

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER, 2012 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Dudson, A. (Chairman)

Bottomer, B.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Grocott, M. R.	Sutton, Mrs. H. M.
Johnson, J.	

5. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C. Mitchell, the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader.

6. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests.

7. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 August, 2012 be approved as a correct record.

8. Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT) – Quarter 1 Performance Report

The Head of Commissioning referred Members to the Quarter 1 Performance Review report of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust that had been considered at Cabinet on 20 September, 2012. The Head of Commissioning asked whether Members had any comments on the content or format of the report so that this could be reported back to WLCT.

He outlined the key issues contained in the report advising Members that WLCT had performed well during Quarter 1. This initial period had been a process of transition with the implementation of new systems and procedures. He commented that WLCT had agreed to a capital investment into Leisure and facilities within the District which included the new fitness equipment at Chase Leisure Centre and repairs to the ATP carpet and proposed extension at Rugeley Leisure Centre.

He reported on the progress of the performance indicators outlining that twelve indicators had missed their target. He confirmed that these would continue to be monitored as the Contract progressed. Nine of the indicators were classed as "Red" and the reasons for this were outlined in the report.

Councillor Grocott considered that the decision to outsource the Council's culture and leisure services had

been a good decision and would benefit residents in the District. He asked whether there was an agreed commencement date for the extension to Rugeley Leisure Centre and how it was proposed to utilise the hall during the construction period.

The Head of Commissioning advised that a start date had not been confirmed. WLCT were proposing to use a section of the sports hall as the fitness suite whilst the extension was being built. This would ensure the fitness suite remained open during the construction period.

Councillor Grocott asked that consideration be given to users of the sports hall; in particular, he referred to Rugeley Cricket Club who would require the full length of the sports hall during their indoor training period. The Head of Commissioning advised that he would feed this back to WLCT for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That the Quarter 1 Performance Review report of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust be noted.

9. Presentation from the Head of Commissioning

The Head of Commissioning provided Members with a presentation covering the following areas:-

- Projects update (Quarter 2)
- Stadium Consultation

He explained that the presentation would provide Members with updates on the position regarding the Chase Leisure Centre modernisation scheme, the Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) at Cardinal Griffin School, the Community Games and Paralympics Flame Celebration and the Culture and Leisure Management Contract. The Committee would also be provided with information on the proposed Stadium consultation.

Chase Leisure Centre

The Committee was advised that initially the modernisation of the Chase Leisure Centre was a 64 week project, however this had overrun and it was now in week 77.

Phase 1 had been completed on 26 April, 2011 and Phase 2 on 6 February, 2012. This included the first floor fitness suite, reception, golf area and health and physical activity suite which opened on 10 February, 2012.

The Phase 3 handover had been due to take place on 20 July, 2012. However this had not been fully completed. The new dance studio, dry side changing areas, treatment rooms and the office space had been completed along with a new café facility. However, the wet side changing areas, swimming pools, spectator balcony and sauna had not yet been completed.

He outlined the key issues and implications as follows:

Tiling and Pool Tank issues

- Completion of swimming pool delayed
- Remedial action taking longer than first anticipated by Contractor
- Learner pool now completed and ready for re-testing
- Wet side changing rooms and lockers nearly complete
- Main pool – work continues in pool tank, majority of joints completed and tiled. Once corrected will have to re-fill and heat pool, water tightness tests and bacteria tests

Members were advised that the remedial work to ensure the pools were watertight was taking longer than

expected and there was therefore no definitive date for handover.

Councillor Stretton sought clarification regarding the issues affecting the main pool area which were delaying the opening. The Head of Commissioning advised that a combination of poor workmanship and the structural joints not being up to the correct standard had delayed the opening of the pool. He confirmed that G.F. Tomlinson was the Contractor and this was the Contractor that had been used for Rugeley Leisure Centre. Both the Contractor and Sub-Contractor had accepted responsibility for the delay and were working hard to ensure the defects were addressed.

The Chairman asked whether a Clerk of Works had been appointed during the construction process. The Corporate Director confirmed that, due to the scale of the project, a number of professionals had been appointed to oversee the construction process. These included a Clerk of Works, Architects, Structural and Quantity Surveyors. He commented that there may have been up to seventy workmen on site per day during the construction period and it was therefore not practical to expect the professionals to be able to inspect all the work as it happened. He explained that the contract was a Design and Build Contract where the Contractor carried out both the design and construction work. Therefore, the Contractor, G.F. Tomlinson, was responsible for designing and constructing the scheme and to ensure the works were carried out properly. It was unfortunate that the pool had developed defects to prevent it from opening.

Members were then advised that the impact of the delay on the project was as follows:

- Contractual issues with the Contractor (e.g. Liquidated and ascertained damages)
- Delayed start to swimming lessons
- All clubs/customers notified
- Continue programme at Rugeley Leisure Centre
- Ongoing discussion with local school to provide alternative provision
- Loss of income claim – WLCT

Members discussed the reasons for the delay in the completion of the pool and the effect this had on schools and clubs. It was considered that the delay was giving the Council a bad reputation as Cannock had been without a pool for 77 weeks. It was suggested that a statement be made in the press outlining that the delay in opening the pool was not because of the Council.

The Corporate Director advised that the Council's legal advisors were now involved. The Contractor was considered liable for potential penalty payments from 21 July 2012. He confirmed that the Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader was in the process of agreeing quotes for a press release which would be issued soon. However, it would not be possible to identify a date for delivery of the project. He explained that press releases are issued on a regular basis to provide the public with updates on the progress.

The Corporate Director clarified that there were two contracts in relation to the Chase Leisure Centre. One contract was with WLCT to manage the Council's culture and leisure services and the other contract was with G.F. Tomlinson, the Contractor appointed to refurbish the Leisure Centre and deliver the pool. He made it clear that there was no formal relationship between the two contracts. WLCT could not be penalised for the delay in the completion of the pool. The Council would hand the pool over to WLCT at the end of the refurbishment contract. Members were advised to refer any concerns being raised by residents to either the Corporate Director or the Head of Commissioning and a response on the current position would be provided.

Members requested that they be provided with regular updates on the position with regards to the pool.

Artificial Turf Pitch – Cardinal Griffin

The Head of Commissioning advised that the ATP had been completed in June with an opening Ceremony being held in July. The facility was opened fully to the community in September, 2012. A Community Use Agreement would have to be approved by Cabinet and then presented to this Committee. The facility would be monitored during the first three months to review operational processes and associated operational factors, such as lighting and noise. There had been approximately 1,200 users of the facility in the early weeks of opening.

Councillor Stretton asked whether there had been any complaints regarding noise or lighting since the facility had opened. The Committee was advised that the use of the facility was being monitored for the first three months and issues such as traffic management, lighting and noise would be looked at. There had been a couple of complaints regarding noise which had been referred to the Environmental Health Team to be processed in the usual manner and any recommendations would be made to the School. He confirmed that a landscaping scheme and an acoustic fence had been part of the planning approval and these were yet to be installed.

Community Games and Paralympics Flame Celebration

It was explained that the Community Games and Paralympics Flame Celebration had now been held. The "Party in the Park" event was held on 19 August 2012 with around 5,000 attending. Approximately 1,500 had attended the Paralympics Flame Celebration held on 25 August 2012. It was hoped that these events would encourage young people to become active.

The Committee was advised that the PR & Marketing Team were looking to encourage local community groups to support and deliver some form of Community Games in the future.

Culture & Leisure Management Contract

It was explained the Quarter 1 Performance of WLCT had been reported to Cabinet. There would be an impact on income which had been caused by delays to the swimming pool.

The Head of Commissioning then summarised the position on the projects as follows:-

- (a) Chase Leisure Centre – had been delayed
- (b) ATP – delivered on time and in budget;
- (c) Community Games & Paralympics Flame Celebrations – on time and in budget;
- (d) Culture and Leisure Management Contract – the contract had commenced on 1 April, 2012, delays with swimming pool had an impact on income.

Stadium Consultation

The Head of Commissioning advised Members that Cabinet on 19 July 2012 had agreed to consult on the development of a community sport and recreation hub facility at the stadium site following the Council's decision to remove the stadium site from the list of land available for housing development.

The consultation period commenced on 15 October, 2012 for a seven week period, ending 30 November, 2012. The purpose of the consultation was to ascertain what could be provided on the site subject to budget and physical constraints. The results of the consultation would be reported back to Cabinet.

The survey was available online at www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk and at local offices. In addition, it would also be forwarded to local residents in the area (similar to consultation on planning applications). There would also be questionnaires and telephone interviews and an item would be placed on local meetings, such as the Community Forums. Members were asked inform the Head of Commissioning of any groups

or bodies that they considered should be involved in the consultation process.

Councillor M. Grocott asked how much the consultation would cost and whether it would be centred on the Cannock North Ward. The Head of Commissioning confirmed that the consultation would cost £5,000 and would be widespread. It was hoped to gather information from different angles and not just from the Cannock North Ward area. Although the site was located in the Cannock North Ward the facilities would be available for use by anyone within the District.

Members were advised that a press release was due to be issued regarding the proposal. The consultation period would enable an item to be included on three of the four the Community Forums meetings in November.

The Corporate Director advised that the proposal was in the very early stages and it could take a considerable amount of time before any firm commitment would be given to providing a community sport and recreation hub facility at the stadium site.

Members asked whether the Committee could have an input into the outcome of the consultation. The Corporate Director agreed that this was possible and advised that Members would be emailed the analysis of the outcome of the consultation. Additionally, should any Member wish to visit the stadium site, the Corporate Director confirmed he would be happy to arrange this.

Councillor Stretton commented that she was surprised by the information that had been provided at the meeting and that the Council was still involved in the delivery of leisure services. The Corporate Director explained that the role of the Council had only changed with regard to the direct management of leisure services. Wigan Culture and Leisure Trust had been selected as the partner to manage and deliver leisure services to enable the cost of providing leisure services to be reduced. However, the Council still had responsibility to ensure that a wide range of high quality services are provided to residents of the District.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the presentation be noted.
- (B) That the Committee be provided with regular updates on the position with regard to the completion of the swimming pool.
- (C) That the Committee be provided with the analysis of the outcome of the consultation on the stadium site.

10. 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 Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).

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PART 2

11. Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust – Investment Schedule

The Head of Commissioning explained that the investment schedule provided Members with a breakdown of investments to be made by WLCT into services and facilities in the district in the next two years. The schedule had been provided for Members information.

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN