

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
held on Thursday, 1st October, 2020 at Virtual Meeting

PRESENT

Councillor J Clowes (Chairman)
Councillor B Murphy (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Q Abel, C Bulman, JP Findlow, R Fletcher, A Moran, J Saunders,
M Simon, R Vernon and L Wardlaw

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor J Rhodes, Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Corporate
Services
Councillor A Stott, Portfolio Holder for Finance, ICT and Communication

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jane Burns, Executive Director of Corporate Services
Linda Couchman, Acting Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health
Dan Coyne, Community Development Manager*
Asif Ibrahim, Interim Director of Governance and Compliance
Frank Jordan, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Place
Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People
Alex Thompson, Director of Financial and Customer Services
Nichola Thompson, Director of Commissioning

*Attended for Minute No. 26 only

20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Hunter.

21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED –

That, subject to the noting of Councillor B Murphy's apology for absence,
the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record and
signed by the chairman.

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a party whip.

24 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

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

25 MID-YEAR REVIEW 2020/21

Consideration was given to a report on the council's financial performance at the mid-point of the 2020/21 financial year. Members asked questions and put comments on a range of points in the report, including;

- the need for greater clarity when presenting financial figures in both gross and net terms;
- clarification on the council's workforce recovery scheme;
- the number of apprenticeships and how these compared to previous years;
- the number of agency staff presently employed by the council;
- how the various monies allocated to pothole improvement works would be specifically distributed and spent; and
- whether true value for money was being achieved through the car park pay and display machines.

RESOLVED –

- 1 That the comments and questions raised by the committee, be presented to Cabinet when it considers the report on 6 October, 2020.
- 2 That the requests for additional information or detailed, written responses, be collated by the Scrutiny Officer and circulated to the committee by email.

26 CROWD FUNDING

Consideration was given to the council's proposed Crowd Funding policy. Questions and comments were made in respect of;

- whether any potential excess funds could be used to support councils and partners in neighbouring areas, to support the wider green agenda;
- whether the council would need to consult with residents about this new policy, in the same way that they are with annual council tax setting;
- how sustainable this approach to raising funds and supporting local projects was;

- what the specific costs the council and other organisations would need to pay to support this approach in the longer-term;
- what kind of mechanism would be used to monitor unused monies coming back to the council; and
- concern that the £100k outset fee required to be paid by the council could potentially be used elsewhere to support the Covid-19 response.

RESOLVED –

That the Crowd Funding policy proposal be noted.

27 RE-PROCUREMENT OF CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS: ADULT'S AND CHILDREN'S

Consideration was given to the council's proposed Crowd Funding policy. Questions and comments were made in respect of;

- whether any potential excess funds could be used to support councils and partners in neighbouring areas, to support the wider green agenda;
- whether the council would need to consult with residents about this new policy, in the same way that they are with annual council tax setting;
- how sustainable this approach to raising funds and supporting local projects was;
- what the specific costs the council and other organisations would need to pay to support this approach in the longer-term;
- what kind of mechanism would be used to monitor unused monies coming back to the council; and
- concern that the £100k outset fee required to be paid by the council could potentially be used elsewhere to support the Covid-19 response.

RESOLVED –

That the Crowd Funding policy proposal be noted.

28 FORWARD PLAN

The committee reviewed the council's Forward Plan of key decisions.

RESOLVED –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

29 WORK PROGRAMME

The committee reviewed its work programme. It was noted that the next meeting of the (Best4Business) Joint Scrutiny Working Group was due to

meet at the end of November, and so an update could be presented to committee at its meeting on 7 January, 2021.

RESOLVED –

That the work programme be agreed.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 5.16 pm

Councillor J Clowes (Chairman)