CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet**
held on Monday, 10th June, 2013 at Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor M Jones (Chairman)

Councillors Rachel Bailey, J Clowes, J P Findlow, P Raynes and D Topping

Members in Attendance
Councillors D Marren and A Thwaite

Officers in Attendance
Kim Ryley, Paul Bradshaw, Lorraine Butcher, Rachel Musson, Caroline
Simpson, Tessa Leonard and Paul Mountford

Apologies
Councillors D Brown, L Gilbert and B Moran

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17 FUTURE OF MACCLESFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

In accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972
the Chairman was of the opinion that by reason of special circumstances
this item should be considered as a matter of urgency. The Chairman of
the Corporate Scrutiny Committee had been consulted in accordance with
Section 54.6 of the Executive Arrangements and Cabinet Procedure Rules
and had agreed that the decision was urgent and could not reasonably be
deferred.

Cabinet considered an urgent report on the future of Macclesfield Town
Football Club.

The Club was facing considerable financial challenges and the Council
had been approached on 3rd June 2013 to see if there was any support
available from the Council to prevent imminent insolvency and the
consequent economic, social and reputational impact for Macclesfield.

Since the evening of the 3rd June, the Council had worked collaboratively
across all services to deliver due diligence, risk assessment and
appropriate options appraisal to find a possible way forward. The report
proposed a way forward which secured the financial viability of the Club
and prevented imminent insolvency; allowed for the transfer of current

shares in Macclesfield Town Football Club into a Community Interest Company and acquired an asset for the Council secured at good value.

The proposal provided the opportunity to create much needed investment in the south of Macclesfield and would deliver economic, social and community benefits to the area which suffered from relatively high levels of deprivation in Cheshire East terms. It would also anchor and sustain the Club within the local community.

The deal proposed would secure the first Community Interest Company in the UK which had been set up to manage and run a football club without the club first becoming insolvent. This particular route to converting to a community-owned club had far less impact on the local economy and community.

Club Chairman Mike Rance and former Chairman Alan Cash attended the meeting and, at the invitation of the Chairman, spoke about the Club and the various ways in which it contributed to the life of the local community. Both thanked the Council for its support.

The Chairman, Councillor M Jones, as Leader of the Council, summed up by saying that the proposal was about investing in the community, putting people first and showing the Council's commitment to Macclesfield.

Members extended their thanks and appreciation to those Finance and Legal officers who had been involved for their dedication and professionalism and the speed with which they had worked.

RESOLVED

That

(1) Cabinet agrees that the Interim Chief Executive or his identified nominee, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, and subject to taking advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer or their identified nominee(s), be given delegated authority to acquire the freehold interest of Macclesfield Town Football Club, Moss Rose Football Ground, London Road, Macclesfield;

(2) the above be subject to terms and conditions which must not involve any departure from the Council's Budgetary and Policy Framework, or any other Cabinet or Regulatory Committee Policy; and

(3) the acquisition be funded from the Council's agreed Capital Programme, and if necessary the priority of other projects be adjusted to accommodate this expenditure.

The meeting commenced at 12.00 pm and concluded at 12.24 pm

M Jones (Chairman)