

Place

Improved Living Environment Priority Delivery Plan

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Why is this a priority outcome?

Cannock Chase District has a unique mix of urban and rural environments. The urbanised areas of the District, including the three main towns of Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford each have their own special character with a mix of old and new development including post-mining heavy industry, re-developments of modern housing estates and business parks. There are eight Conservation Areas reflecting the pre 20th Century roots where buildings have special protection. Green space is a fundamental part of the District's character, with the rural sections comprising around 60% of the area of the District which has green belt protection status. At the heart of the District is the Area of Outstanding Beauty, an asset of National importance.

The District's population is growing and is predicted to continue rising over the next twenty years. Population density within Cannock Chase as measured by the 2001 Census was high, with over 11 persons per hectare (PPH), compared to Staffordshire (3.0 PPH) and England (3.77 PPH).¹ The projected growth in population to be measured in the 2011 Census will further increase this density of inhabitants.

Cannock Chase Council provides a broad range of services which impact on and influence the environment and environmental sustainability. Specific services including waste collection and recycling, provision of parks and open spaces, pollution control, community safety and streetcare; all of which contribute to delivering a sustainable community. We need to provide a clean and green environment by ensuring that cleansing operations provide optimum service delivery, whilst coordinating education and enforcement measures to maintain sustainable clean and green public open space.

Cannock Chase District Council has made real progress in providing a cleaner and greener District. The introduction of wheeled bins for bi-weekly collections of dry recyclable waste has vastly increased the proportion of waste sent for recycling (an increase of 32% year on year August 2009-2010), and therefore reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill. We must build on this momentum and develop services that match the aspirations of our residents in providing services that meet the needs of today whilst protecting the District's assets for the future.

The perception of a neighbourhood amongst those who live, work and visit can be heavily influenced by the quality of the natural and built environment. Planning, Building Control, Streetscene and Environmental

¹ Source: Office for National Statistics, www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

Health play a central role in the maintenance of the District's appearance, sustainability and quality of life.

Despite a 15% reduction in 2008-09 average house prices have more than doubled in Cannock Chase since 2001, and averaged £129,945 in 2009-10. As a result owner-occupation remains out of reach for many households on low incomes. The New Homes Bonus Scheme which will be implemented in 2011-12 will financially incentivise the Council for the delivery of both Market and affordable housing.

The need for more affordable housing continues to be a priority. Affordable housing comprises of:

- Social and Affordable Rented Housing
- Other affordable housing provided at prices below the market, including shared ownership and housing for sale which is permanently discounted below the market price.

Whilst the Council's housing stock met the decent homes standard at 31 March 2011 further improvements are necessary to ensure the stock remains at this standard. These improvements will be primarily delivered through the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme although redevelopment schemes will address a small number of properties which have structural defects.

The Government intend through the Localism Bill to abolish the current HRA subsidy system and replace it with a system of "self-financing" which will become operational in April 2012. As a result the Council will be able to retain all of its rent income and no longer pay negative subsidy (estimated to be £4.4million in 2011-12) to the Government, but "in return" will be required to make a "one-off" self-financing payment to the Government of £62.2million. The Council will need to fund this payment through additional borrowing and this will have fundamental implications for the long-term financing of the Council's housing stock.

Levels of crime and community safety issues in the District are not disproportionate when analysed against National averages or as prevalent in terms of deprivation when compared to economic and employment factors. However, it is worth noting that several issues in the District which exceed County averages and centre on specific "localities with the highest levels of deprivation and other social needs are the most likely to record above

average levels of crime, disorder and be home to the most victims and offenders.”²

The number of incidents of recorded crime in Cannock Chase during 2009/10 was 6,805, a reduction of 3% on previous year. However the rate of incidents (71.8) is 19% above the Staffordshire County incident rate of 60.3.

Public consultation has identified that anti-social Behaviour (ASB) is clearly a priority for residents of Cannock Chase, as low-level, nuisance behaviour has a very real impact on a community’s quality of life. Although the overall trend of ASB in Cannock Chase has reduced over recent years, high levels of incidents continue to affect several areas of the District. A total of 4,729 incidents of ASB recorded by Staffordshire Police in Cannock Chase during 2009/10, compared to 5,486 for 2008/09. This equates to a 14 % reduction in the number of ASB incidents recorded by the Police. In 2010/11 we have experienced a further 25% reduction in incidents of ASB compared to last year. Over two-thirds (around 70%) of all anti-social behaviour incidents recorded were classified as ‘rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour’, with many of the anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the police involving young people being rowdy in public places, hanging around in large groups and drinking alcohol. However, many of the activities recorded as being ‘anti-social behaviour’ are subjective and the sheer volume of incidents recorded suggests a possible problem with levels of tolerance.

The Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2010 highlights that the majority of major Community Safety issues within the District are concentrated around specific locations. Hotspot analyses of crime issues included in the Strategic Assessment illustrate the similarity of distribution for many types of crime and/or ASB in these areas.

Priority Outcome: Improved Living Environment

² Cannock Chase Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2010, www.staffordshireobservatory.org.uk/IAS/strategicassessment2010

What are the aims of our services that directly contribute to the outcome?

Service Aims

- Increase the reuse and recycling of waste
- Improve and protect our parks and green spaces
- Increased supply of affordable housing
- Improve the Council's Housing stock to maintain the Decent Homes Standard
- Work with partners to reduce the impact and perceptions of anti-social behaviour

How will we achieve our service aims?

Service aim: Increase the reuse and recycling of waste

How	When				Who	Indicator	Resource
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Undertake an information & motivational campaign to reduce residual waste and increase recycling.		✓	✓		Waste & Engineering Services Manager	Place1 & 2	Existing CCDC resources

Service aim: Improve and protect our parks and green spaces

How	When				Who	Indicator	Resource
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Update Park Management Plans for the 4 current Green Flags sites.			✓		Parks and Open Spaces Manager		Staff resources
Inspect and monitor all Flood Risk sites within the district	✓	✓	✓	✓	Direct Works Supervisor		Existing CCDC resources
Update Management plans for 2 additional Biodiversity sites within the district.				✓	Countryside Officer		Staff resources
Deliver schemes and provide ongoing maintenance in line with Section 106 requirements/Funding at the following environmental sites:							
Milking Brook Valley				✓	Principal Landscape Officer		£31,160
Mill Green				✓	Principal Landscape Officer		£2,360
Pye Green Valley Spinney				✓	Principal Landscape Officer		£16,240
Various Tree Planting Schemes				✓	Principal Landscape Officer		£17,650

How	When				Who	Indicator	Resource
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Upgrade Play areas-Norton Canes				✓	Landscape Development Officer		£18,820
Construct Footpath Links Brick Works Site to Arthur Street Play area. Road				✓	Landscape Development Officer		£23,345
Refurbish Paddling Pool – Ravenhill Park.				✓	Landscape Development Officer		£26,900

Service aim: To increase supply of affordable housing.

How	When				Who	Indicator	Resource
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Support the delivery of 55 additional affordable housing units by March 2012.				✓	Head of Housing	PLACE4	Within existing employee resources
Formulate a district-wide Tenancy Strategy Policy ³				✓	Head of Housing		Within existing employee resources

³ The Decentralisation and Localism Bill introduces a duty on local authorities to publish a strategic tenancy policy. This would set out the broad objectives to be taken into consideration by individual social landlords in the District regarding their policies on the grant and reissue of tenancies.

Service aim: To maintain the Council's housing stock to the decent homes standard.

How	When				Who	Indicator	Resource
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
To formulate a 30 year HRA Business Plan in accordance with the Government's new HRA self financing model				✓	Head of Housing		Within existing employee resources
Implement the 2011-12 HRA capital programme					Head of Housing	PLACE5	
Kitchens – 300				✓			£1,505,000
Central Heating – 370				✓			£1,203,000
Electrical Upgrades – 520				✓			£446,000
External Envelope ⁴ Works – 660				✓			£1,561,000
Second doors to bungalows - 70				✓			£98,000

⁴ The external envelope works programme comprises repair or replacement works to the external fabric of Council dwellings i.e. works to the roof, chimney, render and/or brickwork, guttering and fascia and soffit boards.

How	When				Who	Indicator	Resource
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
<p>Continue to progress the redevelopment strategy in respect of the Council's pre-reinforced concrete properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elizabeth Road – achieve Phase 1 Kickstart target completion 31.03.12 - Moss Road Estate – formulate revised schemes 				<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	Head of Housing		<p>Within existing employee resources</p>

Service aim: Work with partners to reduce the impact and perceptions of anti-social behaviour

How	When				Who	Indicator	Resource
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Undertake 2 Stop and Search exercises with Staffordshire Police to determine correct documentation on the carrying of waste.		✓		✓	Environmental Health Manager		Staff resources
Contact all local companies that handle the two main waste streams which are predominantly flytipped in the district randomly sample 20% of them to provide documentation to confirm their compliance with Duty of Care.		✓	✓	✓	Environmental Health Manager		Staff resources
Ensure all Abandoned Vehicles are removed within 24 hours of notification.	✓	✓	✓	✓	Direct Works Supervisor		Existing CCDC resources
Deliver the ASB Strategy Improvement plan as agreed by the CSP.	✓	✓	✓	✓	Community Safety Manager	PLACE6	Existing CCDC resources
Produce a Community Safety Plan for 2011/14:					Community Safety Manager		
- complete draft plan	✓						Existing CCDC resources

How	When				Who	Indicator	Resource
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
- consultation		✓					Existing CCDC resources
- final version			✓				Existing CCDC resources

Key Performance Measures

Service aim: Increase the reuse and recycling of waste			
Indicator reference code	Definition	Baseline 2010/11	Targets 2011/12
PLACE1 Former NI191	Residual household waste per household	555kgs	550kgs
PLACE2 Former NI192	% of Household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting	48%	52%
Service Aim: Improve and protect our parks and green spaces			
Indicator reference code	Definition	Baseline 2010/11	Targets 2011/12
PLACE3	Number of planning permissions in Green Belt contrary to adopted Planning Policy	100%	100%
Service Aim: To increase supply of affordable housing.			
Indicator reference code	Definition	Baseline 2010/11	Targets 2011/12
PLACE4 Former NI155	Number of affordable homes delivered (gross)	130	55
Service Aim: To maintain the Council's housing stock to the Decent Homes standard			
Indicator reference code	Definition	Baseline 2010/11	Targets 2011/12
PLACE5 Former NI 158	% Non- decent Council homes	8%	0%

Service aim: Work with partners to reduce the impact and perceptions of anti-social behaviour			
Indicator reference code	Definition	Baseline 2010/11	Targets 2011/12
PLACE 6 (local indicator - formerly NI21 proxy)	Level of agreement that the Police and local Council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in this area.	48% (Staffordshire Police 'Feeling the Difference' survey wave 7-10)	55%

