

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet**
held on Monday, 23rd July, 2012 at The Capesthorne Room - Town Hall,
Macclesfield SK10 1EA

PRESENT

Councillor M Jones (Chairman)
Councillor D Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Rachel Bailey, J Clowes, H Gaddum, L Gilbert, J Macrae,
R Menlove, B Moran and P Raynes

Councillors in attendance:

C Andrews, Rhoda Bailey, G Baxendale, K Edwards, P Findlow, D Flude,
Gardiner, P Groves, B Livesley, P Mason, A Moran, L Smetham, M Simon and
A Thwaite

Apologies for absence were noted from Councillor Boston in respect of Item
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Officers in attendance:

Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer; Director of Finance and Business
Services; Head of HR and Organisational Development; Strategic Director,
Places and Organisational Capacity.

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

22 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

Charlotte Peters Rock, Knutsford Area for Knutsford Action (KAFKA) and
Cheshire Area for Cheshire Action repeated previous requests for the
Council to take action in a number of areas. In particular she raised
concerns about the way in which the Council undertook different
consultations within the Cheshire East area.

Charlotte Peters Rock also repeated her concerns that the former portfolio
holder for Adult Services had been appointed as the Vice Chairman of the
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2012 be approved as a correct record.

24 KEY DECISION THE HOUSING CHALLENGE

Consideration was given to a report outlining the current position regarding overall housing provision and delivery across Cheshire East. It provided an overview of the current interventions that Cheshire East Council was making to contribute to both affordable and market housing delivery to address the shortfall in housing supply.

The report gave statistical and financial information and identified measures to stimulate delivery and requested specific approval for an allocation of £6m capital resources currently in the capital programme for 2012/13 – 2015/6.

RESOLVED

1. That the current position regarding overall housing provision and delivery across Cheshire East be noted and the programme of intervention to stimulate delivery be endorsed.
2. That the qualifying criteria and the process outlined within Appendix 1 to allocate the Housing Capital Programme for 2012-15 be approved.
3. That consent be given for the identification of further sites for affordable housing to support Phase 2 of the Affordable Housing programme and deliver a five year development programme.
4. That approval be given to undertake that further work to explore new partnership working initiatives including:
 - i) Providing financial mechanisms to housing partners in order to enable them to have the financial capacity to deliver the level of affordable homes required across the authority.
 - ii) Working with Registered Providers in order to bring forward an additional supply of affordable housing or intermediate products.

5. A further report be presented to Cabinet during Summer 2012/13 with Phase 2 of our Affordable Housing Delivery Programme within the overall Housing Challenge Programme Framework

25 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2011/2012

Consideration was given to the performance of the Council's treasury management operation, including details of the activities undertaken during 2011-2012, for Cheshire East Borough Council.

RESOLVED

That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2011-20112, as detailed in Appendix A of the report be received.

26 FINAL OUTTURN PERFORMANCE 2011/2012

Consideration was given to the Council's financial and non-financial performance at the final outturn stage of 2011/12 with each Portfolio Holder providing a commentary on the key issues in their areas of responsibility. The views of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on this report were also submitted.

RESOLVED

1. That the following financial issues be noted
 - the overall financial stability of the Council, including Grants, in-year collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates, Treasury Management, and centrally held budgets (Annex 1);
 - the impact on the Council's general reserves position as detailed in Annex 1;
 - the final service revenue and capital outturn positions (Annex 2);
 - the Council's invoiced debt position as shown in Annex 2;
 - the delivery of the 2011-2012 capital programme, detailed in Annex 2 and Appendix 1;
 - Reductions to approved capital budgets, as shown in Annex 2, Appendix 3.
2. That the performance issues, contained in Annex 3: be noted and that successes achieved during 2011/2012 be welcomed
3. That approval be given to:
 - Supplementary Capital Estimates and virement requests over £100,000 and up to and including £1,000,000 as shown in Annex 2, Appendix 2a.

- Supplementary Capital Estimate and virement requests over £1,000,000 as shown in Annex 2, Appendix 2b.

27 BUSINESS PLANNING PROCESS 2013/2016

Consideration was given to the Council's Business Planning Process for 2013/2016 onwards. The Council would review and revise the Business Plan approved in February 2012. This would enable the Council to maintain a clear link between what the Council wanted to achieve and the allocation of limited resources.

The outcome of the process would be the production of a revised Business Plan, in February 2013, to set the Council's ambitions, Budget and Council Tax.

RESOLVED

That the Business Planning Process to develop a Business Plan for 2013/2016 be approved.

28 ADDRESSING THE ACCOMMODATION NEEDS OF GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

Consideration was given to the requirements of the Housing Act 2004 to undertake regular assessments of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers either living in, or travelling through the area. It also requires the Council to include the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in any housing strategy that it produces and to take any such strategy into account in exercising their functions.

The level of need for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson accommodation within Cheshire East has been identified through the Cheshire Partnership Area Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and Related Services Assessment (GTAA), published in January 2007.

Through the Local Plan the Council would identify a target for the provision of Gypsy and Travellers Pitches and Travelling Showpeoples plots for the Plan period based on identified need.

It was recommended that an Interim approach be adopted that would

- Set up a temporary stopping place to alleviate the issue of unauthorised encampments on both public and private land.
- Update the sub regional Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) with our partners
- Commission a study to identify both transit & permanent residential sites; this would involve the agreement of site criteria for the provision & a call for sites.

- Council to explore the extension of affordable housing policy to include the use of s106/commuted funds to deliver permanent residential sites.
- Investigate the possibility of establishing a joint venture company/strategic partnership between the council and its Registered Provider partners to identify develop and manage future provision.

RESOLVED

1. That the current position be acknowledged
2. That approval be given to the 'Addressing the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies and Travellers Policy' and the interim actions set out above
3. That approval be given to a site search and suitable appraisal process for both permanent residential and transit sites
4. To approve a site search for a temporary stopping place based on the evidence from encampment locations

29 CARBON MANAGEMENT ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a monitoring report on the Cheshire East Carbon Management Plan. The Plan identified a range of projects to be developed over the five year period to achieve a 25% reduction in our energy consumption from the 2008/09 baseline. Since the publication of the plan the Council had achieved a saving of 3303 tonnes of CO2 and there had been good progress in implementing the 55 identified projects.

RESOLVED

That the Monitoring Report be approved.

30 SCRUTINY REVIEW - RESIDENTIAL PROVISION WITHIN CHESHIRE EAST

Consideration was given to the final report of the Task and Finish Group who conducted a Scrutiny Review of Residential Provision.

RESOLVED

That the report be received and the Health and Adult Social Care Portfolio Holder undertake to come back to a future meeting of Cabinet with a formal response to each recommendation.

31 NOTICE OF MOTION - CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND CONSERVATION OF WAR MEMORIALS

At the meeting of the Council on 23rd February 2013 Councillors D Flude and C Thorley had submitted a Notice of Motion seeking confirmation that any Council owned war memorials were being conserved to the high standard the public would expect.

Consideration was given to a report setting out the responsibilities of the Council and the work that was being undertaken to ensure that any memorials that were the responsibility were being maintained. The report proposed that the Council work with Town and Parish Councils to establish on going ownership and responsibilities and that consideration be given to events to mark the centenary of World War 1 in 2014.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations as set out in the report be approved

32 NOTICE OF MOTION - RESPONDING TO ELECTED MEMBER ENQUIRIES

At the meeting of the Council on 19th April 2012 Councillor G Boston had submitted a Notice of Motion asking the Council to adopt a policy of responding to elected member enquiries in two working days.

Consideration was given to a report on this matter. The Member/Officer relations Protocol stated that Officers should respond to enquiries and complaints in accordance with the Council's standards. Details of the Council's Customer Charter were given.

RESOLVED

That the Motion be rejected but that the Council adopt a policy whereby officers will acknowledge emails and correspondence in two days indicating who will be dealing with the matter.

33 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

34 MANAGING WORKFORCE CHANGE

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet supports the decision of the Corporate Management Team to release the employees whose roles are listed in Appendix A of the report under the arrangements agreed in relation to voluntary severance provisions for employees in the Council.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.40 pm

Signed by.....

Councillor M Jones (Chairman)