

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 2010 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.	Green, M.R.
Bernard, Mrs. A. F.	Jones, R.
Bernard, J.D.	Rowley, J.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Thomas, D.

19. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. D. J. Bennett, J. Beddows, C. Mitchell, G. N. Molineux and B. Williams.

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

No declarations of interests or Party Whip declarations were received.

21. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September, 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed.

22. Quarter 1 and 2 Performance Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.12 plus attachments).

The Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships explained that the annexes to the Performance Reports had been printed in colour due to the nature of the Risk Register production. It was reported that the Head of Governance and Organisational Development was currently looking into alternative methods of presentation of the risk registers in respect of the colour production.

It was reported that there were seven Priority Delivery Plans (PDPs) for 2010/11 which were aligned to each of the Cabinet Portfolios. Each PDP details priority outcomes (i.e what the Council is seeking to achieve) and accordingly the actions which would be delivered in order to achieve the outcome. As per previous years each PDP contained various performance indicators (national and local) which would measure the Council's success in achieving these outcomes. Priority Delivery Plans for 2010/11 were not approved by Council until August 2011 and therefore Performance Reports for Quarters 1 and 2 were provided to this meeting.

For quarters 1 and 2 there were a total of 115 indicators and actions, 102 were rated green, 10 amber and 3 red. Where an action/indicator was rated red/amber, the Lead Officer had provided written commentary on remedial action which had been/would be taken.

Information relating to the partnership's performance during Quarter 2 of 2010/11 in delivering on the priorities as set out in the Staffordshire LAA was contained in annex 8(a), (b) and (c) to the report. It was explained that due to the lack of data available relating to the district, meant that only 4 indicators had Cannock Chase level information for baseline, target and current performance. Further indicators where district level information was provided for performance only was included in Annex 8c. It was reported that without specific targets or baselines the data was impossible to performance manage.

In view of the cessation of the LAA in March 2011, a meeting of the Cannock Chase LSP Executive Board was taking place on 8 December in order to determine the District priorities for 2011 onwards, having due regard to the needs analysis which had been provided. Following this meeting, an update would be provided to the LSP Strategic Board on 14 December, 2010 to seek 'in principle endorsement' of the priorities which would be translated into a Community Strategy. Delivery plans would be developed by the Executive Board to detail what actions would be taken to achieve the identified priorities.

Concern was raised in relation to National Indicators 117, (16-18 year olds who were not in education, employment or training (NEET)) in the four hotspot areas which the Staffordshire Partnership had been targeting within the district through the LAA. Alarm was raised with respect to Cannock East and Cannock North Wards and the high percentage increase in Quarter 1 and 2 from the previous outturn and that there was no explanation for this in the report. Disquiet was also raised with respect to NI152, the levels of working age people on out of work benefits in the seven hotspot areas again being targeted through the LAA in the district. The Committee requested that the Staffordshire Partnership delivery plans be obtained, together with detailed performance information on the actions and resources in respect of these two indicators. It was also requested that the Staffordshire delivery leads for these indicators be requested to attend the next meeting in order to provide further information. The Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships was requested to circulate to Members of the Committee further information on these issues prior to the next meeting.

The Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships explained that the LAA was intended to target resources on the areas of greatest need. Each LAA target had a delivery plan which should have detailed those areas which were being targeted, what resources were being allocated and what actions were being delivered. Members were reminded of previous Scrutiny discussions regarding GCSE educational attainment in Cannock Chase and the requests to the County Council (through numerous mechanisms) for sight of the delivery plans in order that Members could ascertain what actions were being taken in the District in

order to meet the demand and needs of the District. on what the delivery action plans were, was not readily forthcoming.

Unease was expressed with regard to the Blake project and that those on the Board did not live in the district. It was considered that those that did live in the area had a more informed idea of what was needed and local Councillors and residents should be more involved. The Chief Executive informed the Committee that it had been pointed out to the Blake Project Board that it was considered that long term commitments were required, rather than a 'quick fix' scheme. It was reported that for every vacancy notified to the Job Centre in Cannock Chase there were 8 Job Seeker's Allowance Claimants as opposed to 5 which compares unfavourably with the national picture where there are 5 claimants for every vacancy. It was considered important that new solutions were not simply imposed on residents, but that they are engaged in the development of solutions and interventions .

The Committee requested that a report detailing the actions and resources which had been directed into the Blake Project be presented to the next meeting.

It was noted that EDP4 to reduce youth unemployment to the County rate by 2012 was rated as being on target which appeared to be at odds with NI117. The Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships undertook to investigate this issue with the Lead Officers.

It was reported that since the new Headmaster at Blake Valley Technology College had been appointed, exam results had significantly improved and concern was expressed that this did not appear to have had any impact on the NEET figures.

RESOLVED:

That:-

- (A) The performance information relating to PDPs as detailed at Annexes 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, and 7a be noted. It also be noted that from a total of 115 actions and indicators reported in the first two quarters, 102 (88.6%) 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 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c and 7c be noted.
- (D)
 - (i) The actions and indicators which were rated Red or Amber be noted.
 - (ii) With respect to the Economic Development PDP further information be provided with regard to indicator EDP4, reduce youth unemployment to the county rate by 2012, particularly relating to the rationale behind the 2010/11 target and the District performance outturn for Quarters 1 and 2 in relation to this target.
- (E)
 - (i) The information in Annexes 8a, b and c relating to Local Strategic Partnership Performance be noted.
 - (ii) In respect of NI117 and NI152 the Staffordshire Partnership delivery plans be obtained, together with detailed performance information on the actions and

resources which had been directed into the Cannock Chase 'hotspot areas' defined in the Local Area Agreement.

(iii) The Staffordshire delivery leads for these indicators be requested to attend the next meeting in order to provide further information on these issues.

(F) A report on the Blake Project be presented to the next meeting.

23. Determination of the Membership of the Delivering Change Panel

Consideration was given to the Membership of the Delivery Change Panel. It was noted that this had previously been agreed to be 11 Members by the Committee at its meeting held on 12 July, 2010.

RESOLVED:

(A) That the Membership of the Delivering Change Panel be amended to 7 Members in accordance with the political balance, appointed from amongst the Members of the Scrutiny Committee (2 Labour Councillors, 3 Liberal Democrat Councillors and 2 Conservative Councillors

(B) That the Leaders of the 3 political groups provide the Chief Executive with the names of those Members to be appointed to the Panel.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.