

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

CABINET

HELD ON MONDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER, 2012 AT 5.30 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
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

45. Apologies

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor M. Holder, Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader.

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

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

47. Minutes of Cabinet Meeting of 19 July, 2012

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed.

48. Localisation of Council Tax Support – Authorisation of Formal Consultation Process

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

It was noted that there was an error in the table at Annex 1, wherein the fourth line under the "Current CTB Scheme" of "Working Age Claims" should have read "Tariff Income assumed where capital is between 6K and 16K".

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The contents of the report be noted and Officers be authorised to undertake a formal consultation process based on the draft scheme given at Annex 1 to the report.
- (B) Due to the deadline by which a decision to implement a scheme needs to be made, and the limited time thereby given for adequate consultation to be carried out, the decision was deemed to be an urgent one and would not be subject to call-in.

Reason(s) for the Decision

As a part of the Welfare Reform Agenda, Government has decided that with effect from 1st April 2013, the national Council Tax Benefit Scheme will be abolished and a duty placed on each Billing Authority to write its own Local Council tax Support Scheme (LCTS).

Thorough and comprehensive consultation on the Council's draft local scheme is essential in order that the Council is able to:

- Inform local residents of the forthcoming changes to legislation.
- Ensure that the views of local residents and stakeholder are properly considered in the construction of our scheme.
- Ensure that the most vulnerable members of society are given the appropriate levels of support.
- Avoid legal challenges to the Council's scheme.

49. Pooling of Business Rates – Expression of Interest

Consideration was given to the Report of the Corporate Director and the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.17 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Council participates in the Expression of Interest to pool business rates with either the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP pool or the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent pool.
- (B) The Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader, be authorised to identify the pool considered to be in the best interests of the Council and to submit a firm Expression of Interest to be a member of the chosen pool by the Department of Communities and Local Government deadline of 10 September, 2012.
- (C) For the reasons set out in the report relating to the timescale for responses, any

decisions relating to the determination of the proposed pool membership be not subject to call-in.

Reason(s) for the Decision

Economic growth and prosperity are key priorities of Cannock Chase Council. There are differing potential benefits for the Council to be had from entering a pooling arrangement within either the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership or the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent pool.

The determination of which pool to join was a complex issue, the details of which were changing on a day to day basis. However, there is a requirement to commit to a particular pool as part of the Expression of Interest by the DCLG national deadline of 10 September 2012 for any pooling scheme to start from 1 April 2013. Consequently, it was agreed that the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader, should take this decision in the best interests of the District and mindful of the most comprehensive information available by the deadline date.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm

LEADER