

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY 8 APRIL 2008 AT 4.00PM**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, Mrs. D.J. (Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.	Jones, R.
Beddows, J.	Mitchell, C.
Easton, Mrs. D.M.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Easton, R.	

By Invitation: Councillor M.R. Grocott (Children and Young People Leader)

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.W.J. Morgan and Mrs. L.J. Pearce)

**23. Declarations of Interests of Members and Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members**

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Jones, R.	Children's Trust Board Overview - Member works for Wolverhampton and Solihull Colleges	Personal

**24. Minutes**

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2008 be approved as a correct record.

With regard to Minute No. 21 relating to 'Cannock Park Replacement Fencing', confirmation was sought as to whether Friends of Cannock Park had been consulted regarding the design for the new gates. It was explained that this matter would be dealt with following the meeting.

**25. Children's Trust Board – Overview**

Tony McGovern, Director of Organisational Improvement and Nicky Elmore, Quality Team Manager provided an overview of the Children's Trust. Members were advised that

Children's Trusts were a response from the inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. The Trust brought together all services for children and young people in the County to focus on improving outcomes for children and young people so that every child could achieve the following five outcomes:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

Members noted that the Staffordshire Board was a multi-agency partnership which was established in April 2005. The Staffordshire Children's Trust arrangements were then outlined for Members information.

It was explained that the Cannock Chase District Children's Trust Board was established in January 2007 and comprised of twenty partners representing key services within the County and District and met every six weeks.

The following achievements of the Cannock Chase Trust Board 2007 were then outlined:

- Local Delivery Plan produced 2007-08, identifying priorities for the District
- Establishment of Teenage Pregnancy Group – District Member Champion
- Information Sharing Role – update of key information on needs of the District
- Acted as focal point for Community Learning Partnerships
- Appointment of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Part Time Co-ordinator
- Increased uptake of CAF District training and achieved County CAF targets
- Established some consultation and feedback through Youth Service on Plan from Young People
- "Big Bruvver" consultation scheme undertaken in Cannock

Members were further advised that it was proposed to review and refresh the local delivery plan and establish a Shadow Trust Board. A Children and Young People Conference was also proposed. Members noted that the District had been allocated £79,700 for the Children's Fund for the next two years. Obesity and the transition from primary to secondary education had been highlighted as the core priorities around which to commission services. Key leads from all organisations would be identified in order to drive forward the training and use of CAF. Sub groups would also be established and supported in order to meet the priorities and add value.

Following the presentation Members were offered the opportunity of asking any questions.

## **26. Draft Children, Young Persons and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Director of Organisational Improvement explained that the Select Committee was being consulted on the draft Children, Young Persons and Vulnerable Adults Protection

Policy in order that any comments could be incorporated into the Policy.

Arising from consideration of the report a discussion took place regarding the requirements for Officers and Members to undertake CRB disclosure checks. Anne Bird, Human Resources Manager advised that the responsibility for Members regarding CRB checks was outlined on pages 8/9 of the draft Policy. Members noted that existing employees who had been CRB checked were required to undertake a further check on a periodic basis.

The importance for employees to be aware of the signs of potential neglect and abuse in children was discussed. The Human Resources Manager advised that the Policy contained guidance for reporting any suspicions of abuse or neglect in children to the appropriate organisations or agencies.

The Human Resources Manager also explained that the new “vetting and barring scheme” required individuals to register themselves before taking a position working with children. There would be a register of individuals who were deemed fit to work with children and this would assist employers.

Members were advised to contact the Human Resources Manager should they have any comments they wished to be included within the Policy.

AGREED:

That the draft Children, Young Persons and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy be noted and Members advise the Human Resources Manager of any comments they wished to be included within the Policy.

## **27. Springvale Primary School Update**

The Director of Organisational Improvement reported that Staffordshire County Council had been contacted to ascertain the proposals for this site. The long term proposal was to dispose of the site for redevelopment, subject to planning permission, and reinvest the money into schools. However, under Section 77 of the Schools Act the land was required to remain unused for ten years and could not be used for any other purpose.

A Member sought confirmation as to whether it was just the land or the land and the building that were to be required to remain vacant for ten years as she considered that the old school building could be a potential site for the proposed new Health Centre. The Director of Organisational Improvement stated that he was of the opinion that it was the land that had to remain vacant for ten years and the building could be used for an alternative purpose. However, he would request further information in respect of Section 77 of the Schools Act and report back at the next meeting of the Select Committee.

AGREED:

That a report outlining the legislation regarding Section 77 of the Schools Act be submitted to the next meeting of the Select Committee.

**28. Stadium Disposal Update**

The Director of Organisational Improvement reported that since the last meeting of the Select Committee planning permission had been granted in respect of the Stadium site. However, given that part of the application site was within the green space network the application had been submitted to the Government Office to determine whether to call it in for a local inquiry. A decision in respect of this was still awaited. He further advised that the sale process had commenced with marketing packs being issued to the 14 developers who had expressed an interest in the Stadium land. It was anticipated that the first stage of the process would be completed in May with the return of bids. It was also explained that work was progressing in relation to the requirements of the Section 106 Agreement as part of the planning consent.

Members sought clarification regarding the deadline for Government Office to determine whether to call the application in for a local inquiry. The Director of Organisational Improvement explained that Government Office had advised that the 21 day deadline had been extended and he confirmed that Government Office could ask for further extensions.

With regard to the replacement facilities at Blake Valley Technology College Members asked whether a traffic impact assessment had been undertaken in respect of the new access on Stanley Road. The Director of Organisational Improvement advised that he would seek clarification regarding this matter and inform Members accordingly.

AGREED:

That, with regard to the replacement facilities at Blake Valley Technology College, Members of the Select Committee be advised whether a traffic impact assessment had been undertaken in respect of the new access on Stanley Road.

**29. Location of Athletics Track Update**

The Director of Organisational Improvement advised that the report considered by Cabinet on 20 March 2008 had been circulated with the agenda for Members information. The report provided an update on the state of progress with the preferred location for the replacement athletics track at Blake Valley Technology College. He reported that Cabinet had been asked to note a number of issues including the agreed design layout (Option B2) and the financial implications of Option B2, the Heads of Terms document, the costs and locations of compensatory playing pitch provision and the interim arrangements for the Cannock and Stafford Athletics Club and the football teams.

He further advised that Cabinet had agreed that officers be granted delegated authority to proceed with the procurement processes for the replacement athletics track and other sporting facilities at Blake Valley Technology College and that a further report be submitted to Council to recommend whether the locations identified for compensatory sports provision should be approved or whether alternative location(s) should be pursued instead.

Members asked whether the school and community use operational times were flexible. The Director of Organisational Development advised that the operational times had been agreed and these were set out in Schedule 1 (Enclosure 10.25) of the Cabinet report.

There was no provision to allow public use during school hours and term times. However, outside of school term times the District Council would have community use between the hours of 9am to 9.30pm.

The Director was also asked whether Blake Valley Technology College would be expected to pay any electricity/utilities bills for school use of the proposed facilities as Blake Valley Technology College and Staffordshire County Council were of the opinion that the development would have no cost implications for them. Confirmation was also sought as to whether appropriate budgetary arrangements had been put in place to account for this.

The Director of Organisational Improvement advised that this matter would be covered in the Heads of Terms agreement. He was of the opinion that the District Council would be responsible for the majority of these costs as utilities would be minimal during daytime use. The larger costs would be in the evenings with the use of floodlights and showers. He indicated that budgets may need to be adjusted accordingly when Council considered the location for compensatory sports provision, although he would seek clarification as to whether the District Council would be paying 100% of the costs of utilities and whether appropriate budgetary arrangements were in place to account for this. Members would be advised accordingly.

Members expressed concern that the sale of the Stadium may take place prior to agreement on the location of replacement facilities. The Director of Organisational Improvement advised that the two were linked as the location of replacement facilities could only proceed if the Stadium land was sold.

AGREED:

That Members of the Select Committee be advised whether the District Council would be paying 100% of the costs of utilities and whether appropriate budgetary arrangements were in place to account for this.

**30. Oxford Green Update**

The Director of Organisational Improvement reported that since the last meeting of the Select Committee he had undertaken a visit of the area. The issue of fly tipping of electrical equipment had been noted and addressed. A meeting had been convened between Rumer Hill residents, Groundwork Trust, Councillor C.W.J. Morgan and Cannock Chase Council Officers to discuss the proposed scheme. It was noted that further work would be necessary to secure agreement of a proper lease with Staffordshire County Council who was landowner. Additional funding bids would need to be made and the planning issues would need to be addressed.

He confirmed that a further meeting had been arranged for 16 May 2008 to discuss the arrangements for public consultation on the proposed scheme. Councillor C.W.J. Morgan would be involved in these discussions.

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CHAIRMAN