

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

CABINET

HELD ON THURSDAY, 28 APRIL, 2011 AT 4.30 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

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

150. Apologies

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor N. K. Stanley, Leader of the Council.

151. 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>
M. R. Grocott	Tobacco Control in Cannock Chase District	Declared he had predetermined the issue and would withdraw from the meeting and take no part in the debate or decision making process
Mrs. P. Williams	Tobacco Control in Cannock Chase District	Declared she had predetermined the issue and would withdraw from the meeting and take no part in the debate or decision making process

152. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

Culture and Sport

The Portfolio Leader reported that with regard to Chase Leisure Centre the contractor, Tomlinson, was on site and work was commencing as scheduled. The reception entrance had been moved to the back of the building. The Corporate Director was requested to congratulate the staff for the smooth transfer of swimming functions to Rugeley.

Health and Wellbeing

The Portfolio Leader explained that in December the Localism Bill was published which included the framework for communities to challenge local authorities over the delivery of services. The details of how it was to be moved forward was set out in a separate paper which was currently out to consultation. It was reported that the Portfolio Leader had attended a consultation meeting with respect to the Community Right to Challenge at the County Council.

The Portfolio Leader had attended an accountability session with the Chief Executive of the hospital to endeavour to address problems with respect to patients not being able to feed themselves. A coloured tray system had been introduced at Cannock Hospital which would enable staff to identify patients who required assistance. The Chief Executive was also visiting the hospital weekly to assist patients who were having difficulties.

Corporate Improvement

It was reported that the Council's website had been refreshed, at very little cost, which had been extremely well received with an 11% increase in the number of people accessing the site. It was considered that the website was now more easy to navigate and the Chief Executive was requested to congratulate the Officers concerned.

Housing

It was reported that work had commenced on the Elizabeth Road project and that the affordable home target was being exceeded.

153. Minutes

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Minutes of the meetings held on 17 March and 6 April, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed.
- (B) That the Minutes of the meeting on 3 February, 2011 approved and signed by the Leader at the meeting on 17 March, 2011 be amended with respect to Minute 114 as follows:-

That:

- (i) It be noted that the proposals to freeze annual increments for 12 months and reduce by a fixed percentage for 12 months the salaries of employees earning over £34,000 per annum as a means of avoiding redundancies were opposed by the recognised trades unions.
- (ii) Consequently, further consultation in respect of voluntary agreements to:
 - a) Freeze annual increments for 12 months; and
 - b) The reduction by five percent for 12 months of the salaries of employees earning over £34,000 per annum, should not be pursued.

- (iii) The alternative options for reducing costs, such as voluntary redundancy, flexible retirement, voluntary reductions in working hours, and employee purchase of additional annual leave should be actively pursued.

Reasons for the Decision

There was significant opposition to the proposals by the recognised trade unions. It was, therefore, considered that the options should not be pursued and that the savings required by the Council on an ongoing basis be achieved through alternative means. Other proposals were previously submitted by Cabinet for consideration including voluntary redundancy, voluntary reductions in working hours, flexible retirement and the option to purchase additional leave. These proposals had been explored and were likely to offer alternatives for savings. Over 100 employees had expressed an interest in volunteering for the alternative options.”

154. Forward Plan

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period April 2011 - June, 2011 (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period March 2011 – April, 2011, be noted.

155. Part 1 Minutes of Policy Development Committees

RESOLVED:

That the Part 1 Minutes of the following Policy Development Committees be received for information:

- (i) Economic Development and Planning – 1 March, 2011
- (ii) Culture and Sport – 15 March, 2011
- (iii) Environment – 16 March, 2011
- (iv) Town Centre Regeneration – 21 March, 2011
- (v) Housing – 22 March, 2011

156. Recommendations Referred From Economic Development and Planning Policy Committee

Consideration was given to the recommendations referred from the meeting of the Economic Development and Planning Policy Development Committee held on 1 March, 2011:-

RESOLVED:

That:-

- (A) As a consequence of unemployment amongst 18-24 year olds and the lack of skills amongst the District's workforce being serious and persistent issues which reduces the prosperity and resilience of the local economy consider taking actions on these matters as a matter of priority. As a consequence:-
 - (i) The implications of the 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' strategy document should be considered by the Chase Community Partners as part of their refreshed priority of 'improving access to economic opportunity' and their review of the work of the Learning, Education, Employment and Prosperity (LEEP) Strategy Group in skills matters.
 - (ii) Promotes, in conjunction with the local Chamber of Commerce and South Staffordshire College, the opportunities to local businesses which will arise as a result of the expansion of the apprenticeship programme.
 - (iii) Recommends that the implications of 'Skills for Sustainable Growth' and how to take advantage of the new opportunities should be considered in the progression of work through the Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- (B) Recommends that future performance monitoring should take into account the revised age cohort suggested for those not in employment, education or training (18-24 in place of 16-18) which will coincide with that of youth unemployment.
- (C) That basic information on apprenticeship opportunities should be made available and used to support the promotional campaign as recommended above.

Reasons for the Decisions

In order to address unemployment issues amongst 18-24 year olds and the lack of skills amongst the District's workforce which reduces the prosperity and resilience of the local economy it was agreed to consider taking action as a matter of priority. It was also considered important that the apprenticeship programme should be supported.

157. Tobacco Control in Cannock Chase District

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

RESOLVED:

That the:-

- (A) Staffordshire Tobacco Control Alliance Strategy and Action Plan at Annex B to the report be endorsed.
- (B) Staffordshire Smokefree Charter at Annex C to the report be signed up to, to demonstrate commitment to reducing the significant health, economic and social burdens caused by tobacco use in our community.

- (C) Revised Council Smokefree Policy at Annex D to the report be approved.
- (D) Corporate Director be asked to monitor delivery of the Service Level Agreement between Cannock Chase Council and South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust (now South Staffordshire Public Health) at Annex E to the report, in particular the release of frontline employees from the Council and LSP partners to attend brief intervention training on smoking and other health issues.

Reasons for the Decision

The harms caused by tobacco use are continuing to damage vulnerable people in our most disadvantaged communities. The Government's Tobacco Control Plan² makes clear that in implementing comprehensive tobacco control in their communities, local authorities are encouraged to maximise local involvement by building tobacco control alliances that include civil society. Staffordshire is one of many areas that already have local tobacco alliances and these have proved effective in galvanising action.

It is essential that the Council makes a full contribution to the work of the Staffordshire Tobacco Control Alliance if health inequalities in the District are to be tackled.

(Having declared that they had pre-determined the issue Councillors M. R. Grocott and Mrs. P. Williams left the room prior to consideration of this item.)

158. Central Heating Boiler and Appliance Replacement Programme

Consideration was given to the Report of the Corporate Director (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council)

RESOLVED:

That the:-

- (A) Scheme be approved and permission to spend be agreed for a central heating boiler and appliance replacement programme in respect of the Council's housing stock.
- (B) Council's service standard for boiler and central heating replacement be amended to restrict tenants' choice to:-
 - (a) Gas fuelled central heating with the exception of certain flat developments provided with electric storage radiators.
 - (b) "Heat only" boilers where there is sufficient dwelling space to accommodate a hot water tank.

Reasons for the Decision

It was proposed that the introduction of a central heating boiler and appliance replacement programme to ensure that the Council's housing stock is maintained to the decent homes standard.

A number of issues have arisen regarding certain elements of tenants' choice within the current service standard and it is recommended that the choice of tenants is restricted to resolve these issues.

159. Section 106 Environmental Schemes Capital Programme 2011-12

Consideration was given to the Report of the Corporate Director (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council)

RESOLVED:

That:-

- (A) Permission to spend on the capital schemes detailed in Annex 1 of the report be granted.
- (B) The revised scheme for the paddling pool at Ravenhill funded from specific S.106 funds be noted.

Reasons for the Decision

The District continues to suffer from a number of outdated public open spaces which have attracted funding for improvement. A number of the sites which have attracted funding are extremely popular with the public and are in need of the investment targeted by the Section 106 Capital Programme. Although the majority of funding is financed by Section 106 some of the schemes have also been financed by the Council's Capital Programme. Three of the parks in the programme have 10 year Management Plans approved by Cabinet, a pre-requisite for obtaining Green Flag Awards. The intention of the Section 106 programme is to ensure that the schemes are undertaken in accordance with the legal obligations entered into by the Council and ensuring any payback period of the funding is observed.

160. 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

161. Rugeley Leisure Centre Lease and Associated Financial Matters

Consideration was given to the Report of the Corporate Director (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council)

RESOLVED:

That:-

- (A) The timetable for the payment of the £570,000 contribution from Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) in 4.3 of the report based on planning, purchase offer and disposal milestones of the two ex school sites in Rugeley be approved.
- (B) CCDC and SCC use their 'best endeavours' to reduce the compensatory package of £600,000 by £75,000 for the two school sites in Rugeley.
- (C) Subject to (A) and (B) above, it be noted that up to £525,000 additional 'compensatory provision' funds would be paid by Staffordshire County Council to Cannock Chase District Council on disposal of the two school sites, which is in addition to the £500,000 contribution to Rugeley swimming pool referred to above.
- (D) It is considered appropriate to use some of the agricultural land which is located south of the Rising Brook and to the side of the current Rugeley Leisure centre as the site to establish two junior football pitches as the compensatory pitches for the two ex-school pitches.
- (E) It be noted that freehold sites in ownership of SCC will transfer to CCDC to support the delivery of Hednesford town centre regeneration.
- (F) It be noted that a signed lease will release a payment of £30,000 from Sport England which is the final grant payment for Rugeley swimming pool.

Reasons for the Decision

The financial matters outlined in the Report have led to a delay in signing off the lease between SCC and CCDC for the Rugeley Leisure Centre site for many years. These recommendations are coming forward as the most appropriate approach to resolving these financial matters and secure a signed lease for this site which will release funds to Cannock Chase Council and ensure there is a proper legal framework in place for any leisure operator in the future.

The meeting closed at 5.25 pm.

LEADER