

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CABINET**  
**THURSDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER, 2010 AT 4.30 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Stanley, N.K.	Leader of the Council
Collis, C.	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Freeman, M.P.	Housing Portfolio Leader
Grocott, M.R.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Williams, A,	Deputy Leader of the Council and Environment Portfolio Leader
Williams, Mrs. P.	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader
Yates, Ms. W.	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader

**42. Apologies**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor D. Davies, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader.

The Chief Executive, Stephen Brown, had also submitted an apology.

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

There were no declarations of interests.

**44. Minutes**

There were no minutes to consider.

**45. Updates from Portfolio Leaders**

Health and Wellbeing

1. Staffordshire Community Scrutiny Committee – the Portfolio Leader advised that, following her nomination to the County's Community Scrutiny Committee, she had recently attended her first meeting. Amongst the subjects discussed were the Ministry of Justice's draft proposals in respect of the provision of Court services in Staffordshire. This involved closure of a number of courts, including those in Tamworth, whose workload would be split between Cannock and Burton-upon-Trent. The Portfolio Leader asked that Cabinet noted her concerns about the potential negative impact on the area of town around the Courts and policing in Cannock, as a result of the potential increase

in workload and traffic resulting from the proposals.

2. Draft Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Policy - the Portfolio Leader also advised that she had attended two meetings to discuss and work on a draft Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Policy. She was pleased to be able to advise Cabinet that the draft Policy reflected issues of particular concern to Cannock Chase, such as deprivation, and that some of the work that had been undertaken in Cannock Chase to improve public health were being cited as examples of good practice.

### Culture and Sport

The Portfolio Leader advised Cabinet that a letter had been received from the Big Lottery Fund endorsing the ongoing success of the Council's play portfolio.

### Environment

The Portfolio Leader reported that there had been an immediate positive impact following the introduction of the new dry recyclable waste bins ("blue bins"), which had resulted in a substantial increase in the Council's level of recycling. It was estimated that, if the initial levels were maintained, then the Council would be surpassing its target for 2020 with ten years to spare. The Leader of the Council reminded Cabinet that increasing recycling levels was in everyone's best interest as recycled waste generated recycling credits for the Council and, thereby the Council Tax payer; whereas, non-recyclables resulted in landfill charges to the Council, which would, necessarily, feed through to .

### Corporate Improvement

The Portfolio Leader advised that the Council had already started to receive feedback on its budget consultation exercise which remained open until the end of September. To date, 254 responses had been received: 54 in response to the article in Chase Matters; 56 direct web responses; and 144 from questionnaires distributed at the Community Forums, and through one-to-one interviews.

#### **46. Forward Plan**

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period September – November, 2010 (Enclosure 4.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period September – November, 2010, be noted.

#### **47. Part 1 Minutes of Policy Development Committees**

RESOLVED:

That the Part 1 Minutes of the Housing Policy Development Committee dated 11 August, 2010 be received for information.

#### **48. Housing Services – Annual Report**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the draft Housing Services Annual Report to Tenants, including the local offers be agreed for circulation to all the Council's tenants.

#### Reasons for the Decisions

The draft Annual Report to Tenants reported against the new National Standards to meet the requirement under the regulatory framework.

#### **49. Emerging Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy 2010 – 2026 (August, 2010)**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Culture and Regeneration (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Staffordshire County Council be asked to consider the Council's comments on the Joint Waste Core Strategy (Issue 2) as set out in Annex 1 to the report; and to note that the District Council reserved the right to object to policies relevant to new waste management facilities and existing landfill sites that may emerge at future stages of the Waste Core Strategy, in terms of their impact on the amenity of residents, premium employment sites, air pollution, noise, issues of nature conservation interest up to and including European level, flood risk and the means of transport.
- (B) Staffordshire County Council be advised that this Council reaffirmed that it remained opposed to the proposals by Biffa Waste to develop an Energy from Waste incinerator and Materials Recovery facilities at Kingswood Lakeside, Cannock.
- (C) Staffordshire County Council be advised that Cannock Chase District Council considered that it was no longer acceptable not to have a firm timetable for the restoration for public access to the Poplars Landfill site and sought urgent discussions with Staffordshire County Council and others with a material interest in the site to resolve the situation.
- (D) Authority be given to the Director of Culture and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Leader for Environment to finalise the submission to Staffordshire County Council based on the comments contained in Annex 1 to the report.

#### Reasons for the Decision

The Council should support the broad principles of the Emerging Waste Core Strategy, subject to the comments detailed in Annex 1 to the report, whilst maintaining its objections to any future Energy from Waste incinerator and complementary Materials Recovery facilities at Kingswood

Lakeside.

**50. Local Enterprise Partnerships**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Culture and Regeneration (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Government's proposals for the establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships (L.E.P.s) and the L.E.P. proposals for Birmingham, Solihull and parts of Southern Staffordshire; for the Black Country; and for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, be noted.
- (B) That membership of all three of the Local Enterprise Partnerships identified in (A), above, which were considered to be relevant to the District's economic interests, should be secured.
- (C) The Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Leader for Economic Development and Planning be authorised to take whatever action is deemed necessary to ensure that the interests of the Council and the District are acknowledged and reflected in the proposed activities and governance arrangements for the Local Enterprise Partnerships of which the Council becomes a member.

Reasons for the Decision

The Council has significant economic links with the Birmingham and Black Country conurbation and with parts of Staffordshire. To ensure that the Council has the opportunity to influence all of the new Local Enterprise Partnerships relevant to the Council's economic interests, it is considered necessary to pursue active membership within all three proposed L.E.P.s – Birmingham and Solihull; the Black Country; and Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent – relevant to the District's economic geography. The Council's position will be reviewed once an initial response from Government, expected by the end of September, 2010, is known.

**51. Elizabeth Road Compulsory Purchase Orders**

The Director of Service Improvement advised that the report had been deferred due to an unresolved legal matter.

**52. 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, and 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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**PART 2**

**53. Avon Plaza – Development Agreement**

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Director of Culture and Regeneration (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Cabinet confirmed its support to achieve the comprehensive development of the land off Avon Road / Walsall Road for a mixed use scheme based on leisure and retail uses.
- (B) The Director of Culture and Regeneration be authorised to enter into a Supplementary Agreement, or such other agreements and contracts as may be considered appropriate, with Chaseregen Plc to secure the extension of the Development Agreement for land off Avon Road for a further 24 months.

Reasons for the Decisions

Cabinet had previously approved entering into a Development Agreement with Chaseregen Plc to achieve the redevelopment of land bounded by Avon Road, Walsall Road, Hunter Road and Hallcourt Crescent, including the acquisition of third party interests and the possible use of compulsory purchase powers.

Extending the Development Agreement for a further period would give comfort to Chaseregen Plc and any potential partner or operator that they are talking to that the Council are committed to the redevelopment and are not going to terminate the agreement. Extending the Long Stop date in the Agreement by a further 24 months should provide sufficient time for a more normal retail / leisure investment market to return.

**54. Shared Services – Cannock Chase District Council and Stafford Borough Council**

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council). The Director of Service Improvement advised Cabinet that there had been a short delay in the process necessitating a deferment to 1 November, 2010, for the establishment of Shared Services with Stafford Borough Council for Building Control and Information Technology.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The joint report of the Leaders (Annex 1 to the report), outlining the current position be noted.
- (B) The timetable for establishment of Shared Services with Stafford Borough Council for Building Control and Information Technology with effect from 1 November, 2010, be noted.
- (C) The timetable for Shared Services in the service areas of Revenues and Benefits, Legal, Human Resources, Finance, Internal Audit, Insurance and Risk Management, Civil Contingencies and Procurement be approved in accordance with the dates outlined in the report and the authority leads as identified in paragraph 5.2 of the joint report.
- (D) The proposal for Community safety be deferred for further consideration pending clarification of the national position.
- (E) The legal, financial, human resources and governance frameworks that underpin the Shared Services process Cabinet confirmed its support to achieve the comprehensive development as attached at Appendix 3 to the report be approved.

#### Reasons for the Decisions

Cabinet at its meeting on 15 April, 2010, had previously resolved that the first phase of Shared Services be implemented to a timetable to be agreed once external support for the project had been finalised. External support had since been finalised and the report sets out the timetable for implementation of the first phase Shared Services, Building Control and Information Technology to be established on 1 November, 2010.

A number of additional shared service areas were also identified in the April, 2010 report, and a timetable had subsequently been agreed for the adoption of these services as shared services by 1 April, 2011 or sooner if practicable.

The meeting closed at 5.40 pm.

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LEADER