

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
THURSDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER, 2010 AT 4.30 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Stanley, N.K. | Leader of the Council |
| Collis, C. | Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader |
| Davies, D.N. | Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader |
| Freeman, M.P. | Housing Portfolio Leader |
| Grocott, M.R. | Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader |
| Williams, A, | Deputy Leader of the Council and Environment Portfolio Leader |
| Williams, Mrs. P. | Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader |

31. Apologies

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Ms. W. Yates, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader.

The Chief Executive, Stephen Brown, had also submitted an apology.

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

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Nature of Interest</u> | <u>Type</u> |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Collis, C. | Trader in Rugeley Town Centre | Personal |

33. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July, 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

34. Matters Arising

Minute 22. Recommendations Referred from the Scrutiny Committee on 12 July, 2010.

- (ii) Grass Cutting - The Leader of the Council noted that the Housing Policy Development Committee had determined that increasing the numbers eligible for grass cutting was not good use of the savings identified, and that an alternative recommendation for utilisation of any identified savings would be brought forward to Cabinet at a later date.

35. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

Leader of the Council

The Leader advised of a letter that had been received from the Minister for Housing and Local Government in respect of the requirements for determining, by 31 December, 2010, whether the Council would adopt the “Strong” Leader and Cabinet model or directly Elected Mayor and Cabinet model of governance. The letter advised that, in terms of the requirement to consult, it would be permissible to adopt a minimum cost strategy and advertise the options in the form of a newspaper advert / article, a press release or an item on the Council’s website.

Members agreed to proceed with utilising the Council’s website, supplemented, if practical, by press releases.

Town Centre Regeneration

1. Town Centre Lotteries - Councillor Collis declared a personal interest in this matter. The Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader advised that the Town Centres Traders Associations, in conjunction with Chase 3 were to launch town centre lotteries on 2 October, 2010.
2. Tesco developments in Hednesford and Rugeley – the Portfolio Leader advised that it was pleasing to note Tesco’s continued commitment to the stores developments in Hednesford and Rugeley.

Housing

The Housing Portfolio Leader noted that, after some delays, the Elizabeth Road redevelopment scheme would shortly be in a position to proceed.

Environment

The Environment Portfolio Leader wished to record his thanks to the Waste Management team who had helped to ensure a successful roll out of the dry recyclable waste bins (“blue bins”). Furthermore, initial indications were that scheme was proving more successful than hoped and recycling levels were noticeably increased.

36. Forward Plan

An amended version of the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period September - November, 2010 was circulated (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council). Consideration was given to the amended version of the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the word “consider” be substituted for “approve” in respect of the Shared Services report to be considered at Cabinet on 16 September, 2010, and that the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period September – November, 2010, be noted.

37. Part 1 Minutes of Policy Development Committees

RESOLVED:

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

- (i) Town Centre Regeneration – 1 July, 2010. The Portfolio Leader advised that the Part 1 minutes appeared rather thin, but this was because much of what had been discussed was commercially sensitive and, therefore, had been discussed in Part 2.
- (ii) Economic Development and Planning – 5 July, 2010
- (iii) Health and Wellbeing – 6 July, 2010
- (iv) Culture and Sport – 7 July, 2010 The Portfolio Leader advised that work was now able to commence on Oxford Green as the lease issue had been resolved. Councillor Collis advised that a similar play area scheme in Wimblebury had proven to be very popular.

With regard to the redevelopment of the Chase Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool, the Leader of the Council commented that he had been shocked in the Council meeting on 25 August when the Opposition had refused to deny an intention to withdraw from the redevelopment of the facility in the event that they were returned to power.

The Leader also expressed concern that monies promised by the County Council by way of a contribution to the development costs of Rugeley Swimming Pool were still not forthcoming. Members spoke of the positive improvements in facilities across the district as a whole during their time in power, and expressed concern about the potentially dire consequences for Cannock swimming pool if redevelopment of the facility as a whole does not go ahead.

- (v) Housing – 28 July, 2010. The Portfolio Leader reported that the Policy Development Committee had met at Vine Court Sheltered Housing Scheme, and the Members had been impressed by the facilities.

38. General Fund and S.106 Capital Programme Outturn, 2009-10

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:-

- (A) That the 2009-10 General Fund & S.106 Capital Programmes Outturn Annexes (1 and 3) be noted.
- (B) That the 2009-10 General Fund & S.106 Capital Programmes Outturn scheme Variances Annexes (1 and 3) be noted and approved.
- (C) That the 2009-10 General Fund & S.106 Capital Programme Outturn Slippages as detailed in Annexes (1 and 3) be noted and approved.
- (D) That the estimated General Fund Capital Resources Annex (2) be noted.

Reasons for the Decisions

Portfolio Leaders were aware of the reasons for the 2009-10 General Fund & S.106 Capital Programmes Outturn scheme variances and slippages, as detailed in the supporting Annexes.

39. Chase Line Rail Service – Proposed Service Reductions

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Culture and Regeneration (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Members expressed concern at the six day period of notice of fare increases given by Centro, and were further concerned about the impact of the combination of fare increases and potential service reductions, particularly when so many people from the district relied on the service for their travel to work and back.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Council's existing Rail Revenue Support Budget together with such external funding as may be considered appropriate as a result of developer contributions received under the terms of planning obligations entered into under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) towards improving or facilitating the operation of transport services, be made available to provide financial support for the incremented rail services.
- (B) That, the Director of Culture and Regeneration in consultation with the Environment Leader be authorised to negotiate and agree terms to secure the retention of as many of the existing incremented rail services as possible in the December 2010 timetable, subject to agreements for contributions being secured with CENTRO and Staffordshire County Council and to subsequent approval by the Department for Transport and Network Rail.
- (C) That the Council engage in further discussions with Centro, Staffordshire County Council, the Department for Transport, London Midland, Network Rail and the Office of Rail Regulation, with the aim of achieving the continued operation of existing Chase Line rail services for the remainder of the West Midlands rail franchise until 19 September, 2015.

Reasons for the Decision

The Council in partnership with Centro and Staffordshire County Council, were being offered the opportunity to secure the retention of as many of the incremented rail services that they could afford, with particular reference to the weekday evening and the Saturday incremented service between Birmingham and Rugeley. The use of S106 funding may represent the only other opportunity to retain some or all of the existing incremented Chase Line rail services.

It was also recommended that the Council pursue the outstanding issues identified in the report with the Department for Transport, Office of Rail regulation and Network Rail, which could potentially reduce the costs of retaining the incremented rail services to acceptable levels.

40. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of

exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1,2, and 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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PART 2

41. Former Tenants' Arrears Recommended for Write Off

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the former tenant arrears as detailed in Annex 1 for write off be approved.

Reasons for the Decisions

There was no reasonable prospect of the Council recovering the debts and so writing them off was the best course of action.

The meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

LEADER