

Council Agenda

Date: Wednesday 16th December 2020
Time: 11.00 am
Venue: Virtual Meeting

How to Watch the Meeting

For anybody wishing to view the meeting live please click on the link below:

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The agenda is divided into two parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making meetings are recorded and the recordings are uploaded to the Council's website

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Prayers**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meetings** (Pages 3 - 18)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 21 October 2020 and 19 November 2020.

5. **Mayor's Announcements**

To receive such announcements as may be made by the Mayor.

6. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session** (Pages 19 - 20)

In accordance with paragraph 1.32 of the Council Procedure Rules and Appendix 7 to the rules, a total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to speak at Council meetings. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 2 minutes, but the Chairman will have discretion to vary this requirement where they consider it appropriate.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question or make a statement at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given.

7. **Leader's and Deputy Leader's Announcements**

To receive such announcements as may be made by the Leader and Deputy Leader.

8. **Domestic Taxbase 2021/22** (Pages 21 - 30)

To consider the recommendations from Cabinet.

9. **Notices of Motion** (Pages 31 - 34)

To consider any Notices of Motion that have been received in accordance with paragraph 1.34 of the Council Procedure Rules.

10. **Questions**

In accordance with paragraph 1.18 of the Council Procedure Rules, opportunity is provided for Members of the Council to ask the Mayor, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a Committee any question about a matter which the Council, the Cabinet or the Committee has powers, duties or responsibilities.

At Council meetings, there will be a maximum question time period of 30 minutes. A period of two minutes will be allowed for each member wishing to ask a question. The Mayor will have the discretion to vary this requirement where they consider it appropriate. Questions will be selected by the Mayor, using the criteria agreed by Council. Any questions which are accepted, but which cannot be dealt with during the allotted period will be answered in writing. Questions must be brief, clear and focussed.

11. **Reporting of Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive** (Pages 35 - 36)

To note the urgent decisions taken by the Chief Executive on behalf of Council.

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the **Council**
held on Wednesday, 21st October, 2020

PRESENT

Councillor B Burkhill (Mayor)
Councillor S Edgar (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors Q Abel, M Addison, S Akers Smith, M Asquith, R Bailey, J Barber, M Beanland, M Benson, L Braithwaite, J Bratherton, S Brookfield, C Browne, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill, S Carter, J Clowes, S Corcoran, L Crane, A Critchley, S Davies, T Dean, D Edwardes, B Evans, H Faddes, A Farrall, JP Findlow, K Flavell, R Fletcher, T Fox, A Gage, S Gardiner, L Gilbert, M Goldsmith, A Gregory, P Groves, S Handley, A Harewood, G Hayes, S Hogben, S Holland, M Houston, M Hunter, D Jefferay, L Jeuda, A Kolker, C Leach, I Macfarlane, N Mannion, D Marren, A Martin, A Moran, R Moreton, B Murphy, D Murphy, J Nicholas, K Parkinson, J Parry, S Pochin, B Puddicombe, P Redstone, J Rhodes, L Roberts, J Saunders, M Sewart, M Simon, L Smetham, J Smith, D Stockton, A Stott, R Vernon, L Wardlaw, M Warren, J Weatherill, P Williams, J Wray and N Wylie

1 PRAYERS

The Reverend Ralph Kemp said prayers at the request of the Mayor.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor D Brown.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interests of openness, Councillor B Puddicombe declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 14 - Appointments to the Adoption Panel and Fostering Panel.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2020 be approved as a correct record.

5 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor:

- 1 reported that in August, on the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, he was joined by the Lord Lieutenant, Chief Constable, Councillor Ashley Farrall, our Armed Services Champion, the Chief Executive, and a small number of other guests, for a simple, but very moving service in Macclesfield.
- 2 congratulated all those from Cheshire East who featured in the Queen's Birthday Honours which were announced a couple of weeks ago, including former Councillor Ainsley Arnold, who was awarded an MBE.
- 3 reported that seven parks and green spaces across the Borough had been awarded a Green Flag Ward from Keep Britain Tidy.
- 4 reported that in earlier honours announcement Mr Rodney Cottrell from Audlem was awarded a British Empire Medal. He had been due to receive his award from the Lord Lieutenant last month at an investiture at Tatton but, unfortunately, he was too ill to attend and had heard this week that he has passed away. The Mayor invited Councillor Rachel Bailey to say a few words.
- 5 informed Council of the deaths of two former Congleton Borough Councillors, Colin Burgess, who was the last Mayor of the Borough, and his wife Jill.
- 6 welcomed David Brown, the new Director of Governance and Compliance Services to Cheshire East Council and invited him to say a few words.

6 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

Mr Graham Goodwin, who was unable to attend the meeting, had submitted a question in relation to Confidentiality within the Council's Code of Conduct Complaints system. Mr Goodwin had asked a similar question at the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee on 12 March 2020. The Audit and Governance Committee at that meeting agreed that a review of the Code of Conduct would be added to the Committee's Work Plan and that it should be linked to the Local Government Association's expected publication of a revised Model Code of Conduct. The Mayor therefore proposed that Mr Goodwin's question be forwarded to the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee to consider alongside the work already programmed-in.

Mrs Sue Helliwell referred to the document co-signed by the Leader and Deputy Leader and Cheshire West and Chester Council and Warrington

Council asking the Government for more money and control on the Covid-19 restrictions and asked the Leader if the move into Tier 2 addressed many of the requests in the document or did he want the Government to impose Tier 3 restrictions? She also asked if the Leader had been working with Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire councils in light of shared hospital services. The Leader and Deputy Leader responded by saying the document Mrs Helliwell had referred to was available on the Council's website and stated that the decision by central government to impose tier 2 did not address many of the requests and that he did not want the government to impose tier 3 restrictions. The Council was working closely with neighbouring local authorities including those to the south through the Constellation Partnership and North Midlands Growth Corridor, and with Cheshire and Warrington local enterprise partnership, who were the voice of businesses for the sub region.

7 LEADER'S AND DEPUTY LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, in summary:

- briefed the Council on the move into the Covid-19 Tier 2 restrictions
- reported on how the Council had adapted to dealing with Covid-19 issues
- commented on the financial situation facing the Council and local government as a result of Covid-19
- encouraged everybody to follow the 'Hand, Face, Space' guidance, to get a test if they have symptoms and to download the NHS Covid-19 App to their phones
- announced that a development agreement had been signed for the Crewe Royal Arcade Scheme.

The Deputy Leader of the Council, in summary:

- paid tribute to all Council staff who had worked hard to keep the Council services running during the pandemic
- thanked the Democratic Services Team for making today's first virtual meeting of full Council possible
- highlighted the work with local business and the Cheshire and Warrington LEP to allow the exchange of information on the effects of covid-19 on the business community
- reported on the progress of the Congleton Relief Road, the Middlewich Bypass, HS2 Phase 2b and the redevelopment in Crewe.

8 RECOMMENDATION FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE: HIGH SPEED RAIL 2 PHASE 2A - PROCEDURE FOR DECISION-MAKING

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Constitution Committee on 5 October 2020 in relation to the proposed decision-making arrangements for High Speed Rail 2 Phase 2a.

It was proposed that the reference to the 'Parish Liaison Group' in recommendation 1 be amended to read 'Combined Parishes Liaison Group'.

RESOLVED:

That the decision making arrangements, as set out in the report, be approved for the determination of all planning matters in relation to works along the route of Phase 2a of HS2 only, submitted under schedule 17 (the planning conditions schedule of the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill, as set out in the Constitution Committee report ,and that all necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution as required to secure these provisions be made, subject to:

- 1 the Combined Parishes Liaison Group be added to the application notifications list; and
- 2 the determination arrangements for Schedule 17 Applications, as set out in paragraph 6.2 of the Constitution Committee's report , being amended to *'All live applications, including Member call-ins, to be reviewed fortnightly and considered for Planning Committee determined by the Head of Planning and Principle Planning Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Strategic Planning Board and affected Ward Members'*.

**9 RECOMMENDATION FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE:
INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL: REVIEW OF MEMBERS'
ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

Council considered the report on the Independent Remuneration Panel's review of the indexation arrangements for the Cheshire East Council's Scheme of Members Allowances.

The Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 5 October 2020, had considered the report, and in the light of current circumstances of the pandemic and likely increased financial hardship faced by residents in the borough in the coming months, had thanked the Independent Remuneration Panel for their work but had made no recommendation to Council and had decided to refer the matter to Council for consideration.

The following motion was moved, seconded and voted on: -

'that in view of the pressures on Council finances created by essential spending needed to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, this Council resolves to freeze all members' allowances at the 2019-20 level until at least May 2021, pending the introduction of new governance arrangements'.

RESOLVED:

That in view of the pressures on Council finances created by essential spending needed to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, this Council resolves to freeze all members' allowances at the 2019-20 level until at least May 2021, pending the introduction of new governance arrangements.

10 RECOMMENDATION FROM CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE: REVIEW OF THE MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Constitution Committee on 5 October 2020 in relation to the review of the Member Training Programme.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer to formally identify within the Constitution, those subjects which have been designated as foundation skills, and which are therefore required training for Councillors in accordance with the Member Training Programme – Corporate Parenting, Safeguarding Children and Adults, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Members' Code of Conduct.
- 2 the wording '*Before any Councillor who is a member of the (insert name) Committee can attend a meeting and participate in the business of the meeting, the determination of an application or an appeal by any individual or body, the Councillor must attend a suitable training course dealing with the quasi-judicial nature of the role of the Committee, as a requirement of their membership of the Committee*' be added to the Council's Constitution in respect of the functions of the following Committees: Public Rights of Way Committee, Licensing Committee, Staffing Committee and Appeals Sub Committee;
- 3 in respect of the three Planning Committees, the wording '*Any Councillor appointed to Northern Planning Committee, Southern Planning Committee or Strategic Planning Board (including planning pool Members), must attend all planning training sessions held each year (including induction when held), as a requirement of the membership of the Committee they are appointed to, in order to properly discharge their planning committee obligations. Any Member who cannot attend must submit their apologies in advance to the event organiser. If a Member fails to attend, they must undertake refresher training, in line with the Committee training programme*' be inserted into the Council's Constitution at the appropriate juncture.

- 4 the wording at paragraph 21, page 47 of the Constitution be replaced with '*A cross party pool of 9 planning substitutes shall be maintained to supplement the arrangements referred to above. Each member of the pool must receive appropriate and up to date planning training without which they may not serve as a member of a planning committee. Political groups may nominate their own members to the pool in accordance with the proportionalities in force at the time and may vary their nominees as and when required subject to the training requirements referred to above.*'

11 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2019/20

Cllr Rod Fletcher, Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee, presented the Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2019/20 to Council.

The report provided details of the work undertaken by the Committee and the assurances received during that year.

The Annual Report was received and noted.

12 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Cllr Janet Clowes, Chairman of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the Overview and Scrutiny Annual report for the municipal year 2019/20

The report detailed the work of the Council's four Overview and Scrutiny Committees and development of the overview and scrutiny function.

The Annual Report was received and noted.

13 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET - FINANCE REPORTS

Council considered the recommendations from Cabinet to approve supplementary revenue estimates, supplementary capital estimates and capital virements from the following reports:

- 2020/21 Financial Outturn – considered by Cabinet on 9 June 2020
- Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies Annual Review 2019/20 – considered by Cabinet on 8 September 2020
- Mid-Year Review (Finance) 2020/21 – considered by Cabinet on 6 October 2020.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 the fully funded supplementary revenue estimate above £1,000,000 be approved in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, as detailed in 2019/20 Financial Outturn Appendix 2 Table 1;

- 2 the capital virements above £1,000,000 be approved in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, as detailed in Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies Annual Review 2019/20 Appendix 1 Annex C;
- 3 the supplementary capital estimates above £1,000,000 be approved in accordance with Financial Procedural Rules, as detailed in Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies Annual Review 2019/20 Appendix 1 Annex D; and
- 4 the fully funded supplementary revenue estimate above £1,000,000 be approved in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, as detailed in Mid-Year Review (Finance) 2020/21 Appendix 2 Table 1.

14 **APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADOPTION PANEL AND FOSTERING PANEL**

Consideration was given to a report inviting Council to approve the appointments to the Adoption Panel and to the Fostering Panel.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 Councillor Brian Puddicombe be appointed to the Adoption Panel;
- 2 Councillor Carol Bulman be appointed to the Fostering Panel; and
- 3 it be noted that Mrs Gillian Merry will continue as a member of the Fostering Panel under the Panel's own arrangements.

15 **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS FOR STANDARDS MATTERS**

Consideration was given to a report inviting Council to appoint up to two Independent Persons to work with the Monitoring Officer and the Audit and Governance Committee on standards matters, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 ('the Act') and the Council's code of conduct complaints procedure.

The Council currently had two Independent Persons who were appointed by Council on 28 July 2016 for a term of 4 years.

The process for the recruitment of Independent Persons planned for Spring 2020 had been put on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic and it was proposed that the appointment of the two existing Independent Persons be extended for a further year to 26 July 2021.

RESOLVED:

That Patricia Rathbone and Peter Bryant be appointed to serve as Independent Persons for a 1-year term until 26 July 2021 pursuant to section 28 of the Localism Act 2011.

16 **APPROVAL OF THE CONTINUING ABSENCE OF ANY ELECTED MEMBER, ARISING FROM ISSUES RELATING DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO COVID-19**

Consideration was given to a report which set out a proposal to approve the continuing absence of any Elected Member, arising from issues relating directly or indirectly to Covid-19, until 28 February 2021.

Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 set out a number of provisions in respect of attendance of Members at Council meetings and stated that if a Member fails to attend a meeting of the authority for a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, they cease to be a member of the Authority.

The Covid-19 pandemic had made it necessary to cancel several full Council and committee meetings which Elected Members would ordinarily have attended. A decision taken under Urgency Procedures in July 2020 had approved the continuing absence of any Elected Member, arising from issues relating directly or indirectly to Covid-19 until 31 October 2020, thereby securing their continued membership of the Council until that day. Approval was now sought to extend this period to 28 February 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the continuing absence of any Elected Member arising from issues relating directly or indirectly to Covid-19 be approved until 28 February 2021.

17 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Consideration was given to the following Notice of Motion, which had been submitted in accordance with paragraph 1.34 of the Council Procedure Rule:

Local Electricity Bill

Proposed by Councillor D Murphy and Seconded by Councillor Q Abel

A Private Members Bill - Local Electricity Bill, which has the support of a significant number of Members of Parliament, is due before Parliament very soon. Council supports the aims and content of the Bill, given that this approach may help local authorities promote the use of sustainable and renewable sources of energy.

Council asks the Chief Executive to report the Council's support of the Bill to the appropriate Government Minister and the Borough's Members of Parliament.

RESOLVED:

That the Motion be referred to Cabinet.

18 QUESTIONS

Cllr T Dean referred to the letter the Leader, along with the Leaders of Warrington Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council, had sent to the Government prior to the announcement of the latest restrictions asking for higher delegated powers to instigate tighter restrictions Covid restrictions on the Cheshire and asked the Leader where these requests had been approved by the Council prior to submission and why had it taken so long for them to be shared with elected members. The Leader and Deputy Leader responded and stated that the document had been intended as a discussion document with the Government, but this had not happened and was published as soon as the Tier 2 restrictions were imposed. As the Council operated a Leader and Cabinet model, it was within the Leader's powers to agree the document with the other Council leaders.

Cllr R Bailey referred to the confusion motorist, cyclists and pedestrians faced with the increasing number of 20 mph zones being put in place and the low key, not easily accessible, online consultation on Active Travel scheme. She referenced a suggestion from Audlum Parish Council which had not yet received a response from the Council and asked if all the Government Grant had been spent. Cllr L Crane, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste responded that all the measures in place were temporary and experimental and that tweaks could be made to the and asked that anybody with specific concerns raise them on the consultation page or with their local ward councillors. Not all the funding had been received and it was expected that the second tranche would be received shortly.

Cllr P Groves asked a question in relation to the provision of bus services in rural areas and the absence of consultation with local ward members before services were suspended or removed. Cllr C Browne, Deputy Leader, responded that the Council had submitted an expression of interest to the Rural Transport Fund earlier this year and sought the support of local MPs to support this submission. The consultation on the Bus Strategy had been delayed due to Covid and was expected to take place early in the next financial year. Covid Bus Support Grant money had been used to save a few bus services which may have ceased due to financial losses made by commercial operators due to a reduced number of passengers.

Cllr L Wardlaw referred to the proposed eight committees under the Committee System and asked how much had been spent between May 2019 and now and the predicted future costs of this governance. Cllr J Nicholas, Chairman of the Constitution Committee, responded by saying that it was six policy committees and a sub-committee that were being proposed, and that he did not have the costings to hand but the new arrangements were expected to be cost neutral.

Cllr J Clowes referred to the tests that needed to be met for schemes to receive funding from the Active Travel Scheme and asked to what extent had the Council had to scale back and revise submissions in round one, and whether the Council was confident that phase 2 schemes would meet the tests. Cllr L Crane, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste responded that the early measures had been introduced exceptionally quickly due to the funding arrangements and they had to be in place by a certain date and had been based on schemes proposed in the past. There was more time for consultation for the second tranche of funding. A number of the early schemes had been tweaked but the Government did not have any problems with our schemes.

Cllr A Gage referred to the condition of the road in Gladstone Street and other roads in Willaston and stated that they had been waiting some time for repairs and improvement. He asked why Edleston Road was scheduled to be resurfaced when this road was in good condition. Cllr L Crane, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste responded that she was aware of many roads which needed attention in the Borough. The Council used an asset-led approach to repairs which considered several criteria, such as the nature of the road and the level of traffic, from the Well Management Highways and Infrastructure Code of Practice.

Cllr A Farrall referred to the progress made by the Council on its responsibilities to the Armed Forces community, having received the first award under the Armed Forces Covenant employer recognition scheme and asked the Portfolio Holder for Communities whether he agreed with him that, although there was still more work to be done, this authority was now taking real steps to support the Armed Forces community in Cheshire East. Cllr M Warren, Portfolio Holder for Communities, responded by stating that the Council in its draft Corporate Plan had stated that one of its ambitions was to achieve the Gold Award under the Armed Forces Covenant employer recognition scheme by 2023.

Cllr A Gregory asked if Cheshire East was moved into Tier 3 Covid restrictions whether this ensure that it would receive a financial package which would support businesses. Cllr S Corcoran, Leader of the Council, responded that he hoped that the Government would not impose Tier 3 restriction on Cheshire East. It would be a decision by the Government on how much funding would be provided for businesses. It was noted that under Tier 2 business which remained open were not getting financial help, but it was expected that funding would be made available soon.

Cllr A Moran referred to the increased use of computers and laptops for work by Council officers and elected members and asked if that the Council ensured that there was health and safety guidance provided on their use. Cllr J Rhodes, Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Corporate Services, responded that the Council has circulated documents on good working practice to officers and members.

Cllr S Gardiner referred to the many schemes and projects which were coming to fruition, such as the Crewe Town regeneration and the Congleton Relief Road, and had been commenced under the previous Administration and asked if the present leadership would be willing to recognise the work they had done on these projects. Cllr S Corcoran, Leader of the Council, responded that it was great to see these projects come to fruition and was happy to rejoice with all members of the Council on the success of these projects.

Cllr P Redstone referred to the forthcoming Disability Month and asked what the Council was doing to promote disabled people's rights and their struggle for equality. Cllr M Houston, Equalities and Diversity Champion, agreed to provide a written response.

Cllr S Akers Smith referred to the Active Travel funding and asked if a third tranche was being made available. Cllr L Crane, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste, responded that she not yet seen anything about on a further tranche of funding for this scheme.

19 REPORTING OF URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL

Council received a schedule of urgent decisions taken on behalf of the Cabinet and Council which was reported for information in accordance with Appendix 4 of the Council procedure rules.

The Head of Democratic Services and Governance provided an oral update to the meeting on a further urgent decision which had been taken after the agenda papers for the Council meeting had been printed. This related to a Supplementary Revenue Estimate of £4.71m relating to funding from the Infection Prevention Fund.

RESOLVED:

That the schedule of urgent decisions, and the update provided by the Head of Democratic Services and Governance, be noted.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am and concluded at 3.44 pm

Councillor B Burkhill
MAYOR/CHAIRMAN

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the **Council**
held on Thursday, 19th November, 2020

PRESENT

Councillor B Burkhill (Mayor/Chairman)
Councillor S Edgar (Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman)

Councillors Q Abel, M Addison, S Akers Smith, M Asquith, R Bailey, J Barber, M Beanland, M Benson, L Braithwaite, J Bratherton, S Brookfield, D Brown, C Browne, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill, S Carter, J Clowes, S Corcoran, L Crane, S Davies, T Dean, D Edwardes, B Evans, H Faddes, A Farrall, JP Findlow, K Flavell, R Fletcher, A Gage, S Gardiner, L Gilbert, M Goldsmith, A Gregory, P Groves, S Handley, A Harewood, G Hayes, S Hogben, S Holland, M Houston, D Jefferay, L Jeuda, A Kolker, C Leach, I Macfarlane, N Mannion, D Marren, A Martin, A Moran, R Moreton, B Murphy, D Murphy, J Nicholas, K Parkinson, J Parry, S Pochin, B Puddicombe, P Redstone, J Rhodes, L Roberts, J Saunders, M Sewart, M Simon, L Smetham, J Smith, L Smith, D Stockton, A Stott, R Vernon, L Wardlaw, M Warren, J Weatherill, P Williams, J Wray and N Wylie

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A Critchley, T Fox and M Hunter.

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

22 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

Sue Helliwell asked if under the committee system would the Chairs of each committee be appointed by Council and not by the members of the Committee themselves. She stated that the Chairs of each committee and sub-committee would have to work with the Leader of the Council and asked if this favoured patronage of the ruling party. The Leader of the Council would be the Chair of the Corporate Committee and be eligible to be on other committee and have voting right and stated that this still sounded like a Cabinet system.

Councillor James Nicholas, Chairman of the Constitution Committee responded that currently the chairs of committees were allocated by Council at its Annual Meeting, but this was to be looked at by the Governance Working Group. Chairs were appointed based on their skills and experience. The two systems of governance were different in law and deliver. It would be for the Leader to determine whether they wished to

undertake the role of Chair of the Corporate Policy Committee and the membership of the committees would be politically proportionate.

23 PROPOSED CHANGE OF THE COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS: FORMAL RESOLUTION TO MOVE TO A COMMITTEE SYSTEM FORM OF GOVERNANCE

Consideration was given to the proposed changes to the Council's governance arrangements.

The Constitution Committee had resolved to recommend to Council to cease operating the existing Leader and Cabinet model of governance and implement a committee system model of governance, to take effect from the Annual Council meeting in May 2021. The Committee had made a number of recommendations to Council, including that the design principles; structure of committees; role of Leader and Deputy Leader; urgency provisions and roles and powers of committee and sub-committee chairs be approved.

The recommendations, set out at paragraphs 2.1 to 2.8 in the report, were moved and seconded by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Constitution Committee.

The Mayor proposed that Council consider the recommendations in two parts, with all recommendations except recommendation 2.2 being considered first, before moving to consider making any formal resolution in line with recommendation 2.2.

During the debate on recommendations 2.1 and 2.3 to 2.8, two amendments were proposed as follows:

Amendment 1

"That Appendix N - Role and Powers of Committee and Sub Committee Chairs be amended to include:

(d) the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs shall be politically proportionate, based on the democratic mandate afforded to each individual political group."

The amendment was moved, seconded and debated and put to the vote. The amendment was declared lost with 37 for, 39 against and 2 not voting.

Amendment 2

"That Appendix K – Role and Powers of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, be amended:

Under Deputy Leader - delete "the Deputy Leader may be appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Corporate Policy Committee of the Council"

In the Guidance Note – delete “In the case of a joint administration, the Council will expect the Leader and Deputy Leader to share responsibilities between them and determine how the matters listed in paragraph XX are divided between them.”

The amendment was moved, seconded and debated and put to the vote. The amendment was declared lost with 32 for, 42 against and 4 not voting.

The substantive recommendations were put to the vote and declared carried with 43 for, 32 against and 3 not voting.

Council then considered recommendation 2.2 – *“That the Council resolves to cease operating the existing Leader and Cabinet model of governance and implement a committee system model of governance, to take effect from the Annual Council meeting on 12 May 2021.”*

Following debate, the recommendation was put to the vote and declared carried with 44 for, 32 against and 2 not voting.

RESOLVED:

- 1 that Council agrees and adopts the following:
 - a) Design Principles (Appendix G)
 - b) Structure of the committees (Appendix H, I and J);
 - c) Roles of Leader and Deputy Leader (Appendix K);
 - d) Decision Review Process (Appendix L);
 - e) Urgency Provisions (Appendix M);
 - f) Role and powers of Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs (Appendix N)
- 2 that the Council ceases operating the existing Leader and Cabinet model of governance and implement a committee system model of governance, to take effect from the Annual Council meeting on 12 May 2021.
- 3 the Director of Governance and Compliance be authorised, in consultation with the Constitution Committee, to prepare such draft constitutional provisions as they consider necessary to give effect to the wishes of the Committee, which will be submitted to the Constitution Committee in phases during 2020/21 for recommendation to Council.
- 4 the Director of Governance and Compliance be authorised to recommend such constitutional provisions as reflect the developing nature of the progression to a committee system form of governance and best practice.

- 5 the Director of Governance and Compliance be authorised to recommend to full Council such constitutional provisions or amendments as they consider appropriate or required for the progression to a committee system form of governance.
- 6 the Director of Governance and Compliance shall by 12 November 2021 provide a report to Council on the implementation of the committee arrangements with any further recommendations or amendments to the constitution.
- 7 Council notes the required actions and timeline required to enable these recommendations to be implemented.
- 8 Council notes the risks and financial matters relating to this change, as set out in section 12 of the Report.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 5.03 pm

Councillor B Burkhill
MAYOR/CHAIRMAN

To the Mayor,

I am a staff member at Crewe and want to remain anonymous. So, please will you accept this as a question in writing for Council in December, as a question to various responsible Councillors.

This is really important to your people, and I ask that you put this out with the Council papers, and read it out so that people, and the public, can see it.

My union people tell me that we have a constitution, and that allows questions at Council. This is important to the people you employ, and is also with the newspapers, so please make sure to get a response at the meeting from those responsible.

Rule 32 and Appendix 7 to the Constitution allow for questions to be put to Cabinet Members and chairs.

This is my question which I would like you to ask each person to answer, and I hope that you will ask each to answer each question in full.

“The recent announcement by Mr Sunak about freezing staff pay is scandalous.

When it was a headline, people clapped people like me on a Thursday night. Now, Mr Sunak unfairly penalises us by cutting our pay after 10 years of pay cuts (see IFS data).

Therefore, will all those listed below, answer whether they support the statement below, as the responsible Council member:

- That each member of staff is valued by the Council.
- That Mr Sunak has acted disgracefully in freezing public sector pay for just certain people.
- That this unfairly penalises public sector staff, when it would be fairer to make all share the burden by increasing income tax for all.
- That targeting the public sector makes key workers and others pay twice: pay freeze and increased tax, whilst the private sector pays just once-tax.
- That the Government must be lobbied in the strongest terms to reverse this proposal.
- That the Council will instruct its employees to work only their contracted hours, ending years of exploitation, when they have been expected to work many hours over what they are paid for.
- That, if Mr Sunak does not reverse his proposal, the Council will add to its budget the cost of making up the pay which its officers will lose and pay it to them.

1. Question to the Leader: do you agree the above statement, and will you comply with it?
2. Question to the Portfolio Holder for Finance: do you agree the above statement, and will you comply with it?
3. Question to the Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee: do you agree the above statement, and will you ask your Committee to formally agree the statement, and ask Cabinet to action it?
4. Question to the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee: do you agree the above statement, and will you comply with it?
5. Question to the Chair of the Staffing Committee: do you agree the above statement, and will you comply with it?
6. Question to the Mayor: will you have this question, and a written answer from all of the above, put into the Council minutes?"

[Note: an original version of the above question is held by the Head of Democratic Services and Governance and may be inspected upon request. The text of the question has been clarified in order to assist the meeting]

COUNCIL MEETING – 16TH DECEMBER 2020**DOMESTIC TAX BASE 2021/22****RECOMMENDATION**

That

- 1. in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount to be calculated by Cheshire East Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2021/22 as 153,796.10 for the whole area;**
 - 2. the premium charged for property that has been empty for 10 years or longer be increased from 200% to 300%; and**
 - 3. the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22 is unchanged other than increasing the income bands in line with CPI.**
-

Extract from the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting on 1st December 2020

62 DOMESTIC TAX BASE 2021/22

Cabinet considered a report on the Council Tax Base calculation for 2021/22 for recommendation to Council.

It was noted that paragraph 5.7 of the report mistakenly referred to 'properties over 10 years old' when it should have referred to properties that had been empty for 10 years or longer.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet recommends to Council that

1. in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount to be calculated by Cheshire East Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2021/22 as 153,796.10 for the whole area;
2. the premium charged for property that has been empty for 10 years or longer be increased from 200% to 300%; and
3. the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22 is unchanged other than increasing the income bands in line with CPI.

[Note: paragraph 5.7 of the report to Cabinet has been amended.]

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Working for a brighter future together

Key Decision: N

Date First
Published: N/A

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 1st December 2020

Report Title: Domestic Taxbase 2021/22

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Amanda Stott – Finance, ICT and Communication

Senior Officer: Alex Thompson – Director of Finance and Customer Services
(Section 151 Officer)

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the Council Tax base calculation 2021/22 for recommendation from Cabinet to Council.
- 1.2. The calculation sets out the estimates of new homes less the expected level of discounts and the level of Council Tax Support (CTS). This results in a band D equivalent tax base position for each Town and Parish Council.
- 1.3. The tax base reflects an increase of £1.8m (0.78%) on the 2020/21 budgeted position which is lower than the 1% forecast increase reported in February 2020. This is as a result of increased Council Tax Support claimants due to the ongoing pandemic situation. Additional new homes and more properties brought back into use over the last eleven years, have increased the taxbase by 16.2% since 2010/11.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet recommend to Council that:

- 2.1. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount to be calculated by Cheshire East Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2021/22 as 153,796.10 for the whole area.

2.2. The premium charged for property that has been empty for 10 years or longer be increased from 200% to 300%

2.3. The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22 is unchanged other than increasing the income bands in line with CPI.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 Cheshire East Council is required to agree its tax base before 31st January 2021.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1. None.

5. Background

5.1. Cheshire East Council is required to approve its tax base before 31st January 2021 so that the information can be provided to the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Cheshire Fire Authority for their budget processes. It also enables each Town and Parish Council to set their respective budgets. Details for each parish area are set out in **Appendix A**.

5.2. The tax base for the area is the estimated number of chargeable dwellings expressed as a number of band D equivalents, adjusted for an estimated number of discounts, exemptions and appeals plus an allowance for non-collection. A reduction of 1% is included in the tax base calculation to allow for anticipated levels of non-collection.

5.3. Processes to collect Council Tax locally continue to be effective and collection rates of 99% continue to be achieved over two years. Changes to Council Tax discounts, specifically the introduction and subsequent amendments to the CTS scheme are being managed and the forecast level of non-collection at Cheshire East has been maintained at 1% for 2021/22.

5.4. The tax base has been calculated in accordance with the Council's local policy to offer no reduction for empty properties except that Discretionary reductions will continue to be allowed, for landlords, under Section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

5.5. Analysis of recent trends in new homes, and homes being brought back into use, suggest an increase of nearly 4,200 homes is likely between the setting of the 2020/21 taxbase in October 2020 and the 31st March 2022. The

impact of this growth is affected by when properties may be available for occupation and the appropriate council tax banding and this is factored into the tax base calculation.

5.6. In common with most Billing Authorities, Cheshire East Council charges a Council Tax premium of 100% on property that has been empty for 2 years or more in order to encourage homes to be brought back into use. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 (amended) enables Councils to charge a premium on empty properties.

5.7. The Autumn Budget 2017 allowed Councils to increase the premium from 100% to 200% with effect from April 2020. This change was implemented with effect from 1st April 2020. There was further flexibility granted, for properties empty for over 10 years, allowing a 300% charge to be levied from April 2021. Cheshire East will be recommending that this change is also implemented.

5.8. The tax base also reflects assumptions around CTS payments. The Cheshire East CTS scheme was introduced in 2013/14 and subsequently amended following consultations in 2016/17 and 2020/21. The history of the scheme including budgets available compared to actual payments made is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Council Tax Support Budget since the introduction of the Scheme

Taxbase Year	CTS Payments £m	Risk Allowance £m	Resulting CTS Budget £m
2013/14 (original scheme)	18.2	0.7	18.9
2014/15	17.7	1.4	19.1
2015/16	17.7	0.9	18.6
2016/17 (revised scheme)	15.7	1.9	16.7
2017/18	14.2	2.0	16.2
2018/19	14.6	1.6	16.2
2019/20	15.0	1.2	16.2
2020/21 (estimated)	17.2	-0.4	16.8
2021/22 (estimated)	17.5	0.5	18.0

5.9. This level of budget will allow for a reduced risk factor of £0.5m due to overall affordability levels and the increased demand for Council Tax Support assistance due to the ongoing pandemic situation. The ongoing level of risk reflects a number of possible influences on the scheme such as:

- Challenges over the medium term economic position.
- The risk of a major employer leaving the area.
- The risk of delay in the significant development projects delaying employment opportunities.
- The prospect of a greater number of residents becoming of pensionable age and potentially becoming eligible for CTS.
- The risk of increased non-collection due to the increasing demand on non-protected residents.
- Further increase in caseload as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in reductions in earnings and increased redundancies

5.10. There are no further changes proposed for the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22, other than the uprating of the income bands in line with the Consumer Price Index in September 2020,

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

6.1.1. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended and Chapter 4 of the Council's Constitution, the calculation of the Council Tax Base is a matter for full Council following a recommendation by Cabinet.

6.2. Finance Implications

6.2.1. The calculation of the tax base provides an estimate that contributes to the calculation of overall funding for Cheshire East Council in each financial year.

6.3. Policy Implications

6.3.1. None

6.4. Equality Implications

6.4.1. None.

6.5. Human Resources Implications

6.5.1. None

6.6. Risk Management Implications

6.6.1. Consideration and recommendation of the Tax Base for 2021/22 to Council ensures that the statutory requirement to set the taxbase is met.

6.6.2. Estimates contained within the Council Tax Base calculation, such as the loss on collection and caseload for Council Tax Support, will be monitored throughout the year. Any significant variation will be reflected in a surplus or deficit being declared in the Collection Fund which is then shared amongst the major precepting authorities

6.7. Rural Communities Implications

6.7.1. This report provides details of taxbase implications across the borough.

6.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

6.8.1. None.

6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1. None.

6.10. Climate Change Implications

6.10.1. None

7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. All.

8. Consultation & Engagement

8.1. Not subject to any specific consultations.

9. Access to Information

9.1. Supporting system reports evidencing current taxbase numbers is available on request.

10. Contact Information

10.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

Name:	Alex Thompson
Job Title:	Director of Finance & Customer Services (Section 151 Officer)
Email:	alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

COUNCIL TAX - TAXBASE 2021/22

CHESHIRE EAST	BAND D EQUIVALENTS	TAX BASE 99.00%
Acton	167.66	165.99
Adlington	646.45	639.99
Agden	70.04	69.34
Alderley Edge	2,733.87	2,706.53
Alpraham	223.62	221.39
Alsager	4,979.84	4,930.04
Arclid	207.90	205.82
Ashley	162.00	160.38
Aston by Budworth	190.90	188.99
Aston-juxta-Mondrum	95.64	94.68
Audlem	1,058.40	1,047.81
Austerson	49.78	49.29
Baddiley	139.06	137.67
Baddington	65.17	64.51
Barthomley	102.74	101.71
Basford	93.92	92.98
Batherton	24.94	24.69
Betchton	289.42	286.52
Bickerton	131.34	130.03
Blakenhall	71.88	71.16
Bollington	3,234.81	3,202.47
Bosley	219.79	217.60
Bradwall	89.41	88.51
Brereton	743.27	735.84
Bridgemere	69.55	68.86
Brindley	70.55	69.85
Broomhall	85.54	84.69
Buerton	247.76	245.28
Bulkeley	139.15	137.76
Bunbury	691.49	684.57
Burland	293.02	290.09
Calveley	139.06	137.67
Checkley-cum-Wrinehill	50.91	50.40
Chelford	767.79	760.12
Cholmondeley	92.61	91.69
Cholmondeston	91.42	90.51
Chorley	289.65	286.75
Chorley (Crewe)	62.53	61.91
Chorlton	511.67	506.55
Church Lawton	919.42	910.22
Church Minshull	221.83	219.61
Congleton	10,581.06	10,475.25
Coole Pilate	38.95	38.56
Cranage	687.03	680.16
Crewe	14,103.94	13,962.90
Crewe Green	97.60	96.63
Disley	2,083.45	2,062.61
Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley	220.33	218.13
Doddington	19.65	19.46
Eaton	362.08	358.46
Edleston	337.99	334.61
Egerton	34.67	34.32
Faddiley	85.82	84.96
Gawsworth	827.73	819.46
Goostrey	1,101.20	1,090.19
Great Warford	446.88	442.42
Handforth	2,356.27	2,332.71
Hankelow	179.15	177.35
Haslington	2,806.10	2,778.04
Hassall	113.29	112.16
Hatherton	186.05	184.19
Haughton	107.41	106.34
Henbury	377.12	373.35
Henhull	219.40	217.20
High Legh	915.86	906.70
Higher Hurdsfield	335.51	332.15
Holmes Chapel	2,824.35	2,796.11
Hough	345.59	342.14
Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths	288.31	285.43
Hunsterson	81.84	81.02
Hurleston	36.62	36.25

COUNCIL TAX - TAXBASE 2021/22

CHESHIRE EAST	BAND D EQUIVALENTS	TAX BASE 99.00%
Kettleshulme	174.65	172.90
Knutsford	5,852.03	5,793.51
Lea	22.23	22.01
Leighton	1,922.39	1,903.16
Little Bollington	86.34	85.48
Little Warford	40.92	40.51
Lower Peover	77.30	76.53
Lower Withington	338.83	335.44
Lyme Handley	70.02	69.32
Macclesfield	18,900.97	18,711.93
Macclesfield Forest/Wildboardclough	119.36	118.17
Marbury-cum-Quoisley	136.42	135.06
Marton	116.65	115.48
Mere	491.21	486.30
Middlewich	4,981.03	4,931.22
Millington	102.85	101.82
Minshull Vernon	148.48	146.99
Mobberley	1,484.97	1,470.12
Moston	373.28	369.55
Mottram St Andrew	417.00	412.83
Nantwich	5,388.11	5,334.23
Nether Alderley	594.59	588.64
Newbold Astbury-cum-Moreton	362.93	359.30
Newhall	431.30	426.98
Norbury	104.34	103.30
North Rode	127.24	125.96
Odd Rode	2,010.80	1,990.69
Ollerton with Marthall	327.01	323.74
Over Alderley	232.20	229.88
Peckforton	78.08	77.29
Peover Superior	415.00	410.85
Pickmere	381.09	377.28
Plumley with Toft and Bexton	412.58	408.45
Poole	82.02	81.20
Pott Shrigley	155.79	154.23
Poynton with Worth	6,014.33	5,954.19
Prestbury	2,252.94	2,230.41
Rainow	616.52	610.36
Ridley	84.45	83.61
Rope	890.44	881.53
Rostherne	80.89	80.08
Sandbach	8,288.83	8,205.94
Shavington-cum-Gresty	2,255.93	2,233.37
Siddington	184.58	182.74
Smallwood	331.16	327.85
Snelson	84.13	83.29
Somerford	618.63	612.44
Sound	119.36	118.17
Spurstow	194.40	192.45
Stapeley	1,708.44	1,691.35
Stoke	114.92	113.77
Styal	416.05	411.89
Sutton	1,138.52	1,127.13
Swettenham	176.53	174.77
Tabley	235.44	233.09
Tatton	12.26	12.14
Twemlow	121.64	120.43
Walgheerton	67.03	66.36
Wardle	68.44	67.76
Warmingham	116.10	114.93
Weston	963.46	953.82
Wettenhall	118.08	116.90
Willaston	1,495.16	1,480.21
Wilmslow	11,969.44	11,849.75
Wincle	94.64	93.69
Wirswall	41.41	41.00
Wistaston	3,182.23	3,150.40
Woolstanwood	249.13	246.64
Worleston	122.12	120.90
Wrenbury	531.12	525.81
Wybunbury	693.79	686.85
	155,349.60	153,796.10

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COUNCIL – 16 DECEMBER 2020**NOTICES OF MOTION**

Submitted to Council in Accordance with paragraph 1.34 of the Council Procedural Rules

1 20's PLENTY IN 2020

Proposed by Councillor S Akers Smith and seconded by Councillor J Barber

Cheshire East is a caring council, where the needs of residents come first. 20mph speed limits improve quality of life, helping to create places where walking, cycling, conversations and playing are prioritised over vehicle traffic.

20mph speed limits are supported by many bodies including the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health, Alzheimer's Society, Cycling UK, World Health Organisation, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Transition Towns and cities, towns and parish councils and community groups.

30mph speed limit was created in 1934 and has never been reviewed, despite a significant increase in number of vehicles from 1.5 million to 40 million. The speed and weight of vehicles kills 5 people every day in the UK, which prevents people from feeling safe walking and cycling.

Reducing the default speed limit to 20mph on most urban and residential roads except where it is safe and compatible with community needs for it to be 30mph, will encourage parents to allow their children to walk and cycle to school, creates safety for those using mobility aids and the partially sighted and will help many people feel safer cycling on the roads because lower speeds make the environment feel safer. This change will also reduce congestion, improve air quality and improve the fitness of the borough's residents, as well as improve the economies of town centres by making them nicer places for people to want to spend time in.

In 2019 Cheshire East Council committed to fight climate change and implementing a default 20mph speed limit in areas where there is a mix of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists will help us achieve this. I urge councillors to make a real change to their communities and vote in support of this much needed Motion and join 21million other people in this country who have adopted the same policy, a default 20mph in central, urban and residential areas across the borough, unless where it is safe and compatible with community needs for it to be 30mph.

The Motion for "20's Plenty in 2020" asks Council to resolve to lend its support to:

1. The principle of introducing a default 20mph speed limit in central, urban and residential roads (these to be formally agreed in line with the law and the Council's decision-making arrangements) - not a blanket measure.

2. Consideration of the practicalities and timescales of introducing such a scheme in consultation with the Director of Highways and Infrastructure, and the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste, with formal consideration by the appropriate decision-making body/bodies, as early as possible in 2021.
3. Working with Cheshire police to help maintain compliance, once such arrangements are established.
4. Working with town and parish councils and the community, collaboratively and financially, to achieve the objectives of this Notice of Motion.

2 Support for Town Centres over Christmas and New Year

Proposed by Councillor J Clowes and seconded by Councillor S Gardiner

We propose that this Council support the cessation of car park charges on all Cheshire East Council-owned car parks that directly serve the Borough's Towns, Market Town and principal Service Centres for the period:

- To commence from 3rd December 2020 when current Covid-19 restrictions are lifted (or whichever date in December is permitted, whereby compliance with national and local Covid-19 restrictions may be achieved).
- The car park charges respite period to end at the end of business on 17th January 2021.

This action will provide the Borough's town centre traders with an essential and welcome boost once the current lockdown ends, whilst also encouraging Cheshire East Residents to "Shop Local".

Covid-19 has had an immense impact on businesses, families and individuals, and despite significant Government support for businesses throughout the pandemic, our wider economy now and in the longer term, is dependent on ensuring our SMEs are able to maintain trading. Too many Cheshire East businesses are struggling to weather the Covid storm and if they fail, the potential associated loss of business rates, redundancies and rising demand (and costs) for Council services must be an important consideration for this Council, at what is normally the busiest time of year for town centre traders.

Nonetheless, it is fully understood that there will be a financial cost in relation to this proposal at a time when this Council is experiencing significant financial pressure. In light of this, it is suggested that:

- 1) Only Cheshire East-owned car parks that directly serve the Borough's Towns, Market Town and principal Service Centres be included in the scheme.
- 2) That the 'free-parking' offer is restricted to specific times.

For example:

- Shropshire County Council has launched a free parking initiative between 11am and 6.00pm from 3rd December to 17th January 2021.⁽¹⁾
- Trafford Council has already launched a 'Free after Three' initiative that runs from Monday to Saturday. The scheme commenced on 16th November and runs through to the 11th January 2021.⁽²⁾

Ordinarily, Cheshire East Council could expect to receive approximately £385,000.00 in car park fees over a four-week period.⁽³⁾ (This reflects the period proposed with Bank Holidays and Sundays excluded). This potential loss would be further mitigated by:

- the implementation of a scheme that adheres to specific times when the offer will be in place.
- the exclusion of non-town centre / service centre car parks from the scheme.
- the Council would still be able to claim back from Government, any loss of car park income on those car parks that are NOT included in the scheme.

This Council's support of economic activity during this critical period in the run-up to Christmas and January Sales is vital and as such, the removal of car parking charges in the ways so ably demonstrated by our Local Authority neighbours in Shropshire and Trafford, should be viewed as an investment, with a monetary and social value for Cheshire East Residents and Businesses that far outweighs any loss of car park income during this short period.

References:

(1) <https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2020/11/free-parking/#:~:text=Free%20parking%20in%20Shropshire%20Council%20car%20parks%20from%203%20December%20to%2017%20January,-Related%20topics%3A%20Coronavirus&text=Parking%20will%20be%20free%20from,once%20the%20current%20lockdown%20ends.>

(2) <https://www.trafford.gov.uk/residents/news/articles/2019/20191111-Free-after-3-parking-returns-to-aid-Christmas-shoppers.aspx>

(3) <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/car-parks-and-parking/car-park-income-summary-2017-to-2020.pdf>

3 Bullying is Unacceptable in Cheshire East

Proposed by Councillor J Parry

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly, tolerant and safe environment for all of our communities so they can participate in positive work, learning, social activity and enjoy a happy retirement. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable for anyone here in Cheshire East.

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Schedule of Urgent Decisions

Urgent decisions made by the Chief Executive relating to Covid-19 funding etc under general delegation dated 2nd July 2020

Date	Summary of decision	MO/S151 consulted	Status
09 11 20	The acceptance of funds for being in Tier 2 of the national COVID-19 restrictions, based on £3 per head, payable from the "Contain Outbreak Management Fund". Funding: £1,152,456.00	Yes	Completed
19 11 20	Approval of a Supplementary Revenue Estimate of £15,262,935, to be funded from the Local Restrictions Support Grant. The Executive Director-Place be authorised to develop policies and procedures, as fall within his executive responsibilities, and then to fully distribute funding from the Grant, subject to conditions, subject to consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder. The Executive Director- Corporate Services be authorised to fully distribute funding from the Grant as fall within her executive responsibilities, subject to consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder.	Yes	Completed
01 12 20	Approval of a Supplementary Revenue Estimate of £1,920,760.00, to be funded from the Council's allocation from the "Contain Outbreak Management Fund". The Executive Director-People be authorised to allocate the full grant, to support spending in accordance with the guidance referred to in this decision record.	Yes	Completed

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