



You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **MONDAY the 4TH day of NOVEMBER 2019 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 25th day of October 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 16th September 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. To answer any questions in accordance with Council procedure rules:

(a) From the public: None

(b) From members of the Council:

Councillor Shires - Removal of weeds on the highway

In welcoming the belated attempts by Clean and Green at removing the build-up of weeds on our highways as a direct result of budget cuts agreed by Cabinet ahead of the Special Budget Council meeting in February of this year.

I would like to ask the following question of the portfolio holder for Clean and Green:

Can he share with this Council the schedule of which roads have, to date been cleared of weeds, and the plan going forward to clear the remaining roads in the borough and how the priority in which the work is being carried out was decided upon; and

How much funding has been set aside to complete this task and from where the funding was sourced. Given the fact that this is extra work than what was originally planned, what planned work will now either be delayed or cancelled?

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

Safer Walsall Partnership Plan 2020

That the Safer Walsall Partnership Plan 2020 be approved as the Community Safety Plan for the borough.

(Note: Report of Cabinet on 23rd October 2019 reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

10. **Annual Scrutiny report 2018/19.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

11. **Amendment to Constitution - Code of Conduct for Employees.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

12. **Proposed amalgamation of Polling Districts KE and KF.** Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

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

- Adult Social Care
- Children's

(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.)

14. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillor Shires (lead member) and Councillor Barker:**

This Council notes that there are many main roads across the borough with grassed areas to either a central reservation or roadside or both.

Therefore this Council requests that officers undertake a review of all roads with a view to reducing the need for grass cutting wherever possible and areas seeded with wildflowers subject to the maintenance of satisfactory sight lines for drivers and pedestrians.

Further that consultation on the recommendations of this review be the subject of a Community Consultation through each of the four Strategic Locality Partnership Boards (SLPB). That the feedback from the four SLPBs be referred to the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the pre-decision scrutiny process before going to Cabinet.

This Council believes that this approach will:

- Improve bio-diversity
- Provide areas for pollinating insects
- Add to the visual amenity appeal of many of our main thoroughfares
- Saves money which can be used for other environmental activity.

(Note: Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.)

15. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Nawaz (lead member), Hussain, Jeavons, Ditta, A Nazir, M. Nazir, Ward, Gultasib, Jukes, Worrall, Mazhar, Nasreen, Bashir and Robertson:**

This Council recognises the worry, anxiety and heartfelt concern felt by residents of Walsall, particularly by the substantial Kashmiri community in the Borough who have relations in Kashmir, on the continuing human rights abuses being committed by Occupying Indian Forces in Kashmir.

This motion calls upon the Council to condemn strongly:

- The widely reported abuse of Kashmiri men, women and children by occupying Indian Armed Forces
- The lock down of Kashmir – resulting in the imprisoning of 8 million people within the occupied territory
- The arrest of the Kashmiri Political leaders by occupying Indian authorities
- The widely reported continuing persecution and forced conversions of minorities by the Indian Government led by Prime Minister Modi...

This Council therefore calls for:

- Walsall Council to write to the Foreign Secretary and the Prime Minister to express the concerns of Walsall residents, particularly those of Kashmiri heritage, regarding the ongoing reported abuses against the people of Kashmir by Indian Armed Forces caused by the policies of the Indian Government.
- That Walsall Council call upon Walsall's Members of Parliament to publically condemn the abuses of the Kashmiri people by Indian Occupation Forces and support the right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir and the removal of Indian armed forces from Kashmir.

16. To consider the following motion notice of which has been duly given by **Councillor Chattha (leader member) and Councillor Longhi:**

This Council recognises:

- The excellent work undertaken by the government, Period Poverty charities and the NHS to reduce period poverty and support women and schoolgirls.
- The government has established a Period Poverty Taskforce, which will focus its efforts on tackling the issue of period poverty and related stigmas.
- It is important that girls in secondary schools receive free sanitary products as recognised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Spring Statement 2019.
- In April 2019, the government announced that free sanitary products will be offered to girls in all primary schools in England from early 2020.
- All women and girls being cared for by NHS England are now given, on request, appropriate sanitary products free of charge.

This Council commends:

- Its Cabinet for supporting the free provision of sanitary products in primary and secondary schools.
- Its Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for bringing the issue of period poverty to Cabinet.
- All organisations and individuals working to tackle period poverty and shame that can be associated with periods both in the UK and around the world.
- The Conservative government for taking the lead in this area to improve life opportunities for young girls across the country.

This Council resolves to request that the Director of Public Health write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking the Government to:

- Scrap the VAT levied on female hygiene products as soon as is practicable after the UK leaves the EU, and, in the meantime use the VAT collected on these products to fund the provision of free sanitary products for girls and women in need;
- Support the work of the Period Poverty taskforce;
- Encourage all schools to provide free sanitary products to schoolgirls.