

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

CABINET

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER, 2009 AT 4.00 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Stanley, N.K.	Leader of the Council
Freeman, M. P.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Housing Portfolio Leader
Davies, D.N.	Access to Education, Skills, and Employment Portfolio Leader
Grocott, M.R.	Culture, Sport and Services for Children & Young People Portfolio Leader
Jillings, J. F.	Safe, Strong and Cohesive Communities Portfolio Leader
Williams, A.	Environmental Sustainability Portfolio Leader
Yates, Ms. W.	Healthier Communities and Older People Portfolio Leader

69. Apologies

All Members of Cabinet were present

70. Declarations 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>
Stanley, N.K.	Item 8 – Amended Enhanced Compensation - The Leader has known the Officer since childhood.	Personal

(The Leader informed Cabinet that although he was not declaring a prejudicial interest, he would, nonetheless, withdraw from the meeting prior to consideration of this item)

71. Forward Plan

The Democratic Services Manager explained that the Forward Plan had already been considered at the original meeting and should not have been included on the agenda.

72. Reward for Information on Flytippers

Consideration was given to a Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 4.1 - 4.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to approve:-

- (A) The adoption of a reward scheme whereby £100 was paid to the public for information that led to the successful prosecution of flytippers.
- (B) The funding of such a reward scheme being subject to the availability of income from Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) served through Environmental Enforcement actions and on such terms as were agreed by the Director of Service Improvement as being necessary and appropriate to ensure the fair and transparent operation of the scheme.

Reason for the Decision

The Environment was a priority area and an Environmental Enforcement Action Plan had been approved to tackle matters such as flytipping, littering and dog fouling. As part of that Action Plan, a three month trial had been conducted, offering £100 rewards to the public for information leading to the successful prosecution of flytippers. The reward scheme had been well publicised and had resulted in an increase in the number of reports giving information on offenders, showing that the incentive had achieved the objective outcome. To date, two cases from the trial period had been heard at Magistrates' Court and both had resulted in convictions. Increased litter patrols, also identified in the Action Plan, had resulted in the issue of FPN's which would make the reward scheme self-financing.

73. Call Centre – Comprehensive Report

Consideration was given to a Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the improved performance in reducing the call waiting times for customers when telephoning the Council be noted.

Reason for the Decision

Customers trying to contact the Council via telephone during the first part of the financial year had encountered extended waiting times that were unacceptable and a number of measures had been put in place to address this. The average waiting time had now been reduced to a target of less than 30 seconds for a switchboard call and less than a minute for all other calls.

74. Green Flag Award 2009-10

Consideration was given to a Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.18) of the Official Minutes of the Council).

It was reported that, in addition to the three parks referred to in the Report, a future application would be submitted in respect of Elmore Park, Rugeley for this Award and that Hednesford Park would also be included as part of the town's wider regeneration scheme, subject to financial constraints permitting.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the re-application for a Green Flag Award for Cannock Park, Castle Ring and Ravenhill Park in 2010-11 be endorsed.
- (B) That the expenditure detailed in the respective 10 year Action Plans for Castle Ring and Ravenhill Park as being necessary to retain the Green Flag accreditations where funding had been identified as being available, be approved.

Reason for the Decision

The scheme was at the heart of the Government's commitment to create cleaner, safer and greener communities for all. The Award was one of the Government's key mechanisms for measuring high standards and each park or green space was judged against eight key criteria:-

- A Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and Heritage
- Community and Heritage
- Marketing
- Management

This was assessed from a Management Plan that had been produced by the Council, which detailed the vision for the Park or Open Space and detailed how improvements would be financed and progressed. The Management Plan for Cannock Park (2005-2015) was approved by Cabinet in March 2008 including expenditure up to and including 2010.

The application for Green Flags at Ravenhill Park and Castle Ring was approved in May 2009 and all necessary expenditure was met from revenue budgets.

75. 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, 4 and 6, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

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PART 2

76. Amended Enhanced Compensation

(Prior to consideration of this item the Leader, Councillor N.K. Stanley, left the meeting, took no part in the debate and did not vote on the recommendation. The Director of Service Improvement and Director of Organisational Improvement also left the room.)

Councillor M.P. Freeman, Deputy Leader took the Chair for consideration of this item.

Consideration was given to a Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the payment of actuarial strain in respect of the redundancy of the Principal Administrator in the sum of £80,000 be approved.

Reason for the Decision

The Principal Administrator post would be made redundant due to a review of the Elections function following transfer of the function to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, and a review of the PA and Secretarial requirements of the Chief Executive and Directors.

(The meeting terminated at 4.55 p.m.)

LEADER