
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, to be held at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury, on Tuesday, 17th January, 2017 at 6.00pm, for the purpose of transacting the following business:-

Agenda

The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Webb, in the Chair

1. To receive apologies for absence (if any).
2. Declarations of interests in any matters to be discussed at the meeting.
3. To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Council held on 6th December, 2016.
4. To receive announcements from the Mayor.
5. To receive petitions under Standing Order No. 5.
6. To consider written questions under Standing Order No. 6 to:-
 - (a) the Mayor;
 - (b) the Leader of the Council;
 - (c) any other member of the Cabinet;
 - (d) any person appointed to preside at a committee, sub-committee or panel;

- (e) the members of the Council nominated pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985, on the discharge of the functions of the following Joint Authorities:-
 - (i) West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority (Councillor J Edwards);
 - (ii) West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (Councillor R L Horton);
 - (f) a nominated member appointed by the Council to the Board of Sandwell Leisure Trust;
 - (g) a member of the Council who is, as a result of action taken by or on behalf of the Council, a member or director of any company.
7. Budget 2017-18 to 2019-20 (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC/1685).
8. Appointment of External Auditors.
9. To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 19th October, 16th November and 7th December, 2016 and to consider any policy and/or strategic recommendations arising from the meetings and to raise questions, if any, of the Leader and members of the Cabinet on any other issues contained within the minutes:-
- (i) Council Tax Base 2017/18 (Key Decision Ref. No. LR151);
 - (ii) Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/2018 (Key Decision Ref. No. LR21).
10. To receive the key actions arising from the following Scrutiny Boards and to raise questions, if any, of the Chairs of the Boards on the Key Actions:-
- (a) Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board on 9th November, 2016;
 - (b) Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board on 10th October and 12th December, 2016;

- (c) Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board on 26th October and 14th December, 2016;
 - (d) Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board on 20th October and 8th December, 2016;
 - (e) Housing Scrutiny Board on 16th November and 13th December, 2016;
 - (f) Jobs, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board on 2nd November and 14th December, 2016;
 - (g) Leisure, Culture and the Third Sector Scrutiny Board on 5th December, 2016.
11. To consider the minutes of the meetings of the Audit Committee held on 15th December, 2016 and to raise questions, if any, of the Chair of the Committee on issues contained therein.
 12. To consider the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee held on 12th December 2016 and to raise questions, if any, of the Chair of the Committee on issues contained therein.
 13. To consider the minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 9th December, 2016 and to raise questions, if any, of the Chair of the Committee on issues contained therein.
 14. Appointment to Other Bodies.
 15. To consider the following notice of motion received under Standing Order No. 7:-

From Councillor Khatun:-

This matter to be considered without reference to a Committee, to the Cabinet or to a Cabinet Member:

“This Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age with lack of appropriate notification.

Whilst accepting that retirement ages for women and men should be the same, this Council believes that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

The Council notes that up to 18,000 women in Sandwell have had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Many Sandwell women born in the 1950s are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace and so struggle to find employment.

Women born in this decade are suffering financially and now face the loss of up to £40,000 in pension income. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60.

The Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1951, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.”

Dated 9th January, 2017

**Jan Britton
Chief Executive**

Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street, Oldbury
West Midlands

To: All Members of the Council

Please note that members of the public and the press are now allowed by law to film, audio record, take photographs, blog or tweet at this meeting.

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]