



Walsall Council

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 TWENTY-SECOND day of FEBRUARY, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 12th day of February, 2010.

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 meetings of the Council held on 21st December, 2009 and 11th and 28th January 2010.
4. Declarations of interest.
5. Mayor's announcements.
6. To receive any petitions.

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

(a) From the public

None

(b) From members of the Council.

(1) Councillor Cassidy – Looked after children (Councillor Walker)

“What are the outcome figures over the past five years for looked after children in Walsall in comparison to borough-wide outcomes:

- number who achieve the Government target of 5 A to C grades at GCSE, including English and Maths?
- number who achieve the Government target of 5 A to C grades at GCSE, excluding English and Maths?
- how many achieved only one GCSE, and how many left school with no GCSEs at all?
- how many miss more than 25 days schooling in a year?
- numbers who leave our care at 19 who are NEET (not in employment or training)?
- how many go to University?
- how many are assessed as having a mental health disorder?
- how many aged 10 or over were cautioned or convicted for an offence and how many have received a custodial sentence?
- how many within our care have become teenage parents?”

(2) Councillor Robertson – Permit Scheme Operator charges (Councillor Ansell)

“Has this Council opted to become a ‘Permit Scheme Operator’ under the Traffic Management Act of 2004 as amended on April 2008 and if so, what charges have been levied for permits to service utilities to open up highways and pavements, how many permits have been issued and what level of fines have been charged for time overruns since the new amended Act came into force?”

(3) Councillor Phillips – Highway repairs (Councillor Ansell)

“What budget has been allocated to highways repairs over the next financial year in comparison to last year and what is the estimated extra spend now needed to repair frost damage and so reduce claims against this Council? “

(4) Councillor Young – Illegal scrap collections from homes (Councillor Andrew)

“What actions and results have been achieved following the notice of motion passed by this Council on 2nd July 2007 to tackle the issue of tat wagons operating illegally from homes in residential areas throughout the borough and what as a consequence has been the cost to the tax payers of Walsall for replacement stolen drain covers over the past three years.”

(5) Councillor Smith – Disposal of tyres (Councillor Flower)

“Given that there is a problem in many areas of our Borough with dumped tyres and given that given that: (a) not only will the Council’s Municipal Tips not accept tyres from domestic households and (b) it costs money to dispose of the tyres legitimately, would you and your department give some consideration, in the interests of promoting a cleaner and greener Walsall, to my request that the Municipal Tips be authorised to accept and recycle/dispose of limited numbers of tyres so long as they are taken in by bona fide Walsall Borough residents and in quantities that are obviously not commercial?”

(6) Councillor Smith – New Deal for Communities (Councillor Andrew)

“As the Council is the accountable body for New Deal for Communities and given that New Deal’s “Communications” Budget for 2009/10 was £147,599 with a forecast overspend of £1268, bringing the 2008/10 forecast outturn to £148,867 which equates to approximately £32 for every household in the New Deal footprint area, can the appropriate Portfolio holder explain to me, this Council and the public whether he believes that this represents a good use of public money and value for money?”

(7) Councillor Smith – Communications budget (Councillor Bird)

“Given that the Council’s budget for “Communications” for 2009/10 is a net £597,808, which equates to approximately £6 for every household in the Borough of Walsall and given also that Walsall Council has had and is likely to have serious budgetary constraints placed upon it, can the appropriate portfolio holder explain to me, this Council and the public;

- (a) how this represents good use of public money and value for money and
- (b) whether money could be saved by the Council by the Council and its various “partners” sharing resources in the area of “Communications”?”

8. To confirm the following recommendations of the **Cabinet**:

(1) **Corporate budget and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy**

(i) Revenue

- (a) 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 as set out in Annex 8 of the report be noted and endorsed.
- (b) That the net levies below for outside bodies be noted. At the time of despatch of this report, formal notification by the authorities of their final levy had not been received and as such this will be reflected in a revised resolution to be provided to the Council meeting of 22 February 2010. An estimate has been used within this report based on informal notification from the authorities.

LEVY	AMOUNT (£)
West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority	13,718,445
Environment agency	90,113

- (c) That approval be given to an opening working balance for 2010/11 set at a prudent level of c£6.712m in line with the council's medium term financial strategy.
- (d) That the following statutory determinations be noted (references are to the Local Government Finance Act, 1992):
- I. **£750,099,532** being the aggregate gross expenditure, which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2) (a) to (e) of the Act.
 - II. **£504,603,311** being the aggregate income which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32 (3) (a) to (c) of the Act.
 - III. **£245,496,221** being the amount, by which the aggregate at (I) above exceeds the aggregate at (II), calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32 (4) as its budget requirement for the year.
 - IV. **£137,295,771** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates (**£119,841,274**); Revenue Support Grant (**£17,402,066**); and the Collection Fund Surplus (**£52,432**).
 - V. **£1,384.64** being the amount at (d III) above, less the amount at (d IV) above, equal to **£108,200,450**, divided by the Council Tax Base of **78,143.38**, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33 (1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (average council tax at band D).

VI. Valuation bands

Being amounts given by multiplying the amount at (v) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5 (1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36 (1) 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
£923.09	£1,076.94	£1,230.79	£1,384.64
E	F	G	H
£1,692.34	£2,000.04	£2,307.73	£2,769.28

- (e) That the estimated precept from the Fire & Civil Defence Authority and the estimated precept for the Police Authority, 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 be noted and that the final figures be substituted for these provisional ones once they are available at the Council meeting on 22 February 2010.

PRECEPTING AUTHORITY	VALUATION BANDS			
Police	A	B	C	D
	£66.60	£77.70	£88.80	£99.90
	E	F	G	H
	£122.10	£144.30	£166.50	£199.80
Fire & Civil Defence	A	B	C	D
	£32.05	£37.39	£42.73	£48.07
	E	F	G	H
	£58.75	£69.43	£80.12	£96.14

- (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 2010/11 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

A	B	C	D
£1,021.74	£1,192.03	£1,362.32	£1,532.61
E	F	G	H
£1,873.19	£2,213.77	£2,554.35	£3,065.22

- (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 Observer"; and the "Walsall Advertiser" being newspapers 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) Approval of the budget plan, including the opening cash limits, savings and investment proposals set out in the annexes, subject to the following changes to Annexes 3 and 7E of the budget plan:
1. Saving number 115: Closure of Willenhall Leisure Centre to be deferred for a maximum of 6 months from 3 February 2010 to allow the Executive Director and his officers to work with the 9 Willenhall councillors and report back after 3 months (from 3 February) to Cabinet with their findings. Deferral would reduce the saving up to a maximum of £158,065 (from £216,565 to £58,500)
 2. The amendment in 1) above to be funded by a reduction in the contribution to balances contained within the budget, up to a maximum of £158,065, from £3.15m to £2.99m, resulting in revised net opening reserves of £6.712m.

(ii) Capital

- (a) That the draft 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.

DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11	
MAINSTREAM SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Basic need	1,443,204
Modernisation of all schools	312,582
Schools access initiatives	586,620
Local transport plan	2,476,000
Risk management	100,000
Uninsured property damage	200,000
Contingency	365,000
Redhouse community centre	300,000
Streetly crematorium – mercury abatement equipment / new cremators	125,801
Provision of alternative accommodation to release leased buildings	1,000,000
Hollybank rehabilitation centre	300,000
Barcroft primary	150,000
Targeted capital fund	1,165,000
Finance direct – unsupported borrowing	1,285,000
Building schools for the future	900,000
Health centre, library and children’s centre for Pelsall	200,000
Cleaner, greener – additional litter bins	10,000
Refurbishment of Goscote adult training centre	600,000
Town centre on street parking	250,000
Cleaner, greener – re-organise community clean teams: purchase of hot jet pavement cleaning machine to clean pavement areas in district centres and shopping precincts	116,000

Asbestos removal	155,000
Legionella	275,000
Statutory testing of building services and resulting works	300,000
Freer street structural works	350,000
Darlaston baths roof	200,000
Education development centre works to driveway to remove dangerous junction	25,000

MAINSTREAM SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Hatherton road multi-storey car park	200,000
Memorial safety	100,000
Health and safety executive works at depot	264,000
Relocation of depot	1,000,000
Shop maintenance	120,000
Aids and adaptations	1,500,000
Civic building air condition replacement	100,000
Planned property maintenance (essential maintenance of non-education premises – back log of repairs)	500,000
Willenhall townscape heritage initiative	75,000
Demolition of redundant buildings to save on business rates	200,000
Highways maintenance	950,000
Strategic acquisitions	1,000,000
Sneyd reservoir overflow replacement	45,000
Darlaston Scout Hut roof repairs	55,000
Lower Bridge St swapping of taxi rank and disabled bays	70,000
Regenerating Walsall	370,000
Total	19,739,207

MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11	
RESERVE BIDS	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Investing in working smarter programme	1,000,000
Walsall town hall toilet refurbishment	40,000
One stop shop	5,000
Former Moxley junior school	50,000
Personalisation – refresh of ICT and PARIS	150,000
Accommodation review	TBD
Green rivers	200,000
Roof of link bridge to civic centre	75,000
Room 17a council house air conditioning	90,000
Civic centre – supply / extract motors	60,000
Leckie sons of rest – arboretum	230,000
Contingency	45,000
Darlaston town hall replacement kitchen	100,000
TOTAL	2,045,000

NON-MAINSTREAM CAPITAL PROGRAMME – SCHEMES FUNDED FROM GRANT 2010/11	
NON MAINSTREAM SCHEMES	ESTIMATED VALUE £
Developed formula capital	4,772,102
Modernisation	3,003,360
Extended schools	277,901
Harnessing Technology	1,101,784
Children's centres – phase 3	241,350
Primary capital programme	6,735,729
Early years capital grant	1,015,217
14-19 diplomas, special educational needs and disabilities	6,000,000
Children's centres – maintenance	105,248
Aiming high for disabled children	273,600
Youth capital fund	181,600
Safer stronger community fund	106,655
Waste infrastructure capital fund	150,000
Walsall children's play portfolio	320,000
Walsall arboretum restoration programme	762,000
Palfrey park restoration programme	296,500
Pelsall health centre, children's centre and library	2,450,000
Playbuilder	599,369
Disabled facilities grant	1,215,000
Aids and adaptations	2,662,400
AWM	95,000
HLF	120,319
Willenhall townscape heritage initiative – HLF	150,000
Willenhall townscape heritage initiative – VIEW	75,000
Waterfront south phase 2 – growth point	247,000
Social care single capital pot	129,000
Mental health for single capital pot	137,000
Information for social care grant	100,858
Local transport plan integrated transport	3,047,000
Development of highway asset inventory	47,500
Road safety partnership	31,272
Bus showcase	2,000,000
Darlaston project development	150,000
Red routes	2,400,000
Total	40,999,764

LEASING PROGRAMME 2010/11 (as set out in annex 14)	
PORTFOLIO	TOTAL BUDGET £m
Environment portfolio	4.668
Total	4.668

- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Leader to allow reserve list items in the draft capital programme 2010/11 to commence following confirmation that funds are available.

(iii) Treasury Management

- (a) That the 2010/11 treasury management and investment strategy document set out in Annex 15 including a revised minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy 2009/10 and MRP policy 2010/11, and the adoption of the prudential indicators set out in Annex 16 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.

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

(2) Corporate Plan 2010/11

That the Corporate Plan 2010/11 be adopted, as a key part of the Council's policy framework.

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

(3) Amendment to Constitution – Traffic Regulation Orders

That the Constitution, Part 3, Table 5, paragraph 25.29 be amended as follows:

That the words "Development Control Committee" in the final sentence be replaced by the words "relevant Executive Director in consultation with the portfolio holder".

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

9. Local Admission Forum. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

10. Pay and grading. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting.

11. Membership of Committees:

- (a) To report the resignation of Councillor Harris as a member of the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Panel and as Chair of the Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel
- (b) To report the names of the members appointed to fill the above vacancies the remainder of the municipal year.
- (c) To appoint the Chair of the Environment Scrutiny and Performance Panel for the remainder of the municipal year.

12. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillor Walker**:

This Council recognises its duty as corporate parents to looked after children and children with disabilities:

We recognise the importance of ensuring the very best outcomes for children and young people in our care.

We as elected members, therefore commit to:

- Familiarising ourselves with the DCSF publication “If this were my child” which outlines the duties of elected members in relation to children and young people in care and ensure we are aware of our duties as corporate parents.
- Sharing and supporting the achievements of our young people by attending the annual celebration the “Excellent Night Out”.
- Attending a training workshop provided by Walsall Council to outline our duties as corporate parents and enable us to all play our part.
- Identifying Councillor champions to support each of the key areas of development (for example, leisure, employment, academic achievement, life skills, sport, etc.) to ensure we offer the very best opportunities to the young people in our care.

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

13. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Bird, Andrew, Turner and Paul**:

This Council welcomes and supports the campaign to keep the Staffordshire Hoard in this area. The find is exceptionally important for Brownhills, Walsall, Staffordshire and the wider Midlands, and urges the government to provide funds to ensure that the hoard is kept within the ancient Kingdom of Mercia.

14. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by **Councillors Wilkes, Oliver, Chambers, Anson and Sarohi**:

This Council supports free concessionary bus travel for the over 60s, enjoyed by 8 million people, and calls on our major political parties on social and environmental grounds to pledge its continuation without changing the criteria for eligibility, and further to extend the validity of the pass – and that of the schemes in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales – so as to cover all of the United Kingdom.