

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Shared Services Joint Committee**
held on Wednesday, 31st March, 2010 in the Fred Flint Room, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor P Mason (Chairman)
Councillor L Ford (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D Brown, F Keegan, Jones and Short

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE:

Cheshire West and Chester Councillor L Riley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Cheshire East Council

Borough Solicitor
Borough Treasurer & Head of Assets
Head of HR and Organisational
Development
Interim Shared Services Manager

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Borough Solicitor
Director of Resources
Head of Human Resources
Policy Officer

59 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

In the absence of members of the public, the Joint Committee proceeded to its next item of business.

60 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2010 be approved as a correct record.

61 TRANSITIONAL SHARED SERVICES UPDATE - DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

The Joint Committee considered a report which provided an update on activity related to transitional shared services. The report also outlined the reasons for a proposed extension to the sharing arrangements for two services; namely, Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Archaeological Planning and Advisory Service.

The proposed changes for these services had been agreed with operational managers from both Councils and the Shared Service managers in accordance with the general shared service governance. The changes would allow for the transition to alternative service delivery arrangements which could not be achieved by 31st March 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the legal sharing arrangements of the following services be extended as indicated –

- (a) Drug and Alcohol Action Team – to 30th April 2010;
- (b) Archaeological Planning and Advisory Service – to 30th June 2010

62 CESSATION OF THE SHARED INTERNATIONAL UNIT

The Joint Committee considered a report which requested the cessation of the shared International Unit, with effect from 31 May 2010, with responsibility for its functions passing to the newly-created Prosperity Commission which had the role of co-ordinating and integrating economic development, transport and housing. The Prosperity Commission would replace the existing Cheshire and Warrington Economic Alliance.

Recent changes to the sub-regional architecture within Cheshire and Warrington had resulted in the creation of seven commissions which would allow for a more effective, efficient and focused sub-regional approach. Moreover, the shared International Unit was subject to a strategic review. The Brussels accommodation sub-lease was due to expire on 31 January 2011 and it was considered that the functionality of the unit currently provided for both authorities could be provided by the newly-formed Prosperity Commission.

RESOLVED:

1. That authority be granted to the cessation of the Cheshire East-hosted International Unit, with effect from 31st May 2010;
2. That authority be granted to make any consequential amendments to the legal documentation;
3. That Officers be required to ensure, as far as possible, the level of services be no lower than that currently provided by the International Unit and to use all efforts to ensure that the two Councils' influence at Brussels is enhanced; and
4. That Officers be requested to ensure that the totality of the sum required be funded from the Prosperity Commission.

63 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

64 INTERNATIONAL UNIT

The Joint Committee considered a report which outlined an application from a member of staff within the International Unit for voluntary redundancy and presented the business case to support this.

RESOLVED:

That the application for voluntary redundancy, as detailed in the matrix attached to the report, be approved with effect from 31st March 2010 on the basis that the cost be met in the proportions 12.5% by Cheshire West and Chester Council and 87.5% by Cheshire East Council.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.20 am

Councillor P Mason (Chairman)