



Walsall Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the 8TH day of JANUARY, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 22nd day of December, 2017.

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 13th November 2017.
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. Petition: Palfrey Sure Start Children's Centre. A petition was submitted to Council on 13th November 2017 by Councillor M. Nazir. The paper petition had approximately 280 signatures and the on-line petition (change.org) currently stands at 1,641 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 - Council tax arrears

"Given that in reply to a question that I asked (when a member of this Council) at the Council Meeting of 13th July 2015, that in the short space of time from April 2015 to 30 June 2015 (the first 3 months from when the Labour administration first introduced a 25% Council tax bill for those households that had previously, on the grounds of low income, been exempt from paying any Council tax), it was revealed the arrears attributable to these 19,465 households hence subject to Council tax was £343,000 affecting 6,600 (34%) of the 19,465 households, and given further that the current Labour administration is preparing the next budget that presently has within it an implicit 4.99% increase in Council tax, well above the inflation rate, can the appropriate Portfolio holder now update us by informing me, the Council and the public about the present level of Council tax arrears and in particular:

- (a) What the total of Council tax arrears (in £s) amounts to, at the present time?
- (b) How many households, eligible for Council tax, are presently in arrears?

- (c) How much of present outstanding arrears can be attributed to those households (19,465 in 2015) that are now obliged to pay Council tax due to the changes brought in from April 2015?”

(b) From members of the Council: None

10. **Mayoralty 2018/19.** Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 2(vi) to name the Mayor-Elect and Deputy Mayor-Elect for 2018/19 in accordance with the powers contained in Sections 3 and 5 of the Local Government Act, 1972.

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

Annual review of Treasury Management policies and mid-year position statement 2017/18

That Council approve the Treasury Management Policies, as set out at Appendix A to the report and notes the mid-year position statement for treasury management activities 2017/18 including prudential and local indicators, as set out at Appendix B to the report.

(Note: Report to Audit Committee on 20th November 2017 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

12. **Change in political group membership.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

13. **Portfolio holder briefing.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the portfolio holders 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.)