

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**CABINET**  
**THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2009 AT 4.30 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Stanley, N.K.	Leader of the Council and Children & Young People Leader
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Housing Leader
Davies, D.N.	Town Centres Development Leader
Freeman, M. P.	Deputy Leader of the Council and Healthier Communities and Older People Leader.
Grocott, M.R.	Access to Skills, Economic Development & Enterprise Leader
Jillings, J.	Safer & Stronger Communities Leader
Williams, A.	Environment Leader

**164. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2009 be approved as a correct record.

**165. Updates from Portfolio Leaders**

Safer and Stronger Communities Leader

Councillor J. Jillings reported that with respect to the Gating Orders the gates were to be installed on 18 May 2009.

A consultation process was taking place with respect to how Cannock Park should be secured with Street Wardens distributing leaflets to residents. A press release was to be published in order to widen the consultation process requesting that residents write to the Council by 29 May 2009 on this issue. The Police view was that the Park should not be closed. Of the feedback received to date two-thirds of those who had responded would wish the Park to be closed and one-third would like it to remain open. The various proposals with respect to securing the Park and funding issues would be explored with the views of the Police also being considered.

Following the outcome of the investigation a meeting of the Trustees of Cannock Public Recreation and Pleasure Ground Charity would be arranged to consider this matter.

### Access to Skills, Economic Development & Enterprise Leader

Councillor M. R. Grocott, reported that the Access to Skills, Economic Development and Enterprise Policy Development Committee had considered a briefing note updating them on the impact of the recession at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May. The Committee agreed that Cabinet at its meeting in June should be requested to consider their recommendations.

However the Committee considered that time should not be lost in responding to the recession and requested that the Portfolio Leader bring the following recommendations to Cabinet's attention:-

1. That the Council should act quickly in providing advice and guidance to residents and businesses.
2. This guidance should emphasise the availability of rate relief to small businesses and make it clear that this relief is available to businesses serving the social and community needs of the District as well as traditional businesses.
3. That the LSP should be asked to play a leading role quickly given the breadth of services delivered by its partners.

The Chief Executive explained that the LAA delivery plans had been refreshed due to the recession which would be presented to the Local Strategic Partnership Board (LSP) for sign off. Advice on who to contact would be made available in Chase Matters and on the Council's website. The issue would be included as a standing item on the agendas of the Executive Advisory Board and the LSP. An amount of £10,000 had been agreed by the Executive Advisory Board at its meeting held on 12 May 2009 to be made available for the purposes of the special publication referred to and further funding initiatives would be investigated.

It was explained that a report on the issues raised would be presented to Cabinet for their consideration at their meeting in June 2009. However, Officers would be taking immediate steps to address the matters raised. It was reported that the Local Taxation and Benefits Manager would shortly be contacting those eligible to claim small business rate relief who had not applied.

### Environment Leader

Councillor A. Williams reported that of 2,100 persons previously in receipt of tokens and eligible for the 'Dial a Ride' scheme by virtue of disability, 562 had opted to join and 742 had chosen to have a English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) bus pass. A small number who by virtue of their age had been entitled to tokens had had their status changed to disabled and had joined the Dial a Ride scheme taking the number up to approximately 620.

From information received from Shire Travel a total of 142 journeys had been recorded during the initial four weeks of operation. Some complaints had been received mainly relating to the service not offering the same as taxis and that literature was not readily available concerning who to contact. It was reported that the scheme would be monitored and reviewed in due course.

Councillor A. Williams reported that he had been informed that the investigation into the problems concerning the Mid Staffs Hospital Trust was not to be held in public. He considered that the Chief Executive should write to the Health Secretary demanding that a Public Inquiry be held.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Executive write to the Health Secretary demanding that a Public Inquiry be held into the problems relating to the Mid Staffs Hospital Trust.

**166. Forward Plan**

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period May - August 2009 (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

It was reported that the Local Development Framework – Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan – Preferred Options was to be considered at today's meeting rather than as noted as being included for April 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Plan of Decisions for the period May – August 2009, as amended, be approved.

**167. Part 1 Minutes of Policy Development Committees**

RESOLVED:

That the Part 1 Minutes of the following Policy Development Committees be received for information:

- (i) Environment Policy Development Committee – 9 March 2009.
- (ii) Healthier Communities & Older People Policy Development Committee – 26 March 2009.
- (iii) Safer & Stronger Communities Policy Development Committee – 31 March 2009.

**168. Cannock Chase Local Development Framework, Main Road, Brereton – Conservation Area Appraisal**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 7.1 – 7.15 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the proposed amendments to the draft Appraisal for Main Road, Brereton Conservation Area contained in Annex 2 be approved and that authority for any further minor amendment be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Environment Portfolio Holder.
- (B) That the Appraisal for Main Road, Brereton Conservation Area, as amended, be adopted.

Reason for the Decisions

The Appraisal for Main Road, Brereton Conservation Area is the first stage in formulating and publishing proposals for the preservation or enhancement of the Area in accordance with the

requirements of Section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area) Act 1990. Once adopted, it will form the basis for preparation of a Management Plan to guide the future development of the Area.

**169. Cannock Chase Local Development Framework – Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan Preferred Options – Development Plan Document**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.12 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Concern was raised regarding the lack of leisure facilities in Rugeley. It was explained that as noted in the Report the public would be consulted on the preferred options for Rugeley Town Centre. Commercial operators were proving difficult to attract at the present time. Other possibilities of providing additional leisure facilities would be explored.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan – Preferred Options DPD, be approved for public consultation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004 as amended.
- (B) That the Deputy Chief Executive (or anyone so authorised by him), in consultation with the Environment Leader, be authorised to make amendments to the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan – Preferred Options DPD, including the amendments identified in paragraph 4.1 of the report prior to consultation taking place.

Reason for the Decisions

In conjunction with the Core Strategy LDF, the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan would provide the central planning policy for the future development of Rugeley Town Centre over the next ten years. The Plan completed the first round of consultation, Issues and Options, in 2008. It was now important to move forward onto the second stage of consultation, Preferred Options, to be carried out in June/July 2009.

**170. Urban Forestry Strategy**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.10 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the recommendations referred from the Environment Policy Development Committee held on 20 April 2009 be noted.
- (B) That the Urban Forestry Strategy (UFS) 2008-2013 be adopted.
- (C) That approval be given to invest in the long term objectives of achieving the UFS by including the purchase of an integrated Streetscene ICT Management System either in the Delivering Change Process 2010-11 or meeting the requirement from compensatory revenue savings or existing revenue budgets.

Reason for the Decision

The Council needed to adopt a standardised approach for managing its tree stock and is now in a position to improve its Tree Inspection/Risk Assessment methodology. The in-house database system is unable to cope with the current level of information and the Streetscene Contract ICT System is nearly 20 years old and no longer able to deal with the complexity of the contract inventory.

**171. Green Flag Award**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.16 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

It was explained that additional parks would be included in a programme to apply for the Green Flag Award, the proposals for which would be presented to Cabinet at a future date.

Officers were congratulated on getting parks to a standard where it was considered an Award could be received.

RESOLVED:

That:-

- (A) The re-application for a Green Flag Award for Cannock Park in 2009 be endorsed.
- (B) The application for a Green Flag for Ravenhill Park and Castle Ring in 2009 be endorsed.

Reason for the Decision

The scheme is at the heart of the commitment to create cleaner, safer and greener communities for all. The Award is one of the Government's key mechanisms for measuring high standards and each park or green space is judged against key criteria.

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LEADER