

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**PROMOTING PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER, 2018 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Davis, Mrs. M.A. (Chairman)  
Councillors Sutherland, M. (Vice-Chairman)

Foley, D.	Startin, P.D.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Hewitt, P.M.	Wilkinson, Ms. C.L.
Hoare, M.W.A	Witton, P. (substituting for
Lea, C.I.	T.B. Johnson)

Also in attendance at the invitation of the Chairman was Councillor A.R. Pearson (Housing Portfolio Leader)

**14. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors. A. Dudson, T.B. Johnson and Ms. L. Tait.

Notification had been received that Councillor P. Witton would be acting as substitute for Councillor T.B. Johnson.

**15. 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.

**16. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October, 2018 be approved as a correct record.

**17. Briefing Note – Working Group to Review the Vulnerable Persons Decorating and Grass Cutting Scheme – Eligibility Criteria**

Consideration was given to the Briefing Note of the Head of Housing and Partnerships (Item 4.1 – 4.4 plus Appendices of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Group had been established to review the eligibility criteria for the Vulnerable Persons Decorating and Grass Cutting Scheme. The relevant agenda, papers and notes of each Working Group meeting were attached as Appendices to the Briefing Note.

The Chairman asked Councillor Mrs. P.Z. Stretton (Chairman of the Working Group) to take Members through the Briefing Note which provided details of the work undertaken by the Group. She led Members through this outlining the work undertaken. She explained that the Group had agreed that the Grass Cutting Scheme did not require any amendment as it was operating well and all eligible tenants who had requested the service were having their grass cut.

With regards to the Internal Decorating Scheme the Group considered that it was important to retain the scheme but it was in need of review. The Group noted that it was unfair to be on the waiting list for a place on the Internal Decorating Scheme for 7 years and then have to wait a further 3 years for a place to become available. She led Members through the proposed amendments to the Scheme as outlined within paragraph 3.7 (A) – (E) of the Briefing Note. She asked Members to note that Officers had suggested some amendments to the Working Groups suggestions and these were outlined in paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3. The main amendment being the deletion of the financial contribution of £100 towards the cost of decorating the hall, stairs and landing. Officers had calculated that fewer than 14% of the list are tenants occupying houses and therefore the administration costs would make it uneconomical to collect the £100.

She then outlined the following amendments to the Internal Decorating Scheme as proposed by the Working Group:-

- (A) To reduce the offer to 1 room being decorated once every 5 years thereby enabling all (eligible) tenants to be included on the list. Consideration could be given to reducing the 5 year period once the waiting list had been reduced and the back log cleared.
- (B) That a financial contribution of £100 towards the cost of decorating the hall, stairs and landing be applied. This should be paid in full in advance.
- (C) That tenants should have a clear rent account for 3-6 months to be able to be included on the list. Additionally, no other sundry debtor payments, owing to Housing, should be outstanding.
- (D) That where a tenant refuses the date offered to them they should go on a reserve list for a cancellation, unless the reasons for the refusal were for a medical reason or due to bereavement.
- (E) That the scheme be reviewed after 2 years.

The Committee noted that amendment (B) regarding the contribution of £100 would be deleted.

Members then had the opportunity to comment and ask questions on the

suggested amendments to the Internal Decorating Scheme.

In response to a question from a Member the Housing Maintenance Manager clarified that there would be an element of reduction to the waiting list should the proposed amendments be introduced; however it was not possible to be exact with the numbers at this stage.

With regard to the amendment that tenants should have a clear rent account to be able to be included on the list the Head of Housing and Partnerships commented that only 4 tenants on the waiting list were in arrears. Of these 3 were as a result of housing benefit changes due to bereavement. She confirmed that the amendment to exclude tenants in arrears could be introduced; however some administrative changes would be necessary in order for this to be compliant with the current data protection legislation.

Councillor Stretton thanked all Members and Officers that had been involved in the Working Group to undertake the review.

The Chairman then asked the Committee to vote on the Working Groups proposed amendments to the Internal Decorating Scheme, as outlined in paragraph 3.7 of the Briefing Note (with the deletion of amendment (B)). The Committee unanimously agreed with the recommendations of the Working Group.

RESOLVED:

That the following amendments to the Internal Decorating Scheme be recommended to Cabinet for approval:-

- (A) To reduce the offer to 1 room being decorated once every 5 years thereby enabling all (eligible) tenants to be included on the list. Consideration could be given to reducing the 5 year period once the waiting list had been reduced and the back log cleared.
- (B) That tenants should have a clear rent account for 3-6 months to be able to be included on the list. Additionally, no other sundry debtor payments, owing to Housing, should be outstanding.
- (C) That where a tenant refuses the date offered to them they should go on a reserve list for a cancellation, unless the reasons for the refusal were for a medical reason or due to bereavement.
- (D) That the scheme be reviewed after 2 years.

## **18. Quarter 2 Promoting Prosperity Priority Delivery Plan 2018/19 update**

Members considered the latest performance information for the 2018/19 Promoting Prosperity Priority Delivery Plan (PDP) (Item 5.1 – 5.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Economic Prosperity and the Head of Housing and Partnerships

took Members through the actions detailed in the PDP, providing progress updates where necessary.

With regard to the regeneration of Rugeley Power Station the Head of Economic Prosperity confirmed that there was a community event taking place between 30 November and 4 December which was being organised by ENGIE. A Member asked that the information regarding this event be sent to all Members as it appeared it had only been circulated to Rugeley Ward Members. The Head of Economic Prosperity explained that there had been a special briefing for Rugeley and Lichfield Ward Members last week. However, ENGIE were now holding the community event so that the public could get involved and let ENGIE know their views. He would look into providing information regarding the event on the Council's website.

In relation to the performance indicator to "Increase Housing Choice" the Head of Housing and Partnerships updated the Committee on the progress of delivering additional Council housing within the District, including the projects in relation to the garage sites, other Council owned land development schemes and the land at Hawks Green Depot.

*(At this point in the proceedings Councillor P. Witton left the meeting).*

#### **19. Additional Item – Work Programme**

The Chairman asked Members to refer to the list of services and issues falling within the Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's remit which had been circulated to Members last week. There was an opportunity to undertake a further review before the next Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13 March, 2019. Suggestions were sought for possible topics that could be reviewed from the list circulated.

It was proposed that the Committee could look at undertaking a review of the street market in Cannock. The Head of Economic Prosperity confirmed that this was due to go out for re-tendering next year. A review of the street market was achievable within the time frame and resources available. This would be a review of the outdoor street market and would not include a review of the indoor market.

The Committee agreed that a review of the street market would be undertaken. A Working Group would be established and the membership would be made up of Councillors Mrs. M.A. Davis, M.W.A. Hoare, C.I. Lea, P.D. Startin and Mrs. P.Z. Stretton.

RESOLVED:

(A) That a Working Group be established to undertake a review of the street market in Cannock.

(B) That the membership of the Working Group be made up of Councillors Mrs. M.A. Davis, M.W.A. Hoare, C.I. Lea, P.D. Startin and Mrs. P.Z. Stretton.

(C) That the outcome of the review be submitted to the Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 13 March, 2019.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm.

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CHAIRMAN