

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CABINET**

**HELD ON THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER, 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

**74. Apologies**

None.

**75. 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.

**76. Updates from Portfolio Leaders**

Town Centre Regeneration

Business Rates Discount Scheme - The Portfolio Leader advised that five applications had been received to date, four of which had met the qualifying criteria and been approved; and one which had not and been rejected.

Community Toilets Scheme – The Portfolio Leader reported that a press release had been issued inviting town centre businesses to join the scheme. She had also been interviewed on Radio WM, and considered that the report had been supportive of the scheme.

## Housing

Moss Road Estate – Reema Flats Redevelopment Scheme - The Portfolio Leader reported that Cabinet on 19 July 2012 had agreed a draft development brief for the Moss Road Estate Reema Flats Redevelopment Scheme for “soft market testing” and consultation, which had now been undertaken with four potential developers from the Homes and Communities Agency’s Partner Delivery Panel.

Whilst a range of issues were raised in relation to the draft development brief, all four developers stated that the submission of firm proposals would be conditional upon the availability of detailed ground condition and topographical information. As a result, ground condition and site surveys were being commissioned, which would be funded from the agreed Moss Road Redevelopment Scheme budget that formed part of the 2012-13 HRA Capital Programme. The results of the surveys and other issues raised by potential developers would be considered as part of a final proposed development brief at a future Cabinet meeting.

Moss Road Estate – Reema Houses Structural Reinstatement Scheme – The Portfolio Leader advised that tenders had been invited for the structural reinstatement of the 63 Reema houses on the Moss Road Estate with a closing date for receipt of 31 October 2012. It was envisaged that the successful tenderer would commence the scheme by establishing a site compound in December 2012, although the actual structural reinstatement work will not begin until January, 2013, after the developer’s “Christmas shutdown period”.

Housing Options and Benefits Supermarket Promotion – The Portfolio Leader advised that following the successful housing options and benefits promotion event which was held at the main Cannock ASDA store last year, a similar event was held at Morrisons’ Rugeley supermarket on Friday, 12 October 2012.

The purpose of the event was to provide “on the spot” housing and welfare benefit advice to shoppers and a total of 22 enquiries had been received. Whilst this was less than at the ASDA event, the Portfolio Leader noted when he visited the promotion that the public were complimenting the Council’s action in providing information “out in” the community. The Portfolio Leader advised that it was proposed to hold a similar event in Hednesford in 2013.

Briefing Note - Access to Housing – Members requested a briefing paper summarising the Government’s “low cost” home ownership initiatives. The Head of Housing agreed to draft a briefing note for circulation to Members.

## Crime and Partnerships

Love Your Street – The Portfolio Leader reported that Chase Community Partnership had launched a new pilot initiative - 'Love Your Street' – covering five streets in Brereton, which aimed to increase assurance amongst residents, address environmental issues and improve the perceptions in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Partnership would be in the area between 12noon and 5pm on the following dates:

- 29 October - Springhill Terrace
- 30 October - Kelly Avenue
- 31 October - Newman Grove
- 1 November - Ravenhill Terrace
- 2 November - Coulthwaite Way

'Love Your Street' would be delivered in three phases:

Phase 1: Intelligence gathering (8 - 26 October): involving various forms of consultation and engagement with local residents living within the targeted area including local primary schools to get the views of children and young people. Highlighted concerns would be addressed in phase 2.

Phase 2: Event implementation - A week of action during half-term time (29 October – 2 November) between 12noon and 5pm. Activities will involve:

- Environmental improvements
- Diversionary activities for the local children and young people including
  - Spray art workshops
  - The Youth Bus
  - Painting of benches
  - Play Rangers- fun and games
  - Creation of giant lanterns as part of The Good Life initiative
  - Street Stadia
- The promotion of Neighbourhood Watch
- Home Fire Risk Checks
- Housing advice
- Distribution of shed alarms and SmartWater kits
- A 'Celebrate Your Street' event on 31st October, 6pm - 8pm

Phase 3: Feedback and evaluation – (5 – 9 November)

### Health and Wellbeing

Successful Prosecution – Nuffield Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Centre - The Portfolio Leader advised that the operator of Nuffield Health Fitness and Wellbeing Centre in East Cannock Road, Cannock and one of its contractors (Honeywell Control Systems Limited) had been ordered to pay £120,000 after a successful prosecution by the Council. The prosecution related to a serious release of chlorine gas in March, 2009, which affected twenty people and resulted in nine being taken to hospital, including four children who were having a swimming lesson at the time. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service were called to the site and had to wear breathing apparatus to enter the pool plant room and make it safe.

Both companies had pleaded guilty at Stafford Magistrates' Court and were each fined a total of £45,000. Both were ordered to pay £14,754.80 in costs, as well as a £15 victim surcharge, making a total of £59,769.80 each, payable immediately.

## Culture and Sport

Hednesford Park - The Portfolio Leader reported that there was to be a Halloween lantern parade hosted by the Friends of Hednesford Park on 31 October, 2012.

Chase Leisure Centre Pool – The Portfolio Leader advised that remedial work continued to rectify the problems with the swimming pool. The contractor, G.F. Tomlinson Limited, had brought in additional specialists in an effort to assess the extent of the problem and identify a solution. Unfortunately, it was not possible at that stage to say when the pool might re-open, as even after any works were completed, the pool would require filling and testing before it could be handed over.

## Leader of the Council

Local Transport Body – The Leader advised that, per Minute 68(B) of the last Cabinet meeting, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader had determined that the Council should declare a preference for the Staffordshire Local Transport body.

### **77. Minutes of Cabinet Meeting of 20 September, 2012**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed.

### **78. Forward Plan**

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period October – December, 2012 (Enclosure 5.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period October – December, 2012, be noted.

### **79. 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 – 7 August, 2012
- (ii) Environment – 21 August, 2012
- (iii) Town Centre Regeneration – 29 August, 2012

## 80. Supporting People Contracts

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The action taken by the Head of Housing following consultation with the Housing Portfolio Leader regarding entering into an extended contract with Staffordshire County Council to provide sheltered housing support services to 31 March, 2013 be confirmed.
- (B) The action taken by the Head of Housing following consultation with the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader regarding entering into extended contracts with Staffordshire County Council to provide fixed and dispersed community alarm services until 31 July 2013 be confirmed.
- (C) The Head of Housing be authorised to enter into a new “fixed subsidy” contract with Staffordshire County Council to provide sheltered housing support services from 1 April 2013.
- (D) A further report be brought to Cabinet for consideration once the County Council had formulated its consultation proposals for the future provision of fixed and dispersed community alarm services.

### Reason(s) for the Decision

The report considered the proposed award of a new contract by Staffordshire County Council in order that the Council can continue to provide sheltered housing support services directly.

The new “fixed subsidy” contract would be for an initial contract term of two years with options to extend for a further two years. Authorisation was therefore sought to enter into this contract with Staffordshire County Council.

The new contract would come into effect on 1 April 2013. As the current contract expired on 30 September 2012, the County Council had extended this until 31 March 2013. Following consultation with the Housing Portfolio Leader, the Head of Housing entered into this contract extension on behalf of the Council and confirmation of this action was requested.

The County Council’s future proposals for the fixed and dispersed communal alarm contracts remained uncertain as there has been a considerable delay in the County Council’s planned service review. As a result the County Council had extended the current contracts until 31 July 2013. Following consultation with the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader, the Head of Housing entered into these contract extensions on behalf of the Council and confirmation of this action was requested.

A further report would be submitted to Cabinet when the County Council’s proposals for the future of community alarm services were known.

**81. Renewal of Heating – Highfields Centre, Hightown, Hednesford**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The existing heating system at the Highfields Community Centre be replaced with gas central heating at an estimated cost of £10,000.
- (B) The work be funded through an additional Revenue Contribution to Capital of £10,000 funded by a contribution from the Sheltered Housing Scheme Maintenance Reserve in 2012-13 and that the agreed 2012-13 HRA Capital Programme Central Heating Replacement Budget be increased accordingly.
- (C) Scheme approval and permission to spend be agreed.

Reason(s) for the Decision

The electric storage heating system at the Highfields Centre required renewal and it was proposed that it was replaced with a gas central heating system at an estimated cost of £10,000.

The work could be funded through an increased Revenue Contribution to Capital vired from the Sheltered Housing Scheme Maintenance Reserve which had been established within the HRA to meet the cost of programmed maintenance renewals.

The required funding of £10,000 would be added to the agreed Central Heating Replacement Budget which formed part of the agreed 2012-13 HRA Capital Programme.

**82. Membership of the Staffordshire Connects Partnership**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Policy (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the Staffordshire Connects Partnership Agreement, the Council should serve written notice to terminate the Agreement; such notice to expire in accordance with the two year term.

Reason(s) for the Decision

While the establishment of the Staffordshire Connects Partnership and previous partnership projects had had some success, the benefits to the Council of remaining as a contributing partner were limited and the opportunities described within the objectives of the partnership

could readily be embraced and facilitated through existing professional networks and forums. The contribution of £17,800 per annum to the Partnership in order to achieve these objectives was not considered to present good value for money.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.

---

LEADER