



Walsall Council

Council Summons

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the 12th day of January 2026 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Public access via: www.WalsallCouncilWebcasts.com

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2026

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

Elected Members and the public are expected to observe the Nolan Principles and Jo Cox Civility Pledge during the meeting:

- That a constructive and none intimidatory tone is used.
- Those participating act with integrity, honesty, and compassion.
- To behave respectfully towards other, including those we disagree with.

Meetings may be recorded for broadcast on the Council's website. If you attend a meeting, you should be aware that you might be filmed and included in that transmission.

Please take note of the protocol for filming, recording, and use of social media in meetings, copies of which are available on the Council's CMIS website via the [link](#).

Democratic Services, The Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW
Contact name: Neil Picken Telephone: 01922 654369 Email: neil.picken@walsall.gov.uk
[Walsall Council Website](#)

**If you are disabled and require help to and from the meeting room,
please contact the person above**

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 meetings of the Council held on 3rd November, 2025 – (**pages 6 – 21**)
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. **Mayoralty 2026/27.** Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 2(vi) to name the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for 2026/27 in accordance with the powers contained in Sections 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act, 1972.
9. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:
 - (a) From the public:

Lee Jeavons

Given that next year is the 100th anniversary of the Supermarine company winning the Schneider Trophy (for the fastest seaplane) outright and that this seaplane was piloted by Group Captain Sidney Webster (Walsall's greatest aviator), and given that this project led to the development of the "Spitfire", does Walsall MBC have any plans to mark the 100th anniversary of this momentous event?

Elaine Williams

There are proposals in the draft Walsall Borough Local Plan to build thousands of homes including on green belt land in areas such as Bloxwich, Pelsall, Brownhills, Aldridge, Streetly, Pheasey and adjacent to the Arboretum, so why has a site in Reedswood been selected for a new school and not a site that in respect of the majority of these proposed locations/number of homes is within

statutory walking distance (defined by section 444 (5) of the Education Act 1996) of any new housing that will create demand for school places?

(b) From members of the Council:

Councillor Ward

In light of the Government's recently announced Social and Affordable Homes Programme 2026–2036, which allocates £1.7 billion to the West Midlands region, could the Leader outline what specific steps Walsall Council is taking to ensure that we are well positioned to secure a fair and proportionate share of this funding — particularly to deliver new social rent homes, support estate regeneration, and address areas of acute housing need within the borough?

Councillor Eardley

What is the overall cost of keeping Merchants Way Household Waste Recycling Centre open. While the new Household waste recycling centre in Middlemore Lane lies dormant waiting licences from the Environment Agency?

Councillor Ferguson

Given that the Labour government are instructing Walsall Borough Council to deliver 1200 houses per year, which is considerably more than the average built over the past years, could the Portfolio Holder tell me, this council and residents, what would be the consequences for residents and this Council, should the Council say no to delivering this number of units and protecting our Green belt, by only including brown field in the borough plan.

Cllr. Pete Smith.

Given that the volunteer litter pickers across our Borough do a tremendous job in helping to keep some of our streets, car parks and green spaces as litter free as possible, complementing the work that the Council's Clean and green staff do and further given that, in the main they remain dedicated and committed despite the ever increasing challenges due to the seemingly ever increasing littering and fly tipping, can you as Portfolio holder outline to this Council and the wider public

- a) the extent to which the volunteer litter pickers have made and are making a difference and
- b) How this Council plans to increase its efforts in the "war" against fly tippers and litterbugs?

Councillor Ward

The Reform leader of Warwickshire County Council has recently called on the Government to increase the statutory walking distance to school from 3 miles to 5 miles.

This would have serious consequences for working families — particularly those without access to a car — forcing children to rely on multiple bus journeys or, in some cases, to walk unreasonable and unsafe distances.

Can the Portfolio Holder give a clear and unequivocal assurance that this council has no intention whatsoever of following Warwickshire's lead by lobbying the Government to increase the statutory school travel distance, and that we will continue to stand up for families and children in our borough?

10. **Mayor's use of authority to waive call in process – Pride in Place Funding -**
To note that the Mayor agreed to exercise her authority to waive the call-in process, as described in Part 4.5 of the constitution – **(pages 22 – 34)**

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

Annual Audit Report 2024/25

1.1 That Audit Committee review and provide feedback on the proposed Annual Report.

1.2 That, subject to any changes arising from recommendation 3.1, the Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2024/25 be approved and that the Chair of the Audit Committee present the report to the next meeting of Council.

(Note: Report to Audit Committee held on 17 November 2025 reproduced for this meeting **(pages 35 to 83)**)

12. To confirm the following recommendation of **Cabinet**:

a. Treasury Management Mid-Year Position Statement 2025/26

That Cabinet notes and forward to Council, for consideration and noting (and in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2021)), the mid-year position statement for treasury management activities 2025/26 including prudential and local indicators (Appendix A).

(Note: Report to Cabinet held on 10 December, 2025 reproduced for this meeting **(pages 84 to 99)**)

13. **Portfolio holder and outside body briefings -** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the following portfolio and outside body:

- a. Enforcement and Safe Communities – Councillor Hicken **(To follow)**
- b. Internal Services – Councillor A. Hussain **(To Follow)**

(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.)