



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 24TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2012.

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 25th June and 9th July, 2012.
4. Declarations of interest.
5. Mayor's announcements.
6. To receive any petitions.

7. Walsall Muslim Organisation – Petition re Maintenance of graves. 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.”)

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

(a) From the public - **None**

(b) From members of the Council

(1) **Councillor E. Hughes – Ofsted inspection of children’s services**

“Following the report of the outcome of the Ofsted inspection for Children’s services, I would like to ask the portfolio holder, Councillor Rachel Andrew, what actions have been taken to address the issues raised in that report?”

(2) **Councillor Smith – Ofsted report “Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children’s services”**

“Following the recent damning OFSTED Report “Inspection of safeguarding and looked after children’s services” can you, in your capacity as Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny and Performance Panel, give me, this Council and the public any evidence, other than minuted evidence that it was resolved in all cases that the Reports be noted, which demonstrates that your Panel has asked searching questions and /or conducted demonstrable robust scrutiny when considering Reports such as; "Safeguarding Services" on 19th July 2011, the Report on New Operating Model for Children’s Services on 20th September 2011, the Review of Safeguarding Services for disabled children Report on 8th March 2012 or any other Report that has come before your Panel in the last 12 months, covering subjects and areas that have subsequently been reported on in the above-mentioned OFSTED Inspection?”

(3) **Councillor Oliver – Highways maintenance programme**

“Could the portfolio holder for transport please confirm the criteria used in determining the priority order for the re-surfacing of roads/highways maintenance programme across the borough?”

(4) **Councillor D. Coughlan – Benefits call centre**

“As previously stated by this Council local jobs for local people are a priority. So can the portfolio holder confirm if our Benefits Call Centre is based in Walsall and if it is staffed by local people please?”

(5) **Councillor Smith – Bin collection service**

“As the budget process gathers speed towards the date (21st February 2013) when the Council is expected to set a budget for 2013 to 2014, can the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment give me, this Council and the public, an assurance now that the weekly bin service (grey bin) and the fortnightly bin service for the recyclable waste (green bin) as well as the fortnightly bin service for garden waste (brown bin) are safe and will continue for the next financial year and beyond?”

9. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Cabinet**:

Fair society, healthy lives: Applying the findings of the Marmot review

That a set of core priority objectives be included within the Corporate Plan for 2011-12 to 2014-15 that reflect the key objectives of the Marmot Review in addressing deprivation and health inequalities within the borough. These are as follows:

- Give every child the best start in life
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- Create fair employment and good work for all
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable communities
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention

This is consistent with the learning from Working Smarter Reviews to date. Going forward, Working Smarter Reviews will help to ensure that the Marmot Principles are at the heart of the Council's work.

(Note: The report to Cabinet on 25th July 2012 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

10. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Audit Committee**:

That the number of independent members (non-voting) on the Audit Committee be increased, up to a maximum of three, and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

(Note: The report to Audit Committee on 3 September 2012 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

11. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Community Services and Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel**:

That Mr. Philip Holmes JP be appointed a non-voting co-opted member on the Community Services and Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel until the 22nd November 2012.

12. **Derelict buildings.** Reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

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

- Business support services (Councillor Arif) – report to follow
- Finance and personnel (Councillor Towe) – report to follow

(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.)

14. **Appointments on outside bodies and charities:**

- (a) **Walsall Wood Allotment Charity** The term of office of Councillor Bird expires on 21 September 2012. To appoint a trustee for a period of 4 years expiring on 21 September 2016.
- (b) **Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust:** To report that Councillor Nazir had resigned as a member of the Trust and appoint a replacement representative.

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

That this Council, after hearing the announcement made by the Defence Secretary in July that the Government's plans to create a smaller more flexible and agile Army would result in 3 Mercian (Staffords) Battalion being withdrawn as part of the reorganisation of the Army, requests the Defence Secretary to ensure that the Ministry of Defence will keep the name and identity of the Staffords with a serving regular battalion of the Mercian Regiment when the reorganisation becomes effective.

16. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Cassidy, James, Nazir, Creaney, Oliver and Westley**:

"This Council notes that the recent Ofsted inspection of Walsall Council's Safeguarding Children Service has given both the service and its prospects for improvement the lowest rating of "inadequate".

This Council therefore resolves:

- To call upon the political leadership and the portfolio holder for Children's Services to apologise to vulnerable young people and their families and to the wider community in our borough for presiding over this unacceptable state of affairs.
- To fully support the work of the new Children's Improvement Board, to find out why the service has failed so badly and to initiate the necessary improvements, and to directly intervene and affect change in all areas including funding, staff recruitment, retention and training and partnership working with other agencies.
- To build partnerships with other local authorities where child care is rated excellent or good – such as Liverpool, Oldham and Newcastle-on-Tyne which face similar economic and social problems as our borough."

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

17. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nazir, Westley, Creaney, Oliver, Cassidy and James**:

"This Council notes:

- Recent proposals considered by the West Midlands Police Authority for a multi-million pound contract to outsource a wide range of Police services.
- The voting record of the then representative from Walsall Council to support these moves.
- The major concerns raised by staff and public as to the impact of these proposals on frontline policing.

- The failure of G4S to provide adequate and agreed security arrangements as contracted for the London Olympics, necessitating emergency arrangements to be put in place at short notice through our public services.
- The decision of the Police Authority to postpone any decision on this matter until after the election of a new Police and Crime Commissioner on 15 November 2012.

This Council therefore calls on all candidates for the post of Police and Crime Commissioner to make clear their opposition to the wholesale transfer of a wide range of Police services to the private sector.”