

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET

HELD ON THURSDAY 4 OCTOBER 2018 AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Alcott, G.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Mitchell, Mrs. C.	Culture and Sport 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

49. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors G. Adamson, Leader of the Council, J.T. Kraujalis, Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader, and C. Bennett, Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader.

In the Leader's absence the meeting was chaired by the Deputy Leader.

50. 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.

51. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

Economic Development and Planning

McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Cannock (MDOC) 'Sod-Cutting' Ceremony

The Portfolio Leader advised that on 28 September a 'sod-cutting' ceremony was held at the site of the MDOC. This was a huge achievement for the contractors who had worked hard to secure the involvement of local tradespeople in the development and construction phases of the site. They had been particularly pleased with the quality of workmanship available in the District.

Cannock Chase Royal Air Force Association (RAFA) Freedom of the District Event

The Portfolio Leader advised that on 29 September, an event was held in

Hednesford to celebrate the awarding of Freedom of the Entry to the District by the Council to the Cannock Chase Branch of the RAFA. The event was a huge success, extremely well organised and with a large number of people in attendance.

Environment

'Chewing Gum Action' Campaign

The Portfolio Leader advised that earlier today he had attended a promotional photo event in Norton Canes to help launch the 'Chewing Gum Action' campaign in the District. Promotional material including beer mats, and booklets that turned into pouches for disposal of chewing gum had been received from Keep Britain Tidy and would be distributed for use throughout the District.

52. Minutes of Cabinet Meeting of 23 August, 2018

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 August, 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed.

53. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan of Decisions for the period October to December, 2018 (Item 5.1 – 5.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council) was considered.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period October to December, 2018 be noted.

54. Church Street Rugeley, Conservation Area; Talbot Street/Lichfield Street Conservation Area; and Trent & Mersey Canal Conservation Area: Draft Appraisals and Draft Management Plans Supplementary Planning Documents

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 6.1 – 6.203 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader advised that updated copies of Appendices 1, 3 and 5 to the report had been circulated as the versions contained within the original agenda were missing background information on the history of the buildings within the areas concerned. The updates did not affect any of the information contained within the main Appraisal documents.

RESOLVED:

That:

(A) The following documents be approved for consultation:

- (i) Draft Church Street Rugeley Conservation Area Appraisal;
- (ii) Draft Church Street Rugeley Conservation Area Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD);
- (iii) Draft Talbot Street/Lichfield Street Rugeley Conservation Area Appraisal;

- (iv) Draft Talbot Street/Lichfield Street Rugeley Conservation Area Management Plan SPD;
 - (v) Draft Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area Appraisal;
 - (vi) Draft Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area Management Plan SPD.
- (B) The proposed boundary extension to the Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area be authorised for consultation.
- (C) Authority for any minor amendments to the above documents prior to consultation taking place be delegated to the Head of Economic Prosperity in consultation with the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader.

Reasons for Decisions

Each Conservation Area in the District was supported by two policy documents – an Appraisal that sought to provide a clear definition of the special architectural or historic interest that warranted its designation as a Conservation Area, and, a Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) that followed on from the Appraisal, setting out in more detail the means by which the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of the Conservation Area might be pursued.

A series of documents covering each of the District’s eight Conservation Areas had been adopted in recent years. Whilst the Appraisal coverage in the District was already complete, some of the early documents now required updating, so the Draft Appraisals for Church Street, Talbot Street/Lichfield Street and the Trent & Mersey Canal Conservation Areas formed updates of the earlier work. None of those Conservation Areas previously had Management Plans prepared, so the Draft Management Plan documents completed the District’s coverage.

Consultation would be carried out with relevant consultees including Staffordshire County Council, Rugeley Town Council, Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council, the Landor Society, the Inland Waterways Association, the Canal & River Trust, Historic England, and local ward councillors. Occupiers of all properties in each Conservation Area would receive publicity about the documents, and be invited to make comment on them. Copies would be published on the Council’s website and paper copies placed in local libraries and Council offices. After the end of the consultation period the representations received would be considered and reported back to Cabinet, including suggested amendments to the documents as appropriate, before adoption.

The documents helped to fulfil the Council’s duty in respect of formulating and publishing proposals for the preservation and enhancement of Conservation Areas. They also strengthened the Local Plan evidence base and helped to demonstrate effective delivery.

55. Update on Capital Investment in Chase Leisure Centre as Part of the Council’s Financial Recovery Plan

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles (Item 7.1 – 7.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Cabinet agrees to act as a guarantor for Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) up to £1,000,000 in order to deliver the preferred capital investment proposal previously determined by Cabinet on 25 January, 2018 and in order to deliver the minimum required level of savings of £50,000 per annum to the Council from 2019-20.
- (B) A new equipment bond be established for a fixed five-year term into which IHL would be required to contribute an annual sum of circa £10,550 per annum, equivalent to the reduction due on IHL's current pension bond payment. This would mitigate the potential additional risk in relation to the fitness equipment and would be refundable upon confirmation of the full equipment payment by IHL, and their funder.
- (C) Authority be delegated to the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles in consultation with the Culture & Sport Portfolio Leader to agree and facilitate all actions (Bond Agreement, including terms and conditions and mechanism for releasing payment etc.) required to implement the capital investment at Chase Leisure Centre.

Reasons for Decisions

Cabinet, on 25 January, 2018 agreed to act as guarantor for Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles (IHL) in order to secure the capital funding solution required to deliver their preferred capital investment proposal and deliver the minimum required level of savings of £50,000 per annum to the Council from 2019-20. The extent to which the Council agreed to act as guarantor (for the capital cost only) was estimated to be in the region of £521,891, with IHL separately funding (leasing) any new fitness equipment.

Since Cabinet's decision of 25 January this year, IHL had worked with their preferred funder and the Council to agree and finalise the legal documents necessary to release the capital investment required delivering the agreed project.

During the discussions it came to light that the only way IHL's funder would provide the funding required was for there to be a fairly equal balance between equipment and capital works within the scope of the funding agreement. For this reason, the equipment costs had to be included in the agreement, thus resulting in a requirement for the Council to act as guarantor for the estimated capital works (£522,268) and the equipment (£472,918), the total value of which was circa £1,000,000.

Given IHL's preferred funding agreement now required the Council to act as guarantor for up to £1,000,000, Cabinet was asked to consider the implications and confirm agreement to the change.

56. Upgrading Cannock Chase Public Space CCTV Technology – Application for Permission to Spend

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 8.1 – 8.10 + Not for Publication Appendix 3 (Item 8.11 – 8.16) of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That permission to spend £55,000 towards the upgrading of Cannock Chase Public Space CCTV Technology be granted.

Reasons for Decisions

The CCTV cameras were installed in 1998. The majority of the current analogue public space CCTV cameras located across the District were beyond their normal life expectancy and support for this type of equipment.

Some units had already failed and been repaired on a number of occasions. Due to the age of the equipment, the cameras could not be covered under any maintenance contracts, thus making any repairs carried out expensive. The CCTV Maintenance Budget had been significantly overspent as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

The outcome of the CCTV audit was discussed with Staffordshire Police and the CCTV Operatives, and all were in agreement that the 26 cameras that had been deemed as essential to replace should take priority over the other cameras.

The approved capital programme included an allocation of £50,000 for the upgrade of the CCTV cameras. There was an existing Revenue Budget of £5,000 that would fund the shortfall of the full £55,000 required to replace the 26 essential cameras, as detailed in the confidential Appendix 3 of the report.

At the time of the review, there was a total of 91 cameras across the District. A full audit review of each individual camera's condition, access and image was conducted. The consultants appointed to conduct the review summarised the priority order for the replacement of cameras using a Must Do (Essential), Should Do (Desirable) and Could Do (Optional) approach.

The spend of £55,000 would only cover the cost of replacing the essential 26 cameras, and it was anticipated that the works would be completed within the current financial year. The Revenue Budget of £12,150 for repairs and maintenance would be necessary to fund works that may be required due to vandalism / criminal damage and repairs to cameras that had not been upgraded.

A request for additional funding from the capital programme to replace the 14 desirable cameras and 8 optional cameras would be subject to a report in the near future. A review of de-commissioning certain cameras would also be included in that report.

57. 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 Paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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PART 2

58. Debt Recovery

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Head of Finance (Item 10.1 –10.18 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The amounts detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be written off.
- (B) The actions of the Head of Finance in writing off the irrecoverable debts below £1,000 be noted.

Reasons for Decisions

Appendix 1 to the report set out a list of 16 cases of Council Tax arrears over £1,000 that could not be collected for the reasons stated therein. The total sum of arrears amounted to £28,789.26.

Appendix 2 to the report set out a list of 26 cases of Non-Domestic Rates arrears over £1,000 that could not be collected for the reasons stated therein. The total sum of arrears amounted to £171,725.33.

The meeting closed at 4:25 p.m.

LEADER