

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, 4 JULY, 2013 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:
Councillors

Dixon, D.I. (Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Pearson, A.
Bernard, J.D.	Snape, P.A. (substitute for M. Sutherland)
Jones, Ms. J.L.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Kraujalis, J.T.	Stretton, Mrs. P. Z.
Morgan, C. W. J.	

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.N. Davies, Miss M.A. Freeman, Mrs D. Grice, M.R. Grocott and M. Sutherland.

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations

No declarations of interests or party whip declarations were received

3. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. End of Year Performance Report – 2012-13

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Policy (Item 4.1 – 4.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Policy and Performance Manager explained that the report provided an overview and summary of the Council's progress against its performance indicators as set out in the 2012/13 Priority Delivery Plans (PDPs).

It was reported that for the full year, 65 out of 76 indicators had met their target, which worked out to a completion rate of 85.5%.

The Chairman asked why the indicator 'Complete and Handover Chase Leisure Centre' had been reported as not achieved.

The Corporate Director responded that the construction scheme for the project should have completed in the last quarter of the previous financial year, so although the work had since been carried out, the indicator would show as not achieved as the report related to 2012/13.

Councillor A. Pearson asked how members of the public could obtain 'Smartwater' kits.

The Policy and Performance Manager responded that the kits were distributed by the Police, but the Council's Community Safety Team helped to support the initiative by providing information to the public about it.

RESOLVED:

1. That the 2012/13 annual performance outturn for the Council, as detailed at Annexes 1 to 5 of the report, be noted and approved.
2. That the actions and indicators which are rated Red or Amber, and the associated commentary by the Lead Officer be noted.

5. End of Year Shared Services Report – 2012-13

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance (Item 5.1 – 5.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Governance explained that the report provided an overview and summary of the Council's Shared Services arrangements up to end of March 2013.

It was reported that the required savings target had been achieved in full, with over £1.2m being saved between Cannock Chase DC and Stafford BC. It was also reported that the transformation work had been progressing well, and was nearing completion, with further savings coming forward as a result of this work.

The Chairman asked if the savings figure of £500,000 was a one-off sum, or an on-going amount.

The Head of Governance responded that it was an on-going amount, and further savings could yet be achieved in periphery areas.

The Corporate Director commented that the £500,000 saving formed the baseline of the Council's budget, so any changes to this amount would need to be approved by full Council.

Councillor J.D. Bernard queried what had happened in areas where improvements hadn't been made.

The Head of Governance responded that this was difficult to identify as not all areas had specific performance indicators in place. Where concerns were identified, discussions would take place with the relevant Head of Service at Stafford BC, and then escalated to the Programme Board or Strategic Board if necessary.

Councillor Pearson commented that a customer satisfaction rate of 99% for Building Control was particularly impressive, and asked how many customers had completed the satisfaction survey.

The Head of Governance responded that it would be necessary to check with Building Control as to the number of surveys distributed and returned.

The Corporate Director commented that Building Control had managed to maintain high satisfaction levels against a backdrop of reduced staffing levels and income streams.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

6. Scrutiny Work Programme

Councillor Kraujalis informed Members that a report on the work of the Air Quality and Industrial Emissions Working Group, in relation to the Anaerobic Digester at the Poplars Landfill Site, would now be brought to the October meeting of the Committee due to changes being implemented in respect of air quality monitoring, which would take effect from the end of July 2013.

The Corporate Director explained to Members that in respect of the 2013/14 Work Programme, the Committee needed to agree on which Working Groups would meet during the year, who would Chair those Groups and what the Terms of Reference for each Group would be.

Councillor Kraujalis commented that the Scrutiny Task and Finish Working Group had wanted to arrange visits to other local authorities to observe how their Scrutiny functions operated, as the Group was concerned that the Policy Development Committees took on a lot of the more interesting work, leaving Scrutiny little to focus on.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Working Groups and Chairmen of those Groups for 2013/14 be as follows:

- Air Quality and Industrial Emissions – Councillor J.T. Kraujalis;
- Scrutiny Task and Finish – Councillor A. Pearson;
- Perception of Crime – Councillor J.D. Bernard;
- Anti-Social Behaviour – Councillor Miss M.A. Freeman.

2. That the Terms of Reference template document for each Working Group be completed by the respective Chairmen, and presented to the October meeting of Scrutiny Committee for approval.
3. That any information and/or reports from the Working Groups be presented to the October meeting of Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 9 October, 2013

The meeting closed at 4:35pm

CHAIRMAN