



Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Thursday 25th February 2016 at 6.00 pm** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor A. Underhill (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor A. Underhill (Mayor)

" K. Phillips
" A.J.A. Andrew
" D.A. Anson
" M. Arif
" O.D. Bennett
" M.A. Bird
" C. Bott
" P. Bott
" R. Burley
" K. Chambers
" A.G. Clarke
" C.E. Clews
" S.J. Cooper
" D. Coughlan
" S.P. Coughlan
" S.R. Craddock
" C.U. Creaney
" A. Ditta
" B.A. Douglas-Maul
" K. Ferguson
" M. Follows
" J. Fitzpatrick
" S.F. Fitzpatrick
" A.D. Harris
" L.A. Harrison
" D.T. Hazell
" E.A. Hazell
" A. Hicken

Councillor K. Hussain

" D. James
" L.D. Jeavons
" C. Jones
" T.J. Jukes
" A. Kudhail
" M. Longhi
" Mrs. R.A. Martin
" J. Murray
" A.A. Nawaz
" M. Nazir
" G. Perry
" L.J. Rattigan
" I.C. Robertson
" J. Rochelle
" E.B. Russell
" H.S. Sarohi
" K. Sears
" Mrs. D.A. Shires
" I. Shires
" G.S. Sohal
" C.D.D. Towe
" S. Wade
" P. Washbrook
" F.J. Westley
" V. Whyte
" T.S. Wilson
" R.V. Worrall
" A. Young

87. **Apologies**

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Hughes.

88. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2016 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

89. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

90. **Local Government (Access to information) Act 1985**

There were no items to be discussed in private session.

91. **Mayor's announcements**

(1) **Death of Mrs Thelma Madeley**

The Mayor referred to the death of Mrs Thelma Madeley, Mayoress in 1988/89. Councillors S. Coughlan and Bird paid tribute to Mrs Madeley. Following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and

Resolved

That this Council expresses its regret at the death of Mrs Thelma Madeley, Mayoress in 1988/89 and expresses its condolences to her family at this sad time.

(2) **Death of Mrs Jane Sears**

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Mrs Jane Sears, Mayoress in 1994/95. Councillors Bird and S. Coughlan paid tribute to Mrs Sears following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That this Council expresses its regret at the death of Mrs Jane Sears, Mayoress in 1994/95 and expresses its condolences to her family at this sad time.

Members and officers stood in silence as a mark of respect.

92. Petitions

The following petitions were submitted:

- (1) Councillor Sarohi – Road Calming Improvement – Wallows Lane
- (2) Councillor Bird – Save our Services

93. Petition: Against the proposed closure of Pleck Library

Mr Hussain spoke to the petition and said that people wanted a professional library service to remain, although he realised the enormous task to keep libraries open.

Councillor Bird informed the meeting that a decision on libraries would not be made this evening. He went on to say that the Council would be approving a budget and that the Cabinet would make a decision in the new year. At the end of this evening we will have agreed a legal budget.

Resolved

That the content of the petition be noted and consideration be given to the contents before the finalisation of budget proposals for 2016/17.

94. Petition: Against the proposed closure of Beechdale Library

A report was submitted.

Councillor Jukes spoke to the petition.

Resolved

That the content of the petition be noted and consideration be given to the contents before the finalisation of budget proposals for 2016/17.

95. Questions by members of the public

No questions had been received.

96. **Questions by Members**

(1) **Ombudsman's Complaint re: Garage at Shelfield**

Councillor Worrall asked the following question of Councillor Perry:

“Given the need for the Council to operate with openness and transparency in general, and more particularly in the case of the Garage, with a long history of serious planning issues, including the recent adverse finding of the Planning Ombudsman identifying multiple instances of maladministration involving both officers and senior members of this Council, would Councillor Perry agree to reverse his decision not to allow an update report to Planning Committee, and this at a time when the owner has allegedly been running a business from these premises for over 2 months without the benefit of planning consent, and with no indication of when, or if, he will ever submit a planning application for these new-build premises which currently have no planning use?”

Councillor Perry replied that the enforcement of planning regulations is a serious matter to which the Council and the Planning Committee place significant weight. Where a breach of planning control has been identified, officers will establish the facts of the case, secure evidence of the breach if available and where appropriate proceed through to prosecution. The Council works in accordance with the government's enforcement concordat which sets out the principles of good enforcement practice.

This question is predicated on the fact that an established planning use is occurring and has done so for two months. Officers have visited the premises on 10th February undertaking an external inspection. It was observed that no activity was being undertaken and the property was securely locked. No corroborated or substantive evidence has been submitted to the Council to show the presence of a business or commercial use or any other planning use being undertaken at the property.

Officers are aware that there has been activity at the property but this has not been of a scale or frequency to evidence a particular use against which enforcement action and in particular, a prosecution, can be sustained. Activity alone does not quantify as the use of a building in terms of the planning legislation.

The Council has taken on board the findings of the Local Government Ombudsman and is acutely aware of the need to handle any potential enforcement matter correctly taking into account the principles of consistency and proportionality. These principles apply to all parties involved in any enforcement matter not just the objector or neighbour.

Until such time that sufficient information is available to evidence an active planning use or any other breach of planning control has occurred, it would not

be appropriate to take a report to Planning Committee. Any further decisions taken will be with advice from officers.

(2) The Pigeon Fanciers Painting

Councillor Russell asked the following question of Councillor Harris:

“Will the portfolio holder for Art, Leisure and Culture undertake to restore at the earliest opportunity the Andrew Tift painting ‘The Pigeon Fanciers’, to its previous hanging position on the Council House staircase where it complements the other Tift painting? ”

Councillor Harris replied that the Tift painting was returned to the new art gallery for a display. It was hanging in the family gallery for 6 months and this exhibition is now finished. It is now planned to re-hang the painting on the Council House staircase wall by 31st March 2016.

(3) Scrutiny of Library Service

Councillor Hicken asked the following question of Councillor Nazir:

“Councillor Nazir can you tell me, this Council, and the people of Walsall, what work your panel have done to scrutinise the improvement and modernisation of the library service”.

Councillor Nazir replied that his committee have undertaken considerable amount of work with regard to the library service over the last 8 months. This comprised four separate meetings during July to January.

Starting with the Rushall Library petition in July 2015 we considered the efficiencies that had already been made within libraries but also the role that community groups and volunteers could play.

At our October meeting we received a report setting out the future options for library provision over the next 5 years and considered this in detail. My committee considered various options including; reduced opening hours, closure of smaller libraries (leaving a core service in the major district centres community partnerships, volunteers and new technology).

In addition, we looked at the school library support service, Bentley Community Library, the mobile library service and Open Plus technology. We looked at the impact of libraries and recognised them as community assets and a hub for social interaction. Our deliberations also considered job seekers, the impact on youngsters and also the potential loss of access to computers.

Members of the Committee were briefed on the potential for various partnerships and proposals that might be possible to help Walsall continue providing access to libraries, computers and an ongoing service, albeit

perhaps with the introduction of book exchanges such as to be introduced at the Oak Park Active Living Centre.

In November we discussed library provision again as part of the budget proposals. We asked the cabinet to rethink and change its methodology for library closures, basing its decisions on educational attainment, achievement, life chances and deprivation, as well as promoting volunteers. A number of expressions of interest for potential partnership working were also considered. We received a briefing on the Open Plus library access system, currently in operation at Peterborough.

At the January 2016 committee we received the New Invention petition as well as considered feedback on the extensive consultation that officers have undertaken throughout the autumn/winter period.

All this has been against a backdrop of having to identify significant financial savings and I am proud of the work that the Members of the Corporate and Public Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee have undertaken.

Councillor Hicken asked the following supplementary question:

“Do you think it would be a good idea to set up a working group next May?”

Councillor Nazir replied no. The Scrutiny Panel have done a lot of work together with the full involvement of all the Members of the Committee.

(4) Winterley Lane, Rushall infilling of mineshafts

Councillor Worrall asked the following question of Councillor Perry:

“Site operators at land off Winterley Lane, Rushall, adjacent to the canal have planning consent to infill sixteen limestone shafts on this former grazing land. The consent expires next month. Could the Chair of Planning Committee advise me and Council how many shafts have been filled to date, how many remain to be filled and whether the infilling will be completed by the end of March in readiness for subsequent site clearance and restoration to idyllic green belt grazing land?”

Councillor Perry replied that this question relates to planning application 14/0191/WA which was approved on 12th May 2014 subject to conditions. The proposals for the infilling and capping of nineteen identified shafts. The application followed approval 09/0695/FL which was for the infilling of the single identified shaft initially identified. Work on the site subsequently identified two more shafts necessitating the submission of the 2014 application. As the operators commenced on site prior to the discharge of the conditions being completed, planning officers engaged with the applicants to ensure work ceased and the necessary conditions were addressed. These were discharged in stages with the final pre-commencement conditions being

discharged on 30th March 2015 allowing a lawful commencement of work to take place.

I can advise that as of 19th February one shaft, number 211 is now complete. Shaft 101 is half filled, however the bad weather has made it unsafe to approach the shaft to place material in it. Shafts 212 and 102 are exposed with the area around them prepared for infilling once the weather improves and shaft 210 is planned for completion during March.

Progress on the shafts is recognised as being slow. This is due to two factors. Firstly, that prior to work on the filling of the shafts being possible, preparatory works need to be undertaken to clear the ground around the shafts and establish the works compound and soil piles for the infilling material before the shaft filling could commence. Now the preparatory works are complete work can focus on the infilling of the shafts. The second reason relates to the weather with December being the wettest on record and January also being an extremely wet month with little let up during February. This has had a significant impact on progress. Whilst there has been some dry spells during the winter, these have been too short to allow substantial progress to be made on site.

The applicants recognise the delays and have commenced discussions with officers about the potential for an application to extend the period of works until May/June 2016 subject to weather. This was reported to the Planning Committee. No news had been made on this initial request but if progressed it would be subject to a planning application that if recommended for approval would be considered at Planning Committee.

The applicants are aware of the need to restore the site and this is secured by condition 14b on the original approval which requires restoration to be undertaken on a phased basis commencing along the northern edge of the site and proceeding south.

Councillor Worrall asked the following supplementary question:

“Would you not agree that the situation has all the appearance of a manmade environmental disaster?”

Councillor Perry replied that the Planning Committee sympathised with residents and wanted to bring this forward and would do all it can to progress infilling.

97. Recommendations of Cabinet

(1) Corporate Budget Plan and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2016/17.

The report to Cabinet (as amended by the Chief Financial Officer to take into account the receipt of final precepts and levies, receipt of the final settlement,

technical/legislative guidance and final specific grant allocations) was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew:

That the following be approved:

2.3.1 Revenue

- a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2016/17 as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- b) A Walsall council net council tax requirement for 2016/17 of £100.99m – with a 3.99% increase in council tax, 2% of which is earmarked for Adult Social Care.
- c) That the recommendations of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) 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 reserves of not less than £12.4m, as set out in **Annex 3** of the budget plan.

- d) The levies below for outside bodies:

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	12,186,851
Environment agency	77,207

- e) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended):
 - I. **£617,568,982** 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. **£516,578,089** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - III. **£100,990,893** 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. **£1,495.71** being the amount at (e) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of **67,520.37**, 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.

A	B	C	D
997.14	1,163.33	1,329.52	1,495.71
E	F	G	H
1,828.09	2,160.47	2,492.85	2,991.42

The above table is split as follows:

Council Tax - General (1.99% increase)

A	B	C	D
977.96	1,140.96	1,303.95	1,466.94
E	F	G	H
1,792.93	2,118.92	2,444.90	2,933.89

Council Tax – Adult Social Care Precept (2% increase)

A	B	C	D
19.18	22.37	25.57	28.77
E	F	G	H
35.16	41.55	47.95	57.53

- f) The precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and the precept for 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:

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
Police And Crime Commissioner	A	B	C	D
	74.37	86.76	99.16	111.55
	E	F	G	H
	136.34	161.13	185.92	223.10
Fire & Rescue Authority	A	B	C	D
	37.35	43.58	49.80	56.03
	E	F	G	H
	68.48	80.93	93.38	112.05

- 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 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

A	B	C	D
----------	----------	----------	----------

1,108.86	1,293.67	1,478.48	1,663.29
E	F	G	H
2,032.91	2,402.53	2,772.15	3,326.57

- 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 “Walsall Advertiser” newspaper circulating in the Authority’s area.
- i) 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.
- j) 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.
- k) That Area Panels be disestablished with effect from 1 April 2016 (saving proposal number 80).
- l) That officers take action to ensure grant related expenditure is managed within the final grant allocation.

2.3.2 Capital

- a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- b) 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 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.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
<i>Prior Year Approvals</i>	
Mayrise system mobile working – additional hardware / software to enable in cab and mobile working within Waste Management	18,000
Libraries Universal Digital Offer – a 21 st century Public Library service	54,840
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	1,881,306
Traffic signals – replacement of obsolete equipment	150,000
Smarter workplaces programme to reduce the number of council buildings	220,000
M6 junction 10 improvements	650,000
<i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i>	

Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence/Integrated Community Equipment Service	2,000,000
Health Through Warmth – Safety Net support	150,000
Proactive Memorial Safety in Walsall cemeteries	30,000
Highway Maintenance Programme	2,810,745
<i>New Capital Bids</i>	
Integrated Community Equipment Service office accommodation	110,000
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
<i>New Capital Bids continued</i>	
PARIS replacement software	31,500
Windows server 2012 –review of Capita One system in Children’s Services	21,100
New wheeled bins – purchase of bins to support revenue proposal to move to alternate weekly collections	653,470
Extra land at Borneo allotments	25,000
Arboretum car park improvements	434,242
Open + in retained libraries, linked to revenue savings proposal	300,000
Highway Maintenance DfT Challenge Fund local contribution	210,000
Migration of existing Urban Traffic Control communication network	125,000
Council building information modelling – new statutory requirement	272,174
Hatherton Road multi-storey car park structural survey	80,000
Customer facing services being accessed by citizens electronically	53,000
Data back up system replacement	220,000
Money Home Job core IT system hardware and support refresh	51,500
Data centre air conditioning	130,000
Data centre power backup	310,000
<i>Council Wide bids</i>	
Funding to support essential works including Health & Safety, and other projects that cannot be guaranteed at start of year	750,000
Total	11,741,877

NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES 2016/17	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Heritage centre for Walsall – relocation of existing facilities	230,000
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	143,159
Local Transport Plan - Highway Maintenance Programme	2,400,000
Highways Maintenance DfT Challenge Fund	1,600,000
Integrated Transport Block / Local Transport Plan 2016/17	1,286,000
Darlaston Strategic Development Area Access Project	535,000
Growth Deal – creation of skills, connections for manufacturing	44,000,000
Basic Need school allocation	4,612,807
Devolved Formula Capital school allocation	553,772
Capital Maintenance school allocation	2,222,387
Disabled Facilities Grant	2,895,213
Total	60,478,338

CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST ITEMS 2016/17	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Shop maintenance	120,000
Regenerating Walsall	100,000
CCTV Public Space surveillance system	TBA
Promotion of Community Health & Safety	240,000
CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST ITEMS 2016/17 continued ...	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Aldridge Airport resurfacing of access road and car park	300,000
Walsall Town Hall refurbishment	500,000
Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence	1,150,000
Retender of Wide Area Network Connections	300,000
Total	2,710,000

c) That the leasing programme set out in the following table be approved.

LEASING PROGRAMME 2016/17	
	EXPENDITURE £
Refuse vehicles	311,858
Light commercial vehicles	430,181
Tractors and agricultural machinery	199,026
Welfare vehicles	53,134
Community equipment	224,098
Total	1,218,297

d) Delegated authority be given to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council/Portfolio Holder for Finance to make use of the "Flexible Use of Capital receipts" in line with guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003 (final guidance is still awaited) and to report back on its use, as appropriate.

2.3.3 Treasury Management

- Section B – Part 2 – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2016/17, including the council's borrowing requirement and the adoption of the prudential indicators, **be approved**.
- That decisions to effect movements between conventional borrowing and other long term liabilities, such as leases, **be delegated** to the Chief Financial Officer.
- That decisions to use capital receipts or borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators **be delegated** to the Chief Financial Officer.

(Note: 1. Report to Cabinet on 3rd February 2016 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

2. 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”).

Councillor Coughlan **moved** the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Nazir.

That Cabinet’s recommendations before Council tonight are recommended to be amended for the following alternative budget proposal (as set out in this paper, page 1- 7):

- 2.3.1 a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2016/17 as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”. ***(Resource allocation and portfolio plans to be amended as per table 13 on page 2 of this amendment and the detailed changes set out following table 13).***
- 2.3.1 e) The revised statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended) as follows:
- VI. **£617,879,686** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
- VII. **£516,888,793** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- VIII. **£100,990,893** 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.

That recommendation 2.3.1 (k) is removed and as a result Area Panels are not disestablished (2.3.1 (k) *recommended that Area Panels be disestablished with effect from 1 April 2016 – saving proposal 80).*

There is no impact on other sections of the recommendations in 2.3.1

- 2.3.2 a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”. ***(Expenditure plans to be amended in accordance with b) below).***
- b) That the capital programme set out in the Council Summons be approved, ***subject to the addition of the following scheme:***

Mainstream (Council Funded Schemes) – Open+ in Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills and Willenhall Libraries - £109,000.

There is no impact on other sections of the recommendations in 2.3.2 or on the recommendations in 2.3.3.

Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.

Resource Allocation - Table 13 of Section B – Part 1 of the Budget Report

Table 13: Provisional Revenue Cash Limits by Portfolio		
Portfolio	Proposed by Cabinet 2016/17 £m	<i>Alternative Proposal 2016/17 £m</i>
Care and Safeguarding	111.97	111.85
Clean and Green	19.93	20.03
Community, Leisure and Culture	10.65	10.97
Economy, Infrastructure and Development	25.41	25.37
Leader of the Council	5.35	5.31
Learning Skills and Apprenticeships	10.06	10.01
Personnel and Business Support	0.34	0.32
Public Health and Wellbeing	0.00	0.26
Shared Services and Procurement	10.65	10.59
Net Portfolio Cash Limits	194.36	194.71
Capital Financing	0.73	0.73
Levies	12.26	12.26
Central budgets *	(106.36)	(106.71)
Council Tax Requirement	100.99	100.99

**Central budgets include direct Government funding, and business rates. Health balances to nil plus £260k, as it is funded primarily via a direct grant (with the proposed amendment adding a further £260k of council mainstream funds to support public health - lifestyle services activity).*

Detailed Changes to Resources Allocation within individual Portfolio Plans:

Amendments to Existing Saving Proposals:

Saving Reference No.	Original Saving Description	Alternative Budget Proposal	2016/17 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
66	Reduction in Street Cleansing Service	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	150,000	Clean & Green
74	Close 7 libraries and mobile library services – this option has changed as detailed overleaf	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget Maintain existing staffing hours, and extend opening hours further by implementing Open+ in year 1 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldridge • Bloxwich • Brownhills • Willenhall 	211,651	Community, Leisure & Culture
80	Cease area panels and area management	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	100,000	Community, Leisure & Culture
119	Increase the charge for district markets by £5 a stall	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	44,200	Economy, Infrastructure & Development
175	Lifestyle Services – procure a more integrated model of service delivery	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	260,000	Public Health & Wellbeing

Saving Reference No.	Original Saving Description	Alternative Budget Proposal	2016/17 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
184	Withdraw grant to the CAB for welfare advice	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	50,000	Community, Leisure & Culture
184	Invest £101,000 to support the Voluntary and Community Sector (<i>investment via WVA</i> to develop a thriving voluntary, community and volunteering culture within Walsall).	Invest £101,000 to support the Voluntary and Community Sector (<i>investment through a procured external service</i> to develop a thriving voluntary, community and volunteering culture within Walsall).	0	Community, Leisure & Culture
Total Amendments to Existing Proposals			£815,851	

New Investment:

Alternative Budget New Investment Proposal	2016/17 Cost £	Portfolio
Additional one-off pump priming investment to develop local community based social clubs and activities for people with disabilities	60,000	Care and Safeguarding

New Saving Proposals to Fund Changes:

Alternative Budget New Saving Proposal	2016/17 (Saving) £	Portfolio
Increase in vacancy management to (from): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's – 0.72% (0.22%) • Change & Governance – 3.80% (3.32%) • Economy & Environment – 2.21% (1.72%) • Adult Social Care – 2.21% (1.72%) 	(527,209)	All
Total New Saving	(527,209)	

Summary of Total Changes to the Original Budget as Identified in Tables Above:

Alternative Budget Changes	2016/17 Cost / (Saving)
Total Saving Amendments	815,851
Total New Investment	60,000
Total New Savings	(527,209)
Use of Reserves	(348,642)
Total Net Changes	0

Chief Finance Officer's Advice

This proposed alternative budget is confirmed to have been discussed with the Chief Finance Officer (CFO).

Revenue Changes

The alternative budget proposals as set out amend the statutory determinations but do not amend the council tax requirement, the level of council tax or bands from those proposed by Cabinet to Council.

The proposals include removal of some of Cabinet's savings proposals, new investment and a new saving proposal. These are as set out and summarised in the tables above. Whilst the net effect of these changes is nil, the proposals include the use of alternative funding from one off sources, with the use of general reserves in 2016/17 of £348,642 (of which £60,000 is one-off).

In relation to the proposals in this amendment, I can advise as follows:

- 1) Use of Reserves - £348,642: The current estimated level of reserves as at 31 March 2016 is c£12.8m. The recommended level of reserves is £12.4m. After reviewing the budget risks, I can confirm that the release of the £348,642 reduces the authorities' flexibility in meeting unknown financial pressures. Additionally, reserves should only be used on one-off items of expenditure, however the quantum is such that all but the most unusual and serious combination of possible events can be met. The minimum opening balance required of the medium term financial strategy would not be compromised. £60,000 of the £348,642 required is one-off, therefore the ongoing cost of the remaining £288,642 will need to be factored into the next update of the medium term financial outlook for 2017/18 onwards.
- 2) New Savings of £527,209 from vacancy management: Staff budgets are reduced by a certain percentage (specific to each service) to acknowledge the time gap between a post holder leaving and a new one starting. The percentage calculated is also dependent on turnover rates. The current and revised level of vacancy management (VM) should this amendment be approved are:

Directorate	Vacancy Management Rates		Total Vacancy Management Reduction		
	Current	With Amendment	Current	With Amendment	Additional Saving
	%	%	£	£	£
Children's *	0.22	0.72	62,172	201,651	139,479
Change & Governance	3.32	3.80	1,051,211	1,203,023	151,812
Economy & Environment *	1.72	2.21	518,210	665,453	147,243
Adult Social Care	1.72	2.21	312,087	400,762	88,675
Total			1,943,680	2,470,889	527,209

The revised VM targets would require a post to be vacant for the following amended timescales:

Directorate	Equivalent weeks per post	Weeks based on budgeted VM	Additional weeks
Children's *	4.06	0.60	3.46
Change & Governance	10.53	9.20	1.33
Economy & Environment *	7.43	5.80	1.63
Adult Social Care	9.33	7.20	2.13

**No vacancy management has been charged to Waste functions within Clean & Green or within Children's in respect of qualified social workers, direct statutory children & families workers*

From a CFO perspective and in consultation with Executive Directors, an additional £527,209 of savings across the council is not considered an unreasonable target for vacancy management purposes.

Capital Changes

The investment of £109,000 into implementing Open+ in the four libraries is proposed to be funded from borrowing. The revenue implications of this, £12,639 per annum, have been included in the costs set out above. As the costs are funded, and the increase in borrowing is within the borrowing limits available to the council, then the changes represent a balanced and funded capital programme.

Summary

The Council is required to set the budget for the forthcoming year, which is 2016/17. The alternative budget proposal as set out represents a balanced budget for 2016/17, with a small call on the use of one-off reserves in 2016/17. The MTFO would need to be amended to include the resulting £288,642 shortfall in funds in 2017/18 onwards.

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

Labour Group Alternative Budget – Council 25 February 2016

That Cabinet's recommendations before Council tonight are recommended to be amended for the following alternative budget proposal (as set out in this paper, page 1- 6):

- 2.3.1 a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2016/17 as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan". ***(Resource allocation and portfolio plans to be amended as per table 13 on page 2 of this amendment and the detailed changes set out following table 13).***
- 2.3.1 e) The revised statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended) as follows:

- IX. **£617,851,044** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
- X. **£516,860,151** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- XI. **£100,990,893** 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.

That recommendation 2.3.1 (k) is removed and as a result Area Panels are not disestablished (2.3.1 (k) recommended that Area Panels be disestablished with effect from 1 April 2016 – saving proposal 80).

There is no impact on other sections of the recommendations in 2.3.1 or on the recommendations in 2.3.2 and 2.3.3.

Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.

Resource Allocation - Table 13 of Section B – Part 1 of the Budget Report

Table 13: Provisional Revenue Cash Limits by Portfolio		
Portfolio	Proposed by Cabinet 2016/17 £m	Alternative Proposal 2016/17 £m
Care and Safeguarding	111.97	111.85
Clean and Green	19.93	20.03
Community, Leisure and Culture	10.65	10.94
Economy, Infrastructure and Development	25.41	25.37
Leader of the Council	5.35	5.31
Learning Skills and Apprenticeships	10.06	10.01
Personnel and Business Support	0.34	0.32
Public Health and Wellbeing	0.00	0.26
Shared Services and Procurement	10.65	10.59
Net Portfolio Cash Limits	194.36	194.68
Capital Financing	0.73	0.73
Levies	12.26	12.26
Central budgets *	(106.36)	(106.68)
Council Tax Requirement	100.99	100.99

**Central budgets include direct Government funding, and business rates. Health balances to nil plus £260k, as it is funded primarily via a direct grant (with the proposed amendment adding a further £260k of council mainstream funds to support public health - lifestyle services activity).*

Detailed Changes to Resources Allocation within individual Portfolio Plans:

Amendments to Existing Saving Proposals:

Saving Reference No.	Original Saving Description	Alternative Budget Proposal	2016/17 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
66	Reduction in Street Cleansing Service	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	150,000	Clean & Green
74	Close 7 libraries and mobile library services – this option has changed as detailed overleaf	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	183,009	Community, Leisure & Culture
80	Cease area panels and area management	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	100,000	Community, Leisure & Culture
119	Increase the charge for district markets by £5 a stall	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	44,200	Economy, Infrastructure & Development
175	Lifestyle Services – procure a more integrated model of service delivery	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	260,000	Public Health & Wellbeing
184	Withdraw grant to the CAB for welfare advice	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	50,000	Community, Leisure & Culture
Total Amendments to Existing Proposals			787,209	

New Investment:

Alternative Budget New Investment Proposal	2016/17 Cost £	Portfolio
Additional one-off pump priming investment to develop local community based social clubs and activities for people with disabilities	60,000	Care and Safeguarding

New Saving Proposals to Fund Changes:

Alternative Budget New Saving Proposal	2016/17 (Saving) £	Portfolio
Increase in vacancy management to (from): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's – 0.72% (0.22%) • Change & Governance – 3.80% (3.32%) • Economy & Environment – 2.21% (1.72%) • Adult Social Care – 2.21% (1.72%) 	(527,209)	All

Summary of Total Changes to the Original Budget as Identified in Tables Above:

Alternative Budget Changes	2016/17 Cost / (Saving)
Total Saving Amendments	787,209
Total New Investment	60,000
Total New Savings	(527,209)
Use of Reserves	(320,000)
Total Net Changes	0

Chief Finance Officer's Advice

This proposed alternative budget is confirmed to have been discussed with the Chief Finance Officer (CFO).

Revenue Changes

The alternative budget proposals as set out amend the statutory determinations but do not amend the council tax requirement, the level of council tax or bands from those proposed by Cabinet to Council.

The proposals include removal of some of Cabinet's savings proposals, new investment and a new saving proposal. These are as set out and summarised in the tables above. Whilst the net effect of these changes is nil, the proposals include the use of alternative funding from one off sources, with the use of general reserves in 2016/17 of £320,000 (of which £60,000 is one-off).

In relation to the proposals in this amendment, I can advise as follows:

- 3) Use of Reserves - £320k: The current estimated level of reserves as at 31 March 2016 is c£12.8m. The recommended level of reserves is £12.4m. After reviewing the budget risks, I can confirm that the release of the £320,000 reduces the authorities' flexibility in meeting unknown financial pressures. Additionally, reserves should only be used on one-off items of expenditure, however the quantum is such that all but the most unusual and serious combination of possible events can be met. The minimum opening balance required of the medium term financial strategy would not be compromised. £60,000 of the £320,000 required is one-off, therefore the ongoing cost of the remaining £260,000 will need to be factored into the next update of the medium term financial outlook for 2017/18 onwards.
- 4) New Savings of £527k from vacancy management: Staff budgets are reduced by a certain percentage (specific to each service) to acknowledge the time gap between a post holder leaving and a new one starting. The percentage calculated is also dependent on turnover rates. The current and revised level of vacancy management (VM) should this amendment be approved are:

Directorate	Vacancy Management Rates		Total Vacancy Management Reduction		
	Current	With Amendment	Current	With Amendment	Additional Saving
	%	%	£	£	£
Children's *	0.22	0.72	62,172	201,651	139,479
Change & Governance	3.32	3.80	1,051,211	1,203,023	151,812
Economy & Environment *	1.72	2.21	518,210	665,453	147,243
Adult Social Care	1.72	2.21	312,087	400,762	88,675
Total			1,943,680	2,470,889	527,209

**No VM has been charged to Waste functions within Clean & Green or within Children's in respect of qualified social workers, direct statutory children & families workers*

The revised VM targets would require a post to be vacant for the following amended timescales:

Directorate	Equivalent weeks per post	Weeks based on budgeted VM	Additional weeks
Children's *	4.06	0.60	3.46
Change & Governance	10.53	9.20	1.33
Economy & Environment *	7.43	5.80	1.63
Adult Social Care	9.33	7.20	2.13

**No vacancy management has been charged to Waste functions within Clean & Green or within Children's in respect of qualified social workers, direct statutory children & families workers*

From a CFO perspective and in consultation with Executive Directors, an additional £527,209 of savings across the council is not considered an unreasonable target for vacancy management purposes.

Summary

The Council is required to set the budget for the forthcoming year, which is 2016/17. The alternative budget proposal as set out represents a balanced budget for 2016/17, with a small call on the use of one-off reserves in 2016/17. The MTFO would need to be amended to include the resulting £260k shortfall in funds in 2017/18 onwards.

It was **moved** and duly seconded that the meeting be adjourned, the time being 7.35pm.

Meeting recommenced at 9.30pm.

Councillor Bird **moved** and it was duly seconded that Council procedure rules be suspended to enable the business of the meeting to be completed.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried.

Councillor Coughlan **moved** and it was seconded by Councillor Nazir that his original amendment be withdrawn.

Councillor Coughlan **moved** the following amendment seconded by Councillor I. Shires.

Amendment – Council 25 February 2016

That Cabinet's recommendations before Council tonight are recommended to be amended for the following alternative budget proposal (as set out in this paper, page 1- 7):

- 2.3.1 a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2016/17 as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan". (***Resource allocation and portfolio plans to be amended as per table 13 on page 2 of this amendment and the detailed changes set out following table 13).***
- 2.3.1 e) The revised statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended) as follows:
- XII. **£617,879,686** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
- XIII. **£516,888,793** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- XIV. **£100,990,893** 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.

That recommendation 2.3.1 (k) is removed and as a result Area Panels are not disestablished (2.3.1 (k) recommended that Area Panels be disestablished with effect from 1 April 2016 – saving proposal 80).

There is no impact on other sections of the recommendations in 2.3.1

- 2.3.2 a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan". (***Expenditure plans to be amended in accordance with b) below).***
- b) That the capital programme set out in the Council Summons be approved, ***subject to the addition of the following scheme:***

Mainstream (Council Funded Schemes) – Open+ in Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills and Willenhall Libraries - £109,000.

There is no impact on other sections of the recommendations in 2.3.2 or on the recommendations in 2.3.3.

Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan".

Resource Allocation - Table 13 of Section B – Part 1 of the Budget Report

Table 13: Provisional Revenue Cash Limits by Portfolio		
Portfolio	Proposed by Cabinet 2016/17 £m	<i>Alternative Proposal</i> 2016/17 £m
Care and Safeguarding	111.97	111.85
Clean and Green	19.93	20.03
Community, Leisure and Culture	10.65	10.97
Economy, Infrastructure and Development	25.41	25.37
Leader of the Council	5.35	5.31
Learning Skills and Apprenticeships	10.06	10.01
Personnel and Business Support	0.34	0.32
Public Health and Wellbeing	0.00	0.26
Shared Services and Procurement	10.65	10.59
Net Portfolio Cash Limits	194.36	194.71
Capital Financing	0.73	0.73
Levies	12.26	12.26
Central budgets *	(106.36)	(106.71)
Council Tax Requirement	100.99	100.99

**Central budgets include direct Government funding, and business rates. Health balances to nil plus £260k, as it is funded primarily via a direct grant (with the proposed amendment adding a further £260k of council mainstream funds to support public health - lifestyle services activity).*

Detailed Changes to Resources Allocation within individual Portfolio Plans:

Amendments to Existing Saving Proposals:

Saving Reference No.	Original Saving Description	Alternative Budget Proposal	2016/17 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
66	Reduction in Street Cleansing Service	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	150,000	Clean & Green
74	Close 7 libraries and mobile library services – this option has changed as detailed overleaf	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget Maintain existing staffing hours, and extend opening hours further by implementing Open+ in year 1 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aldridge • Bloxwich • Brownhills • Willenhall 	211,651	Community, Leisure & Culture
80	Cease area panels and area management	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	100,000	Community, Leisure & Culture
119	Increase the charge for district markets by £5 a stall	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	44,200	Economy, Infrastructure & Development
175	Lifestyle Services – procure a more integrated model of service delivery	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	260,000	Public Health & Wellbeing

Saving Reference No.	Original Saving Description	Alternative Budget Proposal	2016/17 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
184	Withdraw grant to the CAB for welfare advice	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	50,000	Community, Leisure & Culture
184	Invest £101,000 to support the Voluntary and Community Sector (<i>investment via WVA</i> to develop a thriving voluntary, community and volunteering culture within Walsall).	Invest £101,000 to support the Voluntary and Community Sector (<i>investment through a procured external service</i> to develop a thriving voluntary, community and volunteering culture within Walsall).	0	Community, Leisure & Culture
Total Amendments to Existing Proposals			£815,851	

New Investment:

Alternative Budget New Investment Proposal	2016/17 Cost £	Portfolio
Additional one-off pump priming investment to develop local community based social clubs and activities for people with disabilities	60,000	Care and Safeguarding

New Saving Proposals to Fund Changes:

Alternative Budget New Saving Proposal	2016/17 (Saving) £	Portfolio
Increase in vacancy management to (from): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's – 0.72% (0.22%) • Change & Governance – 3.80% (3.32%) • Economy & Environment – 2.21% (1.72%) • Adult Social Care – 2.21% (1.72%) 	(527,209)	All
Total New Saving	(527,209)	

Summary of Total Changes to the Original Budget as Identified in Tables Above:

Alternative Budget Changes	2016/17 Cost / (Saving)
Total Saving Amendments	815,851
Total New Investment	60,000
Total New Savings	(527,209)
Use of Reserves	(348,642)
Total Net Changes	0

Chief Finance Officer's Advice

This proposed alternative budget is confirmed to have been discussed with the Chief Finance Officer (CFO).

Revenue Changes

The alternative budget proposals as set out amend the statutory determinations but do not amend the council tax requirement, the level of council tax or bands from those proposed by Cabinet to Council.

The proposals include removal of some of Cabinet's savings proposals, new investment and a new saving proposal. These are as set out and summarised in the tables above. Whilst the net effect of these changes is nil, the proposals include the use of alternative funding from one off sources, with the use of general reserves in 2016/17 of £348,642 (of which £60,000 is one-off).

In relation to the proposals in this amendment, I can advise as follows:

- 5) Use of Reserves - £348,642: The current estimated level of reserves as at 31 March 2016 is c£12.8m. The recommended level of reserves is £12.4m. After reviewing the budget risks, I can confirm that the release of the £348,642 reduces the authorities' flexibility in meeting unknown financial pressures. Additionally, reserves should only be used on one-off items of expenditure, however the quantum is such that all but the most unusual and serious combination of possible events can be met. The minimum opening balance required of the medium term financial strategy would not be compromised. £60,000 of the £348,642 required is one-off, therefore the ongoing cost of the remaining £288,642 will need to be factored into the next update of the medium term financial outlook for 2017/18 onwards.
- 6) New Savings of £527,209 from vacancy management: Staff budgets are reduced by a certain percentage (specific to each service) to acknowledge the time gap between a post holder leaving and a new one starting. The percentage calculated is also dependent on turnover rates. The current and revised level of vacancy management (VM) should this amendment be approved are:

Directorate	Vacancy Management Rates		Total Vacancy Management Reduction		
	Current	With Amendment	Current	With Amendment	Additional Saving
	%	%	£	£	£
Children's *	0.22	0.72	62,172	201,651	139,479
Change & Governance	3.32	3.80	1,051,211	1,203,023	151,812
Economy & Environment *	1.72	2.21	518,210	665,453	147,243
Adult Social Care	1.72	2.21	312,087	400,762	88,675

Total			1,943,680	2,470,889	527,209
--------------	--	--	------------------	------------------	----------------

The revised VM targets would require a post to be vacant for the following amended timescales:

Directorate	Equivalent weeks per post	Weeks based on budgeted VM	Additional weeks
Children's *	4.06	0.60	3.46
Change & Governance	10.53	9.20	1.33
Economy & Environment *	7.43	5.80	1.63
Adult Social Care	9.33	7.20	2.13

**No vacancy management has been charged to Waste functions within Clean & Green or within Children's in respect of qualified social workers, direct statutory children & families workers*

From a CFO perspective and in consultation with Executive Directors, an additional £527,209 of savings across the council is not considered an unreasonable target for vacancy management purposes.

Capital Changes

The investment of £109,000 into implementing Open+ in the four libraries is proposed to be funded from borrowing. The revenue implications of this, £12,639 per annum, have been included in the costs set out above. As the costs are funded, and the increase in borrowing is within the borrowing limits available to the council, then the changes represent a balanced and funded capital programme.

Summary

The Council is required to set the budget for the forthcoming year, which is 2016/17. The alternative budget proposal as set out represents a balanced budget for 2016/17, with a small call on the use of one-off reserves in 2016/17. The MTFO would need to be amended to include the resulting £288,642 shortfall in funds in 2017/18 onwards.

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared carried – the voting being recorded as follows:

**For the amendment –
29 members**

Councillor S. Coughlan
Councillor I. Shires
Councillor Anson
Councillor Burley
Councillor Chambers
Councillor Clews
Councillor D. Coughlan
Councillor Creaney
Councillor Ditta
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick
Councillor S. Fitzpatrick
Councillor Hussain
Councillor James
Councillor Jeavons
Councillor Jones
Councillor Jukes
Councillor Nawaz
Councillor Nazir
Councillor Phillips
Councillor Robertson
Councillor Russell
Councillor Sarohi
Councillor D. Shires
Councillor Underhill
Councillor Wade
Councillor Westley
Councillor Whyte
Councillor Worrall
Councillor Young

**Against the
amendment-
1 member**

Councillor Smith

**Abstained -
29 members**

Councillor Bird
Councillor E. Hazell
Councillor Andrew
Councillor Arif
Councillor Bennett
Councillor C. Bott
Councillor P. Bott
Councillor Clarke
Councillor Cooper
Councillor Craddock
Councillor Douglas-Maul
Councillor Ferguson
Councillor Follows
Councillor Harris
Councillor Harrison
Councillor D. Hazell
Councillor Hicken
Councillor Kudhail
Councillor Longhi
Councillor Martin
Councillor Murray
Councillor Perry
Councillor Rattigan
Councillor Rochelle
Councillor Sears
Councillor Sohal
Councillor Towe
Councillor Washbrook
Councillor Wilson

The amendment as approved was submitted as the substantive motion and was **moved** and duly seconded.

On being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared carried – the voting being recorded as follows:

For the motion – 29 members	Against the motion - 2 members	Abstained - 28 members
Councillor S. Coughlan	Councillor E. Hazell	Councillor Bird
Councillor I. Shires	Councillor Smith	Councillor Andrew
Councillor Anson		Councillor Arif
Councillor Burley		Councillor Bennett
Councillor Chambers		Councillor C. Bott
Councillor Clews		Councillor P. Bott
Councillor D. Coughlan		Councillor Clarke
Councillor Creaney		Councillor Cooper
Councillor Ditta		Councillor Craddock
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick		Councillor Douglas-Maul
Councillor S Fitzpatrick		Councillor Ferguson
Councillor Hussain		Councillor Follows
Councillor James		Councillor Harris
Councillor Jeavons		Councillor Harrison
Councillor Jones		Councillor D. Hazell
Councillor Jukes		Councillor Hicken
Councillor Nawaz		Councillor Kudhail
Councillor Nazir		Councillor Longhi
Councillor Phillips		Councillor Martin
Councillor Robertson		Councillor Murray
Councillor Russell		Councillor Perry
Councillor Sarohi		Councillor Rattigan
Councillor D. Shires		Councillor Rochelle
Councillor Underhill		Councillor Sears
Councillor Wade		Councillor Sohal
Councillor Westley		Councillor Towe
Councillor Whyte		Councillor Washbrook
Councillor Worrall		Councillor Wilson
Councillor Young		

(2) **Corporate Plan 2016-20**

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

Resolved

That the Corporate Plan 2016-20, be approved.

98. **Recommendation of Audit Committee**

The following recommendation of the Audit Committee was submitted.

That approval be given to an extension to Mr F. Bell's term of office commencing from the start of the 2016/17 municipal year and ending at the conclusion of the 2017/18 municipal year.

Resolved

That the recommendation of the Audit Committee be approved.

99. **Pay Policy 2016/17**

The report of the Head of Human Resources was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Bennett and duly seconded and resolved that the Pay Policy for 2016/17 be approved.

100. **Designation of Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

The report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services was submitted.

Resolved

That the Executive Director, Children's Services be designated as the Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

101. **Appointment of independent member of Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Ltd (VIEW) Board**

The report of the Head of Democratic Services was submitted.

Resolved

That the appointment of Lucy Burfoot to the board of Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall Ltd be noted.

102. **North Walsall Area Panel**

Resolved

That Mr Pat Dean be appointed a co-opted member of the North Walsall Area Panel for the remainder of the municipal year.

103. **Portfolio holder briefings**

At this stage in the meeting Councillor Bird **moved** and it was duly seconded that the portfolio holder briefing be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council in April.

On being put to the vote the motion was agreed and it was

Resolved

That the portfolio holder briefing be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Council in April.

The meeting terminated at 10.25 pm

Mayor:

Date: