



# 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 SIXTH day of NOVEMBER, 2006, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 27th day of October, 2006.

Yours sincerely,

Interim Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:-

1. Apologies.
2. To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11th September 2006.
3. Declarations of interest.
4. Mayor's announcements.
5. To receive any petitions.
6. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:-
  - (a) From the public.
  - (b) From members of the Council.

7. Gambling Act 2005. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

8. Changes in membership of Committees:

- (a) Development Control Committee – Council to note the following changes for the remainder of the municipal year:
- Councillor Harris has replaced the late Councillor Collins
  - Councillor Arif has been appointed in place of Councillor Khan
  - Councillor Bird has been appointed Chairman.
- (b) Neighbourhood Scrutiny and Performance Panel – Council to note that Councillor Griffiths has replaced Councillor Aslam for the remainder of the municipal year.

9. Birmingham International Airport Board – Council to note that Councillor Ansell has replaced the late Councillor Collins as their representative on the Airport Board for the remainder of the municipal year.

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

We note the rise in anti-social behaviour across the Borough, including Willenhall, Bloxwich, Beechdale, Brownhills, Darlaston and highlighted recently in Pelsall, where residents have had to introduce midnight patrols to help combat the massive rise. We therefore call on the Council to support the Government's initiative of neighbourhood policing, which includes PCSOs, by ensuring the Neighbourhood Warden Service is not only maintained at current levels, but returned to the levels of 2004/2005 when the Borough saw a massive reduction in anti-social behaviour.

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

This Council recognises the valuable work which has been carried out by our Welfare Rights Service, which has resulted in an additional £70 million being paid out to the people of Walsall over the past decade. We also recognise the important role of this work on the levels of Revenue Support Grant funding received from central government by Walsall Council, along with the potential impact on health (Primary Care Trust) and Police funding within the Borough.

This Council therefore supports the longstanding and widely accepted principle that our Welfare Rights Service would be best placed as an independent trust. This would enable the service to attract significant additional external funding and to increase the remit to work on a broader anti-poverty front. This model would be underpinned from the current Council budget and would bring a more proactive approach to best utilise and add value to current resources.

This Council therefore tasks the scrutiny process to review options to enable this process to be in place by April 2007 and make recommendations in order to maximise the positive impacts for the citizens of Walsall.