

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Local Service Delivery Committee (Macclesfield)

held on Friday, 25th November, 2011 at Macclesfield Library - Macclesfield

PRESENT

Councillor D Druce, Chairman

Councillors C Andrew, L Brown, K Edwards, A Harewood and M Hardy

Participating/Local Ward Members

Councillors J Jackson, B Murphy and D Neilson.

In attendance

Councillors H Murray, W Livesley, L Smetham,

Officers in attendance

Vivienne Quayle – Head of Performance and Capacity

Chris Allman - Project Manager East

Paul Goodwin - Finance Lead Places

Mark Wheelton – Leisure Services and Greenspace Manager

John Leach – Market Manager

Rob McGarry – Streetscape and Technical Support Manager

George Broughton – Parks Development Manager

Apologies

Councillor Jeuda

15 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting. However, Cllr Edwards declared a personal and prejudicial interest at minute 19, by virtue of being a member of Bollington Town Council, when discussion took place regarding the role of the Town Centre Manager and left the room during consideration of the matter.

17 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

Honorary Alderman, Norman Edwards attended the meeting and used public speaking time to highlight problems regarding accessibility by electric scooters, provided for people with disabilities, in Macclesfield Town Centre and on the Middlewood Way. He referred to the former Macclesfield Borough Council Access Panel, which had dealt with such issues and suggested that a similar Panel/Committee be introduced by Cheshire East Council.

The Committee agreed to pass this request to the appropriate body within the Council for consideration.

Mr Bob Toms used public speaking time to express concern regarding the introduction of a second tax on the people of Macclesfield, to pay for local facilities and questioned how many local people were aware of the possibility of a special levy being introduced. He considered that the residents of Macclesfield would be paying twice for the facilities. He also asked why there was not a Town Council for Macclesfield and commented that the Local Service Delivery Committee members were selected, rather than elected.

18 PRINCIPLES OF LOCALISM

A discussion took place on the merits of working locally, what this meant in Cheshire East and how the Local Delivery Committee could support this process. As part of this discussion attendees gave views on special expenses levy, the particular situation in Macclesfield and the desire to make sure that solutions were appropriate for the local area. The membership of the local service delivery committee was discussed as well as the influence that the Committee could have in the future.

19 LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY - TRANSFER AND DEVOLUTION

At the previous meeting of the Committee, Members had requested some additional information to help inform their recommendations to Cabinet on the level of service and related budgets they wished to see continue to be provided in the unparished area of Macclesfield.

This information was now been provided, together with a summary of the 2012/13 budget for Macclesfield, including individual service budgets and a breakdown of support services charges.

The Committee made recommendations to Cabinet in respect of each of the areas under consideration as follows :-

Allotments

RESOLVED

That Cabinet be informed that the Committee does not feel it is appropriate for these costs to be included in a special expenses levy, as they are a statutory duty of the lowest level of government, this being Cheshire East Council.

(Councillor Edwards abstained from voting).

Senior Citizens Hall

It was noted that, at the previous meeting of the Committee, it had been questioned whether this item should be considered, when the hall fell within the Macclesfield Town Centre Development area.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet be informed that that the Committee does not feel it is appropriate for these costs to be included in a special expenses levy, at this point in time, when the status of the hall is uncertain. The Committee may wish to reconsider its position when the hall's status becomes more certain.

(Councillor Edwards abstained from voting).

Weston Community Centre

Concern was expressed regarding the condition of the Centre and it was felt that it needed to be brought up to a reasonable standard. It was also considered that the library room, situated within the Centre, was a vital cultural resource for the community and should be retained and that any future proposals relating to the library should be brought back to the Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet be recommended to defer the decision in respect of the Weston Community Centre, until such a time as the Centre is brought up to a reasonable standard and that the position regarding the library be the subject of further discussion.

(Councillor Edwards abstained from voting).

Markets

Further information was requested, for consideration at the next meeting, to include a budget forecast for the next five years for the indoor and outdoor markets, including an analysis with regard to assets and clarification regarding the figure relating to service management and support services for the markets. It was also suggested that the Council should review and reduce the figures in respect of overtime, as part of its harmonisation of terms and conditions.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet be informed that the Committee is minded to make a recommendation to accept that it is appropriate for these costs to be included in a special expenses levy, on condition that a five year forecast for the indoor and outdoor markets is provided for the next meeting of the Committee, to include an analysis with regard to assets; and that Cheshire East Council reviews and reduces the figures in respect of overtime, as part of its harmonisation of terms and conditions.

(Councillor Edwards abstained from voting).

Town Centre Management

(Councillor Edwards had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter and left the room during its consideration).

RESOLVED

That Cabinet be informed that the Committee would wish to include this area in any special expenses levy and that the Committee would like to have an input

into the job description for the Town Centre Manager and have influence over their job role and accountability.

(Councillor Edwards returned to the meeting).

Christmas Lights

A detailed breakdown of the Council's budget provision of £20,000 was requested.

RESOLVED

That a detailed breakdown of the following year's costs, including the Christmas tree and decorations be provided, for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

(Councillor Edwards abstained from voting).

Public Conveniences

At the previous meeting of the Committee it had been suggested that consideration be given to closing of the existing public conveniences and paying an amount of money to suitable local retailers, to enable use of their toilets by the public.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet be informed that the Committee recommends that the possibility/feasibility of engaging local retailers to provide toilet facilities for the public be explored, including provision for the disabled, to replace the two current sites and accepts that the Committee would be responsible for any associated costs.

(Councillor Edwards abstained from voting).

Floral Displays

It was noted that the figures relating to floral displays included baskets, troughs, planters and tubs, but excluded flowerbeds. A detailed breakdown of the costs was requested for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

That a detailed breakdown of the costs be provided for the next meeting.

20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place, at 9.15am on Monday 19 December 2011, at Macclesfield Library.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 1.15 pm

Councillor D Druce (Chairman)