

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 25 AUGUST, 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.**

**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT:

Councillors

Kraujalis, J.T.(Chairman)  
Pearson, A. (Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Gamble, B.
Burnett, G.	Hoare, M.W.A.
Cooper, Miss. J.	Snape, P.
Foley, D.	Sutherland, M.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.H. Anslow, M. Buttery, Mrs. S.M. Cartwright, T.B. Johnson and G.N. Molineux.

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

There were no declarations of interests or party whip declarations received.

**3. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April, 2015 be approved as a correct record.

**4. End of Year Performance Report 2014-15**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Governance (Item 3.1 – 3.43 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

*Corporate Improvement*

Development of a partnership Concordat

Councillor Snape expressed concern at the delay in making progress on this issue and advised that the new Chief Executive at Staffordshire County Council had now been in post since May, 2015. Councillor Snape was keen to see this moving forward.

The Head of Governance advised that she would raise this issue with the Managing Director.

### Increase in Social Media Followers

Councillor Burnett referred to the past Community Forums which had previously been a form of engagement with the public. He commented that across the District there was a big population and it was important that the Council increased its use of social media.

(It was noted that all Members had been offered the opportunity to attend an in-house training event aimed at using social media for community engagement).

The Chairman was keen for the review of community engagement to be included on the work programme of the relevant Scrutiny Committee in order that Members could review this.

The Head of Governance indicated that this would be referred to the new Customers and Corporate Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of their work programme.

The Head of Environmental Health commented that work was currently being undertaken with regard to social media and a Communications survey had been rolled out across the District Council for feedback.

### Positive Media Coverage

Councillor Burnett referred to the clips that had been recorded as positive for the periods outlined and the way in which it was reported by the press. He was keen to see the public being engaged with and to see what their views would be.

The Chairman asked that this item be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of the work programme, and as part of the above item.

### *Culture and Sport*

#### 2013-14 Concessionary members plus 1%

Councillor Snape expressed concern that concessions were being offered and the Council were showing a negative indicator as a consequence of a decrease in the take up of membership.

The Head of Commissioning advised Members that there were a number of conditions that the Council had imposed on Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust as part of the undertaking of the contract. He explained that one of the conditions was based around the hard to reach groups in an attempt to increase membership and get them using the facilities.

### Economic Development and Planning

#### a) Investment in transport infrastructure projects including the electrification of the Chase Line, and upgrades to Eastern Way and Churchbridge Junction

Councillor Sutherland referred to the Churchbridge Junction and reported that the traffic signage was incorrect. He was advised by Staffordshire County Council that Transport England would carry out some adjustments to the signage and this would be undertaken by 21 August, 2015. However, this had still not been carried out.

Members discussed this item and it was agreed that a letter be forwarded and this issue be referred to the relevant department at the County Council.

#### To secure at least an annual 5% increase in tourism expenditure within the local economy

Councillor Burnett expressed concern regarding the targets reported. He advised Members that Travelodge would be withdrawing from any plans to build on the Watling Street site and indicated that the Council could fail to secure its targets for the future. He also referred to the Premier Inn application to increase its size and was keen to know how this would impact on increasing future tourism into the District. He was of the opinion that next years budgets should reflect an increase on spending in tourism.

The Chairman agreed that this item should be referred for consideration as part of the work programme to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

### Environment

#### Green waste composting per household

#### Residual waste per household

#### % of household waste recycled

Councillor Burnett asked about the financial impacts on the targets which had been missed.

The Head of Governance reported that she did not have the information available however she reported that there was a national trend in the slowing of recycling and stringent requirements on dry recycling. She advised however that the figures were around the same as those for 2013-14.

Members discussed how the public could be encouraged to recycle more which included promotion, information on the Councils website, stickers on bins and promotion through younger children.

Councillor Foley referred to the waste recycled by households and commented that it was likely that some households would take excess waste to the Poplars Landfill site and asked if this would be counted.

The Head of Governance reported that households taking excess waste to the landfill site were unlikely to be counted. She then advised she would seek clarification from the Acting Head of Waste Management of the financial impacts on the targets missed and have this information circulated to the Committee.

It was agreed that this item should be referred to the Environment Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of their work programme.

Evaluate the results of the 10 pence nominal charge weekday pilot parking scheme – reported amber in quarter 3

Councillor Foley asked if there was any update with regard to this indicator.

The Head of Governance referred to the pilot parking scheme and indicated that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet. She advised Members that she would try and ascertain when this was likely to be.

% of full plans applications that are assessed within 15 working days of receipt

Councillor Snape referred to the indicator where the target had been missed in quarter 4 due to a long term absence. He expressed concern that the Council were failing the target and reliance was being placed on a single person to carry out the task when departments should be multi-tasking.

The Head of Governance commented that where possible Officers did endeavour to cover the work of absent colleagues but this could still have a detrimental impact on achieving PIs.

Councillor Sutherland commented that where targets were not likely to be met, Officers should advise Members in order that revised targets could be agreed. It was important that focus was on the delivery of priorities.

The Chairman commented that there should be a certain amount of flexibility with people's jobs in order for departments to cope with absentees in order to maintain the day to day work and remain above target.

The Head of Governance indicated that as part of the new Corporate Plan, the Priority Delivery Plans would be better focussed on what could be delivered. She also advised that the Priority Delivery Plans were more strategic and Performance Indicators were designed to show the 'Direction of Travel'.

Alcohol Strategy action plan to be reviewed quarterly and updated at end of year

Councillor Pearson was keen to know what the Alcohol Strategy action plan was.

The Head of Environmental Health explained that the action plan was part of the LSP and involved other agencies. It covered various aspects surrounding Licensing and alcohol matters etc.

### Housing

#### Number of empty dwellings brought back into use. Target 6

Councillor Snape highlighted that the target would be hard to achieve particularly as there were a lack of properties to purchase, however the Chairman stated that it was a good indication of knowing how many were in fact purchased.

### Town Centre

#### To maintain a dialogue with the stakeholders in the District's three town centres, including the Traders Association; as a means of supporting specific initiatives in each centre

Councillor Snape advised that the Chairperson of the Cannock Traders Association had not had any dialogue with the Council.

The Chairman indicated that he thought that regular meetings were held with the Traders Associations.

The Head of Governance advised that she would refer this matter to the relevant Head of Service.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The performance information and the case studies relating to PDPs as detailed at Appendices 1-8, be noted.
- (B) The actions and indicators which are rated Red or Amber and confirm the remedial action or rescheduled delivery stated to address performance, be noted.
- (C) The items identified under each Performance Indicator be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committees.

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN