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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Mayor Making and Annual Council** meeting
held on Wednesday, 15th May, 2024 in the Tenants' Hall, Tatton Park,
Knutsford WA16 6QN

MAYOR MAKING

PRESENT

Councillors R Fletcher, M Houston, S Adams, L Anderson, M Beanland, S Bennett-Wake, L Braithwaite, J Bratherton, M Brooks, C Browne, L Buchanan, C Bulman, R Chadwick, D Clark, J Clowes, P Coan, A Coiley, N Cook, S Corcoran, L Crane, T Dean, B Drake, S Edgar, D Edwardes, K Edwards, M Edwards, H Faddes, A Gage, S Gardiner, E Gilman, M Goldsmith, M Gorman, K Hague, E Hall, A Harrison, A Heler, C Hilliard, S Holland, T Jackson, R Kain, A Kolker, N Mannion, G Marshall, A Moran, R Morris, H Moss, M Muldoon, C Naismith, C O'Leary, J Pearson, J Place, B Posnett, J Pratt, J Priest, B Puddicombe, P Redstone, J Rhodes, J Saunders, H Seddon, M Simon, L Smetham, G Smith, J Snowball, R Vernon, L Wardlaw, M Warren, H Whitaker, F Wilson and J Wray

Mayor, Councillor Rod Fletcher in the Chair

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors R Bailey, J Bird, D Brown, G Hayes, D Jefferay, M Sewart, John Smith, Julie Smith and Laura Smith.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that Councillor Marilyn Houston and Councillor David Edwardes had a personal interest in the appointment of Mayor and of Deputy Mayor, respectively.

3 ELECTION OF MAYOR 2024/25

Council was requested to elect a Mayor for the Borough of Cheshire East for 2025-25 Municipal Year, who would also act as Chair of the Council for that period.

It was proposed by Councillor Arthur Moran and seconded by Councillor Sam Corcoran that Councillor Marilyn Houston be elected as Mayor for 2024-25 Municipal Year.

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Marilyn Houston be elected Mayor of the Borough of Cheshire East for the 2024-25 Municipal Year and be appointed as Chair of the Council for that period.

The Mayor was invested with the chain of office and then completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Mayor thanked the Council for electing her to this office and informed Members that her consort would be Pauline Kowalski. The Mayor reported that her chosen charity would be the Crewe and Nantwich Branch of Cancer Research UK.

Councillor Houston, as Mayor, took the chair.

4 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2024/25

Council was requested to appoint a Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Cheshire East for the 2024-25 Municipal Year, who would also act as Vice-Chair of the Council for that period.

It was proposed by Councillor Reg Kain and seconded by Councillor John Wray that Councillor David Edwardes be appointed as Deputy Mayor for 2024-25 Municipal Year.

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor David Edwardes be appointed as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Cheshire East for the 2024-25 Municipal Year and as Vice-Chair of the Council for that period.

The Deputy Mayor was invested with the chain of office and then completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the Council for electing him to this office.

5 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor Reg Kain paid tribute to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Rod Fletcher, for the dedicated work that he had undertaken during his term of office.

The Mayor presented Councillor Fletcher with a Past Mayor's Medal.

Councillor Fletcher then addressed Council, as outgoing Mayor.

6 **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor thanked all those who had attended the Mayor Making Ceremony and stated that the meeting would be adjourned for the Special Meeting of Council to take place and would be reconvened, following lunch.

(The meeting was adjourned at 11.50 am and reconvened at 1.45 pm)

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

PRESENT

Councillor M Houston (Mayor/Chair)
Councillor D Edwardes (Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair)

Councillors S Adams, L Anderson, R Bailey, M Beanland, S Bennett-Wake, L Braithwaite, J Bratherton, M Brooks, D Brown, C Browne, L Buchanan, C Bulman, R Chadwick, D Clark, J Clowes, P Coan, A Coiley, N Cook, S Corcoran, L Crane, T Dean, B Drake, S Edgar, K Edwards, M Edwards, H Faddes, A Farrall, R Fletcher, A Gage, S Gardiner, E Gilman, M Goldsmith, M Gorman, K Hague, E Hall, A Harrison, A Heler, C Hilliard, S Holland, T Jackson, R Kain, A Kolker, N Mannion, G Marshall, A Moran, R Morris, H Moss, M Muldoon, C Naismith, C O'Leary, J Pearson, J Place, B Posnett, J Pratt, J Priest, B Puddicombe, P Redstone, J Rhodes, J Saunders, H Seddon, M Sewart, M Simon, L Smetham, G Smith, L Smith, J Snowball, R Vernon, L Wardlaw, M Warren, H Whitaker, F Wilson and J Wray

7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Bird, G Hayes, D Jefferay, R Moreton, John Smith and Julie Smith.

8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

9 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2024 be approved as a correct record.

10 ELECTION OF A LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL 2024/25

Leader of the Council

Nominations were invited for the election of the Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor C Bulman and seconded by Councillor M Gorman that Councillor Sam Corcoran be appointed as the Leader of the Council for the 2024-25 Municipal Year.

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Sam Corcoran be appointed as Leader of the Council for the 2024-25 Municipal Year.

Deputy Leader of the Council

Nominations were invited for the election of the Deputy Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor L Anderson and seconded by Councillor S Corcoran that Councillor Michael Gorman be appointed as the Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2024-25 Municipal Year.

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Michael Gorman be appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2024-25 Municipal Year.

11 POLITICAL REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

Consideration was given to a report relating to the political representation on the Council's Committees.

The recommendation was moved and seconded.

RESOLVED:

That the committees set out in Appendix A to the report be appointed, with the same functions, roles and responsibilities as are currently set out in the Constitution; and that the political group and other representation, as set out in Appendix A 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.

12 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Consideration was given to the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Council's committees.

The Appendix to the report set out the nominated persons for Chair and Vice-Chair for each committee.

It was reported that the nomination for the Vice Chair of the Appointments Committee was Councillor Michael Gorman and not Councillor David Jefferay as stated in the Appendix.

The appointments for Chairs and Vice-Chairs were moved and seconded and put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED:

That the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair be allocated as detailed in the amended Appendix to the report.

13 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE: REVIEW OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Corporate Policy Committee in respect of the Review of the Committee Structure.

The Corporate Policy Committee, at its meeting on 21 March 2024, had considered the report and made recommendations to Council, as set out on page 45 of the agenda pack.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Scrutiny Committee be retained.
2. the functions of the School Governor Nomination Panel be delegated to the Executive Director of Children and Families in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Children and Families Committee.
3. the Cared for Children and Care Leavers Committee remain in place.
4. the General Appeals Sub-Committee remain in place.
5. the General Licensing Sub-Committee and Licensing Act Sub-Committee be amalgamated to form one sub-committee.
6. normally, only Directors, Regulatory or Statutory Officers (as required by good practice) should attend committee meetings.
7. working Groups and Boards be supported by the relevant service area and not Democratic Services.
8. reports “for noting” should not normally be placed on agendas, unless there is a statutory requirement to do so, or where they relate to Performance Monitoring, Finance, Risk or LGO complaints. Instead, they be placed on the Members’ Bulletin, stored on the Councillors hub and made available to the public on the Council’s Open Data and Transparency Webpage; and

9. the Director of Governance and Compliance be empowered to make any necessary changes to the Constitution to reflect the resolutions of full Council.

14 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Corporate Policy Committee in respect of the Review of the Committee Structure.

The Corporate Policy Committee, at its meeting on 21 March 2024, had considered the report and made recommendations to Council, as set out on page 59 of the agenda pack.

RESOLVED: That Council approve:

- 1 the amendments to the provisions regarding Notices of Motion in Chapter 3 Part 1 Section 1 of the Council's Constitution, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.
- 2 the amendments to the provisions regarding rescission of earlier resolution in Chapter 3 Part 1 Section 1 of the Council's Constitution, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.
- 3 the amendments to committee terms of reference for matters that cover more than one committee in Chapter 2 Part 2 of the Council's Constitution, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.
- 4 the amendments to the Rules of Debate for Motions and Amendments in Chapter 3 Part 1 Section 1 of the Council's Constitution, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.
- 5 the amendments to the application of the 3-day rule for Notices of Motion of in Chapter 3 Part 1 Section 2 the Council's Constitution as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.

15 RECOMMENDATION FROM HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE: A500 CREWE CORRIDOR APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE

Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Highways and Transport Committee in respect of the approval of a supplementary estimate relating to the A500 Crewe Corridor.

RESOLVED:

That Council approve a Supplementary Capital Estimate for £2.435m, to a new capital scheme in the MTFs titled 'A500 Corridor OBC Update' that is fully funded by the DfT to provide funding for the preparation of the Outline

Business Case Update for a revised scheme. This forms a change to the MTFs approved at Council on 27 February 2024.

16 RECOMMENDATION FROM CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE: HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND GRANT - APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE

Consideration was given to the recommendation of the Children and Families Committee in respect of the approval of a supplementary estimate relating to the Household Support Fund Grant.

RESOLVED:

That Council approve the supplementary estimate of £2.2m.

17 APPOINTMENTS TO CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY AND CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Consideration was given to a report inviting Council to make appointments to the Cheshire Fire Authority and the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel.

The nominations for the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel and the Cheshire Fire Authority were moved and seconded and put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 Councillors Steve Edgar, Rob Moreton and Judy Snowball be appointed to the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel, with Councillor Stewart Gardiner as nominated substitute.
- 2 Councillors Rachel Bailey, John Bird, David Brown, Peter Coan, Laura Crane, Nick Mannion, Margaret Simon, Geoff Smith and Mick Warren be appointed to the Cheshire Fire Authority.

18 APPOINTMENTS TO THE ADOPTION PANEL, THE FOSTERING PANEL AND THE CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report inviting Council to approve a number of appointments to Statutory Panels which did not fall within the definition of "Committee" for the purpose of legislation.

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Brain Puddicombe be appointed to the Adoption Panel and that Councillor Carol Bulman be appointed to the Fostering Panel.

The motion was put to the vote and was declared carried.

With regards to the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Joint Scrutiny Committee, It was reported that due to the political proportionality calculations across the Committee's nine authorities not yet having been confirmed, these appointments would be made by the Scrutiny Committee, as they had been in previous years. Council was therefore not being asked to make a decision on this matter.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 Councillor Brian Puddicombe be appointed to the Adoption Panel;
and
- 2 Councillor Carol Bulman be appointed to the Fostering Panel.
- 3 the appointments to the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Joint Scrutiny Committee be made by the Scrutiny Committee.

19 REPORTING OF URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Council received a schedule of an urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council, which was reported for information in accordance with the Council procedure rules.

RESOLVED:

That the schedule of the urgent decision be noted.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am and concluded at 3.03 pm

Councillor M Houston (Mayor/Chair)

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS**Proposal of the Labour Group and Independent Group****1. CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE**

- **Functions** - provide strategic direction to the operation of the Council by developing and recommending the Corporate Plan to full Council and making decisions on policies and practice where such decisions are not reserved to full Council
- Responsible for matters, not allocated to another committee which fall within the corporate directorate
- exercise any function of the Council not otherwise allocated; as well as the functions of all other Committees and Sub-Committees, particularly where plans, strategies or activities straddle a number of Committees
- Leader of the Council as Chair (Chapter 2, Part 4 of the Councils Constitution)

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair – Cllr Sam Corcoran	<i>Labour</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Michael Gorman	<i>Independent</i>	

2. ECONOMY & GROWTH COMMITTEE

Functions - responsible for developing policies and making decisions on matters relating to delivering inclusive and sustainable economic growth

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair - Cllr Michael Gorman	<i>Independent</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Nick Mannion	<i>Labour</i>	

3. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Functions - responsible for developing policies and making decisions on matters relating to highways and transport as they affect the area of the Council taking into account regional and national influences

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair - Cllr Mark Goldsmith	<i>Independent</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Laura Crane	<i>Labour</i>	

4. ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITIES

Functions- responsible for developing policies and making decisions on matters relating to the delivery of inclusive and sustainable growth, improving the quality of the environment and delivering improvement in key front line services

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair - Cllr Mick Warren	<i>Independent</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Dawn Clark	<i>Labour</i>	

5. CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Functions - responsible for those services which help keep children and young people safe and enable them to achieve their full potential. The responsibility incorporates matters in relation to schools and attainment, early help and family support and social care for children and families. The Committee will oversee the work of the Corporate Parenting Committee, which focuses on those children who are cared for by the local authority and for whom the Council has corporate parenting responsibility

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair – Cllr Carol Bulman	<i>Labour</i>	
Vice Chair - Cllr Emma Gilman	<i>Independent</i>	

6. ADULTS & HEALTH

Functions - responsible for the Council's communities, public health and adult social care services with a view to enabling all people to live fulfilling lives and to retain their independence. When discharging its functions the Committee shall recognise the necessity of promoting choice and independence.

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair – Cllr Jill Rhodes	<i>Labour</i>	
Vice Chair - Cllr Arthur Moran	<i>Independent</i>	

7. FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Functions - Co-ordinate the management and oversight of the Council's finances, performance and corporate risk management arrangements. Make recommendations to the Corporate Policy Committee regarding the development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the setting and monitoring of the Capital and Revenue Budgets in accordance with the Corporate Plan and the Policy Framework

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair - Cllr Nick Mannion	<i>Labour</i>	
Vice Chair - Cllr Lata Anderson	<i>Independent</i>	

8. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Functions - The discharge of the Council's responsibilities set out in section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006, section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006, and section 9JA and 9JB of the Local Government Act 2000 in relation to flood risk management

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair – Cllr Liz Wardlaw	<i>Conservative</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Rob Vernon	<i>Labour</i>	

9. AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- **Functions** - An independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards
- Independent review of the Council's governance, risk management, control frameworks and overseeing the financial reporting and annual governance processes
- Promoting high standards of ethical behaviour by developing, maintaining and monitoring Codes of Conduct for Councillors and co-opted Members (including other persons acting in a similar capacity)
- Overseeing internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place
- Reporting to Full Council on a regular basis on the Committee's performance and effectiveness.

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair – Cllr Michael Beanland	<i>Conservative</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Ken Edwards	<i>Labour</i>	

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD

- **Functions** - Oversee the division of the Council's Development Management functions and workload in order to ensure timely and consistent decision-making at the most appropriate level
- Exercise a consultation and advisory role, commenting upon the content of proposed planning policy and upon the effectiveness of existing policies employed in development control decisions.
- Exercise on behalf of the Council the function of final approval of the Area Action Plans, and any other document including a Site Allocation Policy, which form part of the Local Plan.

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair – Cllr Brian Puddicombe	<i>Labour</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Stewart Gardiner	<i>Conservative</i>	

11. NORTHERN PLANNING COMMITTEE

- **Functions** - Exercise the Council's functions relating to town and country planning and development control, the protection of important hedgerows, the preservation of trees and the regulation of high hedges, set out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities)(England) Regulations 2000. Some applications have been reserved to the Strategic Planning Board: others are delegated on to the Director of Planning.
- To determine other planning & development control matters in line with its terms of reference

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair - Cllr David Jefferay	<i>Independent</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Fiona Wilson	<i>Labour</i>	

12. SOUTHERN PLANNING COMMITTEE

- **Functions** - Exercise the Council's functions relating to town and country planning and development control, the protection of important hedgerows, the preservation of trees and the regulation of high hedges, set out in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities)(England) Regulations 2000. Some applications have been reserved to the Strategic Planning Board: others are delegated on to the Director of Planning.
- To determine other planning & development control matters in line with its terms of reference

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair – Cllr Joy Bratherton	<i>Labour</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Andrew Kolker	<i>Conservative</i>	

13. LICENSING COMMITTEE

Functions - The Licensing Committee is responsible for matters relating to the administration of licences which are determinable by the Council, including the delegation of functional responsibility to individual officers for determination of any application for Consents, Licences, Certificates, Permits or Registrations.

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair – Cllr Rob Moreton	<i>Independent</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Reg Kain	<i>Liberal Democrat</i>	

14. APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

- **Functions** - make or recommend senior appointments
- Excluding national agreements, to approve “in year” salary or other benefit increases to the Head of Paid Service provided that this is within the agreed annual pay policy
- Appeals against action short of dismissal from the three Designated Statutory Officers

	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Chair – Cllr Fiona Wilson	<i>Labour</i>	
Vice Chair – Cllr Michael Gorman	<i>Independent</i>	

Role of Chairs - [Job Description of Committee Chairs \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](http://cheshireeast.gov.uk)