

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CULTURE, SPORT AND SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2009 AT 4.00 P.M.

IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Bennett, Mrs D. J. (Chairman)

Allen, F. W. C.

Mitchell, C.

Grocott, M. R.

Morgan, C. W. J.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. D. M. Easton and Mrs. H. M. Sutton).

1. Minutes

It was reported that with respect to problems relating to Cannock Park, that even the Police had been unable to agree on how it should be administered with one Inspector considering it should be closed and another that it should be left open. Members considered that the number of gateways made the park difficult to patrol and that if they were reduced this would help address the anti social behaviour problem. However, it was realised that it was a difficult issue to resolve with those living near to the park being the most affected and that some residents would want the park to be left open and others that it to be closed.

The Committee requested that when the results of the consultation process were known that the Parks and Open Spaces Manager report them to the Committee.

The Legal and Democratic Services Manager updated the Committee on the procedure for agreeing and approving Minutes. It was explained that meetings of Policy Development Committees would be held on a quarterly basis. In exceptional circumstances, the Chairman, in consultation with the Chief Executive (or anyone duly authorised by him) could convene additional meeting(s).

The proposals for the agreeing and approval of PDC minutes sought to address the potential for an unacceptable delay arising in minutes being approved under current arrangements, given that PDC would ordinarily meet quarterly. The Committee was informed that draft Minutes would in future be emailed to Members of the Committee within 7 working days of the meeting for comments/amendments. Members would then confirm their amendments (if any) within 5 working days. Should significant amendments be proposed, the Chairman would meet with the appropriate Lead Officer and Committee Officer to consider and confirm the amendments proposed. Once finalised the minutes would be deemed as 'Agreed Minutes' as opposed to 'Approved Minutes' and would again be circulated to Members of the Committee. The Minutes

would still be included on the agenda for the following Committee meeting for approval, when they would then be deemed 'Approved Minutes'. Should a Cabinet meeting be scheduled before the next meeting of the Policy Development Committee, the Agreed Minutes would be presented to Cabinet for them to note and to enable recommendations to be considered.

The arrangements and in particular the timetable, which would be circulated to Members within the next week, would be kept under review and changes made as deemed appropriate and necessary.

Members expressed concern relating to the 5 working days in which to comment on the draft minutes, they considered it should be 10 working days. The Legal and Democratic Services Manager confirmed that this amendment would be made to the proposed minutes timetable.

AGREED:

- (A) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2009 of the Children and Young People Policy Development Committee be approved as a correct record.
- (B) That the procedure for agreeing/approving Minutes be endorsed, with the proviso that the number of working days in which Members could forward their comments be 10 rather than 5.

2. Presentation on the role and remit of the Safe, Strong and Cohesive Communities Policy Development Committee.

The Committee received a presentation from the Legal and Democratic Services Manager on the role and remit of Policy Development Committees.

It was explained that issues of capacity for Members and Officers had been raised and it was considered that a more focused approach should be taken by Policy Development Committees to deliver improved outcomes.

Policy Development Committees had been aligned with LAA blocks. The Committees would be guided by a more robust framework, established by the PDC Terms of Reference and the Performance Management Framework. Such an approach required PDCs to focus their efforts on key areas of concern highlighted from performance data (provided quarterly) and which detailed those targets that the Council was failing to meet. PDCs should explore and consider proposals/options to tackle and overcome such failures with recommendations being made to Cabinet or Scrutiny Committee as considered appropriate. The principal function of PDCs was to performance manage PDPs and examine how failing targets could be improved, particularly through policy development. To assist PDCs with their role, it had the choice of inviting external partners to attend meetings where it was considered that a more co-ordinated approach was required.

It was reported, for information, that from July onwards reports being received by the PDCs would also be projected at meetings.

3. Presentation on Performance Management Framework

The Committee received a presentation from the Performance Manager on the Performance

Management Framework.

It was explained that the Council's Corporate Plan setting out the Council's priorities for the next three years, had been approved by Council at their meeting on 29 April 2009. Six Priority Delivery Plans (PDPs) had been developed as follows:-

- Children and Young People and Families
- Healthier Communities, Housing and Older People
- Access to Education, Skills and Employment
- Safe, Strong and Cohesive Communities
- Environmental Sustainability and

- Corporate Improvement

The principles and guidance on how Policy Development Committees would be performance managed were contained within the framework to ensure that actions and targets were delivered in accordance with specified timescales.

All PDPs would be reported every six weeks to DMT updating them on the current position with respect to the delivery of actions and performance indicators. The PDPs would then be reported quarterly with more comprehensive information to DMT, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committees. Progress would be reported using the traffic light assessment method for actions, PIs and risk actions. Exception reports would be completed with details of what actions were being taken to address matters when red and amber indicators were shown, the main focus being on the red indicators.

It was explained that Members of the Safe, Strong and Cohesive Communities Policy Development Committee had expressed concern that as agendas were despatched five working days prior to a meeting taking place, they may not have sufficient time to digest the information provided. The Performance Manager and Head of Legal and Democratic Services had agreed to investigate this matter and it was intended that when Scrutiny Committee received the Quarterly Performance Report that information be circulated to Policy Development Committees. A timetable would be circulated to Members.

Members were concerned that green indicators may be incorrectly marked and were informed that quality assurance checks were undertaken to endeavour to ensure that this did not occur.

4.

Presentation on the Committee Priority Delivery Plan

Williams, Mrs. P. (Vice Chairman)

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Leisure and Major Projects on the Children, Young People and Families Delivery Plan.

Ansell, Mrs. P.A. Grice, Mrs. D.

It was explained that Council has committed to enabling children, young people and families to have a better start in life, to keep them healthy, safe from harm and to achieve their potential in life. The following challenges had been identified as to be met:-

Challenge 1 – To increase participation in Sport and Physical Activity

Challenge 2 – To deliver positive improvements on all five Every Child Matters outcomes –
For children and young people to:

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

Amongst others, the following activities had so far been carried out, a new swimming pool and fitness suite had been constructed at Rugeley Leisure Centre, a Leisure Concessions scheme introduced and the 'Chase It' programme expanded. Extensive new play facilities had been constructed at Meadow Way and Hayes Way and, in partnership with Staffordshire Youth Service, a holiday activity scheme had been run for 11-19 year olds. Through the Shadow Children's Trust Board 'VOICE' children and young people were given the opportunity to have an active say in what type of services they would like provided.

The Head of Leisure and Major projects gave an overview of what the Council intended to do to meet the challenges should resources allow.

It was reported that a number of actions had been taken to address issues raised by the Golf Course FSR Panel which had proven successful, although, as predicted, usage had fallen following the national trend.

Concern was raised regarding Indicator NI 68, 'referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment' target of 79% in 2009/10 and 82% in 2010/11. The Committee requested that an appropriate representative from Staffordshire County Council's Social Services Department be invited to the next meeting in order that this issue could be clarified.

AGREED:

That an appropriate representative from Staffordshire County Council's Social Services Department be invited to the next meeting of the Policy Development Committee to provide information with respect to Indicator N168 targets.:

CHAIRMAN