

Council Agenda

Date: Wednesday 22nd February 2023
Time: 11.00 am
Venue: The Assembly Room - Town Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1EA

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 audio recorded and the recordings are uploaded to the Council's website

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To received any apologies for absence.

2. **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.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meetings** (Pages 5 - 30)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 14 December 2022 and 1 February 2023.

4. **Mayor's Announcements**

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

5. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance the Council Procedural Rules, a total period of 30 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 Chair will have discretion to vary this requirement where they consider it appropriate.

Members of the public wishing to speak are required to provide notice of this at least three clear working days' in advance of the meeting and should include the question with that notice. Questions should be submitted to: katie.small@cheshireeast.gov.uk or brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk.

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

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

7. **Recommendation from Corporate Policy Committee: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023 to 2027** (Pages 31 - 48)

To consider the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Committee.

Appendix A – Recommendations to Council page 45

Appendix B - Corporate Plan (summary) page 47

Appendix C - Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023 to 2027 can be viewed from this link: [APPENDIX C - MTFS 2023-2027 Council](#)

Annex B – Summary of Responses can be viewed from this link: [CE Budget Engagement 2023 - 2027](#)

8. **Council Tax Statutory Resolution** (Pages 49 - 64)

To set the Council Tax for Cheshire East for the financial year 2023/24

9. **Recommendation from Corporate Policy Committee: Pay Policy Statement 2023/24** (Pages 65 - 82)

To consider the recommendations of the Corporate Policy Committee.

10. **Appointment of Vice Chair of Finance Sub Committee** (Pages 83 - 86)

To appoint the Vice Chair of the Finance Sub Committee.

11. **Nomination of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2023/24 Municipal Year** (Pages 87 - 90)

To consider making a nomination for Mayor for 2023/24, who will also act as Chair of the Council, and a nomination for Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.

12. **Notices of Motion** (Pages 91 - 92)

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

13. **Questions**

In accordance the Council Procedure Rules, opportunity is provided for Members of the Council to ask the Mayor or the Chair of a Committee any question about a matter which the Council, or the Committee has powers, duties or responsibilities.

At Council meeting, there will be a maximum question time period of 30 minutes. A period of two minutes will be allowed for each Councillor wishing to ask a question. The Mayor will have the discretion to vary this requirement where they consider it appropriate.

14. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The reports relating to the remaining item on the agenda has been withheld from public circulation and deposit pursuant to Section 100(A)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended on the grounds that the matters may be determined with the press and public excluded.

The Committee may decide that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of confidential information as defined in Section 100(A)(3)(A) and Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

PART 2 - MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

15. **Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (Pages 93 - 98)**

To consider the report.

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council**
held on Wednesday, 14th December, 2022 in the Council Chamber,
SKA Observatory, Jodrell Bank ,Lower Withington, SK11 9FT

PRESENT

Councillor D Marren (Mayor/Chair)

Councillor R Fletcher (Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair)

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

47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors M Addison, P Butterill, D Edwardes, B Evans, K Flavell, L Gilbert, L Jeuda, A Moran, K Parkinson, J Smith, L Smith and D Stockton.

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to Item 7 – Site Allocations and Development Policies Document, Councillor P Redstone declared that he was a landowner in the area covered by the document.

49 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2022 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of the following:

Minute 38 Leader's and Deputy Leader's Announcements

Deputy Leader – announcement 3 to include of the towns of 'Alsager, Sandbach and Wilmslow' in the list of locations mentioned at the meeting.

50 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, in summary

- 1 thanked the staff at the SKA Observatory for hosting the meeting and for the presentation on the work that they do.
- 2 reported that he had attended the funeral of Councillor Barry Burkhill and at the request of the family had given one of the readings in the service.
- 3 reported the death of Honorary Alderman David Newton, who had been a former Cheshire East councillor and of Cheshire County Council, and a former Deputy Lieutenant of Cheshire.
- 4 asked all to stand for a minute of silent reflections in memory of Councillor Barry Burkhill and Honorary Alderman David Newton.
- 5 invited each Group Leader to speak in tribute to Councillor Burkhill and former Councillor Newton.

51 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

Sandbach Town Councillor Nicola Cook stated that in August she had reported via the Fix My Street app that a busy junction near Sandbach railway station had a worn stop line markings at the traffic lights. She had received confirmation that work would be undertaken urgently but this work had not been completed. Councillor C Browne, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee, responded that he had been informed that temporary warning signs were now in place and that work to the refurbishment of the stop line and lining works at the junction were planned to take place between 19 and 21 December. The exact date would be subject to permits and temporary traffic management lights approval. A temporary white line would be put in place this week at the stop line whilst the permanent works were being programmed.

Congleton Town Councillor Robert Douglas stated that since he spoke on the use of glyphosate weedkiller at the February 2022 Council meeting, three reports had been published which highlighted the damage caused by the weedkiller and asked that the Council accept it was now time to ban the weedkiller. Councillor M Warren, Chair of Environment and Communities Committee, responded that the Council had minimised its use of glyphosate, but it still offered benefits in cost and man hours that made it difficult to fully replace with alternative methods. ANSA and Cheshire East Highways had reverted to strimming as the preferred option in hard to mow locations. The 2022/23 highways weed treatment programme included the use of glyphosate and would see only one treatment across the whole network. Other options for weed treatment continued to be explored and would be reviewed ahead of the 2023/24 programme. ANSA had taken steps to reduce the use of glyphosate,

recently trialling alternative herbicides, mulches, and mechanical alternatives as they came to market. The Council would continue to seek to minimise glyphosate usage wherever possible and would welcome feedback from Congleton Town Council on their experience and lessons learned with alternative methods.

With the Mayor's agreement due to exceptional circumstances, the Head of Democratic Services and Governance read out a question on behalf of Sue Helliwell and stated that Site LPS 21 Twyfords was in the local plan and planning permission had been granted for houses; also that a section 106 agreement there was provision for the public right of way to be upgraded to the train station. Ms Helliwell asked for confirmation as to when work would commence on the public right of way. In response Councillor M Warren, Chair of Environment and Communities Committee, stated that the section 106 agreement for the redevelopment of the former Twyfords site in Alsager included a financial contribution of £93,050 towards the cost of improving the public right of way and informal path linking the site to Alsager train station. The monies had not yet been received by the Council, so the works were not currently scheduled. The developer had been contacted to check whether the payment trigger for the footpath contribution had been reached and, if so, to request payment.

Mr S Redgard stated that he would be making a formal complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman about the performance of the Council on three specific failures - two relating to the failures of the highways department in relation to the implementation of the winter service risk assessment process and the updating/management of the street lighting assessment register, and thirdly on the failure of the Council to respond to questions he asked at the last Council meeting.

52 LEADER'S AND DEPUTY LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader, in summary:

- 1 stated that the Council's Risk Register showed eight risks at the maximum risk category and that these had nearly all been caused by issues outside of the Council's control. One of the red rated risks was the Council's funding. The predicated final outturn after the first quarter was an £11.6m deficit due to inflationary pressures and increase demand on services, mainly social care. The forecast outturn after quarter 2, thanks to efforts of officers, had come down by £3m but a lot of this was due to one-off actions.
- 2 stated that the Autumn Statement allowed councils to put up council tax by 3% plus 2% for social care but with inflation running at 11%, even an increase of 5% was in real terms a cut of 6%. For the budget next year the Council would have to find at least £20m of savings or cuts to services. The service committees had been asked to find savings to address the in year inflationary pressures

and all service areas would have to find savings in order to balance the budget for 2023/24.

- 3 reported that in a recent report, eighteen areas of deprivation had been identified in Cheshire East, with thirteen of the areas being in Crewe. To tackle deprivation in Crewe there was a need to tackle health inequalities through improved housing, better jobs, access to green spaces and exercise and smoking cessation projects. The Council was consulting on measures to encourage more cycling and walking in Crewe.

The Deputy Leader, in summary

- 1 stated that he had at the last meeting reported that the Council had submitted expressions of interest in respect of six potential investment zones and reported that regrettably the Government's focus on investment zones had now shifted and therefore the expression of interest would not be taken forward. The government would be refocusing the Investment Zones Programme to develop a limited number of the highest potential knowledge-intensive growth clusters and would be working with local authorities to consider how best to identify and support these clusters.
- 2 reported that on 17 November, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had reaffirmed the Government's commitment to building HS2 to Manchester. The Council, along with other petitioners, awaited further details on the next stage of the Hybrid Bill and the dates of the Select Committee hearings. Officers were currently preparing the evidence base and draft committee exhibits in support of the petitioning arguments put forward in the Council's submission against the original Hybrid Bill.
- 3 in relation to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Council had received confirmation of the allocated funding - £1.5m in the current financial year and indicative allocations of £2.8m next year and £7.4m in the following year. Given the delay in receiving confirmation of the funding there was now an unrealistic timescale to deliver against the expected spend in year one and there was a risk of underspends being reclaimed by the Government. Officers and MPs were lobby to ensure that this did not happen.
- 4 reported that it was over 12 months since the Council had launched 'go-too' the demand responsive bus service in the southwest of the Borough. The service had performed well during the first year and from early next year the operating area would extend to include the Wybunbury triangle, enabling connections to both Dagfields and Bridgemere Garden Centre.

53 **ADOPTION OF THE SITE ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES DOCUMENT**

Consideration was given a report which outlined the findings and recommendations of the Inspector in respect of the examination of the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document.

The recommendations were proposed and seconded and following debate a recorded vote was requested with the following results:

FOR

Councillors Q Abel, S Akers Smith, L Anderson, J Barber, M Benson, L Braithwaite, J Bratherton, S Brookfield, C Browne, J Buckley, C Bulman, S Carter, J Clowes, S Corcoran, L Crane, A Critchley, T Dean, S Edgar, H Faddes, A Farrall, A Gage, M Goldsmith, P Groves, S Handley, A Harewood, S Hogben, M Houston, D Jefferay, A Kolker, C Leach, I Macfarlane, N Mannion, A Martin, R Moreton, D Murphy, C Naismith, J Nicholas, S Pochin, B Puddicombe, J Rhodes, J Saunders, M Simon, A Stott, R Vernon, M Warren, J Weatherill, P Williams, J Wray and N Wylie.

AGAINST

Councillors R Bailey, M Beanland, D Brown, S Davies, JP Findlow, G Hayes, S Holland, M Hunter, J Parry, M Sewart, L Smetham and L Wardlaw.

NOT VOTING

Councillor R Fletcher, D Marren, B Murphy and P Redstone.

The motion was declared carried with 49 votes for, 12 against and 4 not voting.

RESOLVED: That Council

- 1 adopts the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (Appendix 1 to the report) and Policies Map – (<https://maps.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ce/localplan/adoptedpoliciesmap2022>), which incorporate the Inspector's Main Modifications (Appendix 2 to the report) and the Council's Additional Modifications (Appendix 3 to the report);
- 2 notes that the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document, upon adoption, would replace all the remaining saved policies in the Congleton Borough Local Plan First Review (adopted 2005), the Borough of Crewe and Nantwich Replacement Local Plan (adopted 2005) and the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan (adopted 2004); and
- 3 authorises the Head of Planning to make any final, editorial amendments to the Site Allocations and Development Policies

Document prior to final publication, such amendments being restricted to correcting minor typographical errors and formatting.

54 RECOMMENDATION FROM CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE: DOMESTIC TAXBASE 2023-24

Consideration was given to the recommendations of Corporate Policy Committee on 1 December 2022 in relation to the domestic tax base 2023/24.

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Taxbase) Regulations 1992, the amount to be calculated by Cheshire East Council as its Council taxbase for the year 2023/24 be 158,778.54 for the whole area.

55 RECOMMENDATION FROM CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE: HIGH SPEED RAIL 2 PHASE 2B - QUALIFYING AUTHORITY AND SCHEDULE 17 DECISION-MAKING

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Corporate Policy Committee in relation to the proposed decision-making arrangements for High Speed Rail 2 Phase 2b.

RESOLVED:

That Council become a Qualifying Authority for the construction of Phase 2b of the High Speed Rail 2 (HS2) as set out in the report and that the Constitution be amended accordingly as set out in Annex 1 to the report.

(during consideration of this item Councillors M Asquith and A Gregory arrived at the meeting)

56 FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022/23 - SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

Consideration was given to the report seeking approval of supplementary revenue estimates and supplementary capital estimates.

RESOLVED: That Council approve

- 1 a supplementary revenue estimates for a specific grant coded directly to services over £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, as detailed in Appendix 1 Table 1 to the report - Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP): Skills Bootcamp - £1.037m.
- 2 supplementary capital estimates over £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report:
Table 1 - A500 Dualling - £20.755m
Table 2 - Maintenance Block – LTP - £6.235m

Table 3 - Managing and Maintaining Highways £2.300m

Table 4 - Northwest Crewe Package - £2.042m

Table 5 - North Cheshire Garden Village - £15.817m

Table 6 - Strategic Capital Projects - £11.087m

57 RECOMMENDATION FROM ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE: REVISED STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Environment and Communities Committee in relation to the revised Statement of Gambling Principles.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Statement of Gambling Principles be approved.

58 POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

Consideration was given to the report relating to the political representation on the Council's committees, which addressed the recent change in political group membership following an Independent Group member having sadly passed away and a Real Independent Group member's membership of the Council having ceased.

RESOLVED:

That the political group and other representation, as set out in the Appendix to the report, and the methods, calculations and conventions used in determining this, as outlined in the report, be adopted and the allocation of places to Committees be approved.

59 NOTICES OF MOTION

Consideration was given to the Notices of Motion which had been submitted in accordance with the Council's Procedural Rules.

1 Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission Report

Proposed by Councillor Q Abel and seconded by Councillor M Houston.

1. *Cheshire East Council notes and acknowledges the report and recommendations of the Cheshire and Warrington Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission.*

2. *That the Council's Economy and Growth Committee be asked to consider the report and to determine the Council's response to the recommendations.*

RESOLVED:

That the motion be referred to the Economy and Growth Committee or such other appropriate committee, based upon the constitutional terms of reference.

2 LGA Campaign “Save Local Services”

Proposed by Councillor M Goldsmith and seconded by Councillor Q Abel.

That Cheshire East Supports the LGA Campaign to “Save Local Services” and asks the Government to Provide Emergency Funding for All Local Councils

RESOLVED:

That the motion be referred to the Corporate Policy Committee or such other appropriate committee, based upon the constitutional terms of reference.

3 Quality Council Homes for Cheshire East

Proposed by Councillor C Naismith and Seconded by Councillor A Critchley

This Council commits to:

- 1) *Creating a Cheshire East Council housing revenue account.*
- 2) *The development of a long-term strategy for the construction of high-quality, genuinely affordable council housing across the borough, underpinned by long-term secure tenancy agreements, with rents relative to the average wage of the geographical area. Thus Providing residents the security, health, education & social mobility opportunity that they deserve.*

RESOLVED:

That the motion be referred to the Economy and Growth Committee or such other appropriate committee, based upon the constitutional terms of reference.

60 **QUESTIONS**

Councillor R Moreton stated that he had been working alongside residents of his ward trying to resolve issues with damp in social housing properties. He felt it was only going to get worse with the cost-of-living crisis as residents would not be able to heat their homes. He stated that he was now working alongside social housing providers in Congleton to try and get the long-standing issues resolved but felt that this was a massive problem across the Borough. He asked if the Council could write to all

social housing providers across the Borough to make sure they are dealing with resident's complaints regarding damp in their properties as a matter of urgency. In response Councillor N Mannion, Chair of Economy and Growth Committee state that the Council had written to all the registered providers that had housing stock in Cheshire East asking them for an appropriate contact with regard to the related issues of damp, mould and heating and these details would be circulated to Members in due course.

Councillor J Clowes referred to the monies announced by Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. In particular to social care and asked that a clear and concise breakdown of those monies be prepared for Councillors; and in particular for the Adults Social Care and Health Committee. She referred to the £500 million which had been announced by the then NHS Secretary of State, Therese Coffey, and stated that she understood that the Council would have received £1.2 million of the £200 million which was allocated to Local Authorities but now had been told that the £300 million allocated to the NHS would be distributed through the Better Care Fund. This had to come to Local Authorities and Councillor Clowes asked for an understanding as to how that was going to be spent. She asked for details of how next year's funding would support the Council and for details of any known additional funds available such as the New Homes Bonus. In response Councillor J Rhodes, Chair of the Adults and Health Committee responded that the Council welcomed all financial support from the Government, but funding was not meeting the inflationary costs in the adult care budget. She undertook to provide a written response in relation to the money announced by Michael Gove.

Councillor L Anderson stated that she was looking at downsizing her house and had looked at a house built three years ago. She had been somewhat shocked to find that the house had an EPC rating of 'E', which was one of the lowest ratings. She asked what the Council could do to encourage developers to have better standards for energy ratings, and whether any new builds by the Council e.g., new schools, be the highest EPC rating as possible if not more. Councillor M Warren, Chair of Environment and Communities Committee, responded by stating he was surprised that situation existed given the drive on EPC rating and undertook to provide a written response to that.

Councillor S Corcoran also responded by stating that he thought it was disgraceful that houses were being built now that would have to be retrofitted within a few years. He stated that Oxfordshire County Council had sought through their Local Plan to insist that developments were built to high energy efficiency standards and that this had been ruled out by the Government Inspector. He was pleased that building regulations were being improved but thought they needed to be improved by a lot more so that all new build houses were built to high environmental standards and hoped that this would be incorporated into the Council's new Local Plan as it was developed over the next few years.

Councillor S Carter asked if the Leader of the Council agreed that the Council's financial problems this year were caused by overspending in Crewe, and if he did not, were there any other factors that made the Council's financial situation very difficult. In response Councillor S Corcoran stated he was delighted to see that investment was going into Crewe and that it was long overdue. This was not the cause of the financial difficulties the Council was now facing. The problems were due to the very high inflation and continual cutting of government funding to Councils. There were also the pressures that the Government was putting on local authorities to deliver more services, particularly noticeable in Adult Social Care - the Council had an aging population and was obliged to provide these services. Also, in Children Social Care the Council was legally obliged to provide these services, and the Government reforms that were introduced are leading to significant increases in those demands.

Councillor R Bailey referred to the Airband contract that was due to end in March. A statement had been published that 3,000 new full fibre connections had been made across the County of Cheshire and asked how many of these connections had been made in Cheshire East. Councillor N Mannion, Chair of Economy and Growth Committee, undertook to provide a written response.

Councillor C Naismith referred to the local elections in May 2023 and the expectation that voters would be required to produce photo ID at polling stations. He asked what plans the Council had to mitigate the impact on voters potentially being disenfranchised by this. In response Councillor S Corcoran stated that it was the responsibility of the Returning Officer of this Council to get that message out to voters in Cheshire East that they will have to provide photo ID to be able to vote in the May 2023 elections and understood that the Government would also be promoting this. He felt it would disproportionately affect younger people who might not have photo driving licences or passports and therefore the Council needed to be mindful of the demographics in getting the messaging out there. He was also aware that the LGA had asked for the implementation to be postponed because it would be a very difficult and expensive administrative task to implement by May 2023.

Councillor A Gregory stated he was the Cheshire East representative on the Peak District National Park Authority and reported that on 2 December 2022 the Peak District National Park Authority had approved their new Park Management Plan and their Landscape Plan and asked if members know about these documents. Councillor N Mannion, Chair of Economy and Growth Committee, responded that the Council was a consultee with regards to those two key strategies and undertook to circulate a link to these documents to all Members.

Councillor Redstone asked what provision would be made for free parking at Christmas, over and above the free days that would normally be offered to Local Town Councils and what was the Council doing to support

shopping on the high streets this Christmas. In response, Councillor C Browne, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee, stated that currently each town had four days free parking per year to use at their discretion. In addition, several car parks had free parking after 3pm to encourage shopping. No charges applied on Christmas Day which was a nationwide policy. He understood the request was to look at the Christmas holiday period, from 19 to 31 December, which equated effectively to a 12-day period of free parking. The difficulty was it was impractical to think that this could be applied to one single town. If that principle was to apply across the Borough, officers had calculated that the cost of doing so would be approximately £180,000 to the Council. At the current time the Council could not afford to add £180,000 to the £8.7 million pressure that already existed. If, however a Town or Parish Council wished to come and discuss with Cheshire East Council the question of suspending parking charges, and said Town or Parish Council was willing to discuss reimbursing Cheshire East with that loss of income then that might be something the Council could consider going forward.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am and concluded at 2.05 pm

Councillor D Marren
Mayor/Chair

COUNCIL 14 December 2022

Item 14 – Questions: Written Responses

2 Cllr Clowes

Written Response

The Council have already received the first instalment of the CEC funding allocation (£1.2m in total out of the £200m for local authorities, with the first instalment received being £483,566).

It has been agreed with finance colleagues locally in Health that all of their share of the allocation will be physically paid across to the Council once received and will be accounted for within the ring-fenced Better Care Fund (BCF) arrangements. We will then arrange reimbursement of all the listed schemes once expenditure has been physically defrayed. (both internal CEC schemes and those where the Lead Commissioner is in Health).

In terms of the further £600m for next year we understand this will be allocated through the Better Care Fund to get people out of hospital on time into care settings. Local government's 50% share is £300m in 2023-24 and £500m in 2024-25). Labelled as "Discharge Funding" on the provisional local government finance settlement doc. This funding is allocated using the Relative Needs Formula (we receive approximately 0.6% of the national allocation normally in Cheshire East) adjusted for our expected Precept Yield – resulting in an allocation of £1.2m for 2023/24 for the Council, before the appropriate share for the Cheshire East Place is added by the ICB.

The New Homes Bonus (NHB) funding is used to support the wider revenue budget as a whole and forms part of the overall funding envelope, for 2023/24 we had assumed no NHB income when the MTFS 22-26 was approved in Feb 2022. The provisional settlement announced a further one year of the NHB for 2023/24 which equates to £3.794m for CEC.

3 Councillor L Anderson

Written Response

The Planning and Energy Act 2008 allows local planning authorities to set and apply policies in their local plans which require compliance with energy efficiency standards for new homes that exceed the requirements of the Building Regulations. In a Written Ministerial Statement in 2015 it was stated that local planning authorities should not set energy efficiency standards for new homes higher than the energy requirements of Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes (equivalent to a 19% improvement on the Part L 2013 standard). This requirement was incorporated into Policy ENV7 (Climate change) within the Site Allocations and Development Policies Document (SADPD). To avoid an overlap and potential conflict between planning policy and building regulations requirements, the Policy ENV 7 also says that the '19% improvement' standard should be applied

unless it is superseded by an updated building regulations requirement requiring a higher standard.

The building regulations to improve the energy efficiency of new homes. The Standard is being brought forward in two stages. The first stage was implemented this year (2022) requiring all new homes to produce 31% less carbon emissions. The second stage proposes that all new homes built from 2025 will produce 75-80% less carbon emissions. The Government has said that the 2025 standard will mean:

- new homes will not be built with fossil fuel heating, such as a natural gas boiler;
- homes will be future-proofed with low carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency; and
- no further energy efficiency retrofit work will be necessary to enable them to become zero-carbon.

The Government intends to consult on the full technical specification for the Future Homes Standard in 2023 and then introduce the necessary legislation in 2024, ahead of implementation in 2025.

In terms of the '19% improvement' sought in SADPD Policy ENV 7, this has now been superseded by the requirement for a '31% improvement' within the building regulations.

It is also noteworthy that SADPD Policy ENV 7 looks for all 'major' residential development schemes to provide for at least 10% of their energy needs from renewable or low carbon energy generation on site.

Policy SE 9 (Energy Efficient Development) encourages high energy efficiency standards in non-residential development. The policy also expects non-residential development over 1,000 square metres to provide at least 10 per cent of its predicted energy requirements from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.

Looking ahead, the urgent need to reduce and ultimately eliminate the borough's impact on climate change will be a central theme in the Council's new local plan. This will run through its policies including those addressing how and where new development takes place, transportation and movement, and energy generation.

5 Councillor R Bailey

Written Response

The Digital Cheshire team have confirmed that one-third or 997 of all connections in this phase relate to premises in Cheshire East. The remaining two thirds were connections in Cheshire West and Chester premises in line with the contracted programme.

The deployment work for the next phase is underway and this is exclusively in Cheshire East. Currently the work is focussed on building

the network backbone and the installation and connecting new cabinets. Actual new premises connections are expected to commence sometime in the new year, (late January /early February).

7 Councillor A Gregory

Written Response

The National Park Management Plan is published on the Peak District National Park's website and can be viewed from this link - [National Park Management Plan: Peak District National Park](#)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council**
held on Wednesday, 1st February, 2023 in the
The Assembly Room - Town Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1EA

PRESENT

Councillor R Fletcher (Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair)

Councillors Q Abel, S Akers Smith, L Anderson, M Beanland, L Braithwaite, C Browne, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill, J Clowes, S Corcoran, L Crane, T Dean, D Edwardes, S Edgar, H Faddes, A Farrall, JP Findlow, K Flavell, S Gardiner, M Goldsmith, A Gregory, P Groves, A Harewood, S Hogben, M Houston, M Hunter, D Jefferay, L Jeuda, A Kolker, I Macfarlane, N Mannion, A Martin, A Moran, R Moreton, D Murphy, J Nicholas, J Parry, S Pochin, B Puddicombe, J Rhodes, J Saunders, M Sewart, L Smetham, D Stockton, A Stott, R Vernon, M Warren, P Williams and J Wray.

The Deputy Mayor paid tribute to the late Councillor Stephen Carter and reported that the Mayor had attended his funeral, along with many fellow councillors and officers. He invited the Group Leaders or their nominees to say a few words in tribute and then asked all to stand for a minute of silent reflections in memory of Councillor Carter.

The Deputy Mayor stated that the meeting was being held to meet the requirements of Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, which was to hold a meeting to consider a Public Interest Report and its recommendations within 1 month of receipt of the report and after issuing a public notice of the meeting 8 days in advance.

The Deputy Mayor reported that he was proposing to vary the Council's Procedural Rules of debate. He would invite the Chief Executive to speak by way of introduction to the cover report and then invite Grant Thornton to introduce the Public Interest Report. He would then allow Members to ask questions of the auditors and following this move to debate. He reminded Members that speaking time during debate was limited to 3 minutes and that members may only speak once. He had agreed to allow Group Leaders to speak for 5 minutes during the debate and would give them the opportunity to speak at the end of the debate for a further 5 minutes to address any matters that arose during debate that related to their group..

61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors M Addison, M Asquith, R Bailey, J Barber, M Benson, J Bratherton, S Brookfield, A Critchley, B Evans, A Gage, L Gilbert, S Handley, G Hayes, S Holland, C Leach, D Marren, C

Naismith, K Parkinson, M Simon, J Smith, L Smith, L Wardlaw, J Weatherill and N Wylie.

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interests of openness, Councillor A Gregory declared that the former Head of Internal Audit was a personal friend of his.

63 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

Mr Stuart Redgard stated that he had asked the Council in December 2017 to investigate the Corefit incident and other incidents that related to Councillor Jones. He was pleased that the Council's governance had changed to a committee system but was concerned about what he saw as failings of the Council to deal with the performance of the Highways Department and asked that an investigation be carried out.

Councillor Craig Browne, Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee, undertook to provide a written response. Councillor Browne commented that the Council was responsible for over 2700km of roads, 1,129 bridges and structures, over 40,000 street lights and 98,000 gullies. The current gross replacement cost for the local highway network with its associated assets and land values, stood at over £6 billion. Although there was a continuous programme of maintenance, the grant received from the Department of Transport was only £15m for this purpose. The Council had chosen to borrow £7m this year and a further £7m in each of the next two years but it was not sustainable to borrow to repair the roads especially as construction inflation was rising annually. Councillor Browne believed that the real issues was the severe lack of funding rather than a governance issue.

Councillor S Corcoran stated that the Labour Councillors had repeatedly demanded an external investigation into the culture of the Council. A Local Government Association review did eventually take place and in 2018 they reported and revealed a bullying culture. A Peer Review was undertaken in 2020 that reported on a transformed culture and that the improvements in culture were allowing challenges to practices when appropriate.

Alsager Town Councillor Michael Unett asked what lessons had the Council learnt from the Public Interest Report, what had the political groups learnt and would the current administration do all that it could to ensure that the Council remained a council transformed and would never slip back into the dark days highlighted in the Report.

Councillor S Corcoran responded that he had already referred to the Local Government Association report and was confident that the Council had changed, and that such behaviour would be called out now. Councillor C Browne responded that the Council had moved forward since the period referred to in the Report. The Report itself had made reference to an

openness to share, to hear and to learn from good practice and the LGA Peer Review had commented on the progress made in improving workplace culture as well as changes to internal assurances and encouraging officers to provide professional challenge. Councillor J Clowes responded that she agreed with what her colleagues had already said. Councillor P Williams stated that things had moved on since the events in the report with improvements in the culture at the Council and the introduction of the committee system.

64 PUBLIC INTEREST REPORT

Council received a report of the Chief Executive that responded formally to the Public Interest Report recently issued by Grant Thornton, who acted as the external auditors for Cheshire East Council from 2012/13 to 2017/18.

Following an introduction by the Chief Executive, Members were invited to ask questions of the representatives of Grant Thornton, who were in attendance at the meeting, in relation to the factual content of the Public Interest Report. The questions and responses given are appended.

On conclusion of the question-and-answer session the Leader and Deputy Leader proposed and seconded the recommendations contained in paragraph 3 of the report of the Chief Executive.

Members debated the report and recommendations. During the extensive debate various comments were made, including the following. Members:

- welcomed the report and stated that it was right that the public had insight into the events of seven years ago.
- asked why the report was being released now and who would be meeting the cost of the report.
- expressed concern that some former officers had not been contacted by Grant Thornton as part of their investigation.
- made a comparison with the Lyme Green report, which had been heavily redacted when the Council had published it.
- expressed concern that Cabinet members at the time failed to act in response to bullying behaviour and that this behaviour was adopted by other members.
- noted that bullying behaviour had not just been experienced by officers, but had also extended to members of the public.
- expressed concern action had not been taken sooner to remove the then Leader.
- made reference to the LGA report of 2018 which had highlighted a bullying culture, and that the LGA Peer Review report of 2020 which reported that the culture of the council had been transformed.
- stated that the events complained of would not happen again, as officers were now empowered to “call-out” and challenge poor behaviour.

- noted that there was a lasting impact on staff, past and present, of the bullying behaviour and the legacy of the actions.
- expressed support for Internal Audit officers' action at the time but raised concern that their then line managers were the Statutory Officers who were performing poorly during the period of the report.
- expressed concern that the standards regime was inadequate in terms of how it would have dealt with behaviours of the former Leader and that the standards regime should include sanctions against those who broke the code.
- noted that the revised Code of Conduct included the declaration of personal interests.
- the Council needed to learn from the mistakes identified to avoid them being repeated.
- noted that the Council had changed politically, culturally, and structurally since the period of the report.

On conclusion of the debate, a request for a named vote was made.

The Deputy Mayor proposed that a vote be taken on Recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 together, and a separate vote be taken on Recommendations 3.3 and 3.4 together.

A named voted as taken on Recommendations 3.1 and 3.2 with the following results:

FOR

Councillors Q Abel, S Akers Smith, L Anderson, M Beanland, L Braithwaite, C Browne, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill, J Clowes, S Corcoran, L Crane, T Dean, D Edwardes, S Edgar, H Faddes, A Farrall, JP Findlow, K Flavell, R Fletcher, S Gardiner, M Goldsmith, A Gregory, P Groves, A Harewood, S Hogben, M Houston, M Hunter, D Jefferay, L Jeuda, A Kolker, I Macfarlane, N Mannion, A Martin, A Moran, R Moreton, D Murphy, J Nicholas, J Parry, S Pochin, B Puddicombe, J Rhodes, J Saunders, M Sewart, L Smetham, D Stockton, A Stott, R Vernon, M Warren, P Williams and J Wray.

AGAINST

None

NOT VOTING

None

The motion was declared carried with 51 votes for, 0 against and 0 not voting.

A named voted as taken on Recommendations 3.3 and 3.4 with the following results:

FOR

Councillors Q Abel, S Akers Smith, L Anderson, M Beanland, L Braithwaite, C Browne, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill, J Clowes, S Corcoran, L Crane, T Dean, D Edwardes, S Edgar, H Faddes, A Farrall, JP Findlow, K Flavell, R Fletcher, S Gardiner, M Goldsmith, A Gregory, P Groves, A Harewood, S Hogben, M Houston, M Hunter, D Jefferay, L Jeuda, A Kolker, I Macfarlane, N Mannion, A Martin, A Moran, R Moreton, D Murphy, J Nicholas, J Parry, S Pochin, B Puddicombe, J Rhodes, J Saunders, M Sewart, L Smetham, D Stockton, A Stott, R Vernon, M Warren, P Williams and J Wray.

AGAINST

None

NOT VOTING

None

The motion was declared carried with 51 votes for, 0 against and 0 not voting.

RESOLVED: That Council

- 1 notes the content of the Public Interest Report dated 17 January 2023 provided by Grant Thornton LLP in their capacity as external auditors for Cheshire East Council during the period 2014/15.
- 2 notes the progress and effectiveness of the cultural and governance controls introduced by Cheshire East Borough Council.
- 3 agrees the three recommendations of the public interest report in relation to events in 2014/15 (Appendix 1 to the report) as follows:
 - i. The Council should carefully consider this report to ensure all members now understand the events and conditions that led to the issues set out in the report. This consideration could usefully reflect upon: what happened; the governance and cultural arrangements that allowed it to happen; the critical success factors that led to the successful resolution of matters; and the key elements of the Council's current arrangements that can reassure members of the Council's ability to protect itself from such threats to its future governance.
 - ii. The Council should, as planned, return to the other specific matters investigated by Internal Audit (see paragraphs 4.2 and 5.6 of the Public Interest Report), following the Core Fit issue, and determine if there are further actions to be taken particularly in light of this report.

- iii. The Council should discuss with its current external auditors whether there are any matters arising from this report that should be addressed by the current auditor's statutory external audit.
- 4 agrees Audit and Governance Committee will receive a further internal audit report to conclude the recommendation at paragraph 3.3 (ii).

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm and concluded at 7.14 pm

Councillor R Fletcher
Deputy Mayor

Questions to Grant Thornton

Cllr T Dean asked on behalf of Cllr Liz Wardlaw - How much has this report cost and who is paying for it and who commissioned it? As a supplementary question, how much has it cost to facilitate this extra full council meeting?

Grant Thornton response - We are not yet in a position to confirm the costs of the work to the Council.

Director of Governance and Compliance response to supplementary - The meeting has some fixed costs, which include items such as the hire of the sound system and printing and postage of agendas, which equates to approximately £4,000. On this occasion the Council has taken every step it can to reduce the costs, by using its own venue and avoiding any other unnecessary expenditure. Members are also entitled to claim expenses through the Members allowances scheme

Cllr L Crane - For those who held Cabinet positions during 2014-2018 but NOT named in the report, do you have any evidence of them speaking out or seeking to rein in the behaviour of Michael Jones?

Grant Thornton response – no, the only evidence of such challenge is that provided to us at interview by Councillor Clowes and subsequent document exchange with her and other former Cabinet members. This is all reflected in the report.

Cllr N Mannion - Can you clarify if any individual current/former council member(s) may be liable to be surcharged/invoiced towards the cost of the report, or if it falls entirely upon the current Council budget?

Grant Thornton Response - The charges for External Auditors sit within the Council's revenue Budget. As such the bill, when moderated by PSAA, will be paid from there. As this is exceptional compared to forecasts it will be a feature of the Finance Team outturn, which is not covered by other reserves. Anything not within the overall budget lands on General Reserves.

There is no power under which councillors may be surcharged anymore – that was removed several years ago.

Cllr L Jeuda - At an Audit and Governance meeting on 10 December 2015 Councillor Sam Corcoran raised concerns about the apparent management override of controls and said that at Cheshire East Council the rules can be bent, the rules can be broken. Do you regret not following up on the comments more promptly and do you think the delay affected the eventual outcome?

Grant Thornton response – please see the background paper we have prepared regarding our role at the time. Grant Thornton had opened its file

on the matter in September 2015 and after considering the emerging work of Internal Audit, it was agreed to keep a watching brief until the ongoing internal audit investigation had been completed - that is best practice to let internal audit go first. This approach was in line with NAO formal auditor guidance and was explained to the Audit and Governance Committee. By 10 December the Internal Audit work was well underway and it would not have been appropriate for external audit to commence a formal audit at that time. The Police investigation that commenced on 17 December meant that no external audit work was then possible until the police had concluded their interest in the matter. Events have shown that, even if external audit had commenced a full investigation on 10 December following the Audit and Governance Committee, it would not have been possible to have made any real progress by the time the police stepped in.

Cllr S Hogben - The report highlights the importance of speaking out and acting to stop wrongdoing. Paragraph 9.3 states that "The former Leader was not alone in the inappropriate treatment of officers." Why are those responsible for that inappropriate treatment of officers not named in the report?

Grant Thornton response – the finding was drawn from interviews with former officers, many of whom made the same point that the behaviour was attributable to some Cabinet members, as commented on in the report. There was sufficient evidence to verify that, but without a much more detailed investigation it would not have been possible to identify the appropriate level of criticism to name individual Councillors. It would not have been proportionate to have widened the investigation out any further. However, we were also clear that the main instigator of inappropriate behaviour came from the former Leader and at least some of the former Cabinet members were also the victim of this treatment, which is why we have focussed on him specifically.

Cllr S Pochin – in the minutes of the December 2015 Audit Governance Committee, Grant Thornton told the committee that regarding Core Fit there was 'No evidence of wrongdoing that an outside agency would have an interest in investigating'. How was this said in 2015, and 8 years later we are where we are. Can Grant Thornton provide some comment on that?

Grant Thornton Response - The comments came from progress that internal audit had made on its investigation at the time. Grant Thornton letter to the then Chief Executive (detailed in the supplementary paper), noted there were procedural irregularities certainly raised at that point, but internal audit had not identified any links to any inappropriate behaviour from members or influence at that time of the magnitude that would create a need for a report like this. That was a snapshot at that moment in time, there was no comment that there would be no further interest, it was agreed to keep a watching brief and to see what internal audit would come

up with in the course of this work. Over the passage of time we now have evidence of interviews, emails and far more material that demonstrates conduct issues that were clearly apparent but not evidenced from internal audit work.

Cllr S Gardiner – having read the report, I am bemused that there is no reference to the then Director of Adult Social Care and Director of Public Health. Both of whom I am aware raised matters with the Chief Executive and others at the time that the Core Fit contract was being expanded to included parts of their service areas. I would like to know why that is not included, and secondly, I am somewhat concerned that the report seems to be very light on the information of the work undertaken of the acting Chief Executive of the time and the then Leader who both did an awful lot of work in very controlled circumstances because of the pending police investigations to turn the council around.

Grant Thornton Response – as referred back on matter of fees, there comes a point where we needed to draw a line under our work. Have we got sufficient evidence to make the points that we feel are relevant in the public interest? We believed we had reached that point. It could have been easy for us to keep extending the scope time and time again as people raised matters as to who to speak to and what we should consider and look at. As said in the introduction, we did have to draw a line at some point. The first officer, we did reach out to, but they declined to be involved. The second officer, fell into the category of where we felt we had done enough work at that point to get the issues properly set out.

Cllr S Gardiner – would like to make sure that we are talking about the same person, as I do know that the person who the Director of Public Health and Director of Adult Social Care reported to was at interim management level and they declined. I wasn't aware the Director of Adult Care had even been approached.

Grant Thornton Response - No, they hadn't. We would have to check on the job designation, but it was certainly the key commissioning officer that we approached. The other two cases, we felt we had sufficient evidence to make the points around culture.

We do acknowledge the progress in the immediate Michael Jones procedure, I don't think we named Cllr Bailey formally in that, but certainly she was the person we were talking about at that point and started to lead the council's improvement journey.

Cllr J Parry – what involvement, if any, would you suggest that the Leader of the Council should have with the external auditor particularly in light of recommendation R3?

Grant Thornton Response – one challenge that exists in the audit regime is that it disconnects somewhat between auditors and members as there is

a different focus, but periodical dialogue between the Leader and External Auditor is really good practice and is common practice to meet every 6 months or annually as part of the audit process. This is part of the wider work to bring the audit process closer and appropriately to councillors, not just in audit committee but more widely. The National Audit Office has introduced a new approach to value for money and the auditors annual report, which provides a commentary on the councils VFM arrangements which are very useful and all councillors should read the annual report when published as it gives a synopsis of the auditors view of arrangements in the council. In answer to the question, yes, the view is either every 6 or 12 months there should be a meeting for 2 sided discussions on matters relating to audit so both parties are aware of all issues relating to that process.

Cllr J Clowes – in relation to the report, on several occasions you refer to Core Fit as being of ‘low value’ others refer to it as ‘immaterial sums’ but quite rightly at 7.73 you highlight the importance of public perception. I don’t know about anybody else but £130,000 is a significant sum to my residents and to the residents of this borough, therefore, my concern is that at the Audit and Governance Committee meeting in December 2015 you made reference to an ‘insignificant sum’ in the context of the audit and governance and external audit work. Why is it that in this report you recognise the importance of public perception but at that Audit and Governance meeting when you already had information from internal audit, you did not?

Grant Thornton Response – the answer to that question relates to the opinion that we had given on the financial statements that operates to material audit standards which for Cheshire East is at least £10 million so that was the context of the phrase ‘insignificant sum’. The matter of value for money audit and again the findings at that time, on 30 September, only a month after us being called, the internal audit findings to date had identified procedural irregularities of around £170,000 procurement which for a council with next expenditure of £400 million, would not have a bearing on itself without all of the other public interest elements of political overlay behind it in impacting on the VFM conclusion at the time.

Cllr A Gregory – paragraph 2.19 of report states, whilst some members were highly concerned, others provided support. As council taxpayer, why can those others not be mentioned in your report?

Grant Thornton Response – everyone that we seek to name, we would have to consult, interview, share reports with. They then might take legal advice etc., which may have extended the process. We sought to be selective and talk to the key protagonists in order to get sufficient coverage to make the points around culture and governance which is where we believe the underlying public interest lies and not for seeking to name

absolutely everyone either positively or negatively in the course of the work.

Cllr J Buckley – The Council have got to pay for the report, can we recoup fees for those mentioned negatively in the report, or have we just got to pay the bill?

Grant Thornton Response - From Audit perspective, we set the cost estimate for PSAA and its for them to determine, that is as far we would take it.

Director of Governance and Compliance Response – we would not be looking to recover any costs from any former member of the chamber.

Cllr M Houston – why was nothing done about the behaviours of Cllr Jones, why was he allowed to become Council Leader in the first place? What did the Conservative Association do? Did they have checks and balances when choosing their candidates? Going back to 2013 and before, how did this come about? What are checks and balances going forward in the Conservative Association to make sure that suitable people who can be relied on for integrity in public office, are they now being selective?

Deputy Mayor – not a question for the Auditors, for the political party.

Cllr A Farrall – can the Auditors confirm whether their work and cost involvement and indeed this meeting, would it be necessary if it hadn't been for the systematic failures of the leadership during 2014 – 18?

Grant Thornton Response – We have a duty to consider matters such as this, clearly if the issues hadn't happened we wouldn't be sitting here now reporting to you. Our work is driven by the issues that happened in 2015.

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COUNCIL MEETING – 22 February 2023**67 RECOMMENDATION FROM CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE: MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023-27****RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the items recommended at Appendix A to the report.

Extract from the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting on 9 February 2023

68 MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023-27

The Committee considered a report which presented the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for Cheshire East Council for the four years 2023/24 to 2026/27.

The Committee was asked to consider the feedback from the budget consultation and recommend an annual balanced budget to the full Council meeting on 22 February 2023.

The report summarised the resolutions that the Corporate Policy Committee was requested to recommend to Council at Appendix A. The report also provided the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Report (containing the Budget that would be part of the recommendations) for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27 at Appendix C.

Annex 2b, within Appendix C, provided information on the consultation responses, including the feedback from service committees. The feedback from the Environment and Communities Committee's meeting of 2nd February 2023 was circulated at the meeting.

The Chair thanked all those who had responded during the consultation period. He also thanked the officers for producing a balanced budget for the next four years in conditions of great uncertainty.

Some members felt that under the new committee system they should have been more involved with the development of the budget rather than simply being asked to comment on it. It was suggested that for the future, a member workshop approach be adopted to allow more member involvement at the formulation stage.

Councillor Clowes stressed the need for more innovative thinking and in this respect referred to a scheme operating in Sussex whereby the council had introduced levies on its busiest roads and charged a daily rent to utility companies, providing much-needed revenue and ensuring that lanes were re-opened more quickly.

Councillor Browne, as Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee, undertook to discuss the matter with officers and to see if Cheshire East Council was already doing something similar.

He went on to say that service committees had provided an opportunity for members to make a greater contribution to the budget-setting process.

The Chair added that there had been two rounds of budget meetings through the committee system and that the earlier round had presented a 'blank page', with members being invited to make suggestions. He agreed that a workshop approach might be a way forward in future.

RESOLVED (by majority)

That

1. the Committee notes:
 - (a) the year-end forecast outturn position for 2022/23 (Appendix C, Section 2);
 - (b) the summary results of the Budget Consultation and Engagement exercise undertaken by the Council, as set out in Appendix C, Annex 2a and 2b;
 - (c) the report of the Council's Section 151 Officer, contained within the MTFS Report, regarding the robustness of estimates and level of reserves held by the Council based on these budget proposals (Appendix C, Comment from the Section 151 Officer); and
 - (d) that the Council's Finance Procedure Rules remain unchanged and will always apply to ensure proper approval should any changes in spending requirements be identified (Appendix C, Annex 14); and
2. the Committee recommends to Council the items at Appendix A.



Working for a brighter future together

Corporate Policy Committee

Date of Meeting:	9 th February 2023
Report Title:	Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-27
Report of:	Alex Thompson – Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer)
Report Reference No:	CP/32/22-23
Ward(s) Affected:	All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1.** This report presents the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for Cheshire East Council for the four years 2023/24 to 2026/27. The Corporate Policy Committee is asked to consider the feedback from the budget consultation and recommend an annual balanced budget to the full Council meeting on 22 February 2023.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1.** Financial strategies underpin how Cheshire East Council will allocate resources, achieve the Corporate Plan and provide in the region of 500 local services every day. The strategies must be affordable, based on robust estimates and balanced against adequate reserves.
- 2.2.** In February 2021 the Council approved the Corporate Plan 2021-2025 which articulates the vision of how these services will make Cheshire East an Open, Fair and Green borough:
- 2.2.1.** Open - We will provide strong community leadership and work transparently with our residents, businesses and partners to deliver our ambition in Cheshire East.
- 2.2.2.** Fair - We aim to reduce inequalities, promote fairness and opportunity for all and support our most vulnerable residents.

- 2.2.3.** Green - We will lead our communities to protect and enhance our environment, tackle the climate emergency and drive sustainable development.
- 2.3.** **Appendix B** summarises the Corporate Plan 2021-2025 on one page.
- 2.4.** The Council operates a three-stage cycle to support its financial strategies, the stages are Plan, Monitor and Report. Progress against each element of this cycle is crucial to maintain sustainable services:
- 2.4.1.** **Plan** – the Council presented a four-year balanced Strategy in 2022. In-Year performance identified inflation factors and service growth that exceeded the budget, putting pressure on reserves. As this was a national issue the Government made announcements that changes to funding levels would be made within the Autumn Statement and the Local Government Settlement. This delayed the start of the local consultation on the Council's proposed budget. Following further in-year analysis and final government announcements the Council launched the local consultation on 6 January 2023. Following consultation on the draft revenue budget for 2023/24 via all service committees and other stakeholders, net spending is proposed at **£353.1m**. The budget addresses spending challenges such as rising social care costs, exceptional inflation and increasing demand. Total capital investment aspirations of £0.7bn, including the associated borrowing requirements, are also identified over the next four financial years.
- 2.4.2.** **Monitor** - the outturn position for 2022/23 is currently forecast to be an overspend of £7.7m. The forecast has been reported to each service committee, where action plans were presented to show intended mitigating responses. Following the approach in 2022, the overspend will be funded through use of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy Earmarked Reserve in the first instance. The potential available balance for this purpose was reported to the Finance Sub-Committee as £5.2m. The potential remaining overspend of £2.5m would have to be met through General Reserves reducing the balance to £12.4m.
- 2.4.3.** **Report** - the audit of the Council's accounts for 2021/22 remains incomplete due to a national review on the valuation of infrastructure assets. The draft accounts have been published which provided the information behind the outturn report for the year. The outturn report showed increases in reserves based on temporary underspending but identified prevailing financial pressure and risks, particularly in Social Care that are causing budgets to continue to rise in the medium-term.
- 2.5.** The Medium-Term Financial Strategy contains the following headlines for the 2023/24 financial year:
- Overall net revenue spending on services is being increased by £25.4m to £353.1m in 2023/24, split as follows:

Adults (inc. Social Care / Public Health)	£136.3m
Children (inc. Social Care / Education)	£79.1m
Place (inc. Highways / Regeneration / Waste)	£84.4m
Corporate (inc. ICT / Customer Servs)	£41.0m
Central (inc. Capital Financing)	£12.3m
Total Net Revenue Budget	£353.1m

- Central Government unringfenced grants (including Revenue Support Grant) will increase by £2.8m overall to £26.8m.
 - Funding from Council Tax will need to increase by £16.4m, to £271.1m. To provide this essential funding for local services it will require a proposed Council Tax increase of 4.99% from £1,626.24 to £1,707.39 for a Band D property. 2% (£5.1m) of the Council Tax increase relates to Adult Social Care and partially supports the forecast growth in demand.
 - In response to concerns over the cost of living the Council Tax Support scheme was improved in 2022/23 to protect families on low incomes from council tax increases. Residents in the lowest income bands saw support increase from 75% to 80%, those on the lowest incomes, and in receipt of specified benefits, now receive 100% rebates. This is funded from Local Council Tax Support grant which was set aside for this purpose.
 - Capital spending is forecast at £683.4m for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27 including £117.2m on school expansions and increasing SEN provision. £293.4m is provided for strategic Highways and Transport projects including Middlewich Eastern By-Pass and Poynton Relief Road. There is £205.5m on Economy and Growth projects including Crewe Town Centre £17.1m and Strategic development sites at £89.9m. There is further spending on Environmental and Corporate projects. The proposals also include inflationary uplifts for highways maintenance to ensure the increased activity to repair potholes continues as planned.
 - General Reserves are forecast to be £12.4m (estimated closing balance for 2022/23).
- 2.6.** The Medium-Term Financial Strategy has been developed during 2022 and the draft budget was published in full on 6 January 2023 for consultation with all stakeholders.
- 2.7.** During the consultation there were 2,267 engagements, with additional feedback being provided by the Council’s Committees. This is the largest response to any budget consultations that the Council has received. Annex 2b, within Appendix C, provides information on the responses. The most significant headlines from the feedback are summarised as follows:
- 2.7.1.** Of the 122 proposals included in this year’s MTFS, the vast majority (109 out of 122) seemed to be supported.

- 2.7.2. However, a handful of MTFS proposals either face strong net opposition, polarise resident opinion, are extremely nuanced, face strong localised opposition, or require more detail. Details of these proposals can be found in the Budget Consultation report (Appendix C, Annex 2b).
- 2.8. Changes made during the consultation period include:
- 2.8.1. **Corporate Policy Committee, Proposal 47: Shared Services Review – move to Hybrid Model.** Transformation costs have been capitalised to spread the costs of this project and release revenue budget savings of £0.5m.
- 2.8.2. **Environment and Communities Committee/Economy and Growth Committee/Highways and Transport Committee, Proposals 65/74/82/94/102/106: Pay inflation and Pension costs adjustment.** Reallocation of changes, with no overall financial impact, across Economy and Growth, Environment and Communities and Highways and Transport Committees to improve accuracy for 2023/24 budget.
- 2.8.3. **Economy and Growth Committee, Proposal 70: Cultural.** Increase of £8,000 in 2025/26 to reflect a more accurate forecast.
- 2.8.4. **Environment and Communities Committee, Proposal 80: Waste Disposal – Contract Inflation and Tonnage Growth.** £1m increase in expenditure in 2023/24 to reflect revised tonnages, fuel costs and value of recycled materials.
- 2.8.5. **Environment and Communities Committee, Proposal 89: Local Plan Review.** Reprofiled expenditure leading to reductions in spending of £34,000 in 2023/24, £135,000 in 2024/25, £270,000 in 2025/26 and £77,000 in 2026/27.
- 2.8.6. **Environment and Communities Committee, Proposal 91: Maintenance of Green Spaces.** Year one savings reduced by £0.5m to reflect a more managed transition towards the proposed changes.
- 2.8.7. **Environment and Communities Committee, Proposal 93: Libraries – Service Review.** Reduction of savings by £0.3m in 2023/24 and £44,000 in 2024/25 to support continued Saturday opening times and retention of the mobile library service.
- 2.8.8. **Environment and Communities Committee, Proposal 96: Restructuring Potential (Environment and Communities).** Reduction in planned saving in 2024/25 of £135,000.
- 2.8.9. **Finance Sub-Committee, Proposal 113 and 116: Use of Earmarked Reserve – MTFS Reserve and Transformation Reserve.** Variations reflect the approach to balancing the MTFS. Full details are included within the Reserves Strategy.
- 2.9. This report summarises the resolutions that Corporate Policy Committee are requested to recommend to Council at **Appendix A.**

- 2.10.** This report also provides the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Report (containing the Budget that will be part of the recommendations) for the period 2023/24 to 2026/27 at **Appendix C**.

3. Recommendations

3.1. That Corporate Policy notes:

- 3.1.1.** The year-end forecast outturn position for 2022/23 (**Appendix C, Section 2**).
- 3.1.2.** The summary results of the Budget Consultation and Engagement exercise undertaken by the Council, as set out in the attached (**Appendix C, Annex 2a and 2b**).
- 3.1.3.** The report of the Council's Section 151 Officer, contained within the MTFS Report, regarding the robustness of estimates and level of reserves held by the Council based on these budget proposals (**Appendix C, Comment from the Section 151 Officer**).
- 3.1.4.** The Council's Finance Procedure Rules remain unchanged and will always apply to ensure proper approval should any changes in spending requirements be identified (**Appendix C, Annex 14**).

3.2. That Corporate Policy Committee:

- 3.2.1.** Recommend to Council the items at **Appendix A**.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1.** In accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Rules of Procedure, Corporate Policy Committee has responsibility to recommend the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to Council for approval.
- 4.2.** The recommended MTFS should be balanced to support the Council in its statutory duty.
- 4.3.** The Council's Section 151 Officer reports that, in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 and Sections 32 and 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, he is satisfied with the robustness of the estimates making up the Council Tax Requirement of £271,096,891. This is based on a total 4.99% Band D increase, which includes a 2% precept ringfenced specifically for Adult Social Care services and he is satisfied with the adequacy of the financial reserves for the Council. The S.25 statement of the Council's s.151 Officer is included on Page 15 of **Appendix C** and members should have due regard of this report in making their recommendations to Council or giving approval to recommendations at Council.
- 4.4.** Further to the above statement it can be reported that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy Report 2023/24 to 2026/27 (**Appendix C**) is based on sound financial principles and reflects sufficiently detailed plans that can

maintain the financial resilience and viability of the Council in the medium-term.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1. The Council has a legal duty to set a balanced annual budget taking regard of the report from the Chief Finance Officer. Options cannot therefore be considered that would breach this duty. Any decision of the Committee must still recognise the requirement for Council to fulfil this duty.
- 5.2. There is no option to “do nothing” to support spending plans for the Council in 2023/24. The Council has statutory obligations to provide certain services, which would be unaffordable based on the latest forecasts if the Council failed to levy an appropriate Council Tax.
- 5.3. The Council will continue to explore options to provide financial benefits through efficiencies, enhanced digital services, process reviews and sale, transfer or leasing of surplus assets.

6. Background

- 6.1. The Council’s financial resources are provided from a combination of local taxes, government grants, investment returns on assets and other direct contributions from individuals or organisations. Financial plans are based on estimated spending and income over the next four years and the report of the Chief Financial Officer brings Members attention to the processes and risks associated with developing these estimates.
- 6.2. The Council aims to achieve value for money based on Economy (how much we pay for things), Efficiency (how well we use things) and Effectiveness (how we use things to achieve outcomes). Public feedback and internal and external scrutiny create the necessary framework to hold the Council to account for achieving these aims.
- 6.3. All councils are legally required to set a balanced budget each year.
- 6.4. The Budget Setting Process 2023-2027 has enabled a set of proposals to be developed and challenged through a managed process that considered service changes, the Capital Programme and the supporting financial planning assumptions relating to funding levels.
- 6.5. There have been a series of distinct stages of the Budget Setting Process with reports in relation to the Council’s financial position being taken to Corporate Leadership Team and all Committees throughout 2022/23. See **Appendix C, Annex 2** for further details of the process undertaken.
- 6.6. The MTFs Report provides financial background as well as setting out further details of the ongoing approach to funding the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan. It highlights the spending plans and income targets for the financial year starting 1 April 2023, as well as forecast estimates up to the 2026/27 financial year.

- 6.7. The Corporate Plan is a key strategic document for the Council, setting the vision and objectives for the whole organisation. It is a vital part of the Council's performance management framework and how the Medium-Term Financial Strategy is delivered. The MTFFS aligns resources to manage the costs associated with achieving the Council's vision.
- 6.8. The Corporate Plan is regularly reviewed by the Corporate Policy Committee where progress and achievements are noted. The Corporate Plan will continue to drive the Council's ambitions and priorities for the next three years.
- 6.9. The MTFFS Report is based on the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24. This was released on 19 December 2022. The final settlement is expected in early February 2023 with a debate by Members of Parliament in the House of Commons expected in mid-February (after the publication date of this report to Committee) to agree the position.
- 6.10. The MTFFS Report continues to include estimated grant allocations in relation to several Specific Grants (**Appendix C, Annex 7**). These will be refined as appropriate in due course.
- 6.11. Any changes made as a result of the engagement process and further debate will be reported to Members at the Council meeting on 22 February 2023.

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1. The business planning process involved a series of events during 2022. Details of how this process was managed is included within **Appendix C, Annex 2**.

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

- 8.1.1. The Council should have robust processes so that it can meet statutory requirements and fulfil its fiduciary duty.

8.2. Finance

- 8.2.1. Please see all Sections of this report.
- 8.2.2. The S.25 Statement of the S.151 Officer provides information on the process and professional judgement of the Budget 2023/24. This is provided on page 15 of **Appendix C**.

8.3. Policy

- 8.3.1. The MTFFS report outlines policy and budget proposals which will impact on service delivery arrangements.

8.3.2. The Corporate Plan will drive and inform Council policy and priorities for service delivery. The priorities and actions listed may have direct policy implications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

8.4. Equality

8.4.1. Under the Equality Act 2010, decision makers must show ‘due regard’ to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it; and
- Foster good relations between those groups.

8.4.2. The protected characteristics are age, disability, sex, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage and civil partnership.

8.4.3. Having “due regard” is a legal term which requires the Council to consider what is proportionate and relevant in terms of the decisions they take.

8.4.4. The Council needs to ensure that in taking decisions on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the Budget that the impacts on those with protected characteristics are considered. The Council undertakes equality impact assessments where necessary and continues to do so as proposals and projects develop across the lifetime of the Corporate Plan. The process assists us to consider what actions could mitigate any adverse impacts identified. Completed equality impact assessments form part of any detailed Business Cases.

8.4.5. The proposals within the MTFS include positive and negative impacts. A separate Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and is included in **Appendix C, Annex 3**.

8.4.6. Positive impacts include significant investment in services for children and adults (protected characteristics primarily age and disability). There is growth of £27.7m in Adult Services to protect current spending requirements to support individuals accessing care and provide new funding to manage the local impact of rising prices and an ageing population. There is also growth of almost £1.5m per year in Children’s Social Care to provide protection and opportunities for younger people who need it.

8.4.7. There are a number of savings proposals which could have a negative impact on those with protected characteristics. Where this is the case, more detailed work on mitigation and consultation will take place before any decisions are made.

8.4.8. The Corporate Plan's vision reinforces the Council's commitment to meeting its equalities duties, promoting fairness and working openly for everyone. Cheshire East is a diverse place and we want to make sure that people are able to live, work and enjoy Cheshire East regardless of their background, needs or characteristics.

8.5. Human Resources

8.5.1. A number of the proposals will impact on staff. See **Appendix C, Section 1** for full list of change proposals.

8.5.2. Any restructures will follow the Council's established processes and will include consultation and engagement with staff and Trade Unions.

8.6. Risk Management

8.6.1. The steps outlined in this report mitigate the four main legal and financial risks to the Council's financial management arrangements:

- The Council must set a balanced Budget.
- Setting the Council Tax for 2023/24 must follow a compliant process.
- The Council should provide high quality evidence to support submissions for external assessment.
- That Council borrowing will comply with the Treasury Management Strategy which is underpinned by the Prudential Code.

8.6.2. A risk assessment of the significant proposals being put forward has been carried out by each service and is included as part of the planning process.

8.6.3. It is important to note that the Council faces significant financial challenges in achieving its desired outcomes. Management of risk is embedded within the organisation to ensure the Council can seize opportunities, introduce new, innovative models of service delivery, focus on improving outcomes for residents and review its range of services whilst identifying and controlling any resulting risks. The approach to risk management will continue to be assessed as the Council's plans and financial strategy are implemented.

8.6.4. See **Appendix C, Annex 4** for further information.

8.7. Rural Communities

8.7.1. The Corporate Plan, along with the 'Green' aim and supporting priorities will have direct and indirect implications for our rural communities across Cheshire East. These impacts will be considered and reported through individual work programmes as they are developed.

8.7.2. The MTFs report provides details of service provision across the borough. See **Appendix C, Section 1**.

8.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

8.8.1. The Corporate Plan, along with the 'Fair' aim and supporting priorities will have direct and indirect implications for children and young people and cared for children which will be considered individually and in line with the actions required. These impacts will be considered and reported through individual work programmes as they are developed.

8.8.2. See **Appendix C, Section 1.**

8.9. Public Health

8.9.1. The Corporate Plan, along with the 'Fair' aim and supporting priorities will have direct and indirect implications for public health which will be considered individually and in line with the actions required. These impacts will be considered and reported through individual work programmes as they are developed.

8.9.2. See **Appendix C, Section 1.**

8.10. Climate Change

8.10.1. The Corporate Plan has a very strong environmental thread throughout with a specific aim for the Council to be 'Greener'.

8.10.2. A number of priorities and activities are listed which will support the Council's commitment of being carbon neutral by 2025, including the ongoing delivery of an Environmental Strategy and a Carbon Action Plan.

8.10.3. Also see **Appendix C, Annex 3** for further information.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Alex Thompson Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer) Email: alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A - Recommendations Appendix B – Corporate Plan (summary) Appendix C – Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-27 Budget Consultation Report APPENDIX C - MTFS 2023-2027 Council Annex B – Summary of Responses CE Budget Engagement 2023 - 2027
Background Papers:	Outturn Report 2021/22 (Finance Sub Committee Meeting) Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2022-26 Financial Update 2022/23 (Corporate Policy Meeting) Council 14 December 2022: Domestic Taxbase Report and Council Tax Support Scheme Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-27 Consultation (launched 6th January 2023)

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Appendix A

Recommendations to Council from Corporate Policy Committee: February 2023

That Council notes:

- 1 The Report of the Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), contained within the MTFS Report, regarding the robustness of estimates and level of reserves held by the Council based on these budget proposals (**Appendix C, Report from the Section 151 Officer**).

That Council, having given due regard to the report of the Chief Finance Officer, approves:

- 2 The Revenue estimates for the 2023/24 budget and the medium-term Capital Programme estimates 2023-2027, as detailed in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy Report (MTFS) 2023-2027 (**Appendix C**).
- 3 Band D Council Tax of £1,707.39 representing an increase of 4.99%. This is below the referendum limit (including 2% ringfenced for Adult Social Care) and arises from the provisional finance settlement (**Appendix C, Section 2**).
- 4 The 2022/23 planned use of Flexible Capital Receipts of £1.8m to fund transformational projects within the Council (**Appendix C, Section 2**).
- 5 The allocation of Revenue Grant Funding for 2023/24 of £301.158m (**Appendix C, Annex 7**), and delegates authority to the Chief Finance Officer, to approve supplementary estimates if the value of any named grant changes from the figures contained within Appendix C, Annex 7 (noting that all such variations will subsequently be reported to the appropriate Committee, and that any new, previously unnamed, grants are subject to approval in-line with the Constitution)
- 6 The allocation of Capital Grant Funding for 2023/24 of £89.754m (**Appendix C, Annex 8**), and delegates authority to the Chief Finance Officer, to approve supplementary estimates if the value of any named grant changes from the figures contained within Appendix C, Annex 8 (noting that all such variations will subsequently be reported to the appropriate Committee, and that any new, previously unnamed, grants are subject to approval in-line with the Constitution)
- 7 The Capital Strategy (**Appendix C, Annex 10**).
- 8 The Prudential Indicators for Capital Financing (**Appendix C, Annex 10**).
- 9 The Treasury Management Strategy (**Appendix C, Annex 11**).

- 10 The Investment Strategy; including the financial limits for various classifications of investment, and the investment decision making process set out in the Strategy (**Appendix C, Annex 12**)
- 11 The Reserves Strategy (**Appendix C, Annex 13**), which includes proposed movements to and from reserves.
- 12 The amendment to Key Decisions as defined in the Constitution and the financial limits to be included within the Council's Finance Procedure Rules (**Appendix C, Annex 14**).
- 13 The proposal, subject to Regulations being passed following the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill, to implement a premium second homes of up to 100% and to amend the timing of the premium on empty and unoccupied property with effect from 1 April 2024; and

That Council recognises that Corporate Policy Committee noted:

- 14 The year-end outturn forecast position for 2022/23 (**Appendix C, Section 2**).
- 15 The Budget Engagement exercise undertaken by the Council, as set out in the attached (**Appendix C, Annex 2a**).
- 16 The results of the Budget Consultation (**Appendix C, Annex 2b**).

Appendix B

Our Vision **An open, fairer, greener Cheshire East**

Open

We will provide strong community leadership and work transparently with our residents, businesses and partners to deliver our ambition in Cheshire East

Fair

We aim to reduce inequalities, promote fairness and opportunity for all and support our most vulnerable residents

Green

We will lead our communities to protect and enhance our environment, tackle the climate emergency and drive sustainable development

Our Priorities

An open and enabling organisation

- Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making
- Listen, learn and respond to our residents, promoting opportunities for a two-way conversation
- Support a sustainable financial future for the council, through service development, improvement and transformation
- Look at opportunities to bring more income into the borough
- Support and develop our workforce to be confident, motivated, innovative, resilient and empowered
- Promote and develop the services of the council through regular communication and engagement with all residents

A council which empowers and cares about people

- Work together with residents and partners to support people and communities to be strong and resilient
- Reduce health inequalities across the borough
- Protect and support our communities and safeguard children, adults at risk and families from abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Be the best Corporate Parents to our children in care
- Support all children to have the best start in life
- Increase opportunities for all children and young adults with additional needs
- Ensure all children have a high quality, enjoyable education that enables them to achieve their full potential
- Reduce the reliance on long term care by improving services closer to home and providing more extra care facilities, including dementia services

A thriving and sustainable place

- A great place for people to live, work and visit
- Welcoming, safe and clean neighbourhoods
- Reduce impact on the environment
- A transport network that is safe and promotes active travel
- Thriving urban and rural economies with opportunities for all
- Be a carbon neutral council by 2025

Our Values



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Working for a brighter future together

Council

Date of Meeting:	22 February 2023
Report Title:	Council Tax 2023/24 - Statutory Resolution
Report of:	Alex Thompson – Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer)
Report Reference No:	To be provided by Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected:	All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Council is required by legislation to disclose its calculations of its Budget Requirement and Council Tax for 2023/24 under statutory resolutions and to approve the formal Council Tax Resolution for 2023/24.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. Cheshire East Council, as a billing authority, is responsible for the billing and collection of Council Tax due from local taxpayers and must therefore make a resolution to set the overall Council Tax level. This means that the Authority also collects Council Tax income to cover not only its own services but also precepts set by other authorities.
- 2.2. The Council Tax levied is therefore made up of four elements:
- Cheshire East Borough Council element
 - Town & Parish Council precepts
 - Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire precept
 - Cheshire Fire Authority precept

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. **That Council**

- 3.1.1. Approves a Council Tax for Cheshire East Council for the financial year 2023/24, at £271,096.891 in accordance with the formal resolutions as shown in Section 14 of the report.
- 3.1.2. Notes that the council tax precept of Cheshire Fire Authority, Police Crime and Commissioner for Cheshire, and each Town and Parish Council have been approved and notified to the Council in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by sections 72 to 79 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 3.1.3. Notes the average Council Tax for the Cheshire East Borough is £2,109.02 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by sections 72 to 79 of the Localism Act 2011.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by sections 72 to 79 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council is required to set the amounts of the Council Tax for 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwelling in the Council Tax area. This requirement is achieved by approving the statutory resolution shown in this report.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1. As the local billing authority the Council has a duty to set the Council Tax for the Cheshire East Council area. The recommendations in this report reflect the results of a comprehensive consultation process to support the decision making process and ensure it is compliant with relevant legislation. No further options are therefore being considered as part of this report.

6. Background

- 6.1. The Council Tax levied is made up of four elements as follows:
 - 6.1.1. the Council Tax Base for 2023/24 - **Appendix A**.
 - 6.1.2. the statutory calculation required to arrive at the amount of Council Tax for each area in respect of Borough Council, Town and Parish Council requirements - **Appendices B and C**.
 - 6.1.3. the precepts issued by Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire and Cheshire Fire Authority under Section 40 of the Act – Sections 11 and 12 of the report.
 - 6.1.4. the statutory calculation of the aggregate of the Borough Council, Parish Councils, Police & Crime Commissioner and Cheshire Fire Authority amount of Council Tax for each of the categories of the dwelling for each Council Tax area - **Appendix D**.

7. Council Tax Base

- 7.1. The Council Tax base was agreed at the Cheshire East Council meeting of [14 December 2022](#) as 158,778.54 for the year 2023/24. A breakdown of the calculation by Parish is attached at **Appendix A**.

8. General Fund Budget

- 8.1. On 9 February 2023 [Corporate Policy Committee](#) recommended a General Fund Budget of £353,125,238. The calculation reflects the detailed Medium-Term Financial Strategy prepared through consultation, which included all service Committees.

9. Cheshire East Borough Council Tax

- 9.1. The Council Tax Requirement for the Borough Council is £271,096,891.
- 9.2. The Band D Council Tax is therefore £1,707.39 (the requirement of £271,096,891 divided by the tax base of 158,778.54).
- 9.3. Growth in the local taxbase supports the ambition in the Corporate Plan of creating economic independence from government grant. In 2023/24, there continues to be minimal general government grant support to the revenue budget of Cheshire East Council (£0.4m). When increases in demand related to protecting vulnerable people and inflation in costs are taken into account, this creates a requirement to continue to increase Council Tax levels in-line with government expectations.
- 9.4. The ability to raise additional Council Tax for use solely on Adult Social Care (ASC) was accepted in each of the years 2017/18 (3%), 2018/19 (3%), 2020/21 (2%), 2021/22 (3%) and 2022/23 (1%). The Provisional Finance Settlement in December 2022 confirmed a further 2% ASC precept could be levied in 2023/24 to help alleviate the continuing growth pressure.
- 9.5. The provisional local government finance settlement also announced the referendum limit on base increases was to be increased from 2% to 3%, as such, it is proposed that Council Tax is increased by 4.99% (including 2% ringfenced for Adult Social Care pressures) for 2023/24 to give a Band D charge of £1,707.39 for 2023/24.

10. Parish Council Precepts

- 10.1. Each Parish Council has notified the Council with its precept requirement for the year. The total amount of these special items is £10,116,193 which produces an average Band D Council Tax of £63.71.

- 10.2.** The Community Governance Review (CGR) concluded during 2022/23. The taxbase calculation, as noted in 9.2, reflects the results of the CGR. This will affect a small number of town and parishes where some will merge together, and some will have changes to their boundaries from April 2023. This resulted in changes to the taxbase for the coming year in these areas. The number of town and parishes will also reduce from 114 in 2022/23 to 106 for 2023/24.

11. Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire precept

- 11.1.** The precept demand issued by Police & Crime Commissioner is £39,764,498 which produces a Band D Council Tax of £250.44. This represents a 6.4% (£15) increase on the 2022/23 Band D Council Tax level. The Police & Crime Commissioner has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:-

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
166.96	194.79	222.61	250.44	306.09	361.75	417.40	500.88

12. Fire Authority Precept

- 12.1.** The precept demand issued by Cheshire Fire Authority is £13,889,947 which produces a Band D Council Tax of £87.48. This represents a £5 (6.1%) increase on the 2022/23 Band D Council tax level. Cheshire Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:-

Valuation Bands							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
58.32	68.04	77.76	87.48	106.92	126.36	145.80	174.96

13. Total Council Tax

- 13.1. The average Council Tax to be charged to taxpayers in Band D can be summarised as follows:

Element	Charge
	£
Cheshire East Borough Council	1,707.39
Average for Parish Councils	63.71
Average Local Council Tax	1,771.10
Police & Crime Commissioner	250.44
Cheshire Fire Authority	87.48
Total Council Tax	2,109.02

14. Formal Resolution

- 14.1. That it be noted that on 14 December 2022 the Council calculated the Council Tax base 2023/24.
- (a) for the whole Council area as 158,778.54 (item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")).
- (b) for individual parishes, as in **Appendix A**.
- 14.2. Calculated that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts) is £271,096,891.
- 14.3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- a. £740,744,041 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- b. £459,530,957 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- c. £281,213,084 being the amount by which the aggregate at 14.3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 14.3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its

Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).

- d. £1,771.10 being the amount at 14.3(c) above divided by the amount at 14.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
- e. £10,116,193 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
- f. £1,707.39 being the amount at 14.3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 14.3(e) above by the amount at 14.1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
- g. **Appendix A** being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulations 3 and 6 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its total council tax base for the year and council tax base for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
- h. **Appendix B** being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above, the amounts of special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided by in each case the appropriate tax base from Appendix A, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the 1992 Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which one or more special items relate. (Band D charges for each Parish area).
- i. **Appendix C** being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the 1992 Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the 1992 Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands (Local charges for all Bands).
- j. **Appendix D** being the aggregate of the local charges in (i) above and the amounts levied by major precepting authorities, calculated in accordance with Section 30(2) of

the 1992 Act (The total Council Tax charge for each band in each Parish area).

- 14.4. To note that the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to Cheshire East Council in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as shown in sections 11 and 12 above.
- 14.5. Determine whether Cheshire East Council's basic amount of Council tax for 2023/24 is excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

15. Consultation and Engagement

- 15.1. The recommendation in this report reflects the results of the 2023-27 Budget Consultation process.

16. Implications

16.1. Legal

- 16.1.1. As covered in the report.

16.2. Finance

- 16.2.1. As covered in the report.

16.3. Policy

- 16.3.1. None.

16.4. Equality

- 16.4.1. None.

16.5. Human Resources

- 16.5.1. None.

16.6. Risk Management

- 16.6.1. The steps outlined in this report will address the main legal and financial risk to the Council's financial management in the setting of a legal Council Tax level for 2023/24.

16.7. Rural Communities

- 16.7.1. None.

16.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

- 16.8.1. None.

16.9. Public Health

- 16.9.1. None.

16.10. Climate Change**16.10.1. None.**

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Alex Thompson Director of Finance and Customer Services (Section 151 Officer) alex.thompson@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A - Council Tax Base 2023/24 Appendix B – Council Tax - Band D per Parish 2023/24 Appendix C – Local Council Tax per Band 2023/24 (Borough Council and Town and Parish Council) Appendix D – Total Council Tax per Band 2023/24 (including Police and Fire)
Background Papers:	Budget Consultation released 6 January 2023 Council 14 December 2022: Domestic Taxbase Report MTFS - Corporate Policy 9 February 2023

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LOCAL COUNCIL TAX (BOROUGH + PARISH)

	VALUATION BAND							
	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Adlington	1,157.28	1,350.16	1,543.04	1,735.92	2,121.68	2,507.44	2,893.20	3,471.84
Alderley Edge	1,184.18	1,381.54	1,578.91	1,776.27	2,171.00	2,565.72	2,960.45	3,552.54
Alpraham, Calveley	1,173.15	1,368.67	1,564.20	1,759.72	2,150.77	2,541.82	2,932.87	3,519.44
Alsager	1,203.80	1,404.43	1,605.07	1,805.70	2,206.97	2,608.23	3,009.50	3,611.40
Arcldid	1,151.38	1,343.28	1,535.17	1,727.07	2,110.86	2,494.66	2,878.45	3,454.14
Ashley	1,162.39	1,356.12	1,549.85	1,743.58	2,131.04	2,518.50	2,905.97	3,487.16
Aston-by-Budworth	1,141.51	1,331.77	1,522.02	1,712.27	2,092.77	2,473.28	2,853.78	3,424.54
Audlem	1,218.84	1,421.98	1,625.12	1,828.26	2,234.54	2,640.82	3,047.10	3,656.52
Barthomley	1,157.28	1,350.16	1,543.04	1,735.92	2,121.68	2,507.44	2,893.20	3,471.84
Betchton	1,143.57	1,334.16	1,524.76	1,715.35	2,096.54	2,477.73	2,858.92	3,430.70
Bickerton, Egerton	1,148.26	1,339.64	1,531.01	1,722.39	2,105.14	2,487.90	2,870.65	3,444.78
Bollington	1,190.55	1,388.98	1,587.40	1,785.83	2,182.68	2,579.53	2,976.38	3,571.66
Bosley	1,151.59	1,343.53	1,535.46	1,727.39	2,111.25	2,495.12	2,878.98	3,454.78
Bradwall	1,151.19	1,343.06	1,534.92	1,726.79	2,110.52	2,494.25	2,877.98	3,453.58
Brereton	1,155.31	1,347.87	1,540.42	1,732.97	2,118.07	2,503.18	2,888.28	3,465.94
Brindley, Faddiley	1,153.61	1,345.87	1,538.14	1,730.41	2,114.95	2,499.48	2,884.02	3,460.82
Buerton	1,151.23	1,343.10	1,534.97	1,726.84	2,110.58	2,494.32	2,878.07	3,453.68
Bulkeley, Ridley	1,151.24	1,343.11	1,534.99	1,726.86	2,110.61	2,494.35	2,878.10	3,453.72
Bunbury	1,170.25	1,365.29	1,560.33	1,755.37	2,145.45	2,535.53	2,925.62	3,510.74
Burland, Acton, Edleston, Henhull	1,160.60	1,354.03	1,547.47	1,740.90	2,127.77	2,514.63	2,901.50	3,481.80
Chelford	1,176.10	1,372.12	1,568.13	1,764.15	2,156.18	2,548.22	2,940.25	3,528.30
Cholmondeley, Chorley	1,149.36	1,340.92	1,532.48	1,724.04	2,107.16	2,490.28	2,873.40	3,448.08
Cholmondeston, Wettenhall	1,154.59	1,347.03	1,539.46	1,731.89	2,116.75	2,501.62	2,886.48	3,463.78
Chorley	1,150.08	1,341.76	1,533.44	1,725.12	2,108.48	2,491.84	2,875.20	3,450.24
Church Lawton	1,158.40	1,351.47	1,544.53	1,737.60	2,123.73	2,509.87	2,896.00	3,475.20
Church Minshull	1,156.37	1,349.10	1,541.83	1,734.56	2,120.02	2,505.48	2,890.93	3,469.12
Congleton	1,202.51	1,402.92	1,603.34	1,803.76	2,204.60	2,605.43	3,006.27	3,607.52
Cranage	1,157.86	1,350.84	1,543.81	1,736.79	2,122.74	2,508.70	2,894.65	3,473.58
Crewe	1,196.89	1,396.38	1,595.86	1,795.34	2,194.30	2,593.27	2,992.23	3,590.68
Disley	1,191.06	1,389.57	1,588.08	1,786.59	2,183.61	2,580.63	2,977.65	3,573.18
Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley	1,158.57	1,351.67	1,544.76	1,737.86	2,124.05	2,510.24	2,896.43	3,475.72
Doddington, Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Hunsterson, Lea	1,144.76	1,335.55	1,526.35	1,717.14	2,098.73	2,480.31	2,861.90	3,434.28
Eaton	1,158.46	1,351.54	1,544.61	1,737.69	2,123.84	2,510.00	2,896.15	3,475.38
Gawsworth	1,161.83	1,355.46	1,549.10	1,742.74	2,130.02	2,517.29	2,904.57	3,485.48
Goostrey	1,169.47	1,364.39	1,559.30	1,754.21	2,144.03	2,533.86	2,923.68	3,508.42
Great Warford	1,154.00	1,346.33	1,538.67	1,731.00	2,115.67	2,500.33	2,885.00	3,462.00
Handforth	1,168.17	1,362.86	1,557.56	1,752.25	2,141.64	2,531.03	2,920.42	3,504.50
Hankelow	1,149.26	1,340.80	1,532.35	1,723.89	2,106.98	2,490.06	2,873.15	3,447.78
Haslington	1,160.13	1,353.48	1,546.84	1,740.19	2,126.90	2,513.61	2,900.32	3,480.38
Hassall	1,164.51	1,358.60	1,552.68	1,746.77	2,134.94	2,523.11	2,911.28	3,493.54
Hatherton, Walgherton	1,151.55	1,343.47	1,535.40	1,727.32	2,111.17	2,495.02	2,878.87	3,454.64
Houghton	1,143.77	1,334.40	1,525.03	1,715.66	2,096.92	2,478.18	2,859.43	3,431.32
Henbury	1,179.91	1,376.57	1,573.22	1,769.87	2,163.17	2,556.48	2,949.78	3,539.74
High Legh	1,147.55	1,338.80	1,530.06	1,721.32	2,103.84	2,486.35	2,868.87	3,442.64
Higher Hurdsfield	1,152.37	1,344.44	1,536.50	1,728.56	2,112.68	2,496.81	2,880.93	3,457.12
Holmes Chapel	1,196.13	1,395.48	1,594.84	1,794.19	2,192.90	2,591.61	2,990.32	3,588.38
Hough, Chorlton	1,155.33	1,347.88	1,540.44	1,732.99	2,118.10	2,503.21	2,888.32	3,465.98
Hulme Walfield, Somerford Booths	1,168.05	1,362.72	1,557.40	1,752.07	2,141.42	2,530.77	2,920.12	3,504.14
Kettleshulme, Lyme Handley	1,170.55	1,365.65	1,560.74	1,755.83	2,146.01	2,536.20	2,926.38	3,511.66
Knutsford	1,203.12	1,403.64	1,604.16	1,804.68	2,205.72	2,606.76	3,007.80	3,609.36
Leighton, Minshull Vernon, Woolstanwood	1,152.71	1,344.83	1,536.95	1,729.07	2,113.31	2,497.55	2,881.78	3,458.14
Little Bollington, Agden	1,145.02	1,335.86	1,526.69	1,717.53	2,099.20	2,480.88	2,862.55	3,435.06
Little Warford	1,138.26	1,327.97	1,517.68	1,707.39	2,086.81	2,466.23	2,845.65	3,414.78
Lower Peover	1,157.63	1,350.57	1,543.51	1,736.45	2,122.33	2,508.21	2,894.08	3,472.90
Lower Withington	1,160.24	1,353.61	1,546.99	1,740.36	2,127.11	2,513.85	2,900.60	3,480.72
Macclesfield	1,172.97	1,368.46	1,563.96	1,759.45	2,150.44	2,541.43	2,932.42	3,518.90
Macclesfield Forest, Wildboardclough	1,138.26	1,327.97	1,517.68	1,707.39	2,086.81	2,466.23	2,845.65	3,414.78
Marbury-cum-Quoisley, Norbury, Wirswall	1,158.55	1,351.65	1,544.74	1,737.83	2,124.01	2,510.20	2,896.38	3,475.66
Marton	1,157.42	1,350.32	1,543.23	1,736.13	2,121.94	2,507.74	2,893.55	3,472.26
Mere	1,151.40	1,343.30	1,535.20	1,727.10	2,110.90	2,494.70	2,878.50	3,454.20

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX (BOROUGH + PARISH)

	VALUATION BAND							
	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Middlewich	1,195.97	1,395.30	1,594.63	1,793.96	2,192.62	2,591.28	2,989.93	3,587.92
Millington, Rostherne, Tatton	1,161.41	1,354.98	1,548.55	1,742.12	2,129.26	2,516.40	2,903.53	3,484.24
Mobberley	1,157.65	1,350.60	1,543.54	1,736.48	2,122.36	2,508.25	2,894.13	3,472.96
Moston	1,164.63	1,358.74	1,552.84	1,746.95	2,135.16	2,523.37	2,911.58	3,493.90
Mottram St Andrew	1,150.97	1,342.79	1,534.62	1,726.45	2,110.11	2,493.76	2,877.42	3,452.90
Nantwich	1,235.12	1,440.97	1,646.83	1,852.68	2,264.39	2,676.09	3,087.80	3,705.36
Nether Alderley	1,198.31	1,398.03	1,597.75	1,797.47	2,196.91	2,596.35	2,995.78	3,594.94
Newbold Astbury-cum-Moreton	1,166.03	1,360.36	1,554.70	1,749.04	2,137.72	2,526.39	2,915.07	3,498.08
Newhall	1,143.69	1,334.31	1,524.92	1,715.54	2,096.77	2,478.00	2,859.23	3,431.08
North Rode	1,150.00	1,341.67	1,533.33	1,725.00	2,108.33	2,491.67	2,875.00	3,450.00
Odd Rode	1,171.35	1,366.58	1,561.80	1,757.03	2,147.48	2,537.93	2,928.38	3,514.06
Ollerton, Marthall	1,160.87	1,354.34	1,547.82	1,741.30	2,128.26	2,515.21	2,902.17	3,482.60
Over Alderley	1,151.05	1,342.90	1,534.74	1,726.58	2,110.26	2,493.95	2,877.63	3,453.16
Peckforton	1,159.34	1,352.56	1,545.79	1,739.01	2,125.46	2,511.90	2,898.35	3,478.02
Peover Superior, Snelson	1,172.29	1,367.67	1,563.05	1,758.43	2,149.19	2,539.95	2,930.72	3,516.86
Pickmere	1,164.35	1,358.41	1,552.47	1,746.53	2,134.65	2,522.77	2,910.88	3,493.06
Plumley with Toft and Bexton	1,170.49	1,365.57	1,560.65	1,755.73	2,145.89	2,536.05	2,926.22	3,511.46
Pott Shrigley	1,155.52	1,348.11	1,540.69	1,733.28	2,118.45	2,503.63	2,888.80	3,466.56
Poynton with Worth	1,198.04	1,397.71	1,597.39	1,797.06	2,196.41	2,595.75	2,995.10	3,594.12
Prestbury	1,165.14	1,359.33	1,553.52	1,747.71	2,136.09	2,524.47	2,912.85	3,495.42
Rainow	1,153.52	1,345.77	1,538.03	1,730.28	2,114.79	2,499.29	2,883.80	3,460.56
Rope	1,143.30	1,333.85	1,524.40	1,714.95	2,096.05	2,477.15	2,858.25	3,429.90
Sandbach	1,193.39	1,392.28	1,591.18	1,790.08	2,187.88	2,585.67	2,983.47	3,580.16
Shavington-cum-Gresty	1,185.52	1,383.11	1,580.69	1,778.28	2,173.45	2,568.63	2,963.80	3,556.56
Siddington	1,150.89	1,342.70	1,534.52	1,726.33	2,109.96	2,493.59	2,877.22	3,452.66
Smallwood	1,146.39	1,337.46	1,528.52	1,719.59	2,101.72	2,483.85	2,865.98	3,439.18
Somerford	1,174.06	1,369.74	1,565.41	1,761.09	2,152.44	2,543.80	2,935.15	3,522.18
Sound, Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Broomhall, Coole Pilate	1,144.09	1,334.78	1,525.46	1,716.14	2,097.50	2,478.87	2,860.23	3,432.28
Spurstow	1,151.81	1,343.77	1,535.74	1,727.71	2,111.65	2,495.58	2,879.52	3,455.42
Stapeley, Batherton	1,149.87	1,341.52	1,533.16	1,724.81	2,108.10	2,491.39	2,874.68	3,449.62
Stoke, Hurlleston	1,151.30	1,343.18	1,535.07	1,726.95	2,110.72	2,494.48	2,878.25	3,453.90
Styal	1,155.01	1,347.52	1,540.02	1,732.52	2,117.52	2,502.53	2,887.53	3,465.04
Sutton	1,153.71	1,346.00	1,538.28	1,730.57	2,115.14	2,499.71	2,884.28	3,461.14
Swettenham	1,163.93	1,357.92	1,551.91	1,745.90	2,133.88	2,521.86	2,909.83	3,491.80
Tabley	1,147.97	1,339.29	1,530.62	1,721.95	2,104.61	2,487.26	2,869.92	3,443.90
Twemlow	1,157.36	1,350.25	1,543.15	1,736.04	2,121.83	2,507.61	2,893.40	3,472.08
Wardle	1,151.18	1,343.04	1,534.91	1,726.77	2,110.50	2,494.22	2,877.95	3,453.54
Warmingham	1,161.54	1,355.13	1,548.72	1,742.31	2,129.49	2,516.67	2,903.85	3,484.62
Weston, Basford, Crewe Green	1,161.84	1,355.48	1,549.12	1,742.76	2,130.04	2,517.32	2,904.60	3,485.52
Willaston	1,154.85	1,347.32	1,539.80	1,732.27	2,117.22	2,502.17	2,887.12	3,464.54
Wilmslow	1,156.47	1,349.21	1,541.96	1,734.70	2,120.19	2,505.68	2,891.17	3,469.40
Wincle	1,138.26	1,327.97	1,517.68	1,707.39	2,086.81	2,466.23	2,845.65	3,414.78
Wistaston	1,151.34	1,343.23	1,535.12	1,727.01	2,110.79	2,494.57	2,878.35	3,454.02
Worleston, Poole, Aston Juxta Mondrum	1,148.85	1,340.33	1,531.80	1,723.28	2,106.23	2,489.18	2,872.13	3,446.56
Wrenbury-cum-Frith	1,163.03	1,356.87	1,550.71	1,744.55	2,132.23	2,519.91	2,907.58	3,489.10
Wybunbury	1,168.97	1,363.80	1,558.63	1,753.46	2,143.12	2,532.78	2,922.43	3,506.92

TOTAL COUNCIL TAX

	VALUATION BAND							
	BAND A £	BAND B £	BAND C £	BAND D £	BAND E £	BAND F £	BAND G £	BAND H £
Adlington	1,382.56	1,612.99	1,843.41	2,073.84	2,534.69	2,995.55	3,456.40	4,147.68
Alderley Edge	1,409.46	1,644.37	1,879.28	2,114.19	2,584.01	3,053.83	3,523.65	4,228.38
Alpraham, Calveley	1,398.43	1,631.50	1,864.57	2,097.64	2,563.78	3,029.93	3,496.07	4,195.28
Alsager	1,429.08	1,667.26	1,905.44	2,143.62	2,619.98	3,096.34	3,572.70	4,287.24
Arclid	1,376.66	1,606.11	1,835.54	2,064.99	2,523.87	2,982.77	3,441.65	4,129.98
Ashley	1,387.67	1,618.95	1,850.22	2,081.50	2,544.05	3,006.61	3,469.17	4,163.00
Aston-by-Budworth	1,366.79	1,594.60	1,822.39	2,050.19	2,505.78	2,961.39	3,416.98	4,100.38
Audlem	1,444.12	1,684.81	1,925.49	2,166.18	2,647.55	3,128.93	3,610.30	4,332.36
Barthomley	1,382.56	1,612.99	1,843.41	2,073.84	2,534.69	2,995.55	3,456.40	4,147.68
Betchton	1,368.85	1,596.99	1,825.13	2,053.27	2,509.55	2,965.84	3,422.12	4,106.54
Bickerton, Egerton	1,373.54	1,602.47	1,831.38	2,060.31	2,518.15	2,976.01	3,433.85	4,120.62
Bollington	1,415.83	1,651.81	1,887.77	2,123.75	2,595.69	3,067.64	3,539.58	4,247.50
Bosley	1,376.87	1,606.36	1,835.83	2,065.31	2,524.26	2,983.23	3,442.18	4,130.62
Bradwall	1,376.47	1,605.89	1,835.29	2,064.71	2,523.53	2,982.36	3,441.18	4,129.42
Brereton	1,380.59	1,610.70	1,840.79	2,070.89	2,531.08	2,991.29	3,451.48	4,141.78
Brindley, Faddiley	1,378.89	1,608.70	1,838.51	2,068.33	2,527.96	2,987.59	3,447.22	4,136.66
Buerton	1,376.51	1,605.93	1,835.34	2,064.76	2,523.59	2,982.43	3,441.27	4,129.52
Bulkeley, Ridley	1,376.52	1,605.94	1,835.36	2,064.78	2,523.62	2,982.46	3,441.30	4,129.56
Bunbury	1,395.53	1,628.12	1,860.70	2,093.29	2,558.46	3,023.64	3,488.82	4,186.58
Burland, Acton, Edleston, Henhull	1,385.88	1,616.86	1,847.84	2,078.82	2,540.78	3,002.74	3,464.70	4,157.64
Chelford	1,401.38	1,634.95	1,868.50	2,102.07	2,569.19	3,036.33	3,503.45	4,204.14
Cholmondeley, Chorley	1,374.64	1,603.75	1,832.85	2,061.96	2,520.17	2,978.39	3,436.60	4,123.92
Cholmondeston, Wettenhall	1,379.87	1,609.86	1,839.83	2,069.81	2,529.76	2,989.73	3,449.68	4,139.62
Chorley	1,375.36	1,604.59	1,833.81	2,063.04	2,521.49	2,979.95	3,438.40	4,126.08
Church Lawton	1,383.68	1,614.30	1,844.90	2,075.52	2,536.74	2,997.98	3,459.20	4,151.04
Church Minshull	1,381.65	1,611.93	1,842.20	2,072.48	2,533.03	2,993.59	3,454.13	4,144.96
Congleton	1,427.79	1,665.75	1,903.71	2,141.68	2,617.61	3,093.54	3,569.47	4,283.36
Cranage	1,383.14	1,613.67	1,844.18	2,074.71	2,535.75	2,996.81	3,457.85	4,149.42
Crewe	1,422.17	1,659.21	1,896.23	2,133.26	2,607.31	3,081.38	3,555.43	4,266.52
Disley	1,416.34	1,652.40	1,888.45	2,124.51	2,596.62	3,068.74	3,540.85	4,249.02
Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley	1,383.85	1,614.50	1,845.13	2,075.78	2,537.06	2,998.35	3,459.63	4,151.56
Doddington, Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Hunsterson, Lea	1,370.04	1,598.38	1,826.72	2,055.06	2,511.74	2,968.42	3,425.10	4,110.12
Eaton	1,383.74	1,614.37	1,844.98	2,075.61	2,536.85	2,998.11	3,459.35	4,151.22
Gawsworth	1,387.11	1,618.29	1,849.47	2,080.66	2,543.03	3,005.40	3,467.77	4,161.32
Goostrey	1,394.75	1,627.22	1,859.67	2,092.13	2,557.04	3,021.97	3,486.88	4,184.26
Great Warford	1,379.28	1,609.16	1,839.04	2,068.92	2,528.68	2,988.44	3,448.20	4,137.84
Handforth	1,393.45	1,625.69	1,857.93	2,090.17	2,554.65	3,019.14	3,483.62	4,180.34
Hankelow	1,374.54	1,603.63	1,832.72	2,061.81	2,519.99	2,978.17	3,436.35	4,123.62
Haslington	1,385.41	1,616.31	1,847.21	2,078.11	2,539.91	3,001.72	3,463.52	4,156.22
Hassall	1,389.79	1,621.43	1,853.05	2,084.69	2,547.95	3,011.22	3,474.48	4,169.38
Hatherton, Walgherton	1,376.83	1,606.30	1,835.77	2,065.24	2,524.18	2,983.13	3,442.07	4,130.48
Houghton	1,369.05	1,597.23	1,825.40	2,053.58	2,509.93	2,966.29	3,422.63	4,107.16
Henbury	1,405.19	1,639.40	1,873.59	2,107.79	2,576.18	3,044.59	3,512.98	4,215.58
High Legh	1,372.83	1,601.63	1,830.43	2,059.24	2,516.85	2,974.46	3,432.07	4,118.48
Higher Hurdsfield	1,377.65	1,607.27	1,836.87	2,066.48	2,525.69	2,984.92	3,444.13	4,132.96
Holmes Chapel	1,421.41	1,658.31	1,895.21	2,132.11	2,605.91	3,079.72	3,553.52	4,264.22
Hough, Chorlton	1,380.61	1,610.71	1,840.81	2,070.91	2,531.11	2,991.32	3,451.52	4,141.82
Hulme Walfield, Somerford Booths	1,393.33	1,625.55	1,857.77	2,089.99	2,554.43	3,018.88	3,483.32	4,179.98
Kettleshulme, Lyme Handley	1,395.83	1,628.48	1,861.11	2,093.75	2,559.02	3,024.31	3,489.58	4,187.50
Knutsford	1,428.40	1,666.47	1,904.53	2,142.60	2,618.73	3,094.87	3,571.00	4,285.20
Leighton, Minshull Vernon, Woolstanwood	1,377.99	1,607.66	1,837.32	2,066.99	2,526.32	2,985.66	3,444.98	4,133.98
Little Bollington, Agden	1,370.30	1,598.69	1,827.06	2,055.45	2,512.21	2,968.99	3,425.75	4,110.90
Little Warford	1,363.54	1,590.80	1,818.05	2,045.31	2,499.82	2,954.34	3,408.85	4,090.62
Lower Peover	1,382.91	1,613.40	1,843.88	2,074.37	2,535.34	2,996.32	3,457.28	4,148.74
Lower Withington	1,385.52	1,616.44	1,847.36	2,078.28	2,540.12	3,001.96	3,463.80	4,156.56
Macclesfield	1,398.25	1,631.29	1,864.33	2,097.37	2,563.45	3,029.54	3,495.62	4,194.74
Macclesfield Forest, Wildboardclough	1,363.54	1,590.80	1,818.05	2,045.31	2,499.82	2,954.34	3,408.85	4,090.62
Marbury-cum-Quoisley, Norbury, Wirswall	1,383.83	1,614.48	1,845.11	2,075.75	2,537.02	2,998.31	3,459.58	4,151.50
Marton	1,382.70	1,613.15	1,843.60	2,074.05	2,534.95	2,995.85	3,456.75	4,148.10
Mere	1,376.68	1,606.13	1,835.57	2,065.02	2,523.91	2,982.81	3,441.70	4,130.04

TOTAL COUNCIL TAX

	VALUATION BAND							
	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Middlewich	1,421.25	1,658.13	1,895.00	2,131.88	2,605.63	3,079.39	3,553.13	4,263.76
Millington, Rostherne, Tatton	1,386.69	1,617.81	1,848.92	2,080.04	2,542.27	3,004.51	3,466.73	4,160.08
Mobberley	1,382.93	1,613.43	1,843.91	2,074.40	2,535.37	2,996.36	3,457.33	4,148.80
Moston	1,389.91	1,621.57	1,853.21	2,084.87	2,548.17	3,011.48	3,474.78	4,169.74
Mottram St Andrew	1,376.25	1,605.62	1,834.99	2,064.37	2,523.12	2,981.87	3,440.62	4,128.74
Nantwich	1,460.40	1,703.80	1,947.20	2,190.60	2,677.40	3,164.20	3,651.00	4,381.20
Nether Alderley	1,423.59	1,660.86	1,898.12	2,135.39	2,609.92	3,084.46	3,558.98	4,270.78
Newbold Astbury-cum-Moreton	1,391.31	1,623.19	1,855.07	2,086.96	2,550.73	3,014.50	3,478.27	4,173.92
Newhall	1,368.97	1,597.14	1,825.29	2,053.46	2,509.78	2,966.11	3,422.43	4,106.92
North Rode	1,375.28	1,604.50	1,833.70	2,062.92	2,521.34	2,979.78	3,438.20	4,125.84
Odd Rode	1,396.63	1,629.41	1,862.17	2,094.95	2,560.49	3,026.04	3,491.58	4,189.90
Ollerton, Marthall	1,386.15	1,617.17	1,848.19	2,079.22	2,541.27	3,003.32	3,465.37	4,158.44
Over Alderley	1,376.33	1,605.73	1,835.11	2,064.50	2,523.27	2,982.06	3,440.83	4,129.00
Peckforton	1,384.62	1,615.39	1,846.16	2,076.93	2,538.47	3,000.01	3,461.55	4,153.86
Peover Superior, Snelson	1,397.57	1,630.50	1,863.42	2,096.35	2,562.20	3,028.06	3,493.92	4,192.70
Pickmere	1,389.63	1,621.24	1,852.84	2,084.45	2,547.66	3,010.88	3,474.08	4,168.90
Plumley with Toft and Bexton	1,395.77	1,628.40	1,861.02	2,093.65	2,558.90	3,024.16	3,489.42	4,187.30
Pott Shrigley	1,380.80	1,610.94	1,841.06	2,071.20	2,531.46	2,991.74	3,452.00	4,142.40
Poynton with Worth	1,423.32	1,660.54	1,897.76	2,134.98	2,609.42	3,083.86	3,558.30	4,269.96
Prestbury	1,390.42	1,622.16	1,853.89	2,085.63	2,549.10	3,012.58	3,476.05	4,171.26
Rainow	1,378.80	1,608.60	1,838.40	2,068.20	2,527.80	2,987.40	3,447.00	4,136.40
Rope	1,368.58	1,596.68	1,824.77	2,052.87	2,509.06	2,965.26	3,421.45	4,105.74
Sandbach	1,418.67	1,655.11	1,891.55	2,128.00	2,600.89	3,073.78	3,546.67	4,256.00
Shavington-cum-Gresty	1,410.80	1,645.94	1,881.06	2,116.20	2,586.46	3,056.74	3,527.00	4,232.40
Siddington	1,376.17	1,605.53	1,834.89	2,064.25	2,522.97	2,981.70	3,440.42	4,128.50
Smallwood	1,371.67	1,600.29	1,828.89	2,057.51	2,514.73	2,971.96	3,429.18	4,115.02
Somerford	1,399.34	1,632.57	1,865.78	2,099.01	2,565.45	3,031.91	3,498.35	4,198.02
Sound, Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Broomhall, Coole Pilate	1,369.37	1,597.61	1,825.83	2,054.06	2,510.51	2,966.98	3,423.43	4,108.12
Spurstow	1,377.09	1,606.60	1,836.11	2,065.63	2,524.66	2,983.69	3,442.72	4,131.26
Stapeley, Batherton	1,375.15	1,604.35	1,833.53	2,062.73	2,521.11	2,979.50	3,437.88	4,125.46
Stoke, Hurlleston	1,376.58	1,606.01	1,835.44	2,064.87	2,523.73	2,982.59	3,441.45	4,129.74
Styal	1,380.29	1,610.35	1,840.39	2,070.44	2,530.53	2,990.64	3,450.73	4,140.88
Sutton	1,378.99	1,608.83	1,838.65	2,068.49	2,528.15	2,987.82	3,447.48	4,136.98
Swettenham	1,389.21	1,620.75	1,852.28	2,083.82	2,546.89	3,009.97	3,473.03	4,167.64
Tabley	1,373.25	1,602.12	1,830.99	2,059.87	2,517.62	2,975.37	3,433.12	4,119.74
Twemlow	1,382.64	1,613.08	1,843.52	2,073.96	2,534.84	2,995.72	3,456.60	4,147.92
Wardle	1,376.46	1,605.87	1,835.28	2,064.69	2,523.51	2,982.33	3,441.15	4,129.38
Warmingham	1,386.82	1,617.96	1,849.09	2,080.23	2,542.50	3,004.78	3,467.05	4,160.46
Weston, Basford, Crewe Green	1,387.12	1,618.31	1,849.49	2,080.68	2,543.05	3,005.43	3,467.80	4,161.36
Willaston	1,380.13	1,610.15	1,840.17	2,070.19	2,530.23	2,990.28	3,450.32	4,140.38
Wilmslow	1,381.75	1,612.04	1,842.33	2,072.62	2,533.20	2,993.79	3,454.37	4,145.24
Wincle	1,363.54	1,590.80	1,818.05	2,045.31	2,499.82	2,954.34	3,408.85	4,090.62
Wistaston	1,376.62	1,606.06	1,835.49	2,064.93	2,523.80	2,982.68	3,441.55	4,129.86
Worleston, Poole, Aston Juxta Mondrum	1,374.13	1,603.16	1,832.17	2,061.20	2,519.24	2,977.29	3,435.33	4,122.40
Wrenbury-cum-Frith	1,388.31	1,619.70	1,851.08	2,082.47	2,545.24	3,008.02	3,470.78	4,164.94
Wybunbury	1,394.25	1,626.63	1,859.00	2,091.38	2,556.13	3,020.89	3,485.63	4,182.76

COUNCIL MEETING – 22 February 2023**RECOMMENDATION FROM CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE: PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/24****RECOMMENDATION**

That

1. the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/23 be approved and published accordingly; and
 2. the agreed Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 be reviewed in-year and any further changes be approved by the Monitoring Officer and published accordingly.
-

Extract from the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting on 9 February 2023

65 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/24

The Committee considered a report which outlined changes to the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24.

Changes since last year's Statement were outlined in section 7.4 of the report.

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That

1. the changes since the 2022/23 Pay Policy Statement be noted as outlined in section 7.4 of the report;
2. the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 as appended to the report be recommended to Council for approval and published accordingly; and
3. the agreed Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 be reviewed in-year and any further changes be approved by the Monitoring Officer and published accordingly.

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Working for a brighter future together

Corporate Policy Committee

Date of Meeting:	9 th February 2023
Report Title:	Pay Policy Statement 2023/24
Report of:	Jane Burns, Executive Director of Corporate Services
Report Reference No:	CP/33/22-23
Ward(s) Affected:	Not applicable

Corporate Plan Priorities	Open	An open and enabling organisation	X
	Fair	A council which empowers and cares about people	
	Green	A thriving and sustainable place	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to outline the changes to the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 and for the Corporate Policy Committee to recommend the policy to Council.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. Section 38 of the Localism Act (2011) requires Local Authorities to produce a Pay Policy Statement by 31 March on an annual basis. Regard continues to be given to any guidance from the Secretary of State in producing this statement and the Local Government Transparency Code (2015).
- 2.2. The Pay Policy Statement for 2023/2024 which reflects the expected position at 1 April 2023 is attached as Appendix 1. Changes since last year's Statement are outlined in section 7.4 of this report.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That the changes since the 2022/23 Pay Policy Statement be noted as outlined in section 7.4 of this report.

- 3.2. That the attached Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 be recommended by the Corporate Policy Committee to Council for approval and published accordingly.
- 3.3. That the agreed Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 is reviewed in-year and any further changes are approved by the Monitoring Officer and published accordingly.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. A Pay Policy Statement has been required to be produced annually since 2012/13 under Section 38 of the Localism Act (2011). Local Authorities must have their Pay Policy Statement approved by full Council and published on their website no later than the 31 March prior to the financial year to which it relates.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1. Not applicable.

6. Background

- 6.1. The purpose of the Pay Policy Statement is to increase accountability, transparency and fairness with regard to the Council's approach to pay with particular focus on its Chief Officers.

7. Key Updates to the Pay Policy Statement

- 7.1. The Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 follows the style and format of the Statement published in 2022/23. The Statement focuses on the broad principles and policies regarding pay and has links to further information and statistical data available on the Council's website and associated policies.
- 7.2. The Statement has again been designed to be user friendly for public consumption and should require minimal updates each subsequent year.
- 7.3. The links to further information will be updated as appropriate through the coming year.
- 7.4. Changes since the last Pay Policy Statement are as follows:
 - 7.4.1. Included cover sheet to the PPS which also includes the Council's external website address (see page 1).
 - 7.4.2. Referenced specific employment legislation, i.e. Employment Rights Act 1996, Equality Act 2010, The Part Time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 and the National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015 (see page 2).
 - 7.4.3. Changed the title of section 3 from 'Pay Structure Senior Management' to 'Senior Management ('Chief Officers') Remuneration' (see page 3).

- 7.4.4.** Removed any references throughout the Statement which advised that Performance Related Pay (PRP) for senior management has been removed.
- 7.4.5.** The Statement explains that Grades 13 and 14 contain three increments in each with annual incremental progression on the anniversary of the appointment (see page 3).
- 7.4.6.** The Statement links to the Council's website for further details about benefits: [Employee benefits \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk) (see page 3).
- 7.4.7.** Removed any references throughout the Statement which advised that a new JNC pay structure has been introduced – this was implemented in 2021.
- 7.4.8.** Updated salary information for Tier 1 to Tier 3 to reflect recently agreed April 2022 rates (see page 4).
- 7.4.9.** Included specific section on 'NJC Employees' which confirms that from 1 April 2023, Spinal Column Point 1 will be permanently deleted from the NJC pay spine; the April 2023 NJC pay framework will comprise of 44 salary points (see page 4).
- 7.4.10.** Removed section on the 'Living Wage' – the Local Living Wage supplement has not been paid for number of years; any future pay awards agreed nationally will take into account National Living Wage requirements and ensure that the NJC minimum spinal column point is higher than the National Living Wage.
- 7.4.11.** In November 2022, the Council was accredited as a Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme Employer, so this has been included in the Statement (see page 4).
- 7.4.12.** Changed title of 'Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)' section to 'Pension Contributions' and included more information about the scheme (see page 5).
- 7.4.13.** Updated the 'Redundancy Payments and Payments on Termination' section to state that the Council will take into consideration the Government's [statutory guidance on the making and disclosure of Special Severance Payments by local authorities in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/special-severance-payments-by-local-authorities-in-england) and will implement any government changes to exit payments when they become law (see page 6).
- 7.4.14.** The above statutory guidance is also referred to in section 9: Early Retirement and Severance on the Grounds of Business Efficiency (see pages 6 and 7) and section 10: Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme (see page 7).
- 7.4.15.** The pay multiples (Link 4) will be updated before 1 April 2023.

8. Consultation and Engagement

- 8.1. The Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 will be shared with Trade Unions.

9. Implications

9.1. Legal

- 9.1.1. The Council is required to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement agreed by full Council each year, under Section 38 of the Localism Act (2011).
- 9.1.2. In addition, the Local Government Transparency Code (2015) requires information on organisational structure, senior salaries and pay multiples to be published annually each year.
- 9.1.3. This report and the accompanying Pay Policy Statement, with associated links in Annex 1, once approved and adopted ensures that Cheshire East Council complies with these requirements.

9.2. Finance

- 9.2.1. There are no direct financial implications associated with approving the updated Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 and no budgetary adjustments are proposed in relation to this report.

9.3. Policy

- 9.3.1. Any decisions relating to the pay and remuneration of Chief Officers must comply with the Pay Policy Statement in place at the time for that financial year. Whilst the Statement can be amended during the year should the need arise, in-year changes will be subject to the approval of the Monitoring Officer.

9.4. Equality

- 9.4.1. There are no direct equality implications associated with approving the updated Pay Policy Statement 2023/24, any potential implications relating to pay are addressed within the relevant pay policies.

9.5. Human Resources

- 9.5.1. Associated pay policies and HR support must comply with the Pay Policy Statement. Updates on the Workforce Strategy and workforce data are provided to the Corporate Policy Committee on a regular basis.

9.6. Risk Management

- 9.6.1. If the Council does not follow specific aspects of the guidance issued by DCLG and therefore does not achieve appropriate levels of openness and accountability, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (formerly the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government) can take steps to require the Council to adapt particular policies.

9.7. Rural Communities

9.7.1. There are not direct implications for rural communities.

9.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

9.8.1. There are no direct implications for children and young people.

9.9. Public Health

9.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

9.10. Climate Change

9.10.1. There are not direct implications on climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Craig Hughes, Policy and Reward Manager Email: craig.hughes@cheshireeast.gov.uk Telephone: 01270 686307
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Draft Pay Policy Statement 2023/24
Background Papers:	None

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Pay Policy Statement

2023/24

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

OFFICIAL

1. Introduction and Purpose

Under Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the “power to appoint officers on such reasonable terms and conditions as the authority thinks fit”. This Pay Policy Statement (the ‘statement’) sets out the Council’s approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of Section 38-43 of the Localism Act 2011 and due regard to the associated Statutory Guidance including the Supplementary Statutory Guidance issued in February 2013, and guidance issued under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.

The purpose of the statement is to provide transparency with regard to the Council’s approach to setting the pay of its senior employees (excluding teaching staff, employees working in local authority schools and academies, and alternative service delivery vehicles) by identifying:

- The methods by which salaries of all employees are determined.
- The detail and level of remuneration of its most senior employees, i.e. ‘Chief Officers’, as defined by the relevant legislation.

“Remuneration” for the purposes of this statement includes three elements; basic salary, pension and all other allowances arising from employment.

Once approved by full Council, this policy statement will come into effect on the 1st April 2023 superseding the 2022/23 statement and will be subject to review on a minimum of an annual basis, the policy statement for the next year being approved by 31st March each year.

2. Background

In determining the pay and remuneration of all of its employees, the Council takes account of the need to ensure value for money in respect of the use of public expenditure. This is balanced against the need to recruit and retain employees in an increasingly competitive market who are able to deliver the Council’s commitments and meet the requirements of providing high quality services, which are delivered effectively and efficiently and at times at which those services are required.

The Council complies with all relevant employment legislation and codes of practice. This includes legislation such as the Employment Rights Act 1996, Equality Act 2010, The Part Time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations 2000 and where relevant, the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 and the National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015. The Council seeks to ensure there is no pay discrimination within its pay structures and that all pay differentials can be objectively justified through the use of job evaluation mechanisms and the application of key criteria, which directly establish the relative levels of posts in grades according to the requirements, demands and responsibilities of the role.

OFFICIAL

3. Senior Management ('Chief Officers') Remuneration

3.1 Principles

There are a number of overriding principles which govern the Council's approach to senior management reward:

- The policy will be affordable; with reward being commensurate with individual and corporate performance.
- Reward policy for senior post-holders will be transparent, clearly defined and readily understood.
- The policy will offer the flexibility to reward for job size, capability and market rates (where these may be relevant, with evidence).
- Reward for senior roles will be fair and proportionate by comparison to reward for the wider workforce.

3.2 Reward components

Reward will comprise basic salary and a range of benefits as follows:

- **Basic salary:** This is guaranteed fixed cash remuneration, paid monthly. The level of basic salary is contractual. For some jobs, this remuneration may increase by annual increments until the maximum of the grade is reached, i.e. Grade 13 and 14. These two grades contain three increments in each with annual incremental progression on the anniversary of the appointment.
- **Benefits:** The Council provides a range of benefits. The principal benefits are holidays and access to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). Further details can be found on the [Council's website](#).

3.3 Job Evaluation and Banding

The Council uses the Hay Group job evaluation scheme to position roles into the Cheshire East Senior Management pay bands. The bands are linked to Hay Job Evaluation points ranges which have been determined as part of the Council's operating model.

4. Pay and Grading Structure

4.1 Senior Managers (JNC)

This defined pay structure determines the salaries of senior managers on JNC (Joint National Council for Chief Officers) conditions of service. A score is produced from the HAY job evaluation process which equates to a pay band on the Council's senior manager pay structure.

The current pay structure for senior managers who are on JNC conditions of service can be seen by accessing the [pay and grading structure](#).

In addition, there is a very small number of public health employees who transferred under TUPE to the Council on NHS Pay and Terms and Conditions on 1st April 2013 and these employees remain on the terms and conditions of their previous NHS employer.

When applying the senior manager pay structure, for the purposes of this statement, the definition of Chief Officers is as set out in Section 43 of the Localism Act. The details of the salary packages are as follows:

Tier 1 (Chief Executive)

- The current salary package is £159,405

Tier 2 (direct reports to the Chief Executive)

- The salary package falls within a range of £123,679 to £140,283

Tier 3 (direct reports to Tier 2 managers)

- The salary package falls within a range of £80,955 to £109,180

4.2 NJC Employees

The NJC (National Joint Council for Local Government Services) agreed that from 1 April 2023, Spinal Column Point (SCP) 1 will be permanently deleted from the NJC pay spine. The NJC pay framework from April 2023 therefore comprises 44 salary points, between SCP 2 (£20,441 per annum) and SCP 45 (£57,129 per annum) for a full-time employee (based on a 37-hour week).

The current pay and grading structure for employees who are on NJC conditions of service can be seen by accessing the [pay and grading structure](#).

5. Recruitment of Chief Officers

The Council's policy and procedures with regard to recruitment of Chief Officers is set out in the Council's Constitution and is undertaken by the Appointments Committee in accordance with arrangements set out in the Constitution (see Chapter 2). Full Council approval will be sought in relation to decisions affecting the remuneration of any new post whose remuneration is or is proposed to be or would become £100,000 per annum or more.

Key statutory posts (Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer) are Council appointments.

When recruiting to all posts, the Council will take full and proper account of all provisions of relevant employment law and its own Recruitment Policy and Procedure, Disability Confident commitment, Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme Employer, Mindful Employer, Redeployment Procedure and Equality in Employment Policy.

The determination of the remuneration to be offered to any newly appointed Chief Officer will be in accordance with the pay structure and relevant policies in place at

the time of recruitment and in line with this Pay Policy Statement. New appointments will normally be made in accordance with the JNC pay structure, any variation to this approach will be by exception and based on objectively justified criteria supported by appropriate evidence. An appointee's existing pay and their relevant experience and qualifications may be included in any consideration but would need to take account of any equal pay implications that could arise within the Council.

From time to time, it may be necessary to take account of the external pay levels in the labour market and to pay market related supplements in order to attract and retain employees with particular experience, skills and capacity. Where necessary, the Council will ensure the requirement for such additional payments is objectively justified by reference to clear and transparent evidence of relevant market comparators, using data sources available from within the local government sector and outside, as appropriate. Any such payments will be reviewed at least annually to ensure their ongoing suitability and appropriateness.

Where the Council is unable to recruit Chief Officers, or there is a need for interim support to provide cover for a substantive Chief Officer post, the Council will, where necessary, put in place the most effective arrangements to engage individuals. These arrangements will comply with HMRC IR35 requirements, relevant procurement processes and ensure the Council is able to demonstrate maximum value for money.

6. Additions to Chief Officers' Salaries

The following payments can be applied to Chief Officers' salaries:

- Returning and Deputy Returning Officers' Fees
- Travel Allowances and Expenses
- Salary Sacrifice Lease Car Scheme (only applicable for salary sacrifice vehicles ordered before 7th September 2020 as this scheme ended on 15th September 2020)
- Relocation Expenses
- Professional Fees and Subscriptions

Further details of [Additions to Chief Officers' salaries](#) are published in the Council's Transparency Data and in the Statement of Accounts.

7. Pension Contributions

Eligible employees are automatically enrolled into the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The Council is required to make a contribution to the scheme based on a percentage of the pensionable remuneration due under the contract of employment of that employee. The employer contribution rate is set by the Actuary advising the Cheshire Pension Fund (the name of the LGPS in Cheshire) in order

to ensure the scheme is appropriately funded. Employee contribution rates are set in bands and are defined by statute.

Details of the [Local Government Pension Scheme](#) discretions exercised, contribution bands, actuarial rates and discretions policy application are available.

8. Redundancy Payments and Payments on Termination

The Council's policy on compulsory redundancies, including redundancy payments, is set out in the Organisational Change Policy and Procedure. If employees have two or more years' service, they may be entitled to a redundancy payment. The payment is based on the statutory formula (on actual weekly pay). Any overtaken leave/flexi will be deducted from their final salary. Where there is an outstanding leave entitlement, this must be taken during their notice period and before their employment ends.

In order to minimise the need for compulsory redundancies and in conjunction with other measures, e.g. restricting recruitment, the Council may consider requests from employees to be made redundant (voluntary redundancy). Employees who leave on grounds of voluntary redundancy will normally be entitled to receive a redundancy payment in accordance with the statutory formula (on actual weekly pay) plus an additional severance payment of 0.8 times the statutory payment, bringing the total payment to 1.80 times the statutory formula and up to a maximum of 50 week's pay.

The Council's current approach to statutory and discretionary payments on termination of employment of Chief Officers, prior to reaching normal retirement age and for those eligible for retirement, is set out in the Leaving the Council Policy & Procedure and in accordance with the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) Regulations 2006 and Local Government Pension scheme Regulations 2007.

All payments under this section are subject to the approval process set out in the Organisational Change Policy & Procedure and the Leaving the Council Policy & Procedure.

The Council reserves the right to change all discretionary elements. The Council will also take into consideration the Government's [statutory guidance on the making and disclosure of Special Severance Payments by local authorities in England - GOV.UK](#) and will implement any government changes to exit payments when they become law.

9. Early Retirement and Severance on the Grounds of Business Efficiency

In line with the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006, the Council also operates a voluntary scheme to facilitate early retirement or severance on grounds of business efficiency to enable the Council to continue to achieve effective use of resources and provide value for money. The terms of this are set

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out in the Leaving the Council Policy and Procedure and due consideration will again be given to the statutory guidance on exit payments.

10. Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme (MARS)

The Council has operated a Mutually Agreed Resignation Scheme (MARS) which enables individual employees, including Chief Officers, in agreement with the Council, to choose to leave their employment voluntarily in return for a discretionary 'severance' payment. This scheme creates resourcing flexibility to avoid compulsory redundancies in future, enable the redeployment of resources to higher priority areas of work and reduce costs in lower priority areas. MARS is non contractual and has no pension liabilities. A decision is taken each year whether to run the scheme by the Chief Executive and due regard will again be given to the statutory guidance on exit payments.

11. Settlement Agreements

The Council uses settlement agreements for all voluntary redundancies/severance and MARS severance payments, for all employees, including Chief Officers. The use of settlement agreements on this basis minimises any risk of future claims against the Council and can ensure that any threatened or pending legal proceedings and their associated legal costs can be avoided. The Council follows the current guidance for public sector settlement agreements in these circumstances.

12. Pay Multiples

The Council publishes a range of information to meet the Transparency Code requirements and has used the recommended formulae in the code guidance and Local Government Association (LGA) guidance to calculate the relationship between the rate of pay for the lowest paid, median and Chief Officers, known as [pay multiples \(to be updated\)](#).

13. Re-employment or re-engagement

Any decision to re-employ an individual (including Chief Officers) already in receipt of a Local Government Pension (with same or another local authority) will be made on merit, taking into account the use of public money and the exigencies of the Council.

In particular, the Voluntary Redundancy Scheme provides that former Cheshire East/Legacy Authority employees who left their employment on grounds of voluntary retirement, redundancy or severance will not be re-employed in any capacity, except in exceptional circumstances and subject to the agreement of the Head of HR in consultation with the Chair of the Corporate Policy Committee. Re-engagement includes all types of contractual relationships whether they are a contract of employment, contract for service etc. and whether the individual is appointed as an employee or engaged as an interim, direct consultancy or via an agency or other supplier.

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14. Publication and access to information

Upon approval by full Council, this Statement will be published on the Council's website (www.cheshireeast.gov.uk). Additionally, in line with Code of Practice and Accounts and Audit Regulations, salary, allowances and bonus compensation and employers pension contributions will be published for:

- a) Senior employees whose salary is £150,000 or more (who will also be identified by name).
- b) Senior employees whose salary is £50,000 or more.

The Council will also publish, on an annual basis, Gender Pay Gap data in line with the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.

Prepared by: HR Policy and Reward
Date: January 2023
Review date: March 2024

Annex 1 – Links

All the relevant policies and procedures as referred to in the Pay Policy Statement can be found using the links in section 1 below. Please email hrcommunications@cheshireeast.gov.uk should you have any difficulties accessing this information.

Section 1: Additional information

Link 1 – [Pay and grading structure for senior managers and employees](#)

Link 2 – [Additions to Chief Officers' salaries](#)

Link 3 – [Local Government Pension Scheme](#)

Link 4 – [Pay multiples](#) (to be updated)

[Statement of Accounts](#)

Section 2: Internal intranet links to the further relevant policies, procedures and other relevant information

- [Payment of a Market Supplement](#)
- [Pay and Allowances Policy](#)
- [Pensions Discretions Policy](#)
- [Organisational Change Policy and Procedure](#)
- [Leaving the Council Policy and Procedure](#)
- [Recruitment Policy and Procedure](#)
- [Mindful Employer](#)
- [Redeployment Procedure](#)
- [Equality in Employment Policy](#)
- [Relocation and Excess Travel Policy and Procedure](#)

For those seeking to access copies of policies and procedures externally, please email hrcommunications@cheshireeast.gov.uk to request copies of the relevant documents.

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Council

Date of Meeting:	22 February 2023
Report Title:	Appointment of Vice-Chair
Report of:	Director of Governance and Compliance
Ward(s) Affected:	Not applicable

1.1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To appoint a Vice-Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The Constitution states in Chapter 3, Part 1 that one of the functions of full Council is to appoint the chairs and vice-chairs of committees.

2.2 This report asks Council to appoint a new Vice-Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That Councillor Brian Puddicombe be appointed Vice-Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee.

4. Reason for Recommendation

4.1 To fill the vacancy of Vice-Chair on the Finance Sub-Committee.

5 Other Options Considered

5.1 Whilst Council could decide that it does not wish to appoint to this office of vice-chair, this would leave the committee without any identified member being empowered to preside at meetings, should the chair not be present to do so.

6 Background

- 6.1 The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council's committees and sub-committees are appointed each year at the Annual Council Meeting in accordance with the relevant numerical allocations made by Council.
- 6.2 Where a vacancy occurs in the office of chair or vice-chair during the year, the relevant Group Leader or Group Administrator shall nominate a replacement. It is then for Council to approve the appointment.
- 6.3 A vacancy of Vice-Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee has arisen following the recent death of Councillor Steve Carter.
- 6.4 In accordance with the allocations to chairs and vice-chairs agreed by Council, it falls to the Labour Group to nominate a replacement. The Labour Group has nominated Councillor Brian Puddicombe to be the new Vice-Chair of the Finance Sub-Committee.

7 Implications of the Recommendations

7.1 Legal Implications

- 7.1.1 Whilst the Annual Meeting of the Council determines the allocation of chairs and vice-chairs of committees, it may reconsider such allocations during the municipal year when group memberships change or a vacancy occurs.

7.2 Finance Implications

- 7.2.1 Some of the Council's chairs and vice-chairs attract a Special Responsibility Allowance, in accordance with the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme.

7.3 Policy Implications

- 7.3.1 There are no direct implications for policy.

7.4 Equality Implications

- 7.4.1 There are no direct implications for equality.

7.5 Human Resources Implications

- 7.5.1 There are no direct implications for Human Resources.

7.6 Risk Management Implications

- 7.6.1 Failure to comply with the requirements of the Constitution might leave the Council open to legal challenge and might leave a committee without a vice-chair.

7.7 Rural Communities Implications

7.7.1 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

7.8 Implications for Children & Young People

7.8.1 There are no direct implications for children and young people/Cared for Children.

7.9 Public Health Implications

7.9.1 There are no direct implications for public health.

7.10 Climate Change Implications

7.10.1 There are no implications relating to climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Paul Mountford Democratic Services paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Background Papers:	The Council's Constitution (available on the Council's website).

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Council

Date of Meeting:	22 February 2023
Report Title:	Nomination of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2023-24 Civic Year
Report of:	David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance
Ward(s) Affected:	All Wards

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Council is asked to consider nominations for the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2023-24 Civic Year.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report enables Council to determine which Members may be formally considered for election to the Mayoralty and Deputy Mayoralty, at the Mayor Making Ceremony on 24 May 2023.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Council is recommended to:

Resolve that, subject to the outcome of the Borough Council elections in May 2023, a Member be designated as Mayor Elect, and that a second Member be designated as Deputy Mayor Elect, with a view to their formal nomination for election and appointment as Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Cheshire East for the 2023-24 Civic Year, at the Mayor Making ceremony to be held on 24 May 2023.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1. To assist in the making of appropriate arrangements for the Mayor Making ceremony on 24 May 2023.

5. Other Options Considered

- 5.1. Whilst Council could choose not to designate a Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect, doing so aligns with the Council's previous approach and is always subject to formal resolution by Full Council at the Council AGM/Mayor Making Ceremony.

6. Background

- 6.1. This report asks Council to agree which Members will be nominated for election as Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the Mayor Making Ceremony. Such a decision will assist the proposed civic office holders, and officers, in making arrangements for the new Civic Year.
- 6.2. The Borough Council elections take place in May 2023 and any nominations for election as Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be subject to the outcome of the elections.

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1 No formal consultation has taken place in relation to this report.

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

- 8.1.1. The meeting of Annual Council must formally elect the Mayor and appoint a Deputy Mayor and it is entirely within the gift of Council to do so.

8.2. Finance

- 8.2.1. All allowances and expenses relating to the Office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been budgeted for in the 2023/24 Revenue Budget.

8.3. Policy

- 8.3.1. There are no direct implications for policy.

8.4. Equality

- 8.4.1. There are no direct implications for equality.

8.5. Human Resources

- 8.5.1. There are no direct human resource implications.

8.6. Risk Management

- 8.6.1. There are no risks in respect of the recommendations.

8.7. Rural Communities

- 8.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

8.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

8.8.1. There are no direct implications for children and young people/Cared for Children.

8.9. Public Health

8.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

8.10. Climate Change

8.10.1. There are no direct climate change implications.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services and Governance brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk 01270 686670
Appendices:	None.
Background Papers:	None.

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COUNCIL – 22 FEBRUARY 2022**NOTICES OF MOTION****Submitted to Council in Accordance with the Council Procedural Rules****1 Establishment of a 1,000-metre buffer around silica extraction sites****Proposed by Councillor P Williams and Seconded by Councillor J Buckley**

Quarrying and extraction is important to the economy of our Borough with its rich deposits of salt, silica and sand. The industry is, quite rightly, well-regulated but there remain concerns about the health and environmental impacts. These concerns are particularly acute where quarrying silica extraction takes place close to residential areas. Airborne dust and noxious fumes can have serious health implications for people, particularly children, older adults and others with existing disease, exposed to them for prolonged periods.

Matt Western MP issued a Private Members' Bill in the UK Parliament in December 2021 calling for a buffer zone of at least 1,000 metres between new or proposed quarries of silicates and residential areas. The Bill is supported by a number of Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat MPs.

We ask that Cheshire East Council should implement a distance restriction of at least 1,000 metres when considering applications for quarrying or silica extraction. We propose that the relevant environmental and planning committees and the Council's emerging minerals strategy take account of this issue for the well-being of residents.

2 Leasehold Reform**Proposed by Councillor L Crane and Seconded by Councillor M Goldsmith**

This council notes:

Government promised to tackle the leasehold reforms through two pieces of legislation. The first to help new 'leases' and the second to help 'Existing' leaseholders. The first part was delivered earlier this year via The Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Act 2022. This was to be followed swiftly by the second part of the promised reforms, but this has been further delayed and leaves over 6 million existing leaseholders struggling to navigate a system that is currently stacked against them.

As a result of this delay, sales are falling through on many leasehold properties due to the ground rents. Many remain in leasehold limbo, with no affordable way out in the middle of a Cost-of-Living Crisis.

This council further notes that:

Developers may have moved away from building leasehold homes but they have replaced this with another model by creating the Private Residential Estate model (PRE's) for new build developments.

Historically, estate infrastructure would be adopted by the local authority.

It is now increasingly common that at least some of the estate's infrastructure is not adopted and for homeowners to pay maintenance. These charges can cover a large range of items: public open spaces, play areas, landscaped or ecological buffer areas, roads, highways, ground maintenance, street lighting, games areas, administration & management fees & public liability insurance.

Unlike leasehold properties homeowners of freehold properties with these private estate charges have no mechanism to challenge these charges/services. They are unregulated. There is no transparency and little accountability.

This council further notes:

Local authorities have policies on the requirements for adoption which include meeting minimal standards and developers must meet these standards prior to adoption. If they do not meet these standards, then the council will not adopt. Infrastructure can often be built, without ever meeting the required standards. In the past it was common practice for developers to pay a commuted sum to cover the adoption and maintenance of items such as amenity land, playgrounds and path ways so that these could be adopted by the Council. Now processes lean towards adoption of highways alone.

Unadopted infrastructure is often built to lower standards. Private roads may be narrower with less room for parking and no pavements, have lower specification street lighting. There may also be problems when the estate is not maintained to an appropriate standard and disgruntled residents may then look to the local authority to help them out.

Therefore this council resolves to:

1. Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request that the Government:
 - a. Delivers the leasehold reforms that were promised and that they include the online calculator for lease extensions and enfranchisement as soon as possible;
 - b. Prevents the sector from fixing capitalisation rates at a low rate in the calculation to avoid pushing up the cost for the leaseholder;
 - c. speeds up progress on other reforms from the Law Commission - such as Right to Manage and commonhold to address the issues that we see today with service charges and insurance commissions; and
2. Asks the council to consider through the refresh of the Local Plan:
 - a. implementing planning policy changes to ensure developers are unable to create so called 'fleecehold' where fees are typically secured by a rent charge (which means if residents fall into default on those fees the property can be converted from freehold to leasehold again and so the cycle begins again); and
 - b. if and when Cheshire East Council sells any reversionary freehold or leasehold interests then it will offer first refusal to the existing leaseholder at fair value.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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