

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 4.00 P.M.
CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Freeman, M.P. (Chairman)
Whitehouse, Mrs. G.M. (Vice-Chairman)

Ball, G.D.	Jones, R.
Beddows, J.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Bennett, K.L.	Thomas, D.
Carr, I.R.	Toth, J.
Collis, C.	Turville, R.C.
Dixon, D.I.	Williams, A.
Hewitt, S.M.	

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor R.G. Meaden.)

6. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters

Member	Nature of Interest	Type
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Partnership	Personal
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Community Association	Personal
Collis, C.	Member of Hazel Slade Youth Centre Steering Group	Personal
Dixon, D.I.	Council Tenant	Personal
Morgan, C.W.J.	Council Tenant	Personal

7. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2005 be approved as a correct record.

Further to the request at the Council Meeting held on 17 August 2005, the Committee agreed that Minute 3 (paragraph 2) was an accurate account of the discussion at the meeting and confirmed that there was a lack of involvement of County Council

representatives in the Young People Fundamental Review.

8. Young People Report

The Head of Policy and Performance explained that, following the Fundamental Review of Young People, the need for better partnership working with Staffordshire County Council was highlighted. Representatives from the County Council had therefore been invited to the meeting. A copy of the Report of the Fundamental Review Steering Group was included as part of the Agenda for Members information (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.12).

The following representatives from Staffordshire County Council were present to discuss young people issues with Members:-

- Councillor Eric Drinkwater
- Councillor Robert Simpson (Portfolio Holder for Children and Lifelong Learning)
- Kim Jones (Deputy Youth Officer for Operations and Effectiveness, Children and Lifelong Learning)

The representatives provided the Committee with information on the role of the Youth Service within Staffordshire outlining that the level of service they were able to provide was based on the funding available.

Members expressed concern regarding the lack of involvement of County Council representatives during the Young People Fundamental Review. The County Council representatives explained that a number of Senior Officers had been on long-term sickness and this may have been a contributory factor.

With regard to the setting up of a website for young people, the County Council representatives explained that a website already existed and the possibility of including a link to the Council's website would be investigated. Additionally, the County would look at improving the interactivity of their website to assist young people who are searching for a particular activity.

The County Council Representatives explained that the County were undertaking a premises review to ensure that the premises were providing services for young people and that the Youth Service were not paying for premises that adults were using. Members were assured that replacement premises would be provided in the event of existing premises being identified for closure. Consultation would be carried out in respect of the review. Particular concern was expressed with regard to Hazel Slade Youth Centre.

Arising from the discussions, it was acknowledged that better partnership working was necessary in order to achieve the best service for young people within Staffordshire.

The Representatives from the County Council were thanked for their attendance and for providing the Committee with the information on the Youth Service.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Staffordshire County Council provide Cannock Chase Council Members with monthly update reports on the activities provided by the Youth Service for young people within the Cannock Chase District.

- (B) That a meeting between Officers from Staffordshire County Council and Cannock Chase Council be arranged to agree a protocol to ensure better partnership working in the future.

9. Performance Monitoring – April 2005 to June 2005

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Policy and Performance (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Policy and Performance Management explained that it had not been possible to analyse each of the sickness codes by department as this would identify individuals.

She further advised that the format of the report had changed and performance was now reported against the corporate objectives.

Members of the Committee were asked to identify issues for the Performance Improvement Working Group to investigate.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the performance highlighted in the report be noted.
- (B) That the Performance Improvement Working Group be asked to investigate the accuracy of information provided with regard to the usage at the Chase Leisure Centre, Rugeley Leisure Centre and the Museum of Cannock Chase.

CHAIRMAN