

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET

HELD ON THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Adamson, G.	Leader of the Council
Pearson, A.R.	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Bennett, C.	Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Johnson, T.B.	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Preece, J.P.T.L.	Environment Portfolio Leader
Kraujalis, J.T.	Housing Portfolio Leader
Woodhead, P.E.	<i>Invitee (non-voting Observer)</i>

34. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors G. Alcott, Deputy Leader of the Council and Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader; Mrs. C. Martin, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader; and Mrs. C. Mitchell, Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader.

(Councillor Alcott was at another meeting representing CCDC.)

35. 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.

36. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

None

37. Minutes of Cabinet Meeting of 8 August, 2019

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 August, 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed.

38. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan of Decisions for the period September to November 2019 (Item 5.1 – 5.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council) was considered.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period September to November 2019 be noted.

39. Implications of the Council Motion on Climate Emergency Approved on 17/07/19

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 6.1 – 6.54 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Carbon Neutrality be formally approved as a corporate objective of the Council and it be added to the Corporate Plan 2018-2023.
- (B) It be noted that Carbon Neutrality by 2030 was a significant strategic commitment that would require additional resources over the ten-year period.
- (C) It be noted that the target of Carbon Neutrality by 2030 related to the whole District and not just the Council as an organisation.
- (D) The Council's Carbon baseline headline starting point as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.
- (E) Council, at its meeting to be held on 6 November 2019, be requested to provide a supplementary estimate of £10,000 in 2019/20 to recruit additional external capacity to develop a more detailed baseline and draft ten-year Action Plan.
- (F) In addition to decision (E), above, the inclusion of £40,000 in the 2020/21 financial year to conclude this work be approved.
- (G) It be noted that the resource implications of the Action Plan would be submitted to Cabinet for consideration as part of the 2021/22 budget process.
- (H) Council, at its meeting to be held on 6 November 2019, be requested to provide a supplementary estimate of up to £10,000 to establish a Citizens' Assembly during 2019/20, and £20,000 in 2020/21 to complete this work, and to receive the outcomes and recommendations of this in due course.

Reasons for Decisions

At the Council meeting on 17 July 2019, the Leader of the Council moved a motion on Carbon Neutrality that was approved by a majority of Councillors present.

The decision committed the Council to a vision of Carbon Neutrality by 2030 at the latest. It asked that Westminster continue to provide resources and power to tackle climate change locally; and to explore an expansion of community energy. Further, it agreed to work with partners to deliver carbon reductions and grow the local economy, and to establish a Citizens' Assembly made up of a representative range of citizens and make recommendations for our Council.

Delivering Carbon Neutrality by 2030 was not a formal corporate priority objective for the Council, and was not identified in the Council's Corporate Plan

covering the period 2018-2023, which was approved in April 2018. Cabinet needed to formally decide that it was agreeing this as an additional corporate objective in the Council's Corporate Plan due to the scale and implications that delivering this agenda represented.

There was currently a lack of resource and skills in the Council to progress this agenda. Due to the number of officer posts that had been deleted over the past eight years, there was no flexibility to absorb a major new priority of this scale. Therefore, additional resources would be required to take this agenda forward. Initially, up to £50,000 would need to be allocated over the next two financial years (2019/20 and 2020/21) to provide additional capacity to develop a ten-year action plan that sought to deliver carbon neutrality by 2030. Further resources would then be needed to implement the Action Plan, although it was too early to define what these might be.

In addition, and as a result of the Council motion, up to £30,000 would be required over two financial years to establish a Citizens' Assembly. There was no capacity to do this in-house, and it was recommended that it remain independent of the Council in any event.

In relation to the Action Plan and Citizens' Assembly, it was necessary to determine the scope of the Carbon Neutrality Agenda. The Council could only achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 if it took a District-wide approach. If the Council only focused on itself as an organisation (e.g. own estate/infrastructure/energy consumption and fleet etc.), it would not on its own deliver carbon neutrality at all.

It was noted that this wider scope across the District would be more resource intensive if it was to provide the appropriate level of leadership for this agenda. It also potentially meant providing incentives to businesses to change their processes and activities to become carbon neutral.

Further reports would be submitted to Cabinet as the work on the Citizens' Assembly and the Action Plan progressed.

40. Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance and Corporate Services (Item 7.1 – 7.28 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The performance information related to the Priority Delivery Plans, as detailed in Appendices 1 to 4 of the report, be noted.
- (B) The actions that had been flagged with an Amber Triangle that required amendment to the timescale or scope, or a Red Cross that required an action to be closed, be noted.

Reasons for Decisions

Information for performance actions and indicators for quarter 1 2019/20 was included for relevant items in Appendices 1 to 4 of the report. The overall position for each Priority Delivery Plan was detailed in section 5 of the report, indicating that 77.5% of actions had been achieved or were in progress.

41. Peer Review Follow-up

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance and Corporate Services (Item 8.1 – 8.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader commented that the important role of community safety had been acknowledged by the Peer Review. He added that a workshop had been arranged for 8 October where the Police would be outlining how the new model would operate and this would then be reported to the LSP.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The outcome of the follow-up review as detailed in the final letter of the Peer Challenge Team to the Managing Director of 12 August 2019 (as included at Appendix 1 of the report), be noted.
- (B) The comments / actions from the Council following the considerations made by the Peer Challenge Team (as included at Appendix 2 of the report), be noted.

Reason for Decisions

Cabinet was asked to note the comments made by the Council as it aimed to take forward the 'considerations' made by the Peer Challenge Team during their return visit.

42. Update to Surveillance Policy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Interim Council Solicitor (Item 9.1 – 9.29 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Surveillance Policy be updated in accordance with Appendix 1 of the report.

Reason for Decision

Since the current policy was adopted, the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner had carried out a further inspection, the Home Office had revised its code of practice and new legislation had been brought into force, affecting the acquisition of communications data. It was therefore prudent that the Council's policy be revised to reflect the latest guidance, advice and legislation in this area.

43. Cannock Indoor Market Consultation

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 10.1 – 10.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Prosperity, in consultation with the Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader, to take all necessary steps to undertake a consultation process linked to determining the future

of the indoor market provision in Cannock town centre.

- (B) A public consultation process linked to the indoor market in Cannock town centre be launched, with a view to officers presenting options for future delivery. Further reporting back to Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation process would follow in late 2019.
- (C) The information contained within the confidential Appendix 3 of the report be noted.

Reasons for Decisions

The indoor market as it stood was unviable in the long-term and would require financial investment in order to continue to be fit-for-purpose. Therefore, the Council needed to decide on the future market provision for Cannock town centre. The Council also needed to decide in taking forward any Cannock town centre redevelopment scheme whether this should include the footprint of the Indoor Market Hall.

There was various commercial and legal issues that could arise should the Council seek to alter or extinguish the market provision currently enjoyed in any redevelopment of Cannock town centre. The report proposed options that met the Council's legal market obligations and looked to maintain some market presence, albeit potentially different in manner.

The Council needed to run a public consultation process, including with current indoor market stall holders, before making any decisions on the future of the market. The Council would properly consider the views, particularly those directly affected by any proposed changes. A report back to Cabinet following the outcome to the consultation process would follow before any final decisions were taken.

As part of the consultation, a series of options would be presented regarding possible future delivery arrangements, in order to gauge the public reaction, along with affected stall holders. Potential options were set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

44. 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 and 2, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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PART 2

45. Request for Flexible Retirement

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 12.1 – 12.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the payment of actuarial strain, resulting from the flexible retirement of employee number 208214, be agreed.

Reason for Decision

It was considered that the loss of 14.8 hours per week could be absorbed within the service, with no significant reduction in core service provision. As a result, the request for payment of the resultant actuarial strain was granted.

The meeting closed at 4:15 p.m.

LEADER