

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Members for Health & Wellbeing, Safer & Stronger Communities, Performance & Capacity and Prosperity** held on Monday, 13th September, 2010 at Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Andrew Knowles, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor Rachel Bailey, Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities  
Councillor David Brown, Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity  
Councillor Jamie Macrae, Cabinet Member for Prosperity

## **In attendance**

Councillor Andrew Thwaite

## **Officers**

Guy Kilminster, Head of Health and Wellbeing  
Jon Winkle, Health and Wellbeing  
Karen Whitehead, Private Sector Housing Manager  
Stewart House, Principal Planning Officer  
Keith Pickton, Leisure Facilities Manager  
Paul Mountford, Democratic Services

## **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

## **2 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

## **3 HARMONISATION OF FEES AND CHARGES IN LEISURE FACILITIES**

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing considered proposals for the harmonisation of fees, charges and membership policies in leisure facilities inherited from former district authorities in Cheshire East.

The Council had inherited a number of different approaches to fees and charges in leisure facilities from the former district authorities, which had resulted in quite significant differences in the prices charged to customers at Cheshire East leisure centres for comparable products and services.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, a new harmonised membership scheme was launched (Everybody) along with a new concessionary discount scheme (Everybody

Options). The new schemes provided a consistent approach to memberships and discounts which allowed access to any Cheshire East Council leisure facility.

The Bonus Card in the Congleton Area facilities, which was primarily a loyalty scheme, was not withdrawn at the time and as a result was beginning to cause confusion for both staff and customers having two concurrent schemes running. While the benefits of a loyalty scheme were recognised, the lack of a joined leisure management database made a common Cheshire East scheme impossible to manage and would be investigated for reintroduction at such a time when a single leisure management system was introduced.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

- (1) approves the revised scale of fees and charges in leisure facilities with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 as part of a two-phase exercise to align pricing where appropriate; and
- (2) approves the phased withdrawal of the former Congleton Borough Council Bonus Card Scheme in line with the new Cheshire East Everybody memberships.

## **4 HOUSING FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOL**

The Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities considered a proposed Housing Fire Safety Protocol between Cheshire East Council and

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to aid co-ordination of the actions of both bodies and promote fire safety.

Cheshire East had a legal duty to take enforcement action where a Category 1 hazard assessed under the Housing Act 2004 was present in a residential property, including hazards related to fire. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service also had a legal duty to ensure fire safety in common areas of multiple-occupied housing. The protocol clarified the lead responsibilities of each authority and joint working arrangements between the authorities to promote coordination of the way in which the respective duties were carried out.

There was no statutory duty to enter into a protocol with another statutory body to improve fire safety. Because responsibility for enforcing fire safety legislation overlapped between the authorities, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and the Chief Fire Officers' Association had recommended that a protocol be established at a local level to clarify authorities' lead roles.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities approves that the Housing Fire Safety Protocol appended to the report be agreed between Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to aid co-ordination of the actions of both bodies and promote fire safety.

## **5 MEDIA RELATIONS PROTOCOL**

The Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity considered proposed minor changes to the Council's Media Relations Protocol.

The Media Relations Protocol was required to guide officers and Members in their dealings with the media for the enhancement and protection of the Council's reputation. It had already been passed by Cabinet but there had since been a couple of minor amendments which required approval.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Cabinet Member for Performance and Capacity approves the proposed minor changes to the Council's Media Relations Protocol as highlighted in the Appendix to the report, as further amended at the meeting.

## **6 HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**

The Cabinet Member for Prosperity considered the adoption of a Homelessness Strategy for Cheshire East.

Local authorities were required to undertake a homelessness review within their areas and use the information to formulate a homelessness strategy. The homelessness review, which was completed in 2009, looked at current and projected levels of homelessness within the Borough, and established the activities to be carried out to prevent homelessness and determine the accommodation and support needs of the homeless. The strategy had been completed in consultation with internal and external key partners, third sector organisations and service users.

The areas identified within the strategy for action focussed on five key areas: homelessness prevention, processes, temporary accommodation, tenancy support and permanent housing.

The Homelessness Strategy had completed a 12 week consultation period and further comments from Citizen's Advice, Children's Service and Domestic Violence services had been incorporated; the Strategy was now ready for adoption.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Cabinet Member for Prosperity approves the adoption of the Homelessness Strategy appended to the report.

### **7 PRE-PUBLICATION PARTIAL CONSULTATION ON MANCHESTER'S CORE STRATEGY**

The Cabinet Member for Prosperity considered a report on Manchester City Council's proposed policy approach to managing the growth of Manchester Airport through its Core Strategy.

Manchester City Council had published its 'pre-publication partial consultation' on its Core Strategy for consultation between 4<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010. This included a proposed policy approach to managing the growth of Manchester Airport through its Core Strategy, so that the growth requirements for the airport set out by the Government (i.e. of accommodating 45 million passengers per annum by 2030) could be achieved.

The proposed approach to airport development would involve an enlarged operational area and the removal of the entire operational area from the Green Belt. This was considered acceptable on the grounds that there would be greater overall efficiencies in land use at the site by 2030 and that exceptional circumstances existed for Green Belt revision. However, the Council was not satisfied that sufficient provision was made in the proposed policy for the airport to take account of adverse impacts on the transport network that may result from its expansion. Therefore, the need to amend the policy in this respect was suggested.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Cabinet Member for Prosperity approves that Cheshire East Council supports Manchester City Council's policy approach to dealing with growth at Manchester Airport as detailed in its Core Strategy, subject to reference being made in the policy to ensure that detailed planning application proposals for airport expansion show that they would have no adverse impact on the highways network.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 10.30 am

Councillor Andrew Knowles (presiding)