

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet**
held on Tuesday, 22nd December, 2009 in the Council Chamber, Municipal
Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ

PRESENT

Councillor W Fitzgerald (Chairman)

Councillors D Brown, P Findlow, F Keegan, A Knowles, J Macrae and
P Mason

COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors Rachel Bailey, P Edwards, A Moran, D Neilson, R Westwood and
L Smetham

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive, Borough Solicitor, Borough Treasurer and Head of Assets,
Strategic Director – People, Strategic Director – Places, Communications and
PR Manager, Partnerships and CE's Business Manager, Planning and
Performance Manager, Strategic Housing Manager, Communications
Manager and Media Relations Officer

153 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roland Domleo,
David Brickhill and Brian Silvester.

154 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor P Findlow declared a personal interest in agenda item 9 (Future
Development of Macclesfield) on the basis that he was a Macclesfield
Charter Trustee. Councillor L Smetham declared a personal interest in
agenda item 9 on the basis that she was a Trustee of the Macclesfield Silk
Heritage Trust.

Councillor R Westwood declared a personal interest in agenda item 8
(Review of Housing Options and Homelessness Service) as he was a
member of Wulvern Housing Board.

No other Member made any declaration of interest in any item on the
agenda.

155 **PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos. 11 and 35, members of the public were able to address Cabinet on any matter relevant to its work, or to ask a question of a Cabinet Member.

Members of the public were required to give three clear working days' notice of any question. There was no requirement to give notice of the intention to make use of the public speaking provision.

No questions had been received and no member of the public present wished to address Cabinet.

156 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2009 be approved as a correct record.

157 **KEY DECISION CE09/10-32 BUSINESS PLANNING PROCESS
2010 - 2013**

The Cabinet received a report which provided an overview of the current medium-term financial position following further development of policy proposals and capital schemes which would impact in the financial years 2010/2011 to 2012/2013.

The report sought approval of the outline structure for further consultation on the business planning process throughout January 2010.

RESOLVED

That, for the reasons set out in the report:

1. the current medium-term financial position be noted;
2. in relation to the Pre-Budget Report 2010, note that the Portfolio Holder for Resources, in consultation with the Borough Treasurer, would provide the detailed analysis within the report to inform the consultation process; and
3. the process for working towards a balanced budget for 2010/2011 be agreed.

(Note: In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 7.2, Councillors A Moran and L Smetham spoke on this item.)

SCRUTINY REVIEW - MANAGING THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL PLACES: REPORT ON TRANSFORMING LEARNING COMMUNITIES AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

The Children and Families Scrutiny Committee had established a Task and Finish Group to review the Transforming Learning Communities initiative which had been inherited from the former Cheshire County Council. Part of the Group's remit had been to consider the needs of Cheshire East in relation to future changes to the schools system.

The Cabinet considered a report which set out the detailed work undertaken by the Group, together with a series of recommendations.

RESOLVED

That, for the reasons set out in the report:

1. the development of a comprehensive commissioning strategy for children's learning in Cheshire East, in the context of the Children and Young People's Plan, be agreed;
2. any programme of work to address the issue of school places should sit within that strategic commissioning context;
3. the report of the Task and Finish Group set up by the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee be noted;
4. the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services be requested to consider how the advice of the Task and Finish Group, in relation to the desirable attributes of such a programme, should be taken into account in designing that programme; and
5. the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services be requested to consider how the advice of the Task and Finish Group (about the management of such a programme) should be taken into account, particularly in relation to –
 - Engagement and consultation
 - Managing relationships with the Church of England Diocese of Chester and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury
 - Ensuring that the programme was flexible enough to be able to respond to projected waves in demand
 - Managing the issues on a locality basis which was sensitive to local differences and demographics.

(Notes: (a) In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 7.1, Councillor R Westwood spoke on this item; and

(b) In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 7.2, Councillors P Edwards, A Moran and D Neilson spoke on this item.)

159 **VISION AND STRATEGY FOR INTEGRATED CARE**

The Cabinet considered a report in respect of a proposed programme of work being developed by the Council and its NHS Partners.

One of the aspirations in creating two unitary authorities in Cheshire had been a commitment to contributing to the development of a “virtual public sector”, which would involve all public sector agencies so that users of services would experience them as coherent and co-ordinated.

Funding for public sector services in the next five years was uncertain and, to ensure financial sustainability, it was important for the public sector to work together.

The report recommended Cabinet and the relevant Boards of the NHS organisations to agree the proposals and require further work to be undertaken to develop them and to pursue their implementation.

RESOLVED

That, for the reasons set out in the report:

1. the Executive Summary (Appendix 1 of the report submitted) which set out the vision and outcomes of the proposed programme be agreed;
2. a programme of work be carried out to achieve greater and closer integration between the Council and its NHS partners in order to achieve both improved outcomes for people who used services and the development of financially sustainable services;
3. the Compact (Appendix 2 of the report submitted) which described the sort of behaviours most likely to foster the achievement of those outcomes, be agreed; and
4. Officers be requested to negotiate further about the arrangements for the joint governance of this programme, submitting its recommendations to a future meeting.

(Note: In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 7.1, Councillor Rachel Bailey spoke on this item.)

160 **REVIEW OF HOUSING OPTIONS AND HOMELESSNESS SERVICE**

A comprehensive review of the way in which services were delivered to those in need of housing had been carried out. The Cabinet considered a

report which provided a summary of the review and outlined options and recommendations put forward by Andy Gale Housing Consultancy, which had carried out an independent assessment on behalf of the three former Borough Councils.

RESOLVED

That, for the reasons set out in the report:

1. the service review options outlined in the report be noted; and
2. approval be granted for the contracted Homelessness and Housing Options Service to be delivered directly by Cheshire East Council from 1st April 2010.

(Notes: (a) In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 43.7, Councillors D Brown and J Macrae requested that their abstention from voting on this item be recorded; and

(b) In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 7.2, Councillor D Neilson spoke on this item.)

161 **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MACCLESFIELD**

The Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to develop a coherent delivery plan for Macclesfield over the next 5-10 years, focusing specifically on the opportunities to review the plans and agreements in place for the town centre; realise the potential of the South Macclesfield Development Area (SDMA); and improve and extend the town's facilities, particularly from a retail, leisure, cultural and heritage perspective.

RESOLVED:

That, for the reasons set out in the report:

1. approval be granted to the development of a delivery plan for Macclesfield which provided a more robust and cohesive approach for the town over the next 5-10 years;
2. the Council lead, in partnership with its development partner, Wilson Bowden Developments, in reviewing the options for delivery of a mixed use town centre development scheme in Macclesfield within the parameters of the existing Development Agreement, which included stakeholder engagement and public consultation;
3. approval be granted to the use of £150,000 from the Places earmarked reserve for economic development over the period 2009/2011 in order to procure –
 - External consultancy capacity and expertise to support the development of the delivery plan

- Commercial development advice for the South Macclesfield Development Area (SMDA).

(Note: In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 7.1, Councillors D Neilson and L Smetham spoke on this item.)

162 **MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE**

The Cabinet received a report which provided an overview of the 2009-2010 mid-year performance of Cheshire East Council.

The report highlighted areas of good performance and indicated those areas where performance was currently below targeted levels. Where improvement was required, the report indicated remedial action being taken.

RESOLVED

That, for the reasons set out in the report:

1. Cabinet note the overview of performance detailed in the report and considered the issues raised in relation to potential under-performance against targets and the means by which these issues would be addressed; and
2. Cabinet note the need to develop further the local performance targets identified by the Audit Commission in the Council's provisional Organisational Assessment.

(Note: In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 7.2, Councillor P Edwards spoke on this item.)

163 **OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE FOR EXTRA CARE HOUSING PFI**

In accordance with Procedure Rule 43.6, the Leader of the Council had agreed to take this report as an urgent item to enable the Council to comply with Government deadlines.

The Cabinet had agreed to establish a joint committee with Cheshire West and Chester Council called the "Joint Extra Care Housing Management Board". The Board's main task would be to consider the Outline Business Case for Extra Care Housing PFI. The financial situation for the project had changed and the Cabinet now considered a report which (a) outlined the process for pursuing PFI funding; (b) outlined the re-modelled financial position; and (c) sought approval to proceed to the next stage of the PFI application process.

RESOLVED

That, for the reasons set out in the report:

1. the remodelled financial position, allowing the Joint Extra Care Member Board to approve the re-submission of the Outline Business Case for Extra Care Housing Round 5, be approved;
2. in approving this remodelled financial position, the Cabinet note that Cheshire East Council was committed to a maximum annual contribution of £168,000. This was based on the number of rental units within the Council's boundary, including a prudent assumption that "Supporting People" income would not be realised; if this sum were realised, the annual contribution, net of "Supporting People" income reduced to £84,000.

164 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item, pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

165 **MANAGING WORKFORCE CHANGE**

The Cabinet considered a report which provided details in respect of posts where the employees had applied for voluntary redundancy.

RESOLVED

That, for the reasons set out in the report:

the Cabinet support the decision of the Chief Executive to release the employees whose roles were listed in Appendix A of the report submitted, under the arrangements agreed in relation to severance provisions for employees in the Council.

(Note: In accordance with Procedure Rule No. 7.2, Councillors A Moran, D Neilson and L Smetham, spoke on this item.)

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.50 pm

Councillor W Fitzgerald (Chairman)