

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee**
held on Wednesday, 18th February, 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, M Davies, P Edwards,
Miss S Furlong, Ms O Hunter, R Menlove, Mrs L Smetham, J Wray and
Mrs S Jones

Apologies

Councillors S Broadhurst

47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors S Broadhurst and
Councillor Mrs B Howell (Councillor Mrs S Jones substituted for Councillor Mrs B
Howell)

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A number of Councillors who were existing County and Borough Councillors
declared a general personal interest in the business of the meeting.

49 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no Members of the Public present who wished to address the
Committee.

50 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21
January be approved as a correct record.

51 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIRMAN

None

52 OUTCOMES FROM THE MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2009

Members were advised that the Governance and Constitution Committee at its
meeting held on 9 February had considered a number of Scrutiny issues as
follows:

- Public Speaking Time/Open Session - The Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee had both requested that Procedure Rules Nos 11 and 35 be disapplied on the grounds that Scrutiny was not a decision making body. The Governance and Constitution Committee had resolved to defer the request to await a report of the Borough Solicitor on various procedural matters including emerging Government guidance relating to Councillor Call for Action and Petitions under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;
- Overview and Scrutiny Structure - the Committee noted that the proposed scrutiny structure had been approved by Governance and Constitution Committee for recommendation to Council which listed 5 Scrutiny Committees:
 - Children and Families Scrutiny Committee;
 - Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee;
 - Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee;
 - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee;
 - Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

Matters to be considered further included whether it was appropriate to allow substitutions on Scrutiny Committees.

RESOLVED: That the outcomes from the meeting of the Governance and Constitution Committee held on 9 February be noted.

53 ADDRESS BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Councillor Keegan, Portfolio Holder for Resources, briefed the Committee on the Council's budget. He explained that the budget had been discussed at Cabinet on 17 February and would be submitted to full Council for approval on 24 February.

The budget book was not detailed this year but would contain a greater level of detail in future years with budget proposals issued at an earlier stage to enable consultation to take place.

The budget at this stage maintained current grant levels and budget allocations. The budget was balanced with some pump priming from reserves with no income generation schemes included. For the future the budget would be based on a lean systems approach enabling greater efficiencies and would include income generation targets set in the region of £30 million by the end of 2011.

Councillor Keegan outlined a number of future initiatives that may be of interest to the Scrutiny Committee:

Domiciliary Day Care;
 Health and Well –Being- how and where services were provided;
 Transport – across Cheshire East.

There would also be a number of pilot projects involving Town and Parish Councils relating to devolved service delivery and local leadership.

Members of the Committee were then given the opportunity to ask questions or raise issues as follows:

- The possibility of commenting more fully on the budget in future years when detailed proposals would be available;
- The division of assets between Cheshire East Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council, including the situation regarding Tatton Park;
- It was noted that the budget would not be at risk if future income generation targets were not met;
- The potential impact on Town and Parish Councils in future years if budget allocations changed as they often provided match funding;
- The future role of voluntary organisations which would be reviewed by Scrutiny.

RESOLVED: that the presentation on the budget be noted.

54 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered developing its Work Programme taking into account a Schedule of Reviews undertaken by the four constituent Authorities and a request from the Portfolio Holder for Performance and Capacity to include the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

RESOLVED: That the following list of items be included in the Work Programme for further consideration at the next meeting as detailed below:

ITEM	ACTION
Transport Co-ordination's Service Level Agreements with Social Services and Education	Review at next meeting – copy of Scrutiny Review to be included on Agenda
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	Review – copy of Scrutiny Review to be included on Agenda and Scoping Report to be done for a review of the role, performance and funding for voluntary organisations.
Risk Management	Defer for 12 months
Support for Older People	Review of Action Plan to next meeting
County Record Office	Defer
Libraries Provision	Defer
Climate Change	Defer
Support to Members	Scoping Report to next meeting
Demographic Change	Defer

Tackling Obesity in Cheshire	Refer to Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Diabetes	Refer to Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Community Support Centres	Refer to Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Transforming Learning Communities	Defer
Community First Responders	Refer to Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Youth Sports Provisions in Macclesfield Borough	Include as part of ongoing Pilot Project of Review of Facilities for Young People
Misuse of Alcohol	Consider at next meeting after receiving presentation
Wheels to Work project	Set up Task/Finish Panel to progress
Website Development for Parking fines	Defer
Clinical Waste Collection	Review
Future of Crewe and Nantwich markets	Review
Waste Management Task Group	Defer for 12 months
Car parking Task Group	Review
Crewe Town Centre Task Group	Review
Queens Park Restoration	Monitor outcomes – report to future meeting
Migrant Workers	Set up Task/Finish Panel to progress
Parking at Railway Stations	Review
Air Quality	Defer for 6 months
Gypsy sites	Review
Housing Registered Social Landlords	Defer
Motorbikes	Review
Recycling	Defer
Development of Crewe Railway Station	Progress report to next meeting
Future of leisure facilities	Review

55 ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT FOR 2008/09

The Chairman reported orally that he had produced a first draft of the Annual Scrutiny Report which he would circulate for further consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2008/09 be considered at the next meeting.

56 FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - PILOT PROJECT

The Committee was informed that a meeting of the Panel looking at facilities for young people had received presentations on various initiatives including those run by Connexions, the Princes Trust and the Youth Opportunity Fund.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

57 UPDATE: CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP MEMBER DEVELOPMENT - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRAMME

The Committee noted that Module 4 of the Member Development – Overview and Scrutiny Programme had taken place on 13 February and the Chairman would complete the feedback questionnaire.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

58 SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENTS AND TRAINING ISSUES

The Committee noted that there were no specific Scrutiny developments or training to discuss other than those already raised at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

59 PROGRESS ON GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

The Committee was advised that Government Guidance in relation to Scrutiny was still awaited and would be reported to the next meeting if available.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.30 pm

Councillor A Thwaite (Chairman)

