

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of an informal meeting of the **Corporate Scrutiny Committee**
held on Tuesday, 5th May, 2009 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor A Thwaite (Chairman)
Councillor J Narraway (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors A Arnold, G Barton, G Baxendale, D Bebbington, S Conquest,
J Crockatt, M Davies, A Richardson, D Stockton, D Topping and S Wilkinson

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/ PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest, or imposition of a party whip.

2 SCRUTINY UNCOVERED

The committee watched a DVD explaining the role of Select Committees in Parliament. The DVD featured members of both houses, reflected on their experiences, and the experiences of clerks and members of the public called to give evidence. The DVD highlighted the role that Select Committees played in the scrutiny of Government.

3 REMIT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Committee considered a paper relating to the remit of Scrutiny Committees based upon recommendations made by Scrutiny members at the training day held on 27 April 2009. The paper allocated Portfolio responsibilities to appropriate Scrutiny Committees. A small number of issues remained to be allocated from the wellbeing section of the Health and Wellbeing Portfolio. Members acknowledged that there was unlikely to be a perfect match of Scrutiny and Cabinet responsibilities and in some instances, where responsibilities were cross cutting in nature, that there may be duplicated interests in topics. The Chairman informed the committee that where clarity was needed in future, particularly in relation to cross cutting issues, the informal Chairman's Group would play a leading role.

RESOLVED – That subject to the following amendments, and subject to consultation with the other 4 Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the draft remit be approved as the basis for discussions with Portfolio holders and senior officers on Work Plan issues :-

- Contaminated Land – delete from Sustainable Communities, but retain in Environment and Prosperity
- Environmental Health – Move from Sustainable to Environment
- Air Pollution Control and Monitoring - Move from Sustainable to Environment
- Environmental Enforcement - Move from Sustainable to Environment
- Museums – Move from Corporate to Sustainable

4 DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a draft work programme which was based upon matters referred to this committee by the Shadow Scrutiny Committee and extracts from the current Forward Plan. The list of items within the work programme had been discussed by Members at a training session held on 27 April 2009, at which, an initial attempt had been made to prioritise items.

Members acknowledged that the list of matters within the work programme was not exhaustive and that a more comprehensive list would be submitted to the first formal meeting of the Committee following discussions between the Chair and vice Chairman, relevant Portfolio holders and senior officers over the next few days.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme be received and noted.

5 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS AT MEETINGS

Councillor D Topping declared a personal interest in this matter on the grounds that he was a member of the Governance and Constitution Committee. Council Topping remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion.

The Chairman referred to the report to Governance and Constitution Committee dated 16 April 2009 which had been referred to Scrutiny Committees for comment in relation to Public and Member questions at meetings. All members of Scrutiny committees had been asked to forward comments on the document to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. It was intended that this Committee would collate all comments submitted to it and prepare a formal response to the report at its first formal meeting. To date, comments had been received from two members.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.00 pm

Councillor A Thwaite (Chairman)