



# 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 the SECOND day of JULY, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 2007.

Yours sincerely,

Interim Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:-

1. Apologies.
2. To elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.
3. To approve as correct records and sign the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 21st and 23rd May 2007.
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.

(1) Gordon Turner

The members of the Walsall Society of Artists wish to ask "Will the Council as policy makers, put right what we believe to be an injustice and restore the Society's annual exhibition to remain 3rd floor display area of the New Art Gallery?"

(2) Henrietta Door

What measures are you taking to recycle the vast amount of plastic that is currently being thrown into landfill?

(b) From members of the Council.

Councillor P.E. Smith

(1) Notwithstanding your reply to a question on this subject from a Councillor at the Council meeting of 23 April 2007, would the portfolio holder for Environment agree to give further consideration, particularly consideration of potential extra costs to the Council, to the merits or otherwise of this Council's policy of charging for replacement bins when the householder has placed the bin out for collection on the collection day, has had the bin stolen on the same day, has reported it to the Police and has been given a crime number?

(2) Given the fact that even after 1 July 2007, residents who wish to, still reserve the right to smoke in their own homes and also given the recently imposed ban on smoking in public places, can the Portfolio holder with responsibility for the Council's (or its Partnerships') workforce, explain what guidelines, if any, have been given to its employees, such as Care workers, health workers, social workers, repair staff and any other home visitors who, in the course of their duties, would be working in the homes of residents who may well be exercising their right to smoke at home and in answering the question, can the Portfolio holder give an assurance that residents will not be faced with an ultimatum of "stopping out" their cigarettes, pipes, cigars, etc. or otherwise being refused the service to which they are entitled?

- (3) Given that Walsall has the highest population of “over 75’s” in the Midlands and that the population of older people as a whole will increase significantly over the next few years, can the Portfolio holder for Social care, health and housing outline the extent to which the Government is giving sufficient support to ensure that Walsall Council and its partners are positioned to fulfil their responsibilities and obligations to meet the growing social care, health and housing needs of older people in our Borough now and over the next few years?

8. To confirm the following recommendations of the **Standards Committee**:

(1) **Monitoring Officer protocol**

That the Monitoring Officer protocol be included as an appendix to the Council’s Constitution.

(2) **Code of Conduct**

(a) That the revised Code of Conduct for members be adopted with effect from 3rd July 2007;

(b) That the Constitution be amended by the replacement of the old code and the insertion of the new Code of Conduct, subject to the following additional clauses:

(1) Meeting: means any meeting of the:

(a) authority

(b) the executive

(c) any of the authorities or its executive committees sub-committees, joint committees, joint sub-committees or area committees.

(d) informal meetings with other members/and or officers relating to the discharge of the authorities functions.

(2) Duty to report: - a member must if he or she becomes aware of any conduct by another member which he or she reasonably believes involves a failure to comply with the authorities code of conduct make a written allegation to that effect to the Standards Board for England as soon as practicable for him to do so.

(Note: The reports to Standards Committee are reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

9. Freedom of the Borough – The Staffordshire Regiment. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

10 Review of the Constitution with respect to changes in Public Protection. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

11. The Gambling Act 2005 – premises licence fees and charges. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

12. Children and Young People's Plan 2007-10. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

13. Change in membership of Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel. To note that Councillor Clarke has replaced Councillor E. Hughes as a member of the panel for the remainder of the current municipal year.

14. Walsall Hospice. Appointment of one member as a trustee for the municipal year 2007/2008.

15. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillor Robertson and Young:

This Council recognises that those residents who deal in scrap and associated businesses from their home without planning permission are guilty not only of breaking the law but also of serious anti social behaviour contributing to ruining out neighbourhoods.

This Council resolves to make every effort via a full strength enforcement team to stop this activity and to urge and give every assistance to our partners such as the environmental agency and the police. This Council will also share such information with Walsall Housing Group them to enforce their tenancy agreements which are clearly being broken in these cases and where appropriate information will be shared with our statutory partners.

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

16. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillor Smith:

This Council acknowledges the severe shortage of affordable housing for rent in the Borough of Walsall and indeed across the Country. This shortage is driving up the market prices for properties to let, resulting in difficulty and hardship for many citizens and their families. Given that previous and future regeneration plans invariably involve the demolition of former rented Council properties, to be replaced in the main by properties for sale, there is an ever growing difficulty on the part of Housing Agencies to satisfy the desperate need for affordable properties for rent.

Council therefore calls on the Government to accept its responsibility for this growing and worrying situation and to take the necessary action to increase the supply of affordable homes to rent, thus relieving the stress experienced by a growing number of citizens and their families in our Borough

17. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillor Smith:

This Council calls upon the portfolio holder for Environment to reconsider the Council's present policy of charging householders a flat charge for the replacement of wheelie bins, irrespective of householder's ability to pay or the circumstances surrounding the need for a replacement bin and such a reconsideration to be reported to the next meeting of the Council.