

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2007 AT 4.00 PM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors:

Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.

Mitchell, C.

Easton, Mrs. M.

Morgan, C.W.J.

Easton, R.

Pearce, Mrs. L.J.

(Also present Councillor Ms. W. Yates for agenda item 5).

1. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Culture and Sport Select Committee held on 13 March 2007 be received for information.

Arising from the Minutes, Councillor C.W.J. Morgan advised that the Oxford Green Football Field scheme was progressing and consultation was taking place with the County Council regarding the lease. The Head of Culture and Major Projects agreed to speak with Councillor Morgan after the meeting regarding the details of the S.106 Agreement for the development at the former Automotive Lighting Factory, Walkmill Lane, Bridgtown.

An update on the Blake Valley College Development Project was requested and the Deputy Chief Executive advised that Cabinet would be considering a report on the Blake Valley Development on 14 June 2007. The report outlined a number of issues the County Council had raised regarding the proposals. In addition, he explained that a meeting had taken place with the County Council on Monday 11 June 2007. The outcome of the meeting was that the County Council supported the project in principle but there were a number of issues still requiring clarification.

Members expressed concern regarding the proposed closure of the Stadium and highlighted the need to ensure that the Stadium was operational until an alternative venue was available. Clarification was sought as to whether staff were being deployed elsewhere and whether bookings were being refused or had customers decreased due to the threat of closure. The Head of Commercial Operations confirmed that the Council was not looking to refuse bookings, however, alternative venues had been offered for long term bookings in view of the uncertainty over the future of the venue. He stated that staff were deployed at the Stadium as and when necessary.

Members raised the issue of car parking provision for the proposed Health Centre and Leisure Village developments. They were advised that parking provision for the Health

Centre development would be considered as part of determining the planning application for the Health Centre.

2. Playing Pitch Strategy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Culture and Major Projects (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Wayne Goodwin, Leisure Operations Manager led the Select Committee through the report outlining the key issues. Members were then offered the opportunity of asking questions.

Councillor R. Easton moved the recommendations contained within the report and these were seconded.

Councillor C. Mitchell made reference to a letter from Sport England which outlined their concerns regarding the Playing Pitch Strategy. The Head of Culture and Major Projects explained that the concerns raised in the letter had been addressed and Sport England were now in support of the Strategy. She confirmed that Sport England would be formally consulted on any planning application regarding the closure of a playing pitch. Members noted that the Strategy would need to be reviewed in 2008.

Councillor Mitchell then moved the following additional recommendation:

“That no playing pitches in Council ownership are disposed of until replacement pitches are identified”.

Following a vote, the recommendations contained within the report including the additional recommendation were carried.

The Head of Culture and Major Projects agreed to contact the County Council to obtain further information on the Staffordshire County Council Springfield School open space and report back to a future meeting of the Select Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Playing Pitch Strategy for Cannock Chase District be noted.
- (B) That Cabinet be recommended to adopt the Playing Pitch Strategy and note that the priorities identified within the action plan would be taken when the appropriate resources were identified.
- (C) That Cabinet be recommended that no playing pitches in Council ownership are disposed of until replacement pitches are identified.
- (D) That further information on the Staffordshire County Council Springfield School open space be submitted to a future meeting of the Select Committee.

3. Presentation on the Role and Functions of the Children and Young People Select Committee

Karen Bradford, Head of Culture and Major Projects and Mike Edmonds, Head of Commercial Operations provided a presentation outlining the role and functions that fall within the remit of

the Select Committee.

Karen Bradford explained that the services of Culture and Major Projects that fall within the Children and Young People Portfolio were:-

- Leisure Strategy and Policy
- Quality Assurance
- Museum and Education Programme
- Arts Development
- Sports Development
- Chase It Scheme
- Children's Fund
- External Funding
- Children's Services
- Major Capital Projects
 - Chase Heritage Trail
 - Leisure Review (swimming pool and Leisure Village)
- Regional and Local networks and partnerships

She stated that the key issues for 2007/08 were to:-

- (i) Develop key strategies and policies, including the Play Strategy, Child Protection Policy (Draft), Cultural Strategy (Draft), and to establish Children's Trust Board.
- (ii) Complete major projects including the Rugeley Swimming Pool, Chase Leisure Village, Old Hednesford Park and the Replacement Athletics Facilities.
- (iii) Support the Leisure Operations Service, including Quality Assurance, Self Assessment, Health and Safety Advice and Performance Management.

Mike Edmonds then explained that the services of Commercial Operations that fall within the Children and Young People Portfolio were:-

- Chase Leisure Centre
- Rugeley Leisure Centre
- Golf Course (Operations)
- Prince of Wales
- Bar, Catering and Civic Suite
- Stadium

He stated that the key issues for 2007/08 were:-

- (i) Improve financial performance and usage figures, including focus on performance management, improvement in income generation and budgetary efficiency savings.
- (ii) Complete implementation of IT systems (Torex), including Chase Leisure Centre (including bar/catering).
- (iii) Plan and prepare operations service in response to leisure developments, including Rugeley Swimming Pool, provision of replacement athletic facilities and Chase Leisure Village.

- (iv) Improve customer satisfaction levels, including conducting satisfaction surveys across all sites.
- (v) Develop a Workforce Plan

It was explained that joint working between the two Service Areas was important to drive forward improvements.

Karen Bradford stated that the Environmental Services that fall within the Children and Young People Portfolio were Parks and Open Spaces. She advised that the service was responsible for the maintenance of parks, playing pitches, play areas and outdoor recreational facilities.

The key issues were to develop and coordinate maintenance services, to support the development of the Parks and Open Spaces and the Playing Pitch Strategy.

A copy of the presentations would be forwarded to all Members of the Children and Young People Select Committee.

4. Development of the Work Programme 2007/08

The Head of Culture and Major Projects circulated a draft Work Programme for 2007/08 outlining the scheduled dates of meetings of the Select Committee and the proposed items for discussion. She explained that the Chair of the Children Trust Board and the Regional Play Officer would be invited to attend the Select Committee to provide Members with a presentation. Members considered that any outside organisation should be invited to attend future Select Committees if considered appropriate.

RESOLVED:

(A) That the following issues be included in the Work Programme of the Children and Young People Select Committee for 2007/08:-

- Oxford Green Play Area Development Update
- Update on Capital Schemes
- Culture Strategy
- Draft Play Strategy
- Children Trust Board Update
- Leisure Concessions Review
- Chase Leisure Village Brief
- Child Protection Policy

(B) That the meeting of the Select Committee scheduled for 17 July 2007 be rearranged for 8 August 2007.

CHAIRMAN