

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE AND SPORT POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 6 AUGUST, 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Dudson, A. (Chairman)
Freeman, Miss M.A. (Vice-Chairman)

Anslow, C. Morgan, C.W.J.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Johnson, J.

1. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C. Mitchell.

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 March, 2013 be approved as a correct record.

4. Presentation from the Head of Commissioning

The Head of Commissioning advised that the presentation would:

- Update Members on PDP 2012-13 – Performance outturn
- Agree the Priority Delivery Plan for 2013-14 (service aims, actions and targets)
- Agree the Work Programme for 2013-14

With regard to the PDP for 2012-13 he advised that the Bevan Lee Play area had been completed and opened in March 2013. The 1st full size ATP in the District at Cardinal Griffin School was opened in September 2012. He further advised that the Community Games and Paralympic Flame Celebrations had been successfully held last summer and the Chase Leisure Centre had opened on 8 March 2013. Additionally the Culture and Leisure Management Contract had been in operation for one year.

The Committee was advised that the Active and Healthy Lifestyles PDP for 2013-14 covered the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio and the Culture and Sport Portfolio. The

Services covered were:

- All Culture and Leisure Services and facilities
 - Chase and Rugeley Leisure Centres
 - Prince of Wales Theatre
 - Museum of Cannock Chase
 - Community Wellbeing Teams – Arts, Sports and Play
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Cemeteries and burial grounds
- Tree Maintenance
- Playground maintenance and repairs

Members noted that the five service aims were:

(a) Manage and monitor the delivery of culture and leisure services and facilities

It was explained that Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust had been awarded the contract to manage the service on a 10 year contract (with the option of an extension for 5 years + a further 5 years). The Committee would receive quarterly Performance Indicator reports

(b) Encourage Investment in sporting and cultural facilities

- Stadium Site – work was beginning to undertake a feasibility study in relation to the site and the results would be reported back to the Committee in due course.
- Deliver investment in culture and leisure facilities and provide accessible services – Sensory room at Chase Leisure Centre opened last week; Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the development of the Mining Gallery at the Museum of Cannock Chase; creation of an online booking system for the Prince of Wales Theatre.

(c) Contribute to the creation of new volunteers and employment opportunities

- Work with Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust to develop volunteering and apprenticeships

(d) Review managed parks provision

(e) Review burial space

The Head of Commissioning then provided the Committee with a current update advising that the sensory room at Chase Leisure Centre had opened on 2 August, 2013. Work on the extension to the fitness suite at Rugeley Leisure Centre had now been completed. He commented that all four parks in the District had retained the Green Flag awards in July 2013. Work was continuing to the tennis courts, as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Hednesford, with the aim of completion in August 2013. The Community Games Toolkit had been released which was part of the Olympic legacy. Additionally, Cabinet had approved spending on the Stile Cop Cemetery extension.

The six indicators and targets were then outlined:

1. % increase in participation in culture and leisure services and facilities (33%)
2. % increase of Chase Lifestyle concession cardholders (5%)
3. Level (£) of investment in culture and leisure facilities as part of WLCT contract (£120k)
4. Number of volunteering hours (4,000)
5. Number of people volunteering (65)
6. Number of apprenticeships posts created (2)

Members noted that the Work Programme of the Committee for 2013-14 would involve monitoring the progress against key service aims relating to:

- WLCT Contract
- Hednesford Park Project
- Stadium Feasibility Study
- Burial Space Review
- Site visits (sensory room, Deavalls Ranger Station, Hednesford Park, Stile Cop Cemetery)

It was explained that future meetings of the Committee were scheduled for 15 October, 2013, 14 January, 2014 and 19 March, 2014 when the Work Programme would be reviewed. Members were asked to consider whether they wished to visit any of the sites or whether to hold any of the meetings at an alternative venue.

Following the presentation, the Chairman welcomed any questions from Members. Councillor Anslow asked how the target of 33% in relation to increasing participation in culture and leisure services had been set. The Head of Commissioning advised that WLCT had based this figure on recorded visits to the leisure facilities. He further asked what the £120,000 investment in culture and leisure facilities would be spent on. The Head of Commissioning explained that this would have been outlined in the submission bid made by WLCT when the contract was awarded. The investment this year would be in the development of the Mining Gallery at the Museum of Cannock Chase and to develop the online booking system at the Prince of Wales. He confirmed that the contract would be monitored in monthly meetings and the spending would be balanced. It was explained that the majority of investment had occurred in Year 1 and the replacement of all the fitness equipment was programmed for Year 5.

The Chairman asked if there was a record of how many visits there had been to the pool at Chase Leisure Centre since it had opened. The Head of Commissioning confirmed that there had been approximately 12,000 wet side visits to the Chase Leisure Centre in March and he estimated that there had been 30,000 - 40,000 visits in quarter 1. However, the accurate information would be circulated to Members after the meeting.

Members supported the suggestion that further meetings of the Committee could be held at alternative venues. The Head of Commissioning explained that he would liaise with the Chairman with a view to holding the next meeting at either the Museum of Cannock Chase or Deavalls Ranger Station.

Councillor Johnson advised that Rugeley Open Spaces Association were holding a fun

run at the end of August and, depending on the success of the event, there were plans to hold the event next year. He asked whether any support could be offered to them should the event take place next year.

The Head of Commissioning advised that, as the Committee had no budget, any financial assistance would require Cabinet approval. However, in terms of support such as helping to marshall the event, he suggested liaising with WLCT to ascertain if any assistance or support could be provided.

Councillor Miss Freeman asked for further information regarding the Apprenticeships. The Head of Commissioning explained that there were 2 young people from the Cannock Chase District who would be taking up the Apprenticeships in September. The Committee would be kept informed of the progress at the next meeting.

Councillor Miss Freeman also asked whether there was any information regarding the number of GP referrals. The Head of Commissioning confirmed that the figure had been low last year. He referred to an end of year report from WLCT that had been considered by Cabinet in June which contained information in relation to NHS/PCT referral work along with case studies. He confirmed that this information could be forwarded to Members after the meeting.

Councillor Morgan made reference to a proto breathing apparatus from the 1950's that was displayed at the Museum of Cannock Chase. He explained that a submarine "Thetis" had sunk and a team of miners from the District had gone down to reclaim the bodies. He asked whether any background information was available. The Head of Commissioning agreed that he would liaise with the staff at the Museum and ask whether any research could be undertaken to ascertain the background to this.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the presentation be noted.
- (B) That the information on the number of wet side visits to Chase Leisure Centre since it had opened be forwarded to Members of the Committee.
- (C) That the section of the WLCT report considered by Cabinet in June regarding NHS/PCT referral work be forwarded the Members of the Committee.
- (D) That the Head of Commissioning liaise with the staff at the Museum of Cannock Chase to ask whether any research could be undertaken to ascertain the background to the proto breathing apparatus from the 1950's that was displayed at the Museum.

The meeting closed at 4.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN

