

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
CULTURE AND SPORT SELECT COMMITTEE

5 SEPTEMBER 2006

REPORT OF HEAD OF CULTURE AND MAJOR PROJECTS

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH BLAKE VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To propose to Members a future partnership arrangement between Cannock Chase Council (CCC) and Blake Valley Technology College (BVTC).

2. Recommendations

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| <p>2.1 That Members of the Select Committee support the proposed partnership between Cannock Chase Council and Blake Valley Technology College for the provision of a new athletic track and other facilities located at the Blake Valley Technology College.</p> <p>2.2 That Cabinet be recommended to approve in principle the proposed partnership between Cannock Chase Council and Blake Valley Technology College for the provision of a new athletic track and other facilities located at the College and to authorise officers to undertake the necessary work to develop the proposals.</p> |
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3. Key Issues

- 3.1 To further realise the 'Leisure Vision' as approved by Cabinet on 16 December 2004, Minute Number 79 1-9, officers have undertaken work to look at the possibility of relocating the athletics track to another location in the District.
- 3.2 As per the Council meeting of 22 February 2006, Policy Option WG1 – Closure of the Stadium, was approved. The Leader speech on two occasions referred to Cabinet's recommendation to Council to note the potential sale of the land at the stadium to achieve significant capital receipts to allow the Leisure Vision to be realised. Contained in the same speech was the commitment to relocate the track recognising the contribution that this facility provides.
- 3.3 At the Cabinet meeting on 20 July 2006 it was subsequently agreed that the Stadium facility would continue to stay open until 31 March 2007 and that the budget required for the future of the site be dependent on the budgeting process for 2007-2008.
- 3.4 A number of locations for a new athletic track have been considered, however it was felt that a potential opportunity existed to enter into a partnership arrangement with BVTC, due to its close proximity to the existing site and excellent sporting facilities already available at the school. The partnership proposal would be based on locating the athletic track at BVTC, improving other facilities on the site, to include development of an artificial turf pitch and multi-use games areas. Therefore the partnership would be on a dual use basis which enables the

community to access the facilities in the evenings and at weekends with school use in term time.

- 3.5 Three meetings have taken place with the BVTC Head Teacher and Head of Physical Education. Both school officers have confirmed their interest in the potential partnership opportunity and a further meeting has been arranged on 12 September 2006 with the school officers and governors to discuss the partnership opportunity further.
- 3.6 If the recommendations as contained in the report are supported, officers would continue to develop the details of a future partnership with BVTC and continue to work on the proposal to develop the land at the stadium to maximise the capital receipt to allow the 'Leisure Vision' to become a reality.

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Section 1Background

Members will be aware of the ongoing review of Leisure Management since 2004. The review has led to an approved vision for Leisure, Cabinet 16 December 2004, which reconfirmed that the provision of Leisure facilities in the District should be based as follows:

- 3 High quality provision throughout the District providing new, not "patch and mend"
Retaining and enhancing the main area of Cannock Park as public open space
Consolidating Cannock's leisure facilities where practicable on the Chase Leisure Centre site
Expanding the facilities at Rugeley Leisure Centre
Leading to better value for money, increased customer satisfaction and increased participation levels
- 4 That the officers undertake further work to establish the viability of the above.
- 5 That the officers be authorised to continue to develop the proposals of a joint use Community Swimming Pool in Rugeley with Staffordshire County Council and other potential partners.
- 6 That the progress in respect of the potential proposals for a Health Centre on the Chase Leisure Centre site be noted and that officers be authorised to explore these further with the Primary Care Trust as part of the proposals to consolidate facilities at that site.
- 7 That a site survey be commissioned to ascertain land conditions at the Stadium site and the likely capital receipt on any disposal; the cost of such a survey to be met from the Leisure Review Budget.
- 8 That the second stage of the two stage approach for the leisure review previously agreed by Cabinet on 29 July 2004, ie, the market testing exercise, be deferred pending the outcome of the work authorised in these resolutions.
- 9 That a further report detailing progress on these matters be brought to the Culture and Sport Select Committee and that in the context of the savings required as part of the Leisure Review, the Select Committee be requested to consider the detailed provision of facilities at both the Chase Leisure Centre site and the Rugeley Leisure Centre site.

Officers have been working on the viability of the vision and the clear instructions from Cabinet, which in turn has led to a number of actions directly linked to this report:

- i) Seeking approval to vary the Section 106 agreement on the original location of the ATP.
- ii) Undertaken a land appraisal survey of the Stadium land, key findings already reported to Members.
- iii) Ongoing discussions with BVTC on a potential partnership arrangement.
- iv) Development of a playing pitch strategy for the District.
- v) Development of a Cultural strategy for the District.

- vi) Identifying the key findings from the two Year 9 surveys, Year 6 survey, 3 Citizen Panel surveys and findings of the Sport England Participation survey for the District.
- vii) Outcome of the PPG17 – Indoor Assessment Key Findings report, already reported to Members.
- viii) Outcome of the PPG17 – Outdoor Assessment Key Findings to form part of the playing pitch strategy.
- ix) New Corporate objective for the Council has been adopted: “to increase participation in cultural and sporting activities”.

Therefore in respect of the actions to date it is proposed that land is used at BVTC to locate a new full athletic track and associated facilities, to be utilised by schools and the community under a dual use agreement.

The officers at the school are seeking further advice from Staffordshire County Council on the possibility of the joint venture.

Section 2

Details of Matters to be Considered

Members are asked to consider the proposed partnership between CCC and BVTC, for the provision of an athletics track and associated facilities as detailed in part 3.4 of the covering report.

If the partnership proposals are supported, Officers would continue to develop the basis of the partnership and commence discussions with other agencies to maximise the external funding opportunities.

Section 3

Contribution to CHASE

This potential partnership will develop an athletic track and associated facilities on a school site under a dual use agreement. Therefore this will enable the facility to be utilised by local schools and the community. The funding for this facility will be met from any future Section 106 Agreements and the sale of the land at the Stadium.

Improving and replacing local facilities will certainly assist in the achievement of the Council's key objective to increase participation in culture and sport activities. Facilities identified to be improved will ensure activities for teenagers are available and of interest, supporting the need to ensure diversionary activities are made available to all sectors of the community.

Section 4

Section 17 (Crime Prevention) Implications

Further development of facilities in Cannock will lead to new activities being available for young people especially. The new activities would be diversionary away from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Section 5

Human Rights Act Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998 arising from this report.

Section 6

Data Protection Act Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of the Data Protection Act arising from this report.

Section 7

Risk Management Implications

Any partnership arrangement comes with a level of risk. However, the basis of the partnership will be detailed in a formal agreement drawn up by Legal Services in accordance with the formal agreement.

Operational management of the site will be undertaken jointly but further details will need to be discussed if the decision to proceed is taken.

Damage and vandalism to the facility is always a known risk, however the school site is extremely secure, therefore the risk is minimised. The planning application that will need to be submitted will cover all the issues in respect of site security.

If a decision was to proceed with a partnership between CCC and CGRCS a full risk analysis would be undertaken to identify all potential risks and what actions need to be taken to minimise the risks.

Section 8

Legal Implications

Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers the Council to provide recreational facilities, including athletic facilities and outdoor pitches for team games, within the District. It may make these facilities available to such persons as it thinks fit either with or without charge,

This power enables the Council to consider dual use arrangements as mentioned in the report and to enter into an agreement with Blake Valley Technology College/Staffordshire County Council for the shared use of any recreational facilities constructed on the school land.

The proposals are in their early stages currently but a detailed agreement for the dual use and development of the facilities will need to be agreed between the Council and the Blake Valley Technology College and Staffordshire County Council before the proposals can be implemented.

Section 9

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. However, should a joint arrangement be agreed and the various works be carried out at the location a further report would need to address both the capital costs involved, financing and the revenue consequences of providing the joint arrangement.

Section 10

Human Resource Implications

There are no identified implications in respect of human resources arising directly from this report.

Section 11

Conclusions

That Members of the Culture and Sport Select Committee give their 'in principle' support to an partnership with BVTC. That the athletic track and associated facilities are located at the school, dependent on the decision to dispose of the land at the Stadium for housing development.

List of Background Papers

- PPG17 – Outdoor Assessment report by Strategic Leisure.
- PPG17 – Indoor Assessment
- Strategic Leisure Business Plan 2005-08
- CCDC Asset Management Plan
- Stadium Land Appraisal
- Survey Key Findings