

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
held on Wednesday, 15th November, 2017 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,  
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)  
Councillor M Grant (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Rhoda Bailey, S Corcoran, H Davenport, B Dooley, J Nicholas,  
S Pochin, L Smetham, B Walmsley and S Edgar

## **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor H Wells-Bradshaw.

## **2 ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor Paul Bates – Finance and Communications Portfolio Holder  
Councillor Janet Clowes – Adult Care and Integration Portfolio Holder  
Councillor Paul Findlow – Corporate Policy and Legal Services  
Councillor Jos Saunders – Children and Families  
Councillor Don Stockton – Regeneration Portfolio Holder

Jan Willis - Director of Finance and Procurement  
Mark Palethorpe - Executive Director of People  
Peter Bates - Chief Operating Officer  
Linda Couchman - Interim Director of Adult Social Care and Health  
Frank Jordan - Executive Director - Place  
Jacky Forster - Director of Education and 14-19 Skills  
Alex Thompson - Head of Finance & Performance  
Dominic Oakeshott - Head of Professional Services

## **3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2017 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

## **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **5 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of the existence of a party whip.

## **6 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

## **7 MID YEAR REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE - 2017/18**

The Committee considered a report on the Mid-Year Review of Performance for 2017/18.

The report outlined the budgetary pressures facing the Council and the mitigation measures used to address forecast overspends. The report also highlighted examples of good performance in Quarter 2.

Annex 1 to the report set out details of how the Council was performing in 2017/18 and was structured into three sections:

Section 1 Summary of Council Performance

Section 2 Financial Stability.

Section 3 Workforce Development

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the report be received;
- (b) That the work already carried out by the Council to manage the number of cared for children in the borough be commended, and Cabinet be requested to explore additional measures to reduce the number of children in care;
- (c) That the appreciation of the committee be placed on record for the efforts of all staff within each Directorate in managing the budget in challenging times.

## **8 PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION - 2018-21**

The Committee a draft pre budget consultation document prepared by the Director of Finance and Procurement, which focussed on the Council's six outcomes. The document set out in detail the proposed changes in each of these areas and identified where the Council was making changes to address the potential financial cash deficit whilst still protecting front line services where possible and meeting local needs.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report be received;
- (b) That the thanks of the Committee be extended to all those involved in the production of the report.

## **9 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE ORACLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME - BEST4BUSINESS UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee considered a report of then Best4Business Joint Scrutiny Working Group which met on the 9 October at Winsford. At that meeting, the Working Group had confirmed that it was content for the two Councils to proceed with implementation stage of the project to replace the Oracle HR and Finance system. The Working Group had also recommended that it should continue to be involved at key milestones in the project.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

## **10 WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee reviewed its work programme.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the work programme be noted;
- (b) That an update on the fly tipping task and finish group be submitted to the 1 February 2018 meeting and in the meantime, arrangements be put in place to set up a monitoring group to oversee the new arrangements in Crewe.
- (c) That a new item be added to work programme to advise Cabinet on arrangements for the New Home Bonus and that this be achieved by undertaking a spotlight review as soon as possible.

## **11 FORWARD PLAN**

RESOLVED- That the Forward Plan be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 4.18 pm

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)