

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council**  
held on Thursday, 23rd July, 2009 at The Assembly Room - Town Hall,  
Macclesfield SK10 1DX

## **PRESENT**

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)

Councillors E Alcock, C Andrew, A Arnold, M Asquith, Rachel Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, A Barratt, T Beard, D Bebbington, D Beckford, S Bentley, D Brickhill, S Broadhurst, D Brown, D Cannon, R Cartlidge, S Conquest, J Crockatt, H Davenport, M Davies, R Domleo, B Dykes, P Edwards, P Findlow, W Fitzgerald, R Fletcher, D Flude, S Furlong, H Gaddum, L Gilbert, E Gilliland, J Hammond, M Hardy, D Hough, T Jackson, J Jones, S Jones, F Keegan, A Knowles, W Livesley, J Macrae, M Martin, P Mason, S McGrory, R Menlove, G Merry, A Moran, B Moran, H Murray, J Narraway, D Neilson, R Parker, M Parsons, A Ranfield, A Richardson, B Silvester, L Smetham, D Stockton, D Thompson, C Thorley, A Thwaite, C Tomlinson, D Topping, R Walker, G M Walton, J Weatherill, R West, R Westwood, P Whiteley, S Wilkinson and J Wray.

Officers Present:-

Strategic Director People, Strategic Director Places, Borough Solicitor, Democratic Services Manager, Borough Treasurer.

## **115 PRAYERS**

The Reverend Charles Razzall said prayers, at the request of the Mayor.

## **116 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Baxendale, C Beard, J Goddard, M Hollins, O Hunter, A Martin, B Howell and A Kolker.

## **117 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Mayor asked those Members who had any personal or prejudicial Interests on general agenda items, to declare them, but before doing so, drew Members' attention to Item 8 on the agenda (Electoral Review – Submission on warding arrangements) and stated that she proposed to ask the Borough Solicitor to record the declaration of a Personal Interest by every Member who was also a member of a Parish Council, in accordance with the Members completed Register. Council confirmed that it was content with this approach and therefore, all members of Parish Councils declared personal interests to that effect.

## **118 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2009 AND RECONVENED ON 2 APRIL 2009**

## RESOLVED

That, subject to the addition of Councillors Howell, Alcock, S Jones and Narraway to the list of those present at the reconvened meeting held on 2 April, the minutes be approved as a correct record.

## 119 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor :-

(1) Announced that Since taking office on 1 April, she was pleased to report that she had now had the opportunity to visit all the former constituent borough areas (Congleton, Crewe and Nantwich and Macclesfield) and was getting to know her way around the Cheshire East boundaries.

(2) Announced that the first Armed Forces Day had taken place on 27 June 2009 and she was honoured to have had the opportunity to attend the local version of this event, which started, on 22 June, with flag-raising events in Sandbach, Crewe and Macclesfield. She had attended the Crewe event, with the Leader attending at Sandbach and the Deputy Mayor in Macclesfield. This was followed, on Saturday the 27 June, with receptions in the same three towns to mark the contribution of the British Forces in conflicts throughout the world. This date in the calendar each year would be an opportunity for the nation as a whole to show support for men and women who make up the armed forces community, which included not only those who were currently serving and their families, but also the veterans and new recruits. Across the country people had been involved by holding local events and she was honoured to have the opportunity to host the Crewe event, which she felt was both moving and up-lifting and was also a time for reflection.

(3) Announced that, on the Tuesday, 2 June, the Mercian Regiment 1st Battalion (Cheshire), on which the Freedom of the Borough had been conferred, exercised its right to march through the towns of both Congleton and Nantwich with "bayonets fixed and flags flying" The roads were closed during the march, and there was a good turn-out by members of the public for both events.

(4) Announced that she have been humbled by being given the opportunity to meet various volunteers of the Voluntary sector. She considered that the Voluntary sector was vital to the well-being of any community. Despite the proliferation of welfare assistance, the state could not always provide for the needs of all and there would always be gaps in provision. Without the unstinting dedication of those people who choose selflessly to helped others, society would be much poorer. Volunteering could be a two-way experience; not only does it help those who are receiving the services, but it could be very rewarding for the volunteers themselves.

(5) That an early highlight of her year had been attending the Royal Garden Party on Tuesday, 14 July. Along with her Consort and with fellow Councillors she went to London. It was an event where they were able to mix with people from all walks of life; other Mayors,

volunteers, business-people, veterans and young people. There were over several thousand people in attendance. The party had been delighted that His Royal Highness Prince Philip chose to come over to speak to them about Cheshire East.

(6) Referred to her Civic Report, which had been circulated at the meeting and stated that, with a large area such as Cheshire East, the Mayoral engagements had, obviously, increased significantly. The range was wide, covering visits to schools, church services, voluntary sector events, open days, and more recently, the Royal Horticultural Show at Tatton Park. There's hardly a moment to spare, but with the support of her Consort, Maurice and Councillor Baxendale, her Deputy, she was finding it thoroughly rewarding and a wonderful experience.

(7) Reminded Members that the following day was "Dress Down Friday" and that officers would be wearing casual dress and making a contribution to the Mayors' charities.

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

Mr B Evans used public speaking time to suggest that the Council organise an open doors event in the following year, during Local Democracy Week, whereby Council buildings, including administrative offices, would be open to the public. This was a national initiative, which normally took place in September and also involved factories and other institutions. The event would enable the public to look around the Council buildings. In addition, he suggested that, by 2010, the Council should have structures in place and by this time, the Boundary Committee would have completed its review and this would provide the opportunity to invigorate the electorate.

The Leader of the Council agreed that consideration would be given to the suggestion.

Mr B Cartwright, representing Cheshire Anti Incinerator Network (CHAIN), used public speaking time to urge the Council to refuse the planning application, submitted by Covanta Energy, to build a waste burning incinerator in Middlewich. Mr Cartwright outlined the objections to the proposal, which included lack of need, the fact that it was clear that waste would have to be transported from outside the County and the fact that the Cavanta site was not one of the 6 preferred sites chosen as potential development sites and deemed suitable. He also outlined the grounds on which it was considered that the application should be refused, which related to landscape matters, visual impact, height, distance from the nearest urbanisation, affect on air quality, traffic impact/additional HGVs and public opinion/objection.

Mr Leonard used public speaking to question why several planning applications had been refused, for the development, for housing, of a contaminated Brownfield site in the Green Belt, in his ownership. He stated that, whilst he could accept that the reason given was inappropriate development in the Green Belt, he did not feel that the same rule applied to other sites in the Borough. Mr

Leonard provided a list of examples of other applications for development Green Belt, in the former Macclesfield Borough, which had been granted planning permission.

The Prosperity Portfolio Holder, Cllr Macrae, thanked Mr Leonard for his question and stated that, as Mr Leonard was aware, his site lay within the North Cheshire Green Belt. Cllr Macrae was well aware of the history of the site, as Mr Leonard had approached him in the previous year. Whilst he could not comment on any individual application, a review of the Core Strategy for the Local Development Framework Plan would be taking place shortly and the Council would be consulting on it, which would provide the opportunity for Mr Leonard to make comments. Councillor Macrae undertook to provide a written response to Mr Leonard.

## **121 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Consideration was given to the following Notice of Motion, submitted by Councillor A Arnold and seconded by Councillor J Narraway:-

“That Cheshire East Council suspends car parking charges, on Saturdays, in Macclesfield Town centre, for a trial period of three months initially, subject to a review of its effect in increasing local trade, will, if proved successful extend the duration of the scheme and implement the same measures to other town centres in Cheshire East, requiring assistance in regenerating local businesses.

Given the urgency of the need for regeneration assistance within our town centres, the trial scheme in Macclesfield should be implemented as quickly as possible”.

**RESOLVED**

That the motion stand referred to Cabinet.

## **122 ELECTORAL REVIEW - SUBMISSION ON WARDING ARRANGEMENTS**

Consideration was given to a report relating the work of the Electoral Review Task Group, concerning the preparation of a submission to the Boundary Committee for England on the Warding Arrangements to be made for Cheshire East Council.

The Council was requested to consider and approve the submission prepared by the Task Group, which set out the Authority's proposals for Warding Arrangements under the Electoral Review of the Cheshire East area and to authorise the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to make any necessary technical and detailed amendments to finalise the document, to ensure that it complied fully with the wishes of the Council and was delivered by the Boundary Committee's deadline of 4 August.

A revised appendix 3 – Warding table, an additional appendix 5 – Summary of representations received on the warding arrangements being recommended to Council and a revised list of recommendations were circulated at the meeting.

The motion as set out in the resolution below was moved and seconded.

A requisition for a named vote was submitted and duly supported, in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 15.2 of the Constitution.

The motion was put to the meeting with the following results:-

<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Not voting</b>
C Andrew	E Alcock	P Edwards
N Asquith	A Arnold	H Gaddum
R A Bailey	T Beard	S Mcgrory
R Bailey	S Broadhurst	L Smetham
A Barratt	D Cannon	G Walton
D Bebbington	R Cartlidge	
D Beckford	S Conquest	
S Bentley	R Fletcher	
D Brickhill	D Flude	
D Brown	D Hough	
J Crockatt	S Jones	
H Davenport	M Martin	
M Davies	A Moran	
R Domleo	J Narraway	
H Dykes	D Neilson	
P Findlow	M Parsons	
W Fitzgerald	C Thorley	
S Furlong	C Tomlinson	
L Gilbert		
E Gilliland		
J Hammond		
MC Hardy		
T Jackson		
J Jones		
F Keegan		
A Knowles		
W Livesley		
J Macrae		
P Mason		
R Menlove		
G Merry		
B Moran		
H Murray		
R Parker		
T Ranfield		
A Richardson		
B Silvester		
M Simon		
D Stockton		
D Thompson		
A Thwaite		

D Topping		
R Walker		
J Weatherill		
R West		
R Westwood		
P Whilteley		
S Wilkinson		
J Wray		

The motion was declared carried, with 49 votes for, 18 against and 5 not voting.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the proposed submission to the Boundary Committee on Warding arrangements for Cheshire East Council, as prepared by the Member Task Group, be approved subject to –

a) the inclusion of the revised Appendix 3 as circulated to the Council, and subject to paragraph b) below, the proposed Ward names as shown therein;

b) the following changes being made to the proposed Ward names:  
Poynton Rural Ward being renamed Poynton East and Adlington Ward  
Gawsworth Ward being renamed Henbury and Gawsworth Ward  
Holmes Chapel Ward being renamed Dane Valley Ward;

c) confirmation that the Congleton Rural Ward is to be represented by one Councillor;

d) the area north of the Holly Bush Inn, Crewe Road, Winterley and the roundabout adjoining the Haslington and Wheelock bypasses (containing 82 electors) being transferred from the Sandbach West Ward to the Haslington Ward;

e) the Leighton Rural Parish Ward (which incorporates Leighton Hospital) being transferred from the Bunbury Ward to the Crewe North Ward.

f) part of the Oakhanger Parish Ward being transferred from the Haslington Ward to the Alsager Ward.

g) the area of Wychwood Park to the south of the A531 containing 161 electors (part of Polling District GF1 being transferred from the Haslington Ward to the Wybunbury Ward.

h) the Parish of Batherton containing 38 electors (Polling District 1FC6) being transferred from Wybunbury Ward to the Nantwich South Ward.

2. That the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary technical and detailed amendments to finalise the submission in view of the foregoing decisions, to ensure the final accuracy of the electoral data and compliance with the Boundary Committee's statutory criteria, and to meet the Committee's deadline of 4 August.

## 123 COAT OF ARMS

Consideration was given to a report which set out the next steps required to enable the Council to be granted a Coat of Arms, for use by the Mayor only, as previously agreed in principle, and invites the Council to approve the design of the Arms and consider the Motto, so that a formal Petition can be submitted to the College of Arms.

### RESOLVED

1. That the design of the Coat of Arms for Cheshire East Council, together with the descriptive text be approved.
2. That the Motto for the Coat of Arms, "Working Together for Excellence", as set out in paragraph 11.3 of the report be approved.
3. That submission of a Petition to the College of Arms, in order that the Grant of Arms may be made, be approved.

## 124 SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS AT PLANNING MEETINGS

On 17 June, the Strategic Planning Board considered a report, which proposed alternative arrangements to restrict the appointment of substitute members for planning matters. The Board made the following recommendation to the Governance and Constitution Committee and to Council:

"That the scheme of substitution in the Constitution be amended as follows:

- a) No substitution shall be made to the North Area Planning Committee except with a Member from the South Area Planning Committee and vice versa. The substitute Member should wherever possible come from the same political group but may come from a different political group
- b) No substitutions shall be made to the Strategic Planning Board from the area committees or at all."

On 25 June 2009, the Governance and Constitution Committee considered the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Board and, whilst it supported recommendation (a) and recommended it to Council, the Committee did not support recommendation (b).

The Governance and Constitution Committee, therefore, recommended to Council only that:

- a) "No substitution shall be made to the North Area Planning Committee except with a Member from the South Area Planning Committee and vice versa. The substitute Member should wherever possible come from the same political group but may come from a different political group."

Council was requested to decide whether it wished the Constitution to be changed to reflect both recommendations (a) and (b), according to the wishes of the Strategic Planning Board, or just recommendation (a), in line with the wishes of the Governance and Constitution Committee.

The Prosperity Portfolio Holder proposed that, in light of recent discussions the recommendations set out in the report be deferred for further consideration by the appropriate Committees.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations set out on page 51 of the agenda be deferred for further consideration by the appropriate Committees.

## **125 REFERRAL TO COUNCIL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to recommendations to Council from the Governance and Constitution Committee in respect of the following matters:-

### Committee Membership Changes

The Conservative Group had notified the following proposed changes to Committee places:

Licensing Committee

Replace Councillor Parker with Councillor Hardy

Governance and Constitution Committee

Replace Cllr Bentley with Cllr Livesley

Public Rights of Way Committee

Replace Cllr Rhoda Bailey with Cllr Wray

The Governance and Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 21 May 2009 considered a report relating to the proposed changes and recommended that Council approve them.

RESOLVED

That the proposed changes to Committee places be approved.

### Additional Functions-Head of Safer and Stronger Communities

The Governance and Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 25 June 2009, had considered a report seeking a recommendation from the Committee to Council that reference to additional pieces of legislation be added to the list contained in the Constitution, relating to matters which fell within the remit of the

Head of Safer and Stronger Communities. Council was recommended to approve the recommendation.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the amended list of legislation, attached at Appendix A, be added to the list in the Appendix to the "Powers and Responsibilities of Officers" (section of Part 3 of the Constitution) which would have the effect of bringing responsibility for this legislation within the remit of the Head of Safer and Stronger Communities by virtue of paragraph 25.1.2 of that Part; and
2. That such consequential amendments be made to the Constitution as the Borough Solicitor considered necessary to give effect to the wishes of Council.

#### Amendments to Finance and Contract Procedure Rules

The Governance and Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 25 June 2009, had considered a report relating to proposed amendments to the Finance and Contract Procedure Rules and recommended that Council approve the proposed amendments.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the amendments to the Finance and Contract Procedure Rules, set out in Appendix B attached, be approved.
2. That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to continue to exercise his corrective powers with regard to the Constitution, in those cases where he considers it appropriate to do so.

#### Member Speaking at Planning Committees

The Governance and Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 21 May 2009, considered an amendment to the Constitution to apply a Planning Public Speaking Protocol to Members' general speaking rights at Planning Board and Planning Committee meetings.

Procedure Rule 38 in the Constitution provided that any Member may attend Committees to which they had not been appointed. The Member had no right to vote, but could speak with the consent of the chairman. The Council had delegated authority to the Strategic Planning Board to adopt its own working protocols. The Board had now adopted a Protocol which gave enhanced speaking rights to a wide range of speakers who could address the Board and Committees. It was, therefore, necessary to amend the existing provisions within the Constitution relating to Member and public speaking.

The Committee had previously resolved to review Member and public speaking provisions in consultation with the Cabinet and Corporate Scrutiny Committee. This particular provision, however, had been approved by the Strategic Planning Board under its delegated powers and was now in operation. It was, therefore, necessary to reflect this in the Constitution.

The recommendations of the Governance and Constitution Committee were moved and seconded as follows:-

(1) That Procedure Rule 38 of the Constitution be amended to add a new paragraph 38.4: "At meetings of the Strategic Planning Board and Planning Committees, Members' speaking rights are subject to the protocol on public speaking entitled 'Public Speaking Rights at Strategic Planning Board and Planning Committees (contained in Part 5 of the Constitution)";

(2) That the public speaking protocol, set out in the appendix attached to the report, be added to the Constitution; and

(3) where practicable, Members be given priority when speaking on planning matters at meetings in order to avoid their having to wait.

An amendment to withdraw recommendation 3 above from the recommendations to Council was moved and seconded and declared carried.

## RESOLVED

1. That Procedure Rule 38 of the Constitution be amended to add a new paragraph 38.4: "At meetings of the Strategic Planning Board and Planning Committees, Members' speaking rights are subject to the protocol on public speaking entitled 'Public Speaking Rights at Strategic Planning Board and Planning Committees (contained in Part 5 of the Constitution)";

2. That the public speaking protocol as set out in the appendix to the report be added to the Constitution.

## Cabinet Decision-Making Arrangements

The Governance and Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 16 April 2009, had considered a report on proposed decision-making powers and procedures relating to individual Members of the Cabinet and recommended that Council approve an alternative approach in respect of the decision-making powers of individual Cabinet Members, as follows:-

That Cabinet Members should make all executive decisions in respect of their portfolio areas except:

- (a) Decisions already taken by Cabinet or an officer acting under delegated powers.
- (b) Decisions involving a departure from the Council's Budget and Policy Framework or any Cabinet or regulatory committee policy.
- (c) Decisions involving expenditure or savings of £1 million or more.
- (d) Decisions which were significant in terms of their effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the Council.
- (e) Decisions which the Leader wished to be taken by full Cabinet.

Provided that all such decisions shall be taken in public and that regard shall be had to the advice of the Borough Solicitor by the decision-maker in interpreting these provisions.

On a related matter, the Council had previously resolved to include the following provision within its Constitution to exclude certain decisions from the definition of a key decision:

*“The Council has decided that the letting of any contract by the Council’s [Business Services Officer] or the Council’s [Policy Officer], which involves the provision of services to, or the purchase of goods and services by, the Council shall be excluded from the definition of a Key Decision where such contracts relate mainly to the internal workings of the authority and do not therefore have a significant impact directly on local communities in the same way as other Key Decisions. Such contracts include advertising, library books, vehicles, consumables, food, gas, electricity and cleaning of Council premises.”*

On further consideration, this provision was regarded as flawed and it was, therefore, recommended that it be removed from the Constitution.

The Cabinet on 24 March 2009 had supported the proposals and had also approved arrangements for public decision-making by individual Cabinet Members, details of which had been reported to the Committee for information.

#### RESOLVED

1. The alternative approach in respect of the decision-making powers of individual Cabinet Members be approved;
2. That the provision within the Constitution excluding the letting of certain contracts from the definition of a key decision be rescinded.
3. That the Constitution amended accordingly.

#### Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

The Governance and Constitution Committee, at its meeting on 16 April 2009, had considered proposed procedure rules relating to the budget and Policy Framework and recommended that the draft Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, attached at Appendix C, be recommended to Council for adoption and incorporation into the Constitution and that consideration be given to extending the minimum period for consultation on the budget to six weeks and the Officers be authorised in consultation with the Chairman to make a final determination on the appropriate provision in the draft Rules for recommendation to Council.

It was noted that the views of the Borough Treasurer and Portfolio Holder for Resources have been sought on the suggestion that the minimum period of consultation on the budget be amended from four to six weeks. While they were generally supportive of a six week consultation period in future years, it was considered that the complexity of compiling the Council's first operational budget would be better suited to a four week period for the year 2010/11. It was proposed to amend Rule 6 of the Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules to clarify “in year” changes as required by the Governance and Constitution Committee.

## RESOLVED

1. That the draft Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, as set out in Appendix C attached, be adopted and incorporated into the Constitution.

## 126 LEADER'S REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council reported the following Key Decisions, which had been taken under the urgency provisions contained within Council Procedure Rule 44 :-

1. Gorsey Bank Primary School, Wilmslow – Remedial works to four classroom extension.
2. Decision relating to the future use of County Hall, Chester.

## 127 QUESTIONS

Councillor D Flude had submitted the following five questions:-

### **Question 1 - Home Office Consultation May 2009.**

Together we can end violence against women and girls.

Can this Council be assured that there was a response from this council to this consultation?

Can this Council be assured that the survivors of domestic and or sexual violence in Cheshire East are provided with the services from this Council, that they need to be safe to enable recovery from their horrific experiences?

How is this Council implementing the Co-ordinated Community Response model, which has been evaluated nationally and proved to be cost effective and ensures an integrated response to all parties, including children who experience domestic and or sexual violence?

What funding is this Council allocating to the work, to prevent and respond to domestic and sexual violence now and how does it envisage securing sustained funding, as part of a strategic long term response?

The Sexual Assault Referral Centre, that is planned to be opened at Leighton Hospital has funding from our partners, Health and Police, what contribution to this vital resource will Cheshire East Council be making?

### **Question 2**

A recent survey has found that that more than six out of ten people providing unpaid care for someone who is ill, frail or disabled have not had a break for more than a year and a third of them have not taken time off since they started caring.

Of particular concern are young carers who provide care for family members who have mental health, drug or alcohol problems.

Can this Council be assured that?

All carers who request or require a carer's assessment are assessed and a timely review of their caring needs takes place and that any changes in their circumstances are acted on promptly?

That within each social work team there is sufficient clerical support to enable the vital role and expertise of Social Worker's who carry out the social work function of assessing, setting up care packages and reviewing, to be enabled to carry out their function, recognising the ever increasing referrals to social work teams?

Are technological systems in place and are these systems fit for purpose to enable social workers to carry out designated functions in a cost and time efficient manner?

### **Question 3 - Criteria for Care**

Cheshire East Cabinet have stated that the new model of Social Care puts the person and their carers at the heart of all we do.

A large percentage of older people fall just outside the stated group of people who would qualify for care, i.e. they are not in the Critical or Substantial range of need.

Preventive work is vital, if we are to enable older people to retain their independence. Current guidelines have excluded many older people with lower needs from the most basic care provision, such as bathing, shopping and housework.

Recognising that basic needs are vital in preventive work; will there be greater investment in preventative services through the Supporting You Budgets, via other agencies?

The Adult Services Portfolio Holder undertook to provide written responses to questions 1, 2 and 3.

### **Question 4 - Response times to communications received by Cheshire East Council.**

What are this Council's response time for letters and emails?

Does this council send important letter by recorded mail i.e. final notices for the payment of Council Tax arrears?

What is the response time for telephone calls to this council i.e. how many rings before telephones are answered?

The Performance and Capacity Portfolio Holder responded as follows:-

We aim to acknowledge letters and emails within 3 working days. We will typically provide a full response within 7 working days. If it is clear, however, that the matter will require more in-depth investigation, then we will advise the customer within 7 working days that the matter will require more detailed investigation and a response will be provided within a

further 20 working days. Does this council send important letter by recorded mail i.e. final notices for the payment of Council Tax arrears?

We do not send these types of notices by recorded mail. Costs would significantly increase if we adopted this approach (recorded mail is approximately 75p extra per item). Also, the courts have deemed that 1st or 2nd class mail is sufficient even in the case of a court summons.

We aim to answer 95% of all calls received by our Contact Centres, with 80% of calls answered within 20 seconds.

### **Question 5**

When will the residents of the town of Crewe have a kerb side glass collection service and will the silver bins, at present used for recyclable waste, be used for this service?

The Environmental Services Portfolio Holder responded as follows:-

Glass is currently collected separately in the old Macclesfield and Congleton areas. We are able to sell it for a small amount, which is much less than the cost of collection. It is not possible for the single container recycling vehicles operating in Crewe to collect glass, as the materials recycling facility (or Merf ) to which we send all this waste stream will not accept glass.

In order to collect glass in Crewe we would need either to change our vehicles or gain access to a Merf that is able to handle glass. There is of course a third alternative and that is to have a separate round to collect glass. This as you can imagine would be prohibitively expensive. It would also mean a fifth wheelie bin or suitable collection box for each house.

When the waste staff have dealt with the change to fortnightly collections in Congleton and the extra green waste bin in Crewe, all rounds will have to be rerouted and several smaller depots closed. We are then going to bring before you our plans for the energy from waste plant for which two selected tenders are in final stages of submission. These may have some effect on the sort of residual waste we collect.

Once all those schemes are finalised, we will be able to bring forward our overall plan for the collection and disposal of waste. This will include details of whether we kerbside sort or use a Merf, which we may or may not operate ourselves. If that Merf is designed to handle glass, then we can collect glass in the silver bin. If not, we may have to replace all our vehicles with new ones with multiple containers for recyclable waste that has been sorted at the kerbside. Hopefully we will complete this process by 2015.

### **Question 6**

The following question was submitted by Councillor D Cannon

The May edition of the Newsletter of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils was distributed by e-mail to Cheshire East Members earlier in the year. The Chairman of the Association writes about his meetings with the Leaders and Chief Executives of Cheshire's Unitary Authorities. He says, "The two Authorities have stated their keenness to support the parishing of the unparished areas in their Boroughs".

Does the Leader of the Council regard this as an accurate expression of the views of the Cabinet? Is this a subject which the Council as a whole should debate and consider how it might be actively pursued as a policy?"

The Leader of the Council responded as follows:-

The Council has received a petition for a new town council for Crewe. The Borough Solicitor is currently reporting to a sub-committee of the Governance and Constitution Committee with proposals for carrying out a community governance review.

With regard to Macclesfield and Wilmslow, the Council is in the early days of developing local working and a decision will be made in due course as to whether to conduct community governance reviews, notwithstanding the possible receipt of petitions from those areas.

#### **Question 7**

The following question was submitted by Councillor S Jones:-

The Cabinet at their meeting on 19 May 2009 approved the amended Notice of Motion first put to Council on 2 April, 2009 that:-

"This Council Supports Fair-Trade principles where consistent with Value for Money".

How does this Council intend to demonstrate its commitment to Fair-Trade principles and how will the extent of this commitment be monitored?

The Procurement, Assets and Shared Service Portfolio Holder responded as follows:-

We will shortly be introducing a procurement guidance note on how to integrate fair-trade principles into procurement activity.

We will shortly be introducing a tender and contract management system that will give visibility and control over procurement activity. We will introduce a performance monitor within this system that will enable us to identify where fair-trade alternatives have been requested and accepted etc. Specific measures are yet to be developed.

In addition the Procurement officer will be meeting with the Fair-Trade steering group to establish an action plan as to how we can support Fair-Trade principles and the Town Centre Manager is also developing an action plan to support town centres to obtain / maintain Fair-Trade status.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 8.10 pm

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)  
CHAIRMAN