

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2008 AT 4.00PM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)
Pearce, Mrs. L.J. (Vice-Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C. Carr, I.R.
Burnett, J. Stanley, N.K.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Beddows and C. Mitchell)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman advised that the official opening of Rugeley Swimming Pool was due to be held on 17 September, 2008. Members agreed that the Children and Young People Policy Development Committee scheduled for 17 September 2008 would therefore be held on 30 September 2008.

1. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee held on 8 April 2008 be received for information.

2. Presentation on the role and remit of the Children and Young People Policy Development Committee

Philip Lloyd-Williams, Director of Governance, circulated a handout which gave a brief overview of the role and remit of the Scrutiny Committee and Policy Development Committees. He explained that the role of the Policy Development Committees would be to review current Council policies, consider future policy development and make proposals to Cabinet. They would not act as a Scrutiny function as this would be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee and the Performance and Partnerships Scrutiny Sub Committee. The Policy Development Committees would also be able to engage with stakeholders and the community to encourage policy development.

Members were informed that the key issue for the Policy Development Committees would

be to look towards the future and consider how to improve services.

3. Development of a Work Programme for 2008-09

Consideration was given to the Work Programme for 2008-09 (Enclosure 6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Director of Organisational Improvement led Members through the Work Programme explaining that it would be possible to add additional items onto the Work Programme throughout the year.

The Chairman requested that Anne Bird, Human Resources Manager and any other relevant partner(s) attend the Committee when the Child Protection Policy was considered.

AGREED:

That the Work Programme for 2008-09 be agreed subject to the meeting scheduled for 17 September 2008 being held on 30 September 2008.

4. Springvale School Playing Fields – Section 77 of the Schools Act

Consideration was given to the Briefing Note on Springvale School Playing Fields (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Geoff Winslow, Property Services Manager led Members through the Briefing Note which provided further clarification regarding the “10 year rule” in relation to school playing fields.

He confirmed that the land at Springvale School was required to remain vacant and unused for 10 years to avoid the need for Staffordshire County Council to apply for any specific consent from the Secretary of State. Subject to planning consent the County Council would be able to dispose of the land for any purpose following the expiry of the 10 year period. However, if an alternative use were to be identified prior to the expiry of the 10 years, an application would need to be made to the Department for Children, Schools and Families for permission to use the site.

Members were further advised that Staffordshire County Council had obtained planning permission to convert the school buildings into offices to enable Social Services to relocate from premises elsewhere in Cannock.

Clarification was sought as to whether money received from the sale of school playing fields would be required to be reinvested into providing leisure/recreation/playing field type facilities after the expiry of 10 years on the basis that the County Council could potentially leave the land vacant and unused for 10 years in order to avoid any commitment to reinvest money into providing similar facilities. The Property Services Manager advised that a similar site elsewhere in the County had been sold for residential purposes following the expiry of the 10 years with the receipts from the sale being reinvested into improving schools in the area. As a general rule, receipts from the sale of educational land were reinvested for educational purposes.

Members raised concern that the Springvale School playing fields and similar playing fields in the District could potentially remain vacant and unused for 10 years. It was considered that the vacant land could be used to provide play provision.

AGREED:

That the Briefing Note be noted.

5. Parks 24/7

Members viewed a DVD showing feedback from users of parks in Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley. The DVD had been produced by pupils of Cannock Chase High School with support from Officers of the Council. The pupils had spent a 24 hour period in the parks in the District and the DVD provided both positive and negative feedback from those that used the parks.

CHAIRMAN