

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Member for Regeneration**
held on Monday, 6th February, 2017 at Committee Suite 2/3 - Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach, CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor D Stockton

Officers in attendance:

Genni Butler – Countryside Access Development Officer

J Wise – Project Director Macclesfield Regeneration

Cherry Foreman – Democratic Services Officer

43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

45 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

Alsager Town Councillor Sue Helliwell asked whether Alsager could be considered for a Shop Front Grant Scheme as shops were closing; in addition the local branch of the Nat West Bank was due to leave the town in May as they said the town was not sufficiently vibrant.

The Portfolio Holder responded that unfortunately many of the Borough's town centres had suffered as a result of the rise of internet retailing and changing consumer spending habits. Whilst the desire to see investment in regeneration projects in smaller centres along Macclesfield and Crewe was understood there was only a limited capital budget available for regeneration and limited staff capacity and resources had to be focussed on areas of priority.

The last survey of vacancy levels across the Borough's town centres, carried out in September 2015, showed that those in Alsager were actually lower than in some other town centres. These figures were given to Councillor Helliwell.

It would not be possible therefore to justify diverting limited regeneration resources away from other centres.

46 DEDICATION OF NEW PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY IN SANDBACH

Consideration was given to a proposal to create a Public Right of Way on a 22m long stretch of Cheshire East Council owned land in the town of Sandbach. Cheshire East Council was involved in a project to improve public access on a path between Clifton Road and Station Road, in accordance with the health and wellbeing objectives and priorities of the Council as stated in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020, and the Council's commitment to 'Residents First'.

It was reported that whilst appearing to be set out for, and used by, the public, the path did not have Public Right of Way status along its full length. In order to rectify this anomaly, to provide clarity for the public and to enable investment to improve the path, it was proposed to add the route as a Public Footpath on the Definitive Map, the legal record of Public Rights of Way.

In addition it was reported that Network Rail owned part of the land and the footbridge over which the route runs; it has confirmed its agreement to the Creation Order process and was working in partnership with the Council to improve the aesthetic environment of the path and the adjoining land.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to make a Creation Order under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980, to create a Public Right of Way on Cheshire East Council owned land in the Town of Sandbach, as illustrated on Plan No. HA/113 attached to the report, to be put before the Public Rights of Way Committee for decision.

47 MACCLESFIELD TOWN CENTRE SHOP FRONT GRANT SCHEME

Approval was sought to launch and deliver the Macclesfield Town Centre Shop Front Grants Scheme up to a total cost of £50,000 utilising funding from the existing Regeneration and Development Programme budget. Delegated authority was also sought for the Project Director Macclesfield Regeneration to approve individual grants as part of that scheme up to a maximum of £2,000 per individual grant.

The Shop Front Grant Scheme would lead to enhancements in the town centre environment supporting a number of Residents First Outcomes, in particular that of the resilience of the economy and sustainability of place. The scheme would also significantly contribute to the Council's Quality of Place Agenda.

The Council was committed to the regeneration of Macclesfield Town Centre. In 2015 a series of shop front improvements had been funded by the Council in the vicinity of Market Place and Chestergate and it was reported that not only had the investment enhanced the appearance of that area of town but, as a result, a number of previously vacant properties nearby were reoccupied; there had also been a noticeable increase of private sector investment there. The scheme now planned was for the southern part of the town around the lower Mill Street area.

RESOLVED

1. That approval be given to the documented grant scheme.
2. That approval be given to implement the Macclesfield Town Centre Shop Front Grant to a total cost of up to £50,000 of the Regeneration and Development Programme Budget.
3. That authority be delegated to the Project Director Macclesfield Regeneration for the approval of individual grants in a manner and in accordance with the process set out in the documented grant scheme procedure up to a maximum of £2,000 per individual grant.

The meeting commenced at 9.00 am and concluded at 9.25 am