

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 4.00PM**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)  
Pearce, Mrs. L.J. (Vice-Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.            Carr, I.R.  
Beddows, J.             Mitchell, C.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Burnett and N.K. Stanley)

**14. Minutes**

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September, 2008 be approved as a correct record.

**15. Play Presentation**

The Leisure Strategy Manager, provided Members with a presentation explaining that the Big Lottery Fund had awarded Cannock Chase Council £219,949 to be spent on play over the next 3 years. He explained that the play portfolio for Cannock was made up of three projects and these would be promoted as "Chase It Play". In order to deliver the play programme four Play Rangers had been appointed along with a Senior Play Development Officer. During the summer holidays the play programme had visited 9 local parks and 500 children had taken part in the activities on offer.

He advised that the future work for the play team included working with every Primary School in the District during term time to deliver "lunch time play". Junior Play Rangers would be established at each school along with "Play & Stay" after school clubs. It was proposed to continue visiting Council parks during the school holidays to deliver the play programmes.

He stated that each year Play England nominated a day to celebrate play and it was proposed to establish a celebration of play in Cannock park on either 1 or 2 August 2009.

The Chairman and Members of the Committee congratulated the Leisure Strategy Manager and the play team on the delivery of the play programme which they considered would help in providing children with exercise through play and assist in addressing childhood obesity.

**16. Parks Development Half Year Review 2008/09**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Organisational Improvement (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The report provided Members with an update on the progress in respect of the delivery of the Parks Development Projects. These updates were outlined within Section 2 of the report.

Members were advised that a further update would be submitted to the Committee on 4 February 2009.

AGREED:

That progress on the Parks Development Projects as at 30 September 2008 as outlined within the report be noted.

**17. Draft External Funding Strategy**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Organisational Improvement (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Director of Organisational Improvement advised that Members comments on the draft External Funding Strategy were being sought as part of the formal stages of the consultation process. It was proposed that, following the period of consultation, the Strategy would be submitted to Cabinet in January 2009.

The Committee was advised that the aim of the External Funding Strategy was to maximise future external funding opportunities linked to corporate priorities and objectives for the Council, its partners and the community. The External Funding Strategy would:

- Ensure that external funding activity and bidding would be focused on supporting the CHASE objectives and those of the Chase Community Partnership in meeting local aims and aspirations;
- Enable external funding activity to be focused and supported, and to enable officers to determine and commit appropriately allocated resources;
- Ensure that existing and appropriate officer expertise and experience are acknowledged, fully utilised and shared;
- Support risk management by providing the framework for development and submission of bids and development of guidance in the preparation of applications for external funding – processes, risk management, exit strategies, succession planning etc;
- Support Performance Management.

The Committee noted that the strategic objectives of the Council would be used as a guide

for bidding for external funding. These objectives were expressed via the acronym "CHASE" and the current four priority themes, upon which the Council would be concentrating its resources, were the improvement and enhancement of:

- Town Centres (Development of Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley)
- Leisure Provision (The Council's Leisure Strategy)
- The Environment (Clean, Green and Safe)
- Housing (Affordable Housing/housing supply)

A more detailed description of the process would be available in the "Toolkit" which would be developed to support the final Strategy. The Director of Organisational Improvement then outlined the draft Action Plan as detailed in paragraph 3.5 of Annex 1 of the report.

Members considered that as there was no dedicated bidding team this may result in duplication of work. There would therefore be a need to ensure that only one officer was working on a particular bid. The Director of Organisational Improvement stated that this issue would be incorporated within the "Toolkit". It was also proposed that the Directors Management Team or Cabinet would assess all major bids and approve their submission.

Members noted the importance of exit strategies in order to ensure that the relevant Human Resource implications were taken into account when the funding for a specific bid was coming to an end. As funding bodies would not accept the costs of redundancy all bids would need to take into account any associated costs that may arise at the end of the funding period.

AGREED:

- (A) That Members comments upon the draft document be noted.
- (B) That the requirement, definition, scope and actions to realise the External Funding Strategy be agreed.
- (C) That the Chairman of the Children and Young People Policy Development Committee circulate the Strategy to all other Policy Development Committee Chairman for consultation and comments, to inform the final Strategy and action planning.

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CHAIRMAN