

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Policy Committee**
held on Thursday, 15th June, 2023 in Committee Suite 1, 2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor S Corcoran (Chair)
Councillor C Browne (Vice-Chair)

Councillors C Bulman, D Clark, J Clowes, M Goldsmith, A Harrison,
N Mannion, C O'Leary, J Pearson, J Rhodes, J Saunders and M Warren

Other Members present

Councillors G Marshall, B Puddicombe and F Wilson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lorraine O'Donnell, Chief Executive
David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance
Alex Thompson, Director of Finance and Customer Services
Sarah Bullock, Director of Policy and Change
Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services and Governance
Paul Mountford, Democratic Services

The Chair began by paying tribute to the Committee's former Vice-Chair, Amanda Stott, for her service to the Committee. He then welcomed Councillor Craig Browne as the Committee's new Vice-Chair.

The Chair welcomed those members who had been newly-appointed to the Committee.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no public speakers.

4 **CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE BUDGETS 2023/24**

The Committee considered a report which set out the allocation of the approved budgets for 2023/24 to the Corporate Policy Committee. The financial alignment of budgets to each Committee was set out in Table 1 of the report, with further detail set out in Appendix A.

It was stressed that members were not being asked to set the budget, which had already been approved by Council, but to note the budget allocations made to the Committee by the Finance Sub-Committee.

Members asked that the budget timetable for 2023/24 include member workshops at an early stage of the process.

RESOLVED (by majority)

That the Corporate Policy Committee

1. notes the decision of the Finance Sub-Committee to allocate the approved revenue and capital budgets, related budget policy changes and earmarked reserves to the Corporate Policy Committee, as set out in Appendix A to the report; and
2. notes the financial reporting timetable for 2023/24 set out in Appendix B as approved by the Finance Sub-Committee on 7 June.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 2.34, the following members asked that the minutes of the meeting record that they voted against the motion:

Councillor J Clowes
Councillor A Harrison
Councillor C O'Leary
Councillor J Pearson
Councillor J Saunders

5 **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, PANELS, BOARDS AND JOINT COMMITTEES**

The Committee considered a report on appointments to sub-committees, working groups, panels, boards and joint committees for the 2023-24 municipal year.

A list of nominations submitted by the political groups was circulated at the meeting.

The Chair informed the Committee that the Children and Families Committee, at its meeting on 5th June 2023, had agreed to nominate one Member to the Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Committee's Chair, Councillor C Bulman, had been nominated.

Councillor J Clowes advised that the Conservative Group had withdrawn a nomination in respect of the Joint Extra Care Housing Management Board. She also advised of a change of nominee for the Joint Scrutiny Member Task Group.

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the Corporate Policy Committee

1. agrees the appointments to sub-committees, working groups, panels, boards and joint committees for 2023-24 as follows:

Constitution Working Group (6 members) (2:2:2:0)

Councillor J Clowes
Councillor L Crane
Councillor K Edwards
Councillor D Jefferay
Councillor C O'Leary
Councillor M Warren

Staffing Appeals Sub-Committee (pool of 10) (4:4:2:0)

Councillor L Anderson
Councillor R Bailey
Councillor D Clark
Councillor N Cook
Councillor E Hall
Councillor C Naismith
Councillor J Pratt
Councillor G Smith
Councillor L Wardlaw
Councillor F Wilson

General Appeals Sub-Committee (pool of 10) (4:4:2:0)

Councillor R Bailey
Councillor S Bennett-Wake
Councillor T Dean
Councillor S Edgar
Councillor H Faddes
Councillor E Gilman
Councillor R Moreton
Councillor C Naismith
Councillor B Puddicombe
Councillor L Smetham

Shared Services Joint Committee (3 members) (1:1:1:0)

Councillor J Bird
Councillor P Redstone
Councillor J Rhodes

Joint Member Scrutiny Task Group (3 members) (1:1:1:0)

Councillor B Drake

Councillor A Moran

Councillor J Pearson

Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board (1 member)

Councillor S Corcoran

Joint Extra Care Housing Management Board (1 member)

Councillor N Mannion

Cheshire East Health and Care Partnership Board (3 members)

Councillor J Clowes

Councillor A Moran

Councillor J Rhodes

2. notes the terms of reference of the bodies referred to in the report.

6 REVIEW OF OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS FOR 2023

The Committee considered a report setting out the recommendations of the Outside Organisations Panel on a revised procedure for making appointments to outside organisations.

The Chair of the Outside Organisations Panel, Councillor M Warren, placed on record his thanks to those Democratic Services officers who had supported the work of the Panel.

Members felt that the Manchester Airport Consultative Committee and the University of Manchester, which the Panel had designated as local bodies to be withdrawn from the formal appointments process, were strategically important bodies and should therefore be retained on the list of bodies for formal appointment. Members also felt that all liaison bodies associated with active quarries in the Borough, and the North West Reserve Forces and Cadets Association, should be included on the list for formal appointment.

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the Committee agrees the recommendations of the Outside Organisations Panel, as amended, as follows:

1. The organisations set out in the local list appended to the Outside Organisations Panel report, be removed from the formal appointments to outside organisations procedure, and that a communications plan be developed to assist with this transition.
2. The organisations set out in the statutory list appended to the Outside Organisations Panel report be retained as requiring a formal appointment.

3. Subject to the amendment in resolution 4 below, the organisations set out in the retained list (of corporate importance), appended to the Outside Organisations Panel report, be retained as requiring a formal appointment, subject also to the addition of the following body to the retained list:
 - North West Reserve Forces and Cadets Association
4. The organisations set out in the 'organisations to be removed' list and the 'alternative representation list' in the Outside Organisations Panel report, be removed from the procedure for the reasons stated, except that the following organisations be moved to the retained list of bodies of corporate importance requiring formal appointment:
 - Manchester Airport Consultative Committee
 - University of Manchester
 - all liaison bodies associated with active quarries in the Borough
5. The organisation set out in the 'organisations to be added' list in the Outside Organisations Panel report, be included in the statutory list.
6. Subject to each organisation's confidentiality arrangements, a communications plan be developed to enable Member nominees to feedback information to the Council, to enable issues of importance or interest to be discussed. Democratic Services officers to identify key service department officer contacts for each nominated member; officers to then determine whether this would give rise to a report on a formal decision to a service committee, action by the officer under delegated powers, or issues of wider Council importance to be brought to the attention of Members via the Members' Bulletin.
7. Remuneration received by Members appointed to the Peak District National Park Authority, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Cheshire Police and Crime Panel and the Council's wholly-owned companies (ASDVs) be recorded as part of the published annual Record of Members' Allowances.
8. The Councillor's Guide to Outside Organisations be reviewed and refreshed to (i) reflect the new governance and procedural arrangements; and (ii) ensure that the Council can minimise risk and protect the interests of itself and the Members who represent it on outside organisations.
9. At the Annual Council meeting held in May each year, Council will formally agree the nominations to the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel, Cheshire Fire Authority, Fostering Panel and Adoption Panel for a four-year period, due to the scheduling of these meetings.

10. At the Corporate Policy Committee's July meeting, the Committee will formally agree the nominations to those organisations which have been retained on the Council's formal list of organisations (2 and 3 above) onto which it nominates Members, taking into account the new membership of the Council.

11. Nominations made to these organisations will have a duration of 4 years from the July meeting of the Committee.

7 TARGETED REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Committee considered a report on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of a targeted review of Members' Allowances in 2022. The report also proposed that the Panel be invited to undertake a full review of allowances in 2023/2024.

In response to a question by members regarding the impact of the Panel's recommendations on the Council's budget, the Director of Finance and Customer Services advised that funding had been brought forward to cover the cost.

RESOLVED (by majority)

That, having considered the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, the Committee recommends to Council that:

1. civic payments should remain at their current levels (Mayor £14,000 and Deputy Mayor £5,600);
2. from 2023, civic payments should be subjected to the same uprating which may be applied to members' allowances;
3. special responsibility allowance (SRA) for the Chair of scrutiny committee should remain at £7,650;
4. in respect of the draft Parental Leave Policy for Councillors, basic allowance should continue to be paid to an elected Member during any period of parental leave;
5. in respect of the draft Parental Leave Policy for Councillors; special responsibility allowance payable to the elected Member during any period of parental leave should be discontinued and transferred to the Councillor who is undertaking the special responsibility in question;
6. basic allowance should be increased by a flat rate of £500 and applied retrospectively for 2022-2023;
7. special responsibility allowances (to include Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Scrutiny Chair) should be increased by 4.04% and applied retrospectively for 2022-2023; and

8. a full review of the Members' Scheme of Allowances should be undertaken by the new Independent Remuneration Panel, following its appointment by Council on 16 October 2023.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 2.34, Councillor A Harrison asked that the minutes of the meeting record that he voted against the motion.

8 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM

The Committee considered a report which made recommendations for changes to the Constitution in relation to the rules of debate and notices of motion, and recommendations for Council to consider as improvements to the future functionality of the committee system. The report had been considered by the previous Constitution Working Group.

Councillor B Puddicombe, Chair of the Strategic Planning Board, and Councillor F Wilson, Vice-Chair of the Northern Planning Committee, spoke as visiting members in relation to the proposed changes to the planning committees, stating that in their view the case for the proposed changes had not been made.

Jane Gowing, Interim Director of Planning and Peter Hooley, Planning and Enforcement Manager attended the meeting for this item and responded to members' questions regarding the proposed changes to the planning committees. They advised that the proposed changes would achieve savings in officer time and administration.

RESOLVED (by majority)

That Council be recommended to

1. approve the amendments to the Constitution as attached at Appendix 1 to the report;
2. agree that the Public Rights of Way Sub-Committee functions be incorporated into the functions of the Highways and Transport Committee as shown in Appendix 2;
3. agree to realign the Planning Committees from 3 to 2, with responsibilities as set out in Appendix 2;
4. delegate to the Monitoring Officer, the power to make such consequential changes to the Council's Constitution as he deems necessary to give effect to the wishes of Council; and
5. note the savings in relation to venues for meetings and printing and postage of agendas.

9 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its work programme for 2023-24.

The Chair informed the Committee that it had been necessary to move the next scheduled meeting from 6th to 11th July at 10.00 am to enable the Chair and Vice-Chair to attend the LGA Conference being held on 4th-6th July. It was understood that the Economy and Growth Committee meeting had been moved from 11th July to 10th July at 10.00 am to accommodate the change.

RESOLVED

That

1. the work programme for 2023-24 be approved; and
2. the change of date of the July meeting be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.16 pm

Councillor S Corcoran (Chair)