

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ACCESS TO SKILLS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE SELECT COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 5 NOVEMBER, 2007 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Ansell, Mrs. P.A. (Chairman)
 Bennett, K.L. (Vice-Chairman)

Davies, D.N. Jones, R.
 Faulkner, B.J. Yates, Ms. W.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I.R. Carr, D.I. Dixon, M.J. Holder and N.K. Stanley, Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise Leader).

9. Declaration of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Jones, R.	Wolverhampton/Solihull Colleges – Employed by Colleges	Personal
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Cannock Chase College – Board Member	Personal

10. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 August, 2007 be approved as a correct record subject to Minute 8, Page 13 - RSS Proposals for 2001 – 2006 being amended to read 2001 – 2021.

Members requested that information be brought to a future meeting in respect of the Regional Strategy Context – Employment Land.

Members were keen to receive information regarding the statistics used in relation to the Channel 4 programme, Location Location Location that identified Cannock Chase as being the 16th worst place to live in the Country.

11. Presentation – Kingswood Lakeside Business Park

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Eric Henderson, Physical Regeneration Team Leader, Staffordshire County Council to the meeting.

Mr. Henderson provided the Committee with information in respect of the historical situation of Kingswood Lakeside Business Park.

A graph identified the proportion of land that would be sold and used for development and which would incorporate an entrepreneurial centre.

Mr. Henderson reported that the geotechnical report would be completed by November 2007 and master planning would commence early 2008 which would involve Officers from Staffordshire County Council and Cannock Chase Council.

Construction would commence in mid 2008 and completion of the scheme would be around summer 2010. The entrepreneurial centre would be built during the early part of the timescale.

Members' asked if environmental factors were taken into account with planning of the scheme. Mr. Henderson advised that sustainability was a key factor with the scheme and energy saving options had been explored but the payback time with options such as solar panels was not viable.

With regard to the Scheme development Members' queried what the term 'focused ground treatment' referred to. Mr. Henderson reported that once the plots for individual buildings have been identified a technical investigation would determine the type of treatment to be used to suit the requirements of the building concerned. Either dynamic compaction or surcharging which compacted the material into the ground would be used to ensure ground stability.

12. Presentation – Access to Employment: Green Travel and Employment Growth

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Sonia Atkins, Senior Sustainable Travel Officer, Staffordshire County Council to the meeting.

Ms. Atkins reported that she attempted to help businesses in Staffordshire by providing information and advice on cutting congestion on local roads by using car sharing schemes or other forms of travel for employees to and from work.

Ms. Atkins reported figures on traffic congestion and the problems with traffic which ranged from noise and pollution to the adverse impact of such on health etc.

She explained that Staffordshire Share-A-Lift scheme enabled people to car share which reduced pollution and saved money. She stated that if an employer was based in Staffordshire an employee would be able to use the scheme no matter where they lived which was available through an internet site called share-a-lift.com. She then reported on the process of registration to the internet site.

Members' were advised that alternative modes of transport to work included using public

transport, cycling and walking.

With reference to Kingswood Lakeside Business Park, Ms. Atkins noted that the provision of a bus funded through a S106 Agreement, had proved unsuccessful with only a handful of people using the service. As a result, the bus service had been withdrawn with a view to re-introducing it once incoming business had increased the level of demand.

The Chairman noted that at Towers Business Park the recent resolution to grant planning permission to Gazeley Properties had not required a contribution to public transport improvements because the County Council have not pursued this as part of the S106 agreement.

Concern was expressed that the continued absence of public transport provision in key employment locations, especially Kingswood Lakeside and Towers Business Park, would disadvantage those without private transport and undermine the local jobs for local people aspiration.

13. Work Programme

Consideration was given to the Work Programme of the Select Committee.

AGREED:

That the Work Programme be noted.

CHAIRMAN