

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET

HELD ON THURSDAY 14 MARCH 2019 AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Adamson, G.	Leader of the Council
Alcott, G.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Kraujalis, J.T.	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Preece, J.P.T.L.	Environment Portfolio Leader
Martin, Mrs. C.E.	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Pearson, A.R.	Housing Portfolio Leader
Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader

106. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors C. Bennett, Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader and Mrs. C. Mitchell, Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader. It was also noted that the Leader would be arriving late due to being stuck in heavy traffic.

The Deputy Leader chaired the meeting in the Leader's absence.

107. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No other Declarations of Interest were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

108. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

None.

109. Minutes of Cabinet Meeting of 7 February, 2019

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February, 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed.

110. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan of Decisions for the period March to May 2019 (Item 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council) was considered.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period March to May 2019 be noted.

111. Summary of Complaints Received: April to December 2018 (Q1, Q2 and Q3)

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 6.1 – 6.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader requested that if possible, information be provided on the number of compliments received by the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the information about complaints received by the Council during April to December 2018 and the lessons learnt be noted.

Reason for Decision

Council approved a new Customer Feedback and Complaints Policy on 21 February 2018. Contained within the policy was a commitment to report complaints information to Cabinet.

112. Quarter 3 2018/19 Performance Report

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance and Corporate Services (Item 7.1 – 7.31 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The performance information related to the Priority Delivery Plans 2018/19, as detailed in Appendices 1 to 4 of the report, be noted.
- (B) The actions that have been flagged as requiring amendment to the timescale, scope or timeline be noted.

Reason for Decisions

Information for performance actions and indicators for Quarter 3 2018/19 was included for relevant items in Appendices 1 to 4 of the report. The overall rankings for each portfolio area were detailed in section 5 of the report, indicating that 68.3% of actions/projects had been achieved or were on target to be achieved.

113. Priority Delivery Plans 2019/20

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance and Corporate Services (Item 8.1 – 8.20 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That Council, at its meeting to be held on 17 April 2019, be recommended to adopt and approve for publication the Priority Delivery Plans for 2019/20.

Reasons for Decision

The Corporate Plan 2018-23, approved by Cabinet in April 2018, set out the revised aims, priorities and strategic objectives of Cannock Chase District Council.

The supporting Priority Delivery Plans (PDPs) were the annual documents that set out how the Council would achieve progress against its strategic objectives. These plans established the actions, performance measures and timetables for delivery that were the basis of the Council's quarterly and annual performance reporting framework.

114. Review of Tourism Provision

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 9.1 – 9.19 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

(The Leader of the Council arrived at the meeting during the consideration of this item.)

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Council continue its current membership with the Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership for the financial year 2019/20 to allow time for a full assessment of value for money and to conduct a further review of provision at the end of the financial year.
- (B) Officers be authorised to begin working with the West Midlands Growth Company (aligned to the West Midlands Combined Authority geography) on an ad-hoc basis to benefit from their upcoming projects. This included authorising the purchase of tourism research reports when deemed necessary and with any costs being contained within existing budgets.
- (C) The Council review the current approach to the in-house tourism provision within the District and then develop a new approach to increase the provision and gain maximum benefit to the District ahead of the opening of the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet in Cannock.

Reasons for Decisions

Currently, the Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership (DMP) membership was arguably not being fully utilised because of limited officer resource within the Economic Development Team to work proactively with the DMP. Officers had concerns regarding DMP membership and its ability to offer value for money at a time when resources were limited.

Additional time was needed for officers over a limited period (i.e. 2019/20) to engage with the DMP to properly evaluate the service and benefits of membership.

The Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader was an active member of the DMP Board, but had expressed some concerns on the value of the DMP at a District level.

With the opening of the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet in Cannock during 2020, the Council needed to be in a position to take advantage of all new opportunities this investment would bring. In particular, the development would introduce

linked trips between the outlet and other attractions in the District (including Cannock town centre). Maximising visitor spend would be crucial to the vibrancy of the town centre and beyond.

There had been no value for money assessment for a number of years carried out on the tourism provision from the DMP. Therefore, allowing time during 2019/20 for officers to consider the benefit and value the DMP brought to Cannock Chase would ensure the District would be in a strong position for tourism provision in the months before the Designer Outlet was due to open.

(Following the conclusion of this item, the Leader took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.)

115. Approval to Spend S106 Monies: Improvements to Towpath Surface and Access on Trent & Mersey Canal and Ravenhill Park in Brereton

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 10.1 – 10.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) S106 monies be allocated into the Council's budget to facilitate the implementation of improvements to the towpath surface and access to the Trent and Mersey Canal in Brereton.
- (B) Expenditure of S106 monies held by the Council via implementation by the Canal and River Trust to carry out towpath and access improvements as generally described in the report be authorised.
- (C) Authority to enter into any legal agreements between Cannock Chase District Council and the Canal and River Trust required to facilitate the funding and delivery of the proposed work be delegated to the Head of Economic Prosperity in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Leaders.
- (D) Cabinet agree to allocate and authorise to spend the balance of the sum £8,366 in Ravenhill Park.

Reasons for Decisions

The Council currently held S106 monies within its accounts that once received, needed to be spent on the required purposes. The Trent & Mersey Canal was under the control of the Canal and River Trust (CRT), a charity that existed to maintain and develop the inland watery network to fulfil its economic, social and environmental potential. Expenditure of funds acquired to benefit new residents on the development sites (as well as existing residents in the surrounding area) by improving pedestrian linkages along the canal would in any case require liaison with the CRT, and by contributing to their own scheme, would maximise potential benefits.

The adopted Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan 2014 sought to raise the profile of the Trent & Mersey Canal corridor. In addition, the Trent & Mersey Canal was a Conservation Area throughout Staffordshire. At the Cabinet meeting of 7 February 2019, a new Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document was presented to seek adoption as Council planning policy. One of the recommendations of those documents was to work with the CRT to pursue public realm improvements

along the canal, including towpath enhancements. Opportunities for improved cycle and pedestrian linkages between the canal and its surroundings, particularly Rugeley town centre and enhanced access to the towpath at key locations were also noted to be pursued.

In addition, the documents highlighted that new development on the former Power Station site circa 300m north of the canal, would benefit from a network of pedestrian and cycle links, including to the canal, connecting development with the surrounding area and providing future residents and employees with an attractive route to shopping and leisure facilities in Rugeley town centre. The proposed expenditure therefore full accorded with planning policy.

116. Approval to Spend S106 Monies: Hatherton Canal

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (item 11.1 – 11.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Cabinet agree to the transfer of the uncommitted S106 funds to the Revenue budget, to allow the £10,000 to be transferred to the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust to allow them to commission a water supply study on the proposed restoration of the Hatherton Canal.
- (B) The Head of Economic Prosperity, in consultation with the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader, be authorised to negotiate and enter into any agreement with the Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust.

Reason for Decisions

To allow the S106 contribution to be used for its intended purpose; to facilitate the restoration of the Hatherton Canal.

117. Urban Forestry Strategy 2019-24

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles (Item 12.1 – 12.73 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the revised Urban Forestry Strategy 2019-24 be approved for adoption.

Reasons for Decision

The Council had a legal responsibility for the management of all trees on Council-owned land.

Cannock Chase Council was committed to high quality and proactive management of its tree stock. The Urban Forestry Strategy 2019-24, which replaced the previously adopted Urban Forestry Strategy 2013-2018, was fundamental to the effective working of the arboricultural services. It provided the framework that detailed the Council's approach to the management and enhancement of its tree stock.

The Council, under Local Agenda 21, was required to demonstrate that climate change was being addressed at a local level. This involved amongst other

things the adoption of a tree strategy to demonstrate how the local authority was tackling climate change through the maintenance and management of trees.

This Strategy also incorporated the principles of the Natural Capital Planning Tool that identified that ecosystems and natural capital should be managed in a holistic way.

118. Tenancy Fraud Policy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 13.1 – 13.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Council's Tenancy Fraud Policy, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be agreed and approved.
- (B) The Head of Housing and Partnerships, in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Leader, review the Tenancy Fraud Policy every three years or in the event of changes in legislation.

Reasons for Decisions

The Tenancy Fraud Policy was approved in order to detect and deter tenancy fraud across the District.

To encourage people to report tenancy fraud and understand the impact of tenancy fraud on the public purse and on social housing.

119. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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PART 2

120. Cannock Town Centre

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 15.1 – 15.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) In principle agreement be given that the Council should seek to progress technical work to aid the partial demolition of the Multi-Storey Car Park in Cannock town centre, in line with the recommendation included at paragraph 7.23 of the report.
- (B) A revenue allocation of £40,000 be approved to allow for specialists to be procured to prepare a detailed methodology, to include a programme of works, specification and cost plan for a partial demolition scheme at the earliest opportunity.
- (C) Authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Prosperity, in consultation with the Economic Development & Planning and Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leaders to commission any necessary work to take forward decision (B).
- (D) The Head of Economic Prosperity presents a detailed business case to Cabinet on completion of the work under decision (B) to set out key project risks, constraints, benefits and costs to enable a final decision to be made by the Council on progressing with the partial demolition scheme, and subject to agreement, to the proposal to recommend to Council formal adjustment to the Capital Programme to fund the works.
- (E) Authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Prosperity in consultation with the Economic Development & Planning and Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leaders to progress as necessary any bids for external funding with a view toward supporting the Council's cost of demolition.

Reasons for Decisions

To address the Council's potential risks associated with the on-going maintenance of the Multi-Storey Car Park (MSCP) in Cannock town centre.

To update Cabinet on the strategy and future options for the MSCP.

121. Former Tenant Arrears Debt Recommended for Write-Off

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 16.1 – 16.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the former tenant arrears as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved for write-off.

Reason for Decision

There was no reasonable prospect of the Council recovering the debts at present and meeting one of the specified criteria for write-off.

The meeting closed at 4:28 p.m.

LEADER