

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Advisory Panel - People
held on Monday, 27th October, 2008 at Tatton Room, Macclesfield Town Hall

PRESENT

Councillor R Westwood (Chairman)
Councillor Miss C Andrew (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D Beckford, D Brown, J Crockatt, R Fletcher, A Knowles,
W Livesley, M Parsons and Mrs C Tomlinson

Apologies

Councillors Mrs D Flude

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A number of Councillors who were existing County Councillors and Borough Councillors declared a personal interest in the business of the meeting en bloc.

21 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no Members of the public present who wished to address the Panel

22 MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2008 OF ADVISORY PANEL - PEOPLE

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

23 DRAFT STRUCTURAL PROPOSALS

Consideration was given to a report detailing the proposals being developed for a structure for the People Directorate. The proposals had been developed in the context of the Financial Scenario, which the Council had to address.

The Strategic Director (People) reported that 22 responses from officers and Trade Unions on the draft proposals had been received, which were generally positive.

In considering the report Members of the Panel raised the following issues:

Reference was made to the Head of Transformation, it was noted that this position would focus around managing change, as there was a large programme

of works in areas relating to children's social care, the NHS and tackling wastage of resources.

With regard to paragraph 6.9 of the report Members noted the importance of grading posts at a level, which would enable the authority to recruit high calibre managers.

That joint working should be delivered at management and operational level.

Members were happy with the proposals and agreed that the structure should be implemented as soon as possible.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet be recommended to endorse the proposals and implement them as soon as possible.

24 PROVISION OF CULTURAL SERVICES

Consideration was given to the Project Initiation Document (PID) which had been put together in relation to the provision of Cultural Services. The Panel agreed that a task and finish group should be established to give consideration to the final report prior to it being considered by Cabinet at its meeting scheduled to be held on 2 December 2008.

RESOLVED

1. That a group of Councillors assist Councillor Knowles in considering the issues prior to deliberations upon them by the Cabinet. That group should include Councillors B Livesley, JB Crockatt, R Fletcher.
2. That the final report be circulated to the Advisory Panel – People for information.

25 TASK GROUPS

Consideration was given to the proposed Terms of Reference and officer support for the Transforming Learning Communities (TLC) and Social Care Redesign Task Groups.

With regard to the Transforming Local Communities Task Group, Members questioned whether or not Transforming Local Communities was currently being supported by consultants, how it would be supported in the future, what the current position was and how many surplus places were within the schools at present. The Panel agreed that at the first meeting of the task group a background report answering the above issues should be received.

It was agreed that Councillor Mrs E C Tomlinson would be added to the membership of the Social Care Redesign Panel and that the Democratic Services Officer arrange a meeting of both Task Groups for the end of November 2008.

RESOLVED

1. That the terms of Reference for the Task Groups be approved.
2. That the officer support arrangements be approved.
3. That the Transforming Local Communities Task Group receive a background report at its first meeting
4. That Councillor Mrs E C Tomlinson be added to the membership of the Social Care Redesign Panel
5. That meetings of both Panels be arranged for the end of November 2008.

26 **CONNEXIONS CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON LTD AND THE INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE CONTRACT**

Consideration was given to a report, which was submitted to the Panel to enable Members to be aware of a forthcoming Cabinet issue and to contribute views to inform the decision making of the Cabinet.

The report informed Members of the legal and contractual context of the future relationship with Connexions Cheshire and Warrington Ltd. The report also highlighted the actions being taken by Cheshire County Council, in discussion with Warrington Borough Council and the Connexions Company, to transfer the County Council's interests in Connexions to Cheshire East Council under the terms of the legally binding Members' Agreement between CCC and WBC.

With regard to paragraph 2.6 of the report, Members agreed that Cabinet should be recommended to approve option 1- continuation of the current pan – Cheshire contract for one year with both LAs agreeing similar funding levels that will be compatible with delivering a pan-Cheshire contract and service specification to 1 April 2010, incorporating a refresh of outcome and output targets so they accord with each Authority's LAA and other area specific requirements.

Members expressed the importance of the need to put in place effective contract management arrangements within the Children's Services/People Directorate to performance manage the contract with Connexions.

Members also highlighted that the youth service provision should be maintained within the constraints of the budget.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet be recommended to:

1. Approve the continuation of the current pan – Cheshire contract for one year with both LAs agreeing similar funding levels that will be compatible with delivering a pan-Cheshire contract and service specification to 1 April 2010, incorporating a refresh of outcome and output targets so they accord with each Authority's LAA and other area specific requirements.
2. Give consideration to the need to put in place effective contract management arrangements within the Children's Services/People Directorate to performance manage the contract with Connexions

3. Give consideration to the youth service provision being maintained within the constraints of the budget.

27 PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

The Strategic Director (People) reported that the following items would be considered at the next Advisory Panel – People:

1. Area Based Grants
2. Children's Trust Arrangements
3. Update on the Structural Proposals

RESOLVED

That the above issues be considered at the Advisory Panel – People at the meeting scheduled to be held on 8 December 2008.

28 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future meeting dates were noted as follows:-

8 December 2008
19 January 2009
2 March 2009
April 2009 – To be confirmed

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.55 pm

Councillor R Westwood (Chairman)