

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee**  
held on Wednesday, 21st January, 2009 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,  
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

Councillor A Thwaite (Chairman)  
Councillor A Richardson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors A Barratt, G Baxendale, S Conquest, P Edwards, Miss S Furlong,  
Ms O Hunter, R Menlove, Mrs L Smetham, J Wray and Mrs S Jones

## **35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Broadhurst, M Davies  
and Mrs B Howell

## **36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A number of Councillors who were existing County and Borough Councillors  
declared a personal interest in the business of the meeting en bloc. In  
accordance with the Code of Conduct they remained in the meeting during  
consideration of the relevant items.

## **37 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

None

Members agreed that this issue should be deleted from future Scrutiny  
Committee agendas, as public speaking was not relevant to this Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Governance and Constitution Committee be requested to give  
consideration to the removal of Public Speaking/Open Session from the Rules of  
Procedure for the Scrutiny Committee

## **38 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record subject to  
Councillor P Edwards being included in the list of apologies.

## **39 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman reported that he had undertaken the following action since the last  
meeting of the Committee:

Urgent Decision under Standing Order No 25 – Appointment of Strategic Director, Places Informal Briefing to Members of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED

That the action taken by the Chairman in respect of the matter set out above be noted.

**40 OPEN INVITATION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

It was noted that the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive were not available to attend this meeting.

It was agreed that this invitation should be a standard item on the Scrutiny Committee agenda and that the Leader of Council should be requested to address a future meeting of the Committee to express his views on the scrutiny process and how he would envisage scrutiny working post-vesting day.

RESOLVED

That an open invitation to the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive be included on all future Scrutiny Committee agendas

**41 ADDRESS BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

The Portfolio Holder for Resources did not attend the meeting

**42 FEEDBACK ON SCOPING EXERCISE**

The Scrutiny Committee had completed a scoping exercise earlier in the day on a review of Facilities for Young People, which would be completed by March 2009. Members agreed that although the exercise went well, the training that had been received so far did not assist in the review.

RESOLVED

That the feedback on the scoping exercise be noted.

**43 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the Committee's work programme. It was agreed that at the next meeting of the Committee, Members receive a report on the reviews/issues that would be referred to the Scrutiny Committee and a report on the reviews that had already been undertaken by the Borough Councils and County Councils.

Members also agreed that the forward Plan should be considered at all future meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the work programme be approved subject to the comments highlighted above.

#### **44 UPDATE: CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP MEMBER DEVELOPMENT – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRAMME**

Members completed a feedback questionnaire on a training session relating to Module 3 – Having an Influence, Work Planning and Prioritisation, which was held at Warrington Town Hall on Friday 16 January 2009.

Following detailed discussion on the session, Members agreed that the following specific issues should be raised:

1. That the knowledge and expertise of the IDeA facilitator was good, however this did not come across during the training session
2. That the agenda for the session was not followed
3. That the location was poor
4. That members received too much background information and there was insufficient emphasis on the outcome of a review
5. That there was insufficient practical training such as workshops and case studies

RESOLVED

That the feedback form be approved and submitted to the IDeA

#### **45 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES**

Consideration was given to the further training and development issue required by the Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that:

1. J Lamb and H Boots be requested to facilitate a review session to enable any outstanding questions to be answered.
2. Training be received on the functions of the Borough and County Councils.
3. Additional practical training be received on how to conduct a review, with a focus on outcomes.

RESOLVED

1. That J Lamb and H Boots be requested to lead a future training session to answer any outstanding questions and help to review progress to date.
2. That the Committee receive training in respect of the functions of the Borough and County Councils and how to conduct a Scrutiny review.

#### **46 ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT FOR 2008/09**

Consideration was given to the Annual Report for 2008/09. It was agreed that the Chairman would draft the report and submit it to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration

RESOLVED

That the Committee give consideration to the draft Annual report at its meeting scheduled to be held on 18 February 2009.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.15 pm

Councillor A Thwaite (Chairman)