

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CABINET**  
**THURSDAY, 16 DECEMBER, 2010 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
Grocott, M.R.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Davies, D.	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Yates, Ms. W.	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Williams, Mrs. P.	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader

**85. Apologies**

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

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

No declarations of interests were received.

**87. Minutes**

With respect to Minute No. 75, Recommendation referred back from Scrutiny Committee Call-in, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Environment Portfolio Leader requested that it be noted in the Minutes that he considered that it should have been recorded in the reason for the decision that Scrutiny Committee had not indicated in their recommendation where the additional funding was to be found.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November, 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

**88. Updates from Portfolio Leaders**

Culture and Sport

The Portfolio Leader reported that Rugeley Leisure Centre had recently undergone a Quest audit inspection on the facilities provided, customer satisfaction and quality of staff. It had been confirmed that they had been accredited with a 90% rating which resulted in them being the fifth

highest in the United Kingdom out of a total of 900 sites.

The Portfolio Leader considered that the Cabinet were correct in their intentions to provide a new facility at the Chase Leisure Centre for the benefit of both residents and staff.

### Health and Wellbeing

The Portfolio Leader reported that:

1. Cannock Magistrates Court - It appeared that Cannock Magistrates Court would remain as it currently was and that there would be no influx from the two local Magistrates Courts which would be closing.
2. Chase Voluntary Service – On 7 December, 2010 she had attended, as the district representative, the AGM of the Chase Council for Voluntary Services. The Council provided the organisation with funding of £10,000 each year from the budget. The Service had assisted 128 individual organisations and community groups. From the support several organisations attracted grant applications of £217,127. 195 organisations had offered 272 opportunities for volunteers. The CVS belonged to an umbrella organisation, Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Consortium of Infrastructure Organisation, (SCIO).

The Portfolio Leader had also attended on that day the County Communities Scrutiny Committee. The County Council had a service level agreement with the SCIO to the value of £200,000 and the Scrutiny Committee examined the progress being made by the SCIO in the delivery of the projects outlined in that agreement. Having attended the Chase Voluntary Service meeting had helped in the contribution she was able to make to the Scrutiny Committee.

3. Cannock Hospital -

As the District's representative on the Council of Governors of Stafford/Cannock Hospitals she had attended a meeting on 13 December, 2010. An issue had been referred to the Governors from the Council's Health Scrutiny Committee relating to the discharge of patients and what actions were being taken to address problems being experienced. The Chief Operating Officer would be presenting a report on this issue to the Governors which would then be forwarded to the Health Scrutiny Committee. It was considered that this clearly illustrated the importance of the Council having a representative on the Council of Governors.

4. Care Event

On 14 December, 2010 the Portfolio Leader had attended a County Council consultation event on the proposals for their contributions policy to the cost of social care. Any comments from the consultation process, which commenced on 26 November, 2010, needed to be received by the County Council by 31 December, 2010. She had only been made aware of the event when contacted by a local resident and had found it most informative. The Portfolio Leader would be contacting all Members to inform them of the consultation close date.

## Corporate Improvement

1. Chase Matters - The Portfolio Leader reported that the PR and Marketing Section had been restructured and had been renamed Corporate Communications and Engagement.

The team had been requested to produce a quarterly newsletter and four editions of 'Chase Matters' had been provided. The team had been successful in generating outside funding to the value of £20,000 to cover the cost of its production which only totalled £10,681, thereby leaving an excess of funding. Chase Matters was considered to be a crucial tool in providing residents with information and encouraging them to make their views known to the Council.

Cabinet considered that the fact that there was no cost to residents for the newsletter should be noted on the newsletter. The Portfolio Leader would be passing on to the Section the Cabinet's congratulations.

2. E-petitions – It was reported that the Council had met the deadline for E-petitions at virtually no cost. This had been undertaken by the Corporate Communications and Engagement and Democratic Services Sections who had liaised with South Staffordshire Council and copied the system they were using.

## Housing

The Portfolio Leader explained that they were still awaiting clarification on housing issues from Central Government.

The Elizabeth Road project was still going ahead.

## **89. Forward Plan**

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period December, 2010 – February, 2011 (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period December, 2010 – February, 2011, be noted.

## **90. Part 1 Minutes of Policy Development Committees**

The Chief Executive explained that he had been requested to bring to Cabinet's attention that, at the meeting of the Economic Development and Planning Policy Development Committee held on 15 September, 2010, concern had been expressed whether the road network was adequate to support the development of 750 homes west of the Pye Green Road (Minute No. 10 page 7 refers). They considered that the Winchester Road bypass would be necessary in order to cope with the increased traffic that would be generated as a result of the development.

RESOLVED:

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

- (i) Housing – 9 September, 2010.
- (ii) Economic Development and Planning – 15 September, 2010.

**91. Cannock Chase Local Development Framework – Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan, Pre-Publication Draft Development Plan Document, July 2010 – Responses to Consultation.**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Culture and Regeneration (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.8 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the responses to the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan, Pre-Publication Draft consultation be noted and draft responses approved for use in the preparation of the Publication version of the document.
- (B) That a report be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting and Council to approve the Publication version of the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan for consultation.
- (C) That the Director of Culture and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Leader for Economic Development and Planning, be authorised to make any minor amendments to the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan, Pre-Publication Draft, Summary of Consultation Responses, as a result of any changes required to the Council's agreed response or further late responses.

Reasons for the Decisions

The Council has now completed the necessary non-statutory consultation stages on the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan. Subject to the outcome of the pending work on the Cannock Chase SAC and detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report, there was no reason why the AAP should not proceed to the statutory stage, Publication next year, which following the final consultation, would then be submitted to the Government for an Examination to proceed, should this be necessary.

**92. Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026, Draft Strategy Plan, September, 2011**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Culture and Regeneration (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Environment Portfolio Leader provided an update on this issue. He reported that the planned Chase line speed up grade would not be funded by the Department of Transport. Further talks would be undertaken with Staffordshire County Council and Centro to explore alternative ways of gaining the necessary transport funding, i.e. from the regional growth fund and the local sustainable transport fund.

Cabinet had been requested to raise this issue in the Council's response to the third Local Transport Plan (LTP) produced by the County Council by 23 December, 2010. It was agreed that the Deputy Leader of the Council and Environment Portfolio Leader, together with the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader and appropriate Officers could formalise the response, due to the short timescale.

Cabinet considered that the recommendation 2.1(i) should be amended to 'that the Council notes the board principles' and 'wish to see that the Comments Section in 4.3 – 4.30 with the Report are taken into consideration'.

RESOLVED:

That Staffordshire County Council be informed that this Council:-

- (i) Notes the broad principles of the Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026, Draft Strategy Plan, September 2010, including the Cannock Chase District Integrated Transport Strategy, and wish to see that the Comments Section in 4.3 - 4.30 within this Report taken into consideration.
- (ii) Wish to be involved in any discussions involving the preparation of the Joint Statement with Centro (West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority).

#### Reasons for the Decision

The Council had been given the opportunity to put forward its views on the emerging Local Transport Plan that would guide investment in local transport until 2026. Transport policy affects all aspects of the community, in terms of travelling to work, leisure, shopping, leisure, education, access to health services and recreation. As well as being important for the economy, it also had an important impact on climate change considerations. It was important that the Council was proactive on transport issues.

### **93. General Fund Capital Programme – Provision of Adaptations for Disabled Occupants in Privately Owned Housing**

The Deputy Leader of the Council had agreed that item could be withdrawn as it was considered that further clarification was needed on Central Governments proposals for local government, particularly with respect to funding.

The meeting closed at 5.10 pm.

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LEADER