contained in Sections 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

9. To note the result of the by-election for the **Birchills-Leamore Ward** held on 22nd December 2011 as follows:

Names of candidates	No. of votes polled	Candidate elected
Aftab, Kamran	512	Tina Joan Jukes
Gebrakedan, Leandra	46	
Hazell, Liz	59	
Jukes, Tina Joan	835	
Newey, Chris	130	

Turnout 15.9%

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

Walsall Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2012-2014

- (1) That the Housing Renewal Assistance Policy 2012-2014 as contained in Appendix A of this report be adopted and published with the commencement dates as listed in the Policy document.
- (2) That funds returned to the Council through the land charging process for all grants and loans be made available for future private sector housing renewal assistance.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 14 December 2011 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

11. **Members allowances 2012/13.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. **Walsall Housing strategy 2011 - 2016.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

13. **Pay and reward policy.** Report to follow.

14. **Walsall Housing Group – board composition and membership.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

15. **Portfolio holder briefings.** To receive 5 minute presentations from the following portfolio holders:

- Communities and partnerships (Councillor Z. Ali)
- Leisure and culture (Councillor A. Harris)

Copies of the presentations are reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

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

16. Appointments on outside bodies:

- (a) Walsall Adult and Community College governing body
To appoint three Walsall Council representatives to the new board.

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

- (b) Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust:
To appoint a representative as a governor of the trust.

- (c) Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust:
To appoint a representative to the trust.

17. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors I. Shires, D.A. Shires and Barker:

- (1) This Council notes:

- That British households currently spend more on heating their homes than their counterparts in Sweden where winter temperatures are far lower;
- That this means a legacy of draughty, cold homes that are expensive to heat – leaving vulnerable local residents facing serious health risks;
- An over-reliance on fossil fuels, leaving households and businesses exposed to soaring world energy prices.

- (2) This Council recognises the role played by the coalition government in securing:

- The Warm Homes Discount to give an extra £120 each year to the least well-off pensioners in Walsall to keep warm this winter;
- A commitment from energy companies to help with free loft and cavity wall insulation for Walsall's poorest households;
- From October 2012, the Green Deal will aim to insulate all domestic and commercial properties to high standards at no upfront cost to consumers.

- (3) This Council resolves:

- To support the Green Deal locally by ensuring local residents in Walsall know about the opportunities and helping direct them towards providers.
- To investigate how else the Council can help with supporting home insulation work – for instance acting as a Green Deal provider itself;
- To write to the Local Government Association and other appropriate national bodies with details of Walsall Council's plans to keep our residents warm and to tackle climate change.
- To investigate ways that the Council can assist local residents to save money and keep warm through the provision of information and advice, including through working with partner agencies.

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