

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET

HELD ON THURSDAY 11 JULY 2019 AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Adamson, G.	Leader of the Council
Alcott, G.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader
Pearson, A.R.	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Mitchell, Mrs. C.	Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader
Johnson, T.B.	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Preece, J.P.T.L.	Environment Portfolio Leader
Martin, Mrs. C.E.	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Kraujalis, J.T.	Housing Portfolio Leader

15. Apologies

Apologies were submitted for Councillors C. Bennett, Crime & Partnerships Portfolio Leader, and P.E. Woodhead (*non-voting Observer*).

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

No other Declarations of Interest were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

17. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

None.

18. Minutes of Cabinet Meeting of 13 June, 2019

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June, 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed.

19. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan of Decisions for the period July to September 2019 (Item 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council) was considered.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period July to September 2019 be noted.

20. Summary of Complaints Received: April 2018 to March 2019 (Annual Report)

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 6.1 – 6.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the information received by the Council in this period and the lesson learnt be noted.

Reason for Decision

Council approved a new Customer Feedback and Complaints Policy on 21 February, 2018; contained within the new policy was a commitment to report complaints information to Cabinet.

21. Annual Report 2018/19

Consideration was given to the Report of the Managing Director (Item 7.1 – 7.21 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The information and achievements as detailed in the Annual Report be noted.
- (B) The Annual Report 2018/19 be approved for publication on the Council's website and sharing with key stakeholders.

Reason for Decisions

The Annual Report 2018/19 presented a summary of the progress and achievements in delivering the Council's priorities in 2018/19. It provided a user-friendly digest of key information to be presented to the Council's residents, partners and communities.

22. Cannock Town Centre Development Prospectus

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 8.1 – 8.20 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The draft Development Prospectus, as included at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved for use as a marketing tool to attract in new investment into identified opportunity sites in Cannock Town Centre.
- (B) Authority be delegated to the Head of Economic Prosperity, in consultation with the Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader, to take all steps to launch the Prospectus and distribute it to appropriate developers, investors

agents and intermediaries.

Reasons for Decisions

Cabinet was being requested to approve the use of the Development Prospectus in order for the Prospectus to be launched to the market and wider distribution to take place of the document in its current form.

Without the Development Prospectus being in place, there was a risk that development opportunities would not come forward and the town centre could decline further. Crucially, there would be a huge missed opportunity to attract in a proportion of the anticipated 3 million plus visitors per annum from the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Cannock into Cannock town centre.

23. Revenues and Benefits Collection Report

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Finance (Item 9.1 – 9.14 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The information regarding collections be noted.
- (B) The arrears listed in the confidential appendices be written off.

Reasons for Decisions

Efficient collection of the Council's revenues was of major importance to the funding of Council services and those provided by our preceptors.

The report detailed that over £82.5m was collected by the Revenue and Benefits Service in the last financial year.

Collection rates for Council due amounted to £49.5m, of which some 97.4% was collected by the end of the financial year. As at the end of May, the collection rate had increased to 98.1%.

In 2018/19, some £33.7m was due from local businesses, of which 98.9% was recovered by the end of the financial year. By 31 May, the collection rate had reached 99.0%. In addition, the amounts outstanding in respect of periods prior to April 2018 reduced from £1.8m to £944k in the financial year.

Regrettably, not all of the monies owed to the Council could be collected, and the report contained a recommendation to write-off bad debts in the sum £67,864.16, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

The amount attributable to Cannock Chase Council amounted to approximately £800 for Council Tax and £17,809 for Business Rates.

24. Proposed Creation of Single Strategic Commissioning Unit

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 10.1 – 10.26 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The proposed merger of the six Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning

Groups into a single Strategic Commissioning Organisation from April 2020 be opposed, and the existing structure should be retained.

- (B) The draft response to the consultation document, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report be agreed, and the Head of Economic Prosperity, in consultation with the Health & Wellbeing Portfolio Leader, be granted delegated authority to prepare a final response for submission.

Reasons for Decisions

There was concern that the proposed merger would compound current issues with regards to the recruitment and retention of local GP services, and appeared to be a cost-cutting exercise rather than being focussed on improving patients' services. It was also feared that any funding arrangements established would be weighted in favour of healthcare services provided in north Staffordshire, to the detriment of residents living in south Staffordshire.

To ensure the Council engaged in the consultation and submitted an informed response to the proposals.

The meeting closed at 4:25 p.m.

LEADER