



# 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 EIGHTH day of SEPTEMBER, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 29th day of August, 2008.

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 7th July, 2008.
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 – 2012 Olympics (Councillor Zahid Ali)**

“What strategy exists in Walsall to work with all our partners to support those of our young people who aspire and are capable of qualifying for the 2012 Olympic Games in London?”

(2) **Councillor Chambers – Skate park facilities (Councillor Harrison)**

“What progress has been made with regard to replacing the skate park facilities previously provided on the Town Wharf site? This facility in addition to providing appropriate facilities for boarding enthusiasts saved damage to our Town Centre.”

(3) **Councillor Smith – Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, 2000 (Councillor Griffiths)**

“With reference to the 916 authorisations of covert surveillance carried out by Walsall Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 as revealed by Councillor Griffiths in an answer to a question tabled by Councillor Smith on 7th July, 2008, would you further inform me, this Council and the public:

(a) how much this covert surveillance has cost;

(b) how many of the 916 authorisations led to no action against the individual/s under surveillance; and

(c) how many of those individuals under surveillance, where no action was subsequently taken against them, were ever informed of such surveillance and apologies offered?”

(4) **Councillor Oliver – Consultants fees (Councillor O’Hare)**

“Can we be provided with a detailed breakdown of how much this Council has spent on “consultants fees” in the past two years and in which service areas of the Council have they been used and for what purpose?”

(5) **Councillor Robertson – Lighting masts at the Arboretum island (Councillor Harris)**

“What are the installation costs of the high lighting masts at the Arboretum island versus standard lighting and what are the whole life costs of the competing installations to include costs of extra inspections?”

(6) **Councillor Robertson – Loss of trade and damage to businesses (Councillor Andrew)**

“What representations, numbers and concerns have been received by this Council by various trade associations in Walsall about the loss of trade and damage to businesses over the extended and continued disruptions to travel of those who wish to visit and shop in our Town ?”

8. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Licensing and Safety Committee**:

- (1) That approval be given to the implementation of a cumulative impact policy in the area of Walsall Town Centre identified as ‘Beat 10’ including areas around Bridge Street, Ablewell Street, Lichfield Street, The Bridge, Bradford Street, Bradford Place, Freer Street, Leicester Street, High Street and Park Street, as defined by the map in Appendix 2 of the report.
- (2) That the cumulative impact policy detailed in 8.2 – 8.9 of this report be approved for inclusion in the licensing authority’s policy statement.

(Note: The report to Licensing and Safety Committee relating to this recommendation is reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

9. **Appointment of independent members on Audit and Standards Committees.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

10. **Scheme of Management for the Walsall Adult and Community College.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

11. **Walsall Housing Group structure change review.** Report of Health, Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Clarke, Harris and Longhi**:

This Council notes with concern the decision made by Mr. Tom Harris MP, the Minister for Transport, to withdraw funding from the Walsall/Wolverhampton rail link which presently caters for some 60,000 passenger trips per year.

This Council therefore calls upon Mr. Liam Byrne MP, Minister for the West Midlands, and the Members of Parliament representing Walsall to join us and exert their influence in asking Mr. Harris to review the decision and uphold the policy of encouraging the use of public transport throughout the West Midlands.

(Note: Report to Council on 5th November 2007 with regard to the Walsall rail service and facilities improvement plan reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

13. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Cassidy, Robertson and Oliver:**

“This Council welcomes the excellent news that Walsall’s secondary schools have been allocated £100m+ funding from central government under the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Council also notes:

- concerns raised at the Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Panel in relation to the proposals to establish two further “academy schools”, independent of Walsall LEA;
- in particular the disquiet raised by the governing body of Darlaston Science College at the process to move to consultation on transfer to a Grace Academy;
- that Bob Edmiston, lead sponsor of the Grace Academies, has placed his view on record that: “if you tell people they are descended from monkeys, how can you expect them to behave like anything other than monkeys?”

Council therefore:

- seeks assurances that – should Darlaston Science College move toward independent academy status – all options, including possible alternative sponsorships, are explored;
- agrees that, in view of the controversial circumstances, any such proposal should be subject to a full ballot of local parents.

14. To confirm the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Robertson and Nazir:**

Council recognises the contribution made to neighbourhood management by the work of Local Neighbourhood Partnerships.( LNPs). Council requests Cabinet to urgently review the level of resource allocation to these LNPs during the current financial year to enhance their effectiveness and avoid their meetings otherwise deteriorating into talk shops.