



Walsall Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **THURSDAY the 23RD day of FEBRUARY, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2017.

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 January 2017.
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. Petitions:

(a) **Save Walsall Leather Museum:**

A petition with regard to the above containing approximately 2,534 signatures was submitted to Council on 9th January 2017 by Councillor Cooper. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

(b) **Save Aldridge Library:**

A petition with regard to the above containing approximately 1,540 signatures was submitted to Council on 9th January 2017 by Councillor Murray. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

(Note: The Council's petitions scheme states:

“Council debate - If a petition contains at least 1,500 signatures it will be debated at a meeting of the Council. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting to which all Councillors can attend and speak. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action that the petition requests; not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to ask for further information. Where the issue is one where the Cabinet are required to make the final decision the Council will decide to make recommendations to the Cabinet. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision and this will be published on our website.”)

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

(a) From the public:

(1) **Government funding – Mr. M. Lynch**

“In the light of the clear intention of the Government to continue to drastically reduce the funding to Councils in areas such as ours, so that by common acknowledgement there will by the end of the decade be barely enough resources to cover statutory core services, let alone any additional discretionary provision, what plans have you got to start to publicly campaign for the restoration of our funding?”

(2) Adult social care – Mr. P. Rymer

“Due to the Saving/CUTS to adult social services by the Conservative government could you tell the residents of Walsall how many Vulnerable elderly people will not receive adequate Care due to the forced CUTS? Giving family's of elderly Walsall resident some idea of the life changes they will be forced to make to keep their Mother or Father safe.”

(3) Impact of planned cuts – Mr. C. Isham

“Please can you explain the measures you have in place to assess the impact of the planned cuts both on individuals and the population of the Borough as a whole, and of making this information available to the citizens of Walsall.”

(4) Work with children and young people – Mr. E. Frankham

“What does the Council intend doing in the way of working with children and young people, the future employees and employers, the leaders and the led, the future inhabitants of our town?

(5) Independent Living Fund – Mrs. C. Stringer

“What proportion, if any of the £860,911 given to Walsall for the year 2017/18, by Justin Tomlinson the Minister for Disabled People in February 2016 for previous ILF users, will be passed on to the profoundly disabled adults in Walsall, please see page 12 of the attached document. Also if none, then why not as it was given for this precise purpose?”

(6) Bin collections - Mrs. P. Gibson

“Now that bins are only being emptied every 2 weeks, what arrangements are in place for the elderly and infirm, or others with either a disability who are unable to take excess refuse to the tip due to not being unable to drive or having no access to a vehicle?”

(7) Arts provision – Mr. M. Webster

“Although it appears that the council have stepped back from making some of the most dramatic cuts to the high profile arts provision in the year to come, I would like to ask what plans the Council have to support local arts development across the Borough given they have completely cut the Creative Development Team (6 jobs), the team responsible for delivering a local arts service in the poorest areas of the Borough and they have completely scrapped all the funding from the Community Cohesion fund in the year to come that has supported projects and community festivals such as Caldmore and Palfrey Village Festival and Chuckery Festival among others. This is on top of closing all the libraries in the poorest areas of the borough without establishing a plan for their post funding survival. It is hard to see what services will be left to support the cultural life in local communities.”

(b) From members of the Council: None

10. The Combined Authorities Mayoral Elections Order – Appointment of Local Returning Officer. Report reproduced in the reports booklets for this meeting.

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

(a) **Corporate Budget Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2017/18**

That the following be approved

(i) **Revenue**

- a) The revised revenue estimates for 2016/17 and the allocation of revenue resources for 2017/18 as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- b) A Walsall Council net council tax requirement for 2017/18 of £108.47m – with a 4.99% increase in council tax, 3% of which is earmarked for Adult Social Care.
- c) That the recommendations of the S151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) 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 reserve of not less than £12.4m, as set out in **Annex 8** of the budget plan.
- d) The levies below for outside bodies:

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Combined Authority (Transport) Levy	11,842,796
Environment agency	79,020

- e) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended),
 - I. **£623,528,149** 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. **£515,056,710** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - III. **£108,471,439** 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. **£1,570.35** being the amount at (e) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of **69,074.69**, 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
1,046.90	1,221.38	1,395.87	1,570.35
E	F	G	H
1,919.32	2,268.28	2,617.25	3,140.70

- 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
	77.70	90.65	103.60	116.55
	E	F	G	H
	142.45	168.35	194.25	233.10
Fire & Rescue	A	B	C	D
	38.09	44.44	50.79	57.14
	E	F	G	H
	69.84	82.53	95.23	114.28

- 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 2017/18 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

A	B	C	D
1,162.69	1,356.47	1,550.26	1,744.04
E	F	G	H
2,131.61	2,519.16	2,906.73	3,488.08

- 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 the Chief Finance Officer **be given authority** to make transfers to and from reserves in order to ensure that reserves are maintained as necessary and in particular, adjusted when reserves are no longer required, or need to be replenished; and to reflect any final changes arising from the final Settlement, if not received by the date of full Council, to ensure that the council tax requirement and council tax bands to be approved by Council are as set out.
- k) 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.

(II) **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 and leasing 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.
- c) That the Chief Finance Officer **be given delegated authority** to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall capital programme and to alter the overall mix of financing as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the Council.
- d) That the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader (portfolio holder for finance), **be given delegated authority** to release capital resources held back for any contingent items that may arise (earmarked capital receipts for essential or emergency spend), and also for any match funding requirements that may be required of the Council in order to secure additional external capital funding (e.g. bids for government or other funding).
- e) That a 'flexible use of capital receipts strategy' is currently being produced and will be reported to Council at the earliest opportunity to provide the council with the flexibility to make use of the direction issued by Government to allow local authorities to spend up to 100% of fixed asset receipts on the revenue costs of transformation projects, provided those projects generate ongoing revenue savings.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	Estimated Value £
<i>Prior Year Approvals</i>	
Hatherton Road multi-storey car park – development of demolition plan to address structural repair issues	200,000
Migration of existing Urban Traffic Control analogue communication network	185,000
Traffic signals – replacement of obsolete equipment	200,000
Highways maintenance DfT Challenge Fund local contribution	223,000
<i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i>	
Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence	750,000
Health Through Warmth – Safety Net support	75,000
Highway Maintenance Programme	2,800,000
Funding to support essential works including Health & Safety	750,000
<i>New Capital Bids</i>	
Two year old provision placements funded from revenue contribution	1,097,642
Looked after children out of borough placements – building related works	150,000
Broadway West playing fields – improvement to car park	50,000
CCTV upgrade to equipment	250,000
Memorial Safety in Walsall cemeteries	40,000
Leisure management system	88,000
Essential refurbishment of the Council's digital data storage facilities	1,224,081
Essential maintenance, warranty extension and eventual replacement of council server	75,200
Essential investment to remove cyber attack vulnerabilities	98,000
Essential warranty extension and replacement of hardware for Council's financial systems	30,000
Procurement of system for Human Resources management and Oracle financials	719,000
Service improvement for single mobile device management solution	76,000
Essential Microsoft upgrades and foundation of Office 365	102,000
Essential maintenance for data storage	78,000
Redesign of school kitchens to meet health and safety, food and fire regulations	250,000
Council House building management system to control and monitor mechanical and electrical equipment	70,000
Civic Centre heating	600,000
Highways maintenance improvements to uneven cobble stones at High Street, Walsall	70,000
Provision of community dropped crossings for ease of use	20,000
Walsall Town Centre Public Realm improvements	100,000
Darlaston Strategic Development Area access project	200,000
Mosaic implementation phase 3 Social Care case management system	747,130
Mosaic mobile working – provision of mobile technology to aid work practices	634,076
Library redesign	2,160,000
Council House rewiring	1,000,000
Acquisition of Reservoir Place to support the Phoenix 10	775,000
Total	15,887,129

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18	
NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES 2017/18	Estimated Value £
Basic Need school allocation	4,101,269
Devolved Formula Capital school allocation	553,772
Capital Maintenance school allocation	2,222,387
Fibbersley School – rephased school expansion project	1,915,129
King Charles School – rephased school expansion project	967,500
New Art Gallery – contribution from HLF and WM&G Development Fund to upgrade of building management system and facilities	88,334
Highways Maintenance DfT Challenge Fund	1,800,000
Local Transport Plan - Highway Maintenance Programme	2,400,000
West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (STP)	1,283,000
Growth Deal – creation of skills, connections for manufacturing	18,440,070
Disabled Facilities Grant	2,895,213
Total	36,666,674

CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST ITEMS 2017/18	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	Estimated Value £
Family Contact Centre provision	TBC
Shared heating system for EDC and Rushall JMI	TBC
Sneyd PRU / SEN project	TBC
Increased capacity in Special Schools	TBC
Promotion of Community Health & Safety	240,000
Further provision for Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence	750,000
Further provision for Health Through Warmth – tackling fuel poverty	75,000
Total	1,065,000

LEASING PROGRAMME 2017/18	
	Expenditure £
Refuse vehicles	370,000
Light commercial vehicles	480,000
Tractors and agricultural machinery	190,000
Welfare vehicles	60,000
Community equipment	200,000
Total	1,300,000

(III) Treasury Management

- a) That Section B – Part 2 – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2017/18, including the council's borrowing requirement, borrowing limits, and the adoption of the prudential indicators, **be approved**.
- b) That decisions to effect movements between conventional borrowing and other long term liabilities, such as leases, **be delegated** to the Chief Financial Officer.

- c) 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 8th February 2017 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”.)

(b) Corporate Plan

That the updated and refreshed Corporate Plan 2017-2020 – “Reducing Inequalities, Maximising Potential” be approved.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 8th February 2017 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

12. To confirm the following recommendation of the Audit Committee:

Independent member to Audit Committee

That the Council approve an extension to Mr A Green’s term of office as Independent Member to the Audit Committee commencing from the start of the 2017/18 municipal year, ending at the conclusion of the 2018/19 municipal year.

(Note: Report to Audit Committee on 16th January 2017 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

13. Portfolio holder briefing. To receive a 5 minute presentation from the portfolio holder for Personnel and business support.

(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.)

14. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors Longhi, Perry and Bennett:

This Council expresses concern that the decision of Cabinet to close Pelsall Library is ill thought in the light of the social interaction of the elderly and disabled and schools within the Ward and, that it should be considered in the same light as those of the District Centres that will remain open, in view of the fact that the footfall at Pelsall is higher than any other library except the Central Library.

Therefore, this Council requests Cabinet to reconsider its decision with a view to keeping the facility open and re-examine the costings provided to them by officers in particular, the maintenance cost circa. £100k being used in the calculations, and re-examine as to whether these maintenance costs are for the whole of the building or whether they have been apportioned for the square footage that the library occupies.

Likewise, we request Cabinet to re-examine the utility bills and all other costs in the same manner.