

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

CABINET

HELD ON THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER, 2012 AT 5.45 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Adamson, G.	Leader of the Council
Toth, J.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Environment Portfolio Leader
Dixon, D.I	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Holder, M.J.	Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Mitchell, Mrs. C.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Alcott, G.	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Davis, Mrs. M.A	Health and wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Allen, F.W.C.	Housing Portfolio Leader
Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader

(The Leader advised that he had agreed to the Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration on the Local Transport Body being considered as an urgent item as a final decision on the Council's preference had to be submitted by 28 September, 2012 to the Department for Transport)

50. Apologies

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Mr. S. Brown, Chief Executive.

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

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

52. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

Economic Development and Planning

The Portfolio Leader praised the work carried out by Debbie Harris, who had been asked to support the two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) over the last 18 months/2 years. Since October 2011 she had been working in Birmingham 2 days per week in addition to her role at Cannock Chase Council as Principal Economic Development Officer. She had put in many hours of work with the LEPs to raise the profile of Cannock Chase Council as an active partner and to extend Cannock Chase's influence in the work of the LEPs.

Cannock Chase Council has been seen to be a strong supporting partner in the LEPs. Debbie had been the Lead Project Officer for the £22m Growing Place Fund and had been active in securing funding from both Greater Birmingham & Solihull and Stoke & Staffordshire LEPs, of £3.6m for the Council's Mill Green site and £1.5m for the privately owned Gallan Park scheme.

Debbie had been instrumental in securing part of the £8m ERDF Business Development Programme Fund for Cannock Chase which would see up to 80 businesses receiving help to support their growth. She has been working on an ERDF bid with Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP partners to help start up businesses in Cannock Chase and across South Staffordshire. Debbie had also come into work when on leave in order that certain forms could be completed in order to meet their deadline.

Town Centre Regeneration

The Portfolio Leader advised that Cannock Chase Council had published its Town Centre Business Rates Discount Scheme this week which offers to pay the first year's business rates for any new or existing businesses who take on empty units in the District's three town centres.

A business that meets the essential criteria will receive 100% discount on their business rates for the first 12 months or a £10,000 contribution, whichever is lower. The Council is also expecting that the landlord will make a financial contribution as well, such as a rent free period, to enable the business to establish itself.

Betting shops, charity shops, off-licences and businesses located in a market or trading a market style operation are not eligible under the terms of the Scheme.

This Scheme provides practical financial support to businesses to occupy empty town centre premises. This should increase footfall in the town centres which would be of benefit to all businesses.

It was one of a number of initiatives the Council was implementing to rejuvenate town centres.

Housing

The Portfolio Leader reported on the following:-

(A) Provision of Self-contained Bathing Facilities

Cabinet on 21 June, 2012 agreed to provide self-contained bathing facilities to the dwellings within the Grace Moore Court and Caxton Court sheltered housing schemes. The work involved enlarging the existing washroom by removing the existing hot water cylinder and the dividing wall with the airing cupboard to allow a shower to be installed. A pilot shower room had recently been completed to a void dwelling at Grace Moore Court. A number of Cabinet colleagues and the Portfolio Leader had viewed the shower room and considered the 'end product' to be a great improvement. However, most importantly the work had been welcomed by the other tenants of Grace Moore Court, 18 of whom had requested to have the work undertaken to their homes. These 18 shower rooms will be undertaken during the current financial year. A pilot shower room will also be installed at Caxton Court when a vacant dwelling became available.

(B) Refurbishment of Communal Entrance Halls

Following the completion of the pilot scheme, works to improve the communal entrance halls to the remaining 11 flat blocks on the Walsall Road Estate, Cannock, are programmed to commence in October this year. The works would include redecoration, the provision of carpeting, door replacement and lighting improvements. Door entry systems and more robust entrance doors would also be provided where these had not previously been replaced. The existing entrance halls to the 5 three storey blocks would also be redesigned, subject to planning consent, in accordance with the scheme agreed by Cabinet on 21 June, 2012. This would include the demolition of the former communal bin stores, the replacement of the existing flat roof with a pitched roof and improved tenant storage facilities. Tenants and leaseholders on the estate are currently being consulted on the colour choices for their blocks and the Ward Members have been informed. The works to all 11 remaining blocks on the Walsall Road Estate are programmed for completion during the current financial year and would be extended to the 8 traditional flat blocks at the Moss Road estate, Chadsmoor next year.

Culture and Sport

The Portfolio Leader reported that the Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) at Cardinal Griffin High School had been open to the community from 16 September, 2012. It would be used by schools during the daytime and could be used by the community from 6 pm until 10 pm during the week and 9 am until 9 pm at weekends. Bookings would be made through the school.

Health and Wellbeing

The Portfolio Leader advised that letters were to be sent out by the Benefits Section detailing the changes which were to be made to the Council's tax system to a selection of people considered would be more affected asking for their views. A consultation process would also be carried out to obtain residents comments on what was being proposed.

Crime and Partnerships

The Portfolio Leader reported that the Police and Crime Panel had met on 30th July, 2012 and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, together with two co-opted representatives, had been appointed. It was considered that there would be a busy agenda and meetings had been scheduled to be held in December, 2012 and January, February and March, 2013. A training session for representatives would also be held.

53. Minutes of Cabinet Meeting of 3 September, 2012

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 September, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed.

54. Forward Plan

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period September - November, 2012 (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period September - November, 2012, be noted.

55. Minutes of Policy Development Committees

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the following Policy Development Committees and other Committees be received for information:

- (i) Culture and Sport – 17 April, 2012
- (ii) Economic Development & Planning – 22 March, 2012
- (iii) Environment – 13 March, 2012
- (iv) Health and Wellbeing – 6 August, 2012
- (v) Housing – 13 August, 2012
- (vi) Town Centre Regeneration – 21 March, 2012

56. Gritting Trial on Council Town Centre Car Parks

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The contents of the report be noted.
- (B) It be agreed to extend the pilot scheme to a full Winter period from November, 2012 to March, 2013.
- (C) A further report on the extended pilot scheme be received by Cabinet after its completion.

Reason(s) for the Decision

Following completion of the extended trial Members will be able to assess the implications and implementation issues of Gritting Town Centre Car Parks on a permanent arrangement each Winter.

57. Quarter 1 Performance Report – 2012-13

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.7 of the Official

Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The performance information and the case studies relating to PDPs as detailed at Annexes 1, 2, 3 and 4 to the report be noted.
- (B) The actions and indicators which are rated Red or Amber be noted and the remedial action or rescheduled delivery stated to address performance be confirmed.

Reason(s) for the Decision

Information for performance actions, indicators and case studies during Quarter 1 2012/13 is included for relevant items in Annexes 1 to 4 to the report. The overall rankings for each Portfolio area are detailed in Section 4, indicating that 83.4% of targets have been achieved during the first Quarter of 2012/13. The recommendations reflect that this performance and any subsequent rescheduling are noted.

58. Customer Insight

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Policy (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the additional information available within the Customer Insight dataset and the potential for its utilisation with the Cabinet Portfolios in respect of policy development and service delivery be noted.

Reason(s) for the Decision

The report demonstrated the additional potential offered by the Customer Insight data source to assist in the decision making and policy setting processes of the Council and its utilisation of the data in the Portfolios.

59. District Needs Analysis and Ward Profiles

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Policy (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The report and the annexes that form the evidence base be noted.
- (B) The internal and external publication of the District Needs Analysis and Ward Profiles

be approved.

Reason(s) for the Decision

The evidence base presented would assist Members and Officers in the decision making and policy setting processes of the Council.

60. QR Codes in Communications Activity

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Policy (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) QR codes continue to be used, where appropriate, in corporate publications, literature and material in order to encourage and facilitate access to the Council's website.
- (B) A Customer Service Strategy be developed to include the improvement and enhancement of existing channels such as telephone and face to face service requests and seek to introduce additional options such as mobile service requests through the utilisation of the Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and the Automated Call Distribution (ACD) telephony system.

Reason(s) for the Decision

The Council's Communication Strategy recognises there is no single method or universal way of communicating with our residents and that the diverse needs of our communities means that there is not 'a one size fits all approach'. The inclusion of QR codes in corporate publications, literature and material provides an additional, contemporary method for residents to access further information about the Council and its services through various mobile devices. The development of a Customer Service Strategy will ensure that residents will have more choice in the way they choose to access our services and will not only improve and enhance existing channels such as telephone service requests, but will seek to introduce additional options such as mobile service requests through the technological opportunities of the CRM and ACD systems.

61. Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Brereton

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) A variation of the lease to the Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council to include the land shown hatched black on the plan be approved, subject to receipt of planning consent to

use the land for parking purposes.

- (B) A variation of the lease to the Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council to include the land shown cross-hatched black thus regularising their occupation of the land be agreed.
- (C) The Parish Council meet the Council's reasonable legal costs.

Reason(s) for the Decision

Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council wish to widen the path at the side of the Parish Hall to create a parking space subject to the grant of planning consent. The Parish Hall is leased to the Parish Council on a 99 year lease from the 29th September 2000 but to implement their proposal the lease will need to be varied to include the area shown hatched black on the plan which is currently not part of the lease.

In 2009 the Parish Council obtained planning consent for a small extension to the Parish Hall part of which was constructed on land outside their lease as shown cross-hatched black. Permission for a similar extension was given in 2005 the lease at the time being varied to include the additional land.

It was therefore agreed that subject to the receipt of planning consent the lease be varied to include the land shown hatched black on the plan required for the parking space and that the lease be further varied to include the land shown cross-hatched black to regularise the Parish Councils occupation on the basis that the Parish Council meet the Council's legal costs.

62. Designation of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish as a Neighbourhood Area – Procedure for Dealing with Future Applications for Designation of Neighbourhood Areas

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration (Enclosure 13.1 – 13.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) A six week consultation period to seek public views on an application for designation of the whole of Brereton and Ravenhill Parish as a neighbourhood area be approved.
- (B) The Head of Planning and Regeneration be delegated the power to publicise any future application for designation as a Neighbourhood Area and to require applicants to complete a standard application form.
- (C) The outcome of the publicity process in this and future cases be reported to Cabinet for decision.

Reason(s) for the Decision

Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council have applied to the District Council under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for designation of the whole of the Parish as a neighbourhood area.

Under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 the District Council is required to publicise the application for at least six weeks in order to allow representations to be made prior to a decision being made.

It would be helpful for a procedure to be put in place to deal with future applications which would delegate to the Head of Planning and Regeneration the power to publicise any future application for designation as a Neighbourhood Area and to require applicants to complete a standard application form. Following consultation a recommendation would then be presented to Cabinet, taking account of any comments received, to determine either designation of a neighbourhood area or refusal of the application. The procedure was presented as recommendation 2.2 to the report.

63. Chase Line Rail Service – Revenue Support

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration (Enclosure 14.1 – 14.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The action of the Portfolio Leader in conjunction with the Head of Planning and regeneration, in agreeing to a request from Centro, for Cannock Chase Council to provide a funding contribution to maintain the Chase Line incremental rail services between Birmingham-Walsall-Cannock-Hednesford-Rugeley for Year 3, from December 2012 – December 2013 be endorsed.
- (B) The Council's existing Rail Revenue Support and Rail Revenue Reserve budgets be used to provide financial support for the incremented rail services.
- (C) The Head of Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader be authorised to amend the existing agreement with Centro and Staffordshire County Council for the continued operation of the existing incremented rail services, subject to agreement for contributions being secured from CENTRO and Staffordshire County Council
- (D) The Council engage in further discussions with Centro, Staffordshire County Council, the Department for Transport, London Midland, Network Rail, the Office of Rail Regulation, the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), and the Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire LEP with the aim of achieving the continued operation of existing Chase Line rail services and if possible their increase, for the remainder of the West Midlands rail franchise until September 2015 and beyond in a future franchise.

Reason(s) for the Decision

The Council in partnership with Centro and Staffordshire County Council are being offered the opportunity to secure the continued operation of the incremental rail services that they can afford, with particular reference to the weekday evening and the Saturday incremented service

between Birmingham and Rugeley.

As the increase in funding from this Council would be relatively small and could be met from the existing budgetary provision of £9,650 and the reserve of £24,555, Officers consider that the action in which the District Council have agreed to pick up its proportion of the increased cost should be endorsed.

64. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) - Update

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration (Enclosure 15.1 – 15.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The progress made with regard to the Council's ongoing work with the Greater Birmingham & Solihull and Stoke & Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) be noted.
- (B) The Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Leader for Economic Development & Planning to ensure the needs of Cannock Chase District continue to be recognised in the ongoing work of the LEPs via funding applications, strategy formulation and promotional activities.
- (C) Subject to any financial implications being contained within existing budgets, the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Leader for Economic Development & Planning, to enter into Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and other forms of legal agreement as required by the securing of funding support through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), The Growing Places Fund (GPF) and other forms of financial assistance.

Reason(s) for the Decision

The District has secured considerable benefit to date through the Council's decision to actively engage with the GBSLEP and the SSLEP and support their activities. It is anticipated that further benefits can be secured for the District by continued participation in LEP sponsored activities. In order to ensure that the Council can respond quickly to such opportunities the Chief Executive be authorised to proceed in consultation with the Cabinet Leader for Economic Development & Planning.

65. Review of Allocations Policy

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing (Enclosure 16.1 – 16.24 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The draft Allocations Policy (attached at Annex 1 to the report) be agreed for consultation.
- (B) The draft Allocations Policy be subject to a 12 week consultation exercise with:
 - (i) Housing Associations and other Registered Providers.
 - (ii) Tenants, applicants and the wider community.
 - (iii) Other statutory agencies (including Staffordshire County Council) and voluntary organisations (including the CAB).
- (C) The views of Housing Policy Development Committee be sought on the draft Allocations Policy.
- (D) A revised allocations policy which incorporates the results of the consultation exercise be considered by Cabinet.

Reason(s) for the Decision

The Localism Act 2011 has changed the statutory framework for the allocation of accommodation by amending the provisions of Part 6 of the 1996 Housing Act. These changes have implications for the direct allocation of properties within the Council's housing stock and the nomination of households for housing association properties.

The DCLG have now issued a statutory code of guidance on the allocation of accommodation in England. In accordance with the 1996 Housing Act, the Council must have regard to the guidance when formulating its allocations scheme.

The guidance seeks to explain the "new flexibilities" for the allocation of accommodation which have been introduced through the Localism Act. A summary of the principal elements is outlined in section 4 of the report.

As a consequence a number of changes are required to the Council's Allocations Policy and a draft revised policy has been developed and is attached as Annex 1. The proposed policy is discussed in detail within section 6 of the report.

The Council is required to consult on its proposed policy before it is adopted. It is therefore proposed that the draft revised policy will then be subject to a 12 week period of consultation, prior to a proposed allocations policy being reported in the New Year.

66. Housing Services Annual Report 2011-12

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing (Enclosure 17.1 – 17.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The draft 2011-12 Housing Services Annual Report (attached as annex 1 to the report) be agreed for circulation to all the Council's tenants.
- (B) If required the Head of Housing, following consultation with the Housing Portfolio Leader, be authorised to make amendments to the draft 2011-12 Housing Services Annual Report prior to circulation.

Reason(s) for the Decision

The Council is required to publish an Annual Housing Report in accordance with the Regulatory Framework for social housing.

67. "Quids In!" Magazine

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing (Enclosure 18.1 – 18.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council

RESOLVED:

That the "Quids In!" magazine be distributed as an insert in the Council's Tenant's magazine, Hometalk.

Reason(s) for the Decision

The provision of the "Quids In" magazine to the Council's tenants may assist in improving financial management capabilities particularly in the light of the pending changes within the Welfare Reform Act and improving the level of fuel poverty within the Council's housing stock.

68. Local Transport Body

(The Leader advised that he had agreed to the Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration on the Local Transport Body being considered as an urgent item as a final decision on the Council's preference had to be submitted by 28 September, 2012 to the Department for Transport)

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration (Enclosure 18a.1 – 18a.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) Having considered the options at paragraph 4.8 of the report for which Local Transport Body geography the District would like to be part of, no preference be expressed.

- (B) The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader, be authorised to submit a final decision on the Council's preference by 28th September, 2012 to the Department for Transport.
- (C) Because of the timescale for a response to the Government's consultation, any decisions relating to the Council's preferred Local Transport Body geography, be not subject to call-in.

Reason(s) for the Decision

Investment in transport infrastructure is important for the economic growth and travel to work connectivity of the District. The Government is planning to devolve funding and decision making on local major transport schemes and it is in the interests of the Council to be able to influence the new LTBs. Government rules appear to prevent the District from being part of a new LTB based on the GBSLEP geography. As a result of this, the Council is being asked to choose from a number of options and must make its decision by 28th September, 2012.

69. 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 Paragraph(s) 1, 2, and 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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HELD ON THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER, 2012 AT 5.45 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 2

70. Maintenance of Footpaths on the Council's Housing Estates

Consideration was given to the NFP Report of the Head of Housing (Enclosure 20.1 – 20.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The outcome of the negotiations with Staffordshire County Council regarding the future maintenance responsibility for footpaths be noted and agreed.
- (B) The Council forego the £68,500 reimbursement of funding for the reinstatement of footpaths on the Moss Road Estate, Chadsmoor on condition that these are adopted by the County Council for future maintenance.
- (C) A further report on potential improvements to the parking area adjacent to 170-180 Brownhills Road, Norton Canes be received.

Reason(s) for the Decision

The report presents the outcome of negotiations with Staffordshire County Council regarding the future maintenance of "housing estate footpaths".

Agreement has been reached between Council and County Council Officers regarding the future responsibility for the majority of footpaths. However, responsibility for the footpaths on the northern part of the Moss Road Estate, Chadsmoor remains in dispute.

These footpaths were resurfaced in 2008-09 with the £137,000 cost being initially met through a 50/50 "sharing arrangement" with the County Council. It was agreed, at this time, that once the future maintenance responsibility had been determined that the Council or the County Council would reimburse the other Council their 50%, which amounts to £68,500.

The County Council have suggested that as a compromise they are prepared to adopt these footpaths (and accept future maintenance responsibility) if the Council forego its £68,500 contribution.

Whilst the Council could pursue the dispute via independent mediation from the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution there is no guarantee of success. If unsuccessful the Council would have to reimburse the County Council £68,500 and assume maintenance responsibility for the footpaths. The Council could also be responsible for at least part of the mediation costs and would need to engage specialist advice in formulating its case.

The Council's £68,500 contribution was fully financed as part of the 2008-09 HRA Capital Programme and in view of risks associated with pursuing the mediation route, it is suggested that the Council foregoes the reimbursement of its £68,500 on condition that the County Council accepts future maintenance responsibility for the Moss Road Estate footpaths.

The area "in front" of 170-180 Brownhills Road, Norton Canes is used by residents for "informal parking" and as a result the Council is responsible for future maintenance. The area is in need of improvement and will be the subject of a further Cabinet report.

71. Unauthorised Alterations

Consideration was given to the NFP Report of the Head of Housing (Enclosure 21.1 – 21.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The roof and roof structure be replaced to the property identified in the report.
- (B) A budget of £18,000 be established within the 2012-13 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for the replacement of the roof and roof structure, funded through virement from the Housing Revenue Account capital contingency reserve.
- (C) Subject to the establishment of the required budget, scheme approval and permission for the roof work be agreed.

Reason(s) for the Decision

An unauthorised "loft conversion" has been made by the leaseholders to the property identified in the report following its sale under the Right to Buy.

The "loft conversion" has resulted in key elements of the trussed rafters being removed. This has compromised the structural integrity of the roof structure and cannot remain in its current condition.

Under the terms of the lease the Council is responsible for maintaining the structure and exterior of the flat and it is therefore necessary to undertake remedial works to the roof. The required works are extensive and necessitate the complete roof structure to be replaced at an estimated cost of £18,000.

There is no agreed budget within the approved three year HRA Capital Programme to meet the cost of the required remedial works. The £18,000 budget can, however, be established through

virement from the £90,000 which remains in the contingency reserve, within the agreed 2012-13 HRA Capital Programme.

Subject to the proposed budgetary provision being agreed, scheme approval and permission to spend was also sought in relation to the remedial works.

As the required remedial works are as a direct consequence of unauthorised alterations by the leaseholders, the Council will claim the cost of the works from the leaseholders.

72. Debt Recovery

Consideration was given to the NFP Report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 22.1 – 22.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The amounts detailed in Annexes 1 to 4 of the report be written off.
- (B) The actions of the Head of Financial Management in writing off the irrecoverable debts below £1,000 be noted.

Reason(s) for the Decision

There is no reasonable prospect of the Council recovering the debts and so writing them off is the best conclusion. Should any of the debtors' circumstances change, such that the debts become recoverable, the Council's officers will take the appropriate action to resurrect the debts and recover them.

73. Quarter 1 – Performance Review of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust

Consideration was given to the NFP Report of the Head of Commissioning (Enclosure 23.1 – 23.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (WLCT) performance in delivering the Culture and Leisure Service Contract for the period 1st April 2012 to 30th June 2012 be noted.

Reason(s) for the Decision

Although it is very early days with regards to the contract, generally WLCT have performed well during the first quarter concentrating on the transition of services from the Council, implementing new systems, procedures and processes and commencing capital investment into facilities.

Overall of the 61 performance indicators and measures this quarter:-

- 49 (80%) have been met or exceeded and
- 12 (20%) have missed target

Of the 12 indicators that are below the expected target 9 (15%) are considered Red status. All but one of these measures relate to levels of attendance and participation and will require close monitoring through the performance monitoring framework over the coming months. However, overall the initial attendance figures in respect of the culture and leisure facilities (sites) are generally positive, demonstrating a 19% increase against the target for the first quarter.

A number of capital investments in excess of £570k have been made into the Council's facilities in line with the contract requirements.

The contract is currently being delivered within budget.

The meeting closed at 6.55 pm

LEADER