

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning** held on Tuesday, 13th December, 2016 at Committee Suite 2, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach. CW11 1HZ

### **PRESENT**

Councillors A Arnold, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

#### **Officers in attendance**

Sean Hannaby, Director of Planning and Sustainable Development

Tom Evans, Neighbourhood Planning Manager

Rachel Graves, Democratic Services Officer

### **21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

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

Sue Helliwell spoke in relation to the development of the Alsager Neighbourhood Plan, asking about the grant and officer support available.

### **24 CLOSURE OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GRANT SCHEME**

The Cabinet Member considered a proposal to close the Neighbourhood Planning Grant Scheme.

The Neighbourhood Planning Team had been originally established to be self-funding through the receipt of Government grants. At that time, the level of Government grant available also allowed the Council to set up a local Neighbourhood Planning Grant Scheme offering financial support to groups preparing neighbourhood plans.

In April this year, the Government had reduced funding to local authorities in respect of neighbourhood planning by 30% from £30,000 to £20,000 per plan. This reduced funding meant that the Council could no longer provide direct support for neighbourhood planning and also provide the Grant Scheme without incurring additional costs to the base budget of the Council.

There has been a low take up of grants, which was likely due to the investment the Council had made in direct officer support. The officer support would continue to be provided.

There was one outstanding application for funding yet to be decided and it was proposed that this was dealt with under existing policy for the Neighbourhood Planning Grant Scheme.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Neighbourhood Planning Grant Scheme be closed.

The meeting commenced at 3.00 pm and concluded at 3.10 pm

Councillor A Arnold