

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council**
held on Thursday, 15th December, 2016 at Crewe Lifestyle Centre, Moss
Square, Crewe. CW1 2BB

PRESENT

Councillor O Hunter (Mayor/Chairman)

Councillor A Moran (Deputy Mayor/Vice-Chairman)

Councillors C Andrew, A Arnold, D Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, Baggott, G Barton, P Bates, G Baxendale, D Bebbington, S Brookfield, E Brooks, D Brown, C Browne, B Burkhill, S Carter, J Clowes, S Corcoran, W S Davies, M Deakin, T Dean, B Dooley, L Durham, S Edgar, I Faseyi, P Findlow, R Fletcher, T Fox, D Flude, H Gaddum, S Gardiner, L Gilbert, M Grant, P Groves, J Hammond, S Hogben, D Hough, L Jeuda, A Kolker, J Macrae, D Mahon, N Mannion, D Marren, A Martin, S McGrory, R Menlove, G Merry, B Moran, H Murray, S Pochin, J Rhodes, B Roberts, J Saunders, M Sewart, M Simon, L Smetham, D Stockton, A Stott, G Wait, B Walmsley, G M Walton, M Warren, M J Weatherill, H Wells-Bradshaw, G Williams and J Wray

Apologies

Councillors Rachel Bailey, M Beanland, P Butterill, C Chapman, H Davenport, S Gardner, M Hardy, A Harewood, G Hayes, J Jackson, M Jones, D Newton, M Parsons and L Wardlaw

64 PRAYERS

The Chaplain said prayers, at the request of the Mayor.

65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Town and Parish Councils were advised that they were not required to declare an interest on the item relating to the Council Tax Base.

Cllr B Dooley declared a pecuniary interest in item 15 of the agenda, relating to the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy and stated that she would leave the Chamber during consideration of this matter.

66 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment to minute 58, question 14, to state that Cllr Hough asked a question in respect of whether the Council had considered using the New

Homes Bonus “for” Key Service Centres and an amendment to minute 45 to delete the reference to Cllr McGrory declaring an interest in item 15.

67 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that:-

1. Since the last Council meeting, she and the Deputy Mayor had attended over 70 events, details of which had been circulated around the Chamber.
2. It had been her great privilege to represent the Borough at a number of events to mark both Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday and it had been pleasing to see the public turn out in their thousands for these events and for similar events across Cheshire East.
3. That she never ceased to be amazed at the massive contribution that carers make to society and it had been a very real pleasure for her to visit Middlewich High School recently to present a student with a Younger Carers award. The recipient of this award had been unable to attend the Local Hero Awards earlier in the month.
4. That in the previous week, she had hosted a civic reception to thank all those involved in supporting those people affected by the fatal mill fire at Bosley, in July 2015. The Lord Lieutenant, speaking at the reception had praised the courage and community spirit of the Bosley people and said that he hoped that they would soon feel able to move forward after such a dreadful tragedy. She was sure that all present would echo those sentiments.
5. That she had hosted a number of afternoon teas for volunteers. She thanked those Members who had made nominations and announced that she would be hosting more teas in the new year and she would encourage those Members who had not yet nominated volunteers from their Wards to do so.
6. That she would be holding her Civic Service on the morning of Sunday 19th February 2017 and that full details would be circulated early in the new year.

68 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present wishing to use public speaking time.

69 RECOMMENDATION FROM CABINET - COUNCIL TAX BASE 2017/18

Consideration was given to the recommendation from Cabinet in respect of the setting of the Council Tax base for 2017/18.

The calculation set out the estimates of new homes less the expected level of discounts and the level of Council Tax Support (CTS). This resulted in a band D equivalent tax base position for each Town and Parish Council.

Cabinet had recommended to Council, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount to be calculated by Cheshire East Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2017/18 as 144,201.51 for the whole area.

The tax base also reflected assumptions around CTS payments. The Cheshire East CTS scheme had been introduced in 2013/14 and subsequently amended following consultation for 2016/17. The history of the scheme, including budgets available compared to actual payments made was shown in Table 1 of the report. Cabinet had recommended that no changes be made to the CTS Scheme for 2017/18, other than the annual increase in the allowances used.

RESOLVED

1. That, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount to be calculated by Cheshire East Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2017/18 be **144,201.51** for the whole area.
2. That no changes be made to the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18, other than the annual increase in the allowances used.

70 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the absence of the Leader of the Council, who had submitted apologies, the Deputy Leader wished all those present a Happy Christmas and made a number of announcements as follows:-

- 1 He gave the Leader's apologies for absence from the morning's Special Meeting of the Council and from this meeting and reported that the Leader was engaged in negotiations with local businesses. He hoped that everyone was very impressed to be meeting in the Crewe Lifestyle Centre. Council staff and contractors had worked tirelessly over the past two-three years to bring this, Cheshire East's first Lifestyle Centre, into being. It had brought together several Council services under one roof, serving the residents of Crewe and helping them to live healthier lifestyles. Over 350,000 people had visited the Lifestyle Centre, which was a tremendous achievement. Part of the success of the Lifestyle Centre was its location in the heart of Crewe town centre, making it easy to reach, whether visitors come by bus, car, bike or on foot. Bringing the Lifestyle Centre into Crewe town centre was a key part of our Regeneration Plans for Crewe. The Lifestyle Centre was the first part of the Council's approach in regenerating Crewe town centre and in making sure it

was well placed to benefit from future growth linked to the new HS2 hub station.

2. Another part of the town centre's transformation had also commenced in the current year, with the new University Technical College opening its doors on West Street. The UTC, through a strong partnership which included key local employers such as Bentley, had taken its first intake of 200 14-19 year olds, all keen on developing vocational skills in design and engineering, to meet the future needs of those employers. Next year its new building would be fully open and the number of students would grow towards its capacity of 800.
3. He reported that the Regeneration team was well advanced in the procurement of a development partner for the Royal Arcade, at the heart of Crewe town centre. The plans included a brand-new bus station, multi-storey car park, cinema and a mix of other leisure and retail uses, which would help transform both the town's day and night-time economy. More detailed plans would be announced in the coming months. The Council was also working closely with a number of other landowners and developers in the town centre who, whilst recognising the challenges facing town centres, agreed that Crewe was now ideally-placed to start "punching above its weight". With over half a million people living within 30 minutes' drive of Crewe, including significantly more 'affluent achievers' than the GB average, investors were now realising the opportunities presented by Crewe and its wider catchment, including its rural hinterland. Indeed, just a few months ago, Property Week magazine had ranked Crewe as the "Best residential location in the UK", taking account of a number of factors including the area's quality of life, connectivity, employment levels, and education.
4. He concluded his comments on regeneration by stating that the recent announcement of the preferred location of the HS2 Hub Station in Crewe was the news that the Council had been working towards over the past five years or more and delivered the message that Cheshire East was truly open for business. He also stated that the strong collaboration with partners in the Northern Gateway Development Zone was crucial to ensuring that the expected growth associated with HS2 will help to take families out of poverty, provide wide-ranging social benefits for residents and produce a new generation of skilled young people. The huge economic benefits to be had from HS2 must be harnessed for future generations, so that the children and young people of today and their children and grandchildren could seize the enormous opportunities that HS2 would deliver.
5. He then referred to a number of health-related matters and reported that, in recent times, the Mid-Cheshire Hospital Trust had made some great achievements. He provided a short summary as follows:

CQC rated 'good' in 2015 – in the top 10% of Trusts

National Awards – to name a few:

Midwifery Service of the Year 2015

Trust named by Health Service Journal (HSJ), Nursing Times & NHS Employers as one of the top 120 places to work in the NHS (top 20%) 2015

Excellence award for the Lung Cancer Pathway - 2015

CHKS Top 40 hospital

HSJ medical e-handover

CHKS Most Improved Trust in the Country

Year on year improvements in the national staff survey – in the best performance for staff recommending the hospital as a place to work, a place to receive treatment, viewing quality & safety as a priority and staff engagement

Year on year improvements on national survey and excellent Friends and Family test result with over 95% of our patients recommending the hospital as a place to receive treatment

Consistent high performer – one of only a few Trusts achieving ALL cancer targets and standards re the 18 week referral to treatment time and time for patients to access diagnostic tests. The Trust has worked hard to ensure patients with suspected cancer receive their tests within one week instead of the national target of two weeks

Conclusion of significant estate developments:

Main entrance

Installed a second MRI scanner

Hospital Corridors,

2 wards a year

New signage

Critical Care and Theatres and Maternity Unit as outlined below

Refurbished Day Treatment Centre.

Although the Trust was running with a deficit position an investigation by its regulator had revealed the Trust was financially well managed and governed, was efficient and productive and that the deficit position was not of its own making and required a health economy solution.

In 2015 the Maternity service had received a national award from the Royal College of Midwives 'Midwifery Service of the Year' and in the same year achieved the highest UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative Award – Level 3. The midwifery unit had been extensively refurbished over 2014/15 and has a dedicated midwifery led unit as well as a consultant unit for more complex care. The Midwives also

provide extensive birthing choices such as home birth, birthing pools, aromatherapy etc.. and deliver just under 3000 births a year. The services also had the second best national maternity patient survey results in the Country and is consistently scores highly of the Friends and Family test with between 95 – 100% of Mothers recommending the service. To support the unit a brand new neonatal facility was built to support our most poorly babies and provides excellent support services for parents including on site accommodation.

Intensive care/theatres – In 2013 the had Trust built its brand new, £23M, theatres and critical care unit. This was not just a project about bricks and mortar but significant effort went in to ensuring the facilities supported improved outcomes by introducing proven methods such as lighting, décor, noise reduction etc. These are state of the art facilities provided to the Borough's citizens and have been instrumental in attracting staff to come and work at the Trust. Currently the theatres have the lowest number of vacancies ever. The critical care unit was further enhanced through the provision of a beautiful garden which is a place of reflection and well used by staff, relatives and patients.

6. He also referred to the recent appointment of a Director of Public Health and reported that, following a robust recruitment process, led by the Staffing Committee and also involving three Health Professionals, he was pleased to announce that Fiona Reynolds was to be appointed as the new Director of Public Health. Fiona was a health professional, working in health and social care for over 15 years. She currently held the position of Interim Director of Public Health at Cheshire West and Chester Council.
7. With regard to the Council's parks, he was sure all would agree that these were some of the very best in the UK. He reported Cheshire East had been awarded Green Flags for its outstanding parks. The Green Flag award was given to authorities that delivered a parks service to an international standard. Significant investment in Queens Park, Crewe meant that it now joined Congleton and Sandbach parks along with the Moor in Knutsford, Bollington recreation ground, Brereton Heath local nature reserve, Tegg's Nose country park and Tatton Park as having been awarded the Green Flag standard. Tatton Park had also received the Green Heritage Award, which was given to places that achieved a high standard in management and interpretation of a site with local or national historic importance. These awards, including the award for Queen's Park recognised the outstanding partnership working both with other local authorities and community groups. These awards were deserved recognition for a lot of hard work and dedication, not just from the Council's own teams, but also the army of volunteers and community groups that made achievements like this possible.

8. To conclude he announced, on behalf of the Leader of the Council, the most recent changes to Portfolio Holder responsibilities.

He stated that the last 10 months of the Leader's term of office had passed very quickly. Much had been achieved in that time and he said that Cabinet had performed excellently and delivered for the residents, businesses and visitors to this Borough, as highlighted by customer satisfaction ratings which had increased across the Borough. This had also been a period of consolidation and focus and a time to prepare for exciting, but challenging times ahead and so, having had that period to establish how best to align Cabinet member responsibilities, the Leader had made some changes as follows:-

Responsibility for Car Parking would move over to Cllr David Brown, becoming part of the Highways and Infrastructure Portfolio, with Cllr Brown taking over from Cllr Paul Bates and would allow Cllr Bates to focus clearly on the health agenda.

This would allow the Leader to take over Communications and Media Relations, freeing up Cllr Peter Groves to concentrate upon finance and asset sales and acquisitions. The Leader intended to retain the help of Councillor Chris Andrew, who would work with her on Communications and Media Relations issues.

The Leader would hand-over responsibility for Rural Affairs to Councillor Janet Clowes, who would promote this area of work in shaping the Council's place strategy.

Cabinet members were thanked for their work over the past year.

The Deputy Leader then handed over to Cllr Ainsley Arnold, Housing and Planning Portfolio Holder, to provide update in respect of the Local Plan.

9. Cllr Arnold confirmed that a note had been received from the Local Plan Inspector, Stephen Pratt, which had now been made public.

The Inspector's final conclusions on the wide range of matters and issues raised in these representations and discussed at the hearing sessions would be set out in his final report to the Council, which would be received following the forthcoming public consultation exercise on the Main Modifications.

This note, which was a culmination of nearly three years of public comments and submissions, set out his views on what modifications were needed to the Plan to ensure that it was legally compliant and sound.

Overall his note was good news for Cheshire East, endorsing the amendments already made and, apart from a list of minor comments and queries, he had suggested just two additional modifications:

1. The inclusion of a windfall allowance to provide flexibility and
2. The adjustment of the boundary of a safeguarded site in N West Macclesfield (CS32) to exclude Cock Wood and leave it in the Green Belt

The Headlines of his note were:

- Confirmation that nothing he heard in the recent hearings had changed his conclusions regarding housing and Job numbers, settlement hierarchy, spatial distribution and the Council's approach to green belt.
- Endorsement for the deliverability and viability of all of the sites
- Endorsement for the development strategy for each of the towns and villages and the rural area, saying that the locations and extent of development proposed seemed 'appropriate, justified, effective, deliverable and soundly based'.
- Endorsement of the Cheshire East approach to 5 year supply (known as Sedgpool 8).
- Support for the principle of the Green Gap around Crewe
- Confirmation that there was no need for any other sites to be considered at this stage and no need for early review.
- Apart from the NW Macclesfield safeguarded land, no other sites were recommended for change or deletion

It would now be necessary to complete the technical process of preparing modifications which, given the lengthy Examination, was legally complex, but it was hoped to commence formal consultation before the end of January to keep the Plan on track for adoption.

Cllr Arnold congratulated Adrian Fisher and all of the Spatial Plan Team who had worked tirelessly from when the Plan went into suspension in late 2014. They had shown considerable dedication and tenacity against a huge amount of pressure, including more than 60,000 representations received from the various consultation exercises. He noted that the Inspector had commented that 'this has been the most complex and challenging Local Plan I have ever examined'.

He also paid testament to the Leader of the Council, who had picked up this portfolio in 2015, to lead the team through a difficult time and bring the Plan out of suspension.

**71 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE -
NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES**

The Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 15 December 2016, had considered proposals to simplify the process for the nomination of Members to the Council's committees.

The proposals sought to simplify the process by requiring that the memberships of the Council's committees and sub-committees be established and changed, where required, by way of notification to the Head of Governance and Democratic Services by the Leader or Whip of the political group in question. This would include nominations to chairmanships and vice-chairmanships. The approach would provide more flexibility for the political groups, their Leaders and Whips, and for the officers involved in administering the Council's decision-making arrangements, but would not dilute the fundamental legal requirement that the composition and term of office of each committee and sub-committee be agreed by Council.

The Annual Council meeting would continue to agree the numerical composition and term of office of each committee and sub-committee.

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the Constitution Committee and it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That except for the Council's Cabinet and Cabinet committees and sub-committees, nominations to the Council's committees, sub-committees and decision-making bodies, and changes to such nominations including nominations to chairmanships and vice chairmanships, shall be notified to the Council by the Council's political Group Leaders or Group Whips, in accordance with the relevant numerical allocations made by Full Council to the committee, sub-committee or decision-making body in question;
2. That such nominations or changes to nominations shall be made to the Head of Governance and Democratic Services in writing or by email, and shall thereafter be published on the Council's website;
3. That it be noted that the legislative requirements set out in the Legal Implications section of the Constitution Committee report will not be affected by the recommendations of the report, and that the existing arrangements shall continue, by which the Council's Annual General Meeting agrees the political group or groups which will hold the chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of the Council's committees, sub-committees and decision-making bodies.
4. That the Director of Legal Services, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Constitution Committee, be

authorised to make such changes to the Council's Constitution as he considers are necessary to give effect to the wishes of Council.

72 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - REVIEW OF STRUCTURE

The Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 15 December 2016, had considered proposals to reduce the number of overview and scrutiny committees to better align the committees to the corporate and Cabinet structures.

A draft structure had been created comprising four committees. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee would retain its overarching responsibilities for the whole of the scrutiny function. With the exception of the Health Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which would meet on a monthly basis, committees would meet formally on a bi-monthly basis, six times a year as they did now.

It was noted that the Constitution Committee report, as submitted to Council, had been amended at para 11.7 with regard to the statutory responsibility for the scrutiny of community safety. The amendment clarified that the new Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Committee would fulfil the Council's statutory responsibility to scrutinise community safety.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the overview and scrutiny committee structure be reduced from six to four committees as follows:
 - Corporate (12 Members) (to include the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the other three overview and scrutiny committees)
 - Environment and Regeneration (12 Members)
 - Children and Families (12 Members)
 - Health and Adult Social Care and Communities (15 Members)
- 2 That the terms of reference for each overview and scrutiny committee be amended to better align with corporate and Cabinet structures, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and that the Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Committee would fulfil the Council's statutory responsibility to scrutinise community safety;
- 3 That, with the exception of the Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which will meet on a monthly basis, the meetings of the overview and scrutiny committees be held on an eight weekly cycle, subject to each

Chairman being given flexibility to convene additional meetings as and when required depending on workload.

4. That the regular mid-point meetings be disbanded.
5. That the proposed overview and scrutiny arrangements be implemented with effect from 1st January 2017 and reviewed in due course.

73 POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

Following approval of the recommendations in respect of the proposed review of structure of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, at minute 72, a report was submitted requesting Council to determine the changed political representation on the Council's Committees to ensure that political proportionality was achieved.

In summary, each relevant decision making body must be politically balanced, as far as is reasonably practicable and the total of Committee seats allocated to the Council's political groups must balance perfectly.

Appendix 1 of the report set out the total number of seats allocated to each political group. An updated appendix had been circulated around the Chamber, which was further amended, following further discussion with the Labour group whip. The amended appendix is appended to these minutes for information.

RESOLVED

1. That the political group representation, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, as amended and appended to these minutes, and the methods, calculations and conventions used in determining this, as outlined in the report be adopted, and the revised allocations of places to Committees be approved.
2. That the adjustments to Committee places indicated as being required in Appendix 1, as amended and paragraph 5.4 of the report, to achieve the correct political proportionality across all Committees, be approved.
3. That the Committee Chairman and Vice Chairmen allocations be confirmed as set out in Appendix 1; "(C)" denoting the allocation of the office of Chairman to political groups and "(VC)" denoting the allocation of the office of Vice Chairman to political groups.

74 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2017-18

The Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 24 November 2016, had considered the draft Calendar of Meetings for 2017/18.

The Committee had had regard to the revised overview and scrutiny committee arrangements recommended to and later approved by Council. A revised draft calendar reflecting those arrangements was circulated at the Council meeting.

There had been a request by Finance officers to include two additional meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee to reflect and accommodate changes in the reporting deadlines for certifying the statement of accounts and the approval and publication of the audited accounts. The proposed dates for the additional meetings were 1st June and 3rd August 2017 and could be accommodated within the revised calendar.

An updated version of the draft Calendar of Meetings reflecting the new overview and scrutiny structure and including the additional meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee was appended to the Constitution Committee minute and included in the agenda papers.

RESOLVED

That the draft Calendar of Meetings for 2017-18, as amended to reflect the newly agreed overview and scrutiny structure and with the inclusion of two additional Audit and Governance Committee meetings on the dates indicated, be approved.

75 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Consideration was given to a report which summarised the arrangements for appointing External Auditors following the closure of the Audit Commission and the end of the transitional arrangements at the conclusion of the 2017/18 audits.

The Council needed to consider the options available and put in place new arrangements. The deadline for appointments was 31 December 2017.

The available options were:

- A. Establish a standalone Auditor Panel to make the appointment on behalf of the Council;
- B. Explore the establishment of local joint procurement arrangements with neighbouring authorities; or
- C. Opt-in to the national Sector Led Body, Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA).

The report recommended Option C.

In order to opt into the national Sector Led body, a decision was required at a meeting of the full Council in time to submit a formal acceptance to PSAA by the required date of 9 March 2017.

RESOLVED

That the Audit and Governance Committee recommendation to accept the invitation from Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd to 'opt in' to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for five financial years commencing 1 April 2018 be approved.

76 DEVOLUTION OF THE SUB-REGION: LATEST POSITION AND NEXT STEPS

Consideration was given to a report providing an update and overview of the latest position regarding devolution. It reaffirmed Cheshire East Council's commitment to devolution and also set out the next steps to enable this process to progress to its next stage of formal consultation.

The Council was committed to placing 'Quality of Place' at the heart of its Corporate Plan. This recognised that this overall objective could provide a significant driver in achieving the outcomes and help to shape the prosperity and wellbeing that residents, visitors and investors required. Cheshire East Council was, therefore, committed to ensuring that it protected and enhanced its places throughout any further initiatives or growth bids that followed thereafter. Securing more funding and powers from Government through a devolution deal would support the overall aims of protecting and enhancing the Quality of Place in the Borough.

RESOLVED

That this Council:-

- Supports the Leader and Cabinet in pursuing a devolution deal that meets the needs and ambitions of the Borough; and its sub-regional partners.
- Agrees to the principles to inform a devolution agreement as outlined in section 4.12 of the report.
- Notes that the Devolution Members Working Group will help shape the development of the deal.
- Approves further work on developing devolution proposals relating to a workable sub-regional geography
- Notes the timetable and next steps in the process as outlined in section 4.19 of the report.

77 CHESHIRE EAST LOCAL PLAN STRATEGY - MAIN MODIFICATIONS

(Cllr B Dooley had declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the Chamber during its consideration).

Consideration was given to a report relating to the main modifications in respect of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy. At its meeting on 26 February 2016, Council had approved proposed changes to the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy for consultation. Council had delegated consideration of the consultation responses to the Executive Director Place. The subsequent Examination Hearings into the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy had concluded on 20 October and, at the time of writing the report, the Inspector's findings were awaited.

The report requested that Council note and approve the requirement to consult on the Inspector's draft Recommended Main Modifications to the Local Plan Strategy. In order to minimise delay, it also requested that the previous delegation for making additional modifications to the Plan be extended through the next stages, prior to adoption of the Local Plan Strategy by the Council.

In addition to the substantive Main Modifications, delegated approval was also requested to approve other non-material changes to the Plan.

The Strategic planning Board, at its meeting on 14 December 2016, had also considered the report and had requested that Council take account of small but important changes to three supporting paragraphs in the report arising from legal advice received earlier in the week. Details of these changes were circulated around the Chamber. Given the risk of Judicial Review following plan adoption, the Council needed to ensure our processes were strictly correct.

Council was requested to note the minutes of Strategic Planning Board and approve the recommendation as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the Council report.

RESOLVED

That Council agrees the following delegations, subject to the agreed recommend amendments of the Strategic Planning Board:

1. That authority be delegated to the Director of Planning & Sustainable Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder, the Party Group Leaders and the Chairman & Vice-Chairman of Strategic Planning Board, to approve the publication of any draft Recommended Main Modifications received from the Inspector for public consultation alongside any further Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessments required.
2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Planning & Sustainable Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder, the Party Group Leaders and the Chairman & Vice-Chairman of Strategic Planning Board, to approve any proposed Additional Modifications to the Local Plan Strategy that do not

constitute a Main Modification, but which he deems are necessary or appropriate.

78 STAFFING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consideration was given to a report recommending that Council amend the Terms of Reference of the Staffing Committee in relation to the approval of Human Resources Policies and Procedures and other matters, details of which were set out in the report.

The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer reported that the need for this report had been brought to his attention after the meeting of the Constitution Committee and he had, therefore, consulted the Chairman of the Constitution Committee, who had agreed that it could be reported directly to Council.

RESOLVED

That the terms of Reference of the Staffing Committee be amended as detailed in the updated and re-circulated Appendix to the report, with immediate effect.

79 NOTICES OF MOTION

CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION:-

1. Membership of Freemasons

Proposed by Councillor Sam Corcoran and seconded by Cllr Nick Mannion

Council agrees that all Cheshire East Elected Members should be required to declare membership of the Freemasons.

RESOLVED

That the motion stand referred to the Audit and Governance Committee.

2. Space for Cycling

Proposed by Councillor Sam Corcoran and Seconded by Councillor Howard Murray

This Council supports the Space for Cycling process promoted by Cycling UK and commits to providing the funding to implement its cycling policy effectively.

RESOLVED

That the motion stand referred to Cabinet.

3. A&E at Macclesfield Hospital

A letter in respect of this motion, sent on behalf of Mr Peter Hayes and Honorary Freeman Sir Nicholas Winterton had been circulated around the Chamber.

Proposed by Councillor Paul Bates and seconded by Cllr Sam Corcoran,

That Cheshire East Council supports the continued provision of an accident and emergency service at Macclesfield General Hospital, and instructs the Chief Executive to write to such health and Government agencies, as he considers appropriate, to convey to them the resolution of this Council.

RESOLVED

That the motion be approved.

4. Millbrook Unit

Proposed by Councillor Paul Bates and seconded by Cllr Laura Jeuda

This Council strongly opposes the proposal to close the Millbrook Unit at Macclesfield and urges the decision makers to make alternative arrangements in order to ensure continuation of the existing service from that Unit.

Council agrees that Millbrook provides a specialised service within the borough to some of our most vulnerable residents, housing skilled nurses and health care professionals who deliver expert care in the field of mental health for our residents, in our locality and to the benefit of our community. Council further agrees that this is an asset which benefits those who are in need of care and keeps them close to those who love them.

RESOLVED

That the motion stand referred to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

5. Funding of Adult Social Care

The following motion was withdrawn at the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Jill Rhodes

This Council supports the Unison proposal and campaign to encourage the Chancellor to commit to spending the increase in the Government's share of business rates on Adult Social Care and to end the 2% council tax precept for social care from 2017/18.

Social Care is in crisis, as recent reports show and new funding is needed. The Government will have up to £2.4bn through the increase in its share of business rates. This should be given as a social care grant to allow Councils to tackle this crisis and lessen the local tax burden.

80 QUESTIONS

The following questions were submitted:-

1. Cllr Carter in respect of the Hurdsfield Family Centre. He stated that this had been identified as one of the areas requiring much needed attention in 2014, but had now been removed from the Council's budget. He asked what had changed since 2014, when this had been regarded as important and much needed - Cllr David Brown, Highways and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder undertook to provide a written response.
2. Cllr M Warren in respect of the recent declaration by the Council regarding additional Air Quality Management areas in Macclesfield and the approval of 500 new homes in close proximity to Hibel Road, bringing additional vehicles. He asked what the intention was regarding the Northern Land Development Order, which would encourage new homes to be built along the Hibel Road Air Quality Management Area, thereby putting resident's health at risk - Cllr A Arnold, Housing and Planning Portfolio Holder undertook to provide a written response.
3. Cllr H Murray asked whether the Leader of the Council would give a commitment that the decision on any devolution deal would not be considered unless it was first seen and debated by full Council – Cllr Rachel Bailey, the Leader of the Council, responded to say that she had every intention of engaging with Council on any decision.
4. Cllr D Flude, in respect of the Local Plan Inspector's recognition of the importance of the green gap in Crewe. She asked whether, rather than a High Growth City, there could now be a High Growth Garden City that would recognise the green gap and the importance of the small towns and cities, historically, in the smaller conurbations around Crewe – Cllr Arnold, Housing and Planning Portfolio Holder undertook to provide a written response.
5. Cllr S Corcoran stated that, as part of the budget setting process he would be raising the possibility of amending the budget to consider all or some of the recommendations of the call-in Scrutiny Committee relating to school buses and he asked the Leader of the

Council whether she would be willing to join a cross party group to discuss this issue - Cllr Rachel Bailey, the Leader of the Council, undertook to provide a written response.

6. Cllr R Fletcher asked when the Highways department would start to consider plans in order to alleviate the serious traffic congestion in Alsager, in view of the number of houses to be built in the area. – Cllr D Brown, Highways and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder undertook to provide a written response.

The meeting commenced at 1.30 pm and concluded at 4.15 pm

Councillor O Hunter (Mayor/Chairman)
CHAIRMAN

Minute 73 – Political Balance on the Council's Committees

Appendix 1

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL - POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITIES ON ALL BODIES (other than those to be appointed on an ad-hoc basis)

Based upon the following:

Con:52; Lab:16; Ind:11; Lib Dem:2; Non Grouped ind:1

| Committee | Con | Lab | Ind | Lib Dem | Total Allocated |
|---|------------|------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Corporate (Resources) Overview and Scrutiny | 8 (C) | 2 (VC) | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| Environment & Regeneration (places) Overview and Scrutiny | 7 (C) (VC) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| Children and Families (People) Overview and Scrutiny | 7 (C) (VC) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| Health and Adult Social Care (People) Overview and Scrutiny | 9 (C) (VC) | 4 | 2 | 0 | 15 |
| Audit and Governance Committee | 7 (C) (VC) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| Constitution | 9 (C) (VC) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 14 |
| Strategic Planning Board | 7 (C) (VC) | 2 | 2 | 1 | 12 |
| Northern Planning Committee | 8 (C) | 2 | 2 (VC) | 0 | 12 |

| Committee | Con | Lab | Ind | Lib Dem | Total |
|--|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Southern Planning Committee | 8 (C) (VC) | 2 | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| Public Rights of Way | 5 (C) | 1 (VC) | 1 | 0 | 7 |
| Licensing Committee | 10 (C) (VC) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 15 |
| Staffing | 5 (C) (VC) | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Lay Members Appointments | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Local Authority School Governor Appointments Panel | 3 (C) (VC) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| Civic Sub Committee | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Community Governance Review Sub Committee | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Outside Organisations Sub Committee | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Committee | Con | Lab | Ind | Lib Dem | Total |
| Total Places allocated | 110 | 34 | 23 | 4 | 171 |
| Total places available | | | | | |
| Proportional Entitlement | 110 (109.78) (64.2%) | 34 (33.77) (19.75%) | 23 (23.22) (13.58%) | 4 (4.22) (2.47%) | 171 (100%) |
| Difference* | (0) | (0) | (0) | (0) | (0) |