

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council
held on Thursday, 16th December, 2010 at Macclesfield Town Hall,
Macclesfield, SK10 1DX

PRESENT

Councillor G Baxendale (Chairman)

Councillor R West (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors C Andrew, A Arnold, M Asquith, Rachel Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, A Barratt, G Barton, C Beard, W T Beard, D Bebbington, S Bentley, D Brickhill, S Broadhurst, D Brown, D J Cannon, R Cartledge, S Conquest, J Crockatt, H Davenport, M Davies, W S Davies, R Domleo, J P Findlow, W Fitzgerald, R Fletcher, D Flude, S Furlong, H Gaddum, L Gilbert, J Goddard, J Hammond, M Hardy, D Hough, T Jackson, J Jones, S Jones, F Keegan, A Knowles, A Kolker, M Lloyd, A Martin, M A Martin, P Mason, R Menlove, G Merry, A Moran, B Moran, H Murray, D Neilson, A Ranfield, B Silvester, M J Simon, L Smetham, D Stockton, D Thompson, A Thwaite, C Tomlinson, D Topping, R Walker, G M Walton, M J Weatherill, R Westwood, P Whiteley, S Wilkinson and J Wray

Apologies

Councillors E Alcock, B H Dykes, P Edwards, M Hollins, E Howell, O Hunter, W Livesley, J Macrae, S McGrory, J Narraway, M Parsons and C G Thorley

68 PRAYERS

Councillor S Wilkinson said prayers, at the request of the Mayor.

69 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AND THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2010

RESOLVED

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

70 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor :-

(1) Extended a warm welcome to a new member of our Corporate Management Team, Interim Borough Solicitor, Caroline Elwood and reported that Caroline had over 30 years' experience in local government, holding senior legal positions at Sefton Council, Salford City Council, Vale Royal Borough Council and Preston City Council. Caroline replaced Chris Chapman, who left the authority to commence his new role at Herefordshire Council.

(2) Announced that, in early November, Cheshire East had the privilege of hosting three Homecoming Parades for the 1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment (Cheshire) and that It had been a wonderful sight to see over 500 soldiers marching through the streets of Macclesfield, Crewe and Congleton and to witness the wonderful reception they received from the public. There had been some really positive feedback from The Mercians and the Mayor thanked all those who had supported the events and stated that, hopefully, next year the regiment would be visiting some of the other towns in Cheshire East.

(3) Following on the military theme, the Mayor reported that, as a fundraiser for his charity, the Army Benevolent Fund, he had organised a Dress Down Friday for staff at Cheshire East. During the day he had visited Macclesfield Town Hall, Dalton House, Emperor Court, Delemere House and Westfields and was delighted to report that a fantastic £638.39 had been raised for the charity.

(4) Announced that, in the previous month, the Council had published a "What's on in Cheshire East" guide, which was funded by the Cheshire East Economic Recovery Task Group. The 16 page guide highlighted all the activities and events taking place across Cheshire East's towns during the festive season. If Members hadn't already received a copy they were available to collect after the meeting.

(5) Announced that that the Council had also published a 2011 'Open Air' calendar, put together by the Council's Rangers, which featured some stunning photos taken by staff, showing Cheshire East throughout the seasons. The calendar also promoted events and activities in the 2011 Open Air programme. It was a perfect stocking filler and Members could obtain copies for £2.50 each from the Visitor Information Centre at the Town Hall, in Macclesfield.

(6) Announced that the grand opening of the £52m Alderley Edge and Nether Alderley bypass had taken place on 19 November, almost a century after the first plans were drawn up. The three-mile route, one of the biggest current highway schemes in the North West, was officially opened by the Right Honourable George Osborne, MP for Tatton. More than 150 invited guests had attended the ceremony, followed by a tour of the bypass and a celebratory lunch at Festival Hall, Alderley Edge. The Mayor congratulated all those involved in what has been an incredibly complex and demanding engineering project, undertaken by contractor, Birse Civils and was completed more that six months early. This represented an excellent example of partnership working.

(7) As this was the last meeting before the end of the year and Christmas, the Mayor had arranged for mulled wine, mince pies and coffee to be served after the meeting in Capesthorne Room and he invited Members and Officers to join him for a short celebration, with musical accompaniment from Styal Primary School.

71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal interest in item 14 of the agenda, relating to the Wilmslow Community Governance Review, by virtue of the fact that his wife was related to one of the people involved in lobbying for a Parish Council for Styal.

Councillor Flude declared a personal interest in the item relating to questions, by virtue of the fact that she was a member of the Alzheimer's Society and of the Central Cheshire Advocacy for People with Learning Difficulties.

Also, personal interests were declared by all Members of the Council in respect of item 11 of the agenda, in view of the fact that the Item related to the rights and privileges of Members and Aldermen.

72 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

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

73 NOTICE OF MOTION

Consideration was given to the following Notice of Motion, submitted by Councillor Shirley Jones :-

Fairtrade is an alternative approach to international trade. It is a trading partnership which aims at sustainable development for excluded and disadvantaged producers. It seeks to do this by providing better trading conditions by awareness raising and by campaigning.

Cheshire East Council has already resolved to support Fairtrade in principle, but must develop a strategy, if it wishes to formally acquire Fairtrade status for the Borough. This would be achieved by :-

- i) continuing to offer Fairtrade marked food such as tea, coffee and sugar internally for meetings and functions.
- ii) promoting the Fairtrade Mark using Fairtrade Foundation materials in refreshment areas keeping our commitment to value for money in mind.
- ii) promoting the Fairtrade Towns initiative in internal communications and external newsletters.
- iv) encourage towns, schools, businesses, faith groups and voluntary organisations in the Borough to promote Fairtrade
- v) use its influence to urge local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for the residents of the borough

vi) participating in community activities during Fairtrade Fortnight .

vii) setting up a Steering Group in partnership with Fairtrade organisations in the Borough, representatives of businesses, not for profit organisations , schools and other public bodies to oversee this strategy.

Therefore, Council is requested to consider taking these steps in order to acquire Fairtrade status.

RESOLVED

That the motion stand referred to Cabinet.

74 RECOMMENDATION FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE - LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY IN UNPARISHED AREAS

Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Constitution Committee, proposing the appointment of two Local Service Delivery Committees for the unparished parts of Crewe and Macclesfield respectively.

RESOLVED

(1) That a Local Service Delivery (Crewe) Committee be constituted on a 5/1/1 membership basis, with all other local Members being invited to participate, with the arrangements being reviewed in May 2011.

(2) a Local Service Delivery (Macclesfield) Committee be similarly constituted;

(3) the powers of each committee be:

“To make representations to Cabinet and Council about the delivery of local services in the area and to monitor local services where a town or parish council acting under local devolution arrangements would have been expected to do so (but not otherwise).”

75 RECOMMENDATION FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2011/12

Consideration was given to the recommendation from the Constitution Committee regarding the Calendar of Meetings 2011/12.

RESOLVED

That the Calendar of Meetings for the municipal year 2011/12 be approved and that the starting time of Council meetings be included on the agenda for the first meeting of the new Council in May 2011.

76 REPORT BACK FROM THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE ON THE NOTICE OF MOTION RELATING TO THE CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Consideration was given to the report back from the Constitution Committee on the Notice of Motion relating to the Crewe Community Governance Review.

Rather than conducting Community Governance Reviews in a piecemeal fashion, it had been suggested that the Constitution Committee may wish to take a more holistic approach by considering the needs of the Borough as a whole. The Committee, had, therefore, recommended that Council defer any further consideration of the subject matter of the Motion until after the May 2011 elections.

RESOLVED

That any further consideration of the subject matter of the Motion be deferred until after the May 2011 elections, at which time Council also be asked urgently to consider undertaking a holistic Borough-wide review of community governance arrangements in Cheshire East.

77 RECOMMENDATION FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE - HONORARY ALDERMEN AND FREEMEN

Consideration was given to the recommendation from Constitution Committee on the rights and privileges to be extended to Honorary Aldermen and Freemen of the Borough.

RESOLVED

(1) That the rights and privileges of all Cheshire East Honorary Aldermen and Freemen be extended to include:

- a. Admission tickets to the Cheshire County Show and the RHS Flower Show, provided for by the Council, for themselves and one guest;
- b. A life Pass for Tatton Park, provided for by the Council;

(2) That the rights and privileges of all Cheshire East Members be extended to include:

- a. Admission tickets to the Cheshire County Show and the RHS Flower Show, provided for by the Council for themselves and one guest;
- b. A pass for Tatton Park provided for by the Council for Members on Council business.

- (3) That the organising committee for the Cheshire County Show, with the support of Cheshire East Council, be invited to consider the reintroduction of a lunch for civic and other dignitaries on a similar basis to that organised by the former County Council, with tickets being offered to Cheshire East Honorary Aldermen and Freeman, Members or other local dignitaries on the basis that the cost of the tickets would be met by those invited.

78 RECOMMENDATION FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE - NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to the recommendation from Constitution Committee on options for future executive arrangements for Cheshire East Council.

RESOLVED

That

- (1) the outcome of the public consultation exercise undertaken between 1st October and 12th November 2010 on the options for future executive arrangements for Cheshire East Council be noted;
- (2) the new Strong Leader and Cabinet model of governance be adopted by the Council, this to be brought into effect at the beginning of the next municipal year, subject to any subsequent amending legislation;
- (3) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to amend the Constitution as necessary, to give effect to the decision of Council; and
- (4) those who responded to the public consultation exercise be notified of the Council's decision at the appropriate time.

79 RECOMMENDATION FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE - E PETITIONS - THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION ACT 2009 AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (PETITIONS) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

Consideration was given to the recommendation from Constitution Committee on a proposed revision to the scheme for dealing with petitions, to include provision for e-petitions.

RESOLVED

That the Petitions Scheme be amended to include the additional section dealing with e-petitions, as set out in Appendix A to the Constitution Committee report and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

**80 RECOMMENDATION FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE -
WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - OUTCOME OF
STAGE 2 CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to the recommendations from the Constitution Committee, following the second stage of public consultation in respect of the Wilmslow Community Governance Review.

In moving the recommendations, Cllr Findlow, the Chairman of the Constitution Committee, thanked all those who had been involved in the work of the Sub-Committee for their hard work.

RESOLVED

Having taken into account all responses made during the Second Stage of consultation and the recommendations of the Constitution Committee and having regard to the need to ensure that Community Governance within the area reflects the identities and interests of the Community, and is effective and convenient, that Council's recommendations made on 22nd July 2010 be reaffirmed, and that:

(1) having regard to comparator information for Parish Councils in Cheshire East, and having regard to electoral equality, three new parishes be created and the number of Councillors to serve on each of the new Parish Councils be as follows:

- a. Handforth: 7 Councillors
- b. Styal: 7 Councillors
- c. Wilmslow: 15 Councillors

(2) four wards be created for the Wilmslow Parish and named as follows, to provide as far as possible coterminous boundaries for electoral purposes:

- i. Wilmslow West (comprising 5 Councillors: polling districts 8FH1, 8FJ1, 8FG1, 8FC1, 8FA1(part), 8FB1(part), 8FD1(part);
- ii. Lacey Green (comprising 2 Councillors: polling districts 8EK1, 8EA1(part), 8FD1(part);
- iii. Dean Row (comprising 4 Councillors: polling districts 8EA1(part), 8EB1, 8EC1, 8ED1, 8EE1); and
- iv. Wilmslow East (comprising 4 Councillors: polling districts 8FD1(part), 8FA1(part), 8FB1(part), 8FE1, 8FF1)

(3) three wards be created for the Handforth Parish and named as follows:

- i. Handforth West (comprising 3 Councillors: polling districts 8EG1, 8EJ1)

- ii. Handforth East (comprising 2 Councillors: polling district 8EH1); and
- iii. Handforth South (comprising 2 Councillors: polling district 8EF1)

(4) accordingly, and subject to the following, the detailed provisions of the draft Cheshire East Borough Council (Re-organisation of Community Governance) Order 2011, as submitted to the meeting be approved and that the Borough Solicitor be authorised to issue the Order and to make any necessary technical and detailed amendments as may be required:

- a. the transitional arrangements for the proposed town and parish councils be dealt with by the Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee in consultation with relevant local Ward Members; and
- b. the proposed budgets for the first year of the new councils be as follows:

Wilmslow Parish Council	- £244,275	Indicative Council tax of
		£23.00 per Band D property
Handforth Parish Council	- £85,000	Indicative Council tax of
		£28.00 per Band D property
Styal Parish Council	- £8,200	Indicative Council tax of
		£28.00 per Band D property

(5) in accordance with Section 96 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make the necessary arrangements to publicise the outcome of the Community Governance Review.

81 **RECOMMENDATION FROM RESOURCES PORTFOLIO HOLDER - COUNCIL TAX BASE**

Consideration was given to the recommendation from Resources Portfolio Holder relating to the setting of the Council Tax Base.

RESOLVED

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 2011/12 is:
for the whole area – 146,899.21
for each Parish area as set out in Appendix A to the report submitted to the Resources Portfolio Holder and to Council.

82 QUESTIONS

The following questions had been submitted :-

(1) Lyceum Theatre Crewe

Cllr Thorley had submitted the following question :-

The report by FMG Consulting, Review of the Operations and Operating Models the Lyceum Theatre.

Will the Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing inform this Council of the source of the funding recently found to enable the Theatre to continue to operate?

Response

Cllr Knowles, the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder, undertook to provide a written response to the question, to all Members.

(2) The proposed closure of the Information Offices located at the Bus Stations in Macclesfield and Crewe.

Cllr Flude had submitted the following question :-

Can this Council be assured that a Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out?

In relation to:

People with sight impairment and people who are blind.

People who are deaf.

People who have a learning difficulty.

People who have a physical disability

What cooperation has taken place within this council's Adult Services

Travel Trainers and the Places Directorate?

Response

Cllr Knowles, undertook to ensure that a written response to question be provided to all Members, on behalf of Cllr Macrae, the Prosperity Portfolio Holder.

(3) The Information Point at Macclesfield Bus Station

Cllr Arnold had submitted the following question :-

The information point at Macclesfield bus station is well used by the travelling public in Macclesfield. The staff maintain the general upkeep of the station and help prevent A.S.B. They also ensure that the toilet facilities are kept well maintained, all important elements in encouraging public transport use. Given the wealth of opposition by bus users and other groups to the proposed withdrawal of staff from bus station, could I ask if the Cabinet Member has reviewed the proposed closure of the information point and if in light of this opposition, he is now seeking alternative options for savings, other than the loss of staff at the bus station?

Response

Cllr Knowles responded on behalf of Cllr Macrae, the Prosperity Portfolio Holder, as follows :-

“ We examined a variety of alternative savings proposals prior to considering the proposed closure of the information offices in both Crewe and Macclesfield Bus Stations. Whilst the service offered by the two information points has always been of a high standard – and therefore valued by the travelling public – there has been a decline in usage in recent years as other sources of travel information have become more widely used. For example, the number of hits on the council’s transport information pages on the website exceed 25,000 a year, with over 1,000 unique downloads of bus timetables each month – more than 30 a day – and these sources of information are growing significantly with each passing month.

I accept that not every person has easy access to the internet yet; so we have put in place plans for a direct link to the Traveline telephone information service. This service – which will be free to use for the general public – will provide up to date travel information, so that users who may find it difficult to access timetables and other information on their telephones or via the internet will still be able to speak to an experienced travel information advisor.

In terms of the general upkeep of Macclesfield Bus Station – the council has engaged outside contractors since the bus station was built to ensure that it is kept in good condition, that public lavatory facilities are well maintained and presentable, and that any damage is swiftly rectified. These arrangements will continue following closure of the information office, so I see no reason why the information office closure would have an adverse effect on the condition of the bus station.”

(4) Funding For Child Poverty Local Duties 2010/11

Cllr Flude had submitted the following question :-

The Child Poverty Act, which received Royal Assent in March 2010 introduced a statutory requirement for responsible local authorities and their named partners to:

Make arrangements to cooperate to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local areas.

Prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment.

Prepare a local child poverty strategy based on a needs assessment and in consultation with children, parents and organisations representing children and parents.

Cheshire East will receive £39,900 in the Area-Based Grant from the Autumn, a non-ring fenced grant which is administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Have Children's Services received the grant?

When is it expected that the Child Poverty Needs Assessment will be published?

Response

Cllr Brown, the Performance and Capacity Portfolio Holder responded as follows :-

Response to first part of Question : Have Children's Services received the grant?

The Child Poverty grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government has been received by the Performance and Partnerships team who have corporate responsibility to produce the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Strategy, working with the Children's Services Directorate. The funding is to be used to 'focus capacity and resources on understanding needs in local areas to re-prioritise and re-focus local services accordingly' (Child Poverty Unit, 2010). This funding is received in monthly increments until the end of the current financial year.

It is intended that this funding will be used to consult with:

- · Children
- · Parents
- · Groups that represent children and parents within identified priority areas and groups i.e., out-of-work families, in-work families, lone parents, families in temporary accommodation, children living in families with disabled parents, children with disabilities, black and ethnic minorities.

Response to second part of Question: When is it expected that the Child Poverty Needs Assessment will be published?

It is our intention to produce both the Needs Assessment and a draft Strategy in parallel by the end of March 2011. This will be followed by public consultation for 12 weeks in order to complete the final Strategy by June 2011. The suggested date for the needs assessment to be made publicly available is by the end of April 2011.

The strategy will cover a 3 year period as required by the Child Poverty Act 2010. The Strategy must identify targets and actions to minimise socio-economic disadvantages within local areas. In order to produce this strategy, a Needs Assessment must be completed to identify which groups are at risk or disadvantaged, and the impacts of policy for each group.

A working group is overseeing the development of the Needs Assessment, based on the framework provided by the Child Poverty Unit. This framework has four 'building blocks' – financial support; place and delivery; employment and skills; family and life chances.

(5) Winter Deaths

Cllr Flude had submitted the following question :-

In the winter period (December to March) of 2009/10 there were an estimated 25,400 more deaths in England and Wales, compared with the average for the non-winter period this was a decrease of 30 per cent compared with the number in the previous winter, but is slightly higher than the level seen in 2007/08. Females experience greater excess winter mortality than males: in 2009/10 there were 10,600 excess winter deaths in males and 14,800 excess winter deaths in females. The greatest increase in deaths each winter is in the elderly population. In the winter of 2009/10 there were 20,600 more deaths among those aged 75 and over, compared with levels in the non-winter period. In contrast, there were 4,900 excess winter deaths among those under the age of 75. The number of extra deaths occurring in winter varies depending on temperature and the level of disease in the population. The winter of 2009/10 was the coldest since 1995/96 (The Met Office, 2010)

The reported numbers of winter deaths in Cheshire East 2009/ 2010 was 220.

Weather conditions have been exceptional so far in December.

Will the Leader of this Council assure Members that across all of this Council's services there is close co-operation in the provision of services to our many vulnerable residents?

Will he also assure this Council that there is close co-operation between the Council and our many partners who also provide services to vulnerable residents in Cheshire East?

Response

Cllr Domleo, the Adult Services Portfolio Holder responded as follows:-

A copy of the Adults, Community, Health and Wellbeing briefing note "RADAR Special- 9th December" has been distributed to all the staff in our directorate and to CE Members. This issue of RADAR provides a summary of recent reminders etc to staff on this issue and reinforces some of the carer support available in CEC.

Please be assured that our contracts team regularly liaise with independent sector agencies and residential/ nursing homes during periods like we have experienced to ensure there are no concerns with regards continuity of service and support for individuals.

In the event staff cannot get to people or concerns are noted our social work teams would be immediately notified, for urgent assessment and appropriate action.

This is regularly monitored and staff teams are reminded to alert senior management if there are any difficulties delivering our own services or where there may be difficulties with the independent/third sector.

To date we have not experienced any significant disruption, other than the odd day lost at a day service, due to heating failure.

These extreme conditions do put pressure on the hospitals and we see a rise in admissions. The whole system becomes under significant pressure to discharge people with additional support etc. Our teams have worked hard to minimise any negative impacts and pressure on hospital beds and despite the hospitals being on 'red', the system is moving. Additional out of hours support is being put in place.

We do have contracts with Crossroads, the British Red Cross and Age UK to support people, including emergency carer schemes and support from hospital to home-which will include ensuring peoples heating is on/food is in/medication available etc. Our hospital teams work closely with health partners to monitor those who may be at high risk on discharge.

For those on a direct payment, a contingency plan would be agreed at outset, to agree how support could be offered, should the main carer not be available for whatever reason. Should any contingency plan break down, our social work teams would be alerted and we would respond accordingly to ensure the individual was not at risk.

Emergency respite is also available at our Community support Centres and Care4CE are currently providing a crisis response service, should we need to commission.

(6) Risk Assessment Adult Services Budget

Cllr Flude had submitted the following question :-

The changes and cuts in the Welfare Benefits System by the ConDem government will have a direct effect on the Adult Services Budget in this Council.

The report Expectations & Aspirations Public attitudes to towards social care.

Research in advance of the ConDem government green paper on social care the Institute for Public Research and Pricewaterhouse Coopers found reluctance towards greater family responsibility for the funding and providing care.

Examples of pressure that Cheshire East Adult Care Budgets will experience.

Many older people who live in Extra Care Housing are in receipt of Housing Benefit as are people with Learning Disabilities in housing networks.

The Transition of young people from Children's Services to Adult services.

The removal of the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance for the profoundly disabled who reside in residential or nursing homes.

Support to Carers.

Mental Capacity Act [Advocacy]

There are, at this time, 92 older people who have run out of their own funding and are being supported by this Council to fund their residential/Nursing Care £2.3million pounds.

At this time there are serious overspends in Adult Services Budgets 2010/11.

These factors and many more add to a High Risk in Adult Services Budget in 2011/ 2012.

Has the Borough Treasurer carried out a risk assessment to ameliorate the possibility of an overspend of this magnitude and what was the outcome of that risk assessment?

Response

Cllr Domleo, the Adult Services Portfolio Holder responded as follows:-

The pressures being reported within the Adults care budgets mirror those being experienced elsewhere in the country (46% cost increases over eight years nationally between 2000/01 and 2007/08), with the addition that the growth in Cheshire East's elderly proportion is above average, so cost pressures arising from those who require larger and more costly care packages are having a greater impact. Recent analysis highlights increasing costs upwards of £4m (6%) per annum. One of the factors

continuing to affect the bottom line position is the individual's ability to contribute towards the cost of their care, with increasing numbers being returning self funders and this burden is falling on Cheshire East, which is likely to increase further as changes to benefits nationally bite further in this area.

In setting the budget for 2010/11 the Department anticipated a continued ability to generate reductions of over £3.8m in addition to reductions in 2009/10 of £3.9m and allowing for a modest level of growth of £0.4m. In setting such an ambitious target for the Department the Borough Treasurer and Head of Assets recognised the risk via developing the Council's Reserves Strategy, specifically noting Budget Pressures of just under £12m within the report. The position on reserves, overall spending pressure and remedial action plans is kept under regular review and also shared with Members via the reports prepared by the Borough Treasurer and Assets.

During the year the Department has already taking substantial mitigating action to help reduce the overall spending pressure. Actions include accelerating the reviews of individual's care packages, procurement savings through negotiations with providers, increasing the numbers who receive a Direct Payment at a lower cost and further rationalisation of social workers, staff and buildings within Care4CE provider settings.

In summary the Department is experiencing unprecedented growth in demand, which is mirrored elsewhere in the country, whilst continuing to transform services to facilitate personalisation and reablement. In addition the changing income profile of individuals is also affecting the Department with fewer self funders, and the impact of benefit changes also likely to impact on the overall financial pressures. In setting the budget the Council both assessed and took account of the risk across the Council within its reserves and the Department continues to take remedial action to reduce the overall overspend.

(7) Domiciliary Care

Cllr Rhoda Bailey had submitted the following question :-

“Now that domiciliary care is being outsourced, what controls are being put in place to ensure that proper standards of care will be maintained?”

Response

Cllr Domleo, the Adult Services Portfolio Holder responded as follows:-

Firstly thankyou for raising this important question.

Domiciliary Care support arrangements are monitored through reviews with people to ensure that support is meeting their needs and that there

are no issues of concern arising. On support plans, helpful telephone numbers are in place to ensure that people know who to ring should they have a concern. Additionally support plans take account of potential risks and solutions that could be put in place and/or emergency plans should these require enacting. Carer Assessment and Crisis Support arrangements are in place.

We work closely with our providers and we meet regularly with them and some of the areas that we have covered this year are: Personalisation, Recruitment and Retention, Training, Registration, Safeguarding, etc. We make sure that they understand the importance of making a real difference to people's lives.

We regularly raise through the media the importance of raising concerns with the Council about services and vulnerability of our citizens. This is very important to us. We also recognise the role of members as advocates for their constituents and would want any concerns about vulnerability or services in their area reported to us.

83 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COUNCIL

The Leader reported to Council upon two matters as follows

1. The first announcement related to recent Cabinet changes. The former Portfolio Holder for Resources was no longer a Cabinet member and the Leader had assumed responsibility for all Resources Portfolio responsibilities and powers.
2. The second announcement related to urgent action taken under Council Procedure Rules 18 & 25 of the Constitution on 27th October. The Leader was required to inform Council of Key Decisions taken during the previous quarter, where it had not been possible to include details on the Forward Plan. There had been one such decision during the last quarter, this relating to the acquisition of land at Crewe. Members had received separate notification of this matter, on 29th October. As the matter was, commercially sensitive the Leader did not provide further details. However, the Leader referred to correspondence already sent out to Members, which provided further information and that they should, therefore, rely upon this if more detail was needed.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.20 pm
Councillor G Baxendale (Chairman)

CHAIRMAN