



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 18TH day of APRIL, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2011.

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 24th February, 2011.
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 Madeley – Proposed new library and children’s centre at Bentley (Councillor Harris)

“Will the portfolio holder please advise me and this Council of the current situation regarding the proposed new combined facility of a new library and children’s centre proposed for Bentley?”

(2) Councillor Smith – Poet’s Estate and former Goscote Estate (Councillor A. Andrew)

“Would the Portfolio holder inform me, this Council and the public of the monetary value to date in lost rents, Council tax and the consequential demands on the resources of Street Pride, the Police and the Fire Services as a result of the decision several years ago to demolish hundreds of structurally sound properties on the Poet’s Estate in Harden and the former Goscote Estate, which have left large swathes of empty and derelict land that are fast becoming the biggest fly tipping magnets in the Borough?”

(3) Councillor D. Coughlan – Discretionary housing payments (Councillor A. Andrew)

Considering this authority received in the region of £32,000 for Discretionary Housing Payments from Central Government for the year 2010/2011 and the Council actually awarded around £33,000, can you tell me how many households received a Discretionary Housing Payment and how much funding the authority will receive for the year 2011/2012”.

(4) Councillor Smith – Hot food takeaway outlets in Walsall Town Centre (Councillor Ali)

“Could the Portfolio holder inform me, this Council and the public how many hot food take-away outlets are located within a half a mile radius of the Sister Dora Statue on the “Bridge” in Walsall Town centre?”

(5) Councillor Smith – Planning applications for hot food take-away outlets (Councillor Bird)

“Given that there is a perception held by many that Walsall Council is obsessed with bringing as many hot food take-away outlets into the Borough as possible, would the Portfolio holder assure me, this Council and the public that he and his colleagues will give serious consideration to the proposition that any future applications for planning permission for such establishments, especially in the town centre areas, should have as a condition for granting planning permission that they provide toilet facilities on the premises, since many town centre businesses and many residents in households near to hot food outlets, are absolutely fed up with their doorways, shop windows and gardens being used as toilets as well as dumping grounds for take-away food left-overs?”

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

Corporate plan

That the Corporate Plan 2011-14 ‘Building Pride in Walsall’, incorporating the new Council Operating Model – “Delivering. Right, Fast and Simple” be approved.

(Note: Report to Cabinet on 16th March 2011 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

9. **Pay and grading.** Report to follow.

10. **Designation of Statutory Officer post.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

11. **Local Government Act 1972 – attendance at meetings.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. **Portfolio holder briefing.** To receive 5 minute presentation from the portfolio holder for Transport (Councillor Ansell).

(Note:(1) A copy of the presentation is reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

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

13. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors P. Hughes, D.A. Shires, I. Shires and Cook:**

This Council notes that the Government wants to have directly elected Police Commissioners with the intention also to axe Police Authorities and that the LGA is opposing this change.

The Council expresses deep concern that this will lead to the politicisation of the Police and jeopardise their operational independence. Such a radical change would be a diversion in precious resources away from front-line policing.

This Council believes accountability of the Police would be best served in strengthening the ties, by other means, between our local neighbourhoods and Councillors.

This Council therefore asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Borough's MPs informing them of this motion and asking them to oppose the Government's proposals for elected Police Commissioners.

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

14. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors I. Shires, P. Hughes, Cook and D.A. Shires:**

Council recognises the litter problems created, especially in those areas designated District Centres, where there are a high proportion of takeaway food outlets.

Council therefore requests that, unless there are pressing local reasons not to do so, a standard planning condition for planning applications for such developments will automatically be imposed for the provision and emptying of a litterbin at the applicant's expense in the vicinity of the development.

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

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

(1) This Council notes:

- That the LGPS is a sustainable, good quality pension scheme that benefits from being funded and locally managed. It is valuable to employers and employees alike. Successive governments have failed to recognise the distinctiveness of the LGPS in setting policy, most notably in the proposal announced by the Chancellor in the last CSR to impose an extra 3.2% contribution tax on scheme members, increasing scheme average member contributions from 6.6% to 9.8%. This tax does not benefit the scheme or scheme members or employers. This proposal is in

addition to pension reductions caused by being indexed against CPI instead of RPI and is in advance of expected benefit reform recommendations from the Hutton Review.

(2) This Council agrees:

- An increase in member contributions as proposed will lead to mass opt outs from the LGPS and that would be undesirable and damaging. The views expressed by the LGA in its letter to the Chancellor dated 16 February 2011 on this subject are also the views of this Council.

(3) This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the Secretary of State for Local Government within the next month stating this Council's support for the LGA letter referred to above and calling for government to rethink its proposed increases to LGPS member contributions. Council will work with Trade Unions to ensure employees are made aware of the proposals for the LGPS and encouraging them to support the Council's representations to defend their pension scheme.

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

At this point the Council to consider the following item as charitable trustees –
When the Council is acting in this capacity, Council procedure rules do not apply. A corporate trustee is a corporation which has been appointed to act as a trustee of the charity. Trustees should bear in mind that when they are dealing with the business of the charity, their overriding duty is to act in the best interests of that charity.

16. Willenhall Memorial Park – deed of dedication. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.