



Walsall Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the 17TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 7th day of September, 2018.

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 16th July 2018.
4. Declarations of interest.
5. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**
To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
6. Mayor's announcements.
7. To receive any petitions.

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

(a) From the public: None

(b) From members of the Council: None

9. **Audit Committee.** To note that the Audit Committee have reduced the number of meetings from 7 to 5 per year and that the Constitution will be amended at the appropriate time.

10. **Membership of Health and Wellbeing Board.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

11. **West Midlands Combined Authority and Walsall MBC.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. **Portfolio holder briefings.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the following portfolio holders:

- Adult Social Care
- Regeneration

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

13. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors S. Coughlan, Shires, D. Coughlan, Burley, Ward, Chambers and Robertson:**

Following the speech by Sajid Javid on 23 May 2018 where he acknowledged the police were under pressure as violent crime has increased and the changing terror threat. He said I am listening and I get it.

This Council calls on Sajid Javid and the government to fund more police on our streets following a fall of nearly 20,000 officers over the last 10 years across 43 forces.

14. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Shires, S. Coughlan, D. Coughlan, Ward, Jeavons, Burley, Chambers, Jukes, Robertson, Underhill, Hussain and Nawaz**:

This Council recognises that clean air has made a huge contribution to improving the health of people in the Borough over the last thirty or forty years.

This Council notes that vehicle emissions affect the cleanliness of the air in the Borough.

The Council further notes that an estimated 40,000 people die each year in the UK as a result of poor air quality, those with asthma or lung problems being particularly affected.

Council notes that significant progress has been made in prioritising pedestrian access, cycling routes and public transport improvements in recent years.

Council is concerned however, that despite these and other planned improvements, poor air quality is a growing issue in some hotspots in the Borough.

Council calls on the Cabinet to develop plans to promote improvements to air quality in the Borough.

Council also calls on Government to take its responsibilities for improving air quality seriously, including for example, improving “pinch points” on major strategic roads that cause congestion, and investing in transferring the movement of freight from road to rail wherever possible.

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

15. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors S. Coughlan, D. Coughlan, Shires, Ward, Hussain, Jeavons, Jukes, Robertson, Chambers, Underhill and Nawaz**:

This Council notes with concern:

- That 300 million tons of new plastic is made each year, half of which is for single use plastic such as packaging and convenience foods. In many cases, such as plastic straws, takeaway food containers and coffee cups, there are practical alternatives available that are either reusable or sustainable.
- That in 2016, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimated that by weight, there could be more plastic in our oceans than fish, as soon as 2050. As plastics are durable and strong they will stay in our environment for up to an estimated 600 years. (Columbia University)
- That marine plastic leads to coastal/offshore dead zones, entanglement, death through ingestion, toxic transfer and, once degraded into micro plastics, contamination of the food chain – including our own. We are quite literally eating the plastic that has ended up in our seas.

Council welcomes:

- The significant increase in recycling achieved in the Borough in the last decade, through improvements to doorstep recycling.
- Policy adopted in 2017 in support of Deposit Return Schemes, and the significant reduction in plastic waste that such schemes could achieve.
- The success of the “Plastic Bag Levy”.

This Council therefore commits that Walsall will play its full role in helping to reduce plastic waste, specifically:

- That the Council will undertake an audit, within existing resources, of single use plastics used by the authority, seek to replace with sustainable or reusable alternatives where practicable.
- That the Council will play its role in helping to educate members of the public about plastic waste, specifically by including information for members of the public on reducing plastic waste in both online and written materials.
- That the Council will use its membership of the West Midlands Combined Authority to work towards increasing the amount of plastic product that can be recycled through doorstep and other recycling.
- To write to our members of Parliament and the European Parliament, and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, urging them to consider legislation and regulations which will reduce the amount of single use plastic used by society.
- To use the links we have with businesses in Walsall to encourage them to reduce the amount of plastic waste produced and specifically to write to each of our major supermarkets asking them to consider introducing a “plastic free aisle” in their Walsall store(s) on a trial basis.

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