

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2019 AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:
Councillors

Allen, F.W.C. (Chairman)
Hewitt, P.M. (Vice-Chairman)

Buttery, M.S.	Johnson, J.P.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Foley, D.	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.
Freeman, Miss M.A.	

15. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors Miss J. Cooper and Miss M.J. Dudson.

16. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations

No declarations of interests or party whip declarations were received.

17. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed.

18. Quarter 3 2018/19 Community Wellbeing (Community Safety, Partnerships and Environment) Priority Delivery Plan Update

Members considered and noted the latest performance information for the 2018/19 Community Wellbeing (Community Safety, Partnerships and Environment) Priority Delivery Plan (Item 4.1 – 4.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Managing Director provided Members with the following updates:

- Publish Anti-Social Behaviour Policy – the policy had been drafted and was to

be submitted to Cabinet in April 2019 for consideration.

- Develop and deliver training sessions for Safeguarding Champions – this training would take place during 2019/20 due to different levels of training that needed to be delivered.
- Construction of a new toilet facility in Hednesford park – commencement of construction was currently on hold pending formal agreement being received from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) that monies within the grant funding for redevelopment of the park could be used for this purpose. It may be necessary for the Council to provide gap funding in the meantime to enable to the construction work to start. The aim was to seek agreement from Cabinet in April 2019 for this funding to be provided.

19. Motion Referred from 28 November 2018 Council Meeting

Members gave consideration to the Motion referred from the 28 November 2018 Council meeting in respect of energy efficiency and carbon emissions (Item 5.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Chairman advised that it would cost an estimated £50,000 to bring in outside support just to undertake the initial project work. Officer time also had to be factored into any potential costs.

Members discussed at length the aims of the Motion, specifically commenting on the significant costs involved, but noting that the proposed actions couldn't be ignored as the issues wouldn't go away.

The Managing Director raised the following points:

- The Council did not have in-house expertise on carbon budgeting or conducting carbon risk assessments;
- Officers would need to be trained on how to complete such tasks;
- Work on these areas would cut across all of the Council's activities;
- Production of Supplementary Planning Documents would also be impacted;
- It would be a long-term piece of work, which would require new resource and capacity if to be done properly.

A Member commented that the use of any available government grants to help fund such work should be looked into. The Chairman further commented that the Government should provide any necessary funding if it deemed that such issues were of critical importance.

Members suggested that where feasible, working groups should be established to start looking at the issues identified and draw up an initial action plan.

A Member noted that air quality monitoring stations were in place within the area of the A5 and M6 Toll Road to measure the impact of carbon emissions on the local area. Another Member replied that Bridgtown Parish Council had written to the Government raising concerns about air quality and carbon emissions along

the A5 corridor within the District. Another Member advised that County Councillors for the affected areas were working on a cross-party basis to try resolve the issues on the A5.

RESOLVED:

That as part of the 2020/21 budget process, Cabinet be requested to consider the provision of any necessary resources and funding in order that all actions identified in the Motion can be achieved.

20. Child Sexual Exploitation and ‘County Lines’ Scrutiny Review – Final Report

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 6.1 – 6.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Managing Director outlined the background to the review, and advised that the report set out a summary of the associated work undertaken by Members.

A Member raised concern that the actions requested in recommendation 2.2 could push up the cost of pay-as-you-go (PAYG) mobile phones for those that could not afford to purchase contract phones. Another Member suggested that legislation could be put forward to cap the cost of contract phones to help discourage people from purchasing PAYG phones instead. Another Member further replied that the aim of the recommendation was to discourage use of such phones and to protect children from harm. The Chairman commented that anything the Council could do to help police tackle the issues identified in the review was to be commended. Another Member commented that as County Lines was a national issue, the Committee had to be seen to be formally raising its concerns.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The final report in respect of the Committee’s Child Sexual Exploitation and ‘County Lines’ review be accepted.
- (B) A letter be sent to the Home Office, on behalf of the Committee, recommending that the law be changed to stop mobile phones being purchased and used anonymously, thereby making it easier for relevant authorities to tackle County Lines issues.
- (C) A letter be sent to the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime (PFCC), detailing the recommendations of the Committee’s review.

The meeting closed at 4:40 p.m.

CHAIRMAN