



Walsall Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the 10TH day of JANUARY 2022 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Town Hall, Walsall.

Public access via: <https://youtu.be/iR8qWi6sVMU>

Dated this 23rd day of December, 2021.

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 8th November, 2021 and Extra Ordinary meeting held on 17th November, 2021 **(pages 5 to 16)**
4. Declarations of interest.
5. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**
To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
6. Mayor's announcements.

7. To receive any petitions
8. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:
 - (a) From the public: None.
 - (b) From members of the Council: None.
9. To consider the following recommendation of **Audit Committee (pages 17 – 21)**:

To accept the Public Sector Audit Appointments' (PSAA) invitation to 'opt in' to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1 April 2023.

(Note: Report to Audit Committee on 22nd November, 2021 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)
10. To consider the following recommendations of **Cabinet**:
 - (a) **Treasury Management (pages 22 – 36)**

To note the mid-year position statement for treasury management activities 2021/22 including prudential and local indicators (Appendix A).

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 15th December, 2021 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)
 - (b) **Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (pages 37–169)**

To approve the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 and detailed in Appendix 2 to the report (appended), adopting the principles approved by Cabinet in September. Taking account of recent changes in the provision of welfare support nationally and having given regard to the equality impact assessment and consultation comments.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 15th December, 2021 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)
 - (c) **Food Law Enforcement Plan (pages 170 – 233)**

That the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan for the year 2021/22 be approved and adopted.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 15th December, 2021 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

11. **Portfolio holder briefings.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the following portfolios:

- (a) Deputy Leader and Regeneration – Councillor Andrew *(to follow)*
- (b) Adult Social Care – Councillor Pedley *(pages 234 to 239)*

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

12. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nawaz and Hussain.**

Section 9 of the Nationality and Borders Bill currently being pushed through parliament by the Conservative Government has created anxiety, alarm and real fear amongst the people of Walsall, particularly those from a BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) heritage.

Many have contacted their local councillors with concerns and fear of what this will mean for them.

This Council, taking note of the concerns of BAME communities in Walsall,

- expresses its opposition to Section 9 of this bill;
- Asks for this section to be completely removed from the bill;
- Stands with our BAME communities – British Citizens - who are scared of being removed from the United Kingdom without notice, the right of appeal or the right of legal representation; and
- Instructs the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to jointly write to the relevant minister informing them of our borough's opposition to this section of the bill.

13. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nawaz and Hussain.**

This Council asks for the removal of the 'bus gate' / bus lane restriction on Wolverhampton Street and demands Walsall Council reimburse all those that have been fined for driving through Wolverhampton Street.

13. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Bird and Andrew.**

This Council condemns the indulgent waste of tax payers money forced on the residents of this Borough by the Labour Party as they:-

- Called a By-Election for December, 2021 in the Pleck Ward, for a seat that had been vacant since July 2021. This seat would have been filled on May 5th, 2022, as part of the usual Election cycle; and
- Selected a candidate who was ineligible to stand as they were an employee of Walsall Council and so could not take the seat.

This Council therefore calls on officers to write to the Labour Party requesting that they reimburse Walsall MBC and Walsall Council tax payers for these aborted costs cira. £20,000.