

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 27 JUNE, 2005 AT 4.00 P.M.
CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Freeman, M.P. (Chairman)

Ball, G.D.	Mitchell, C.
Beddows, J.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Bennett, K.L.	Thomas, D.
Collis, C.	Toth, J.
Dixon, D.I.	Turville, R.C.
Hewitt, S.M.	Williams, A.
Jones, R.	

(Apologies for absence was received from Councillors I.R. Carr and R.G. Meaden).

1. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters

Member	Nature of Interest	Type
Beddows, J.	Member of Norton Canes Partnership	Personal
Dixon, D.I.	Council Tenant	Personal
Morgan, C.W.J.	Council Tenant	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Member of Staffordshire County Council	Personal
Toth, J.	Partner works in the Council's CCTV/Social Alarms section	Personal

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 27 April and 16 May, 2005 were approved as a correct record.

3. Young People Fundamental Review

The Chairman of the former Young People Fundamental Review Steering Group, Councillor K. Bennett, presented the Report of the Fundamental Review Steering Group (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.13 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Members welcomed the Report of the Steering Group. However, concern was expressed regarding the lack of involvement of County Council representatives and Members agreed that it was necessary for better partnership working within the County Council regarding young people issues.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the following recommendations of the Young People Fundamental Review Steering Group be supported by Scrutiny Committee for approval by Cabinet:-

It is recommended that the Council work with young people, through Voice, to develop a Young People's website – Cannock Chase Youth Gateway – hosted by the Council. The website needs to have a simple address, e.g. www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/youth and should provide links to advice sites, information on the Youth Council and other important issues such as employment opportunities and Connexions. The pages of the website are designed in an accessible, attractive and interesting way and should not just be a list of activities but should provide a means for the exchange of information.

- It is recommended that the Council launches the Cannock Chase Youth Gateway as a matter of urgency.
- It is recommended that sponsors are sought to assist in funding the development and maintenance of the website.
- It is recommended that after the website has been in operation for six months, Cabinet undertake a review of activities and organisations to determine whether there are any gaps in provision and how those gaps could be bridged. It is further recommended that mapping of these activities would provide useful information on the location and accessibility of activities of young people.
- It is recommended that the Council's communication strategy includes ways of communicating with young people and that the Council's Public Relations and Marketing section should develop a strategy to publicise the activities available to young people, including leaflets, the local press and promotional events and that the Heads of schools are contacted with regards to including information within school newsletters. Members recommend that the adoption of the standards set out in Hear by Right, to improve engagement with young people should be considered as part of the Council's communication strategy.
- Members also recommend that the website is promoted by placing posters in prominent places such as libraries and schools.

- It is recommended that the Council contact the local papers to determine whether a regular column can be set aside for young people to write about activities and other young people issues.
- It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee monitors the number of young people participating in activities.
- It is recommended that the Council identifies corporate 'Champions' (both Member and Officer) for the needs of children and young people and that a strategy for the provision of activities and facilities for young people is drawn up in partnership with other organisations.
- Finally, Members recommend that the Scrutiny Committee monitors the implementation of the recommendations contained within this report on a six-monthly basis.

(B) That the following additional recommendations be presented to Cabinet for approval:-

- That Staffordshire County Council be approached with regards to seeking a contribution towards the funding of the Young People's website.
- That further work be undertaken to look at transportation issues for young people accessing activities.
- That County Councillor Drinkwater be invited to attend a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to discuss young people issues.
- That progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations, once agreed by Cabinet, are brought to Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.

4. Fundamental Reviews 2005-06

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Performance Management (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Members raised concern regarding the issue proposed to be reviewed as it was considered that a review on "Services for Older People" would be very broad. The Head of Performance Management explained that the first meeting of the Fundamental Review Steering Group would establish the scope of the review.

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to establishing a Fundamental Review Steering Group of "Services for Older People" consisting of 5 Overview and Scrutiny Members in accordance with the political balance of the Council and that the Group Leaders advise the Chief Executive of their nominations.

5. Performance Monitoring – April, 2004 – March, 2005

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Performance Management (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.24 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Concern was expressed regarding the format of the Report. In particular Members considered that the wording relating to the percentage performance targets exceeded or missed by less than 10% to be confusing. It was explained that the wording would be reviewed for the next meeting.

Further concern was expressed regarding the performance figures for some departments. Members noted that a number of actual performance figures were not meeting the targets set.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the performance highlighted in the report be noted.
- (B) That the format of the Report be reviewed for the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.
- (C) That a report be submitted to the next Scrutiny Committee analysing each of the sickness codes by department.

CHAIRMAN