

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Economy and Growth Committee**
held on Thursday, 16th September, 2021 at The Capesthorne Room - Town
Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1EA

PRESENT

Councillor N Mannion (Chair)
Councillor M Goldsmith (Vice-Chair)

Councillors S Brookfield, D Brown, J Clowes, S Edgar (substitute), M Houston,
D Jefferay, A Kolker, R Moreton, B Puddicombe (substitute), D Stockton and
P Williams

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Peter Skates, Director of Growth and Enterprise
Brendan Flanagan, Head of Rural and Cultural Economy
Karen Carsberg, Head of Housing
Paul Goodwin, Head of Financial Services
Adrian Leslie, Solicitor
Rachel Graves, Democratic Services Officer

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors J Barber and P Groves.

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interests of openness, the following declarations were made:

Councillor N Mannion declared that he was a member of the Tatton Park Board and a member of the Rural Strategy Group

Councillor M Goldsmith declared that he was the Council's nomination to Marketing Cheshire.

Councillor B Puddicombe declared that he was the Council's nomination to Peak and Plains Housing Trust.

Councillor D Brown declared that he was a member of the Finance Sub Committee and a member of its Shareholder Working Group.

Councillor J Clowes declared that she was the relevant Portfolio Holder when the Rural Action Plan was approved in March 2019.

12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

13 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no public speakers.

14 TOURISM RECOVERY PLAN

The Committee considered the Tourism Recovery Plan, which set out the approach to supporting tourism and the visitor economy in Cheshire East following an economic downturn in the sector due to the Covid pandemic.

RESOLVED:

That the Tourism Recovery Plan be approved as the basis of the Council's approach to economic recovery in the Visitor Economy sector.

15 TATTON PARK UPDATE

The Committee considered the update on Tatton Park, which set out the effects of the covid pandemic and the recovery plans. The report also explained the role of Tatton Park Board and its governance arrangements.

RESOLVED:

That the update on Tatton Park be noted.

16 RURAL ACTION PLAN

The Committee considered the report which set out the background to the Rural Action Plan and the proposed arrangements to update and refresh the Plan for the period 2022 to 2025.

It was proposed that the informal Members Advisory Panel should consist of up to five members from the Committee rather than three, and subject to nominations received and appointments approved by the Head of Governance and Democratic Services in line with the relevant protocols in the Constitution.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 the preparation of a Rural Action Plan 2022-25 be approved;
- 2 the workstreams, as identified in paragraph 6.2, be approved;

- 3 a Member Advisory Panel, comprising of up to 5 members, be set up to provide guidance on the scope and priorities within the workstreams and drafting of the Rural Action Plan; and
- 4 it be noted that the Rural Action Plan 2022-2025 will be brought back to the Economy and Growth Committee in 2022.

The Committee adjourned for a short break. Councillor D Stockton left the meeting and did not return.

17 HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2021-2025

The Committee considered the report which provided a summary of the consultation responses on the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2025 and sought the approval and adoption of the final version of the Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the Committee

- 1 note the consultation responses and amendments to the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2025;
- 2 approves and adopts the final version of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2025;
- 3 note that the funding arrangements are in place to enable the delivery of the Strategy; and
- 4 note that the delivery of the Strategy will be overseen by the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group.

18 FIRST HOMES AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Committee considered the report which provided an update on the types of affordable housing which were delivered in Cheshire East and details on the new Government affordable housing product – First Home. The report also outlined the mechanisms in which the Council secured affordable housing on site or as a financial contribution in lieu of affordable housing.

RESOLVED: That the Committee

- 1 note that a Housing Supplementary Document is being currently developed and will be considered by the Environment and Communities Committee at a future meeting; and

- 2 approves the process, outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, for the allocation of financial contributions for the provision of affordable housing.

19 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the Committee's Work Programme.

It was reported that there could be an additional item for the November committee meeting relating to Domestic Adaptations and Retrofit Contract.

Other items suggested for the Work Programme were an update on the Connecting Cheshire Broadband programme, and the availability of suitable accommodation for micro businesses to develop. It was agreed that officers would discuss these outside of the meeting to see what the issues were as it may be more suitable to provide a briefing note on them for committee members.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.11 pm

Councillor N Mannion (Chair)