

CHESHIRE EAST

Cabinet

Date of meeting: 8 September 2008
Report of: Leader
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 August (appendix 1);
- 2.2 recognise activities to be undertaken throughout September and October (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 high level Risk Matrix.

6.0 Background - Appendix 1: Progress during August

- 6.1 Appendix 1 sets out the key milestones, as taken from the High Level Implementation Plan, which were due for completion in August. The status of each milestone and a brief description of what has been achieved can be found here.

7.0 Options - Appendix 2: Next Steps

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

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 September and October

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 AUGUST

Listed below are a number of key milestones that were due to be completed in August. The status of each milestone and a brief summary of what has been achieved can be found in the paragraphs following the table.

AUGUST	
People	1.1 School Admissions Forums to be created 1.2 Recommend the Shadow Authority to agree the approach being taken to redesigning Social Care
Performance & Capacity	1.3 Area & Neighbourhood Working – consultation with wider community commences
HR	1.4 Principles for aggregation / disaggregation of staff
Finance & Asset Management	1.5 Medium Term Financial Strategy Report / Update 1.6 Agreement on assets to be transferred to the successor Authorities

1.1 School Admissions Forums to be created – IN PROGRESS

On 12 August, Members of Cheshire East Cabinet approved the continuation of the existing process relating to admissions and appeals for September 2009 intake. The admissions team would then be disaggregated on a phased basis from September 2009.

Approval was also given to the County Council to commence the formulation of the September 2010 policy and the statutory consultation process, to be completed by March 2010.

The establishment of two separate Admissions Forums from Autumn 2008 was supported by Members. This would allow each Local Authority to be advised on issues and policies relating to its local area and local schools.

The County Council will begin drawing up proposals in liaison with the existing Admissions Forum for the relevant area(s), which will be subject to a 30-day consultation period prior to determination.

1.2 Recommend the Shadow Authority to agree the approach being taken to redesigning Social Care – IN PROGRESS

At the Cabinet meeting back in June, Members considered and endorsed a report by the Chairman of the Cheshire East People Workstream on the Government's plans to develop personalisation and to transform adult social care services.

Work is ongoing on the redesign of Social Care Services with the portfolio holder for this area fully engaged in the process.

1.3 Area & Neighbourhood Working – consultation with wider community commences – IN PROGRESS

Work is underway on the consultation with the community on Area & Neighbourhood working.

It is also worth noting that a draft interim Sustainable Community Strategy for Cheshire East has been produced along with a matrix of current priorities and targets as expressed within the existing four strategies across Cheshire East. The consolidated Strategy is being considered by Cabinet on 8 September for approval by Council in October following stakeholder consultation.

1.4 Principles of aggregation / disaggregation of staff - COMPLETE

At the Cabinet meeting on 12 August it was agreed that the proposed approach to aggregate and disaggregate the workforce of the existing seven authorities be supported and that consideration of any further issues be delegated to the Staffing Committee.

1.5 Medium Term Financial Strategy Report / Update – IN PROGRESS

Work is progressing with the Medium Term Financial Strategy. A Block Lead Budget session was held in August involving representatives of the Cabinet, Block Leads and Finance Leads. The outcome of the meeting was to set the content of the financial scenario as it currently stands and to agree the process and timetable for setting the budget for 2009/10.

Block Leads are now undertaking an exercise to identify priority areas for policy and budgets proposals, with a view to feeding back to Members in October.

1.6 Agreement on assets to be transferred to the successor Authorities – IN PROGRESS

Work is in progress to meet the DCLG deadline of 30 September 2008 but clarity is being sought from DCLG on their precise requirements. The final version of the regulations has recently been issued and this may allow some local discretion over the timetable.

The key areas of work are around the Balance Sheet disaggregation specifically:

- Assets (Land and Buildings)
- Loan Debt; and
- Balances and Reserves

NEXT STEPS

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

SEPTEMBER	
Overall Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence recruitment process for Tier 3 Officers Recruitment of Tier 2 Strategic Directors (if internal)
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 – this has now been removed until we understand how this needs to progress (may not be a Shadow Authority issue)
Finance & Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Financial Ledger for modelling

OCTOBER	
Overall Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Executive in post Recruitment of Tier 2 Strategic Directors (if external)
HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible and Mobile Working - transitional approach Detriment Scheme Relocation Expenses Scheme
Finance & Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium term Financial Strategy update