

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

held on Wednesday, 8th July, 2009 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor G M Walton (Chairman)
Councillor E Gilliland (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors S Broadhurst, H Davenport, M Hardy, M Hollins, M Parsons,
L Smetham, J Weatherill and D Hough

Apologies

Councillors R Fletcher and R Menlove

In Attendance

Councillors G Baxendale, D Brickhill (Portfolio Holder), L Gilbert, S Jones, A
Kolker, A Moran, B Moran, H Murray and A Thwaite

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Brickhill declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5 - Call In of Cabinet Decision - CE09/10-10 Car Parking Control and Charging in the area of the Former Borough of Congleton, due to being a Member of Cabinet when the decision was made. In accordance with the code of conduct he withdrew from the room immediately after answering questions and giving evidence. He did not return to the meeting.

6 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/ OPEN SESSION

In accordance with the Constitution, Town Councillor W Goodall spoke in respect of item 5 – Call In of Cabinet Decision –CE0910/10 Car Parking Control and Charging in the area of the Former Borough of Congleton.

7 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting dated 13 May 2009.

RESOLVED

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

8 CALL IN OF CABINET DECISION - CE09/10-10 CAR PARKING CONTROL AND CHARGING IN THE AREA OF THE FORMER BOROUGH OF CONGLETON

The Committee reviewed the Cabinet decision of 16 June 2009 for car parking control and charging in the area of the former Borough of Congleton.

Councillor Baxendale attended the meeting to explain the reasons for the Call In. The Portfolio Holder, Head of Service for Safer and Stronger Communities, Parking Manager and Legal Consultant attended the meeting to explain the background to the decision and answer to any questions.

Councillors S Jones, L Gilbert, A Kolker, A Moran, B Moran and A Thwaite also attended the meeting to speak in respect of this item.

Members raised questions relating to the consultants report being flawed and inaccurate, the proposed parking charges, the number of car parks and parking spaces taken into account, the consultation process, residents parking schemes, civil enforcement and proposed tariff bands.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that resident parking schemes would be considered for every town and that tariff bands were being developed in time for the 20010/11 budget.

Due to having a personal and prejudicial interest the Portfolio Holder withdrew from the room once he had explained the reasons for the decision and answered any questions.

Following detailed consideration of the explanations and reasons for the decision, the Committee decided to offer the following advice to Cabinet:

1. That Cabinet ensure that the facts and figures contained within the report are correct
2. That the charging policy be standardised across the Borough
3. That parking be free of charge for the first hour
4. That the consultation period for the off street car parking order be extended to two months
5. That the Council's Parking Strategy be adhered to.

Members also agreed that in future any policy issues should be submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to Cabinet consideration.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet give consideration to the above advice

9 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Committee

10 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee gave consideration to the draft work programme. It was agreed that an additional meeting would be arranged for 6 August 2009 to give consideration to give to the following issues:

1. Presentation on highway maintenance
2. Presentation on waste management

3. Presentation on residential parking schemes
4. Progress report – Macclesfield Town Centre
5. Housing and Homelessness Strategies

The Committee also agreed that any issues with a low priority should be deleted from the work programme.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be approved subject to the above amendments.

11 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee gave consideration to the extracts of the forward plan, which fall within the remit of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

12 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Due to minute 13 - Call In of Cabinet Decision - Key Decision CE09/10-10 Car Parking Control and Charging in the area of the Former Borough of Congleton - Legal Implications not being discussed, the Committee decided not to exclude the press and public from the meeting.

13 CALL IN OF CABINET DECISION - KEY DECISION CE09/10-10 CAR PARKING CONTROL AND CHARGING IN THE AREA OF THE FORMER BOROUGH OF CONGLETON - LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Committee noted the content of this report and did not discuss it.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 1.00 pm

Councillor G M Walton (Chairman)