



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 the 26TH day of FEBRUARY, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 18th February, 2015.

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 12th January 2015.
4. Declarations of interest.

(Note: The Monitoring Officer has granted a dispensation to all members of the Council under Section 33 (3) of the Localism Act 2011 to allow members to participate, and vote, in the setting of the Council budget.)

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. Petition - “Axe Labour’s garden tax”

- (a) The above petition containing over 1,500 signatures was submitted to the Council on 12th January 2015 by Councillor Bird.
- (b) Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

(Note: The Council’s petitions scheme states:

“**Council debate** - If a petition contains at least 1,500 signatures it will be debated at a meeting of the Council. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting to which all Councillors can attend and speak. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action that the petition requests; not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to ask for further information. Where the issue is one where the Cabinet are required to make the final decision the Council will decide to make recommendations to the Cabinet. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision and this will be published on our website.”)

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

- (a) From the public – None
- (b) From members of the Council - None

10. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel**:

Blakenall Library

That Council reconsider the closure of Blakenall Library in 2016/17 as proposed in the Corporate Budget Plan.

(Note: Report to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel on 12th February 2015 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

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

(1) **Corporate Budget Plan and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2015/16**

That the following be approved:

(A) Revenue

- (a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2015/16 as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- (b) 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 be approved, including the levels of central contingency and an opening general reserves of not less than £10.15m, as set out in Annex 3 of the budget plan.
- (c) The final levies below for outside bodies.

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	12,849,678
Environment agency	74,551

- (d) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended):
- I. **£625,433,021** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
 - II. **£531,730,054** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - III. **£93,702,967** 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 Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
 - IV. **£1,438.32** being the amount at (d) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of **65,147.51**, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, 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.

A	B	C	D
£958.88	£1,118.69	£1,278.51	£1,438.32
E	F	G	H
£1,757.95	£2,077.57	£2,397.20	£2,876.64

- (e) The precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and the precept from the Police and Crime Commissioner, 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.

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
Police And Crime Commissioner	A	B	C	D
	£71.03	£82.87	£94.71	£106.55
	E	F	G	H
	£130.23	£153.91	£177.58	£213.10
Fire & Rescue	A	B	C	D
	£36.62	£42.73	£48.83	£54.94
	E	F	G	H
	£67.14	£79.35	£91.56	£109.87

- (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 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

A	B	C	D
£1,066.53	£1,244.29	£1,422.05	£1,599.81
E	F	G	H
£1,955.32	£2,310.83	£2,666.34	£3,199.61

- (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, pursuant to Section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the relevant basic amount of council tax for the Council is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required.

(B) Capital

- (a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan".

(b) That the 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. Reserve list items will only commence should funding become available during the financial year.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
<i>Prior Year Approvals</i>	
Social IT Systems Review & Enhancement	550,000
Rushall Primary / EDC alterations	350,000
Libraries Universal Digital Offer – a 21 st century Public Library service	54,840
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	14,969,854
Bentley Employability and Learning Hub	115,000
Walsall Market	1,750,000
<i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i>	
Proactive Memorial Safety in Walsall cemeteries	60,000
Public Lighting 'Invest to save' for replacement LED lighting	250,000
Highway Maintenance Programme	1,900,000
Highway Maintenance – funding shift from revenue	100,000
Retained Housing Land Inspection/Maintenance of LSVT sites	50,000
Preventative adaptations and Supporting Independence	250,000
Health Through Warmth – Safety Net support	150,000
Aids & Adaptations – statutory element	750,000
<i>New Capital Bids</i>	
Leamore Park additional fencing	14,000
A single library management system for Black Country	210,000
Walsall Gala Baths refurbishment	1,000,000
Mayrise system mobile working	138,000
Traffic signals – replacement of obsolete equipment	200,000
Traffic signals – invest to save conversion to LED lighting	650,000
LEX remediation works	405,000
ICT essential upgrade to Blackberry server	16,501
ICT essential upgrade to Windows 2003 servers	110,000
<i>Council Wide bids</i>	
Funding to support essential works including Health & Safety, and other projects that cannot be guaranteed at start of year	1,000,000
Provision for match funded external schemes	350,000
Reserve list projects – allocation to be drawn upon in year	60,000
Total	25,453,195

NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES 2015/16	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Basic Need	4,393,150
Devolved Formula Capital	573,944
Capital Maintenance	2,415,181
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	1,561,717

Aldridge Airport – development of Walsall Country Park including the Top Hangar (match funding may be required for resurfacing of access road)	2,000,000
Beacon Lodge, Community Activity Centre	20,000
Barr Beacon Event Arena	20,000
Allotments and Community Gardens	5,000
Outdoor fitness equipment	25,000
Forest Arts Centre hall conversion	100,000
LTP Highway Maintenance Programme	2,415,000
Integrated Transport Block / Local Transport Plan 2015/16	1,247,000
Darlaston Strategic Development Area Access Project	4,945,132
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,632,000
Community Capital Capacity Grant	797,000
Total	22,150,124

LEASING PROGRAMME 2015/16	
PORTFOLIO	EXPENDITURE £
Environment & Transport portfolio – vehicles and equipment	2,115,832
Community, Leisure & Culture portfolio – leisure equipment	588,000
Total	2,703,832

CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST ITEMS 2015/16	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Willenhall Lawn Cemetery extension	1,200,000
Local History Centre upgrade of computers	18,252
Darlaston Swimming Pool refurbishment	150,000
Walsall Country Park	68,500
Security improvement programme	5,000
Retained Housing Land Inspection & Maintenance of LSVT sites	50,000
Residential Parking – Construction of new residential parking facilities (verge parking)	250,000
Promotion of Community Health & Safety	240,000
Local safety schemes	400,000
Regenerating Walsall	200,000
Preventative Adaptations and Supporting Independence	750,000
Aids & Adaptations – statutory element	250,000
Leasing v Buy	2,560,000
Total	6,141,752

(C) Treasury Management

- a) That Section B – Part 2 – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2015/16, including the council's borrowing requirement and the adoption of the prudential indicators, 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 4th February 2015 (as amended) reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

2. In accordance with Council procedure rule 17.8 “A recorded vote will be undertaken relating to the Council’s budget or Council tax.”)

(2) Corporate Plan 2015-19 “Shaping a fairer future”

That the Corporate Plan 2015-19, “Shaping a fairer future” as the context for a four year financial plan be adopted.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 4th February 2015 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

12. To confirm the following recommendation of Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel:

Amendments to Polling Places

That the proposed changes to Polling Places be approved.

(Note: 1. Explanatory note with regard to Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

2. Report to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel on 6th January 2015 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

13. Change in membership of Health and Wellbeing Board

To note that the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 19th January 2015 changed its membership by the inclusion of the Portfolio Holder for Social Care as an additional member.

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

- Health
- Children’s services and education

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

15. **Senior management review – Retirement of Executive Director.** Report of Chief Executive reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

(Note: Report for decision will be considered in private session.)

Part II – Private session

16. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Personnel Committee**:

Senior management review – Retirement of Executive Director

That the request for voluntary redundancy of the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services with effect from 30th April 2015 be agreed.

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

[Exempt information under paragraphs 1 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]