



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor K. Phillips (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor M. Longhi (Deputy Mayor)

“ B. Allen
“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.J. Barker
“ 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
“ S.K. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ K. Ferguson
“ M. Follows
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ D.T. Hazell
“ E.A. Hazell
“ A.J. Hicken

Councillor E.F. Hughes

“ K. Hussain
“ D. James
“ L.D. Jeavons
“ C. Jones
“ T.J. Jukes
“ A. Kudhail
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ A.S. Nazir
“ G. Perry
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ I.C. Robertson
“ J. Rochelle
“ E.B. Russell
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ I. Shires
“ G.S. Sohal
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ A. Underhill
“ S. Wade
“ M. Ward
“ P. Washbrook
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall (arrived 7.20 p.m.)
“ A. Young

89. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2017 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

90. **Declarations of interest**

The Mayor informed members that the Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to all members of the Council under Section 33(3) of the Localism Act 2011 to allow them to participate and vote in setting the Council budget.

There were no declarations of interest.

91. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

92. **Mayor's announcements**

Recorded vote on the budget

The Mayor reminded members that in accordance with the law a recorded vote would need to be taken on the budget decision and any amendments thereto.

93. **Petitions**

The following petitions were submitted:

- (a) Councillor S. Coughlan – Save our services
- (b) Councillor S. Ditta – Support one-way system for Whitmore Street between Milton Street and New Mills Street
- (c) Councillor Gultasib – Redesign of Library service – closure of Pleck Library
- (d) Councillor M. Nazir – Remove loading bay on Arundel Street
- (e) Councillor Perry – keep Pelsall Library open

94. **Petitions**

(a) **Save Walsall Leather Museum**

A report was submitted.

Councillor Cooper presented the petition which sought to keep Walsall Leather Museum open now and in the future. Councillor Cooper referred to the museum's long history and tradition, which included receiving a number of national awards.

Councillors J. Fitzpatrick spoke to this item, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

- (1) That Council note the decision of Cabinet of 8th February 2017 set out in the report for the redesign of the borough's statutory Library Service, Local History Centre and Archive and the retention of the Leather Museum at its current site, and
- (2) That the content of the petition be noted and consideration be given to the contents before the finalisation of budget proposals for 2017/18.

(b) **Save Aldridge Library**

A report was submitted.

Ms. Kerry Shaw presented the petition. She referred to the importance of the library as a hub which was a vital resource for many residents, including the vulnerable. She further referred to a wide range of clubs and activities that were based at the library which would be at risk should it be closed.

Councillors J. Fitzpatrick, Murray, Wilson, S. Coughlan and Bird spoke to the item, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

- (1) That Council note the decision of Cabinet of 8th February 2017 set out in the report for the redesign of the borough's statutory Library Service, which includes the retention of Aldridge Library, and
- (2) That the content of the petition be noted and consideration be given to the contents before the finalisation of budget proposals for 2017/18.

95. **Questions by members of the public**

(1) **Government funding**

Mr. M. Lynch asked the following question of Councillor S. Coughlan:

“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?”

Councillor S. Coughlan replied stating that the campaign had started a few years ago and was not a new initiative. MP's had continually raised the issue in Parliament and every labour member continued to raise awareness of the impacts of the reduction in funding. He referred to a campaign led by the Black Country Leaders to formulate a campaign to challenge government cuts.

Mr. Lynch asked the following supplementary question:

“The Council needed to plan ahead and should have argued for cuts to services in a more organised way. The Council boasts about cutting services whilst still delivering services. However, in 2020 there will be no discretionary services and no power other than to act as a transmission belt for central government”

Councillor Coughlan replied re-iterating that there will be a new campaign. That said he emphasised that Councils were required by law to set a legal budget. Communities needed to come together as one to challenge the cuts by central government.

(2) **Adult social care**

Mr. P. Rymer asked the following question of Councillor D. Coughlan:

“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.”

Councillor D. Coughlan replied that Adult Social Care would be required to save approximately £17m over the next 3 years. It would do this in four ways:

“Reduce the number of staff who work for adult social care in the Council. This is possible as Walsall compares as a higher spender on staffing in some areas when compared to other local authorities. This will mean losing some specialist roles and expanding the remit of the remaining staff to take on a wider set of tasks. We believe this is achievable without losing the capacity and timeliness of our responses to customers. Initial changes

have actually resulted in quicker response times and better continuity of staff working with a family (rather than previously changing workers regularly.)

The Council currently provides a range of what are termed “universal services.” This means they are available to most people, irrespective of “eligibility” criteria i.e. that which determines in law if someone has their needs met by a public funded service. Many of these services are ceasing or downsizing over the next 2 years to take account of the funding pressures referred to. It is very difficult to quantify the impact of the loss/downsizing of these services on groups of people. Each group/cohort has been consulted and whilst no one would commend the ending of their support, a number of groups and organisations will continue to provide that support, but it may be for less hours or in a different way than it is currently provided.

The Council provides very few of its own internal services, but does still run two days services for people with complex disabilities and a respite centre to give carers a break. On the respite, the occupancy rates are low at 39%, so the proposal is that the Council purchases respite from the market in the same way as it does for residential and nursing care. This produces a saving for not running a centre that is well under half occupied. On the day centres, there are some older people affected but this is mainly those who are not eligible for a service but still choose to attend. Over time those people will be supported to do other wider activities in the community at a lower level of support that better matches their needs.

The spend on care is the fourth and main area of change. Walsall compares as having a higher allocation on the amount of care provided and in some cases, the costs of care paid for. Thus the approach is twofold: better moderate the care that people require to meet their needs; and ensure through appropriate commissioning and market management that the price of care is favourable when looking at comparator types of provision “

In summary Councillor Coughlan said that all older people who had an eligible need for care would continue to be provided with that care in Walsall. No one would be denied care and support as a result of these spending pressures. However, the care provided overall would be less than that historically provided in Walsall. There would be greater use of independent providers for some types of support, thus reducing the amount that the Council delivered itself.

Mr. R. Rymer asked the following supplementary question:

“If services can be delivered with a reduced budget how much money could have been saved over previous years if this delivery model had been implemented?”

Councillor Coughlan said that she would arrange for an answer to be provided in writing.

(3) Impact of planned cuts

Mr. C. Isham asked the following question of Councillor S. Coughlan:

“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.”

Councillor Coughlan thanked Mr. Isham for his question and replied as follows:

“The Council has followed the practice that has been in place for many years in arriving at the budget for consideration this evening.

Based upon the medium term financial outlook, the Cabinet considered a wide range of approaches and opted to publically consult upon those propositions which, although unpalatable were the least demanding to the people and communities of Walsall.

We considered, where appropriate, equality impact assessments and took mitigating actions. You can find a summary of the cumulative impacts starting on page 32 (section 11.10) of the budget papers. Section 11.22 also refers to the positive impacts of some proposals on people with protected characteristics.

Cabinet members and many other members of the Council attended open meetings and we received written submissions.

The Cabinet proposals were considered at the Council’s Scrutiny Panels all of which are open meetings.

The cuts that this Council is having to make are necessary because of significant reductions in Government grant made over recent years and scheduled into the future.

If the budget is approved this evening, officers will implement the proposals on which the budget is based. As they are implemented, both officers and Members will monitor the implications.

We will be careful to track the outcomes. If over time, new opportunities present themselves we will make adjustments within the approved spending levels set by the Council.

There is no other option. We will balance any adjustments with compensatory savings elsewhere.”

(4) Work with children and young people

Mr. E. Frankham asked the following question of Councillor Burley:

“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?”

Councillor Burley replied that the Council was working on a number of fronts to help the young people of Walsall through positive actions including:

“The successful Walsall Works programme, that’s using Council funding to create and support both Pre and Full Apprenticeships, together with a job matching service that places young people aged 18-24 directly into employment. So far Walsall Works has supported 2,292 young people into work or an apprenticeship since it began in July 2012.

Since Walsall Works began in 2012 it has supported a significant reduction in those young people claiming Jobseekers Allowance and Universal Credit, for over 16’s reducing it from 6.3% to today’s rate of 2.9%, and for 18-24 year olds from 12.8% to 4.7%, these significant reductions are better than our Black Country neighbours.

Walsall is also a delivering as part of the Black Country EU funded IMPACT programme, which has provided around £6million, matched to around £2million of our own funding to support our young people aged between 16 and 29 who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) into positive outcomes.

The programme started in July 2016 and through a mix of direct delivery and commissioned services matched to individuals needs aims to support 3504 young people with 1741 completing their activities and 1073 entering either education or employment. So far up to 16 December, so far the 380 beneficiaries recruited have achieved: 150 Interventions (e.g. IAG sessions or elements of training) completed, 6 placed into employment and 13 entering training, including 3 securing an Apprenticeship.”

Councillor Burley said that all of these programmes relied on positive relationships with local education providers, the voluntary sector and employers to ensure young people got the training and support they needed to enter into and sustain employment, the Council had built over many years and was sustaining excellent relationships with all of these groups.

(5) Independent Living Fund

On behalf of Mrs. C. Stringer the Chief Executive asked the following question of Councillor D. Coughlan:

“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?”

Councillor D. Coughlan replied that responsibility for the Independent Living Fund was devolved to local authorities from 1st July 2015. With the responsibility came un-ring fenced Section 31 funding.

The Council approved that this funding would not be ring-fenced specifically for ILF clients but would become part of the Adult Social Care Funding to support both former ILF clients and others with eligible needs under the Care Act 2014.

She said that there had not been any specific savings options to seek to reduce this support going forward and any changes would be due to change in need, or identification of alternate support options, when a client had a review.

(6) Bin collections

On behalf of Mrs. P. Gibson the Chief Executive asked the following question of Councillor Jones:

“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?”

Councillor Jones replied as follows:

“The same refuse collection arrangements are in place for all households within the borough.

There are no different arrangements in place for the disposal of excess waste for people who are elderly, infirm or are unable to drive or do not have access to a vehicle.

The capacity of wheeled bins provided for the collection of dry recycling and residual waste is dependent on the size of the household and is considered sufficient for the disposal of normal amounts of household waste if recycling is carried out correctly.

Weekly collections are provided over the Christmas and New Year period where it is acknowledged additional waste may be produced and a separate Bulky Waste Collection service is available for large items of household waste that can not fit into the wheeled bin.

Larger bins are available for people who produce more waste due to medical needs and assisted collections are available for the elderly or infirm who have difficulty manoeuvring their bins.”

He said that further details on the waste collection service could be found on the Council's website.

(7) Arts provision

Mr. M. Webster asked the following question of Councillor J. Fitzpatrick:

“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.”

Councillor J. Fitzpatrick replied as follows:

“There are a lot of things we would like to do that we cannot afford; and increasingly we will not be able to afford all we have to do without difficult choices.

Walsall has operated its Creative Development Team (CDT) for some considerable time and its three original senior officers have worked for Walsall since 1994, 1995 and 1998. They have undertaken some excellent work and been involved in many different projects and initiatives.

Arts Development is a discretionary service and it has to be subsidised. Whilst it has successfully brought in external funding totalling £644,000, the council has also put in £1.359m over the same period. Overspends and under achievement of income have historically been met from elsewhere within the Leisure budget however this flexibility no longer exists.

CDT undeniably does good work although it relies on attracting commissioned (paid for) work. As the Council and its budget has shrunk in recent years, CDT has consistently been unable to meet its income targets and over the last five years this shortfall (over what was budgeted to deliver the service) has totalled £125k.

For the last ten months we had chosen to align CDT to the New Art Gallery to give it some additional management support however this arrangement has also been unable to allocate additional resources to support the team.

Of the three original managers, two have now left and as a result the team's capacity to undertake new work, attract funding and become self-sustaining is diminished.

In February 2016 Council asked that CDT should become self-sustaining. In short, it could not. It's always disappointing when things come to the end of the road however it is likely that more and more Council services will be faced with a similar situation (and the difficult decisions) over the next few years.

The proposal to remove the £74,000 Community Cohesion funding has been removed by Cabinet at its meeting of the 8 February 2017."

96. **The Combined Authorities Mayoral Elections Order – Appointment of Local Returning Officer**

A report was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Jeavons and:

Resolved

That the Council appoint the Chief Executive as Local Returning Officer for the election of the Combined Authority Mayor.

97. **Order of business**

It was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That the order of business for the meeting be changed so that the Items 12, 13 and 14 be taken before the item 11 – Recommendations of Cabinet relating to the (a) Corporate Budget Plan and (b) Corporate Plan.

98. **Recommendation of Audit Committee – Independent member to Audit Committee**

The report to Audit Committee was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Chambers, seconded by Councillor Craddock and:

Resolved

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.

99. **Portfolio holder report**

A report was submitted.

Councillor Nawaz, portfolio holder for personnel and business support gave a presentation.

Members asked questions in relation to the presentation which were responded to by Councillor Nawaz.

100. **Notice of motion – Pelsall Library**

The following motion, notice of which had been duly given was **moved** by Councillor Perry and seconded by Councillor Longhi:

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.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared **lost** – on the Mayor's casting vote – the voting at the request of several Members of the Council being recorded as follows:

**For the motion -
30 members**

Cllr: Bird
E. Hazell
Allen
Andrew
Bennett
C. Bott
P. Bott
Clarke
Cooper
Craddock
Douglas-Maul

**Against the motion -
30 members**

Cllr: S. Coughlan
Shires
Barker
Burley
Chambers
Clews
D. Coughlan
Creaney
A. Ditta
S. Ditta
J. Fitzpatrick

Ferguson	S. Fitzpatrick
Follows	Gultasib
Harris	Hussain
Harrison	James
D. Hazell	Jeavons
Hicken	Jones
Hughes	Jukes
Kudhail	Nawaz
Longhi	A. Nazir
Martin	M. Nazir
Murray	Phillips
Perry	Robertson
Rattigan	Russell
Rochelle	Sarohi
Sears	Underhill
Sohal	Ward
Towe	Wade
Washbrook	Worrall
Wilson	Young

101. **Recommendations of Cabinet**

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

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

The Mayor referred to the supplementary paper previously circulated in buff which set out the revised recommendation of Cabinet taking into account the final precepts, grant allocations and technical guidance

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan and seconded by Councillor Jeavons:

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. **£620,507,985** 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. **£512,036,546** 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.
- 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.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared **carried** – on the Mayor's casting vote – the voting at the request of several members of the Council being recorded as follows:

For the motion - 30 members

Cllr: S. Coughlan
Shires
Barker
Burley
Chambers
Clews
D. Coughlan
Creaney
A. Ditta
S. Ditta
J. Fitzpatrick
S. Fitzpatrick
Gultasib
Hussain
James
Jeavons
Jones
Jukes
Nawaz
A. Nazir
M. Nazir
Phillips
Robertson
Russell
Sarohi
Underhill
Ward
Wade
Worrall
Young

Against the motion - 30 members

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

and it was:

Resolved

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 **£620,507,985** 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 **£512,036,546** 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

- h) 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

- i) 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.

- 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

New Capital Bids	
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.

(b) **Corporate Plan**

The report to Cabinet was submitted:

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Jeavons and:

Resolved

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

The meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.