

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 28 JULY 2014 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:
Councillors

Toth, J. (Chairman)
Kraujalis, J.T. (Vice-Chairman)

Bernard, Mrs. A.F (substitute for M. Buttery).	Grice, Mrs. D. Pearson, A.
Bernard, J.D.	Snape, P.A.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Todd, R.
Gamble, B.	Witton, P.

Also in attendance – Councillor A. Lovell, Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Anslow, M. Buttery (substituted by Mrs. A.F. Bernard) and Miss M.A. Freeman

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations

No declarations of interests or party whip declarations were received.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4. End of Year Performance Report – 2013-14

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Item 4.1 – 4.57 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Chairman advised that where performance indicators in the report were shown as amber or red, the relevant Heads of Service or Service Managers were in attendance to explain why the indicator had not been achieved, and

what actions were being put in place to do so.

Performance Indicator	Officer Response
Produce a single Technology Strategy incorporating the views and aspirations of both Leadership Teams	ICT Services Manager – Production of the Strategy was a work in progress and would look ahead over the next 4 to 5 years, taking into account work achieved to date. Aim to complete the Strategy within 12 months.
Review and update the Major Incident Plan	Head of Governance – This will be completed by the end of 2014/15. Review and update required to reflect changes in senior management structure etc.
Complete review of spend analysis Establish a contracts register	Head of Governance – Work not commenced on this during the first quarter of 2014/15, however it will be completed via the collaborative arrangement in place with the County Council's Procurement team.
Develop and implement with partners a hate crime campaign	Response provided by the Head of Environmental Health on behalf of the Local Strategic Partnerships Manager – We are working with partners to deliver and need to go at their pace, hence the postponement of sessions in schools.

Councillor Pearson requested to know how many people were surveyed for the performance measures *'Percentage of people who feel safe in their local area during the day/after dark'*.

The Head of Environmental Health replied that this would need to be checked and reported back to the Committee as the percentage figures quoted may come from a survey carried out by the Police rather than the Council.

In relation to the indicator *'Provide a Vulnerable Tenants Grass Cutting and Internal Decoration Scheme'*, Councillor Mrs. Bernard queried if this scheme was still only offered on an age basis?

The Head of Housing & Waste Management replied that it was offered on a combination of both age and vulnerability, but would provide Members with a full copy of the scheme criteria for reference.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the performance information and case studies relating to the Priority Delivery Plans for 2013/14, as detailed in Appendices 1-8 of the Report be noted.

- (B) That the actions and indicators which are rated as red or amber, and the associated commentary/remedial actions proposed by the Lead Officers be noted.

5. Scrutiny Work Programme

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the suggested work programme items which were detailed on the Agenda, and two additional items which had been submitted by Councillor Pearson for consideration.

Councillor J.D. Bernard arrived at the meeting during the discussion of this Agenda item.

Item 1 – Air Quality Monitoring – Bridgtown and Poplars Landfill Site (Follow-up of 2013/14 Report)

Members agreed for this to be included on the work programme.

Councillor Kraujalis raised that the 2013/14 Report covered a number sites within the District other than just the Poplars Landfill, so requested that they also be included in the review.

Item 2 – Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – Financial Performance, Recovery Plan impact upon the District

Members agreed this to be included on the work programme, but made clear that any health matters associated with the CCG should fall under the remit of Health Scrutiny Committee.

Following the meeting taking place, the Monitoring Officer has advised that this item falls within the remit of the Health Scrutiny Committee rather than the Scrutiny Committee.

Item 3 – Impact of Supporting People reductions in the District

Members considered that this would be more appropriate for consideration by the Health Scrutiny Committee. Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee will liaise with the Head of Environmental Health regarding this.

Item 4 – M6 Toll Operator

Members determined that this should not be included on the work programme as unclear about why it had been suggested as an item.

Item 5 – Staffordshire County Council Library Services Review

Members agreed that this should be included on the work programme, however concerns were raised by Councillors J.D. Bernard and Snape that as the County Council were currently undertaking a consultation for the Review, it would not be appropriate to scrutinise this until the final proposals were

known.

Councillor Pearson commented that it was important for the Committee to undertake this work as soon as possible before it became too late to tackle the issues raised.

Item 6 – To scrutinise the way the Community Forums within the District are run

Members raised a variety of concerns with the perception and organisation of the Forums, and so agreed that this should be included on the work programme.

The Head of Governance and Corporate Improvement Portfolio Leader advised the Committee that a review of the Community Forums was already due to be undertaken this year as part of the Transformation PDP. The Head of Governance suggested ways in which the Committee could work on this as part of the planned review.

The Chairman asked that Cabinet be requested to delegate work on this item to the Scrutiny Committee.

Item 7 – To scrutinise the effect of open markets on the potential loss of income on our shops (plus indoors markets)

Members agreed that this should be included on the work programme.

Councillor R. Todd requested that his name be recorded as voting against inclusion of this item.

Councillor Snape queried if Cabinet could be asked to delay carrying out its actions agreed at the Cabinet meeting held on 17 July 2014 in respect of the report 'Trial Street Market in Cannock Town Centre', in order to allow Scrutiny to first carry out this review.

The Chairman replied that Members had the option of calling-in the decisions of Cabinet in relation to the Street Market report if the call-in period had not yet expired.

Following the meeting taking place, the Monitoring Officer has suggested that the Committee may want to instead review the impact of the open market once an operator for it has been appointed and operational for a given period (such as 6 or 12 months).

RESOLVED:

That:

(A) The 2014-15 work programme be agreed as follows:

- Air Quality Monitoring – Bridgtown and Review of 2013/14 Air

- Quality & Industrial Emissions Report.
- CCG – Financial Performance, Recovery Plan and impact upon District.
 - Staffordshire County Council Library Services Review.
 - Scrutiny of how Community Forums are run within the District (*with input from officers and Cabinet on how to progress this review*).
 - Scrutinise effect of open markets on the potential loss of income on our shops (plus indoor markets).

(B) The 'impact of Supporting People reductions in the District' be referred to Health Scrutiny Committee for consideration as part of its work programme.

(C) The 'M6 Toll Operator' not be included on the work programme.

(D) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee meet to agree the necessary timescales for completion of the work programme.

6. Date of Future Meetings for 2014/15

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the dates of the Scrutiny Committee meetings and Delivering Changes Panels taking place in 2014/15 as detailed on the Agenda.

The meeting closed at 4:55pm

CHAIRMAN