

CHESHIRE EAST

Cabinet

Date of meeting: 12 August 2008
Report of: Policy Support Team
Title: Progress Reporting Paper

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide Members with an update on the programme; to draw attention to progress made against key milestones and highlight what the next steps will be for the forthcoming months.

2.0 Decisions Required

The Cheshire East Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 note progress made during July (appendix 1);
- 2.2 acknowledge revised milestones (as listed at the end of appendix 1);
- 2.3 recognise activities to be undertaken throughout August and September (appendix 2)

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 None

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 None

5.0 Risk Assessment

- 5.1 All milestones should be considered against the full Risk Register.

6.0 Background - Appendix 1: Progress during July and Revised Milestones

- 6.1 Appendix 1 sets out the key milestones, as taken from the High Level Implementation Plan, which were due for completion in July. The status of each milestone and a brief description of what has been achieved can be found here.
- 6.2 Also listed at the end of appendix 1 is a table that contains details of revised milestones.

7.0 Options - Appendix 2: Next Steps

- 7.1 Appendix 2 highlights the key milestones to be achieved in August and September.

8.0 Appendix 3 – Milestone Plan

- 8.1 Appendix 3 provides a visual representation of progress to date in the form of a Milestone Plan.

9.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 9.1 Members of the Cabinet are invited to comment on:
- achievements to date; and
 - activities that need to be undertaken throughout August and September

For further information:-

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Background Documents:-

Documents are available for inspection at:

Member Support Team, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, CW11 1HZ

PROGRESS DURING JULY

Listed below are a number of key milestones that were due to be completed in July. The status of each milestone and a brief summary of what has been achieved can be found in the paragraphs following the table. **(Benefit Critical Milestones appear in bold text)**

JULY	
Overall Programme	1.1 Chief Executive Appointment 1.2 Organisational Design Principles and Management Structure 1.3 Service Delivery Model – Aggregation / Disaggregation recommendations
People	1.4 SEN and Inclusion decision 1.5 Business Support Reviews
Places	1.6 Waste disposal and collection issues paper 1.7 Alderley Edge By Pass contract
Performance & Capacity	1.8 Area and Neighbourhood Working – consultation with the wider community commences 1.9 Decision on Shared Service
HR	1.10 Severance Report
Finance & Asset Management	1.11 Financial Cost Envelope 2009/10 (and beyond) included Dedicated Schools Grant and other funding streams 1.12 Disaggregation of County Budget, Assets and Liabilities and Formula Grant

1.1 Chief Executive Appointment - COMPLETE

On Thursday 24th July Members of the Staffing Committee met to carry out final interviews for the Chief Executive post for Cheshire East. The successful candidate was ratified at the Shadow Council Meeting on 30 July.

1.2 Organisational Design Principles and Management Structure - COMPLETE

The Organisational Design Principles and top management structure have both been to Cheshire East Cabinet.

1.3 Service Delivery Model – Aggregation / Disaggregation recommendations – IN PROGRESS

As a result of the baselining exercise, 617 service delivery functions were identified across all seven Authorities. For the overwhelming majority of these functions, operational and/or strategic factors clearly determined that the functions should be delivered as separate units for the East and West Unitaries. However, for approximately 60 functions the future service delivery model was less certain.

These 60 functions were subject to objective assessments against each potential service delivery model before the outcomes were reported to Members of the Joint Liaison Committee (JLC) on 1st August for their consideration. The outcomes fell into three broad categories:

- Functions Recommended to be Disaggregated (East and West split)
- Transition Arrangements (temporary arrangements recommended pending longer term solution e.g. school related services requiring alignment with the academic year, consultation periods etc)
- Functions Recommended for Aggregation (recommendations to retain a single pan-Cheshire service)

Members of the Cabinet are being requested to endorse these arrangements following their consideration at the JLC on 1st August.

1.4 SEN and Inclusion decision - COMPLETE

The Joint JIT agreed in principle to retain the current Inclusion and Education arrangements until the new academic year commences in September 2009 when the service will be disaggregated. This approach would ensure continuity of monitoring, support, challenge and intervention for the academic year without disruption to schools. Members of the Cabinet will be requested to endorse this arrangement once it has been through the JLC on 1st August.

1.5 Business Support Reviews - COMPLETE

An agreement was reached at the last Joint JIT meeting on the future business support services for schools. It was agreed that existing service provision arrangements would remain until September 2009 when the Service would be disaggregated to coincide with the division of the Inclusion and Education Service. Again this forms part of the Shared Services report to the JLC on 1st August.

1.6 Waste disposal and collection issues paper - COMPLETE

At the Cabinet meeting on 17 July the County Waste and Planning Manager highlighted a number of key waste disposal issues which, with a few minor amendments were approved by Members.

1.7 Alderley Edge By Pass contract - COMPLETE

At a previous Cabinet meeting a report was put before Members detailing progress made on the A34 Alderley Edge and Nether Alderley By Pass. At the meeting it was agreed that consent be given to Cheshire County Council to enter into contracts for the main road/bridge works, Network Rail underbridge and other associated works. Members also confirmed that Cheshire East Council would oversee the contract by means of appointment of relevant personnel after 31 March 2009. The Lead Officer for the Joint Implementation Team was granted permission by the Cabinet to send the appropriate assurance letter to the Department for Transport. Approval was received from DfT at the end of July for this scheme. The Contractor (Birse Civils) was formally advised of this the following week, ahead of preparation and signing of the formal contract.

1.8 Area and Neighbourhood Working – consultation with the wider community commences – IN PROGRESS

Consultation with the wider community on area and neighbourhood working has been progressing well. Cllr David Brown, portfolio holder for Performance & Capacity, has been having regular officer and Member briefings to discuss this item with a view to reporting back to Cabinet in September.

1.9 Decision on Shared Services – IN PROGRESS

On 1 August the JLC were presented with a paper on Shared Services where Members were asked to note the six key principles underpinning Shared Services; consider the three governance models and support the constitutional model as the primary governance mechanism for Cheshire; and acknowledge the functions identified as potential candidates for a short-term shared service and pan-Cheshire service. In addition, approval was sought to commission further independent work to address the issues of the shared back office. The paper will be put before Cabinet Members in August for their consideration then the final, amended paper will be reported back to the Cabinet in October.

1.10 Severance Report - COMPLETE

The Cabinet in Cheshire East and the Executive in Cheshire West and Chester agreed to recommend to their respective Councils that common severance provisions be adopted to apply if an employee is redundant.

The report was then approved by Cheshire East Council on 30 July for Member approval.

1.11 Financial Cost Envelope 2009/10 (and beyond) included Dedicated Schools Grant and other funding streams – IN PROGRESS

Work is on-going in accordance with the high level process and timetable agreed by the Cheshire East Cabinet on 16 June. Key to determining the financial envelope is information from DCLG and other government departments on the future allocation of formula and specific grant. A report to

Cabinet on 17 July set out the process and timetable for this work and proposed delegated arrangements to allow local agreement to be progressed in accordance with central government deadlines. A briefing for members and service block leads on the emerging financial scenario position has been arranged for 13 August.

1.12 Disaggregation of County Budget, Assets and Liabilities and Formula Grant – IN PROGRESS

Preliminary discussions have been held with the interim Section 151 officers on the assets and liabilities of the County Council and significant progress has been made in moving forward disaggregation; DCLG have published regulations that set a deadline for this task of 30 September. Furthermore work on formula grant now awaits information from DCLG on their view of the appropriate shares of the County's grant allocation; detailed work has been carried out on each of many specific grants and again these have been discussed with the interim S151 Officers. There is further work on each of the above tasks.

The revenue budget disaggregation work is almost complete and agreed.

2.0 REVISED MILESTONES

The deadlines of the following milestones have been proposed following discussions with Members and the relevant Lead Officers. Amended dates have been reflected in the High Level Implementation Plan and Milestone Plan.

Human Resources			
Milestone	<i>Original Deadline</i>	<i>Revised Deadline</i>	<i>Lead Officer</i>
Chief Executive in Post	<i>December 2008</i>	October 2008	Trish Barnett
Commence Recruitment of Statutory Officers	<i>August 2008</i>	September 2008	Trish Barnett

NEXT STEPS

The following milestones have been grouped under the relevant Block, Joint Transitional Project or Overall Programme and are to take place throughout August and September.

AUGUST	
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ School Admissions Forums to be created ▪ Recommend the Shadow Authority to agree the approach being taken to redesigning Social Care
HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Principles for aggregation / disaggregation of staff
Finance & Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medium Term Financial Strategy Report / Update ▪ Agreement on assets to be transferred to the successor Authorities

SEPTEMBER	
Overall Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commence recruitment process for Section 151 and Monitoring Officers
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agree approach to fair funding formula for schools (including any further delegation) ▪ School Governors reappointing ▪ Frame proposals for the structure and organisation of Older People and Adult Social Care Services (incl. front end of service)
Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LDF Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement
Performance & Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area and Neighbourhood Working – consultation with the wider community commences ▪ Draft Sustainable Community Strategy
HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High level organisational structures agreed ▪ Staff retention scheme considered ▪ Flexible and Mobile Working principles agreed ▪ Culture & Values of new Council
Finance & Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement Financial Ledger for modelling