

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET

THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2006 AT 4.30 P.M.
CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Stanley, N.K.	(Policy & Resources Leader)
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	(Health Leader)
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	(Access to Skills & Economic Development Leader)
Davies, D.N.	(Environment Leader)
Grocott, M.R.	(Culture & Sport Leader)
Williams, B.	(Social Inclusion & Housing Leader)

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor R.D. Butler (External Partnerships Leader))

34. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 August, 2006 be approved as a correct record.

35. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

Culture & Sport Leader

Councillor M.R. Grocott reported on the outcome of the Institute of Sport and Recreational Management Conference.

Access to Skills and Economic Development Leader

Councillor Mrs. P.A. Ansell reported on the recent meeting of the Coalfields Community Campaign.

36. Forward Plan

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of decisions to be taken by the Cabinet for the period September 2006 – September 2007 (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan for the period September 2006 to September 2007 be approved.

37. Recommendations from the Culture and Sport Select Committee held on 5 September, 2006

Consideration was given to the following recommendations referred to it by the Culture and Sport Select Committee held on 5 September, 2006:

(i) Playing Pitch Strategy

"That Cabinet be recommended to approve the Playing Pitch Strategy for consultation".

(ii) Potential Partnership with Blake Valley Technology College

"That Cabinet be recommended to approve in principle the proposed partnership between Cannock Chase Council and Blake Valley Technology College for the provision of a new athletics track and other facilities located at the College and to authorise officers to undertake the necessary work to develop the proposals".

(iii) Partnership Proposal with Cardinal Griffin Roman Catholic School

"That Cabinet be recommended to approve in principle the proposed partnership between Cannock Chase Council and Cardinal Griffin Roman Catholic School for the provision of an artificial turf pitch at the School and authorise officers to undertake the necessary work to develop the proposals".

RESOLVED:

(A) That the Playing Pitch Strategy be approved for consultation.

(B) That the proposed partnership between Cannock Chase Council and Blake Valley Technology College be approved in principle for the provision of a new athletics track and other facilities located at the College and that officers be authorised to undertake the necessary work to develop the proposals.

(C) That the proposed partnership between Cannock Chase Council and Cardinal Griffin Roman Catholic School be approved in principle for the provision of an artificial turf pitch at the School and that officers be authorised to undertake the necessary work to develop the proposals.

38. Future Strategy for the Council's Housing Stock

Consideration was given to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.64 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

(A) That Council on 27 September 2006 be recommended:-

- (i) That subject to a satisfactory conclusion of a tripartite Agreement between the Harvest Housing Group on behalf of Your Chase Homes, the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the Council, on matters which impact on the General fund including preserved Right to Buy receipts, VAT shelter and the reimbursement of the Council's pre-ballot costs, (up to and including a ballot), the Council continue to pursue a strategy of stock transfer within the Governments current financial regime.
- (ii) That the Council's application to the Department for Communities and Local Government for a place on the 2006 Housing Transfer Programme be confirmed.
- (iii) That the Council progress pre-ballot activities, (up to and including a ballot) subject to a place being obtained on the 2006 Housing Transfer Programme and a level of gap funding which is acceptable to the Council.
- (iv) That a stock transfer proposal which provides details of the proposed transfer of the Council's housing stock to Your Chase Homes as part of the Harvest Housing Group, be formulated for consultation with tenants.
- (v) That following consultation with tenants, the Council's transfer proposals be subject to further ballot of tenants organised by the Electoral Reform Society.
- (vi) That the initial timetable for the proposed transfer of the Council's housing stock to Your Chase Homes, as detailed in Annex 4 of the report be agreed.
- (vii) That subject to the deletion of paragraph 3.1(b) the decision-making framework for the stock transfer process as detailed in Annex 5 of the report be agreed.
- (viii) That a Housing Transfer Committee of eight Members be established in accordance with the terms of reference as detailed in Annex 6 to the report and that:-
 - (a) The Council appoints members to serve on the Committee in accordance with the political balance of the Council.
 - (b) The Chase Tenants and Residents Federation be requested to nominate eight Cannock Chase Council tenants to act as advisers to the Committee.
- (ix) That a Shadow Board for Your Chase Homes be established which includes five Council nominees and that Council appoints nominees to serve on the Shadow Board in accordance with the political balance of the Council.
- (x) That supplementary estimates for the transfer process to cover the pre-ballot period up to and including a ballot be granted as follows:-
 - (a) General Fund - £92,000
 - (b) Housing Revenue Account - £68,000

- (xi) That the cost of the time of the Deputy Chief Executive and other senior officers spent working on the stock transfer project be met from the time cost savings in respect of other agreed budgets.
 - (xii) That the informal consultation programme be led on behalf of Your Chase Homes by the Harvest Housing Group and that the cost of activities undertaken by the Harvest Housing Group, including "a door knocking exercise" be met by the Harvest Housing Group.
 - (xiii) That the communications and consultation strategy be amended to reflect the revised stock transfer budgets detailed in recommendation (x) above and the activities to be on behalf of Your Chase Homes by the Harvest Housing Group as part of the informal consultation programme, and that a revised strategy be considered by the Housing Transfer Committee.
 - (xiv) That stock transfer be supported during and as part of the Council's consultation programme with tenants.
 - (xv) That the Communications Protocol as detailed in Annex 8 of the report be agreed.
 - (xvi) That all tenants be informed of the Council's decision to pursue a continued strategy of stock transfer through the next edition of the Hometalk magazine, and that the text be agreed by the Deputy Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader for Social Inclusion and Housing.
- (B) That the conclusion of a tripartite Agreement between the Harvest Housing Group, on behalf of Your Chase Homes, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Council, on matters which impact on the General Fund, including preserved Right to Buy receipts, VAT shelter and the reimbursement of the Council's pre-ballot costs, (up to and including a ballot) be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader of the Council and that the results be reported to Council on 27 September, 2006.
- (C) That in view of the urgency and the fact that a delay caused by the "call-in" process would seriously prejudice the Council's interests, that the Council's "call-in" procedures be suspended in respect of resolution (B) above in accordance with paragraph 12.4A of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules to ensure the negotiations of the Agreements are to be concluded prior to Council on 27 September, 2006.

39. **Community Strategy 2006/07 and 2007-10**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Cabinet notes the timetables for the preparation of the Local Area Agreement for Staffordshire.

- (B) That the Scrutiny Committee on 25 September, 2006 be consulted on the contents of the Community Strategy for 2006-07 and the first full draft Local Area Agreement for Staffordshire which will inform the development of a Sustainable Community Strategy for 2007-2010.
- (C) That Council on 27 September, 2006 be recommended to endorse the first full draft Local Area Agreement for Staffordshire, whilst accepting that further work needs to be done to determine the priorities, targets and outcomes for Cannock Chase.

40. New Swimming Pool – Rugeley: Application to Sport England

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Members note that the Head of Culture and Major Projects, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Sport, submitted an expression of interest to the Community Investment Fund (CIF) on 1 September, 2006.
- (B) That approval be given to the submission of a full external funding application for £200,000 to Sport England by 3 October, 2006, to access funding from the CIF to support the development of Rugeley Swimming Pool.

41. Extension to Introductory Tenancies

Consideration was given to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Council adopt the provisions in the Housing Act 2004 to allow the use of extensions to Introductory Tenancies.

42. Demotion Orders

Consideration was given to a Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Council adopt the use of Demotion Orders contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, to combat anti-social behaviour occurring in secure tenancies.

43. Choice Based Letting Scheme

Consideration was given to a Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.15 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Council participate in the development of a Choice Based Lettings for Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire covering the Local Authority areas identified in paragraph 6.1 of the report.
- (B) That the proposed allocations framework for the Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire Choice Based Lettings Scheme as attached at annex1 of the report be agreed.
- (C) That the Council together with other partner organisations submit a bid for additional resources to the Department for Communities and Local Government to assist with the development and implantations of the Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire Choice Based Lettings Scheme.
- (D) That the Head of Housing following consultation with the Leader for Social Inclusion and Housing be authorised to approve details of the bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government of the Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire Choice Based Lettings Scheme.
- (E) That the Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire Choice Based Lettings Scheme be further developed and that a further report be received on the final proposed scheme when the results of the bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government are known.

44. Cannock Chase Local Development Framework: Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Issues and Options Report

Consideration was given to a Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 13.1 – 13.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Development Control Policies DPD Issues and Options Report be approved for consultation, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations, 2004.
- (B) That a report be submitted to a future meeting considering the consultation responses and proposals for preferred options.

45. Recommendation from the Culture and Sport Select Committee held on 5 September, 2006

Following advice from the Council's Solicitor, it was agreed that the report be considered under Part 1 of the agenda on the basis that the information contained within the report considered by the Select Committee was not exempt as defined under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) due to the fact that the information related to a proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992.

Consideration was given to the following recommendation referred to it by the Culture and Sport Select Committee held on 5 September, 2006:

- (i) New Swimming Pool, Rugeley – Stage C Progress Report

“That Cabinet be recommended that the design alternative should be progressed to the next stage”.

RESOLVED:

That the design alternative be progressed to the next stage.

46. Rugeley Swimming Pool – Supplementary Estimate

Following advise from the Council’s Solicitor, it was agreed that the report be considered under Part 1 of the agenda on the basis that the information contained within the report was not exempt as defined under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) due to the fact that the information related to a proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992.

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 16.1 – 16.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Council be recommended to approve a supplementary estimate of £560,000 to meet the increased costs for the Rugeley Swimming Pool Capital Scheme and that borrowing limits for 2007-08 and future years be increased accordingly.
- (B) That subject to (A) above, that Council approves:
 - (i) The exemption of the construction contract for the new Rugeley Swimming Pool from having to comply with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules 14, 17 and 21.
 - (ii) That a ‘two stage’ tendering process is followed as detailed in Item 3 of this report.
- (C) That subject to (A) and (B) above Council approve this project and grants permission to spend.

47. 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 Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5, Part I, Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET

THURSDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2006 AT 4.30 P.M.

CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 2

48. Complaint – Market Street, Hednesford

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 17.1 – 17.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council)

RESOLVED:

That the Council makes a without prejudice offer of compensation for the sum of £250 in respect of the complaint made by the individual identified in the report.

49. Debt Recovery

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 18.1 – 18.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

(A) That the amounts detailed in Annexes 1 to 3 be written off.

(B) That the total amount of debts under £250 detailed in this report, which have been authorised for write off by the Head of Financial Management be confirmed.

LEADER