

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council**  
held on Tuesday, 5th March, 2019 at The Ballroom, Sandbach Town Hall,  
High Street, Sandbach, CW11 1AX

## PRESENT

Councillor L Smetham (Mayor/Chairman)  
Councillor L Durham (Deputy Mayor/Vice-Chairman)

Councillors C Andrew, A Arnold, Rachel Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, G Baggott, G Barton, P Bates, M Beanland, D Bebbington, S Brookfield, E Brooks, D Brown, C Browne, B Burkhill, P Butterill, S Carter, J Clowes, S Corcoran, H Davenport, S Davies, M Deakin, T Dean, S Edgar, I Faseyi, J P Findlow, R Fletcher, T Fox, D Flude, S Gardiner, S Gardner, L Gilbert, C Green, P Groves, M Hardy, A Harewood, G Hayes, S Hogben, D Hough, L Jeuda, D Mahon, D Marren, A Martin, S McGrory, R Menlove, G Merry, A Moran, B Moran, J Nicholas, M Parsons, S Pochin, J Rhodes, B Roberts, M Sewart, M Simon, D Stockton, A Stott, G Wait, B Walmsley, G M Walton, L Wardlaw, M J Weatherill, G Williams and J Wray

## Apologies

Councillors D Bailey, G Baxendale, J Bratherton, C Chapman, B Dooley, H Gaddum, M Grant, O Hunter, J Jackson, A Kolker, J Macrae, N Mannion, H Murray, J Saunders, M Warren and H Wells-Bradshaw

## 67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 68 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

There were no formal Mayor's Announcements, this being a special meeting of the Council. However, as this was the last meeting of the Council for those Members not standing in the forthcoming elections, the Mayor took the opportunity to thank those Members for the service that they had provided to the Council over the years. She also wished those Members standing in the forthcoming elections well. As this would be her last meeting as Mayor, she thanked all Members for their support and she also thanked those members of the public who had spoken under public speaking time during her time as Mayor.

## 69 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION IN RESPECT OF AGENDA ITEM 4 - NOTICES OF MOTION - THE COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS - BRIEFING REPORT

Mrs Sue Helliwell spoke in respect of item 4 of the agenda, Notices of Motion, the Council's Governance Arrangements.

## 70 NOTICES OF MOTION - THE COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS - BRIEFING REPORT

At the Council meeting held on 13 December 2018, the following Notices of Motion were referred to a special meeting of Council for determination: -

- A.** This Council requests that a comparative analysis be published to enable a special meeting of Council, to be held in February 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter, to discuss and debate changing to a committee system form of governance. - Proposed by Councillor James Nicholas and Seconded by Councillor Craig Browne.
  
- B.** This Council agrees to allocate all chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to opposition members as soon as practicable. - Proposed by Councillor Craig Browne and Seconded by Councillor Arthur Moran.
  
- C.** This Council agrees to allocate all remaining committee chairs across the political groups in line with the principle of proportionality. - Proposed by Councillor Arthur Moran and Seconded by Councillor Bernice Walmsley

The Mayor explained the procedure that she proposed to follow for this item. Prior to the debate on each Notice of Motion, each of the Notices of Motion would be introduced by the Lead Member responsible for their submission. That Lead Member would be allowed an extended speaking time, in support of that Notice of Motion, of 10 minutes. Whilst speaking, the Lead Member would be expected to make a formal proposal to the meeting, which would need to be seconded, prior to being debated and then voted upon. All other speakers would be allowed the usual period of time of 5 minutes to speak on each Notice of Motion. Each Notice of Motion would be subject to the usual rules of debate.

It was queried whether it would be appropriate for Cabinet Members to take part in the debate on the Notices of Motion. The Acting Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer advised that there was no interest which would preclude Cabinet Members from taking part in the debate.

### **Notice of Motion A**

With regard to Notice of Motion A, the following motion was proposed and seconded:-

“This Council resolves to change to a committee system form of governance with effect from the 2020/21 Municipal Year”.

Following debate, a requisition for a named vote was submitted and duly supported. The motion was put to the meeting with the following results:-

**For**

Councillors C Andrew, S Brookfield, C Browne, B Burkhill, P Butterill, S Carter, S Corcoran, I Faseyi, R Fletcher, D Flude, T Fox, M Hardy, A Harewood, S Hogben, D Hough, L Jeuda, D Mahon, S McGrory, A Moran, J Nicholas, M Parsons, J Rhodes, B Roberts, A Stott and B Walmsley .

**Against**

Councillors A Arnold, G Baggott, Rachel Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, G Barton, P Bates, M Beanland, D Bebbington, E Brooks, D Brown, J Clowes, H Davenport, S Davies, M Deakin, T Dean, L Durham, S Edgar, JP Findlow, S Gardiner, S Gardner, L Gilbert, C Green, P Groves, G Hayes, D Marren, A Martin, R Menlove, G Merry, B Moran, S Pochin, M Sewart, M Simon, D Stockton, G Wait, G Walton, L Wardlaw, J Weatherill, G Williams and J Wray.

**Not Voting**

Councillor L Smetham.

The motion was declared lost, with 25 votes for, 39 against and 1 not voting.

(At this point the meeting was adjourned for lunch).

**Notice of Motion B**

With regard to Notice of Motion B, the following motion was proposed and seconded:-

“This Council resolves to allocate all Scrutiny Committee Chairs to opposition groups from the beginning of the 2019/20 Municipal year. The precise allocation shall reflect the size of each opposition group, proportionate to the total number of opposition Members”.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

**Notice of Motion C**

With regard to Notice of Motion C, the following motion was proposed and seconded:-

“This Council agrees to allocate all remaining Committee Chairs across the Political groups, in line with the principle of proportionality, from the start of the 2019/20 Municipal Year”.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am and concluded at 3.00 pm

Councillor L Smetham (Chairman)