



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 TWELFTH day of JANUARY, 2009 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2009.

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 3rd November, 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 – Fairtrade (Councillor Arif)

“What progress has been made by this Council to support Walsall meeting the five criteria to become a Fairtrade town?”

(2) Councillor Oliver – Concessionary travel for the elderly and disabled (Councillor McCracken)

“What is the Cabinet’s current policy on concessionary train and tram travel for the elderly and disabled, and do you pledge to continue to fund it in the next financial year?”

(3) Councillor Coughlan – Walsall market (Councillor Andrew)

“Will the Cabinet support the regeneration scrutiny panel and ensure that Walsall market stays in Council control and not be transferred to any private sector organisation?”

(4) Councillor Coughlan – Worklessness (Councillor Andrew)

“What measures have the Council put in place to tackle the worklessness agenda and how will the Council ensure all opportunities are made available to residents to help them through any period of unemployment?”

(5) Councillor Robertson – Energy and cost saving measures (Councillor Walker)

“What measures will this Council introduce to support energy and cost saving measures, so setting an example to our residents and play our small part in combating global warming while also reducing the waste of our Council Tax revenue?”

(6) Councillor Oliver – Walsall Town Centre Transport package (Councillor Harris)

“Could the Cabinet portfolio holder for transport please give an update on the current proposed completion date for the Walsall Town Centre Transport Package (i.e. the new ring road) and also list the previous proposed completion dates which have subsequently been extended?”

8. To the report the result of the by-election for the Birchills-Leamore ward held on 27th November 2008:

Name of candidates	Votes cast	Candidate elected
Aftab, Kamran	764	Kamran Aftab
Booker, Paul	34	
Cockayne, Christine	72	
Davies, Alan George	69	
Hazell, Elizabeth	52	
Moore, Malcolm William	90	
Worrall, Richard Vernon	661	

Percentage turnout – 19.6%

9. **Appointment of Deputy Mayor** for the remainder of the municipal year.

10. **Mayoralty 2009/20010.** Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 2(vi) to name the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for 2009/2010 in accordance with the powers contained in Sections 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

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

That the Housing Strategy 2008-2011 be adopted.

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

12. **Schools Forum.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

13. **Membership of Committees:**

(a) **Audit Committee:**

- (i) To note that the Conservative Group has appointed Councillor Rochelle in place of Councillor Clarke on the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.
- (ii) To note that the Conservative Group has appointed Councillor Aftab to the Committee in place of the late Councillor Micklewright for the remainder of the municipal year.

- (b) **Licensing and Safety Committee:** To note that the Conservative Group has appointed Councillor Aftab to the Committee in place of the late Councillor Micklewright for the remainder of the municipal year.
- (c) **Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee A:** To note that the Conservative Group has appointed Councillor Aftab to the Sub-Committee in place of the late Councillor Micklewright for the remainder of the municipal year.
- (d) **Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel:** To note that the Labour Group has appointed Councillor Chambers to the vacancy on the Panel following the resignation from the Council of former Councillor J. Phillips.

14. Nominations to outside bodies and charities

(a) **Walsall Adult and Community College**

To appoint 4 member governors for a period of 4 years.

(b) **School Holiday Camp Fund of Walsall**

To appoint a Council nominated Trustee to the Charity for the balance of the 4 year period expiring on 25 August 2012 in place of the late Councillor Micklewright.

(c) **Blanch Woollaston Charity**

To appoint a Council nominated Trustee to the Charity for the balance of the 4 year period expiring on 13 September 2011 in place of the late Councillor Micklewright.

15. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Oliver, Wilkes and Nazir:**

This Council calls upon the Cabinet to suspend the recently introduced flat rate fee of a £4 daily return travel charge for disabled people who attend our local day centres – in order to enable proper discussions with user and carer groups as to the implementation of this charge, and a better understanding as to how this charge relates to the Council's "fairer charging" process.

(Note: Report to follow.)