

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee**  
held on Thursday, 3rd March, 2011 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

### **PRESENT**

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)  
Councillor W Livesley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors E Alcock, A Barratt, D Flude, D Hough, J Jones, S Wilkinson and  
J Wray

### **Apologies**

Councillors J Crockatt, M Davies, P Edwards and M Hardy

### **81 ALSO PRESENT**

Emily Lam – Cheshire Police Authority  
Martin Dowell – Cheshire Fire and Rescue  
Evan Morris – Cheshire Fire and Rescue

### **82 OFFICERS PRESENT**

Tony Potts  
Peter Hartwell  
Caroline Simpson  
Juliet Blackburn  
Mark Nedderman

### **83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

None

### **84 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN**

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the  
Committee.

### **85 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That subject to the name of Councillor S Wilkinson being added to the list of  
apologies for absence, the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2011 be  
approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **86 ROAD SAFETY**

The Chairman informed the committee that the Environment Portfolio Holder had been called to attend another Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting which had clashed with this meeting and therefore suggested that consideration of this matter should be deferred.

RESOLVED – That consideration of this matter be deferred to a future meeting of this committee.

## **87 COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDENS**

The Committee considered a report of the Community Safety Manager informing the Committee of progress made in respect of a number of matters raised originally at its meeting held on 6 January 2011. On 2 February 2011 the committee had received an interim report of the Community Safety Officer containing initial responses to matters raised by the Committee relating to the operation of the Community Warden Service.

Tony Potts, Community safety Manager presented the report and answered Members questions.

Tony informed the Committee that the proposal to reduce the number of Community Wardens employed by the Council from the current 12 to 8 would deliver annual savings of £157,000. The 8 staff would be divided into two teams of 4, and located in Crewe and Macclesfield police stations. In response to questions from members about the extent to which the fixed costs of supplies, transport premises and other ancillary costs could be reduced as a result of employing fewer staff, Tony informed the Committee that he could not quantify the precise figure at the moment, but it was suggested to him that he should be aiming for a 25% reduction.

Tony also explained that the service was undergoing a review of the functions a role of Community wardens. He explained that in future, the wardens would concentrate on their statutory duties and enforcement issues concerning environmental and streetscape services but would withdraw from non statutory duties such as the promotion of community safety issues in schools.

It was also reported that wardens would routinely attend LAP meetings, although it was suggested by Members that perhaps wardens should only attend such meetings as and when required.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and the the new working arrangements as set in the report be noted, but the Community Safety manager be requested to report back to this Committee in six months time on progress with the service and with detailed financial information on the savings achieved through the restructure.

## **88 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING GRANT**

Peter Hartwell, Head of Safer and Stronger Communities attended the meeting and outlined briefly details of the new Service Level Agreement for neighbourhood policing arrangements linked to the new Neighbourhood Policing Grant. The removal of the ring-fenced CDRP grant from the new formula grant settlement had resulted in there being no earmarked funding for PCSO's in future. Peter explained however, that the Council had mainstreamed a sum of

£260,000 in the 2011/12 budget to support neighbourhood policing in Cheshire East.

RESOLVED – That consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee and the Head of Safer Communities be requested to submit a written report explaining the full implications of the new funding arrangements and Service Level Agreement.

## **89 EXTRACTS OF THE FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered an extract from the current forward plan.

RESOLVED – That the forward plan be noted.

## **90 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee reviewed the work programme.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

## **91 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

## **92 NEW SUB REGIONAL ROAD SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director Places, outlining progress on the development of a new proposal for road safety joint working within Cheshire and Warrington from 31 March 2011. This would replace the Cheshire Roads Safer Partnership.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received

(b) That the establishment of the Cheshire Road Safety Group be added to the Committee's work programme.

## **93 FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN CHESHIRE EAST**

The Committee considered a schedule containing details of grants, subscriptions and contributions to Service level Agreements covering all of the services within Cheshire East.

RESOLVED – That the report be received, and the Policy and Performance Manager be requested to submit a progress report to this Committee in 3 months time.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 1.15 pm

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)