



Walsall Metropolitan Borough

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 TWELFTH day of SEPTEMBER, 2005, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 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 4th July, 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. Proper officer for Registration and Coroner services. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council is asked to agree the recommendation set out in the report.

8. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of special time limited health scrutiny panel. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council is asked to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

9. Putting the Citizen First. Report to follow.

10. Membership of Childrens Services and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel:

Council is asked to note that Councillor Wilkes will fill the vacant seat on this Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year.

11. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillor

This Council notes:

1. The decision of Cabinet on 2nd March 2005 to fix leases for Neighbourhood Resource Centres at 50% of full market value, with an additional 10% levy, and that it has been stated that is the intention to roll this policy out to the whole voluntary and community sector in Walsall.

2. That this decision was then subject to the scrutiny process, where it was resolved:

“That the Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny and Performance Panel accepts that to impose 50% commercial leases and 10% repair levy on some Neighbourhood Resource Centres from 1st April 2005 will cause some to close, and ask that Cabinet reconsider their decision of 2nd March 2005 and consider the following options:

1. Grant within two months NRCs a 21 year lease to allow centres to apply for a range of external grants. This lease to place responsibility of day-to-day running costs with the NRC, and external major maintenance with the Council.
2. Fix the lease costs at a peppercorn rent for one year, with a full review after one year”.
3. That Cabinet’s response at its meeting on 11th May 2005 was simply to note this resolution, so that the decision of 2nd March 2005 still stands.
4. That the Walsall Council Corporate Plan (2005 – 2006) states that:

“We will listen to and consult residents, community organisations, voluntary groups and staff – caring about and acting upon their views and concerns (p.19) supporting local communities with the resources and tools to provide local solutions to local problems (p.2)”.

This Council therefore resolves that Cabinet be requested to reconsider their decision of 2nd March 2005 with a view to adopting the Scrutiny Panel resolution a set out above.

(Note: Reports to Scrutiny and Performance Panel and Cabinet are reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)