



Walsall Council

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY 7TH day of NOVEMBER, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2011.

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 correct records and sign the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 12th September and 21st October, 2011.
4. Declarations of interest.
5. Mayor's announcements.
6. To receive any petitions.

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

(a) From the public

Mr. R. Worrall, Burrowes Street, Walsall – Director of New Art Gallery

"Would the Leader of the Council please identify the name of the organisation (or organisations) to which the Director of the New Art Gallery, Walsall, is accountable, and furnish me with a list of the respective membership of the said organisation(s)?"

(b) From members of the Council

(1) Councillor Cassidy - Recycling facilities

"Can the relevant portfolio holder please explain to me and this Council why residents have not, to date, been provided with easily accessible recycling facilities for batteries and fluorescent and energy-saving light bulbs – both of which contain dangerous chemicals and which cause land and water pollution when dumped in landfill. Furthermore, does the portfolio holder recognise that it is difficult for residents on foot to access facilities at Merchant's Way and Fryer's Road and that siting new facilities at libraries and/or town and district centres, as in other local authority areas, would prove to be a great help and improve levels of recycling."

(2) Councillor Robertson - Potholes

"Would Councillor Ansell reveal the current sq ft of potholes that currently are logged for permanent repair and those that are logged for temporary patching for each ward in Walsall and can you as part of this answer, circulate the result to this full council meeting in diagrammatic format?"

(3) Councillor D. Coughlan - Resurfacing and repairing potholes

"Given the apparent difference to the state of the roads in different parts of the borough, could Councillor Ansell tell me the amounts per ward spent on resurfacing and repairing potholes over the past 5 years.?"

(4) Councillor Jeavons – Green Lane car park

"Bearing in mind the potential sale to developers of the car park in Green Lane at the edge of the town centre could the portfolio holder tell myself, this Council and the public of Walsall how much revenue the Green Lane car park contributes to the transport budget on a monthly basis and therefore how much revenue would be lost to that budget?"

(5) Councillor Jeavons – Car parking revenue

"Can the portfolio holder tell me how much revenue the Council has lost as a result of the failure to encourage Tesco to introduce charging in it's on site car park?"

8. To note the result of the by-election for the **Bloxwich East Ward** held on 27th October 2011 as follows:

Names of candidates	No. of votes polled	Candidate elected
Beeley, Leslie Alan	834	
Bennett, Derek	98	
Fitzpatrick, Julie	922	Julie Fitzpatrick
Gebrakedan, Leandra Lola	16	
Newey, Christopher Martin	49	

Turnout 21.15%

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

(1) Walsall Housing Strategy 2011-2016

That the Housing Strategy 2011-2016 be adopted.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 14th September 2011 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

(2) Consultation documents – Amendment to scheme of delegations

(Cabinet – 12th October 2011)

That in the light of the number of consultation documents being received from various Government Departments, and in order that the Council's views on changing national policy and legislation can be known to Government without delay, paragraph 5.2(e) be deleted from the scheme of delegations to officers of non-executive functions which states that officers may not:

- (e) provide formal responses to any White Paper, Green Paper or other consultations likely to lead to policy changes or have significant impact upon services;

10. To confirm the following recommendations of **Audit Committee**:

(1) Annual report of Audit Committee 2010/11

That the annual report of the Audit Committee 2010/11 be approved.

(2) Annual report on Treasury Management 2010/11

That the following documents be noted and endorsed:

- (1) the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2010/11, as set out in Appendix A of the report;
- (2) the Treasury Management Policies, as set out in Appendix B;
- (3) the mid-year review April to August, 2011, as set out in Appendix C.

(Note: Reports to Audit Committee on 26th September 2011 relating to the above recommendations reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

11. Review of Polling Districts and Places. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. Portfolio holder briefings. To receive 5 minute presentations from the following portfolio holders:

- Regeneration (Councillor A. Andrew)
- Social care and health (Councillor McCracken)

Copies of the presentations are reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

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

13. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors Robertson, Sarohi, Chambers, Russell, Thomas and Young:

Council notes that our NHS is undergoing the most radical reorganisation since inception by a Labour Secretary of Health Aneurin Bevan in July 1948 , with the costs of £5 billion of these changes set to probably exceed savings.

Council expresses concern at recent reports indicating that currently there are serious issues to monitor here in Walsall.

- waiting times of over 1 year at the Manor hospital for those wishing to have treatment has increased by 600%
- the report went to the Board of the Walsall Healthcare Trust in September revealed that an average of 22 incidents or near misses occurred per week over the year to March 2011 in our hospital's maternity services
- that the recent CQC inspection revealed some failings in nutritional and hydration needs in the care of our elderly patents.
- note that all professional NHS bodies such as the BMA and 7 out of 10 of our doctors, still oppose these changes and believe that these are not in the best interests of their patients.

Council proposes that our Chief Executive writes to the Secretary for State for Health relaying the fact that the majority of elected members of this Council have voted supporting the view that the proposed changes contained in the NHS bill are not in the best interests of patients here in Walsall and that this Bill should be withdrawn as it does not comply to the 'Clegg' principles that:

- GPs should not be forced into signing up to commissioning consortia
- The pace needs to be slowed
- All artificial deadlines need to be removed
- The NHS needs to be protected rather than undermined.

(Note: Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)