

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held on Tuesday, 30th March, 2021

PRESENT

Councillor J Clowes (Chairman)
Councillor B Murphy (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors I Macfarlane, C Bulman, JP Findlow, R Fletcher, H Faddes, D Edwardes, M Sewart, M Simon, R Vernon and L Wardlaw

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor C Browne, Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor L Crane, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Waste
Councillor K Flavell, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
Councillor J Rhodes, Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Corporate Services
Councillor A Stott, Portfolio Holder for Finance, ICT and Communication

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance*
Jacky Forster, Director of Education and 14-19 Skills
Richard Hibbert, Head of Transport
Frank Jordan, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Place
Andrew Ross, Director of Infrastructure and Highways

* Attended for Minute No. 69 only

60 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Q Abel (substituted for by Councillor I Macfarlane), M Hunter (substituted for by Councillor H Faddes), A Moran (substituted for by Councillor D Edwardes) and J Saunders (substituted for by Councillor M Sewart).

61 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 January 2021, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

63 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a party whip.

64 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

65 UPDATE FROM THE ASDV SHAREHOLDER COMMITTEE

The committee considered a report outlining the work undertaken by the ASDV Shareholder Committee to provide oversight of the ASDVs and scrutinise their business performance.

Members asked questions and put comments in relation to;

- what the council has done to enhance the leadership capacity amongst its ASDVs;
- what the potential financial implications would be if the number of leadership positions within ASDVs was increased;
- concern about press reports of other local authorities increasing the cost of funerals above rates of inflation, and
- how this council's rates and charges for funerals compared to other local authorities both regionally and nationally.

RESOLVED –

- 1 That the committee notes the processes in place to provide oversight of the ASDVs under the remit of the ASDV Shareholder Committee, and that observations and recommendations have been made to the Deputy Leader by the ASDV Shareholder Committee.
- 2 That the Deputy Leader be advised that the committee would recommend that, in light of recent events such as Covid-19, the council does not increase the prices of funerals in the borough for a period of six months, to allow enough time for the appropriate incoming service committee to undertake a more detailed review of market analyses before determining any price changes.
- 3 That the Scrutiny Officer provides the Deputy Leader with a summary of its comments, concerns and feedback on this report, in addition to its substantive recommendation.

66 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the council's Forward Plan of key decisions.

RESOLVED –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

67 WORK PROGRAMME

The committee considered its work programme and the items of business scheduled for its final meeting on 8 April 2021. The Chairman advised that, in addition to the items on the work programme, two further items of business had been added to the agenda on 8 April 2021.

RESOLVED –

That the work programme, and revised agenda for the committee's next meeting on 8 April 2021, be agreed.

68 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(a)4 of the Local Government Act 1972, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

69 ASDV REVIEW

The committee deferred this matter and agreed for it to be considered at its next meeting on 8 April 2021.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 11.59 am

Councillor J Clowes (Chairman)