



Please ask for: Matt Berry
Extension No: 4589
E-Mail: mattberry@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

28 July 2021

Dear Councillor,

Cabinet

4:00pm on Thursday 5 August

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock

You are invited to attend this meeting for consideration of the matters itemised in the following Agenda.

Yours sincerely,

B. Kean
Interim Managing Director

To: Councillors:

Lyons, Miss O.	Leader of the Council
Jones, B.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Neighbourhood Safety & Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Jones, Mrs. V.	Community Engagement, Health & Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Sutherland, M.	District Development Portfolio Leader
Johnson, J.P.	Environment & Climate Change Portfolio Leader
Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	Housing, Heritage & Leisure Portfolio Leader
Hewitt, P.M.	Innovation and High Streets Portfolio Leader

Agenda

Part 1

1. Apologies

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

To declare any personal, pecuniary or disclosable pecuniary interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct and any possible contraventions under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

3. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

To receive and consider oral updates (if any), from the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader, and Portfolio Leaders.

4. Minutes

To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2021 (enclosed).

5. Forward Plan

Forward Plan of Decisions to be taken by the Cabinet: August to October 2021 (Item 5.1)

6. Public Space Protection Orders (Alcohol Restriction Zones)

Report of the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 6.1 – 6.10).

7. UK Afghan Locally Employed Interpreter Relocation Scheme

Report of the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 7.1 – 7.5).

8. Exclusion of the Public

The Leader to move:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Part 2

9. Corporate Property Maintenance Plan 2021-24

Not for Publication Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 9.1 – 9.14).

The Report is confidential due to the inclusion of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council).

No Representations have been received in respect of this matter.

10. Review of Bridges and Boardwalks

Not for Publication Report of the Head of Economic Prosperity (Item 10.1 – 10.27).

The Report is confidential due to the inclusion of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council).

No Representations have been received in respect of this matter.

Cannock Chase Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the

Cabinet

Held on Thursday 8 July 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

In the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock

Part 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Lyons, Miss O.	Leader of the Council
Jones, B.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Neighbourhood Safety & Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Jones, Mrs. V.	Community Engagement, Health & Wellbeing Portfolio Leader
Sutherland, M	District Development Portfolio Leader
Johnson, J.P.	Environment & Climate Change Portfolio Leader
Fitzgerald, Mrs. A.A.	Housing, Heritage & Leisure Portfolio Leader
Hewitt, P.M.	Innovation and High Streets Portfolio Leader

13. Apologies

None received.

14. 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.

15. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

(i) Leader of the Council

The Leader updated in respect of the following:

- **Covid-19 Vaccine Update**

The vaccine uptake had gone very well locally, but it was important to continue encouraging those who could be vaccinated to do so, especially given increasing case rates and easing of restrictions from 19 July. All Councillors were asked to reiterate this approach.

- **Celebration Days**

Flags had been / were being flown for Armed Forces Day and the 'Thankyou' Day for NHS and Frontline Workers. It was pleasing to note the flags had been raised and it was hoped that proper ceremonies could take place as normal again from next year.

(ii) Community Engagement, Health & Wellbeing

The Portfolio Leader updated in respect of the following:

- **Cannock Chase Hospital Minor Injuries Unit**

Concern had been raised about the continued closure of the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Cannock Chase Hospital. It was noted this facility was a trusted and popular service locally. At the Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held in March 2021 the Chief Executive of the Royal Wolverhampton Trust (RWT) advised the had closed temporarily due to staffing resource being diverted for the Covid-19 pandemic response, with an indicative reopening date in June 2021. However, this had not yet happened and, locally, it was feared that this closure could become permanent. The matter had been raised at the Staffordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee, and SCC Councillor Johnny McMahon (who was also a District Councillor) had written to the RWT Chief Executive and a response was awaited.

(iii) Housing, Heritage & Leisure

The Portfolio Leader updated in respect of the following:

- **First Homes Programme**

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, came to the District on the afternoon of Friday 2 July to visit the First Homes scheme at Walkmill Lane and take part in a tree planting ceremony on site. This Council was one of the first in the country to be involved with the programme and he was delighted to see it progressing. The 10 homes allocated to the scheme would be available from September 2021.

- **Commonwealth Games 2022**

A meeting was held last week with Toyin Higgs, City Integration Manager for the Commonwealth Games 2022, and she was delighted with the Council's progress on the Mountain Biking event work so far.

- **New Cemetery**

The new Cannock Chase cemetery was now open, with burials and internments commencing from this week.

(iv) District Development

The Portfolio Leader updated in respect of the following:

- **Visit Cannock Chase Guide**

A new guide had been launched that would be a one-stop shop for letting people know what the District had to offer. It showcased what was available in the three town centres and surrounding areas, as well as including maps of the heritage trail and cycling routes.

(v) Deputy Leader and Neighbourhood Safety & Partnerships

The Deputy Leader updated in respect of the following:

- **Public Spaces Protection Orders (Alcohol Restriction Zones)**

The report on this matter had been due for consideration by Cabinet at today's meeting but the Portfolio Leader had asked for it to be deferred to ensure Cabinet

had the correct data available to consider whether the Orders were right for the District. The Police, along with the Council's Community Safety team, had been requested to attend the next Cabinet Briefing meeting to talk through the data available.

- **Partnership Working**

The Council's Levelling Up Fund bid had been raised with the Secretary of State when he visited the District last week. The value of partnership working was understood by this Administration, including with Staffordshire County Council, the Cannock Chase M.P. and Local Enterprise Partnerships. Work started in this area by the previous Administration would be now owned by this one, and it was hoped the funding bid would be successful in the short or medium term.

- **Retirement of Interim Managing Director**

The upcoming retirement of Bob Kean, the Interim Managing Director was raised at that day's Staffordshire Chief Executives and Leaders meeting. On behalf of the Cabinet, Mr. Kean was thanked for how he had supported the new Administration in bedding in, and they appreciated his wisdom and guidance through the process. The Leader of the Council echoed these comments, noting that the support provided had been invaluable.

(vi) Environment & Climate Change

The Portfolio Leader updated in respect of the following:

- **Rejected Recycling Loads**

Since the previous Cabinet meeting held on 10 June, no dry mixed recycling full loads had been rejected, which was positive news.

(vii) Innovation and High Streets

The Portfolio Leader updated in respect of the following:

- **Car Parking Payback – Pilot Initiative**

So far 56 businesses had signed up to the initiative, with more due to do so. It was intended to write to the Chairman of the relevant Scrutiny Committee to ask that the pilot be scrutinised as Cabinet were keen for this to be done. The Portfolio Leader had attended a Rugeley Town Council meeting the previous night at which a positive and constructive discussion had been held, and it was hoped to cement relationships with all the parish and town councils in the District.

16. Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2021 be approved.

17. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan of Decisions for the period July to September 2021 (Item 5.1 – 5.2) was considered:

Resolved

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period July to September 2021 be noted.

18. Enabling Digital / Paperless Meetings and Revised Start Times for Calendar of Meetings 2021-22

Consideration was given to the Report of the Interim Managing Director (Item 6.1 – 6.8).

Resolved:

That the following be recommended to Council at its meeting to be held on 8 September 2021:

- (A) All Members be provided with a Council laptop or tablet device during the current municipal year, and that in future, new equipment be provided upon election or re-election as a councillor.
- (B) Subject to recommendation (A) being agreed, Members will cease to be entitled to receive a communications allowance.
- (C) An assessment be made of the ongoing costs and practicalities of live streaming meetings and reported back to Members for further consideration.
- (D) The start times of Cabinet, Scrutiny Committees, Audit & Governance Committee and Standards Committee meetings, as detailed in the Calendar of Meetings 2021-22 approved by Council on 21 April 2021, be amended to 6:00p.m. with effect from the September / October cycle of meetings. Further, that the Chairs of these meetings be authorised, in consultation with the Joint Chief Executive, to start a meeting earlier where it is necessary to invite external representatives to attend the meeting.
- (E) The Chairmen, officers, and regular attendees at other Committees, such as Planning Control Committee and the Licensing & Public Protection Committee, be consulted on whether it is practicable to change the start times of these meetings.
- (F) The Joint Chief Executive, as appropriate, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, relevant Chairmen of Committees and / or Leader of the Council, as appropriate, be authorised to amend the Calendar of Meetings, through convening additional meetings, or the postponement / cancellation of meetings, if required.

Reasons for Recommendations

Digital / Paperless Meetings

Proposals were submitted as part of the budget setting process, and through the alternative budget submission, in respect of the provision of technology to support digital working. It was subsequently agreed as part of the budget for 2021-22 onwards that new and re-elected Members would be provided with a laptop or tablet device, together with appropriate training and would not receive the communications allowance. Existing Members would have the option to continue to receive the communications allowance if they so wished or they could opt to receive a new laptop or tablet device and surrender their communications allowance. This provided for a phased approach to providing Members with technology to support their role and digital meetings.

The Leader had expressed a preference for accelerating the rollout of new devices to all Members, whether it be a laptop or tablet device, in the current municipal year as part of a move towards paperless meetings.

Timings of Meetings

The Council moved the start time of its full Council meetings to 6.00p.m. with effect from February 2020. Members believe that this had improved accessibility for both Councillors and members of the public and wanted consideration to be given to moving the start times of other formal meetings, including Cabinet; Scrutiny Committees; Audit and Governance Committee; and Standards Committee similarly to 6.00p.m.

The Council was required by statute to determine the date and time of any meetings of its Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels. The Calendar of Meetings was agreed at the Council meeting on 21 April 2021; and Council would also be required to agree the proposed amended start times.

The previous resolution in respect of delegated authority to convene additional meetings, as well as postpone or cancel meetings as required, had been amended slightly to reflect the position regarding the subsequent appointment of a Joint Chief Executive.

19. Extension of Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control) 2018

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environment & Healthy Lifestyles (Item 7.1 – 7.23).

Resolved:

That:

- (A) A three-year extension to the existing Dog Control Order (attached as Appendix A to the report) be approved.
- (B) The Interim Head of Environment & Healthy Lifestyles be instructed to carry out a further consultation on the varied Order (attached as Appendix B to the report), and report back to Cabinet once this was completed.

Reasons for Decisions

Unless it was extended, the current Order would cease to have effect after midnight on 26 July 2021.

As a result of the initial consultation, the existing Order had been amended to include fenced multi-use games areas and fenced tennis courts. The list of play areas had also been updated. Although these changes were relatively minor, legislation required that any proposed variation to the existing Order must be consulted on. Therefore, Cabinet approval was sought for a further, 14-day, consultation on the varied Order.

20. Private Sector Housing – Mobile Home Site Licensing ‘Fit and Proper Person’ Implementation

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environment & Healthy Lifestyles (Item 8.1 – 8.24).

Resolved:

That:

- (A) The Fit and Proper Person Fees Policy, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be endorsed.

- (B) The Fit and Proper Person Determination Policy, as set out in Appendix B of the report, be adopted.
- (C) The Interim Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles be instructed to implement all arrangements necessary to receive and determine applications and to create the Fit & Proper Person public register.
- (D) The Interim Head of Environment & Healthy Lifestyles be authorised to review and make any amendments to these arrangements in the interests of operational efficiency and / or due to changes in legislation or government guidance.

Reasons for Decisions

Approval of the recommendations in the report would provide Officers with the necessary framework for administration of these new statutory requirements. Upon the recommendations being approved, Officers would contact all site owners in the District to advise on the process for making and determining application and for inclusion in the register.

21. 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 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Cannock Chase Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the
Cabinet

Held on Thursday 8 July 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

In the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Cannock

Part 2

22. Options for the Future Provision of the Council's Dry Mixed Recycling Service

Not for Publication Report of the Head of Environment & Healthy Lifestyles (Item 10.1 – 10.11) and Report Addendum (Item 10.12 – 10.14).

Resolved:

That:

- (A) The contents of the report and the addendum report be noted.
- (B) The latest proposal from Staffordshire County Council, dated 1 July 2021, based on a 50/50 split of the additional revenue requirement for the move to a new dual stream Dry Mixed Recycling collection and disposal service be accepted.
- (C) The removal of approximately 20 no. co-mingled dry recycling euro bins at the Council's Bring Sites across the District be approved, regardless of any service provision change, to assist the Council with improving the quality of its mixed dry recycling.

Reasons for Decisions

Cabinet was asked to agree the options proposed to determine the future provision of the Council's Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) service as set out in the report, in particular paragraphs 3.1 – 3.4.

Following the preparation of the initial report, the County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) approached the Council with an improved offer towards the additional cost of moving to a new dual stream DMR collection system and continuing to dispose of its dry mixed recycling material.

The County Council's offer was for 2 years only and consisted of 2 no. lump sum payments. Further support from year 3 onwards would need to be negotiated nearer to that time.

Acceptance of the offer would mean that the current indexation on the recycling credit would drop from 3% to 1% per annum, which equated to a loss for the Council in recycling credit revenue of approximately £11k per annum.

The decisions were made based on the Council's current revenue and capital resource allocation, the legal responsibility for the disposal of the Council's DMR, the WDA capital support offer, the risks associated in the continued disposal of the waste stream, the Councils support of the County Council's Materials Recycling Facility project, improving the quality of dry recycling, and best value.

The meeting closed at 4:45 p.m.

LEADER

Forward Plan of Decisions to be taken by the Cabinet: August to October 2021

For Cannock Chase Council, a key decision is as an Executive decision that is likely to:

- Result in the Council incurring expenditure or making savings at or above a threshold of 0.5% of the gross turnover of the Council.
- Affect communities living or working in two or more Council Wards.

Further information about key decisions and the Forward Plan can be found in Sections 10 and 28 of the Council's Constitution.

Representations in respect of any of matters detailed below should be sent in writing to the contact officer indicated alongside each item c/o Democratic Services, Cannock Chase Council, PO Box 28, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG or via email at membersservices@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

Copies of non-confidential items will be published on the Council's website 5 clear working days prior to the relevant meeting date.

Item	Contact Officer / Cabinet Member	Date of Cabinet	Key Decision	Confidential Item	Reasons for Confidentiality	Representation Received
Public Space Protection Orders (Alcohol Restriction Zones)	Head of Housing and Partnerships / Neighbourhood Safety & Partnerships Portfolio Leader	05/08/21	Yes	No		N/A
UK Afghan Locally Employed Interpreter Relocation Scheme	Head of Housing and Partnerships / Housing, Heritage & Leisure Portfolio Leader	05/08/21	No	No		N/A
Corporate Property Maintenance Plan 2021-24	Head of Economic Prosperity / Innovation and High Streets Portfolio Leader	05/08/21	Yes	Yes	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council).	
Review of Bridges and Boardwalks	Head of Economic Prosperity / Innovation and High Streets Portfolio Leader	05/08/21	No	Yes	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council).	
Statement of Common Ground between Cannock Chase DC and Solihull MBC	Head of Economic Prosperity / District Development Portfolio Leader	09/09/21	No	No		N/A
Cannock Town Centre Management Partnership Update	Head of Economic Prosperity / Innovation and High Streets Portfolio Leader	09/09/21	No	TBC		

Report of:	Head of Housing & Partnerships
Contact Officer:	Oliver Greatbatch
Contact Number:	01543 464477
Portfolio Leader:	Neighbourhood Safety & Partnerships
Key Decision:	Yes
Report Track:	Cabinet: 05/08/21

Cabinet
5 August 2021
Public Space Protection Orders (Alcohol Restriction Zones)

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Cannock Chase District, in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the proposals for the implementation of five PSPOs (Alcohol Restriction Zones) in the district, as set out in Appendix 1, for the full three-year period.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations

Key Issues

- 3.1 Anti-social behaviour (ASB) linked to street drinking in parks and town centres across the district has been an historic issue for the locality.
- 3.2 In October 2017 Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) in the Cannock Chase District were superseded by PSPOs [Alcohol Restriction Zones] via transitional provision under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The transitional PSPOs expired on 20 October 2020.
- 3.3 Prior to, and after PSPO expiration, a pilot scheme was implemented whereby other tools and powers were utilised in an attempt to prevent ASB; namely by targeting specific individuals by way of Community Protection Notices (CPNs). However, this was deemed as a less effective solution to the issue and a reintroduction of PSPOs has therefore been viewed as a preferred option.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.4 This proposal aims to reintroduce five PSPOs to reduce alcohol consumption in town centres and parks across the district where current and historic behaviours have led to ASB, crime and disorder. It will also help to protect vulnerable individuals. The PSPOs would cover areas (outside of licensed premises, as described in 5.4) in Cannock town centre & park, Hednesford town centre and park, Rugeley town centre, Fernwood area and Ravenhill park. Initial proposed maps, which mirror previous DPPOs/PSPOs, are set in appendix 1.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities as follows:

Improving community wellbeing, by;

- i) Sustaining safe and secure communities,
- ii) Promoting attractive and healthy environments,
- iii) Working with Staffordshire Police and other agencies to address crime and anti-social behaviour in the district,
- iv) Making safe, welcoming, and clean spaces for people to live and visit.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced several new tools and powers for use by councils and their partners to address anti-social behaviour in their local areas. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) are included within this Act and are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from the ASB and persistent issues that are damaging their communities. Councils can use PSPOs to prohibit specified activities within a defined public area so long as certain legal tests are met. Namely, if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities carried out or likely to be carried out, in a public space:

- have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality,
- is, or is likely to be, persistent and continuing in nature,
- is, or is likely to be unreasonable,
- justifies the restrictions imposed.

- 5.2 A working group was established with membership from Environmental Health, Community Safety and Staffordshire Police, with the aim of determining the above and following points:

- Review the incidence and nature of problem behaviour(s) in Cannock Chase District,

- Review the use/success of current/previous tools in reducing incidences of these behaviours.
- 5.2.1 After discussions, it was agreed that the presenting behaviours ensured all tests listed in 5.1 and 5.2 were met.
- 5.2.2 Street drinking is leading to unsatisfactory levels of ASB within the locality, which in turn is making areas of the district unsavoury to frequent. 22 CPNs had been issued in the preceding twelve months and there were daily reports from CCTV operators during certain periods of the year regarding ASB linked to street drinking, in addition to regular Community Safety Hub referrals. It is recognised that there is a hardcore group of street drinkers creating ASB and that a PSPO would provide a strong tool for dealing with the associated behaviours effectively. There is also increasing evidence as highlighted through the Community Safety Hub linking drinking in parks to Child Sexual Exploitation, County Lines, risk taking behaviour and wider criminality.
- 5.2.3 In relation to safe policing of the night-time economy, a PSPO would be preventative in nature as it would allow for the removal of alcohol from those drinking in the street and would encourage them to drink within the controlled environment of a licenced premises, thus preventing the possibility of ASB and violence outside of licensed premises.
- 5.2.4 It was determined that one of the main advantages of PSPOs over the pilot exercise of CPNs is the immediacy with which a situation can be dealt with and often deescalated. The issue can be dealt with at the time, reducing the risk of further or escalating issues. The CPN route has a lengthy Criminal Justice element in its issuing and although they can be an effective tool, they do not deal with the matter that the officer is immediately presented with. The PSPOs would allow for the dynamic dealing of street drinking during the daytime and the de-escalation of potential violence during the night time.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the PSPOs would provide police with powers to require any person to stop drinking and surrender alcohol if they are causing or likely to cause anti-social behaviour. The proposed PSPOs are not, therefore, a total ban on drinking alcohol and the powers do not intend to disrupt peaceful activities, for example, families having a picnic in a park with a glass of wine. However, it would be an offence to fail to comply with a request to cease drinking or surrender alcohol in a designated area and a fine of up to £1,000 can be imposed upon conviction in the Magistrates' Court.
- 5.4 The alcohol restrictions would not apply if within the curtilage of a licensed premises (i.e. a licensed bar, restaurant, shop, off license or marquee licensed with a Temporary Events Notice, as a one-off event).
- 5.5 The maximum duration of a PSPO is three years and at any point before expiry the Local Authority can extend or vary a PSPO by up to three years if they consider that it is necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or recurring or if there is a need to alter/remove an existing prohibition or requirement, or to introduce a new one. The validity of a PSPO may be challenged by way of application to the High Court within six weeks of the order being made. Only those

who are directly affected by the restrictions (i.e. persons who live in the restricted area or regularly work or live there) are able to challenge the PSPO.

- 5.6 If approved at Cabinet, Legal Services will draft an order and formal consultation must take place before a new PSPO is implemented. Legal Services recommended to have the proposals agreed by Cabinet first, and then have a draft order drawn before going to consultation. This consultation would go to all relevant bodies/organisations (e.g. County Council, Parish Councils, Police etc). and it will also need to be published on CCDCs website. This would be for a period of 4 – 6 weeks. If any objections are received, then they will need to be considered and the draft order amended if necessary.
- 5.7 Once the final order is made it needs to go on the website (permanently for the 3 year period it is in force). Also, appropriate signage will need erecting within the areas affected.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

Existing resources will be utilised. Partnership Officers and officers from Communications will assist with consultation and details of the proposed order. Staffordshire Police will be required to assist in the enforcement of the PSPOs. There will be some additional costs in terms of new signage and any advertising via local media.

6.2 Legal

Legal have been, and will continue to be, consulted with for advice on the wording and details of the proposed order.

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Risk Management

None

6.5 Equality & Diversity

None

6.6 Climate Change

None

7 Appendices to the Report

Appendix 1: Cannock Town Centre and Park

Appendix 2: Hednesford Town Centre and Park

Appendix 3: Rugeley Town Centre

Appendix 4: Rugeley – Fernwood Area

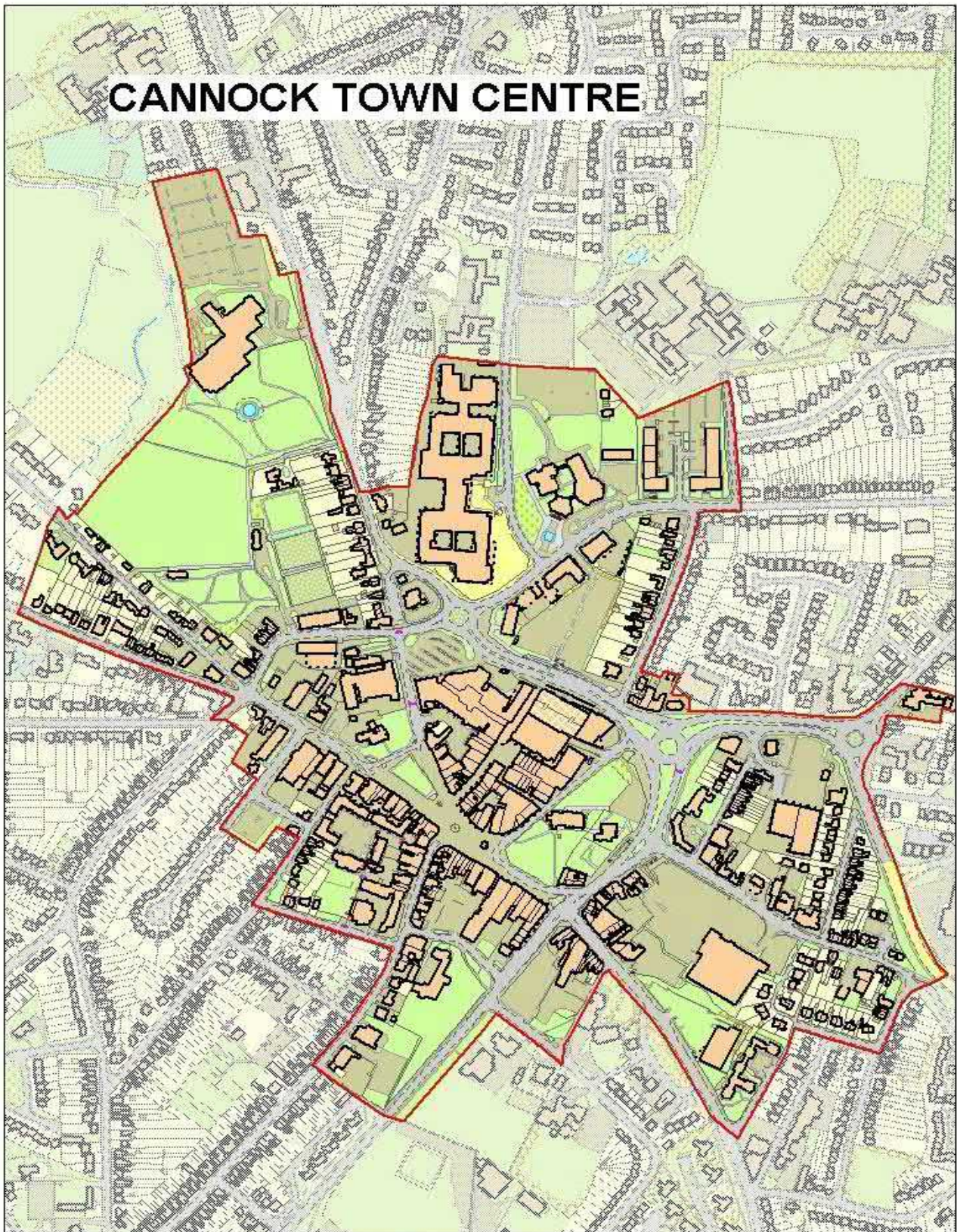
Appendix 5: Brereton – Ravenhill Park

Previous Consideration

None

Background Papers

None



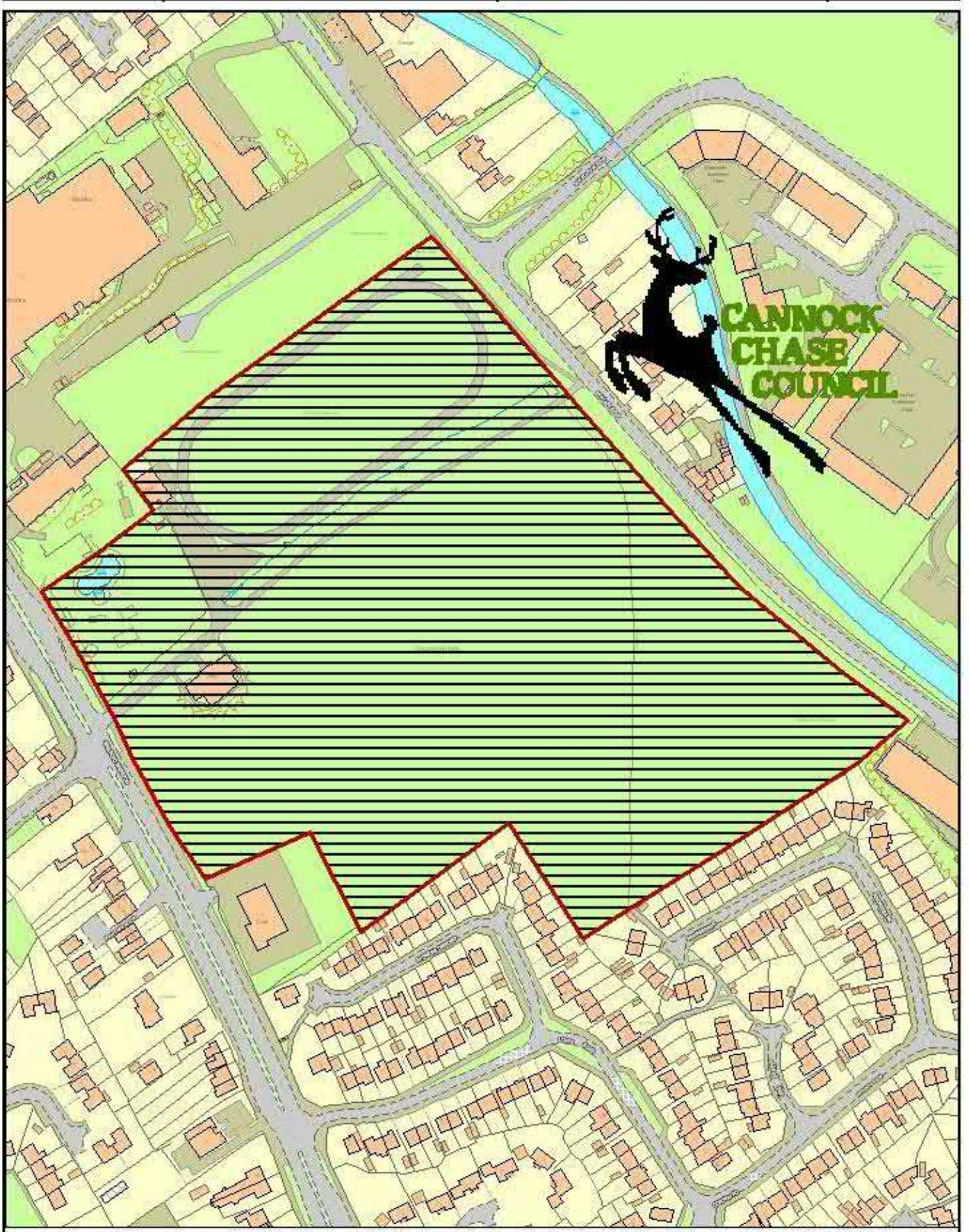
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Report of:	Head of Housing and Partnerships
Contact Officer:	Janet Baldasera
Contact Number:	01543 464317
Portfolio Leader:	Housing, Heritage & Leisure
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Cabinet 05/08/21

Cabinet
5 August 2021
UK Afghan Locally Employed Interpreter Relocation Scheme

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To confirm the Council's response to the Government's request for assistance with the acceleration of the UK Afghan Locally Employed Interpreter Relocation Scheme.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Cabinet note the progress made in respect of Staffordshire's response to the UK Afghan Locally Employed Interpreter Relocation Scheme.
- 2.2 That Cabinet confirm the participation in the UK Afghan Locally Employed Interpreter Relocation Scheme.
- 2.3 That Cabinet authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to:
- (i) undertake the rehousing of UK Afghan Locally Employed Interpreter households within Cannock Chase District Council through one of the housing options set out in 5.7.
 - (ii) determine the Council's future participation within the Staffordshire-wide UK Afghan Locally Employed Interpreter Relocation Scheme.

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations

Key Issues

- 3.1 The above scheme enables all interpreters who served for a year or more continuously on the frontline in Helmand from 1 May 2006 and were made

redundant the option to apply for relocation to the UK. In line with the plans for the withdrawal of UK troops from Afghanistan, there is a pressing need to accelerate the pace of relocations to the UK for families currently in Afghanistan who are eligible to participate. The Home Office are therefore seeking to relocate all those eligible as soon as possible.

- 3.2 The Home Office have reached out to all local authorities to seek their assistance and are seeking to relocate 1500 individuals by the end of June with a total of approx. 5000 before the final withdrawal of the troops later this year. Strategic Migration Partnerships have been asked to collate any offers of support from local authorities.
- 3.3 This is a funded programme. Integration support to families coming to the UK under the scheme is provided by local authorities through Home Office grant funding. The integration package includes providing accommodation and a package of advice and assistance covering employment, welfare benefits, access to health and education.
- 3.4 Due to the acceleration of the scheme it is understood the first flights were in June with regular flights throughout the summer months to the end of August / September to relocate up to 6,000 persons.
- 3.5 The Council took part in the similar, Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme. Two "Lessons Learned" reports were produced as a result of the scheme and whilst some of the features of the scheme differ the Project Teams will need to have regards to the recommendations within these reports where appropriate.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.6 Stoke and Staffordshire have now confirmed to the Home Office an offer of a joint programme, with commitments to participate in the scheme to a level of 15 interpreters or families in the first cohort, with a total of 25 overall across city and county. Whilst an initial offer to support one interpreter and their family has been made it is proposed that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to agree the Council's future participation in the scheme.
- 3.7 The key role of the Council will be to provide for the rehousing of family within their area. Options include rehousing within the within the Private Rented Sector or by Registered Housing Providers, other stock holding organisations or Council's housing stock. As further consideration will need to be given to rehousing options following receipt of details of the households to be rehoused it is recommended that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council are authorised to undertake the rehousing of within Cannock Chase District Council through one of the available housing options.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This report supports the Council's Corporate Priorities as follows:
 - (i) Health & Wellbeing – Supporting Vulnerable People

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The above scheme has been in place since 2013. It enables all interpreters who served for a year or more continuously on the frontline in Helmand from 1 May 2006 and were made redundant the option to apply for relocation to the UK, (those who were dismissed or resigned are not eligible). The scheme is run in recognition of their commitment and bravery shown supporting UK forces in dangerous and challenging situations, whilst the scheme will continue to remain open, in line with the plans for the withdrawal of UK troops from Afghanistan, there is a pressing need to accelerate the pace of relocations to the UK for families currently in Afghanistan who are eligible to participate. The Home Office are therefore seeking to relocate all those eligible as soon as possible. There are four areas in the UK that have participated in the scheme so far, one being Coventry in the region.
- 5.2 Given the need to significantly increase the pace and scale of the scheme, the Home Office have reached out to all local authorities to seek their assistance in supporting the scheme and offer up support to these families. They are seeking to relocate 1500 individuals by the end of June with a total of approx. 5000 before the final withdrawal of the troops later this year. Strategic Migration Partnerships have been asked to collate any offers of support from local authorities.
- 5.3 This is a funded programme. Integration support to families coming to the UK under the scheme is provided by local authorities through Home Office grant funding. The integration package includes providing accommodation and a package of advice and assistance covering employment, welfare benefits, access to health and education. Current funding rates are as follows:

Accommodation				
Set-up and void costs (lump-sum)	Per person rate for families	Per person rate for couples	Per person rate for singles	
	£1250	£1425	£2850	
Rent (up to 4 months)	£15 per person, per day			
1 night hotel accommodation (if needed, dependant on time of arrival)	£50 per person			
Baby pack comprising cot, high chair etc	£225 per any child under two years of age			
Integration				
To provide integration support (lump-sum)	Per person rate for families	Per person rate for couples	Per person rate for singles	
	£4500	£6000	£7500	
Cash support				
Weekly cash support rates (up to 4 months)	Single (under 25)	Single (25 or over)	Couples	Child (under 18)
	£58.90	£74.35	£117.10	£37.75

- 5.4 Due to the acceleration of the scheme it is understood the first flights were in June with regular flights throughout the summer months to the end of August/September to relocate up to 6,000 persons. The Home Office contacted Local Authorities in the West Midlands in late May with a request for offers of support by 28 May 2021.
- 5.5 As in previous relocation schemes such as the Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation Scheme Staffordshire have taken a county-wide partnership approach. As a result Staffordshire County Council initially confirmed to the Home Office they would like to make an expression of interest in participating in the programme to resettle the Afghan interpreters employed locally by the British Forces in Afghanistan as a county-wide partnership basis.
- 5.6 Stoke and Staffordshire have now confirmed to the Home Office an offer of a joint programme, with commitments to participate in the scheme to a level of 15 interpreters or families in the first cohort, with a total of 25 overall across city and county. Cannock Chase have made an initial offer to support one interpreter and their family. It is proposed that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to agree the Council's future participation in the scheme.

Next Steps

- 5.7 The key role of the Council will be to provide for the rehousing of family within their area. Options include rehousing within the Private Rented Sector or by Registered Housing Providers, other stock holding organisations or Council's housing stock. Further consideration will need to be given to rehousing options following receipt of details of the family to be rehoused. It is therefore recommended that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council are authorised to undertake the rehousing of within Cannock Chase District Council through one of the available housing options.
- 5.8 The Council took part in the similar, Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme. Two "Lessons Learned" reports were produced as a result of the scheme and whilst some of the features of the scheme differ the Project Teams will need to have regards to the recommendations within these reports where appropriate.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

As this is a funded scheme it is not envisaged that there will be any direct financial implications on the Council with any costs being met by funding income.

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Risk Management

Ensure that the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) – Lessons Learned reports are reviewed, relevant recommendations are identified and put into practice as necessary.

6.5 Equality & Diversity

None

6.6 Climate Change

None

7 Appendices to the Report

None.

Previous Consideration

None

Background Papers

None