

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held on Monday, 4th February, 2019 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)

Councillors Rhoda Bailey, B Burkhill, S Corcoran, H Davenport, T Dean, B Dooley, S Gardiner, S Pochin and T Fox

Apologies

Councillors M Grant, A Moran and J Nicholas

61 ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Ainsley Arnold - Housing, Planning and Regeneration Portfolio Holder
Councillor Paul Bates - Finance and Communication Portfolio Holder
Councillor Janet Clowes-Adult Social Care and Integration Portfolio Holder
Councillor Jos Saunders - Children and Families Portfolio Holder
Councillor Liz Wardlaw – Health Portfolio Holder

Kath O'Dwyer - Acting Chief Executive
Frank Jordan - Executive Director - Place
Mark Palethorpe - Acting Executive Director of People
Mark Taylor - Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services
Sara Barker - Head of Strategic HR
Dan Dickinson - Acting Director of Legal Services
Linda Couchman - Acting Strategic Director of Adult Social Care & Health
Alex Thompson - Head of Finance & Performance

62 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the held on 10 December 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

64 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of the existence of a party whip.

65 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

66 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Head of Finance & Performance on the third quarter review of performance for 2018/19.

The report outlined how the Council was managing resources to provide value for money services during the 2018/19 financial year. Annex 1 to the report set out details of how the Council was performing in 2018/19.

- (a) That the report be received and noted;
- (b) That the thanks of the Committee be extended to Alex Thompson for the detailed report which was much appreciated by Members of the Committee;
- (c) That Alex Thompson, contributing officers and Portfolio holders be thanked for their attendance and contributions;
- (d) That where appropriate, information be provided in the form of charts or graphs to assist members to comprehend and assimilate the information more easily;
- (e) That Corporate Leadership Team be requested consider producing a shorter report specifically for Overview and Scrutiny Committee in future which gives more prominence to those matters which require the Council to improve performance.

67 BUDGET CONSULTATION 2019/2020

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Head of Finance & Performance presenting the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Council for the years 2019/20 to 2021/22.

The report set out how the Council would approach the financial challenges over the medium term and forecast a balanced budget for 2019/20.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) Report (containing the Budget) for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 was set out at Appendix C.

RESOLVED-

- (a) That the report be received and noted;
- (b) That Alex Thompson, contributing officers and portfolio holders be thanked for their attendance and contributions;
- (c) That the following comments be submitted to Cabinet:
 - The committee acknowledges the unprecedented pressures on the Council and notes the planned actions to produce a balanced budget;
 - The Committee notes the increased investment in Corporate Services and supports this approach;
 - The Cabinet considers producing a communication stream to explain to the general public the difference between its statutory responsibilities i.e. those for which services which have to be provided by law and non statutory i.e. those services which are at the discretion of the Council; this

might provide a better steer on appropriate feedback into consultation process.

- That Cabinet might wish to focus further discussions on the popular themes highlighted by the public in the consultation i.e.:-
 - The Little bus and transport in particular resulting in isolation in rural areas;
 - Car parking charges and strategy.
- (d) That Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to investigate matters raised within the report concerning climate change.

68 FLY TIPPING UPDATE

Councillor Janet Clowes Portfolio for Adult Social Care and Integration presented a report on the work of the Fly Tipping Monitoring Group, the creation of which had been endorsed by the committee in June 2018. The cross-party Fly-tipping Monitoring Group had been set up to provide oversight of progress to meet the recommendations of the Fly Tipping Monitoring Group.

Since June 2018, the Monitoring Group had met on four occasions with officer representation from ANSA and the Council and Crewe Town Council.

RESOLVED - That the report be received.

69 NEW HOMES BONUS - COMMUNITY FUND - UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Community Development Manager relating to the bids received in connection £2m the Council had set aside for a New Homes Bonus Community Fund as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The New Homes Bonus Community Fund had been split across the Borough based on the location of housing developments that had contributed to the New Homes Bonus funding allocated to Cheshire East Council..
In total, 222 applications had been received worth £7,464,406 in total.

Each application was currently being assessed and scored by a multi-agency officer panel.

RESOLVED - That the report be received.

70 FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED- That the Forward Plan be received and noted.

71 WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee reviewed its work programme.

RESOLVED –That the work programme be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 1.10 pm

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)