

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY 26 MARCH, 2018 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Cooper, Miss. J. (Chairman)
Pearson, A.R. (Vice-Chairman)

Crabtree, S.K.	Smith, C.D.
Freeman, Miss. M.A.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Grice, Mrs. D. (Substitute)	Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Johnson, J.P.	Tait, Ms. L.
Johnson, T.B.	

19. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. C.E. Martin, Staffordshire County Council Co-opted Member, Councillor P. Hewitt and Independent Co-opted Member from Healthwatch Staffordshire, Jackie Owen.

Councillor Mrs D. Grice was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Mrs. C.E. Martin.

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 in additions to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests were made.

21. Minutes

A Member referred to Page 7, Minute 14 and asked if any information was available concerning the discussion around community beds.

The Chairman had not received an update, although she would continue to pursue this matter.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November, 2017 be approved as a correct record.

22. New Cemetery: Soft Market Testing

The following presentation was received from Tom Walsh, Parks and Open Spaces Manager.

Background

- CCDC been looking at new cemetery site options since 2000
- No new burials at Cannock since 2005
- Site purchased in 2015 and planning permission in 2016
- Capital Shortfall to deliver current proposal
- Cabinet – August 2016 decided to explore private sector and partner options
- Scrutiny Committee in November 2017 agreed to undertake Soft Market Testing exercise and determined Core Requirements

Update

- Advert, Core Requirements and Questionnaire developed
- Prior Information Notice (PIN) issued on 13/01/2018 inviting companies and partners to participate in Soft Market Testing exercise
- Advert placed on County Council's website and known providers/partners contacted via email
- Soft Market Testing Date 15th February 2018

- Core Requirements (Non-negotiable)
- Investment
 - Provide capital investment necessary (circa £500k) in partnership with the Council to deliver the new proposed cemetery
- Operational
 - The Council's minimum service standard must be met.
 - To maintain the cemetery environment providing a pleasant and appropriate experience.
 - This Council does not allow graves to be pre-purchased and should this change a policy will be enforced not to allow bulk pre-purchase.
 - To maintain and build on the relationship with local funeral directors.
 - To follow the Council's Rules and Regulations with regard to memorialisation, keeping headstones and cremated remains plaques within the permitted size and ensuring all headstones are fitted with approved NAMM fixings.
- Price Control
 - To ensure that the service offers affordable choices for the community by keeping price increases in line with the annual Council % increase unless agreed with the Council.
 - To maintain the Council's policy on its fee multiplier for non-residents with the exception of children and still born children whereby single fees are applied and interment fees waived.

- Opening Hours
 - The total number of opening hours should not be reduced – there is an opportunity to increase the operating hours but the new facility should not be open fewer hours than that of other Council Cemetery facilities.
- Management Fee
 - To manage the facility at no cost to the Council
- Soft Market Testing Questionnaire
 - Experience and Track Record
 - Operation Proposals and Core Requirements
 - Investment and Implementation
 - Risks
 - Contract
- Outcome
 - 6 initial interested parties
 - Only 1 submission and attendee on 15th February
 - Largest Crematorium and Cemetery Operator in UK
 - Operates 45 sites and very experienced at providing capital investment and managing such facilities for a number of local authorities.
 - Would provide capital investment (circa £5m) but only if a crematorium was secured for the site. Would undertake all planning and consultation and costs (up to Decision)
 - Agreement to Core Requirements other than multiplier (particularly for Cremations)
- Outcome (continued)
 - Would want to set and control price for cremations
 - Would require a crematorium on site
 - Would not include cemetery lodge on site and do not have any such building on any of their other sites
 - Timeline 6 months planning and 12 months construction
 - Key risk cemetery alone would not provide adequate returns for investment
 - Would not consider any terms below 30 – 35 years
 - Operating arrangements generally focus on 2 models
 - Freehold sale (After planning secured)
 - Leasehold (a) Fixed Rental Payment or (b) Variable Payment based on turnover
- Report Findings and Options to Cabinet
 - Procure a partner to deliver and operate a crematorium and cemetery
 - Reduce Cemetery scheme to within budget
 - Provide additional capital to deliver current scheme
 - Explore Feasibility Study for Crematorium

Members were then invited to ask questions.

A Member commented that when considering a site for burials it was also important that consideration was given to delivering a crematorium, as he believed that people within the District would wish to have both options to choose from. He also asked about green burials which were environmentally friendly and also meant that burial spaces could be re-used after a number of years.

Mike Edmonds, Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles indicated that the provider would consider green burials.

The Member discussed the exclusive rights of burials, in particular the aspect around the fixed period of time and the length of time of the contractual arrangements.

A Member asked if it was possible to outsource burials and keep the crematorium aspect in-house.

The Parks and Open Spaces Manager advised that it would not be cost effective to have the two separated. Providing a crematorium would essentially mean that more cremations per day could take place, however with regard to green burials there would be a requirement for larger plots of land due to the planting of trees on burial spaces. However, it was clear that a provider would not make a significant investment into a cemetery with a crematorium if a profit could not be made.

In response to a question raised by a Member, the Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles indicated that a Report would need to be submitted to Cabinet detailing the options available. Those options were either the Council supplying the funding and managing the cemetery, or to go out to procurement for a provider to invest and manage the site. However, if the Council did decide to go out to procurement, it was possible that a number of companies may be interested.

Members were keen to clarify whether the same terms would apply for the local community if a provider was to invest and manage the site, or would it be extended to include neighbouring areas.

In response to this it was reported that a rate including a multiplier would be added for anyone outside of the District.

Members discussed the following options which would be reported to Cabinet on 14 June, 2018:

Options to Cabinet

- Procure a partner to deliver and operate a crematorium and cemetery
- Reduce Cemetery scheme to within budget
- Provide additional capital to deliver current scheme
- Explore Feasibility Study for Crematorium

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet be recommended to explore the option of a feasibility study for a new crematorium.

23. Task and Finish Group – Impact of Hot Food Takeaways (Notes and Updates)

Dave Prosser-Davies, Food Safety and Licensing Manager updated Members and indicated that the inquiry day would soon be arranged. Following this, a report would be finalised in May and submitted to the Committee at its first meeting in July.

That the Notes of the meetings held on 6 November and 5 December, 2017 be received for information.

24. Update - Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

The Chairman read the following which was a summary of the business transacted at the meeting of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee held on 1 December 2017:

“Strategic Collaboration between Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – Outline Business Case- Follow-up

They considered a joint report of the Chief Executives of Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and received a presentation updating them on progress with regard to their proposals for greater strategic collaboration through the acquisition of Burton Hospitals NHS Trust by the Derby Trust.

Members learned that since their previous meeting with the Trusts they had prepared a Patients' Benefits Case setting out the anticipated clinical benefits of the proposals together with the risks from a no-change scenario. The specific service areas which had been highlighted as benefiting from the merger included hyper-acute stroke, cardiology, renal medicine, radiology and orthopaedics.

During the meeting, Members gave detailed scrutiny and sought clarification of the Trusts' plans specifically relating to (i) the impact on staff recruitment and retention; (ii) their ability to treat more patients locally; (iii) the future of Community Hospitals in Lichfield and Tamworth; (iv) Staffordshire's representation on the combined Trust's Board; (v) the co-ordination between the Trust and specifically the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Sustainability and Transformation Partnership and; (vi) the measures being implemented to ensure a smooth organisational change.

University Hospitals North Midlands NHS Trust – Action Plans and Progress

They received an oral report from the Chief Executive of University Hospitals

North Midlands NHS Trust regarding their efforts to achieve financial sustainability following being placed into Financial Special Measures by the NHS Improvement in March 2017. Members learned that whilst the Trust previously had one of the largest NHS deficits in the Country at £119m, the anticipated outturn position for the current year was £70m.

The Trust had a Financial Recovery Plan in place together with a refreshed 2025 Vision. However, various external factors were contributing to on-going planned deficits including (i) long standing structural issues in the wider health economy; (ii) delays in the receipt of payments from Clinical Commissioning Groups and; (iii) the end of Transitional funding to support the re-configuration of the acute sector on north Staffordshire.

The Committee asked the Chief Executive to attend their meeting in March 2018 to update them on progress with regard to the Plan.

The Chairman also then read the following which was a summary of the business transacted at the meeting of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee held on 7 March, 2018:

All Age Disability Strategy

The considered a report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing on the development of an All Age Disability Strategy for Staffordshire. Building on the previous “Living My Life My Way” initiative and taking into account the many recent changes in Local Government, the Strategy will set out the Authority’s vision for disabled people from 2018 onwards.

During the meeting, the Committee participated in workshops aimed at refining the draft document giving their comments and views, as appropriate. They emphasised the need for the Authority to (i) ‘do the right thing’ ensuring that the strategy was fit for purpose; (ii) have clear vision regarding outcomes; (iii) treat people as individuals focusing on their abilities and not disabilities and; work with stakeholders to reduce need.

Their contributions are to be incorporated (where possible) into the final draft version of the Strategy to be published in April 2018 for consultation and public engagement during the spring – summer 2018”.

Members discussed the payment of services and the aging population. Some concern was expressed with delayed payments from CCGs and Members asked if Cannock CCG had delayed payments. The Chairman advised that she would need to report back on this.

25. Quarter 3 Performance Update 2017-18 – Health, Culture and Environment PDP 2017-18

Consideration was given to the Quarter 3 Performance Update 2017-18 – Health, Culture and Environment PDP 2017-18 (Item 7.1 – 7.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Members agreed the Quarter 3 Performance Update 2017-18.

26. Joint Health Scrutiny Accountability Sessions 2018

It was confirmed that the following Members would attend the Joint Health Scrutiny Accountability Sessions for 2018:

- University Hospitals North Midlands NHS Trust – Monday 16 April, 2018

Chairman and Councillor A. Pearson.

- South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership Trust – Thursday 10 May, 2018

Chairman and Councillors Miss. M.A. Freeman, Mrs. H.M. Sutton and C.D. Smith.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 4.48 pm