

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET

HELD ON THURSDAY, 22 AUGUST, 2013 AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Adamson, G.	Leader of the Council
Holder, M.J.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Crime and Partnerships Portfolio Leader
Lovell, A.	Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader
Alcott, G.	Economic Development and Planning Portfolio Leader
Bennett, C.	Environment Portfolio Leader
Allen, F.W.C.	Housing Portfolio Leader
Todd, Mrs. D.M.	Town Centre Regeneration Portfolio Leader

39. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. C. Mitchell, Culture and Sport Portfolio Leader; and Mrs. M.A. Davis, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader.

Apologies were also received from Mr S. Brown, Chief Executive; Mr T. McGovern, Corporate Director; and Mr S. Partridge, Democratic Services Manager

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

No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

41. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

Economic Development and Planning

Business Development Programme (BDP) – The Portfolio Leader advised that the Council had so far submitted 6 grant applications to the BDP, with each application being approved. He further advised that to date, grant funding of £88,937 had been awarded to businesses within the District, with a total project value of £213,575, which had helped to create and safeguard 21 jobs.

HS2 Consultation Meeting – The Portfolio Leader reported that the Local

Government Association had issued a notice about a meeting regarding the proposed HS2 route, which would be taking place on 16 September, 2013 at 2pm in the Staffordshire County Council Offices. He further reported that any member of a partner authority could attend, so recommended that the notice be circulated to all Councillors.

Walsall to Rugeley Trent-Valley Railway Electrification – The Portfolio Leader advised that Network Rail were consulting on the proposed electrification of the route, with public meetings scheduled to take place on 2nd October at the Cannock District Council Offices, and 3rd October at Rugeley Leisure Centre.

District Bus Services – The Portfolio Leader advised that the County Council would be consulting with the District Council in September regarding future provision of bus services in the District.

Environment

Travellers in Brereton – The Portfolio Leader advised that a court order had been issued at 2:30pm on 21 August, 2013 to remove a group of travellers who had illegally set up a camp in Brereton. Since the order had been issued the group had dispersed, however it would take up three days to clear the site of rubbish.

There was also concern that Council workmen who had entered the site prior to the travellers leaving had been subjected to abuse. The Portfolio Leader then advised he had spoken with the Council's Legal department to ascertain the locations of Council owned travellers sites within the District, and how much the clean-up operation would cost for the site in Brereton.

Housing

Windows Replacement Programme – The Portfolio Leader advised that a seven year window replacement programme agreed by Cabinet in June 2013, which would see double glazing installed in all 4,979 Council dwellings had commenced in July, and 132 properties in Norton Canes had already had double glazing installed, with work continuing throughout the remainder of the financial year with 4 properties being completed each day.

The work was being undertaken by Proframe, who were installing the double glazing into the existing window frame. Window handles and beading were also renewed, whilst seals and hinges were being replaced where necessary. The existing window frame was then cleaned.

The Portfolio Leader reported he had visited a number of properties where the work has been completed and was impressed by the standard to which it had been undertaken.

Tenants had also been complimentary about the standard of workmanship and the “customer care” contact with Proframe.

42. Minutes of Cabinet Meeting of 25 July, 2013

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed.

43. Forward Plan

The Forward Plan of Decisions for the period August – October, 2013 (Item 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council), was considered.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period August - October, 2013, be noted.

44. Recommendations and References for Determination and Minutes of Policy Development and Other Committees

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the following Policy Development Committees be received for information:

- (i) Culture and Sport – 25 March, 2013
- (ii) Economic Development and Planning – 28 March, 2013
- (iii) Health and Wellbeing – 20 March, 2013
- (iv) Housing – 19 March, 2013

45. Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership – Supervisory Board

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration (Item 7.1 – 7.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

A revised Appendix 1 and a supplementary Appendix 2 to the report were tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The creation of a Joint Committee, to be known as the Supervisory Board, with the local authorities who are members of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) with the Terms of Reference as set out in the revised Appendix 1 of the

Report, be agreed.

- (B) Any necessary Executive Functions are delegated to the Joint Committee to give the Committee effectiveness.
- (C) The Council's Solicitor and Monitoring Officer be authorised to agree and enter into all necessary legal agreements to give effect to the above decisions.
- (D) The Council's representatives on the Supervisory Board be authorised to vote on behalf of the Cabinet on any matters relating to Executive Functions.
- (E) Council be recommended to agree to pass resolutions in the same form as (A) – (D) above in respect of Council Functions, and to appoint its nominees to sit on the Supervisory Board.
- (F) The need for a Joint Scrutiny Committee be noted, and that the Council be recommended to approve the Terms of Reference for the Joint Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix 2 of the Report.
- (G) The Council's Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to agree amendments to Appendices 1 and 2 prior to the meeting of Council taking place on 25 September 2013.

Reasons for the Decisions

Work had been undertaken over the past few months to develop proposals for a Supervisory Board of local authority Leaders as part of the structure of the GBSLEP. The purpose of the Supervisory Board is to provide democratic accountability for the spending decisions of the LEP in readiness for the Single Local Growth Fund that will be managed by the LEPs. Various options were discussed by LEP Leaders in June. A draft Constitution was agreed at the GBSLEP Board meeting on 26 June.

The proposal was to establish the Supervisory Board as a Joint Committee with each Council delegating functions up to it.

Terms of Reference had been produced which were attached at Appendix 1 to the report. Detailed Scrutiny arrangements were to be developed.

It was intended that the Supervisory Board should be in operation by the end of September 2013.

The new Supervisory Board would operate on a 'one Leader, one vote' principle, and was intended to meet immediately following a GBSLEP Board. It was recommended that Cabinet recommends participation in the Supervisory Board to Council. This would require giving delegated decision making power to the Council's nominee on the Supervisory Board.

The GBSLEP had determined it was necessary to appoint a Joint Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the work of the Supervisory Board, and as such it was necessary for the Council to appoint a representative to that Committee, subject to the Terms of Reference being agreed.

The GBSLEP could determine to further amend the Terms of Reference for the Supervisory Board and Scrutiny Committee, and as such this authorisation would allow for any such changes to be presented directly to Council.

46. Police and Crime Commissioner's Plan – Proposed Draft Response

Consideration was given to the Report of Policy (Item 8.1 – 8.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That:

- (A) The proposed draft response be noted, and a final version be agreed to be forwarded to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.
- (B) Under Part 4, Section 43, Rule 12.7 of the Council's Constitution, decision (A) be considered urgent, and as such, exempt from the provisions of the call-in procedure.

Reasons for the Decisions

The Police and Crime Commissioner had published 'Safer, Fairer, United Communities 2013-18, the draft PCC Plan for Staffordshire. This Plan was a key document in respect of how the PCC intends to work with partners in delivering Community Safety work across Staffordshire. The Council was the lead organisation in respect of the District's Partnership working and a local Community Safety Delivery Plan was being implemented by the Council and its partners. It was, therefore, important to ensure that the Police and Crime Commissioner's Plan complements the work already established within the District and that the Plan ensured scope for local flexibility and delivery of services.

The draft response identified the need for the Plan to include more detail in respect of how the PCC intended to work with District Partnerships.

The consultation on the PCC's Plan was due to close on 31 August, 2013, therefore it was necessary for the decision to be exempt from the call-in procedure to allow for the Cabinet's response to be submitted to the PCC by the closing deadline.

47. 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).

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PART 2

48. SRB Funding Agreement – Release on Restrictions of Use

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Head of Housing and Waste Management and Head of Policy (Item 10.1 – 10.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That subject to its purchase by Staffordshire Women's Aid, the Council waive its requirement to comply with the covenants contained in paragraphs 5.3 and 5.5 of an SRB Funding Agreement dated 24 November 1997, relating to the women's refuge in Cannock.

Reasons for the Decision

The change in the specification for the County Council's Supporting People Contract for Domestic Abuse support to women had had implications regarding the financial viability of providing refuge accommodation. This was particularly significant where different organisations hold the Supporting People Contract and own/manage the refuge accommodation.

This situation existed in relation to the women's refuge in Cannock. The Supporting People Contract had since 1 April 2013 been held by Staffordshire Women's Aid, whilst the refuge is owned and managed by Adullam Homes.

In order to secure the long-term provision of refuge accommodation in the District, Staffordshire Women's Aid wished to purchase the refuge flats from Adullam Homes. However, in view of the financial risks, their proposed mortgage lender required the Council to waive the requirement to comply with certain covenants which were placed on the refuge as part of the former SRB Funding Agreement

It was considered that the purchase of the refuge by Staffordshire Women's Aid would secure its current use and that subject to the proposed purchase proceeding that the Council should agree to waive its requirement to comply with certain covenants as detailed in the report.

The meeting closed at 4:20 p.m.

LEADER