



# 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 THIRTEENTH day of SEPTEMBER, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2010.

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 19th July, 2010.
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.

**(1) Councillor Robertson – Consultancy fees (Councillor Towe)**

“What has been the cost of consultancy fees to this Council for the last financial year for each directorate with the reasons for resorting to use of consultants instead of in-house advice?”

**(2) Councillor Anson – Butlers Passage (Councillor Harris)**

“When will Butlers Passage be cleaned up noting the current disgraceful appearance and what has been the total cost to Walsall Council tax payers of the attempted restoration to date?”

**(3) Councillor Phillips – Green Rivers (Councillor Bird)**

“What has been the legal costs so far in attempting to resolve the dispute between this Council and Green Rivers and what arbitration measures can be put into place to resolve immediately this issue in the interests of the community, the Council and the public purse?”

**(4) Councillor Robertson – Employee expenses (Councillor Towe)**

“What has been the cost of expenses paid to employees over the last 12 months who claim accommodation and travel costs because they do not live near Walsall or are seconded to work for Walsall Council for example through Serco?”

8. **Annual Report of Audit Committee 2009/10.** Report to Audit Committee on 1st September 2010 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

(Note: The Chair of Audit Committee to present the annual report as approved by the Committee on 1st September 2010.)

9. **Petitions Scheme.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

10. **Amendments to Constitution: Compensation payments.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

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

- Business support (Councillor Arif)
- Finance and personnel (Councillor Towe)

(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.)

## 12. **Membership of Committees:**

### (a) **Employment Appeals B**

- (i) To report that Councillor Paul has replaced the late Councillor Griffiths for the remainder of the municipal year.
- (ii) To appoint a Chairman for the remainder of the current municipal year in place of the late Councillor Griffiths.

### (b) **Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel**

- (i) To note that Councillor Westley has replaced Councillor Chambers for the remainder of the municipal year.
- (ii) To appoint a Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the current municipal year in place of Councillor Chambers.

### (c) **Health Scrutiny and Performance Panel** – To report that Councillor Longhi has replaced Councillor Bennett for the remainder of the municipal year.

## 13. **Appointments to Charities:**

- (a) **Sheffield Playing Fields Charity** – To appoint a trustee to the Charity for the balance of the 4 year period expiring on 18th December 2012, in place of the late Councillor Griffiths.
- (b) **Blanch Woollaston Charity** – To appoint a trustee to the Charity for the balance of the 3 year period expiring on 13th September 2011 in place of ex-Councillor Aftab.

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

This Council requests the portfolio holder for Leisure, Culture and Environment, through discussions with one of its partners, namely WHG, to resolve the issue of responsibility in the situation where a new tenant/s moves into a WHG property only to discover that there is no grey, green or brown bin and where requests for such bins by the new tenant/s are met by WHG and Walsall Council both denying that they have any responsibility to provide bins under these circumstances.

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

15. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Oliver, Nazir, Robertson, Burley, Westley and Barton**:

“This Council notes :

- the proposals by the Secretary of State for Health to create “shadow” GP consortia by April, 2011, with the intention to phase out current Primary Care Trusts.
- the major and unique public health and health inequality issues facing our Borough
- ongoing discussions amongst GP colleagues as to the best way forward

and therefore supports proposals to create a single GP consortium for our Borough.

We believe that this would give the best opportunity within the emerging policy framework to enable joined-up and consistent work between the local NHS, Walsall Council and other agencies, and thus the best chance for health outcomes for the people of the Borough of Walsall.”

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

16. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nazir, Robertson, Burley, Sarohi, Westley, Barton and Oliver**:

This Council is committed to ensuring that all of our residents who are eligible to vote are registered to vote. The electoral register is the foundation stone of our democracy and we have a duty to ensure that it is both accurate and complete - helping to empower citizens and increase public engagement in the democratic process.

This Council believes that the council should take every effort to ensure that the 2010 electoral register in the Borough of Walsall is as complete and accurate as possible, so as to provide a proper basis for any revision to electoral boundaries. In addition this Council notes that the Electoral Commission currently believe that approx 3.5 million people are missing for register in England and Wales alone and that this trend is especially stark amongst many specific social groups.

This Council therefore directs:

- (1) the Electoral Registration Officer and his/her staff to conduct door-to-door inquiries at all households where no-one responds to a letter requiring registration, with at least two personal calls on all non-responding households.
- (2) that an effective advertising campaign is launched now to encourage people to register, targeted at social groups among whom under-registration is known to be a problem and targeted at residents in those neighbourhoods where the electoral register is believed to have the lowest levels of completeness.
- (3) the Chief Executive to ensure a joined-up approach across all parts of the Council to encourage residents to register to vote;
- (4) the Electoral Registration Officer to ensure that in the absence of any evidence that a particular household is empty or that the electors have moved or died, that the names in all such non-responding households should be carried over.

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