

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet**  
held on Tuesday, 6th December, 2016 at Committee Suite 1, 2 & 3,  
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Rachel Bailey (Chairman)  
Councillor D Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors A Arnold, P Bates, J Clowes, L Durham, J P Findlow and  
D Stockton

## **Members in Attendance**

Councillors C Andrew, S Corcoran, D Flude, B Moran, B Walmsley and G  
Williams

## **Officers in Attendance**

Mike Suarez, Kath O'Dwyer, Peter Bates, Frank Jordan, Bill Norman, Mark  
Palethorpe, Nigel Moorhouse and Paul Mountford

## **Apologies**

Councillor P Groves

The Chairman followed up her announcement at the previous meeting by announcing that a match between Macclesfield Town FC and Oxford United FC had resulted in a goalless draw, with a replay to be held next Tuesday. She wished Macclesfield well in the replay.

The Chairman also announced the receipt of a letter from Edward Timpson MP, Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, in relation to Cheshire East's children's services which had recently been reviewed by the Department for Education. In the letter, Mr Timpson applauded the significant progress made by the Council with restructuring the children's service, strengthening audit activity and introducing a new retention strategy to address workforce issues. He confirmed that the DfE's involvement with the Council had now ended and he thanked the Leader, together with senior officers Kath O'Dwyer, Nigel Moorhouse and Gill Betton, for the collaborative way in which they had worked with the DfE throughout the recent intervention. The Leader added that the work in relation to Ofsted and the Council's improvement of its children's service was continuing and was being monitored by the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board. She looked forward to sharing the letter with all members and thanked the relevant teams within the Council for their ongoing work.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Highways and Infrastructure announced that with regard to BSI accreditation for highways the Council had just been reassessed and had received stage 2 recognition which would help to secure £1.6M of grant funding. The British Standards Institute had also

asked the Council to act as a case study for scheduled maintenance and how to manage the process, recognising the Council as a model of customer service excellence in this area.

At the Chairman's invitation, the Executive Director Place announced that Cheshire East Council was delighted to have been awarded £2m to progress the A500 dualling scheme to its next stage. Work could now progress on developing the business case further to show how this scheme could deliver a continuous dual carriageway between Crewe and Nantwich and Stoke-on-Trent, improving journey times and road safety along the corridor, as well as accommodating construction traffic associated with HS2. The funding had been secured as a result of the Council's bid for funding from the DfT's Local Major Scheme Fund.

#### **65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Sue Helliwell asked the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning to comment on what she felt were inconsistencies in the application of principles to planning decisions. She cited two applications considered by the Southern Planning Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> November: applications 16/2993N and 16/2010N. She commented that both applications were similar although one was approved and the other refused. The Chairman replied that the matter would be considered and a written response would be sent.

Sylvia Dyke commented that Alsager Civic Hall had been transferred to Alsager Town Council by Cheshire East Council a number of years ago and was in considerable need of repair. She sought financial assistance towards the cost of the repair works. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Dyke's concern for her community. She indicated that the Hall had been transferred to the Town Council in 2011 for £1, and that grant funding had been made available at the time to assist with the refurbishment of the building. However, she undertook that the Council would engage through its Communities Team with Alsager Town Council to see if there was anything that the Borough Council could do to help to sustain the Town Council's financial position.

#### **67 QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS**

Councillor D Flude commented that at a recent meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee she had raised the issue of the Academies admission criteria. Councillor Flude was concerned that some academies were not admitting the Borough's more challenging children, which was placing an unacceptable pressure on schools that had not converted to academies. She understood that academies that did not accept more difficult children would be referred to the Secretary of State

for Education. She asked how many such schools had been referred to the Secretary of State within Cheshire East. The Chairman indicated that Councillor Flude would receive a written reply.

Councillor Flude also asked what provision the Council had in place to protect vulnerable residents when residential care and nursing homes had to close because of financial and other pressures. In this respect she referred to a care home in Alsager. The Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Integration replied that the Council had a robust protocol in place where a care home was about to close and that this had been activated in relation to the Alsager home; she undertook to send a copy to Councillor Flude. She also commented that with regard to the care home in Alsager, the Council was aiming to have the residents of the home relocated as quickly and as smoothly as possible. She undertook to follow up with a written reply to Councillor Flude.

Councillor S Corcoran referred to the large numbers of people, including children, reportedly killed in Aleppo in recent weeks and asked for an update on the Council's plans to welcome Syrian refugees and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to Cheshire East. The Portfolio Holder for Communities and Health replied that the first group of refugees was expected in January and that referrals of unaccompanied children were made on the basis of application and that any such applications would be dealt with as and when they came in. He undertook to report further progress when more information was available.

## **68 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 be approved as a correct record.

## **69 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2017/18 - DOMESTIC RATES**

Cabinet considered a report on the council tax base for 2017/18. The report set out the tax base calculation for recommendation to Council.

### **RESOLVED**

That

1. That in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, Cabinet recommends to Council the amount to be calculated by Cheshire East Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2017/18 as **144,201.51** for the whole area; and
2. no changes be made to the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18, other than the annual increase in the allowances used.

## 70 NON-DOMESTIC RATES TAXBASE 2017/18

Cabinet considered a report on the Non-Domestic Rate Tax base for 2017/18.

This was the first time the Council had provided a Non-Domestic Rate Tax base report, the purpose being to raise awareness of the increasing importance of Business Rates in local government and to improve understanding of how changes in business rates affected the Council's finances and improved medium term forecasting.

### RESOLVED

That Cabinet notes that

1. the non-domestic rates estimates and calculations for 2017/18 will be calculated in accordance with the regulations as follows:

	2017/18	£m
	Projected NDR net income	135.2
Less	Payable to DCLG (50% share)	-67.6
Less	Payable to Fire Authority (1% share)	-1.4
	<b>Cheshire East Council proportionate share</b>	<b>66.2</b>
Less	<i>Fixed Tariff payable to DCLG</i>	-29.7
Add	<i>S31 compensation grants</i>	4.5
	<b>Cheshire East Council Retained share</b>	<b>41.0</b>

2. the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets will finalise these estimates based on the latest data for submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in January 2017.

## 71 BENTLEY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND MASTERPLAN

Cabinet considered a report on a Development Framework and Masterplan developed by Bentley Motors.

The Framework and Masterplan set out the company's long term aspirations and how these could be achieved in spatial terms. The report sought Cabinet's endorsement of the Framework and Masterplan as a consultation document. Following a period of public consultation, it was intended that the document would be reviewed and returned to Cabinet for final approval.

### RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. approves the Development Framework and Masterplan (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) for the purposes of consultation with the

public in accordance with the draft Statement of Public Consultation set out at Appendix 2;

2. notes that a report on the outcomes will be reported once completed;
3. notes the proposed consultation activities contained within the draft Statement of Consultation contained in Appendix 2; and
4. delegates the approval of the consultation questionnaire to the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration.

## **72 QUALITY OF PLACE**

Cabinet considered a report which proposed that 'Quality of Place' be adopted as a strategy to assist the Council in achieving its aims and objectives as articulated in the Council's Corporate Plan.

### **RESOLVED**

That Cabinet

1. adopts the principles relating to Quality of Place outlined in the report as the overarching strategy for the Council;
2. agrees that 'Quality of Place' be used to inform a revised corporate plan for the Council;
3. notes that 'Quality of Place' will also be used as the key driver behind the refresh of Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan; and
4. notes that a draft revised corporate plan will be prepared for Cabinet consideration in due course.

## **73 CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

Cabinet considered a Connected Communities Strategy which set out the broad outline of how the Council proposed to engage with its communities, including the voluntary and faith sectors and the many active volunteer-based partnerships.

### **RESOLVED**

That Cabinet

1. approves the Connected Communities Strategy;
2. approves the allocation of £307,000 from the existing Partnerships and Communities Budget, which can be met through department reserves, to the delivery of the strategy; and

3. delegates to the Head of Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Health, the commissioning of a VCFS Infrastructure Service, including the award of the contract to the successful bidder.

#### **74 SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TRANSITION YEAR GRANT FUNDING**

Cabinet considered a report which sought the approval of an updated policy for the allocation of business travel planning grants. The proposed changes to the existing policy were minor and intended to enable the programme to continue during 2016/17.

#### **RESOLVED**

That

1. the Policy for the Allocation of Business Travel Planning Grants be approved, noting that this extends the effective period for this policy to make provision for future funding bids;
2. in accordance with the Constitution and paragraph 1.20 of the Scheme of Delegation, the decision for awarding the grants be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Infrastructure; and
3. the information relating to the Sustainable Travel Transition Year fund be noted.

#### **75 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO THE DfE INNOVATION PROGRAMME FOR ADOPTING SIGNS OF SAFETY AS OUR WAY OF WORKING IN CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE**

Cabinet considered a report on an expression of interest that the Council had submitted to the DfE Innovation Programme in partnership with Munro, Turnell and Murphy Consultancy for funding to transform Children's Social Care services. The report also sought permission to proceed to the final stages of the bidding process and to draw down funds in the event that the bid was successful.

#### **RESOLVED**

That in order to support effective and efficient implementation, should funding be granted for this project, Cabinet

1. authorises the Executive Director People to submit the business case and proceed to the final stages of the bidding process to the DfE Innovative Programme;

2. authorises the Executive Director People to undertake all necessary negotiations and enter into any Funding and associated agreements to secure the funding from the DfE Innovative Programme;
3. delegates the authority to make decisions on the use of funds for this project to the Executive Director People including the procurement of services, provision of grants and entering into partnership agreements;
4. authorises match funding to a maximum of £165,000;
5. authorises the acceptance and use of funds for this project, should it be granted, for the duration of the project over the three year implementation period;
6. authorises that funding may be received direct from the DfE Innovation Fund or from a named partner in the project;
7. endorses that any funds not spent in the allocated year are transferred into the following year's budget;
8. notes that when the funding is received the funds will be allocated to the Executive Director People within the Council's Budget; and
9. notes that Cheshire East Council is not the lead organisation for this project.

## **76 MERGER BETWEEN WULVERN HOUSING AND THE GUINNESS PARTNERSHIP**

Cabinet considered a report recommending that the Cabinet endorse a proposed merger between Wulvern Housing and the Guinness Partnership. The reasons for the proposed merger and potential benefits were set out in the report.

### **RESOLVED**

That

1. the proposed merger between Wulvern Housing and Guinness Partnership be endorsed following reassurances that:
  - Guinness are taking over all assets and liabilities by way of a Transfer of Engagement from Wulvern;
  - a clear client management relationship can be achieved; and
  - there continues to be representation on the Board to represent the interests of the Cheshire area.
2. authority be delegated to the Executive Director Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning and the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer for any resulting action and to

agree a set of service standards with Guinness in order to establish an effective monitoring arrangement.

**77 PROCUREMENT OF CARE & SUPPORT AT HEATH VIEW EXTRA CARE HOUSING SCHEME, CONGLETON**

Cabinet considered a report on the procurement of care and support at Heath View Extra Care Housing Scheme, Congleton.

The current contract for the on-site care and support was due to expire on 16 January 2017 and Adults Commissioning was re-tendering the contract for a period of 3 years. The report sought authority for the Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health to award the contract to the successful provider at a value of over £1 million if required.

**RESOLVED**

That Cabinet

1. notes that a procurement exercise compliant with the Regulations and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules is underway;
2. notes that the contract value may exceed £1 million; and
3. authorises the Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health to award the contract to the successful provider at a value of over £1 million if required.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman indicated that following the meeting she and other members would be travelling to Macclesfield to attend a civic reception for the Bosley Volunteers.

The Chairman also announced that at the Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December the Council would be acknowledging the achievements of the Borough's Olympic and Paralympic athletes earlier this year.

Finally, the Chairman reiterated her best wishes to Macclesfield Town FC in the FA Cup.

As this was the last Cabinet meeting before Christmas, the Chairman wished everyone a happy Christmas.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.00 pm

Councillor Rachel Bailey (Chairman)