

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, 7 MARCH, 2011 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Kraujalis, J. T. (Chairman)  
Dixon, D. I. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P.	Jones, R.
Beddows, J.	Mitchell, C.
Bernard, Mrs. A. F.	Molineux, G.N.
Bernard, J.D.	Rowley, J.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	

**24. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. D. J. Bennett, M. R. Green, D. Thomas and B. Williams.

**25. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations**

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Jones, R.	Employed by Wolverhampton and Sutton Coldfield Colleges	Personal

**26. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November and 6 December, 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

**27. Staffordshire Delivery Leads for Indicators NI 177 AND NI 152**

The Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships explained that, as requested at the meeting on 6 December, 2010, the County Council Lead Officers had been invited to attend to provide further information on indicators NI 117 and NI 152. It had been planned that the Commissioner for Strategic Planning, Enterprise and Economy would be in attendance to discuss NI 152, however, no-one was able to be present to deal with this issue. Kim Price the Information Advice and Guidance Team Leader, Staffordshire Young People's Service,

Cannock Connexions Centre, was in attendance to provide information on NI117.

It was reported that Cannock Chase had met and maintained the not in employment, education or training (NEET) targets set over the last 4 years. Young people who were NEET were often the most vulnerable and extra support was often needed.

At 26 January, 2011 there were 218 young people NEET (8.7%) compared with 249 last year (8.9%) and at 27 February, 2011 there were 194 young people NEET (8.1%) which showed that there was a considerable reduction over the last 12 months.

The figures were based on the size of the group of young people aged 16-18 which at 27 February, 2011 was 2,486 for the year and 2,824 at 10 February, 2010 which equated to 242 young people. The target figure for Cannock Chase was 8.5% and this target had been met since 31 January, 2011. The NEET figure target set for the area was higher than other Districts in Staffordshire due to the social and economic problems. There were 20 NEET hotspots in Staffordshire 4 of which were in Cannock Chase namely:-

- Brereton and Ravenhill
- Cannock East
- Cannock North
- Cannock South

Within the NEET figures there were groups that could be difficult to get into education, employment or training such as young mums caring for a child and those that were pregnant. Support was provided to these groups from Connexions staff and Staffordshire Young People's Service.

Officers had been working with those that were NEET to get them into positive activities, including carrying out mock interviews, telephone work and if unable to contact young people, carrying out home visits.

The Staffordshire Young People's Service Manager had applied to the Local Strategic Partnership for funding to pilot a partnership model targeting hard to motivate NEETs. The pilot scheme would take place in Rugeley and would involve the Police, Fire Service, Cannock Chase Council's Sports Development, Youth Workers and Connexions staff. The aim of the scheme was to target NEETs with a motivational programme which included mentoring and physical activity. Rugeley had been chosen as it did not have any Foundation Courses and this presented a further barrier for young people as they had to travel for this provision. If successful other areas would be targeted.

During National Apprenticeship week (7 February, 2011) Connexion staff put on workshops for construction, childcare, health and social care, retail and motor vehicle apprenticeships and all NEETs were notified of them. At least 5 young people moved into apprenticeships as a result of the workshops.

NEET prevention work was being undertaken with Connexions being involved with the Council in the Choices event which had been held in January this year which was attended by over 350 local students that aimed to motivate year 9 students and provide information on the range of career opportunities available to them. Cannock Chase Council, Connexions and South Staffordshire College worked together to organise a 'Taste Your

Future' event which would be held on 16 March, 2011 when students would be provided with information about potential careers, including hairdressing, beauty, sport and leisure, motor vehicle, public services, catering, hospitality, trowel trades, plumbing and conservation etc.

On 22 March, 2011 from 9 am until 1 pm at the Council Offices, Staffordshire Young People's Service had organised a training provider event. All schools were due to take part and all NEETs would be notified of the event. There would be over 20 stands including the local colleges, training providers and some of the large employers such as the Fire Service, Army and Navy.

Connexions Personal Advisers were working with all schools and the local College providing information, advice and guidance to students assisting them to move into education, employment and training. This included providing additional support for students with learning difficulties and ensuring that those students had a Section 139a document which stated what support they needed.

The Activity Survey produced by Connexions looked at what Year 11 young people did after leaving school and the figures produced at 1 November, 2010 showed that 3.1% of the students were NEET which was only slightly above the NEET figure for Staffordshire of 2.8%. 86.4% of students continued in full time education, 8.6% continued in structured learning in the workplace and 1.4% entered jobs with no structured training.

Since October 2010 there had been significant changes to the Connexions Service with staff being reduced by 50%. As a result of the cuts, changes had been made to the opening hours of the Connexions Centres with Cannock now being open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons and Rugeley open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1.30 pm until 4.30 pm.

Concern was raised with respect to the Education Maintenance Allowance being withdrawn and the affect this may have on students. It was not currently known whether the Government intended to introduce a replacement scheme.

## **28. Quarter 3 Performance Report 2010-11**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships explained that the Priority Delivery Plans (PDPs) were approved by Council on 25 August, 2010. The report summarised the performance of the seven Priority Delivery Plans during Quarter 3 of 2010/11. The same format was used for the PDPs, the actions, performance and risk information were set out using the red, amber and green coding system indicating where progress had been completed or was on track or where targets had not been achieved. For all PDPs for quarter 3; 3 had been rated red, 18 amber, 68 green and 2 had no rating.

Information with regard to the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) was provided at Annex 8A to the Report. There were only 4 LAA indicators (NI 117, 154, 155 AND 197) which included all three elements, baseline, target and performance information for Cannock Chase and therefore it was only possible to provide meaningful assessment for these during Quarter 3 2010/11.

The Committee was informed that each Policy Development Committee would receive the respective information on their relevant PDP with the exception of the Corporate Improvement Portfolio which Scrutiny Committee could scrutinise and suggest ways to improve performance.

Concern was raised with respect to the Health and Well Being PDP and the issue of raising and promoting dance opportunities across the district and the impact of closing the Aquarius Ballroom would have on this.

Members requested that information relating to the air quality review and assessment that had been completed for the District be provided to them.

It was also requested that the latest recycling figures be provided to them, together with information relating to the various sizes of the waste recycling bins. The Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships explained that the data had to be qualified before it could be released. The Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships undertook to liaise with the Head of Environmental Services and provide the relevant information to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That:-

- (A) The performance information relating to PDPs as detailed at Annexes 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, and 7a be noted and that from a total of 91 actions and indicators reported in Q3, it be noted that 68 (74.7%) had been rated Green.
- (B) The financial information relating to PDPs as detailed at Annexes 1b, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, and 7b be noted.
- (C) The Risk Register information relating to PDPs as detailed at Annexes 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c and 7c be noted.
- (D) The actions and indicators which are rated Red or Amber and the associated commentary/remedial action proposed by the Lead Officer, be noted.
- (E) That information relating to household waste recycling and the air quality review and assessment be provided.
- (F) The inclusion of information in Annexes 8a-c relating to Local Strategic Partnership Performance be noted
- (G) It did not wish to further review and/or scrutinise the performance of the Council and/or its Local Strategic Partners.
- (H) The attendance of Cannock Chase Council Officers and/or Local Strategic Partners at the next Committee meeting was not requested.

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CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

