

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE

CABINET

THURSDAY, 24 JUNE, 2010 AT 4.30 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Stanley, N.K.	Leader of the Council
Williams, A.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Environment Portfolio Leader
Grocott, M.R.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Freeman, M.P.	Housing Portfolio Leader
Yates, Ms. W.	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Williams, Mrs. P.	Town Centre Regeneration Leader
Collis C.	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor D.N. Davies, Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader.

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Matter</u>	<u>Type</u>
Collis, C.	8. Proposed Water Feature, Rugeley Town Centre	Personal and Prejudicial

3. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 15 and 29 April, 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

Health and Wellbeing

The Portfolio Leader requested that a letter of thanks be prepared on behalf of the

Cabinet to Mrs. Ethel Powell MBE, who had recently retired from the fundraising organisation the Friends of Cannock Chase Hospital.

5. Forward Plan

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period June – August, 2010 (Enclosure 5.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period June – August, 2010, be noted.

6. Part 1 Minutes of Policy Development Committees

RESOLVED:

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

- (i) Access to Education, Skills and Employment – 28 April, 2010

7. Interim General Fund Revenue Budget 2010-11 to 2013-14

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Head of Financial Management's report and Briefing Note provided on the Coalition Governments Emergency Budget. Be noted.

In light of the impact of the in year reduction in Grant funding for 2010-11 and the projected impact of the Coalition Government's Emergency Budget in 2011-12 and beyond, that the Council be recommended to:

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- (B) Implement the interim budget proposals for 2010-11 as detailed below enabling a balanced budget to be achieved in year and notes that they represent only a stop gap pending the full implications and consequences of all potential saving options to be evaluated as part of the Delivering Change and Budget process for 2011-12 to 2013-14.
- (C) Approve that a detailed Budget for 2011-12 to 2013-14 be considered by full Council in December (at the latest), enabling the necessary action to implement the required savings to provide a balanced three year budget to be approved and delivered before the 31 March, 2011 wherever possible
- (D) Note that some of the budget proposals arising from the December budget, may be reviewed following the results of consultation and that a final Cabinet proposal will be put to the Council in February, 2011 which may result in some

changes being made.

Budget Proposals – Interim Budget

- (E) Subject to the consideration of the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations by Council, that a reduction in Members Allowance is proposed (backdated to the date of election), generating full year savings of £18,400 per annum.
- (F). In accordance with the review of Equipment and Consumable Budgets undertaken by the Corporate Improvement Portfolio Holder, that ongoing savings of £50,000 per annum be built into budgets with effect from 1 April, 2010 (the current year).
- (G) Following notification from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport of the cessation of Free Swimming revenue grant to local authorities as of 31 July, 2010, to reintroduce fees and charges for 16 year olds and under and 60 year olds and over from 1 August, 2010.
- (H) Cannock Chase Council continue to provide free swimming for under 5 year olds and to work with South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust to provide subsidised access for target groups.

Reasons for the Decision

In preparing for the 2011-12 budget process Cabinet note the information contained in the report and endorsed the need to prepare an interim budget based upon the options currently available to Council.

The option to defer savings until the 2011-12 budget process would increase the annual saving target for that three year budget process and put undue strain on Working Balances.

8. Proposed Water Feature, Rugeley Town Centre

Prior consideration of this matter, Councillor C. Collis, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the decision making process. Consideration was then given to the report of the Director of Culture and Regeneration (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.15 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The outcome of the public consultation exercise be noted.
- (B) The public's preferred design option, 1c, be implemented subject to the necessary funding being made available.
- (C) Any funding shortfall would be addressed through a review of the Council's Capital budgets including an approach to other potential funders for a financial contribution (revenue / capital) and including any new S106 funds.

- (D) Subject to the outcome of (C) above, a report be submitted to Council recommending the necessary capital and revenue funding required to implement the scheme.
- (E) Construction of the scheme should be delayed until 2011, by which time funding options would be clarified.

Reasons for the Decision

Four design options based around Cabinet’s preferred option were developed for public consultation. A total of 400 feedback forms were returned and of these 249 expressed some form of preference for a Water Feature with 153 preferring option 1c only and a further 9 expressing option 1c in conjunction with other options.

Of the remaining forms, a total of 151 respondents did not want a water feature for a variety of reasons.

There are cost implications associated with each of the design options, all of which require additional resources to those previously approved in order to be implemented.

In the light of the information available it was agreed to confirm the preferred design option, but defer construction until 2011, by which time funding options would be clearer.

9. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The nominations to Outside Bodies as set out on the schedules circulated at the meeting be the Council’s representatives for the forthcoming municipal year, as detailed below:-

<u>Body</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Cannock Park Golf Club Committee	Culture & Sport Leader (or nominee)
Cannock Chase AONB Joint Management Committee	Environment Leader
Commission for Architectural and the Built Environment (also known as CAFE)	Economic Development and Planning Leader (or nominee)
Housing and Support Partnership Board	Health and Wellbeing Leader (or nominee)
In Staffs	Economic Development and

	Planning Leader (or nominee)
Joint Staffordshire Parking Board	Environment Leader Environment Policy Development Committee Chairman (as named substitute)
Local Area Agreement – Children & Young People Block (known as the Children’s Trust)	Health and Wellbeing Leader Health and Wellbeing Policy Development Committee Chairman Shadow Portfolio Holder
Local Area Agreement – Safer & Stronger Communities Block (known as the Crime & Reduction Partnership - CDRP)	Environment Portfolio Leader Environment Policy Development Committee Chairman Shadow Portfolio Holder
Local Area Agreement – Healthier Communities & Older People Block	Health and Wellbeing Leader Health and Wellbeing Policy Development Committee Chairman Shadow Portfolio Holder
Local Area Agreement – Economic Development & Enterprise Block (known as the Learning, Education, Employment and Prosperity – LEAP)	Economic Development and Planning Leader Economic Development and Planning Policy Development Committee Chairman Shadow Portfolio Holder
Local Area Agreement – Sustainable Development Block	Environment Portfolio Leader Environment Policy Development Committee Chairman Shadow Portfolio Holder
Local Government Association (Urban Commission)	Leader of Council and Chief Executive (or nominees)
Local Government Association (Rural Commission)	Deputy Leader of the Council Head of Regeneration (or nominees)
Local Government Association General Assembly	Leader of the Council (or nominee)
Local Strategic Partnership (known as the Chase Community Partnership)	Leader of the Council Deputy Leader Leader of the Opposition (or nominees)

Midlands Association for Design and the Environment	Environment Leader (or nominee)
Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader (or nominee)
Norton Canes Community Partnership	Economic Development and Planning Leader (or nominee)
Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee	Environment Leader 3 Norton Canes Ward Members 3 Cannock South Ward Members (or nominees) Leader of the Council
Southern Staffordshire Partnership (AGM)	Leader of the Council and Chief Executive (or nominees)
Staffordshire Strategic Partnership	Leader of the Council and Chief Executive (or nominees)
Staffordshire Connect (Formerly E-Government Champion)	Corporate Improvement Leader (or nominee)
Staffordshire County Council Pensions Services Joint Scheme (Must be Councillor)	Leader of the Council (or nominee)
Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership	Economic Development and Planning Leader (or Head of Planning & Regeneration as nominee)
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Planning Forum	Environment Leader (or nominee)
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association	Culture and Sport Leader (or nominee) Mitchell, C.
Staffordshire and Stoke Waste Management Board	Environment Leader (or nominee)
Chase 3 Management Board	Economic Development and Planning Leader (or nominee) Town Centre Regeneration Leader (or nominee) Director of Culture and Regeneration (or nominee)
West Midlands Association of Leisure Chairpersons	Culture and Sport Leader (or nominee)

West Midlands Leaders Group	Leader of the Council (Councillor D. N. Davies as named sub)
West Midlands LGA Strategy Advisory Panel	Environment Leader (or nominee) Housing Leader (or nominee)
West Midlands Regional Assembly	Leader of the Council (or nominee) Environment Leader (Alternative Member)

- (B) Appointments to the Poplars Landfill Site Liaison Committee be determined by the Council in accordance with its other appointments to outside bodies.
- (C) The Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to make appointments to any additional bodies, as necessary, throughout the Municipal year that would normally be determined by Cabinet.

Reasons for the Decision

Appointments of representatives to outside bodies enable the Council to have greater participation in working with organisations of the Community to inform their decision making processes.

10. Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan Pre-Publication Draft – Development Plan Document

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Culture and Regeneration (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan, Pre-Publication Draft be approved for publication, together with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, for consultation and that the consultation be carried out in accordance with Regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004,(as amended).
- (B) The Director of Culture and Regeneration (or anyone so authorised by him),in consultation with the Economic Development and Planning Leader, be authorised to make non-substantive changes to the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan - Pre-Publication Draft DPD and supporting documentation, prior to consultation taking place.

Reasons for the Decision

In conjunction with the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Core Strategy, the Rugeley

Town Centre Area Action Plan will provide the central planning policy for the future development of Rugeley Town Centre over the next ten years. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (Annex 2 to the document), will be updated as requirements change.

The purpose of the AAP is to promote the further development of Rugeley Town Centre for retail, commercial, leisure, tourism, housing and transport purposes; assist in the determination of planning applications for new development proposals; ensure that the Council's decisions best reflect the needs and aspirations of residents, shoppers, visitors, businesses and commercial interests in the town centres; and provide baseline information for future monitoring.

The Plan completed the first round of consultation, Issues and Options, in 2008 and the second stage Preferred Options, was carried out in July/August 2009.

Progress on the Plan has been delayed due to issues raised by the Environment Agency in the context of identifying and safeguarding a flood storage area outside the town centre area within the proposed learning campus site at Hagley Park playing fields, together with the need to commission additional work to address issues raised by Government Office for the West Midlands during last years consultation, i.e. a need to expand the strategy to identify character areas, key features of the town centre and defining the Primary Shopping Area. Further delays will be incurred, due to the need to carry out further work associated with Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a site of European ecological importance. This will delay preparation of the third stage of the Rugeley AAP, 'Publication'. Accordingly, it is proposed that an additional non-statutory consultation on the Rugeley Town Centre AAP be carried out, until the outstanding issues relating to the Core Strategy and other issues detailed above have been resolved. It is further proposed that in carrying out the consultation the Council should comply with the requirements of Regulation 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended) which deal with consultation. This will allow consultees a further opportunity to comment on the latest version and emerging policies, before the next statutory stage is reached, Publication, which will then be followed by formal Submission to the Secretary of State and the subsequent Examination. It should be noted that the Core Strategy as the primary DPD, has to run ahead of the Rugeley AAP

11. Forest of Mercia Partnership

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The contents of the report be noted and agreement be given to becoming a partner in the Forest of Mercia Partnership as a non contributory member.
- (B) The Director of Service Improvement be delegated to sign a Memorandum of Agreement to become a non contributory member of the Forest of Mercia Partnership.

Reasons for the Decision

The aims of the Forest of Mercia Plan (originally set out in 1993) are to improve the landscape, (particularly in Cannock Chase district areas damaged by former mining & opencasting), by tree planting, heathland re-creation & increased public access. Allied to this is a role in developing skills in woodland related activities, volunteering & encouraging business activity in this sector. The Forest covers the whole of the Cannock Chase district south of "The Chase" and these aims continue to be relevant. The landscape improvement objective is embedded in planning policy in the Cannock Chase Local Plan and is being taken forward into the Core Strategy. New areas of public open space & improvements to existing spaces delivered in connection with major new housing developments will continue to have the Forest of Mercia as a policy context in addition to the need to deliver improvements to formal sport & recreation facilities.

Cannock Chase Council was for many years a contributory member of the Forest of Mercia Partnership in providing annual funding to support the work of the Forest of Mercia as part of the forest area lies within the Cannock Chase district (other partners include Staffordshire County Council, Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire District Council, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, The Forestry Commission and Natural England.

As part of its Delivering Change process Cannock Chase Council considered various policy options for budget setting for the 2009/10 period which included ceasing funding and withdrawal from the Forest of Mercia Partnership. Subsequently, at the Council's meeting on 25th February 2009 it was agreed by Council to include this policy option in setting its budget for 2009/10.

In April 2010 a meeting was held between Council officers and Forest of Mercia representatives in which a request was made by the latter for the Council to consider rejoining Forest of Mercia Partnership as a non contributory member. The reasoning behind this was that as part of the Forest lies within Cannock Chase district it was felt important that the Council were aware of planned work being undertaken within the Forest.

12. 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 Paragraph(s) 1,2 and 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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PART 2

13. Housing Maintenance Section – Redundancy

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 13.1 – 13.5)

RESOLVED:

That payment of actuarial strain in respect on the redundancy of the post of Senior Support Officer within the Housing Maintenance Section (Employee Number 208303) to the sum of £27,748.35 be approved

Reasons for the Decision

A revised pay and grading structure has been implemented for the Council's craft employees. As a consequence, the duties of the Senior Support Officer are not required and it is proposed that the post is deleted from the establishment.

Whilst consideration has been given to the re-deployment of the existing postholder, there are currently no suitable vacancies within the Council's establishment and it is therefore proposed that the post be made redundant.

As at the proposed termination date, the post holder will be 57 years of age and as such in line with current Pension Scheme Regulations, will be eligible to access pension benefits with the associated actuarial strain being paid by the Council.

In accordance with the Early Termination and Retirement Policy, Cabinet approval is required to approve the actuarial strain associated with any redundancies proposed outside of the annual budget setting process.

14. Housing Tenancy Services Section – Request for Voluntary Early Retirement

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 14.1 – 14.6).

RESOLVED:

That the payment of actuarial strain in respect of the early retirement of employee number 204310 to the sum of £16,741.65 be approved.

Reasons for the Decision

A request for voluntary early retirement has been received from employee number 204310, a Housing Assistant within the Tenancy Services Estate Management Team.

The duties of this post holder can be assimilated into other part-time posts within the section by increasing their hours and it is proposed that the request is granted.

Granting the request would involve a payment of £16,741.65 in actual strain over a 5-year period. However, the proposed course of action would result in estimated budget savings of £5,290 in 2010-11, and £9,330 in 2011-12.

15. Update – New Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) Cardinal Griffin Catholic High School

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Head of Leisure and Major Projects (Enclosure 15.1 – 15.17)

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The current key issues and associated risks identified with the delivery of this project be noted.
- (B) The position regarding the negotiations with ASDA in respect of the revised Deed of Variation be noted.
- (C) Any other decisions in this regard be deferred until clarification is received in respect of the outcome of the negotiations with ASDA.

Reasons for the Decisions

Given the key issues identified within this report, particularly around varying the current S106 arrangements, the current estimated shortfall in funding and the requirements necessary to develop a Football Foundation funding bid, this project cannot progress any further without Cabinet's approval to spend some of the project management funds allocated to this project.

This project provides an exciting opportunity to establish the first full size ATP within the district and to provide new and enhanced sports facilities on a school site thereby improving access to high quality sports provision for pupils and the community alike.

Approval to spend some of the project management funds allocated to deliver this project is essential in order to allow the scheme to proceed. Members should be aware, however, that such a decision does carry some risk in that any expenditure incurred

would be lost and abortive if the issues around the existing S106 agreement cannot be resolved.

Furthermore, ASDA has indicated that it may be prepared to consider alternative projects on which the S106 monies could be spent, giving the Council greater freedom of choice in terms of development and location.

The meeting closed at 5.35 pm.

LEADER