

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Thursday 27th February 2020 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor P. Bott (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor R. Burley (Deputy Mayor)

“ G. Ali
“ B. Allen
“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.J. Barker
“ H. Bashir
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ O. Butler
“ B. Chattha
“ A.G. Clarke
“ S.J. Cooper
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ S.K. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ K. Ferguson
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ M. Follows
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ A.J. Hicken
“ K. Hussain
“ L.D. Jeavons

Councillor T.J. Jukes

“ P. Kaur
“ M. Longhi
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ F. Mazhar
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ A.S. Nazir
“ S.L. Neville
“ G. Perry
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ I.C. Robertson
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ I. Shires
“ G. Singh Sohal
“ C.A. Statham
“ M.A. Statham
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ S. Wade
“ M. Ward
“ V.J. Waters
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

79. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors James, Johal, Nasreen, Rasab and Underhill.

80. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2020 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

81. **Declarations of interest**

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

83. **Mayor's announcements**

Death of the Rt. Hon. Bruce George

The Mayor referred to the death of Bruce George former MP for Walsall South. He said that his wife Lisa George wished to listen to the tributes to her husband and was on her way to the meeting. The Mayor said he would ask for tributes when she arrived.

84. **Petitions**

The following petitions were submitted:

- (a) Councillor M. Statham – resolve parking issues in Church Street, Bloxwich
- (b) Councillor Worrall – Save Radleys Wood

85. **Petition: “Stop the horrendous smell at Highfields Waste Disposal Site Walsall Wood”**

A report was submitted.

Mrs. Natalie Gallagher presented the petition

Resolved

That the petition and representations be noted.

86. **Questions**

(1) **From members of the public**

Swannies Field and the Lea

Mr. P.E. Smith asked the following question:

- “Given: (a) that in a recent Black County Green Belt study, one of the Walsall areas identified for possible (emphasis on the word possible) housing development, is an important stretch of green belt known locally as Swannies Field and the Lea, what I describe as the “lungs” of Goscote and situated in the Blakenall ward,
- (b) that at this stage in the process, it is acknowledged that Walsall Council has not made any decision on this piece of land or indeed any other named pieces of land, with regard to being sites for future housing development,
- (c) that local residents, especially those in the Goscote, Harden and Ryecroft areas of the Blakenall ward are aware of and grateful for the part Walsall Council under the leadership of Cllr. Mike Bird, played by withdrawing Council support in 2012 to build on the part of this green belt, known as the Lea, perceived locally at the time as the Council backing the local residents rather than the developers, and
- (d) that Walsall Council, since 2012 has “put its money where its mouth is” by upgrading the Lea and investing in its improvement and maintenance as well as supporting the investment on adjacent Swannies Field, where new pathways and a children’s park have been installed,

will the appropriate Portfolio holder inform me, the Council and the public of the approximate monetary cost to the Council since 2012 of its investment on

Swannies Field and the Lea, which has been for the betterment of the local community?”

Councillor Andrew replied:

“As the question recognises, the issue has been raised by press reports about the publication of some evidence documents that are to help inform work on the Black Country Plan. As Members will know, the Council is working with the boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton to seek to meet the projected development needs of the Black Country to 2038. The plan-making process is at a relatively early stage, with evidence being prepared, and there will be at least two stages of public consultation before the Black Country Plan would be submitted to the Secretary of State. No decisions or proposals have yet been made about any sites.

At Swannies Field and The Lea major improvements were undertaken between September 2016 and May 2017. The works included new paths, towpath improvements, landscaping, park/street furniture, play equipment and other recreational equipment. The works were delivered by the Council and funded via a grant secured by Walsall Housing Group through the Black Country Local Growth Fund. The grant amount for the open space works (including design, planning, and fees) totalled £1,002,600. Such improvements will be fully taken into account, together with information on the amounts of open space available and how it benefits residents, in the work on open spaces across the borough.”

Mr. Smith asked a supplementary question to which Councillor Andrew said that the Council would not be bringing any development proposals forward for these two sites.

(b) Questions by members of the Council

(1) Children living in poverty, employment and living wage

Councillor Shires asked the following question:

“Some wards in Walsall have up to at least 40% of children living in poverty, the majority of which have at least one parent in full time work.

Can the Leader of this Council inform me and this Council of the following:

- The total % of working age people in the borough in employment
- The current average earnings across the borough
- What % of those in employment in the borough earning less than the living wage?”

Councillor Bird replied:

“(1) In September 2019 the latest Office for National Statistics figures stated

that for Walsall borough, 70% of working age residents were in employment. This is in line with the Black Country Average, and in numbers terms for Walsall equates to 123,500 people.

The numbers of people in work has increased year on year over the last 5 years, but still falls short of the national average at almost 76%, but we are moving in the right direction.

- (2) The average full time annual earnings level for Walsall residents as detailed in the September 2019 Office for National Statistics report was £26,345 a year or £518.50 a week (before tax).

This is slightly above the average for the Black Country, but below the national average at £30,748.

- (3) The national living wage for people working outside London in 2019 was set at £9.00 per hour, at that time the Walsall average hourly earnings, calculated by the Office for National Statistics was £12.65.

Looking at those who may fall below the living wage, the Office for National Statics (ONS) have done some additional analysis that suggests that around 26% of the jobs held by Walsall residents fall below the living wage. With part time jobs being the more likely to pay below the living wage.”

(2) School funding

Councillor Shires asked the following question:

“Would the portfolio holder for Education and Skills agree with me that education is one route out of poverty? But if you are attending school hungry you are clearly not going to achieve your education potential. Further, to stack the odds against these children, many schools in this borough receive considerably less funding per pupil than the national average.

University isn’t for everyone, but it is sobering to consider that your parents’ wealth rather than your intelligence is a more accurate indicator as to whether you will attend university. Can the portfolio holder for Education and Skills provide me and this Council with the % deviation in schools funding for schools in the borough from the national average?”

Councillor Towe replied:

1. Walsall Council receives a grant, the Dedicated Schools Grant, from the Department for Education (DfE) to fund the provision of education within Walsall. Within the grant is the ‘Schools Block’ of funding, which provides funding for mainstream schools and academies within Walsall.
2. This allocation of funding to the Council was previously, before 2018/19, based in the main on historical spending on education in each area of the country.

However following consultations undertaken by the DfE during 2016 and 2017, a Schools National Funding Formula (NFF) has been utilised from April 2018 to allocate funding to each authority.

3. The DfE believe this will eventually lead to a more equitable distribution of funding to different areas, as it will be driven by underlying levels of need rather than historical spending patterns, however it will take a number of years to fully embed as the DfE is utilising a series of caps and collars to limit the annual increases and decreases per authority to ensure these are manageable.
4. Based on the current position with implementation of the NFF, the Schools Block funding allocations for 2020/21 show that the average funding per pupil across England will be £4,844.80. The corresponding funding per pupil being allocated to Walsall for 2020/21 will be £4,912.45 – 1.41% higher than the England average.
5. However the England average masks a large differentiation between authorities, with those in the top 10 of funding per pupil all receiving above £6,000 per pupil, and those in the bottom 10 receiving around £4,500 per pupil – with Walsall and other West Midlands Authorities broadly in the middle of the funding range overall.

87. Recommendation of Cabinet - Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2019-20

The report to Cabinet on 12th February 2020 was submitted.

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

Resolved

That the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2019-20 be approved and adopted.

88. Corporate Plan 2018-2021 refresh

The report to Cabinet on 12th February 2020 was submitted.

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

Resolved

That the refreshed Corporate Plan 2018-20 be approved.

89. Recommendation of Personnel Committee – Pay policy statement and living wage 2020/21

A report was submitted.

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

Resolved

- (1) That Council approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2020 / 2021.
- (2) That Council approve the continuation of the living wage as detailed within the Pay Policy (section 6.5) and section 4.2, option a, of the report.
- (3) That Council approve delegation for the Executive Director of Resources and Transformation to authorise the Pay Policy to be updated to reflect any amended authorisation levels that may result in response to the implementation of One Source, the Council's new integrated HR / Payroll / Finance / Procurement system due to be implemented in 2020.

90. Portfolio holder briefing – Personnel and business support

A report was submitted.

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

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

Arising from the presentation Councillors Shires, Hussain and Nawaz asked further questions. Councillor Chattha said she would provide the members concerned with a written response.

91. Changes in membership of Committees

Resolved

That the following changes in membership of Committees by the Conservative Group for the remainder of the municipal year be noted:

- (a) Audit Committee: Councillor Rasab as Vice-Chair in place of Councillor Craddock.
- (b) Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Johal in place of Councillor Craddock.
- (c) Health and Wellbeing Board: Councillor Craddock as Chair of the Board.

92. **Notice of motion – Year of the Nurse and Midwife**

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

The World Health Organisation has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife in recognition of the work done throughout the world by health professionals. This motion calls for their contribution to our communities to be recognised and reminds us of the progress that has been made.

Council notes that:

World Health Organisation has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, and that this will be celebrated across the world.

- Internationally, nurses undertake valuable services in hospitals and community settings for the prevention, treatment and after care of people from all age groups, despite social status, creed or ethnicity.
- Two hundred years ago in the UK, Florence Nightingale was born in May 1820 and went on to become a social reformer and founder of modern nursing. The reforms that Florence brought to hospitals and health care made a marked difference, and her influence remains to this day. This anniversary will also be celebrated.

Council also notes that:

- For hundreds of years, Walsall's citizens have benefitted from the provision of an assortment of clinics, dispensaries, alms-houses, workhouses and hospitals to treat a range of conditions and illnesses.

Considering these developments in health care provision, Council recognises:

- Council was for many years the employer of hundreds of nurses who served our population as Hospital staff, District Nurses, School Nurses and Health Visitors.
- That nurses provide 50% of the health care workforce locally, nationally and internationally and that many more are needed to continue health provision.
- The contribution of a wide range of health professionals to the development of comprehensive health care from emergency to community care for our citizens.

In consideration of the WHO International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, Council therefore resolves:

- To recognise the contribution of Nurses and Midwives to the health and wellbeing of Walsall by a series of special events such as special wall plaques, a reception, letters of appreciation and exhibitions in libraries, museums and public spaces.

Amendment moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew:

The World Health Organisation has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife in recognition of the work done throughout the world by health professionals. This motion calls for their contribution to our communities to be recognised and reminds us of the progress that has been made.

Council notes that:

World Health Organisation has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife, and that this will be celebrated across the world.

- Internationally, nurses undertake valuable services in hospitals and community settings for the prevention, treatment and after care of people from all age groups, despite social status, creed or ethnicity.
- Two hundred years ago in modern day Italy, Florence Nightingale was born in May 1820 and went on to become a social reformer and founder of modern nursing. The reforms that Florence brought to hospitals and health care made a marked difference, and her influence remains to this day. This anniversary will also be celebrated.

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- That nurses provide 50% of the health care workforce locally, nationally and internationally and that many more are needed to continue health provision.
- The contribution of a wide range of health professionals to the development of comprehensive health care from emergency to community care for our citizens.

In consideration of the WHO International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, Council therefore resolves:

- To recognise the contribution of Nurses and Midwives, and in particular Sister Dora, to the health and wellbeing of Walsall by a series of special events, in conjunction with the Manor Hospital, such as special wall plaques, a reception, letters of appreciation and exhibitions in libraries, museums and public spaces.

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

The substantive motion was put to the vote, declared carried and it was:

Resolved

The World Health Organisation has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and Midwife in recognition of the work done throughout the world by health professionals. This motion calls for their contribution to our communities to be recognised and reminds us of the progress that has been made.

Council notes that:

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- That nurses provide 50% of the health care workforce locally, nationally and internationally and that many more are needed to continue health provision.
- The contribution of a wide range of health professionals to the development of comprehensive health care from emergency to community care for our citizens.

In consideration of the WHO International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, Council therefore resolves:

- To recognise the contribution of Nurses and Midwives, and in particular Sister Dora, to the health and wellbeing of Walsall by a series of special events, in

conjunction with the Manor Hospital, such as special wall plaques, a reception, letters of appreciation and exhibitions in libraries, museums and public spaces.

At 7.00 p.m. the Council adjourned and reconvened at 7.10 p.m.

93. Death of the Rt. Hon. Bruce George

With Mrs. L. George in attendance the Mayor asked for tributes to the late Rt. Hon. Bruce George. The Mayor and Councillors Burley, Bird, Nawaz, Shires, Martin, Gultasib, M. Nazir, Worrall, Robertson and S. Coughlan paid tribute to Mr. George's services to Walsall over a period of many years. Following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That this Council have heard with deep regret of the death of The Rt. Hon. Bruce George, Member of Parliament for Walsall South from 1974 to 2010 and Freeman of the Borough and places on record their appreciation of his services to the borough over a period of many years and expresses its condolences to his family at this sad time.

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

94. Recommendation of Cabinet – Corporate Budget Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 and treasury management and investment strategy 2020/21

The Mayor reminded members that a recorded vote would be required on the final budget recommendation.

He also said that the final precepts and settlements had now been received and there were no changes to the figures in the budget recommendation.

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

That the following be approved:

(1) Revenue

- (a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2019/20 as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan".
- (b) A Walsall Council net council tax requirement for 2019/20 of £121.37m and a 3.99% increase in council tax (inclusive of 1% precept 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 £13.8m, as set out in Annex 10 of the Budget Plan.

- (d) The levies below for outside bodies:

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Levy	11,137,950
Environment agency	81,474

- (e) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended)

- I. **£627,825,478** 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. **£506,452,033** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- III. **£121,373,445** 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. **£1,714.49** being the amount at (e) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of 70,792.74 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
1,142.99	1,333.49	1,523.99	1,714.49
E	F	G	H
2,095.49	2,476.49	2,857.48	3,428.98

- (f) The precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and 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
	101.70	118.65	135.60	152.55
	E	F	G	H
	186.45	220.35	254.25	305.10
Fire & Rescue	A	B	C	D
	40.40	47.13	53.86	60.60
	E	F	G	H
	74.07	87.53	101.00	121.20

- (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 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

A	B	C	D
1,285.09	1,499.27	1,713.45	1,927.64
E	F	G	H
2,356.01	2,784.37	3,212.73	3,855.28

- (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 “Express & Star” 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, billing, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- (j) That the Chief Finance Officer be given delegated 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.

(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 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) The capital strategy set out in Annex 8 of the Budget Plan be approved.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – COUNCIL FUNDED SCHEMES			
Scheme	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £
<i>Ongoing implications of prior year approvals (new spend)</i>			
Supporting transformation - Looked after children – out of borough placements.	150,000	150,000	
Supporting transformation - Looked after children – 2/3 bedroomed small residential home	60,000	60,000	
Traffic Signals - Replacement of obsolete traffic signal control equipment		200,000	200,000
Provision of community dropped crossings along footways	20,000	20,000	20,000
Promotion of Community Health and Safety	120,000	120,000	120,000
Public Realm Improvements – contribution to NPIF external funding	229,500		
Open water safety schemes – signage	2,000	5,000	2,000
Streetly Crematorium - Installation of air conditioning units and refurbishment of public toilets	215,351		
M6 Junction 10 road improvements in partnership with Highways England (grant)		650,000	
Walsall Arboretum Extension and Country Park – infrastructure improvements		190,000	
Procurement of system for Human Resources management and Oracle financials	1,400,000		
Maintaining a safe and secure environment - review of ICT infrastructure	2,949,000		
Service improvement for single mobile device management solution	51,000		
<i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i>			
Memorial Safety in Walsall cemeteries	40,000	40,000	40,000
Highway Maintenance Programme – legal responsibility to maintain the highway network	2,600,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
Aids and Adaptations, Preventative Adaptations and Supporting Independence	400,000	400,000	400,000
Health through warmth	75,000	75,000	75,000
Funding to support essential works including health and safety	750,000	750,000	750,000
<i>New Capital Bids</i>			
School classrooms – requirement for temporary builds due to condition of existing facilities.	250,000		
School estate condition surveys	250,000		
Streetly Youth Club Demolition Works - and to secure the perimeter and make good the area adjacent to Streetly Library and St Annes Primary School	22,000		
New rail stations at Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge – local 10% contribution	1,000,000	1,000,000	500,000
Yorks bridge – increased funding for construction of replacement bridge			750,000
A454 Black Country Route carriageway surface treatment	450,000		
Hatherton Road MSCP structural maintenance	200,000		
Willenhall Lane Cemetery Extension / Development of land for burials	832,800	525,600	

Scheme	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £
Town Centre Master Plan Development	250,000		
Willenhall Lane Travellers site pumping station pump replacement		44,400	
ICT telephony		500,000	
ICT windows server 2008 upgrade	200,000		
CCTV – replacement of 5 cameras and 3 backup	150,000		
Civic Centre window replacement – improving energy efficiency			1,307,025
Civic Centre plumbing – non heating related			66,600
Council House smoke and heat detection, fire alarm	333,000		
Council House general heating	50,000	1,085,000	1,085,000
Council House fire doors / fire seals		55,500	
Print and design upgraded lighting and ventilation system	24,000		
Council Chamber and Committee Room Audio Visual system and seating refurbishment	200,000		
Replacement cemeteries administration system	75,000		
Replacement fencing at Streetly cemetery	16,000		
Strategic Acquisition for Third Sector Hub and operational accommodation - purchase of accommodation to support the formation of a third sector co-located hub and provide additional office accommodation for the Council to support its ongoing rationalisation of its operational estate.	2,527,148		
Operational repair and maintenance of council owned buildings	500,000		
Total	16,391,799	8,670,500	8,115,625

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 - SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES	Estimated Value £
Basic Need school allocation (grant)	11,981,629
Devolved Formula Capital school allocation (grant)	534,800
Capital Maintenance school allocation (grant)	2,222,387
Special provision fund – provision for pupils with special educational needs (grant)	319,229
M6 Junction 10 road improvements in partnership with Highways England (grant)	14,270,000
LTP Highway Maintenance Programme (grant)	1,943,000
West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (STP) ‘Movement for Growth’	1,279,000
Growth Deal (grant)	19,044,119
National Productivity Investment Fund Programme for junction and cycling improvements (grant)	2,601,500
Integrated Community Equipment Store – specialised equipment as part of BCF (grant)	750,000
Disabled Facilities Grant – supports the council’s statutory requirement to provide disabled facility grants (DFGs) (grant).	2,145,000
Total	57,090,664

CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST 2019/20 – MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	Estimated Value £
School classrooms – temporary builds due to condition of existing facilities	250,000
School estate condition surveys	350,000
Further provision for Highways maintenance programme	200,000
Further provision for Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence	250,000
Further provision for Health Through Warmth – tackling fuel poverty	75,000
Total	1,125,000

LEASING PROGRAMME 2018/19	Expenditure £
Refuse vehicles	359,000
Light commercial vehicles	479,000
Tractors and agricultural machinery	194,000
Welfare vehicles	48,000
Equipment	118,000
Total	1,198,000

(3) Treasury Management

- (a) That Section B – Part 2 A – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2019/20 onwards, 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.

(d) That Section B – Part 2 B – Treasury Management Policies, be approved.

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried – the voting being recorded as follows:

**For the motion –
29 members**

Cllr: Bird
Ali
Allen
Andrew
Butler
Chattha
Clarke
Cooper
Craddock
Douglas-Maul
Ferguson
Follows
Harris
Harrison
Hicken
Kaur
Longhi
Martin
Murray
Neville
Perry
Rattigan
Sears
Sohal
C. Statham
M. Statham
Towe
Waters
Wilson

**Against the motion –
24 members**

Cllr: Nawaz
Shires
Barker
Bashir
C. Bott
P. Bott
Burley
D. Coughlan
S. Coughlan
Ditta
Fitzpatrick
Gultasib
Hussain
Jeavons
Jukes
Mazhar
A. Nazir
M. Nazir
Robertson
Sarohi
Ward
Wade
Worrall
Young

and it was:

Resolved

That the following be approved:

(1) Revenue

(e) The allocation of revenue resources for 2019/20 as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.

- (b) A Walsall Council net council tax requirement for 2019/20 of £121.37m and a 3.99% increase in council tax (inclusive of 1% precept 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 £13.8m, as set out in Annex 10 of the Budget Plan.
- (d) The levies below for outside bodies:

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Levy	11,137,950
Environment agency	81,474

- (e) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended)
- I. **£627,825,478** 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. **£506,452,033** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - III. **£121,373,445** 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. **£1,714.49** being the amount at (e) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of 70,792.74 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
1,142.99	1,333.49	1,523.99	1,714.49
E	F	G	H
2,095.49	2,476.49	2,857.48	3,428.98

- (f) The precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and 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
	101.70	118.65	135.60	152.55
	E	F	G	H
	186.45	220.35	254.25	305.10
Fire & Rescue	A	B	C	D
	40.40	47.13	53.86	60.60
	E	F	G	H
	74.07	87.53	101.00	121.20

- (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 2019/20 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

A	B	C	D
1,285.09	1,499.27	1,713.45	1,927.64
E	F	G	H
2,356.01	2,784.37	3,212.73	3,855.28

- (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 "Express & Star" newspaper circulating in the Authority's area.
- (ii) 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, billing, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- (j) That the Chief Finance Officer be given delegated 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.

(2) Capital

- (a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 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.
- (h) 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) The capital strategy set out in Annex 8 of the Budget Plan be approved.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – COUNCIL FUNDED SCHEMES			
Scheme	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £
<i>Ongoing implications of prior year approvals (new spend)</i>			
Supporting transformation - Looked after children – out of borough placements.	150,000	150,000	
Supporting transformation - Looked after children – 2/3 bedroomed small residential home	60,000	60,000	
Traffic Signals - Replacement of obsolete traffic signal control equipment		200,000	200,000
Provision of community dropped crossings along footways	20,000	20,000	20,000
Promotion of Community Health and Safety	120,000	120,000	120,000
Public Realm Improvements – contribution to NPIF external funding	229,500		
Open water safety schemes – signage	2,000	5,000	2,000
Streetly Crematorium - Installation of air conditioning units and refurbishment of public toilets	215,351		
M6 Junction 10 road improvements in partnership with Highways England (grant)		650,000	
Walsall Arboretum Extension and Country Park – infrastructure improvements		190,000	
Procurement of system for Human Resources management and Oracle financials	1,400,000		
Maintaining a safe and secure environment - review of ICT infrastructure	2,949,000		
Service improvement for single mobile device management solution	51,000		
<i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i>			
Memorial Safety in Walsall cemeteries	40,000	40,000	40,000
Highway Maintenance Programme – legal responsibility to maintain the highway network	2,600,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
Aids and Adaptations, Preventative Adaptations and Supporting Independence	400,000	400,000	400,000
Health through warmth	75,000	75,000	75,000
Funding to support essential works including health and safety	750,000	750,000	750,000
<i>New Capital Bids</i>			
School classrooms – requirement for temporary builds due to condition of existing facilities.	250,000		
School estate condition surveys	250,000		
Streetly Youth Club Demolition Works - and to secure the perimeter and make good the area adjacent to Streetly Library and St Annes Primary School	22,000		
New rail stations at Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge – local 10% contribution	1,000,000	1,000,000	500,000
Yorks bridge – increased funding for construction of replacement bridge			750,000
A454 Black Country Route carriageway surface treatment	450,000		
Hatherton Road MSCP structural maintenance	200,000		
Willenhall Lane Cemetery Extension / Development of land for burials	832,800	525,600	

Scheme	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £
Town Centre Master Plan Development	250,000		
Willenhall Lane Travellers site pumping station pump replacement		44,400	
ICT telephony		500,000	
ICT windows server 2008 upgrade	200,000		
CCTV – replacement of 5 cameras and 3 backup	150,000		
Civic Centre window replacement – improving energy efficiency			1,307,025
Civic Centre plumbing – non heating related			66,600
Council House smoke and heat detection, fire alarm	333,000		
Council House general heating	50,000	1,085,000	1,085,000
Council House fire doors / fire seals		55,500	
Print and design upgraded lighting and ventilation system	24,000		
Council Chamber and Committee Room Audio Visual system and seating refurbishment	200,000		
Replacement cemeteries administration system	75,000		
Replacement fencing at Streetly cemetery	16,000		
Strategic Acquisition for Third Sector Hub and operational accommodation - purchase of accommodation to support the formation of a third sector co-located hub and provide additional office accommodation for the Council to support its ongoing rationalisation of its operational estate.	2,527,148		
Operational repair and maintenance of council owned buildings	500,000		
Total	16,391,799	8,670,500	8,115,625

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 - SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES	Estimated Value £
Basic Need school allocation (grant)	11,981,629
Devolved Formula Capital school allocation (grant)	534,800
Capital Maintenance school allocation (grant)	2,222,387
Special provision fund – provision for pupils with special educational needs (grant)	319,229
M6 Junction 10 road improvements in partnership with Highways England (grant)	14,270,000
LTP Highway Maintenance Programme (grant)	1,943,000
West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (STP) 'Movement for Growth'	1,279,000
Growth Deal (grant)	19,044,119
National Productivity Investment Fund Programme for junction and cycling improvements (grant)	2,601,500
Integrated Community Equipment Store – specialised equipment as part of BCF (grant)	750,000
Disabled Facilities Grant – supports the council's statutory requirement to provide disabled facility grants (DFGs) (grant).	2,145,000
Total	57,090,664

CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST 2019/20 – MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	Estimated Value £
School classrooms – temporary builds due to condition of existing facilities	250,000
School estate condition surveys	350,000
Further provision for Highways maintenance programme	200,000
Further provision for Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence	250,000
Further provision for Health Through Warmth – tackling fuel poverty	75,000
Total	1,125,000

LEASING PROGRAMME 2018/19	Expenditure £
Refuse vehicles	359,000
Light commercial vehicles	479,000
Tractors and agricultural machinery	194,000
Welfare vehicles	48,000
Equipment	118,000
Total	1,198,000

(3) Treasury Management

- (a) That Section B – Part 2 A – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2019/20 onwards, 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.
- (d) That Section B – Part 2 B – Treasury Management Policies, be approved.

The meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.