



# 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-THIRD day of APRIL, 2007, at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 13th day of April 2007.

Yours sincerely,

Interim 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 26th February 2007.
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 - None.
- (b) From members of the Council.

Councillor Burley – wheelie bins:

Do you believe that your policy of making a charge for replacement wheelie bins, when the bin has been stolen and the theft reported to the police, to be a fair one bearing in mind that a such a policy penalises many and leads to further possibilities of fly-tipping?

7. State of Walsall debate – Statement by the Leader of the Council.

8. Review of polling districts and polling places throught the Borough. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

9. Corporate Risk Management. Report reproduced in the reports booklet for this meeting. Council to agree the recommendations set out in the report.

10. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors Robertson, Oliver, Burley and Robinson:

This Council:

- Recognises the contribution made to community safety in the borough by neighbourhood wardens and their popularity with the public.
- Notes that the warden scheme in this borough has attracted widespread praise and has also received national awards and recognition.
- Notes that the scheme does not feature in the current budget passed by the Council.

However, this Council asks that officers will use their best endeavours to secure further funding to allow reinstatement of the neighbourhood warden scheme in partnership and with the support of the Police, the Police Community Support Officers, local schools, Walsall tPCT, the voluntary sector and WHG.

11. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors Robinson, Anson, Chambers, Madeley and Wilkes:

This Council note that:

- As local Councillors across the Borough we continue to receive ongoing comment and complaints as to anti-social behaviour and the lack of positive and diversionary activities for young people.
- That the base budget for Walsall Youth Service in the current financial year is £3.58 million.
- That all Walsall Youth Service work and potential contracts with other service providers are based on the “Transforming Youthwork” curricular guidelines which, despite its benefits, also brings constraints and reduction in work – in particular – “hard to reach” young people.
- That in order to achieve the above, it was advised in Walsall that a minimum of 90% of the former Youth & Community budget should be spent toward the “Transforming Youthwork” agenda, leading to major cuts, closures and decrease in service delivery across many local community organisations.
- Across Walsall very little funding has been made available to young people below the age of 11 and this disenfranchises this age group.

As from 8.1.07 under Section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, local authorities are expected to secure access for young people to “positive activities” including youth clubs, sports facilities and arts projects. “Positive activities” might include sports clubs, cultural events, volunteering schemes or arts projects but the scope is broad and activities can be educational or recreational – so long as they contribute to young people’s well being. Projects should be delivered in partnership with the voluntary and community sector.

This Council therefore requests the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel to consider this duty, and further that the responsible Cabinet member provide a report to Council (within six months) as to the implementation of the requirement of the 2006 Act.

12. To consider the following motion, notice of which has been duly given by Councillors Hughes and Zahid Ali:

This Council welcomes the progress that has been made in improving outcomes for looked after children in Walsall through the implementation of the corporate parenting strategy. In particular it notes the remarkable achievement of leading all 150 English Councils in providing care leavers with education, training and employment opportunities.

The Council is committed to continue to develop support services which provide children with stability, enable them to grow up in good health, to do well at school, have a good range of training and employment opportunities enabling them to look forward to a positive future.

The corporate parenting action plan has been refreshed accordingly and is attached to this motion.

We call for this Council to reaffirm it's commitment to looked after children. We request that in 2007/08:

- (1) all looked after children have access to cultural and leisure facilities by providing a "leisure pass";
- (2) establish a "virtual school" with specialist and dedicated support for all looked after children;
- (3) ensure care leavers have specific opportunities for work placements and employment within all Council departments.

(Note: The Corporate Parent Strategy 2007 is included in the report booklet for this meeting.)