



# 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 **THURSDAY 23RD day of FEBRUARY, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2012.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:

1. To elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.
2. Apologies.
3. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th January, 2012.
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 – None
- (b) From members of the Council - None

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

(1) **Corporate Budget Plan and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2012/13**

(i) **Revenue**

- (a) That the recommendations of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in respect of the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations and the adequacy of reserves as set out in Annex 4, be approved.
- (b) That the net draft levies below for outside bodies be noted. At the time of despatch of this report, we had not been formally notified by the authorities of their final levy. (The final levy for Centro is expected to be approved on 6 February, so we will provide an update at the Cabinet meeting on 8 February, with the final Environment Levy to be reflected in a revised resolution to be provided to the Council meeting of 23 February 2012. An estimate has been used within this report based on informal notification from the authorities).

<b>DRAFT LEVY</b>	<b>AMOUNT (£)</b>
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	<b>14,271,000</b>
Environment agency	<b>82,360</b>

- (c) That approval be given to an opening working balance for 2012/13 set at a prudent level in line with the council's medium term financial strategy.
- (d) That the following statutory determinations be noted and approved (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992) with subsequent changes in the Localism Act 2011:
  - I. **£652,949,411** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Localism Act 2011.
  - II. **£543,703,807** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Localism Act 2011.
  - III. **£109,245,604** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (d) (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (d) (II), calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Localism Act 2011, as its council tax requirement for the year.

- IV. **£1,384.64** being the amount at (d) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of **78,898.20**, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31B of the Localism Act 2011, 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 (d) (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.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
£923.09	£1,076.94	£1,230.79	£1,384.64
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
£1,692.34	£2,000.04	£2,307.73	£2,769.28

- (e) That the estimated precept from the Fire and Civil Defence Authority and the estimated precept for the Police Authority, 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 be noted and approved and that the final figures be substituted for these provisional ones once they are available at the Council meeting on 23 February 2012.

<b>PRECEPTING AUTHORITY</b>	<b>VALUATION BANDS</b>			
<b>Police</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
	£66.30	£77.35	£88.40	£99.45
	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£121.54	£143.64	£165.74	£198.89
<b>Fire &amp; Civil Defence</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
	£31.89	£37.20	£42.52	£47.83
	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£58.46	£69.09	£79.72	£95.66

- (f) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (d) (v) and (e) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2012/13 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below. This represents no change in council tax levels approved in 2011/12.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
£1,021.28	£1,191.49	£1,361.71	£1,531.92
<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
£1,872.34	£2,212.77	£2,553.19	£3,063.83

- (g) 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.
- (h) 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.
- (i) That the budget plan, including the opening cash limits, savings and investment proposals set out in the annexes be approved.

(ii) **Capital**

That the draft capital 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 unsupported borrowing will not be commenced until a payback agreement is in place. Schemes funded from grant will commence when final allocations are published.

<b>DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13</b>	
<b>MAINSTREAM SCHEMES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED VALUE £</b>
<b>Prior Year Approvals</b>	
Council wide IT planned rolling replacement and upgrade	929,175
Headstone safety in Cemeteries	80,000
Shop maintenance	120,000
Aids and adaptations	1,500,000
General reactive / planned property maintenance	450,000
Demolition of redundant buildings to save on rates	200,000
Fire risk assessment	200,000
ICT support to Smarter Workplaces programme	400,000
Supporting independent living – transformation of Social Care	236,200
Preventative adaptations – transformation of Social Care	1,000,000
Hatherton multi storey car park – safeguarding income	200,000
Health through warmth and related Retro-fit schemes	1,000,000
Highways maintenance	1,200,000
Greenspace improvement plan	150,000
Refurbishment of Leckie building in Walsall Arboretum	10,000
Capital insurance reserves – Risk management	100,000
Capital insurance reserves – Uninsured property damage	200,000
Capital insurance reserves – Asbestos removal	155,000
Capital insurance reserves – Control of legionella	275,000
Capital insurance reserves – Statutory testing of buildings	300,000
Capital insurance reserves – Lighting invest to save	250,000
<b>New Bids</b>	
Refurbishment of Stroud Avenue Family Centre (net of expected capital receipt from sale of Dale Street)	525,000
Children's Services - IT investment in mobile working	79,000
Regenerating Walsall	380,000

Improving the customer experience on visit to Council House	330,000
Enabling works to office development (Gigaport)	650,000
New Bentley Community facility (funded from capital receipts of associated sites)	0
Restoration and renovation of Broadway West Playing Fields	410,000
Retained housing land	100,000
ICT – replace essential Wide Area Networks	92,400
ICT – network internet and external security essential upgrade	33,000
ICT – upgrade or new mapping software package	29,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,584,475</b>

<b>DRAFT NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM GRANT 2012/13</b>	
<b>NON MAINSTREAM SCHEMES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED VALUE £</b>
Basic need	2,097,621
Devolved formula capital	684,079
Capital maintenance	3,530,556
Academies	8,120,156
Walsall arboretum restoration programme	2,215,911
Walsall arboretum restoration programme – illuminated park	100,000
Willenhall townscape heritage initiative - HLF	350,000
Willenhall townscape heritage initiative - VIEW	175,000
Disabled facilities grant	1,215,000
Black country property investment programme	2,250,000
Innovative alternative to residential care and service redesign	749,829
Local transport plan	2,000,000
Red routes	3,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,488,152</b>

<b>DRAFT LEASING PROGRAMME 2012/13</b>	
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET £</b>
Environment portfolio	4,441,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,441,250</b>

(iii) **Treasury Management**

- (a) That the 2012/13 treasury management and investment strategy document set out in Section 2, and the adoption of the prudential indicators set out in Annex 7 be approved.
- (b) That decisions to effect movements between conventional borrowing and other long term liabilities, such as leases, be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer.

- (c) That decisions to use capital receipts or unsupported borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 8th February 2012 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

(2) **Group funding to prevent homelessness**

That approval be given for Walsall Council to be Accountable Body for the West Midlands and Warwickshire grouping.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 8th February 2012 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

9. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Audit Committee**:

**Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy and Procedures 2012**

- (1) That the Corporate Policy and Procedures on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000, attached as Appendix 1, be approved;
- (2) That the Executive Director – Neighbourhood Services be granted delegated authority to make minor amendments to the RIPA Policy and Procedures, as required, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

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

10. To confirm the following recommendation of **Appointments Board**:

**Grading appeals**

That the delegations and remit of Employment Appeals Committees A and B be amended by deleting reference to “grading appeals.”

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

11. **Scrap Metal working group.** Report of Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. **Walsall Housing Group – board composition and membership.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

13. **WATMOS Community Homes – proposed changes to rules.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

14. **Portfolio holder briefing.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the portfolio holder for Children's Services (Councillor R. Andrew).

A copy of the presentation is 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.)

**15. Membership of Committees:**

To note the following changes in membership for the remainder of the current municipal year in place of the late Councillor J. Barton:

- Licensing and Safety Committee – Councillor Hussain.
- Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel – Councillor J. Fitzpatrick.

**16. Appointment to Black Country Cluster Board (NHS):**

To appoint a representative to the Board – Letter from Chair of Black Country Cluster reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

17. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Westley, Wilkes and James:**

This Council instructs appropriate officers to prepare a report detailing options to enable a more effective and pro-active approach to combat the blight caused in all areas of the Borough by derelict buildings, and in particular vacant public houses (pubs).

Furthermore, to investigate when planning permission is granted at these sites, as to whether conditions could be added to ensure that the area must be cleared, maintained and not left to become unsightly.