



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 SEVENTH day of NOVEMBER, 2005, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 28th day of October, 2005.

Yours sincerely,

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 12th September, 2005.
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. To confirm the following recommendation of the **Cabinet**:-

Cabinet agreed on 19th October 2005 that the following recommendation be referred to Council for approval as agreed through the West Midlands Employers Organisation:-

That with regard to recognition of continuous employment service for staff who transfer or voluntarily join organisations undertaking functions on behalf the Council, the Council commits to the West Midlands protocol of recognising service with the organisations for certain service related employment benefits

(Note: The report to Cabinet dated 19th October is reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

8. Time limited health scrutiny panel. Report to follow.

9. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors I. Shires and Woodruff:-

Council recognises that microgeneration (that is the generation of energy by householders installing micro-units in their own homes) is a valuable new approach to engaging people as consumers and citizens in the important issues of climate change and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Council therefore, welcomes the introduction of the Climate Change and Sustainability Energy bill and the Management of Energy in Buildings bill into Parliament by a cross party group of MPs on 22nd June, noting that together these bills will:

1. Require the Prime Minister to report annually to Parliament on the level of greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Require the Chancellor of the Exchequer to implement a fiscal strategy to assist with microgeneration and energy efficiency;
3. Require the government to set national targets for microgeneration and enable local authorities to set such targets if they deem it appropriate;
4. Extend permitted development status to the installation of microgeneration subject to the specifying of safeguards relating to visual and noise effects;
5. Require utility companies to purchase, at a reasonable rate, any surplus energy generated by householders via microgeneration;

6. Require future revisions to building regulations to take into account the desirability of promoting microgeneration and of introducing an energy generating rating system in new buildings;
7. Enable householders who generate electricity by microgeneration to have access to “renewables obligation certificates” and
8. Establish a “renewable heat obligation” requiring utility companies to support certain amount of heat from renewable sources.

Council therefore supports the bills and resolves to inform the government of the Council's view, urges the government to support the bills; and urges our three local MPs to be present in Parliament to back these bills when they are debated in the House of Commons on 11th November.

Council therefore urges our three local MPs to sign House of Commons early day motion 391 in support of these bills.

10. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors I. Shires and Woodruff:-

Council notes the government bill introducing compulsory ID cards to the UK.

Council believes that the disadvantages of such a scheme will outweigh any benefits to the people of Walsall.

Council believes that the cards will do nothing to prevent terrorism and crime of fraud.

Council believes according to government estimates the cost of such a scheme could reach £6 billion, with independent commentators predicting costs of as much as £18 billion, they estimate cards between £220 and £300 each. On the government's own predictions, requiring Walsall to pay an estimated £28 for a stand-alone card or £93 for a passport and ID card together.

Council believes this will hit the most vulnerable and poorest in our society those on low pay, who usually don't drive, don't go abroad and as a consequence have no need for a driving licence or passport, yet will be forced to pay up to £100 for a card they don't want or need.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Affiliate to the “No2ID” campaign, which already includes MPs across several political parties;
2. Make representations at every possible stage, reiterating this Council's opposition to ID cards;

3. Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the national identity cards;
4. Make it a policy of the Council to ensure that national identity cards would not be required to access Council services or benefits unless specifically called to do so by an Act of Parliament;
5. Only co-operate with the national identity card scheme where specifically required to do so by law;
6. Mandate the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary expressing these views and asking him to reconsider his decision to push forward this legislation.

11. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors I. Shires and Woodruff:-

Council notes the serious problems caused by chewing gum litter, including its unsightliness, difficulty of removal and the damage to public realm it creates.

Council supports the campaign for a 1p per packet levy on chewing gum to be passed onto local authorities to assist with the costs of removal.

Council calls for further action on education on the disposal of chewing gum with consideration for the environment and others.