



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 16TH day of NOVEMBER, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2015.

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 21st September and 19th October 2015.
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. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:

(a) From the public

None

(b) From members of the Council

(1) **Councillor Ditta – Wednesbury Road – speed limit**

“As many of us are aware Wednesbury Road has sadly been the scene of many accidents over the years, some tragically fatal. For many years now my fellow ward Councillors and I have been campaigning for the reduction of the speed limit but unfortunately to avail. After yet another serious accident on the Wednesbury Road will the cabinet member and the Council finally agree to reduce the speed limit?”

(2) **Councillor Ditta – Walsall South Library**

“The Walsall south library is a crucial facility for the people of Delves as it is the only public library facility that is reasonably nearby. In fact the library has been at the heart of the Delves for many years now, why has the cabinet member targeted the only library facility available for the people of Delves?”

(3) **Councillor Ditta – West Bromwich Road – road safety**

“West Bromwich Road between Walstead Road and Bell Lane, is another area that has seen many car accidents over the last few years. Why has the Council not responded to the demands of local residents and installed digital speed recorders to ensure public safety?”

9. Annual review of Treasury Management policies and mid-year position statement 2015/16

(a) To consider any recommendation of the Audit Committee from its meeting on 9th November 2015.

(b) Report of Audit Committee on 9th November 2015 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

10. To confirm the following recommendations of the **Licensing and Safety Committee**:

(1) **Licensing Act 2003 – Review of statement of licensing policy**

That the revised statement of licensing policy be approved, the revised statement to be effective from 7 January 2016.

(Note: Report to Licensing and Safety Committee from its meeting on 14th October 2015 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

(2) **Gambling Act 2005 – revision of statement of principles**

That the revised Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act, 2005 as given in appendix 2 of the report, be approved, the revised statement to take effect from 31 January 2016.

(Note: Report to Licensing and Safety Committee from its meeting on 14th October 2015 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

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

- Care and safeguarding (Councillor Hughes)
- Learning skills and apprenticeships (Councillor Towe)

(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.)

12. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Robertson, S. Coughlan and Phillips**:

Council notes that there has been a continued net rise in the numbers of children living in poverty and in extreme poverty over the past 10 years with levels in some areas such as Blakenall reaching 42%. A survey of 3500 young people in 2014 found that 9% are always or often hungry because there is not enough food at home (equivalent to 2450 young people in Walsall).

This has had indirect consequences of driving more families into debt, forcing a rise in levels of inequality, contributing to adoption of a poor diet and subsequently a rise in numbers with unhealthy weight and worsened education attainments .

Council further notes that future cuts in funds from Central Government of around £24M in the next financial year alone will , combined with the introduction of universal credit, the continuation of the imposition of the bedroom tax and cuts to working tax credits, further increase these numbers especially in the less well off parts of Walsall.

Council has adopted in 2013 a children and young people's plan for 2013 to 2016 that includes a priority of, 'Reducing the impact of child poverty' and notes that the Children and Young People's Partnership Board has also been tasked to produce a report on this area of concern. The Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy also includes a priority to: 'Reducing child poverty and the impact on families of workless parents'.

However we feel this area is now so serious and imminent to need an urgent updated review and to establish a task and finish group hosted by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel to formulate an action plan that could mitigate the effects of this rise in child poverty levels bringing all relevant partners round the table .

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