

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Economy and Growth Committee**  
held on Tuesday, 12th July, 2022 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

Councillor N Mannion (Chair)  
Councillor M Goldsmith (Vice-Chair)

Councillors D Brown, J Clowes, A Critchley, P Groves, S Hogben, M Houston,  
D Jefferay, A Kolker, R Moreton, D Stockton and P Williams

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Peter Skates, Director of Growth and Enterprise  
Karen Carsberg, Head of Housing  
Brendan Flanagan, Head of Rural and Cultural Economy  
Andy Kehoe, Head of Estates  
Jo Wise, Development & Regeneration Delivery Manager  
Wendy Broadhurst, Lead Finance Partner (Place)  
Adrian Leslie, Solicitor  
Rachel Graves, Democratic Services Officer

## **8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor S Brookfield. Councillor  
A Critchley attended as substitute.

## **9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In relation to Item 5 – Wilmslow Town Centre Business Improvement  
District, the following made declarations in the interest of openness:-

Councillor D Jefferay declared that he was the ward member for Wilmslow  
East.

Councillor M Goldsmith declared that he was a member of Wilmslow Town  
Council and had actively lobbied with the Town Council for funding for  
Groundwork CLM.

## **10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2022 be approved as a  
correct record.

## 11 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no public speakers.

## 12 WILMSLOW TOWN CENTRE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Committee considered a report on the Wilmslow Town Centre Business Improvement District ballot and the way the Council should vote in the ballot.

The Council was the owner of several hereditaments within the proposed Business Improvement District (BID) area and therefore would be entitled to vote in the BID ballot, and, if the ballot was successful, be liable to pay the levy for its hereditaments falling within the scope of the BID proposal. The estimated BID levy on the Council was circa £5.5k/per annum (increasing by 0.05% per annum after 22/23) and would be payable over the five-year term of the BID.

The report recommended that the Council should vote 'Yes' as there would be a relatively low cost to the Council in the form of the levy, the BID proposals complemented the efforts of the Council to support the vitality and viability of Wilmslow Town Centre, aligned with the Council's corporate priority to support successful town centres and was in line with the recommendations of the emerging Wilmslow Town Centre Vitality Plan.

**RESOLVED:** That

- 1 the Wilmslow Town Centre Business Improvement District be supported by the Council.
- 2 delegated authority be granted to the Director of Growth and Enterprise to complete any ballot slips the Council is entitled to complete in the Business Improvement District ballot, voting in support of the Business Improvement District in the ballot on behalf of the Council for the Council's hereditaments.
- 3 in the event the Council is requested to attend the Business Improvement District meetings in an advisory capacity, the Director of Growth and Enterprise accept and agreed the most appropriate officer representation and empower that officer to provide such advice to Business Improvement District meetings as they consider necessary.
- 4 in the event of a 'yes' vote and the Business Improvement District proceeding, delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director Place to consider the Terms of Reference of the Business Improvement District Board, and having regard to any advice given by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Economy and Growth Committee, determine whether to put forward

a Cheshire East Council representative for appointment onto the Business Improvement District Board, and if so, select the appropriate appointee and empower the appointee to make any decisions required on behalf of the Council.

### **13 2021/2022 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW - GROWTH AND ENTERPRISE**

The Committee considered the 2021/2022 Annual Performance Review report for the Economy and Enterprise Department.

The report detailed the performance against the key priorities and key performance indicators of services in Housing, Estates, Rural & Cultural Economy and Economic Development.

The Director of Growth and Enterprise highlighted the following achievements:

- the Housing Team had been at the forefront of the Council's response to support Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.
- the Estates Team continued to support the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, surpassing the annual capital receipts target of £1m by achieving a year-end total of £1.3m.
- the Rural and Cultural Economy Team had been ensuring that the country parks and paths were available for use by residents and visitors and that Tatton Park had been awarded a number of awards including 'Green Flag' and 'Green Heritage site' and a Sandford Award for the Excellence in Heritage Education.
- the Economic Development Team had been at the forefront of the covid response and had administered the discretionary grant for support for business in the retail, leisure and hospitality sector. Development of Crewe Market Hall and Castle Street, Macclesfield had been completed and the Team was leading on the levelling-up programme with the production of business cases for submission for funding. Following submission of a bid by the Team for Crewe to be the new GG Rail Headquarters it had successfully made the shortlist of six towns and cities in the competition out of 41 bids.

The Committee commented and asked questions on the following:

- Energy efficiency in homes in Cheshire East and availability of government grants - it was reported that the Council had a number of programmes at the moment which were aimed at people in low incomes and off gas. The Team was working closely with social housing providers in connection with the Social Housing Decarbonising Fund and future work would include working with the private renting market to make changes. Funding would also be available to help rural resident move away from reliance on solid fuel to provide for alternative such as heat source pumps.
- Footfall in town centres and how it was measured – it was explained that the Council had been monitoring the data in all the key services centres and had commissioned the use of mobile

phone data, which showed where people had travel from to the town centres.

- Progress on the Gypsy traveller transit site – it was reported that work was ongoing to progress the discharge of planning conditions. An application had been submitted to Homes England for additional funding toward development costs which had been successful. The Council was awaiting the Homes England contract, and if agreed, could progress to the construction stage and start tendering for the work.
- Community Asset Transfer framework – it was stated that consultation had been carried out and a call for site with Parish Councils. The uptake had not been as significant as anticipated.

The Committee congratulated officers on their hard work during the year and the positive results across the department.

**RESOLVED:**

That the performance of the Growth and Enterprise Department be noted.

**14 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its work programme for 2022/23.

It was noted that at present there were eight agenda items listed for the September meeting of the Committee, and it was asked if an earlier start time for that meeting could be considered.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Work Programme for 2022/23 be noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.11 pm

Councillor N Mannion (Chair)