

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CABINET
THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2009 AT 4.30 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Stanley, N.K.	Leader of the Council 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

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

Member	Nature of Interest	Type
Grocott, M. R.	Minute 161 – Members’ Grant Aid Scheme – Approval of Applications – Chetwynd Charity – Member’s two sons have received funding from the Charity	Personal

153. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2009 be approved as a correct record.

154. Updates from Portfolio Leaders

Safer and Stronger Communities Leader

Councillor J. Jillings reported that with respect to Gating Orders, purchase orders had been raised for School Lane, Little Wyrley; Newlands Lane, Heath Hayes and Reservoir Road, Hednesford and the gates were waiting to be installed.

Environment Leader

Councillor A. Williams reported that it was anticipated that at the year end 40% of household waste was being recycled and that the percentage of green waste recycled had also increased.

Access to Skills, Economic Development & Enterprise Leader

Councillor M. R. Grocott, reported that Tesco's had recently given a presentation in Rugeley with respect to their application for a store in the town, which had received strong support from residents.

155. Forward Plan

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

It was noted that the Bereavement Service Plan and Urban Forestry Strategy would be considered by Cabinet at their meeting scheduled for June 2009.

RESOLVED:

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

156. Part 1 Minutes of Policy Development Committees

RESOLVED:

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

- (i) Healthier Communities and Older People Policy Development Committee – 10 February 2009.
- (ii) Safer & Stronger Communities Policy Development Committee – 23 February 2009.
- (iii) Housing Policy Development Committee – 24 February 2009.

157. Recommendation Referred from the Housing Policy Development held on 24 February 2009

Consideration was given to the following recommendations referred from the Housing Policy Development Committee held on 24 February 2009 in relation to 'Consultation on Excluding New Council Housing from Housing Revenue Subsidy and Pooling':

'That Cabinet be requested to consider the response to the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of the Government's proposal on the consultation on excluding new Council housing from housing revenue account subsidy and pooling.'

(A copy of the response was at Enclosure 7.1 – 7.2 of the Official Minutes of the Council)

RESOLVED:

That the response to the consultation questions from the Department for Communities and Local Government on excluding new Council housing from housing revenue account subsidy and pooling be approved.

Reason for the Decision

In order that the Department for Communities and Local Government can be informed of Cannock Chase Council's responses to the consultation questions on the changes to the revenue and capital rules for new council housing.

158. Corporate Plan 2009/12

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

Cabinet expressed their thanks for the extensive work undertaken by Officers in preparing the Corporate Plan 2009/12.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended that the Corporate Plan 2009/12 be adopted and approved for publication.

Reason for the Decision

The Corporate Plan 2009/12 is imperative in identifying the Council's priorities for the next three years and in ensuring that resources are aligned to those priorities.

159. Cannock Chase Local Development Framework – Core Strategy Preferred Options

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 9.1 – 9.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That the Cannock Chase Local Development Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options document be approved for consultation and that the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Leader for the Environment be authorised to make any changes considered necessary to the consultation document.

Reason for the Decision

To build on earlier consultation and debate undertaken during 2006, 2007 and 2008 and to seek consensus with both residents and stakeholders on a preferred approach for achieving sustainable development in the district.

160. Rent Limitation 2009-10

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Director of Service Improvement and Head of Financial Management (Enclosure 10.1 – 10.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Department for Communities and Local Government be advised that the Council wishes to take advantage of its rent limitation proposals for 2009-10.
- (B) That Council be recommended not to implement any rent increases in October 2009 and return to annual rent reviews for all HRA properties in April each year.

Reason for the Decision

The Government's rent limitation proposals would provide substantial benefits to tenants and HRA resources would increase through a reduction in the amount of negative subsidy which is paid to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

161. Members Grant Aid Scheme – Approval of Applications

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Head of Financial Management and Legal & Democratic Services Manager (Enclosure 11.1 – 11.11 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

That, having discharged the obligations under the Members' Grant Aid Initiative Scheme, consent be given to the Chief Executive (or anyone so authorised by him) to pay all such grants as are due to applicants named in the Schedule of Endorsed Applications at Annex 2 of the report.

Reason for the Decision

The endorsed applications submitted under the grant aid scheme had been accepted and vetted in accordance with the Members' Grant Aid Scheme Terms and Conditions and approved by Council. Before any payment could be made to applicants, Cabinet approval was required.

162. Proposed Water Feature – Rugeley Town Centre

Consideration was given to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Enclosure 12.1 – 12.19 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Leader circulated at the meeting a briefing note setting out the results of a survey of local residents, which he and Members of Rugeley and Brereton had undertaken.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That, taking account of current information, approval be given to proceed with a scheme to provide a water feature in Brook Square, Rugeley.
- (B) That a design based around option 2 in the report, emphasising a traditional appearance, be recommended to Council to be developed into a detailed scheme for public consultation.
- (C) That Council be recommended to approve the capital and revenue funding for the scheme from the use of existing Section 106 monies, with any funding balances being met from variations to currently unallocated Section 106 funds.

- (D) That Staffordshire County Council be requested to proceed to cover the open culvert on a temporary basis in the interests of health and safety pending implementation of the water feature scheme.

Reason for the Decision

The proposed water feature would enhance the Town Centre, following the collapse of the culvert in Brook Square, Rugeley.

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PART 2

163. Hednesford Town Centre Regeneration – Variation to Legal Agreements

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Director of Service Improvement (Enclosure 14.1 – 14.19 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That Council be recommended to endorse the principles of the scheme described in Section 2 of the report and authorises the Deputy Chief Executive (or anyone so authorised by him) to enter into variations to agreements and leases as necessary to give effect to this decision.
- (B) That Council be recommended to endorse the revised financial arrangements and other terms described in Section 2 of the report in respect Phases 1 and 2 of the Hednesford regeneration schemes, and authorises the Deputy Chief Executive (or anyone so authorised by him) to enter into variations to agreements and leases as necessary to give effect to this decision.

Reason for the Decision

As a result of significantly changing market conditions it was necessary to consider revisions to the Phase 1 scheme and the financial arrangements for Phase 1 and Phase 2 in order to both protect the Council's position and enable the Phase 1 scheme to proceed.

LEADER