



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 SEPTEMBER 2019 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 6th day of September 2019.

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 a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15th July 2019.
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. Petition: Save Walsall Acorns Children's Hospice for the Black Country. A petition was submitted to Council on 15th July 2019 by Councillor Worrall. The petition contains approximately 1706 signatures. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

(Note: The Council's petitions scheme states:

"Council debate - If a petition contains at least 1,500 signatures it will be debated at a meeting of the Council. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting to which all Councillors can attend and speak. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action that the petition requests; not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to ask for further information. Where the issue is one where the Cabinet are required to make the final decision the Council will decide to make recommendations to the Cabinet. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision and this will be published on our website.")

9. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:

(a) From the public: None

(b) From members of the Council: None

10. To confirm the following recommendation of **Cabinet**:

Treasury Management Annual Report 2018/19

That Council note (in line with the requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice (2017)), the annual report for treasury management activities 2018/19 including prudential and local indicators (Appendix A).

(Note: Report of Cabinet on 17th July 2019 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

11. Annual report of Audit Committee 2018/19. Report of Audit Committee on 22nd July 2019 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. **West Midlands Combined Authority and Walsall MBC.** Report to follow.

13. **Watmos Community Homes Constitution changes.** Report to follow.

14. **Portfolio holder briefings.** To receive a 5 minute presentation from the following portfolios:

- Adult Social Care
- Regeneration

(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.)

15. **Appointments on outside bodies and charities:**

(a) **West Midlands Combined Authority Strategic Development (SED) Board:** To note that the Leader has nominated Councillor Andrew to the SED Board for the remainder of the municipal year.

(b) **C.C. Walker Charity:**

- (i) To note that Councillor Harrison has resigned as a Trustee of the Charity.
- (ii) To appoint a trustee to the Charity for the balance of the 4 year period expiring on 21st May 2020.

16. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nawaz (lead member), Hussain, Jeavons, Burley, Underhill, Gultasib and Worrall:**

This council notes:

- Government has endured central government funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010.
- Between 2010 and 2020, councils will have lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.
- The 2019 LGA survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of councils by 2024/2025 or later.
- The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.

- Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.
- At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
- There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government workforce.

This council believes:

- Our workers are public service heroes. They keep our communities clean, care for those in need, and keep our towns and cities running.
- Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
- Government funding has been cut to the extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services.
- The government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding been cut to the bone.

This council resolves to:

- Support the pay claim submitted by Unite, GMB and UNISON to central government on behalf of council and school workers for a £10 per hour minimum wage and a 10% uplift across all other pay points in 2020/21.
- Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the National Joint Council (NJC) pay claim.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Communicate with all local government workers encouraging them to join a trade union.

(Note: Report to follow.)

17. To consider the following motion notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nawaz (lead member), Hussain, Shires, Burley, Jeavons, Underhill, Gultasib and Worrall**:

This Council recognises that

- Climate Change is having a marked impact on the lives of the people of Walsall and of the world.

- The impact of Climate Change is a real threat to the future of our World and there is a responsibility on all of us to do all we can to reduce the negative impact from our activities on the environment.
- As a Local Authority we have a negative impact on the environment through our use of fossil fuels, energy wastage, inefficiencies in insulation of our buildings, the reliance on diesel fuelled vehicles and machinery etc.

This council therefore resolves to call a Climate Emergency – as a number of boroughs across the country have done so.

In accepting that there is a Climate Emergency this Council resolves to develop strategies to reduce our Carbon Footprint and categorically commits to making Walsall Council a net Zero Carbon authority by the year 2030.

(Note: Report to follow.)