

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET

THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY, 2006 AT 4.30 P.M.

CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Stanley, N.K.	(Policy & Resources Leader)
Butler, R.D.	(External Partnerships Leader)
Ansell, Mrs. P.A.	(Access to Skills & Economic Development Leader)
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	(Health Leader)
Davies, D.N.	(Environment Leader)
Grocott, M.R.	(Culture & Sport Leader)
Williams, B.	(Social Inclusion & Housing Leader)

94. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January, 2006 be approved as a correct record.

95. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

Policy and Resources Leader

The Leader reported that he had agreed for additional information to be considered as part of Minutes 102 and 105 relating to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive "General Fund Revenue Budget 2006-07 to 2008-09". The information related to the payment of added years in respect of pension benefits as a result of savings made through redundancies.

Access to Skills and Economic Development Leader

The Access to Skills and Economic Development Leader reported on the recent "Choices" event held at the Chase Leisure Centre, the aim of which was to provide local high school children with careers advice.

Culture and Sport Leader

The Culture and Sport Leader reported on the recent 'Local Democracy Week' held for local high school children during the week commencing 6 February, 2006. The theme for

the week was the provision of children's play facilities within the District. The Leader indicated that the outcome of the consultation would be used when considering the provision of future play areas within the District.

96. Forward Plan

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of decisions for the period February – May 2006 (Enclosure 5.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

It was reported that with regard to item 1 on the Forward Plan, relating to "Hednesford-Rugeley Town Passenger Rail Service Agreement", the decision date would be March 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of decisions for the period February – May 2006, as amended, be approved.

97. Staffordshire Waste Management Strategy 2020 Vision – Appointment of Waste Strategy Management Team

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Public Health and Policy (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

(A) That the payment of £10,000 over the next two years as the Council's contribution to funding the appointment of a new Waste Management Strategy Team to deliver the Staffordshire Waste Management Board's 2020 Visions be approved.

(B) That £10,000 from the 2005/06 Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant be used to fund the contribution.

98. Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the West Midlands: Phase One: Black Country Study; Phase Two: Draft Project Plan: Consultation Responses

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.20 of the Official Minutes of the Council)

RESOLVED:

That the submission of comments in response to the Black Country Study and the RSS Revision Draft Project Plan be endorsed.

99. Housing Revenue Account Budget 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be noted and that Council be recommended

to approve the following options dependent upon the outcome of the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer Ballot:-

Housing Stock Transfer

- (a) Increase garage rents by 25p per week from 3 April, 2006
- (b) Approve the proposed HRA budget as set out in the report and summarised at Annex 2. The Annex sets out a budget for the period to 30 September, 2006.
- (c) Delegate to the Head of Financial Services authority to amend the budget pro-rata to cover the period to the actual date of transfer as necessary.

Housing Stock Retention

- (a) Increase garage rents by 25p per week from 3 April, 2006.
- (b) Determine a target for working balances of 5.0% (£682,370) to be held at 31 March, 2009.
- (c) Approve a reduction in the revenue contributions to capital programme of £112,000 per annum from 2006-07 onwards.
- (d) In all other respects, approve the HRA budget for 2006-07 and subsequent years as set out in the report and summarised at Annex 1.

100. **Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme 2006-07 and Future Years**

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the available HRA capital resources and the existing commitments against these sums be noted and that Council be recommended to approve the following options dependent upon the outcome of the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer Ballot:

Housing Stock Transfer

- (a) Approve the proposed HRA Capital Programme as set out in the report and summarised at Annex 4. The Annex sets out a budget for the period to 30 September, 2006.
- (b) Delegate to the Head of Financial Services the authority to amend the budget pro-rata to cover the period to the actual date of transfer as necessary.

Housing Stock Retention

- (a) Approve the proposed HRA Capital Programme as set out in the report and summarised at Annex 3, except as set out below.
- (b) That in the light of the investment deficit 2006-07 to 2012-13 and the uncertainty surrounding Regional Housing Board grant allocations, the PRC Dwellings

scheme for 2007-08 and 2008-09 be deferred.

(c) That the £2,425,000 investment deficit be met by:-

- Removing the shower option from the bathroom replacement programme so reducing the required budget by £1,725,000 over the period 2006-2013 and generating a saving of £400,000 for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09;
- Reducing the minor works budget contained within the Housing Revenue Account by £100,000 per annum from 2006-07 onwards.

101. General Fund Capital Programme 2005-06 and Resources 2006-07 to 2008-09

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the available general fund capital resources and the existing commitments against these sums be noted and that Council be recommended to approve the following:

- (a) That recommendations 2.1 to 2.6, Enclosure 8.1 of the report, be approved.
- (b) That new starts be added to the 2006-07 programme as follows:-
 - (i) Ravenhill Park Tennis Courts (£41,000) to be funded by S106 contributions (£25,000) and Revenue Contributions to Capital (£16,000).
 - (ii) Refurbishment of Cannock Park Tennis Courts (£65,000), to be funded by Revenue Contributions to Capital.
- (c) That a report be submitted on the provision of Affordable Housing in the private sector, in particular the provision of Disabled Facility, Renovation and Home Security Grants from 2008-09 onwards, following receipt of Capital Grant allocations.
- (d) That Council note that a significant receipt would be generated by the sale of the land currently used for Cannock Stadium, which would be available for developments on the Cannock Park and Chase Leisure Centre site.

102. General Fund Revenue Budget 2006-07 to 2008-09 and General Fund Revenue Budget 2006-07 Reserves and Balances

Consideration was given to reports of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 13.1 – 13.10 and Enclosure 9.1 – 9.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to:

- (a) Support the recommendation on reserves and balances at enclosure 9.1 to 9.3.

- (b) Set a 2006-07 Council Tax for District Council purposes of £171.71 (Band D property), an increase of 2.75% over the current year.
- (c) Support the proposals for service development set out at Annex 1 attached.
- (d) Support the proposals for savings set out at Annex 2 attached.
- (e) Support the use of Section 106 funds for economic development purposes as set out at Annex 3 attached.
- (f) Support the use of Planning Delivery Grant as set out at Annex 4 attached.
- (g) That subject to the outcome of the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer Ballot, the Council approve the following alternative proposals:

Housing Stock Transfer

- (i) Approve a minimum level of working balances for the budget of 6.0% of net operating expenditure.
- (ii) Approve indicative Council Tax increases of 2.75% in 2007-08 and 2.75% in 2008-09.
- (iii) As a result of the above, approve the three year budget set out at Annex 5.

Housing Stock Retention

- (i) Approve a minimum level of working balances for the budget of 5.5% of net operating expenditure.
- (ii) Approve indicative Council Tax increases of 4.6% in 2007-08 and 4.6% in 2008-09.
- (iii) As a result of the above, approve the three year budget set out at Annex 6.

103. Treasury Management

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.14 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Council be recommended to approve the control framework set out at paragraph 2.1, Enclosure 10.1, of the report.

104. Exclusion of 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 1, Part I, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act, 1972.

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PART 2

105. General Fund Revenue Budget 2006-07 to 2008-09

Further to Minute 102 above, consideration was given to the Not for Publication notes of the meeting of Members of the Scrutiny Committee held on 18 January, 2006 (Enclosure 15.1 – 15.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

With the agreement of the Leader, consideration was also given to additional Not for Publication information, which was circulated at the meeting, seeking Cabinet's approval for the payment of added years in respect of pension benefits as a result of savings made through redundancies.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the notes of the meeting of Members of the Scrutiny Committee held on 18 January, 2006 be noted.
- (B) That the payment of added years in respect of pension benefits as set out in Appendix A of the additional information, be approved.

LEADER