



Walsall Council

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the Council of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough held on **Thursday 26th February 2015 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House.

Present

Councillor P.E. Smith (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillor A. Underhill (Deputy Mayor)

“ A.J.A. Andrew
“ D.A. Anson
“ M. Arif
“ D.J. Barker
“ O.D. Bennett
“ M.A. Bird
“ C. Bott
“ P. Bott
“ R. Burley
“ B. Cassidy
“ K. Chambers
“ A.G. Clarke
“ C.E. Clews
“ D. Coughlan
“ S.P. Coughlan
“ S.R. Craddock
“ C.U. Creaney
“ A. Ditta
“ B.A. Douglas-Maul
“ J. Fitzpatrick
“ S.F. Fitzpatrick
“ M. D. Flower
“ A.D. Harris
“ L.A. Harrison
“ D.T. Hazell
“ E.A. Hazell
“ E.F. Hughes
“ K. Hussain

Councillor G. Illmann-Walker

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

83. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2015 copies having been sent to each member of the Council, be approved as a correct record and signed.

84. **Declarations of interest**

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

The following members declared their interest in the items indicated:

Councillor J. Fitzpatrick	Blakenall Library – Director of New Horizons (personal)
Councillor Robertson	Blakenall Library – Director of New Horizons (personal)

85. **Local Government (Access to information) Act 1985**

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

86. **Mayor's announcements**

(1) **Voting on the budget**

The Mayor reminded members that in accordance with the requirements of Council procedure rules a recorded vote would need to be taken on the budget and any amendments thereto.

(2) **Death of Mr. Arthur Bentley**

The Mayor referred to the death of Mr. A.G. Bentley, Mayor in 2003/04 and paid tribute to his services to the borough over a period of many years. Councillors I. Shires, Barker, Bird, S. Coughlan and E. Hazell also paid tribute to Mr. Bentley, following which it was **moved** by the Mayor, duly seconded and:

Resolved

That this Council expresses its regret at the death of Mr. A.G. Bentley a member of the Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council from May 1982 to May 2007 of which Council he was Mayor in 2003/04 and places on record their appreciation of his services to the borough over a period of many years and expresses its condolences to his family at this sad time.

Members and officers stood in silence as a mark of respect.

87. Petitions

The following petitions were submitted:

- (1) Councillor Russell – Removal of double yellow lines at the bottom of Little London and West Bromwich Street.
- (2) Councillor D. Coughlan – Ring-fence the Independent Living Fund.
- (3) Councillor Rattigan – Save Rushall Library (over 500 signatures).
- (4) Councillor Jones – Budget proposal with regard to Children's Centre services (over 500 signatures).
- (5) Councillor Martin – Broadway North site to be kept for the provision of a health centre and community facilities.
- (6) Councillor Clews – Scrap cuts to services for disabled children and adults in Walsall MBC (over 500 signatures).

88. Petition: Charging for the collection of garden waste

A report was submitted.

Councillor Bird spoke to the petition and said he was happy that the proposal had been rejected after consultation.

Councillor S. Coughlan said that this showed that the labour group were listening to the people.

Resolved

- (1) That the content of the petition be noted.
- (2) That the Council notes the decision of Cabinet on 4 February 2015 in relation to changes to the draft budget and capital programme to remove the original proposal of charging for the collection of garden waste.

89. **Questions by members of the public and Council**

No questions had been received.

90. **Recommendation of Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel – Blakenall Library**

The report to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Creaney, seconded by Councillor S. Fitzpatrick and:

Resolved

That Council reconsider the closure of Blakenall Library in 2016/17 as proposed in the Corporate Budget Plan.

Councillor S. Coughlan said that in accepting the recommendation of the Scrutiny and Performance Panel he hoped that they would look again at this in more detail.

91. **Recommendations of Cabinet**

(1) **Corporate Budget Plan and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2015/16**

The report to Cabinet (as amended by the Chief Finance Officer to take into account the receipt of final precepts and levies, receipt of the final settlement, technical/legislative guidance and final specific grant allocations) was submitted.

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

That the following be approved:

(A) Revenue

(a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2015/16 as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.

(b) That the recommendations of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) 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 reserves of not less than £10.15m, as set out in Annex 3 of the budget plan.

(c) The final levies below for outside bodies.

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	12,849,678
Environment agency	74,551

(d) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended):

- I. **£625,433,021** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
- II. **£531,730,054** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- III. **£93,702,967** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (d) (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (d) (II), calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
- IV. **£1,438.32** being the amount at (d) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of **65,147.51**, 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 (d) (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
£958.88	£1,118.69	£1,278.51	£1,438.32
E	F	G	H
£1,757.95	£2,077.57	£2,397.20	£2,876.64

(e) The precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and the precept from 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	£71.03	£82.87	£94.71	£106.55
	E	F	G	H
Fire & Rescue	£130.23	£153.91	£177.58	£213.10
	A	B	C	D
	£36.62	£42.73	£48.83	£54.94
	E	F	G	H
	£67.14	£79.35	£91.56	£109.87

- (f) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (d) (v) and (e) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

A	B	C	D
£1,066.53	£1,244.29	£1,422.05	£1,599.81
E	F	G	H
£1,955.32	£2,310.83	£2,666.34	£3,199.61

- (g) 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.
- (h) 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, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- (i) 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.

(B) Capital

- (a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan".
- (b) That the capital 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 unsupported 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.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
<i>Prior Year Approvals</i>	
Social IT Systems Review & Enhancement	550,000
Rushall Primary / EDC alterations	350,000
Libraries Universal Digital Offer – a 21 st century Public Library service	54,840
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	14,969,854
Bentley Employability and Learning Hub	115,000
Walsall Market	1,750,000
<i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i>	
Proactive Memorial Safety in Walsall cemeteries	60,000
Public Lighting 'Invest to save' for replacement LED lighting	250,000

Highway Maintenance Programme	1,900,000
Highway Maintenance – funding shift from revenue	100,000
Retained Housing Land Inspection/Maintenance of LSVT sites	50,000
Preventative adaptations and Supporting Independence	250,000
Health Through Warmth – Safety Net support	150,000
Aids & Adaptations – statutory element	750,000
New Capital Bids	
Leamore Park additional fencing	14,000
A single library management system for Black Country	210,000
Walsall Gala Baths refurbishment	1,000,000
Mayrise system mobile working	138,000
Traffic signals – replacement of obsolete equipment	200,000
Traffic signals – invest to save conversion to LED lighting	650,000
LEX remediation works	405,000
ICT essential upgrade to Blackberry server	16,501
ICT essential upgrade to Windows 2003 servers	110,000
Council Wide bids	
Funding to support essential works including Health & Safety, and other projects that cannot be guaranteed at start of year	1,000,000
Provision for match funded external schemes	350,000
Reserve list projects – allocation to be drawn upon in year	60,000
Total	25,453,195

NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES 2015/16	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Basic Need	4,393,150
Devolved Formula Capital	573,944
Capital Maintenance	2,415,181
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	1,561,717
Aldridge Airport – development of Walsall Country Park including the Top Hangar (match funding may be required for resurfacing of access road)	2,000,000
Beacon Lodge, Community Activity Centre	20,000
Barr Beacon Event Arena	20,000
Allotments and Community Gardens	5,000
Outdoor fitness equipment	25,000
Forest Arts Centre hall conversion	100,000
LTP Highway Maintenance Programme	2,415,000
Integrated Transport Block / Local Transport Plan 2015/16	1,247,000
Darlaston Strategic Development Area Access Project	4,945,132
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,632,000
Community Capital Capacity Grant	797,000
Total	22,150,124

LEASING PROGRAMME 2015/16	
PORTFOLIO	EXPENDITURE £
Environment & Transport portfolio – vehicles and equipment	2,115,832
Community, Leisure & Culture portfolio – leisure equipment	588,000
Total	2,703,832

CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST ITEMS 2015/16	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Willenhall Lawn Cemetery extension	1,200,000
Local History Centre upgrade of computers	18,252
Darlaston Swimming Pool refurbishment	150,000
Walsall Country Park	68,500
Security improvement programme	5,000
Retained Housing Land Inspection & Maintenance of LSVT sites	50,000
Residential Parking – Construction of new residential parking facilities (verge parking)	250,000
Promotion of Community Health & Safety	240,000
Local safety schemes	400,000
Regenerating Walsall	200,000
Preventative Adaptations and Supporting Independence	750,000
Aids & Adaptations – statutory element	250,000
Leasing v Buy	2,560,000
Total	6,141,752

(C) Treasury Management

- (a) That Section B – Part 2 – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2015/16, including the council's borrowing requirement 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 Finance Officer.
- (c) That decisions to use capital receipts or unsupported borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer.

Amendment moved by Councillor Craddock and seconded by Councillor E. Hazell:

That the Cabinet recommendations be amended for the following alternative budget proposal as set out below:

- 2.2.1 (a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2015/16 as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan". (*Resource allocation and portfolio plans to be amended as per table 13 and the detailed changes set out following the table*).
- (b) That the recommendations of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) 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 reserves of not less than £10.15m, as set out in Annex 3 of the budget plan.

(c) The final levies below for outside bodies.

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	12,849,678
Environment agency	74,551

(d) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended):

- I. **£624,745,814** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
- II. **£532,870,887** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- III. **£91,874,927** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (d) (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (d) (II), calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
- IV. **£1,410.26** being the amount at (d) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of **65,147.51**, 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 (d) (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
£940.17	£1,096.87	£1,253.56	£1,410.26
E	F	G	H
£1,723.65	£2,037.04	£2,350.43	£2,820.51

(e) The precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and the precept from 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	£71.03	£82.87	£94.71	£106.55
	£130.23	£153.91	£177.58	£213.10
Fire & Rescue	£36.62	£42.73	£48.83	£54.94
	£67.14	£79.35	£91.56	£109.87

- (f) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (d) (v) and (e) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

A	B	C	D
£1,047.82	£1,222.47	£1,397.10	£1,571.75
E	F	G	H
£1,921.02	£2,270.30	£2,619.57	£3,143.48

- (g) 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.
- (h) 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, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- (i) 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.

(There is no impact on other sections of the recommendations in 2.2.2 to 2.2.3.)

Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.

Resource Allocation - Table 13 of Section B – Part 1 of the Budget Report

Table 13 : Provisional Revenue Cash Limits by Portfolio		
Portfolio	Proposed by Cabinet 2015/16	<i>Alternative Proposal</i> 2015/16
Finance & Communications	4.83	4.72
Children’s Services	56.26	55.67
Community, Leisure & Culture	18.18	19.12
Environment & Transport	32.40	32.43
Health	0.00	0.00
Personnel & Business Support	3.44	3.17
Regeneration	7.18	6.99
Social Care	68.11	67.62
Net Portfolio Cash Limits	190.40	189.72
Capital Financing	0.73	0.73
Levies	12.92	12.92
Central budgets	(110.35)	(111.50)
Council Tax Requirement	93.70	91.87

**Central budgets include direct Government funding and business rates. Health balances to nil as it is funded via a direct grant.*

Detailed Changes to Resources Allocation within individual Portfolio Plans:

Amendments to existing saving proposals:

Saving Ref. No.	Original saving description	Alternative budget proposal	2015/16 Cost/ (saving)	Portfolio
65	Library Closures	Remove this saving proposal from the budget	£288,819	Community, leisure and culture
82	Street cleaning - reduction in 5 posts and removal of Walsall Town Centre Gold Award	Remove this saving proposal from the budget	£266,747	Environment and transport
Total amendments to existing proposal			£515,566	

New Investment proposal:

Alternative budget investment proposal	2015/16 Cost	Portfolio
Support to community and voluntary groups to stimulate participation of the third sector	£1,014,387	Community, leisure and culture

Summary of total changes to the original budget as identified in tables above:

Alternative Budget New Saving Proposal	2015/16 Cost / (Saving) £
Total Savings Amendments	515,566
Total New Investment	1,014,387
Total Net Changes	1,529,953

Net Changes Funded by:

Source of Funding	2015/16 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
Council tax – no increase	1,828,040	N/A – This forms part of the net council tax requirement figure as it is collection fund income
Council tax freeze grant	(1,140,833)	Central budgets
Reduction in members basic allowances	(17,160)	Personnel & Business Support

Source of Funding	2015/16 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
Reduce working week by 1 hour – totalling £2.2m	(110,054)	Finance & Communications
	(587,874)	Children's Services
	(362,478)	Community, Leisure & Culture
	(194,038)	Environment & Transport
	(255,959)	Personnel & Business Support
	(186,629)	Regeneration
	(491,123)	Social Care
	(11,845)	Central budgets
Total Alternative Funding Sources	(1,529,953)	

[Chief Finance Officer's advice

This proposed alternative budget is confirmed to have been discussed with the Chief Finance Officer (CFO).

The alternative budget proposals as set out amends the statutory determinations, the council tax requirement, and the level of each council tax band from those proposed by Cabinet to Council.

The proposals include some removal of Cabinet's savings proposals, some increases in savings proposals and some new investment as set out and summarised in the tables above.

With regard to the proposal for reducing members allowances members should note that under statute (The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England Regulations 2003) before an authority makes or amends a scheme, the authority must have regard to the recommendations made in relation to it by an independent remuneration panel.

In relation to the proposed funding to support community and voluntary groups advice from the executive director for Neighbourhood services is that there exists the possibility that the commissioning and procurement process would challenge the total deliverability of the proposal within the financial year.

Should this occur the Chief Financial Officer advice is that any underspend would be subject to a carry forward into the following year.

Summary

The Council is required to set the budget for the forthcoming year, which is 2015/16. The alternative budget proposal as set out represents a balanced budget for 2015/16.]

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost – the voting being recorded as follows:

**For the amendment –
3 members**

Cllr: E. Hazell
Craddock
D. Hazell

**Against the
amendment-
55 members**

Cllr: Bird
S. Coughlan
I. Shires
Andrew
Anson
Arif
Barker
Bennett
Burley
Cassidy
Chambers
Clarke
Clews
D. Coughlan
Creaney
Ditta
Douglas-Maul
J. Fitzpatrick
S. Fitzpatrick
Flower
Harris
Harrison
Hughes
Hussain
Illmann-Walker
James
Jeavons
Jones
Jukes
Lane
Longhi
Martin
McCracken
Murray
Nawaz
Nazir
Perry
Phillips
Rattigan
Robertson
Rochelle
Russell
Sarohi
Sears
D. Shires

**Abstained -
2 members**

Cllr: C. Bott
P. Bott

Smith
 Sohal
 Towe
 Underhill
 Wade
 Westley
 Whyte
 Wilson
 Worrall
 Young

Amendment moved by Councillor Bird and seconded by Councillor Andrew:

That the Cabinet recommendations be amended for the following alternative budget proposal as set out below:

- 2.2.1 a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2015/16 as set out in Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”. *(Resource allocation and portfolio plans to be amended as per table 13 and the detailed changes set out following the table).*

(There is no impact on other sections of the recommendations in 2.2.1 to 2.2.3.)

Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.

Resource Allocation - Table 13 of Section B – Part 1 of the Budget Report

Table 13 : Provisional Revenue Cash Limits by Portfolio				
Portfolio	Proposed by Cabinet 2015/16 £m	<i>Alternative Proposal</i> 2015/16 £m	Proposed by Cabinet 2016/17 £m	<i>Alternative Proposal</i> 2016/17 £m
Finance & Communications	4.83	4.83	4.56	4.23
Children’s Services	56.26	56.33	54.23	54.49
Community, Leisure & Culture	18.18	18.34	17.39	16.46
Environment & Transport	32.40	33.01	30.29	32.30
Health	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Personnel & Business Support	3.44	3.27	2.03	2.03
Regeneration	7.18	7.21	6.72	8.55
Social Care	68.11	67.91	61.95	61.82
Net Portfolio Cash Limits	190.40	190.90	177.17	179.88
Capital Financing	0.73	0.73	0.48	0.48
Levies	12.92	12.92	12.92	12.92
Central budgets	(110.35)	(110.85)	(95.00)	(95.53)
Council Tax Requirement	93.70	93.70	95.57	97.75

**Central budgets include direct Government funding and business rates.*

Note - Health adjusted to nil as funded 100% by grant

Detailed Changes to Resources Allocation:

Amendments to Existing Saving Proposals:

Saving Ref No.	Original Saving Description	Alternative Budget Proposal	2015/16 Cost / (Saving) £	2016/17 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
13	Children's Specialist Services – reduce by 25% over 4 years and remodel the delivery of short breaks for children with disabilities / special needs	Remove this saving	50,000	150,000	Children's Services
27	Children's SEN school assisted transport and school bus passes	Remove this saving	20,000	75,000	Children's Services
65	Libraries – closure of 5 libraries in 2015/16 (Beechdale, Pheasey, South Walsall, Streetly, Walsall Wood) and 3 in 2016/17 (Blakenall, New Invention, Rushall)	Amend to Keep Pheasey and Streetly libraries open permanently and keep Walsall Wood Library open for 14 months until the new Oak Park Leisure Centre opens, then transfer a book exchange function into the Centre	181,639	5,000	Community, Leisure & Culture
79	Waste Collection (Garden Waste) – operate for 6 months only between April and September (currently 8 months)	Remove this saving	140,000	0	Environment & Transport
82	Street Cleansing – reduction in 15 front line posts across town and district centres. Cease the Walsall town centre Gold Standard and move to a mobile on demand service.	Remove this saving	226,747	0	Environment & Transport

Saving Ref No.	Original Saving Description	Alternative Budget Proposal	2015/16 Cost / (Saving)	2016/17 Cost / (Saving)	Portfolio
143	Access, Assessment and Care Management – learning disabilities long term care placement review and resettlement efficiencies: £200k - 2015/16, £400k - 2016/17	Reduce Learning Disability budget by a further £200k in 2015/16 (bringing total to £400k in 2015/16) and £400k in 2016/17 (bringing total to £800k in 2016/17)	(200,000)	(400,000)	Social Care
N/A	Reduce the cost of senior management by £1m over two years.	Reduce the cost of senior management by a further £1m over 2 yrs (£500k in 2015/16 and £500k in 2016/17), increasing the current savings proposal to a total of £1m in 2015/16 and £1m in 2016/17	(500,000)	(500,000)	This will be allocated once the detail of the savings has been worked through and consulted on.
Total Savings Amendments			(81,614)	(670,000)	

New Investment Proposals:

Alternative Budget Investment Proposal	2015/16 Cost £	2016/17 Cost £	Portfolio
Invest in Children's - Looked After Children	0	1,500,000	Children's Services
Invest in town & district pothole team	240,000	0	Environment & Transport
Invest in transportation infrastructure	0	1,500,000	Environment & Transport
Pothole investment	0	1,000,000	Environment & Transport
Invest in free use of wifi in public buildings	0	500,000	Personnel & Business Support
Invest in regeneration of town centre	31,614	2,292,000	Regeneration
Invest in Adult Social Care	0	1,500,000	Social Care
Total New investment	271,614	8,292,000	

Total changes to the Original Budget as identified in tables above:

Alternative Budget New Saving Proposal	2015/16 Cost / (Saving)	2016/17 Cost / (Saving)	Portfolio
Total Savings Amendments	(81,614)	(670,000)	Finance & Communications
Total New Investment	271,614	8,292,000	Community, Leisure & Culture
Total Changes	190,000	7,622,000	

Funded by:

Source of Funding	2015/16 Cost / (Saving)	2016/17 Cost / (Saving)	Portfolio
Leave LGA (Local Government Association)	0	(54,000)	Finance & Communications
Consult on closing Walsall Central Library on Sundays	(20,000)	0	Community, Leisure & Culture
Outsource tree maintenance	0	(30,000)	Community, Leisure & Culture
Introduce 4 yearly elections – this is a cost in year 1, but an annual saving for the following 3 years of £327k	0	143,000	Personnel & Business Support
Reduce trade union facility time	(170,000)	0	Personnel & Business Support
Council Tax Reduction Scheme - introduce zero support over a two year period	0	(2,181,000)	N/A – This forms part of the net council tax requirement figure as it is collection fund income
Reduce working week by 2.5 hours – totalling £5.5m	0	(275,136)	Finance & Communications
	0	(1,469,686)	Children's Services
	0	(906,196)	Community, Leisure & Culture
	0	(485,094)	Environment & Transport
	0	(639,898)	Personnel & Business Support
	0	(466,572)	Regeneration
	0	(1,227,807)	Social Care
	0	(29,611)	Central budgets
Total New Savings	(190,000)	(7,622,000)	

[Chief Finance Officer's Advice

This proposed alternative budget is confirmed to have been discussed with the Chief Finance Officer (CFO).

The Council is required to set a budget for the forthcoming year, 2015/16. The 2015/16 alternative budget proposals as set out do not amend the statutory determinations, the council tax requirement or the level of council tax or bands from those proposed by Cabinet to Council.

The alternative budget amends the total resources allocated to individual portfolios as set out in the preceding pages and includes removal of some of Cabinet's savings proposals, some increases in savings proposals, some new savings and some new investment.

The net financial effect of these changes is nil, and use of reserves or on-off funds is not required. Whilst several of the proposals will require further consultation, from a financial perspective, the budget is balanced and there are no other financial matters to draw to Council's attention.

In relation to 2016/17, the budget is also balanced. Council should however, be aware of the following:

- Changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme are reserved to Full Council for approval and would require further consultation and equality impact assessment prior to reporting back to Council for a decision by 31 January 2016 to allow a 1 April 2016 implementation date.]*

At 7.20 p.m. the Mayor adjourned the meeting until 7.45 p.m.

At 7.45 p.m. the meeting reconvened and the Mayor asked the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Mr. Cox) to explain the procedure to be followed to allow the original motion which Councillor S. Coughlan had agreed to be altered to take into account amendments put forward by Councillor Bird.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said that following discussions with the Labour and Conservative groups it would be necessary for the Conservative group to withdraw the amendment to the current motion, under Council procedure rule 15.7(a). Under the Council Procedure rules the Leader would need to request the Council to alter his original motion with the consent of the meeting and the altered motion put before Council which could be debated and amendments made to that altered motion.

With the approval of the seconder (Councillor Andrew) Councillor Bird withdrew his amendment.

Councillor S. Coughlan explained the following alterations to the original motion. It was proposed to add the following to paragraph (a) – Revenue:

- I. Removal of library saving in 2015/16 £288,819
- II. Removal of garden waste collection saving 2015/16 £140,000
- III. Removal of street cleansing saving 2015/16 £226,747
- IV. Items a) I to III to be funded from one off use of general reserves £655,566.

The altered motion was circulated around the Council Chamber.

The Council agreed to the original motion being altered in accordance with Council procedure rules.

The Mayor asked Councillor I. Shires if he wanted to adjourn the meeting in order to consider the changes.

Councillor I. Shires confirmed that he did require time to consider the altered motion.

At 7.55 p.m. the Council agreed to adjourn until 9.00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9.00 p.m.

Amendment moved by Councillor I. Shires and seconded by Councillor Barker:

That the Cabinet recommendations be amended for the following alternative budget proposal as set out below:

- 2.2.1 a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2015/16 as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan". (*Resource allocation and portfolio plans to be amended as per table 13 on page 2 and the detailed changes set out following the table*).
- 2.2.1 d) The revised statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended) as follows:
 - I. **£625,953,587** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
 - II. **£532,250,620** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - III. **£93,702,967** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (d) (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (d) (II), calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.

There is no impact on other sections of the recommendations in 2.2.1 to 2.2.3.

This alternative budget includes a new recommendation as follows:

- 2.2.4 An in year review of public health spend to be undertaken in 2015/16 to allow release of sufficient grant in 2016/17 to continue to fund activities included within savings proposals PH1, PH2, PH 5, and PH9.

Section B: Part 1 “The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan”.

Resource Allocation - Table 13 of Section B – Part 1 of the Budget Report

Table 13 : Provisional Revenue Cash Limits by Portfolio				
Portfolio	Proposed by Cabinet 2015/16	Alternative Proposal 2015/16	Proposed by Cabinet 2016/17	Alternative Proposal 2016/17
Finance & Communications	4.83	4.83	4.56	4.56
Children’s Services	56.26	57.30	54.23	53.74
Community, Leisure & Culture	18.18	18.69	17.39	17.57
Environment & Transport	32.40	32.77	30.29	30.29
Health	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Personnel & Business Support	3.44	3.44	2.03	2.08
Regeneration	7.18	7.18	6.72	6.72
Social Care	68.11	68.21	61.95	61.95
Net Portfolio Cash Limits	190.40	192.42	177.17	176.92
Capital Financing	0.73	0.73	0.48	0.48
Levies	12.92	12.92	12.92	12.92
Central budgets	(110.35)	(112.37)	(95.00)	(94.75)
Council Tax Requirement	93.70	93.70	95.57	95.57

**Central budgets include direct Government funding and business rates. Health balances to nil as it is funded via a direct grant.*

Detailed changes to resources allocation within individual portfolio plans:

Amendments to existing saving proposals:

Saving Ref. No.	Original Saving Description	Alternative Budget Proposal	2015/16 Cost / (Saving) £	2016/17 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
22	Reduction in Children's Centre to align service with need	Revised saving based on continuing with this proposal but retaining the Lighthouse and Fibbersley Park Children's Centre's	135,000	416,000	Children's Services

Saving Ref. No.	Original Saving Description	Alternative Budget Proposal	2015/16 Cost / (Saving) £	2016/17 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
30	Youth - Information, Advice and Guidance	To phase in this saving following a fundamental review of all Youth Services Activity with a reduced level of savings in 2015/16 and a higher level in 2016/17	902,000	(902,000)	Children's Services
31	Targeted youth work				
32	Targeted youth support				
48	Area Partnerships - Removal of 4 support officer posts	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	107,000	0	Community leisure and Culture
49	Area Partnerships - Removal of 4 support officer posts and 1 project officer post	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	47,000	0	Community leisure and Culture
65	Library Closures	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	288,819	181,000	Community leisure and Culture
67	Closure of Walsall Museum	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	70,000	0	Community leisure and Culture
79	Waste Collection Service (Garden) – operate for 6 months only between April and September (currently 8 months)	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	140,000	0	Environment and Transport
82	Street Cleansing – reduction in 5 posts and removal of Walsall Town Centre Gold Standard	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	226,747	0	Environment and Transport
107	Democratic Services – reduce the number of scrutiny panels and the frequency of meetings	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	0	50,000	Personnel and Business Support
151	Commissioning – removal of recruitability payments to sheltered employment users	Remove this saving proposal from the Budget	104,000	0	Social Care

Saving Ref. No.	Original Saving Description	Alternative Budget Proposal	2015/16 Cost / (Saving) £	2016/17 Cost / (Saving) £	Portfolio
PH1	Sexual health & contraception - prevention, testing and treatment	Continue to fund these services, but in a different way (using unallocated 2014/15 public health grant)	53,000	70,000	Health
PH2	Drug and Alcohol prevention and treatment services	Continue to fund these services, but in a different way (using unallocated 2014/15 public health grant)	390,141	70,000	Health
PH5	Healthy weight / physical activity services	Continue to fund these services, but in a different way (using unallocated 2014/15 public health grant)	155,000	45,000	Health
PH9	Population Mental Health	Continue to fund these services, but in a different way (using unallocated 2014/15 public health grant)	133,000	0	Health
N/A	Reduce the cost of senior management by £1m over two years.	Reduce the cost of senior management by a further £1m over 2 yrs (£500k in 2015/16 and £500k in 2016/17), increasing the current savings proposal to a total of £1m in 2015/16 and £1m in 2016/17	(500,000)	(500,000)	This will be allocated once the detail of the savings has been worked through and consulted on.
N/A	Review of Employee Terms and Conditions - £1m saving in 2015/16	Review of Employee Terms and Conditions - to reduce employee costs by a further £1.25m in 2015/16	(1,250,000)	0	This will be allocated once the detail of the savings has been worked through and consulted on.
Total Amendments to Existing Proposals			1,001,707	(570,000)	

New Investment Proposal:

Alternative Budget Investment Proposal	2015/16 Cost £	2016/17 Cost £	Portfolio
Transformation Fund	250,000	234,503	Subject to Business Case development

Summary of total changes to the original budget as identified in tables above:

Alternative Budget New Saving Proposal	2015/16 Cost / (Saving)	2016/17 Cost / (Saving)
Total Savings Amendments	1,001,707	(570,000)
Total New Investment	250,000	234,503
Total Net Changes	1,251,707	(335,497)

Net changes funded by:

Source of Funding	2015/16 Cost / (Saving)	2016/17 Cost / (Saving)
Use of Public Health Grant	(731,141)	(185,000)
(Use of) / Replenishment of General Reserves	(520,566)	520,497
Total Alternative Funding Sources	(1,251,707)	335,497

[Chief Finance Officer's Advice

This proposed alternative budget is confirmed to have been discussed with the Chief Finance Officer (CFO).

The alternative budget proposals as set out amend the statutory determinations but do not amend the council tax requirement or the level of council tax or bands from those proposed by Cabinet to Council.

The proposals include some removal of Cabinet's savings proposals, some increases in savings proposals and some new investment as set out and summarised in the tables above.

Whilst the net effect of these changes is nil, the proposals include the use of alternative funding from one off sources as follows:

- 1) Use of public health grant in 2015/16 and 2016/17.*
- 2) Use of general reserves in 2015/16 of £520,497 and replenishment in 2016/17.*

Any use of one-off funding and use of general reserves should only ever be used on one-off items of expenditure.

In relation to the proposals in this amendment, I can advise as follows:

- 1) There is currently £1.04m of 2014/15 public health grant which is unallocated. The alternative budget assumes use of £731,141 of this in 2015/16 to continue to fund savings options PH1, PH2, PH5 and PH 9 in that year, and £185,000 in 2016/17. As spend is ongoing, but funding is one-off, this could leave a potential shortfall in 2016/17 of £731,141 and £185,000 in 2017/18. The alternative budget includes a recommendation for an in year review of public health spend to allow sufficient release and reallocation of resources to fund PH1-9 on an ongoing basis.*

2) *The current estimated level of reserves as at 31 March 2015 is c£10.9m. The recommended level of reserves is £10.15m. After reviewing the budget risks, I can confirm that the release of the £520,566 reduces the authorities' flexibility in meeting unknown financial pressures, however the quantum is such that all but the most unusual and serious combination of possible events can be met. The minimum opening balance required of the medium term financial strategy would not be compromised. In relation to 2016/17, the alternative budget provides for replenishment of £520,497 of general reserves increasing the amount available to the Council.*

Summary

The Council is required to set the budget for the forthcoming year, which is 2015/16. The alternative budget proposal as set out represents a balanced budget for 2015/16.

In relation to 2016/17, providing the public health review is completed, then from a financial perspective, the budget would be balanced.]

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost – the voting being recorded as follows:

**For the amendment –
3 members**

Cllr: I. Shires
Barker
D. Shires

**Against the
amendment-
55 members**

Cllr: Bird
S. Coughlan
E. Hazell
Andrew
Anson
Arif
Bennett
Burley
Cassidy
Chambers
Clarke
Clews
D. Coughlan
Craddock
Creaney
Ditta
Douglas-Maul
J. Fitzpatrick
S. Fitzpatrick
Flower
Harris
Harrison
D. Hazell
Hughes

**Abstained -
2 members**

Cllr: C. Bott
P. Bott

Hussain
Illmann-Walker
James
Jeavons
Jones
Jukes
Lane
Longhi
Martin
McCracken
Murray
Nawaz
Nazir
Perry
Phillips
Rattigan
Robertson
Rochelle
Russell
Sarohi
Sears
Smith
Sohal
Towe
Underhill
Wade
Westley
Whyte
Wilson
Worrall
Young

The altered motion was **moved** by Councillor S. Coughlan and seconded by Councillor Nazir:

That the following be approved:

(A) Revenue

(a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2015/16 as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan", as amended for the following:

- I. Removal of library saving in 2015/16 £288,819
- II. Removal of garden waste collection saving 2015/16 £140,000
- III. Removal of street cleansing saving 2015/16 £226,747
- IV. Items (a) I to III to be funded from one off use of general reserves £655,566.

- (b) That the recommendations of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) 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 reserves of not less than £10.15m, as set out in Annex 3 of the budget plan.
- (c) The final levies below for outside bodies.

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	12,849,678
Environment agency	74,551

- (d) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended):

- I. **£626,088,587** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
- II. **£532,385,620** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- III. **£93,702,967** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (d) (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (d) (II), calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
- IV. **£1,438.32** being the amount at (d) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of **65,147.51**, 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 (d) (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
£958.88	£1,118.69	£1,278.51	£1,438.32
E	F	G	H
£1,757.95	£2,077.57	£2,397.20	£2,876.64

- (e) The precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and the precept from 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			
	Police And Crime Commissioner	A	B	C
£71.03		£82.87	£94.71	£106.55
E		F	G	H
Fire & Rescue	£130.23	£153.91	£177.58	£213.10
	A	B	C	D
	£36.62	£42.73	£48.83	£54.94
	E	F	G	H
	£67.14	£79.35	£91.56	£109.87

- (f) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (d) (v) and (e) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

A	B	C	D
£1,066.53	£1,244.29	£1,422.05	£1,599.81
E	F	G	H
£1,955.32	£2,310.83	£2,666.34	£3,199.61

- (g) 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.
- (h) 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, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- (i) 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.

(B) Capital

- (a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan".
- (b) That the capital 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 unsupported 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.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
<i>Prior Year Approvals</i>	
Social IT Systems Review & Enhancement	550,000
Rushall Primary / EDC alterations	350,000
Libraries Universal Digital Offer – a 21 st century Public Library service	54,840
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	14,969,854
Bentley Employability and Learning Hub	115,000
Walsall Market	1,750,000
<i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i>	
Proactive Memorial Safety in Walsall cemeteries	60,000
Public Lighting 'Invest to save' for replacement LED lighting	250,000
Highway Maintenance Programme	1,900,000
Highway Maintenance – funding shift from revenue	100,000
Retained Housing Land Inspection/Maintenance of LSVT sites	50,000
Preventative adaptations and Supporting Independence	250,000
Health Through Warmth – Safety Net support	150,000
Aids & Adaptations – statutory element	750,000
<i>New Capital Bids</i>	
Leamore Park additional fencing	14,000
A single library management system for Black Country	210,000
Walsall Gala Baths refurbishment	1,000,000
Mayrise system mobile working	138,000
Traffic signals – replacement of obsolete equipment	200,000
Traffic signals – invest to save conversion to LED lighting	650,000
LEX remediation works	405,000
ICT essential upgrade to Blackberry server	16,501
ICT essential upgrade to Windows 2003 servers	110,000
<i>Council Wide bids</i>	
Funding to support essential works including Health & Safety, and other projects that cannot be guaranteed at start of year	1,000,000
Provision for match funded external schemes	350,000
Reserve list projects – allocation to be drawn upon in year	60,000
Total	25,453,195

NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES 2015/16	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Basic Need	4,393,150
Devolved Formula Capital	573,944
Capital Maintenance	2,415,181
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	1,561,717
Aldridge Airport – development of Walsall Country Park including the Top Hangar (match funding may be required for resurfacing of access road)	2,000,000
Beacon Lodge, Community Activity Centre	20,000
Barr Beacon Event Arena	20,000
Allotments and Community Gardens	5,000
Outdoor fitness equipment	25,000
Forest Arts Centre hall conversion	100,000
LTP Highway Maintenance Programme	2,415,000

Integrated Transport Block / Local Transport Plan 2015/16	1,247,000
Darlaston Strategic Development Area Access Project	4,945,132
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,632,000
Community Capital Capacity Grant	797,000
Total	22,150,124

LEASING PROGRAMME 2015/16	
PORTFOLIO	EXPENDITURE £
Environment & Transport portfolio – vehicles and equipment	2,115,832
Community, Leisure & Culture portfolio – leisure equipment	588,000
Total	2,703,832

CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST ITEMS 2015/16	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Willenhall Lawn Cemetery extension	1,200,000
Local History Centre upgrade of computers	18,252
Darlaston Swimming Pool refurbishment	150,000
Walsall Country Park	68,500
Security improvement programme	5,000
Retained Housing Land Inspection & Maintenance of LSVT sites	50,000
Residential Parking – Construction of new residential parking facilities (verge parking)	250,000
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Promotion of Community Health & Safety	240,000
Local safety schemes	400,000
Regenerating Walsall	200,000
Preventative Adaptations and Supporting Independence	750,000
Aids & Adaptations – statutory element	250,000
Leasing v Buy	2,560,000
Total	6,141,752

(C) Treasury Management

- (a) That Section B – Part 2 – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2015/16, including the council's borrowing requirement 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 Finance Officer.
- (c) That decisions to use capital receipts or unsupported borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer.

[Chief Finance Officer's Advice

In relation to the proposals in this amendment, I can advise as follows.

The removal of the savings proposals outlined in section A – a) I to III above as set out amends the statutory determinations but does not amend the council tax requirement or the level of council tax or council tax bandings from those proposed by Cabinet to Council. The removal of the savings are to be financed by the use of general reserves.

- 1) The current estimated level of reserves as at 31 March 2015 is c£10.9m. The recommended level of reserves is £10.15m. After reviewing the budget risks, I can confirm that the release of the £655,566 reduces the authorities' flexibility in meeting unknown financial pressures, however the quantum is such that all but the most unusual and serious combination of possible events can be met. The minimum opening balance required of the medium term financial strategy would not be compromised. In relation to 2016/17, the alternative budget provides for replenishment of £655,566 of general reserves increasing the amount available to the council.*

Summary

The Council is required to set the budget for the forthcoming year, which is 2015/16. The alternative budget proposal as set out represents a balanced budget for 2015/16.]

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

For the motion – 51 members

Cllr: Bird
S. Coughlan
Andrew
Anson
Arif
Bennett
Burley
Cassidy
Chambers
Clarke
Clews
D. Coughlan
Creaney
Ditta
Douglas-Maul
J. Fitzpatrick
S. Fitzpatrick
Flower
Harris

Against the motion - 7 members

Cllr: E. Hazell
I. Shires
Barker
Craddock
D. Hazell
D. Shires
Smith

Abstained - 2 members

Cllr: C. Bott
P. Bott

Harrison
Hughes
Hussain
Illmann-Walker
James
Jeavons
Jones
Jukes
Lane
Longhi
Martin
McCracken
Murray
Nawaz
Nazir
Perry
Phillips
Rattigan
Robertson
Rochelle
Russell
Sarohi
Sears
Sohal
Towe
Underhill
Wade
Westley
Whyte
Wilson
Worrall
Young

and it was:

Resolved

That the following be approved:

(A) Revenue

- (a) The allocation of revenue resources for 2015/16 as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan", as amended for the following:
- I. Removal of library saving in 2015/16 £288,819
 - II. Removal of garden waste collection saving 2015/16 £140,000
 - III. Removal of street cleansing saving 2015/16 £226,747
 - IV. Items (a) I to III to be funded from one off use of general reserves £655,566.

- (b) That the recommendations of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) 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 reserves of not less than £10.15m, as set out in Annex 3 of the budget plan.
- (c) The final levies below for outside bodies.

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	12,849,678
Environment agency	74,551

- (d) The following statutory determinations (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 as amended):

- I. **£626,088,587** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
- II. **£532,385,620** being the aggregate income which the council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- III. **£93,702,967** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (d) (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (d) (II), calculated by the council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
- IV. **£1,438.32** being the amount at (d) (III) above, divided by the council tax base of **65,147.51**, 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 (d) (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
£958.88	£1,118.69	£1,278.51	£1,438.32
E	F	G	H
£1,757.95	£2,077.57	£2,397.20	£2,876.64

- (e) The precept from the Fire and Rescue Authority and the precept from 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			
	Police And Crime Commissioner	A	B	C
£71.03		£82.87	£94.71	£106.55
E		F	G	H
Fire & Rescue	£130.23	£153.91	£177.58	£213.10
	A	B	C	D
	£36.62	£42.73	£48.83	£54.94
	E	F	G	H
	£67.14	£79.35	£91.56	£109.87

- (f) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (d) (v) and (e) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the amounts of council tax for 2015/16 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

A	B	C	D
£1,066.53	£1,244.29	£1,422.05	£1,599.81
E	F	G	H
£1,955.32	£2,310.83	£2,666.34	£3,199.61

- (g) 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.
- (h) 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, the giving of notices and the taking of necessary steps to ensure collection thereof.
- (i) 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.

(B) Capital

- (a) The allocation of capital expenditure plans as set out in Section B: Part 1 "The Revenue and Capital Budget Plan".
- (b) That the capital 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 unsupported 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.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
<i>Prior Year Approvals</i>	
Social IT Systems Review & Enhancement	550,000
Rushall Primary / EDC alterations	350,000
Libraries Universal Digital Offer – a 21 st century Public Library service	54,840
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	14,969,854
Bentley Employability and Learning Hub	115,000
Walsall Market	1,750,000
<i>Rolling Programme Schemes</i>	
Proactive Memorial Safety in Walsall cemeteries	60,000
Public Lighting 'Invest to save' for replacement LED lighting	250,000
Highway Maintenance Programme	1,900,000
Highway Maintenance – funding shift from revenue	100,000
Retained Housing Land Inspection/Maintenance of LSVT sites	50,000
Preventative adaptations and Supporting Independence	250,000
Health Through Warmth – Safety Net support	150,000
Aids & Adaptations – statutory element	750,000
<i>New Capital Bids</i>	
Leamore Park additional fencing	14,000
A single library management system for Black Country	210,000
Walsall Gala Baths refurbishment	1,000,000
Mayrise system mobile working	138,000
Traffic signals – replacement of obsolete equipment	200,000
Traffic signals – invest to save conversion to LED lighting	650,000
LEX remediation works	405,000
ICT essential upgrade to Blackberry server	16,501
ICT essential upgrade to Windows 2003 servers	110,000
<i>Council Wide bids</i>	
Funding to support essential works including Health & Safety, and other projects that cannot be guaranteed at start of year	1,000,000
Provision for match funded external schemes	350,000
Reserve list projects – allocation to be drawn upon in year	60,000
Total	25,453,195

NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES 2015/16	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Basic Need	4,393,150
Devolved Formula Capital	573,944
Capital Maintenance	2,415,181
Active Living – Oak Park and Bloxwich Leisure Centres	1,561,717
Aldridge Airport – development of Walsall Country Park including the Top Hangar (match funding may be required for resurfacing of access road)	2,000,000
Beacon Lodge, Community Activity Centre	20,000
Barr Beacon Event Arena	20,000
Allotments and Community Gardens	5,000
Outdoor fitness equipment	25,000
Forest Arts Centre hall conversion	100,000
LTP Highway Maintenance Programme	2,415,000

Integrated Transport Block / Local Transport Plan 2015/16	1,247,000
Darlaston Strategic Development Area Access Project	4,945,132
Disabled Facilities Grant	1,632,000
Community Capital Capacity Grant	797,000
Total	22,150,124

LEASING PROGRAMME 2015/16	
PORTFOLIO	EXPENDITURE £
Environment & Transport portfolio – vehicles and equipment	2,115,832
Community, Leisure & Culture portfolio – leisure equipment	588,000
Total	2,703,832

CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESERVE LIST ITEMS 2015/16	
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Willenhall Lawn Cemetery extension	1,200,000
Local History Centre upgrade of computers	18,252
Darlaston Swimming Pool refurbishment	150,000
Walsall Country Park	68,500
Security improvement programme	5,000
Retained Housing Land Inspection & Maintenance of LSVT sites	50,000
Residential Parking – Construction of new residential parking facilities (verge parking)	250,000
MAINSTREAM (COUNCIL FUNDED) SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Promotion of Community Health & Safety	240,000
Local safety schemes	400,000
Regenerating Walsall	200,000
Preventative Adaptations and Supporting Independence	750,000
Aids & Adaptations – statutory element	250,000
Leasing v Buy	2,560,000
Total	6,141,752

(C) Treasury Management

- (a) That Section B – Part 2 – The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2015/16, including the council's borrowing requirement 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 Finance Officer.
- (c) That decisions to use capital receipts or unsupported borrowing within the framework of approved prudential indicators be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer.

At this point in the meeting the Mayor proposed that the portfolio holder briefings (Item 14) be withdrawn and considered at the April meeting. The Council agreed to the request.

(2) **Corporate Plan 2015-19 “Shaping a fairer future”**

The report to Cabinet was submitted.

Resolved

That the Corporate Plan 2015-19, “Shaping a fairer future” as the context for a four year financial plan be adopted.

93. **Recommendation of Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel – Amendments to Polling Places**

The report to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny and Performance Panel, together with an explanatory note were submitted.

Resolved

That the proposed changes to Polling Places be approved.

94. **Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Council noted that the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 19th January 2015 had changed its membership by the inclusion of the portfolio holder for social care as an additional member.

95. **Portfolio holder briefings**

The reports of the portfolio holders for health and children’s services and education to be submitted to the next meeting.

96. **Senior management review – Retirement of Executive Director**

The report of the Chief Executive was submitted.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

(Note: The decision on this matter was made in the private session following consideration of a report containing confidential information.)

97. **Private Session**

Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Council considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider the item in private.

98. **Recommendation of Personnel Committee - Senior management review – Retirement of Executive Director**

The report of the Chief Executive was submitted.

It was **moved** by Councillor Chambers, seconded by Councillor Harris and it was:

Resolved

That the request for voluntary redundancy of the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services with effect from 30th April 2015 be agreed.

[Exempt information under paragraphs 1 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]

The meeting terminated at 10.40 p.m.

Mayor:

Date: