



You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the 7TH day of JANUARY 2019 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 21st day of December 2018.

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 November 2018.
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. Petitions:

- (a) **Community Alarm Service.** An on-line petition with regard to this matter has been submitted by Ms. A. Jarvis. The petition currently contains 2,080 signatures. Report to follow.
- (b) **Streetly Police resources.** An on-line petition with regard to this matter has been submitted by Mr. D. Erfani. The petition currently contains 1507 signatures. 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:

Mr. P.E. Smith – “Brexit”

“Would the appropriate Portfolio holder inform me, this Council and the general public as to whether Walsall Council has made any assessment of the likely impact of “Brexit” on local authorities such as Walsall and if so could the portfolio holder briefly outline the key finding of such an assessment, particularly highlighting the opportunities that have been identified that Brexit may offer to local authorities such as Walsall, that are not available presently due to E.U legislation obligations?”

(b) From members of the Council: None

10. **Mayoralty 2019/20.** Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 2(vi) to name the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for 2019/20 in accordance with the powers contained in Sections 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

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

(a) **Treasury Management mid-year position statement 2018/19**

To consider and note (in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017)), the mid-year position statement for treasury management activities 2018/19 including prudential and local indicators (Appendix A).

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 12th December 2018 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

(b) **Council tax premium on long term empty properties**

(1) That Walsall Council change the council tax premium from 50% to 100% from 1 April 2019 for properties that have been empty and unfurnished for more than 2 years.

(2) That Walsall Council introduces a 200% council tax premium from 1 April 2020 for properties that have been empty and unfurnished for more than 5 years.

(3) That Walsall Council introduces a 300% council tax premium from 1 April 2021 for properties that have been empty and unfurnished for more than 10 years.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 12th December 2018 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

12. **Members allowances.** Report of reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

13. **Walsall Site Allocation Document (SAD) and Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan (APP).** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

14. **Portfolio holder briefings.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the portfolio holder for Community, leisure and culture.

(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. Appointments to outside bodies:

- (a) **West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee:** To note that Councillor Waters has replaced Councillor Craddock as the Council's representative for the remainder of the municipal year.
- (b) **Black County Commonwealth Games Steering Group 2012:** To note that the Leader of the Council (or his nominee) has been appointed to serve on the Steering Group.

16. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors Longhi, Allen, Wilson, Singh Sohal and Ferguson:

The Health and Wellbeing Board (established by the Council on 8 April 2013) currently comprises 24 members. This includes 8 elected members and 5 representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group (11 members more than the Act requires as a minimum). As with many bodies with large membership – meetings are often protracted. In order to improve the effectiveness of the Board it is proposed to reduce the number of elected members and Clinical Commissioning representatives whilst retaining balanced representation. Council resolves:

- (1) That with immediate effect the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board be as follows:
- Chairman – to be a nominee of the controlling administration
 - 1 elected member not from the controlling administration
 - Cabinet portfolio holder for Adult Social Care
 - Cabinet portfolio holder for Children's Services
 - Cabinet portfolio holder for Public Health
 - Executive Director Adult Social Care
 - Executive Director Children's Services
 - Director of Public Health
 - 3 Clinical Commissioning Group representatives
 - 1 representative of Healthwatch Walsall
 - 1 representative of WM Fire Service
 - 1 representative of WM Police
 - 1 representative of "One Walsall"
 - 1 representative of NHS England
 - 1 representative of the Walsall Hospitals (NHS) Trust
 - 1 representative of the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust
 - 1 representative of the Housing sector; and
- (2) That a member not from the controlling group be appointed by Council to the Board.

17. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors S. Coughlan, D. Coughlan, Shires, Ward, Burley, Jeavons, Jukes, Robertson, Chambers, Underhill, Nawaz and Hussain:**

Council agrees that the intention of Universal Credit (UC) to make benefits less complicated and to allow those in low paid work to keep more of their wages is a good idea, but believes that the evidence demonstrates that the Universal Credit process is flawed and causing unnecessary hardship to local families.

Council notes that UC was deliberately introduced on a slow rollout so that any issues could be seen and corrected before the benefit was introduced to all claimants.

Council further notes that the evidence of this Council and others across the country is that UC is causing huge increases in rent arrears and in general debt levels amongst claimants, many whom have never been in debt before. In addition, evidence demonstrates that most private landlords and even some housing associations are refusing to accept tenants receiving UC, leading to an increase in those registering as homeless and seeking temporary accommodation.

Council therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, making these points, requesting that the Government addresses these issues, and that the rollout is halted until the problems are fixed.

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

18. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors S. Coughlan, D. Coughlan, Shires, Ward, Jeavons, Robertson, Hussain, Chambers, Jukes, Underhill and Hussain:**

This Council:

- (1) celebrates the fact that 70 years ago Parliament created a National Health Service, essentially free at the point of delivery
- (2) accordingly seeks to maintain those benefits in this Borough
- (3) resolves to write to the Secretary of State and to local MPs asking that the Government
 - works with those in all parties to find a way of resolving the NHS's continuing cash crisis
 - makes up the funding gap in social care identified by the Local Government Association
 - publishes a White Paper outlining the Government's intentions for integrating and funding health and social care provision in the future
 - provides adequate funding for mental health care in Walsall
 - takes appropriate steps to protect community pharmacies in Walsall.