

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Mawle, D.L. (Chairman)  
Yates, Ms. W. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	Jones, R.
Beddows, J.	Mitchell, C.
Bernard, J.D.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Easton Mrs. D.M.	Thomas, D.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. D.J. Bennett, M.J. Holder and Staffordshire County Council Co-opted Member Councillor D.I. Dixon).

**36. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2009 be approved as a correct record.

**37. Minutes of the Performance and Partnerships Scrutiny Sub Committee**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Performance and Partnerships Scrutiny Sub Committee held on 19 November 2008 be noted.

**38. Proposed New Health Centre, Cannock**

The Committee received an update from Mr. Geraint Griffiths, Locality Director (West) South Staffordshire PCT in relation to the proposed new health centre in Cannock.

Mr. Griffiths reported that following the decision to review the location of the proposed health centre at Cannock Park, the PCT had identified land at Mill Street, Cannock as the preferred location for the health centre. He advised Members that land at Avon Plaza, at the junction of Avon Road and Walsall Road had also been identified as a potential alternative site, although this was not considered large enough to deliver those services agreed through the public consultation. He advised Members that although a

public meeting had originally been held to canvass the views of local residents on the proposed two sites, the previous public consultation exercise had been undertaken into the broad services that would be provided as part of the facility and not the location of the health centre. This was due to the fact that there was considerable interest from other developers in the Mill Street site and given its location and size, the PCT needed to act swiftly to secure the site. It was anticipated that subject to the necessary planning approvals and the successful approval of a business case by the Strategic Health Authority, the health centre would open during 2010.

In response to questions from Members, Mr. Griffiths reported that the proposed health centre would ensure adequate provision of a pharmacy, although this may not necessarily be located in the same building. It was recognised that whilst there were a number of pharmacies currently in the town, it was not the PCT's intention to duplicate services, particularly when the health centre could provide alternative services instead.

Members recognised that public transport links to the site were not ideal, and enquired whether any improvements would be made following the development of the health centre.

Mr. Griffiths responded by stating that as part of the development a feasibility study would be undertaken to determine whether existing bus routes could be redirected to the site and that the PCT were currently in discussions with bus companies in relation to this matter.

He also advised that in order to oversee the development of the health centre a project team and committee had been established. He explained that the project team would manage the development of the health centre and that the Committee would act as a 'sounding board' in which ideas and suggestions for services would be considered. The Committee was made up of a number of stakeholder representatives which included members of the public. He confirmed that once the services to be provided at the health centre had been finalised, a public consultation exercise would be undertaken.

Members were of the opinion that a representative from the Council should be appointed to the Cannock Health Centre Steering Group and Mr. Griffiths indicated that he would be happy for such a representative to be appointed. The Legal & Democratic Services Manager advised Members that in order to make such an appointment the matter needed to be recommended to Council for consideration.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to consider the appointment of a representative to South Staffordshire PCT Cannock Health Centre Steering Group.

### **39. Car Park Charges at Cannock and Stafford Hospitals**

The Committee received a presentation from Mr. David Perry of Cannock Chase Hospital in relation to car parking charges at Cannock and Stafford Hospitals.

Mr. Perry explained that in 2003 new barrier systems had been installed at both hospitals and that in March 2008 the hospital had commissioned an audit of car parking.

Although the results of the audit had been received, these were yet to be analysed in detail.

With regard to car parking charges, Members were advised that these had been set in 2003 and had been reviewed once in that time, following consultation with the hospital's user groups. He also explained the concessions that were available to patients and visitors using the car park. With regard to the income generated from car parking charges, Mr. Perry explained that the income was used to finance a number of initiatives, which included:

- (i) Maintenance of the car parks,
- (ii) Employing staff to manage the car parks,
- (iii) Financing of new wheelchairs for patients,
- (iv) Improvements to CCTV (both internal and external),
- (v) Contributions towards the number 74 and 75 bus services, and
- (vi) An inter-site bus service for staff

Mr. Perry indicated that the hospital was currently in the process of reviewing its green transport policy, with a view to reducing the number of staff using the car parks in order that more spaces were available for patients and visitors. A number of initiatives were currently being investigated, which included a car sharing scheme, bus season passes for staff and the subsidisation of other bus routes.

Members expressed concern with regard to the number of vehicles that park in Chenet Way, Cannock as a result of the car park being full, and the problems this causes the residents of the area. Mr. Perry indicated that he was aware of the issue and that the hospital had received a number of complaints from residents. He explained that whilst the hospital was not responsible for the management of the highway, the hospital had been in discussions with the Police and highways authority with a view to finding a solution to the matter and investigations were being undertaken to lay double yellow lines along Chenet Way.

It was suggested that the land to the rear of Cannock Hospital could be used for car parking and Mr. Perry was asked whether consideration had been given to ceasing car parking charges. Members also requested details of the level of income generated by the hospitals from car parking charges as well as the running costs for each car park.

In response, Mr. Perry explained that due to the costs associated with developing a car park (estimated to be around £6,000 per space), the hospital were not minded to convert the land at the rear of the hospital into car parking at this stage. With regard to the level of income and running costs for each car park, Mr. Perry indicated that he did not have the information available at the meeting.

Members also expressed concern with regard to the concessions scheme that existed for patients and visitors using both car parks, the lack of bus services available from the Rugeley area to Stafford Hospital and the arrangements for disabled car parking.

RESOLVED:

That at the next meeting of the Committee Mr. Perry be requested to provide the

following information in relation to both Cannock and Stafford Hospital car parks:

- (i) Details of the concessions schemes that exist for both patients and visitors, including details of how the schemes are publicised and how they operate in practice.
- (ii) Details of the arrangements for disabled car parking.
- (iii) Details of the levels of income and running costs for each car park.

#### **40. Health Scrutiny Update**

The Committee received a presentation from Councillor Mrs. W. Yates, the Council's representative on Staffordshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee.

In summary, the presentation provided Members with details of:

- (i) The work undertaken by St. Giles' Hospice, which included details of a new in-patient unit opening in 2009, Community Teams visiting patients in the community, seminars and courses made available for staff and external students, educational visits to schools and details of in-patient and out-patient care.
- (ii) The new Lymphoedema Children's Clinic, which was the only service of its kind outside of London.
- (iii) Burntwood Health Centre.
- (iv) The process of monitoring GP, dentist and ophthalmic opticians appointment waiting times by the PCT.
- (v) Update on the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

With regard to those matters that the Committee requested Councillor Mrs. Yates take up with the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, she reported that the issue of the time taken to refer patients with mental health problems to a psychiatrist by a GP or doctor would potentially be included on the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

Councillor Mrs. Yates also advised Members that she had arranged a meeting with Keith Prior, Locality Director and Lee Washington, Divisional Manager on 4 March 2009 to discuss the other matters referred by the Scrutiny Committee:

- (i) Whether a doctor was available at the Emergency Operations Centre; and
- (ii) Whether defibrillators would be made available in major supermarkets with staff trained by the Ambulance Service.

#### **41. Options for Undertaking Health Scrutiny**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.19 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Prior to consideration of the report, the Principal Committee Officer reported that Cabinet on 22 January 2009 had considered the following recommendation referred from the Healthier Communities and Older People Policy Development from 23 October 2008:

“That Cabinet be recommended to consider the Healthier Communities and Older People Police Development Committee undertaking the Health Scrutiny role.”

Following consideration of the recommendation, Cabinet had determined that:

- (A) The recommendation be rejected on the basis that the Council's Constitution does not allow for Policy Development Committees to undertake a scrutiny function.
- (B) The matter be referred to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

The Committee were advised that in considering the report of the Director of Service Improvement, it should have regard to the recommendation of Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That a Working Group be established to assist the Scrutiny Committee with undertaking the health scrutiny function, with effect from the 2009/10 Municipal Year.
- (B) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee setting out the terms of reference for the Working Group.
- (C) That approval be given to the headline issues for developing a more detailed work programme for scrutinising health issues, as set out in Annex 1 of the report.
- (D) That the Code of Joint Working Arrangements, attached at Annex 2 of the report, be noted.

#### **42. Locality Working Fundamental Service Review**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The District Partnership Officer reported that Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council had recently applied to the “Access for All Grants” in order to develop a parish plan.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

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CHAIRMAN