

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ACCESS TO SKILLS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE POLICY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 3 JUNE, 2008 AT 4.00 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Yates, Ms. W. (Chairman)
Burnett, G. (Vice-Chairman)

Dixon, D.I.	Thomas, D.
Freeman, M.P.	Williams, B.
Holder, M.J.	Williams, Mrs. P.

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor D.N. Davies).

1. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise Select Committee held on 21 April, 2008 be received for information.

Members requested that a key for abbreviations be used in future Minutes.

Mr. Glenn Watson, Economic Development Manager referred to page 18 of the Minutes and reported that Cabinet would be considering a report at its July meeting in relation to brown and white signage across the District.

2. Presentation on the role and remit of the Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise Select Committee

Mr. Philip Lloyd-Williams, Director of Governance provided members with information in relation to the roles of the Scrutiny Committee and Policy Development Committees.

The Director of Governance asked if Members had any questions. Members confirmed that they had no questions.

3. **Development of a Work Programme**

Mr. Glenn Watson, Economic Development Manager gave a presentation in relation to the Work Programme.

He reported that there were a number of services provided by Economic Development which included Regeneration Development Projects; Town Centres Management and Strategic Economic Regeneration. A number of issues that were previously discussed by the Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise Select Committee would now be more relevant to the Policy Development Committee, particularly that of Town Centres Regeneration Projects. Furthermore, new work areas to be explored would include the implementation of the Chase 3 Enterprising Towns Programme and Shopmobility.

The Economic Development Manager provided information on Working in Partnership (including Members), Lobbying and Service Level Agreements. A Member was keen to know what engagement there was between the Partnerships and the Council. The Economic Development Manager reported that there was reduced funding for Economic Development in the 2008-09 budget. It would be difficult to find the resources to continue paying the subscriptions to the Alliance (formerly the Coalfields Community Campaign).

Members expressed concern that the Council may need to withdraw from the Alliance due to budget issues. It was agreed that the benefits of continued Alliance membership should be the subject of further discussion at a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

Information was provided to Members on the Resources and Budget Issues and it was reported that General Fund monies (ca £334K) supplemented by Section 106 monies ca £89K in 2008-09. It was also noted that the Capital Programme's budget had reduced from £138K in 2006-07 to £92K in 2008-09.

The Economic Development Manager provided Members with information on Local Issues which included marginal decrease figures relating to Unemployment, Youth Unemployment and Long Term Unemployment. He also provided information on the Local Employment Structure, Local Average Earnings and Education and Training.

The Economic Development Manager then showed a slide on the previous Committee's work programme in 2007-2008.

Members were then asked to consider and discuss a document previously circulated and were asked to explore the content as part of this years work programme. The document outlined the recommendations of the Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise Select Committee for 2006/07 and what progress had been achieved in response to them during the last twelve months.

Members identified a number of topics which they were keen to explore as part of this years work programme, they were:

- Young People/Youth Unemployment
- Worklessness/Hidden Unemployment
- Cannock Chase College
- The Coalfield's Perspective

- Chase Collegiate 14-19 Programme

Members were reminded that the remit of the Committee had changed to that of influencing and helping to shape policy. In this context it would probably be appropriate to consider a small number of issues in more detail. It was agreed that the Chairman would discuss this matter with Officers prior to the next meeting.

AGREED:

That a proposed list of topics for the Work Programme for 2008/09 be considered at the next meeting of the Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise Policy Development Committee on 15 July, 2008.

CHAIRMAN