

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PERFORMANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY, 2009 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Mawle, D.L. (Chairman)
Yates, Ms. W. (Vice-Chairman)

Ansell, Mrs. P.A. Mitchell, C
Beddows, J. Morgan, C.W.J.
Bernard, J.D. Thomas, D.
Jones, R.

Staffordshire County Council Co-opted Member – Dixon, D.I.

By Invitation: Graham Hunt, Community Partnership Officer

32. Declaration of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>	<u>Type</u>
Jones, R.	Employed by City of Wolverhampton College and Sutton Coldfield College	Personal

33. Minutes

Mrs. Katie Beeston, Performance Manager referred to page 24, item 31, District Education Improvement Plan 2008-09 Update and reported that a letter had been received from Keith Cackett, Deputy Corporate Director, Staffordshire County Council. The letter stated that there were no District based School Improvement Plans but that of a Countywide Improvement Strategy for individual schools.

Mr. Graham Hunt, Community Partnership Officer reported on Blake Valley and stated that deprivation could impact upon educational performance and currently funding was being sought to close gaps in under performance. He reported that a meeting was recently held and the majority of departments from Staffordshire County Council including the Youth Service, Youth Offending Team and Education Teams attended the meeting. He stated that the meeting acknowledged the support required in the area and there was a general agreement to seek a corporate response to the issues that faced the community. A

strategy on 'working in an effective way' would be drafted and a report would then be submitted to the County Council and its Councillors in April, with the possibility that other partners would be engaged in discussions.

Members expressed concern that Surestart was not achieving what it had originally set out to do in respect of providing a stepping stone in terms of education. There was some concern that Surestart was not being used by members of the community that needed it. The Community Partnership Officer stated that issues around engaging families to use Surestart had been acknowledged. He reported on a new project, namely the 0-7 project which provided funding to families who did not currently use the facility, and stated that there was activity already in place in areas such as Chadsmoor including Redhill where intervention had been picked up. He also stated that provision had been made through the Countywide Improvement Strategy to identify schools that were under performing.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January, 2009 be approved as a correct record.

34. Previous Budget Proposal – Brown Wheeled Bin Collection

Ms. Natasha Swan, Executive and Policy Manager read out the following statement from Mr. Kevin Lawlor, Head of Environmental Services with regard to the brown wheeled bin collection.

"This savings figure was considered during the delivering change process in 2005/06 for the 2006/07 forthcoming budget setting process and was made up of elements i.e., staffing, vehicle costs and recycling credits.

The majority of the savings related to vehicle costs because at the time of these proposals all refuse vehicles were on lease hire, so although the actual lease itself is fixed, the maintenance and fuel elements were variable.

However, such savings would no longer be applicable as all lease agreements have since ceased and have been replaced by brand new vehicles on contract hire, which proved to be more economical and cost effective thereby creating a saving in itself on vehicle costs by including all maintenance costs.

This proposal also included a staffing element which was made up of agency staff being used to make up teams, however, this is no longer the case and the use of agency staff has since been reduced significantly, therefore resulting in all staffing costs now being fixed.

It is also fair to say that following the above changes to the service the overall cost of the waste collection service has now reduced from the 2005/06 costs, whilst also remembering that we have added food waste to the brown bin waste stream since that date. Furthermore, we now provide the most cost effective waste collection service in Staffordshire and top quartile performance nationally i.e., cost of waste collection per household".

Members expressed concern that the same level of service was still being provided regardless of the number of brown bins being put out for collection. The Chairman then stated that the tonnage over the Christmas and winter periods had not dropped significantly.

35. Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring Report 2008-09

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 6.1 – 6.9 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Performance Manager reported on the key issues contained within the report.

Members queried a number of items contained within the Performance Outturn for Quarter 3 of 2008-09.

National Indicator NI8 - Adult participation in sport and active recreation, Members were keen to know why the final figure was anticipated at the end of 2009. The Performance Manager reported that 20.1% was not the final figure for the survey, and as per the guidance for the national indicators that the final figure would be reported at the end of the year. She stated that a Countywide delivery planning group had been established to consider this indicator.

Local Indicators – Total attendance at Chase and Rugeley Leisure Centres (inc. educational usage). Members were pleased with the attendance at Chase Leisure Centre and were keen to know if the figures included the usage of the swimming pool. Members also expressed concern that through the Children and Young People Policy Development Committee, they were led to believe that the Chase Leisure Centre was underused. The Performance Manager stated that she believed the figures at the Chase Leisure Centre included the usage of the swimming pool and confirmed that the figures provided would be validated by an Officer.

Local Indicators BVPI 170a and 170b – Visits to and usage of Museums and Galleries, and in Person. Members believed the figures stated within the report were incorrect and requested that the average cost to the Council for every person to attend be provided to include the cost to the taxpayer. The Performance Manager stated that there was a reliance on Officers to provide correct information. She also stated that she would liaise with the Head of Financial Management with regard to attaining cost information.

Local Indicator – Total no. of rounds of golf played at Cannock Park Course. Members referred to the indicator and queried the actual performance for the 3 quarters. The Performance Manager stated that performance was set to meet target. She explained that the projection was based on past performance and also provided information to Members on the colour coding in respect of the indicators. Members were keen to see the financial situation in respect of the figures which would provide an indication of any losses.

The Executive and Policy Manager reported that the Council were considering higher level profiling whereby a delivery plan would be produced for each Policy Development Committee and would provide information in respect of the portfolio spend but would not detail actual costs. She also stated that the Chief Executive would hold the Directors to account in respect of the indicators prior to reports being received by the Committee.

Local Indicator – Prince of Wales Theatre % attendance for shows. Members discussed performance and were keen for Officers to be present to discuss price setting and the subsidy being given by the Council for productions.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the performance outturn for Quarter 3 of 2008/09 as detailed in appendix 1 of the report, be noted.
- (B) That the Director of Organisational Improvement and the General Manager of the Prince of Wales Theatre be invited to attend the next meeting on 18th March, 2009 to give a presentation in respect of price setting and the subsidy being given by the Council for productions.
- (C) That the Performance Manager liaise with the Head of Financial Management with regard to the Local Indicators BVPI 170a and 170b, to produce financial information on the average cost to the Council for every person to attend and the cost to the taxpayer.

CHAIRMAN