

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PERFORMANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST 2008 AT 4.00PM
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Yates, Ms. W. (Vice-Chairman – in the Chair)

Bernard, J.

Morgan, C.W.J.

Jones, R.

Thomas, D.

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.L. Mawle (Chairman), Mrs. P.A. Ansell and J. Jillings)

7. Minutes

With regard to Minute 4(B) confirmation was sought as to whether the information regarding the Museum of Cannock Chase had been forwarded to Members. The Executive and Policy Manager advised that the information requested had been emailed to all Members of the Committee. However, a copy of the information was distributed at the meeting.

Members still had concern that the figure for the number of visitors to the Museum was particularly high. The Head of Leisure and Major Projects advised that he would investigate how the figures were calculated and provide a briefing note to Members.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2008 be approved as a correct record.
- (B) That the Head of Leisure and Major Projects investigate how the figures for the number of visitors to the Museum of Cannock Chase were calculated and provide a briefing note to Members.

8. Brown Wheeled Bin Collection Service

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Services (Enclosure 4.1 – 4.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Head of Environmental Services outlined the tonnages of waste collected within the brown bin for the period April 2007 to March 2008 which indicated that a higher amount had been collected during the summer months. He explained that in order to calculate the figures recycling credits were claimed from Staffordshire County Council based on the weight of each vehicle.

Members stated that the Sub Committee had also requested that an analysis of the cost of collecting the brown bin during the summer and winter months be provided, however, this was not included within the report. In addition, as the new system of recycling cardboard had been in operation since 30 June 2008 Members requested that the costs and figures for the collection during the last three months also be provided in order that a comparison could be made. Members also considered that it would be beneficial to be provided with the amount of recycling credits generated during this period. The Head of Environmental Services indicated that the information requested would be provided to Members at a future meeting.

Members also requested that consideration be given to the possibility of undertaking a monthly brown bin collection during the winter months (November to February). The Head of Environmental Services advised that the Environment Policy Development Committee would be considering a report on proposed waste collection containers at a future meeting. He explained that whilst it would be possible for the Committee to investigate the possibility of undertaking a monthly brown bin collection service during the winter months the annual fixed costs associated with alternate weekly waste collections throughout the year i.e. vehicles and labour, would also need to be considered when evaluating such a proposal.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the amount of recycling credits generated and the figures and costs of collecting the brown bins during the period April 2007 to August 2008 be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub Committee.
- (B) That the Environment Policy Development Committee be requested to investigate the possibility of undertaking a monthly brown bin collection during the winter months (November to February).

9. Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring Report – 2008/09

Consideration was given to the Report of the Chief Executive (Enclosure 5.1 – 5.5 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Arising from the discussions on the report, the Committee noted that there was a lack of District performance information available.

Members discussed National Indicator 165 relating to the working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher. It was considered that the actual performance figure of 19.3% was particularly high given that Level 4 was equivalent to a degree standard and Members questioned whether this was accurate. The Sub Committee was advised that this was a County wide LAA target which may be more achievable in another part of the County. Members requested that the Sub Committee be provided with information outlining the requirements for qualifying to NVQ Level 4.

The Chairman considered that education attainment in the District was quite low and requested that an appropriate Education Officer be invited to attend the next meeting of the Sub Committee to outline the reasons for the low attainment and to explain whether any assistance could be provided to improve standards within the District.

Members considered that the target of 60% in relation to National Indicator 184 relating to food

establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law was particularly low and sought further clarification regarding this.

Confirmation was sought in respect of BVPI 21 relating to the actual performance figure of current tenants rent arrears amount owing. As the annual target had almost been achieved in Quarter 1 Members would be advised if the target returned to 0 each quarter.

Members questioned whether National Indicator 157(a) – Processing of Major Planning Applications had already exceeded the target in Quarter 1.

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the performance outturn for Quarter 1 of 2008/09 as detailed in Appendix 1 be noted.
- (B) That Members of the Sub Committee be provided with information outlining the requirements for qualifying to NVQ Level 4.
- (C) That an appropriate Education Officer be invited to attend the next meeting of the Sub Committee to outline the reasons for the low education attainment in the District and to explain whether any assistance could be provided to improve standards within the District.
- (D) That Members of the Sub Committee be provided with further information clarifying the target of 60% for National Indicator 184 relating to food establishments in the area which are broadly compliant with food hygiene law.
- (E) That Members of the Sub Committee be advised whether the target for the current tenants rent arrears (BVPI 212) returned to 0 each quarter.
- (F) That Members of the Sub Committee be advised whether National Indicator 157(a) - Processing of Major Planning Applications had exceeded the target in Quarter 1.

10. External Inspections – Improvement Plans

Consideration was given to the Briefing Note of the Executive and Policy Manager (Enclosure 6.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the Sub Committee review the Council's performance against the Strategic Housing Improvement Plan and the Corporate Improvement Plan.
- (B) That the Executive and Policy Manager liaise with the Chairman to determine which meeting each plan is to be reported for review.

11. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure

of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2 and 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

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PART 2

12. Leisure Services Reviews

Consideration was given to the Not for Publication Report of the Director of Governance (Enclosure 8.1 – 8.3 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

The Director of Governance, Head of Financial Management, Head of Leisure and Major Projects and Leisure Operations Manager were in attendance to explain the Value for Money Review of Leisure Services Report in more detail.

The Director of Governance outlined the outcome of the review in respect of Rugeley Leisure Centre and the Head of Financial Management outlined the outcome of the review in respect of Chase Leisure Centre. These reviews had been undertaken as part of the Value for Money Review of Leisure Services. The review highlighted that Chase Leisure Centre had been allocated an insufficient budget since 2002/03 and projected income figures had failed to materialise. Although action plans had been drawn up over the years to reduce the deficit it still remained. Following the recent review of Leisure Services that had been undertaken it was now anticipated that the service would deliver to budget in 2008/09.

Members considered that the report did not contain any explanation in respect of minute 6 (B) of the meeting held on 2 July 2008 which requested that the Sub Committee be provided with information outlining how the significant overspend had been agreed, how the monitoring of the overspend had slipped and what mechanisms were in place to address overspending. In view of this, the Head of Financial Management stated that a report would be submitted to the next meeting addressing the concerns raised.

RESOLVED:

That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub Committee outlining how the significant overspend at the leisure facilities had been agreed, how the monitoring of the overspend had slipped and what mechanisms were in place to address overspending.

(Following this, an issue was raised which had been discussed at the Scrutiny Committee on 11 August 2008 in relation to representatives from partner organisations not attending Community Forum meetings to respond to specific questions that had been raised. The Executive and Policy Manager explained that this would be monitored during the Community Forums in November and December. Members would then be provided with information on this issue at the meeting of the Sub Committee on 14 January 2008).

CHAIRMAN

