

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2007 AT 3.30PM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.	Mitchell, C.
Beddows, J.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Carr, I.R.	

By Invitation: Councillor M.R. Grocott (Children and Young People Leader)
Councillor N. Stanley (Leader of the Council)

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. D.M. Easton, R. Easton, Mrs. L.J. Pearce and Mrs. P.Z. Stretton).

16. Minutes

Arising from consideration of the Minutes, Members sought confirmation with regard to the bond that Sport England had requested be provided by the Council. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that a draft document had been prepared and forwarded to Sport England for comments. This document was a potential agreement between Sport England and Cannock Chase Council to ensure replacement facilities be provided should the Stadium land be sold. The bond arrangement would ensure that Sport England would provide replacement facilities should the Council be unable to do so. It was anticipated that a report would be submitted to Council in January 2008 proposing an arrangement between Sport England and Cannock Chase Council. Although a figure had yet to be agreed, it would be included within the report to Council.

The Head of Regeneration was unable to confirm whether the planning application for the residential development at the Stadium would be considered by the Planning Control Committee on 9 January 2008.

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2007 be approved as a correct record.

17. Update on the Provision of Sports and Leisure Facilities and Update on the

Cannock Sports Stadium site disposal

The Deputy Chief Executive provided Members with a presentation which included the following update on the Leisure Strategy:

Rugeley Swimming Pool

The construction project was well under way with construction and architects costs being within budget. A grant of £500,000 had recently been presented by Sport England. However, adverse weather conditions and difficulties with services had delayed the project by approximately six weeks.

Replacement Athletics Track

Blake School was the preferred option with a full set of plans and costing having been prepared. Updated plans now included changing facilities. Discussions with Blake School and Staffordshire County Council were still ongoing. A report would be submitted to Cabinet in January 2008.

Six alternative sites had been assessed in the event that the Council's preferred option should not proceed. A Council decision would be required should this be the case.

Disposal of the Stadium Site

The design and access consultation had been completed and plans had been amended in accordance with consultation. A planning application for the site had been submitted and there was a potential "Bond" arrangement with Sport England. The estimated capital receipt net of cost was £17 to £20 million (subject to the need for highway and drainage works).

Development at Cardinal Griffin School

Discussions were currently ongoing with Cardinal Griffin School and Diocese regarding the proposal for an artificial turf pitch and mini football centre at the School.

Replacement Theatre

A replacement Theatre was currently planned for the Leisure Village. However, the potential for a location within the proposed town centre development was also being investigated.

Chase Leisure Village

A feasibility study had been completed and reported. The Civic Offices had been removed from the proposals. The issue regarding the provision of a 50m pool was still to be resolved. The proposals were currently on virtual hold until the level of capital receipt from the Stadium site sale was known.

Following the presentation, Members of the Select Committee were then afforded the opportunity of asking questions of the Officers.

Members sought clarification as to whether there was an agreement in place to enable the relocation of the football pitch which had been agreed as part of the planning obligation for the Asda development. Members were advised that Officers were in the process of obtaining an agreement from Asda for an alternative location for the football pitch. It was confirmed that approval from Staffordshire County Council was not required to amend the location of the football pitch.

With regard to Cannock Sports Stadium, the Deputy Chief Executive stated that it was anticipated that the sale of the Stadium would take place in March 2008. However, a new track may not be in place until 2009. Discussions were currently taking place with Stafford Athletics Club and Sport England regarding the use of alternative facilities during this period.

At the Council Meeting on 7 November 2007 Members were of the opinion that they had been given the impression that there was an agreement in place to site a replacement athletics track at Blake School. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that at the time of the Council meeting Senior Officers from Staffordshire County Council had indicated they were happy with the proposals in their role as landlord, but that other issues were still outstanding that would need to be resolved with the school. County Council Members had not been involved in those discussions.

The Deputy Chief Executive then outlined the operating expenditure, overheads and subsidy of the Chase Leisure Centre and Rugeley Leisure Centre. He explained that the new Leisure Village was estimated to cost less than the existing Leisure Centre. He confirmed that discussions had taken place with Senior Officers from Staffordshire County Council who had indicated that the siting of the proposed athletics track at Blake School did not impede on the "Building Schools for the Future" initiative.

Councillor M.R. Grocott, the Children and Young People Portfolio Leader, then advised the Select Committee that Cannock Chase Council had been awarded a £220,000 grant from the Big Lottery Fund for the "Chase It Play Scheme". An additional £106,000 from the Children's Fund had been awarded in order to support the "Chase It Programme" for the next two years.

Members were further advised that the "Chase It Programme" had been nominated for the BBC Midlands "Power of Sport Award" for the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent region. Further information in respect of this nomination would be reported to the Council meeting in January 2008.

Members then wished Karen Bradford, Head of Culture and Major Projects every success in her new job and expressed their best wishes to her for the future.

CHAIRMAN