

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Advisory Panel - Places**
held on Tuesday, 16th December, 2008 at The Capesthorne Room - Town
Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1DX

PRESENT

Councillor G M Walton (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs E Gilliland (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D Bebbington, H Davenport, D Hough, J Macrae, B Moran,
D Neilson, B Silvester and R West

Apologies

Councillors D Brickhill, A Moran, C Thorley and Mrs J Weatherill

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A number of Councillors who were existing County Councillors, Borough Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors declared a personal interest in the business of the meeting en bloc.

Councillor R West declared a personal interest in the item relating to Cheshire Home Choice Common Allocations Policy, by virtue of the fact that he was a Director of the Cheshire Peaks & Plains Housing Trust.

13 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the Panel.

14 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes be approved as a correct record subject to an addition to Minute 2 to state that Councillor Barry Moran was the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development for Congleton Borough Council.

15 TASK GROUP UPDATES

Consideration was given to reports updating the Panel in respect of the work carried out by the Task Groups for Car Parking, Waste Collection, Strategic Development and Local Development Framework. Before consideration of the reports, the Chairman stated that he would like to make it clear that the Task

Group reports were a preliminary review and any statements and options discussed did not relate to any policy decisions made to date.

In considering the report relating to the update on Civil Parking Enforcement and proposals for Pay and Display Charging in Cheshire East, Members expressed concern that the report did not include an options appraisal and did not state how the decisions had been arrived at. Reference was made to paragraph 3.3 of the report and it was noted that the proposed charges related to all car parks within the new Cheshire East Authority area. It was suggested that paragraph 3.3 of the report should be incorporated into the objectives and that the charges should be cost neutral. It was reported that work in relation to the various options had taken place and officers undertook to examine whether the work carried out had been appropriate and would bring a report back to the Panel.

With reference to paragraph 1.1 of the report, the Portfolio Holder sought clarification in respect of civil parking enforcement and stated that it had already been agreed that the new Cheshire East Authority would be adopting the Civil Enforcement powers. It was reported that Cheshire County Council legal advice had been in line with this, however confirmation was awaited. Officers had been in liaison with CLG in respect of the transitional arrangement regulations, which had been through Parliament and would allow parts of the Cheshire East Authority area to be subject to civil parking enforcement. The Prosperity Portfolio Holder reported that notwithstanding some capacity issues and the fact that Congleton Borough On Street Enforcement remained the responsibility of the police, he considered that steps needed to be taken to ensure that there was continuity in respect of civil enforcement in the areas of the Cheshire East Authority. He had been in discussions with the Transport Director at the Government Office and was producing a paper for her with a view to progressing this matter.

RESOLVED

That officers examine the work which has already taken place in respect of the current position with regard to car parking and any options appraisals which had taken place to establish whether this work had been appropriate and a report in respect of this be submitted to a future meeting.

Waste Collection

It was noted that the report relating to Aligning the Green Waste Collection Services in Cheshire East, set out at item 7 of the agenda, superseded the update report attached at item 5 and consideration was given to this report.

It was noted that kerbside collection of green waste was currently free, at point of delivery, to residents of Congleton and Macclesfield Boroughs, whereas there was a charge levied to those residents who used the service in Crewe. The paper discussed the options available to the Cheshire East Council with regard to the lack of standardisation and set out a number of recommendations to the Advisory Panel. The Panel needed to consider whether it accepted the recommendations, which would then be reported to the Cheshire East Management Team and the Cheshire East Cabinet.

RESOLVED

That the following recommendations be submitted to the Cheshire East Management Team and then the Cheshire East Cabinet:

- 1 That a free of charge green waste kerbside collection service is rolled out to the residents of the former Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council area as soon as practicable following 1 April 2009.
- 2 That no initial bin purchase charge should be levied to recipients of the new bins.
- 3 That (subject to approval by the existing waste collection authorities) preparations should be made prior to April 2009 to procure the required equipment to roll out a free of charge green waste in Crewe utilising the existing 2008/09 Waste Implementation Capital Grant.
- 4 That should the Waste Implementation Capital Grant Funding for 2008/09 be unavailable or insufficient to support this initiative, the new Cheshire East Authority should approve additional funding (following an additional report) to procure bins.

Strategic Development

Consideration was given to a paper, which set out the matters arising from the Strategic Development Task Group on 3 December 2008. It was noted that the South Cheshire Sub Regional Study had been completed by ARUP, having been commissioned by Cheshire County Council on behalf of 4NW and Members of the Task Group and Places Advisory Panel would receive a hard copy when available. The Strategic Housing Market Assessments had been completed in Macclesfield and commenced in Congleton and Crewe & Nantwich, and a paper on the findings of the SHMAs would be submitted to the Places Advisory Panel, once completed. Progress in respect of the Subregional Economic Development Partnership would be reported to the Task Group and subsequently the Advisory Panel. The next meeting of the Task Group would take place on 11 February 2009.

Local Development Framework

Consideration was given to a report informing the Panel of the progress being made by the Local Development Framework Task Group and requesting the Panel to note the report and to agree the need for an urgent Project Plan for the LDF work, and to support the proposed Joint Working with Cheshire West and Cheshire Councils on minerals and waste policy making, and this was agreed.

Safer Communities

It was noted that the scheduled meeting of the Safer Communities Task Group had been deferred and would now take place in January.

It was also reported that a meeting of the Development Management Task Group was scheduled to take place on the following Tuesday.

Consideration was given to a report updating the Panel on the implementation of Choice Based Lettings and seeking approval for the Cheshire Home Choice Allocations Policy to be progressed to Cabinet for adoption.

In considering the report, Members of the Panel welcomed the document. However, it was considered, that in rural areas, priority should be given to applicants who lived in the community where a particular property was situated, and that this comment should be passed to the Cabinet when considering this matter.

It was noted that if any changes were made to the policy, it would be necessary to agree them with the various partners as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

That the Common Allocations Policy be recommended to Cabinet for approval, but that clarification be sought with regard to the possibility of imposing a local connection criteria in relation to rural property and that any changes to the document be made as necessary.

17 ALIGNING GREEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES IN CHESHIRE EAST

Note – This item was considered under the Task Group Update reports.

18 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2008

The Panel received a presentation in respect of progress with regard to the Local Transport Plan. Consideration was also given to a paper which had been prepared to allow Members of the Panel to consider and comment on the Local Transport Plan progress report for 2008. It also sought views on managing issues that may need to be considered during the remainder of the Plan period. A short summary setting out details of the LTP process was attached as an appendix to the report.

It was noted that a summary of the document had been circulated with the agenda, however the full document would be circulated to Members of the Panel.

In considering the report, Members of the Panel raised the following issues:

- (i) With reference to the presentation, it was noted that it had been stated that there were no significant air quality problems in the area and this was questioned as the area was above the North West and National average for CO₂. It was reported that within the document with regard to air quality there were seven listed pollutants and CO₂ was not one of them.
- (ii) Reference was made to the pie chart within the document, which showed that approximately half of the capital expenditure for 2006-2008 had been spent on public transport, and it was queried how much of this had been spent in the Cheshire East area. It was noted that, broadly speaking, 50% had been spent in the Cheshire East area, but that more had been spent in the rural areas.

- (iii) Reference was made to the recent result of the TIF referendum and it was considered that the new Cheshire East Authority needed to ensure that there was fairness in respect of the distribution of funding and that the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities engaged with the Cheshire East Authority in respect of the receipt of national funding. It was noted that the new Cheshire East Authority would be the third largest unitary in the North West, and the advent of the new authority would provide the opportunity to apply for appropriate funding. It was also noted that currently the provision of public transport in Cheshire was complex and there would now be an opportunity to consider how to deliver Public Transport in a more efficient way.
- (iv) It was queried whether there would be a Local Transport Plan for Cheshire East and if so, when. It was noted that the current Local Transport Plan would be adopted and central Government guidance was expected shortly, which would need to be taken into account, with a view to publication of a document for Cheshire East in 2010, to commence in 2011.
- (v) Reference was made to traffic congestion in Crewe and it was considered that this was exacerbated by the fact that the traffic lights were not co-ordinated. The Portfolio Holder stated that the introduction of urban traffic control measures would benefit all areas of Cheshire East in this regard, including Crewe & Nantwich.
- (vi) With reference to LTP capital expenditure for 2006-2008, it was noted that the expenditure for cycling schemes had only been £172,000 for 2006/07 and only £1,000 for 2007/08. It was queried whether there was any way this could be enhanced. It was reported that there had been a lot of investment in the past in respect of millennium cycle routes and in addition to the expenditure set out in the document, there would be additional funding through Travel Plans. However, if it was considered that cycling was a priority, the expenditure levels could be raised.
- (vii) It was queried whether funding would be made available for pedestrian crossings. It was noted that some were provided through Local Safety Schemes. However, the new Authority may wish to raise this as a priority in the future.

RESOLVED

That the above comments be noted.

19 GAMBLING ACT 2005 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Consideration was given to a report requesting the Panel to consider the draft Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles and to make any comments prior to submission to Cabinet.

With reference to the Table of Delegation of Licensing Functions, it was noted that fee setting would be a function of the full Licensing Committee and not officers as set out in the document.

RESOLVED

That the Gambling 2005 Statement of Principles be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

(Councillor D Neilson requested that it be recorded that he abstained from voting.)

20 LICENSING ACT 2003 - STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Consideration was given to a report requesting the Panel to consider the draft Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy and to make any comments prior to submission to Cabinet. It was noted that paragraph 12.1 of the document should state that a reviewed policy would be published no later than 7 January 2014 and not 2011 as set out in the document.

Clarification was sought in respect of *the responsible authority and children* as set out in paragraph 9.8 of the policy. It was noted that the police would carry out the initial sift of applications and would flag up if there were any concerns.

RESOLVED

That the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.30 pm

Councillor G M Walton (Chairman)