



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Wednesday 28th February 2018 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor M. Longhi (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor P. Bott (Deputy Mayor)

“ B. Allen
“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.J. Barker
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ K. Chambers
“ A.G. Clarke
“ C.E. Clews
“ S.J. Cooper
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ C.U. Creaney
“ A. Ditta
“ S.K. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ K. Ferguson
“ M. Follows
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ N.Z. Gultasib
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ D.T. Hazell
“ E.A. Hazell
“ A.J. Hicken

Councillor K. Hussain

“ D. James
“ L.D. Jeavons
“ C. Jones
“ T.J. Jukes
“ A. Kudhail
“ Mrs. R.A. Martin
“ J. Murray
“ A.A. Nawaz
“ M. Nazir
“ A.S. Nazir
“ G. Perry
“ K. Phillips
“ L.J. Rattigan
“ I.C. Robertson
“ J. Rochelle
“ E.B. Russell
“ H.S. Sarohi
“ K. Sears
“ I. Shires
“ G.S. Sohal
“ C.D.D. Towe
“ A. Underhill
“ S. Wade
“ M. Ward
“ T.S. Wilson
“ R.V. Worrall
“ A. Young

69. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hughes and Washbrook.

70. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2018 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

71. **Declarations of interest**

The Mayor reminded members that the Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to all members of the Council under Section 33(3) of the Localism Act 2011 to allow them to participate and vote in the setting of the Council budget.

There were no declarations of interest.

72. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

73. **Mayor's announcements**

Recorded vote on the budget

The Mayor reminded members that in accordance with the law a recorded vote would need to be taken on the budget decision and any amendments thereto.

74. **Petitions**

Councillor Sohal submitted a petition with regard to security measures and maintenance at Woodend Road Park.

75. **Questions**

There were no questions by members or members of the public.

76. **Recommendations of Cabinet**

(a) **Corporate Plan**

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Jeavons and:

Resolved

That Council approves the updated version as the new Corporate Plan 2018-21.

(b) **Corporate Budget Plan 2017/18 to 2020/21 and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2018/19 onwards**

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

The Council was informed that:

“The budget report referred on from Cabinet on 14 February 2018 delegated authority to the Chief Financial Officer to make any necessary amendments to the budget, statutory determinations and council tax bands, in consultation with the Leader (portfolio holder for finance), to take account of the final precepts, the final settlement, final grant allocations and any changes to technical guidance on the budget, and for amendments to those to be submitted and therefore recommended to Council at its meeting on 28 February 2018.

The final Police Precept has now been received. West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner has increased the Police element of the council tax by an average band D of £12 for 2018/19 which equates to 10.30%.

The final Fire precept has now been set but we are awaiting formal notification at the time of dispatch of this report. West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority have increased their element of the council tax by 2.99% for 2018/19.

The WMCA (Transport) levy has also been finalised and is reflected in this report.

Statutory determinations (council gross expenditure and income) have been amended to reflect confirmation of notified grant changes.

There are still a number of final grant allocations to be received at this time and officers will ensure that spend is adjusted to reflect final grant allocations, as appropriate:

- Housing benefits subsidy

- West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioners allocation
- Home Office Prevent Grant
- Business Rates Retention Tax Loss Reimbursement

The following revised recommendation incorporates the above changes. “

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan and seconded by Councillor Jeavons:

That the following be approved:

(I) Revenue

- The allocation of revenue resources for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix 2: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- A Walsall Council net council tax requirement for 2018/19 of £114.99m and a 4.99% increase in council tax.
- That the recommendations of the S151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) in respect of the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget calculations and the adequacy of reserves **be approved**, including the levels of central contingency and an opening general reserve of not less than £14.6m, as set out in **Annex 9** of the Budget Plan.
- The levies below for outside bodies:

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Combined Authority Transport Levy	11,160,595
Environment agency	79,939

- The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended)
 - £619,360,792** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
 - £504,374,876** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - £114,985,916** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (e) (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (e) (II), calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
 - £1,648.71** being the amount at (e) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of 69,742.96, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (average council tax at band D).

V. Valuation bands

Being amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) (IV) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Local Government Act 1992, is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the council in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Act as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwelling listed in different valuation bands.

A	B	C	D
1,099.14	1,282.33	1,465.52	1,648.71
E	F	G	H
2,015.09	2,381.47	2,747.85	3,297.42

- f) The precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner, issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below.

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
	A	B	C	D
Police And Crime Commissioner	85.70	99.98	114.27	128.55
	E	F	G	H
	157.12	185.68	214.25	257.10
	A	B	C	D
Fire & Rescue	39.23	45.77	52.30	58.84
	E	F	G	H
	71.92	84.99	98.07	117.68

- g) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (e) (v) and (f) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2018/19 for each of the categories of dwellings shown.

A	B	C	D
1,224.07	1,428.08	1,632.09	1,836.10
E	F	G	H
2,244.13	2,652.14	3,060.17	3,672.20

- h) That notice **be given** of the council tax within twenty one days of it being set by publishing details of the same in the "Walsall Advertiser" newspaper circulating in the Authority's area.

- i) That the Chief Financial Officer **be instructed** to take all necessary action in relation to council tax, community charge and national non-domestic rates, including, where appropriate, the signing of all documents, billing, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- j) That the Chief Finance Officer **be given delegated authority** to make transfers to and from reserves in order to ensure that reserves are maintained as necessary and in particular, adjusted when reserves are no longer required, or need to be replenished.
- k) That, pursuant to Section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the relevant basic amount of council tax for the Council is not excessive in relation to determining whether a referendum is required.

(II) Capital

- a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in Appendix 2: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.
- b) That the capital and leasing programme set out in the following tables **be approved** bearing in mind the principle that unless affordable from within current resources, specific projects funded by borrowing will not be commenced until a payback agreement is in place. Schemes funded from grant will commence when final allocations are published. Reserve list items will only commence should funding become available during the financial year.
- c) That the Chief Finance Officer be **given delegated authority** to determine how each source of finance is used to fund the overall capital programme and to alter the overall mix of financing as necessary, to maximise the flexibility of capital resources used and minimise the ongoing costs of borrowing to the Council.
- d) That the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader (portfolio holder for finance), be **given delegated authority** to release capital resources held back for any contingent items that may arise (earmarked capital receipts for essential or emergency spend), and also for any match funding requirements that may be required of the Council in order to secure additional external capital funding (e.g. bids for government or other funding).
- e) The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy set out in **Annex 8** of the Budget Plan including the use of new capital receipts from April 2018 to March 2019 to fund revenue transformational projects as detailed, subject to sufficient receipts being available to cover planned capital programme commitments.
- f) That the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader (portfolio holder for finance), **be given delegated authority** to allocate new capital receipts to support revenue costs of transformation projects which fulfil the requirements of the ‘flexible use of capital receipts strategy’, as set out in **Annex 8** of the Budget Plan

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES				
SCHEME	Estimated Value £			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
<i>Ongoing implications of prior year approvals (new spend)</i>				
Broadway West playing fields – refurbish/improve existing changing room provision – match funding required as below	100,000			
Walsall Town Centre Public Realm improvements / Market	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	
Migration of existing Urban Traffic Control analogue communication network	185,000			
Traffic signals – replacement of obsolete equipment	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Provision of community dropped crossings across footways	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Library redesign including relocation of Local History Centre to Central Library	2,437,000			
Essential Microsoft upgrades and foundation for Office 365	225,000			
Procurement of system for Human Resources management & Oracle financials	2,100,000	1,400,000		
Service improvement for single mobile device management solution	51,000	51,000		
Civic Centre heating	600,000			
Redesign of school kitchens to meet health & safety, food and fire regulations	250,000			
CCTV upgrade to equipment	250,000			
Mosaic Phase 3 implementation of social care case management system	223,085			
<i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i>				
Memorial safety in Walsall cemeteries	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Highway Maintenance Programme	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000	2,800,000
Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000
Health Through Warmth – Safety Net support	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Funding to support essential works including Health & Safety	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000
<i>New Capital Bids</i>				
Supporting transformation – looked after children / out of borough placements	150,000	150,000	150,000	
Supporting transformation – looked after children small residential home	60,000	60,000	60,000	
Pinfold Centre – relocation of Children’s Services Independent Review and Child Protection conference service from Hollies	684,630			
Corporate parenting contact and assessment hub – relocation of 4 into 1	697,571			
Replacement of obsolete analogue weather stations used to provide winter service to the highway network	40,000			
Open water safety schemes - signage	73,650	2,000	5,000	2,000

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES - Continued				
SCHEME	Estimated Value £			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Walsall Arboretum Extension and Country Park infrastructure improvements		190,000		
Oak Park Active Living second artificial grass pitch (match funding as below)	150,000			
Bloxwich Active Living Centre – interactive aquatics play	30,000			
Mobile technology implementation for Building Control	11,500			
Streetly Crematorium installation of air conditioning units and refurbishment of toilets		215,351		
Replacement of obsolete fixed site speed enforcement camera infrastructure	175,000			
Promotion of community health and safety	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
M6 Junction 10 road improvements – match funded to grant			650,000	
Aldridge Manor House – development into a commercial opportunity	4,766,000	83,000		
Walsall Council House - modern secure reception	106,000			
Maintaining a safe and secure environment – review of ICT infrastructure including moving data centre and some services to Cloud	5,901,000	2,949,000		
Darlaston Town Hall – asbestos and fire safety works	99,900			
Walsall Town Hall – roofing repair system	61,500			
High level parapet wall – Sneyd Vernon Way	94,350			
Implementing the ICT strategy to support the Council's transformation programme	455,000			
Willenhall Lane travellers site – redesign to create 2 additional plots	85,000			
Adult Social Care and Children's Services mobile working	753,537			
District Town Centre Public Realm improvements	4,000,000			
Total	30,570,723	10,855,351	7,120,000	4,757,000

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 - SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES	Estimated Value £
Basic Need school allocation (grant)	21,616,745
Devolved Formula Capital school allocation (grant)	534,800
Capital Maintenance school allocation (grant)	2,222,387
Special provision fund – provision for pupils with special educational needs (grant)	319,229
Broadway West playing fields (match funding as above from other third party)	150,000
Oak Park Active Living Centre (match funding as above from other third party)	300,000
M6 junction 10 road improvements (grant)	14,260,000
Highways Maintenance DfT Challenge Fund (grant)	2,348,000
West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan (STP) (grant)	1,283,000
Growth Deal – creation of skills, connections for manufacturing (grant)	19,527,429
National Productivity Investment Fund Programme for junction and cycling improvements (70% grant, 15% other third party). Further local contribution from Strategic Transport Plan and council public realm allocation.	2,601,500
Willenhall Memorial Park artwork (other third party)	1,200
Disabled Facilities Grant (grant)	2,145,000
Integrated Community Equipment Store – purchase of specialised equipment (grant)	750,000
Total	68,059,290

CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST 2018/19 – MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	Estimated Value £
Further provision for Preventative / Aids and Adaptations and Supporting Independence	750,000
Further provision for Health Through Warmth – tackling fuel poverty	75,000
Work required following investigation on drainage at North Walsall Cemetery	100,000
Hatherton Road multi-storey car park – development of demolition plan to address structural repair issues	525,000
Total	1,450,000

LEASING PROGRAMME 2018/19	Expenditure £
Refuse vehicles	481,000
Light commercial vehicles	443,000
Tractors and agricultural machinery	198,000
Welfare vehicles	26,000
Equipment	228,000
Total	1,376,000

(III) Treasury Management

- a) That Appendix 2 – Part 2 – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2018/19 onwards, including the council's borrowing requirement, borrowing limits, and the adoption of the prudential indicators, **be approved**.

- b) That decisions to effect movements between conventional borrowing and other long term liabilities, such as leases, **be delegated** to the Chief Financial Officer.
- c) That decisions to use capital receipts or borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators **be delegated** to the Chief Financial Officer.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried – the voting being recorded as follows:

For the motion - 30 members	Against the - motion 25 members	Abstained - 2 members
Cllr: S. Coughlan	Cllr: Bird	Cllr: C. Bott
Shires	E. Hazell	P. Bott
Barker	Allen	
Burley	Andrew	
Chambers	Clarke	
Clews	Cooper	
D. Coughlan	Craddock	
Creaney	Douglas-Maul	
A. Ditta	Ferguson	
S. Ditta	Follows	
J. Fitzpatrick	Harris	
S. Fitzpatrick	Harrison	
Gultasib	D. Hazell	
Hussain	Hicken	
James	Kudhail	
Jeavons	Longhi	
Jones	Martin	
Jukes	Murray	
Nawaz	Perry	
A. Nazir	Rattigan	
M. Nazir	Rochelle	
Phillips	Sears	
Robertson	Sohal	
Russell	Towe	
Sarohi	Wilson	
Underhill		
Ward		
Wade		
Worrall		
Young		

and it was:

Resolved

That the following be approved:

(I) Revenue

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- b) A Walsall Council net council tax requirement for 2018/19 of £114.99m and a 4.99% increase in council tax.
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- f) That the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Leader (portfolio holder for finance), **be given delegated authority** to allocate new capital receipts to support revenue costs of transformation projects which fulfil the requirements of the ‘flexible use of capital receipts strategy’, as set out in **Annex 8** of the Budget Plan

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES				
SCHEME	Estimated Value £			
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Equipment	228,000
Total	1,376,000

(III) Treasury Management

- a) That Appendix 2 – Part 2 – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2018/19 onwards, including the council's borrowing requirement, borrowing limits, and the adoption of the prudential indicators, **be approved.**

- b) That decisions to effect movements between conventional borrowing and other long term liabilities, such as leases, **be delegated** to the Chief Financial Officer.
- c) That decisions to use capital receipts or borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators **be delegated** to the Chief Financial Officer.

77. Recommendation of Personnel Committee – Pay Policy Statement 2018/19

The report to Personnel Committee was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan, seconded by Councillor Jeavons and:

Resolved

That the Council approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/19.

78. Agenda for change/Personnel and business support portfolio report

A report was submitted.

Councillor Chambers, portfolio holder for agenda for change/personnel and business support gave a presentation.

Members asked questions in relation to the presentation which were responded to by Councillor Chambers.

The meeting terminated at 7.00 p.m.