

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Member for Prosperity**
held on Tuesday, 8th December, 2009 at Fred Flint Room, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor Jamie Macrae, Cabinet Member for Prosperity

In attendance

Councillor Gordon Baxendale

Officers

Vikki Jeffrey, Strategic Housing and Development Manager
Paul Mountford, Legal and Democratic Services

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no questions from members of the public.

9 ASSISTED PURCHASE SCHEME

The Cabinet Member considered a proposed Assisted Purchase Scheme for Cheshire East.

The former Congleton Borough Council had launched an Assisted Purchase Scheme in 2006 to help first-time buyers to access the housing market. The authority had offered a 25% interest-free loan on open market properties up to a maximum purchase price of £140,000. The loan had not been interest bearing, but was repayable on the sale of the property and the authority would expect to receive 25% of the open market value, which would then be recycled back into the scheme. Cheshire East Council had approved a capital allocation of £600,000 in 2009 to continue the scheme across the new Borough, and it was now proposed that the scheme be re-launched with the following amendments:

- Applicants could apply for a 25% loan on properties up to a maximum value of £180,000, with maximum assistance of £45,000.
- Applicants would be expected to repay the loan in full within a ten-year period from completion. A legal contract would have to be entered into

by the applicant and a registered charge would also be placed on the property.

- If, after a ten-year period, the applicant stated that they were not in a financial position to repay the loan then a financial assessment would be carried out to verify this. The Strategic Housing Manager in conjunction with the Borough Treasurer could then take the decision either to extend the loan period for a further period (maximum of ten years) or to apply interest to the loan at the Bank of England base rate if it was felt that no provision had been made to repay the loan.

RESOLVED

That the Assisted Purchase Scheme, as amended and set out in the Appendix to the report, be adopted and applied across Cheshire East.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 9.45 am

Councillor Jamie Macrae