

Mayor Making and Annual Council Agenda

Date: Wednesday 24th May 2023

Time: 11.00 am

Venue: The Tenants' Hall, Tatton Park, Knutsford WA16 6QN

Please enter Tatton Park via the Rostherne entrance - post code for sat nav is WA16 6SG. The Annual Council meeting will be sign posted within the park.

The agenda is divided into two parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making meetings are audio recorded and the recordings are uploaded to the Council's website

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

Mayor Making Ceremony

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **Election of Mayor 2023/24**

To elect a Mayor for 2023/24, who will also act as Chair of the Council.

4. **Appointment of Deputy Mayor 2023/24**

To appoint a Deputy Mayor for 2023/24, who will also act as Vice-Chair of the Council.

Please contact
E-Mail:

Katie Small on 01270 686465
katie.small@cheshireeast.gov.uk with any apologies or requests for further information or to give notice of a question to be asked by a member of the public

5. **Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor**

6. **Mayor's Announcements**

To receive such announcements as may be made by the Mayor.

Adjournment for Lunch and Reconvening of Meeting at 1.30 pm

Annual General Meeting

7. **Apologies for Absence**

8. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

9. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 30)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 22 February 2023.

10. **Election of Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader of the Council 2023/24**
(Pages 31 - 36)

To elect a Leader of the Council and a Deputy Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2023/24.

11. **Political Representation on the Council's Committees** (Pages 37 - 42)

To determine the political representation on the Council's Committees and to appoint those Committees.

Appendix to follow

12. **Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees of the Council**
(Pages 43 - 46)

To appoint the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Council's committees.

Appendix to follow

13. **Recommendations from Corporate Policy Committee: Calendar of Meetings 2023-2024** (Pages 47 - 72)

To consider the recommendations from Corporate Policy Committee.

14. **Appointments to Cheshire Fire Authority and Cheshire Police and Crime Panel**
(Pages 73 - 78)

To approve the appointments to the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel and the Cheshire Fire Authority.

15. **Appointments to the Fostering Panel and the Adoption Panel** (Pages 79 - 82)

To approve the appointments to the Adoption Panel and Fostering Panel.

16. **Acceptance of Green Heat Network Fund** (Pages 83 - 90)

To approve the acceptance of a grant from the Green Heat Network Fund towards the development of a heat network to support the Garden Village at Handforth, and approve the procurement, contracting and award of £680,000 of the Green Heat Network Fund grant for the commercialisation phase of the project.

17. **Reporting of Urgent Decisions taken by the Chief Executive** (Pages 91 - 92)

To note the urgent decision taken by the Chief Executive on behalf of Council.

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council**
held on Wednesday, 22nd February, 2023 in the Assembly Room,
Town Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1EA

PRESENT

Councillor D Marren (Mayor/Chair)

Councillor R Fletcher (Deputy Mayor/Vice Chair)

Councillors Q Abel, S Akers Smith, L Anderson, M Asquith, R Bailey, J Barber, M Beanland, M Benson, L Braithwaite, J Bratherton, S Brookfield, D Brown, C Browne, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill, J Clowes, S Corcoran, L Crane, A Critchley, S Davies, T Dean, D Edwardes, S Edgar, H Faddes, A Farrall, JP Findlow, K Flavell, A Gage, S Gardiner, M Goldsmith, A Gregory, P Groves, S Handley, A Harewood, G Hayes, S Hogben, S Holland, M Houston, M Hunter, D Jefferay, L Jeuda, A Kolker, C Leach, I Macfarlane, N Mannion, A Moran, R Moreton, B Murphy, D Murphy, C Naismith, J Nicholas, J Parry, S Pochin, B Puddicombe, P Redstone, J Rhodes, J Saunders, M Sewart, M Simon, L Smetham, J Smith, L Smith, D Stockton, A Stott, L Wardlaw, M Warren, J Weatherill, P Williams, J Wray and N Wylie

65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors M Addison, B Evans, L Gilbert, A Martin, K Parkinson and R Vernon.

66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor advised Members that they did not have to declare an interest as a Council Tax payer, or as a member of a parish council, on the item of business relating to the Council Tax, as there was a dispensation in place which removed this requirement. The Mayor further advised that there was a dispensation in place for members, if they had requested one, in respect of any disclosable pecuniary interest which would arise as a result of a receipt of an allowance or other remuneration in respect of Council duties or directorship of Council owned ASDV. Such Members were therefore permitted to participate and vote on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023-27 item.

Councillor S Gardiner referred to Item 12 - Notices of Motion, and in particular the Notice of Motion on Leasehold Reform and stated that this was a matter he was involved with in his paid employment and, if the Motion was debated, he would leave the Chamber in order not to be prejudiced.

67 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That

- 1 the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2022 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor S Gardiner in the list of those giving apologies for the meeting.
- 2 the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2023 be approved as correct record.

68 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, in summary

- 1 stated that this was the last full Council meeting before the elections in May and wished those standing for re-election and those standing down all the best for the future.
- 2 reported that on Friday it would be the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and that a national moment of silence would be held and encourage all to support this.
- 3 reported that during his year as Mayor he had attended several events organised to support Ukraine refugees and thanked all those involved in these events.
- 4 reported that he had been raising money for Ukraine refugees as one of the Mayor's Charities and, to mark the anniversary, encouraged Members to make a small donation and that the Civic Office would be contacting all Members outlining how donations could be made if wished to do so.

69 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

Mr Colin Townsend spoke in relation to the provision of residential charging points for electric vehicles, which allowed owners to charge their vehicle from their solar panels, or charge overnight on half-price off-peak electricity. However, if the owner did not have off-street parking and had to park on the street outside, the charge cable would be a trip hazard. He referred to a Macclesfield company which sold a product for £35 that would solve this problem and stated that councils in Bath and Somerset were arranging a trial of this and similar products and asked if this could be done in Cheshire East.

In response Cllr C Browne, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee, stated that the Council had published a draft EV Charging Strategy and was close to finalising this following recent public consultation and market engagement. The Council had secured £150k from the Government's On-Street residential EV Charge point Scheme to install a number of charges

in places where residents have no option for off-street charging on driveways. The Council intended to use the national Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure fund to create a boroughwide network of EV charges, by working with the commercial sector. Guidelines were expected to be published on the standards for “cable channels” such as that proposed by Mr Townend. The Council’s Highways Service was aware of the product referred to and they were looking to identify trial sites for this and alternative solutions. The Council would be interested in the outcomes of trials elsewhere, including Bath and Northeast Somerset Council.

Mr Robert Douglas spoke in support of Councillor Williams’ proposed Notice of Motion to implement a buffer zone of 1,000 metres between new and extensions to existing silica sand quarries and residential areas.

Mr Paul Buttrick, President of Knutsford & District Lions Club, spoke in objection to the proposal to close the Stanley Centre in Knutsford. He referred to the closing of Bexton Court, which he said was becoming a derelict building, and stated he did not wish to see the Stanley Centre in the same situation. He stated it was time to have a joined-up vision for the health and wellbeing of the area with the medical practice, a dementia unit, convalescence unit and social care facility built on the current site before the facility was decommissioned.

Ms Charlotte Peters Rock spoke in relation to the Stanley Centre, Knutsford, and the potential impact that the closure of the Centre would have on the community, and particularly disabled residents.

Cllr J Rhodes, Chair of Adults and Health Committee, responded and stated that the Stanley Centre provided day services for people with learning disabilities, with 20 people currently using the service routinely, and that all of those people would continue to receive services to meet their needs if Council agreed the proposal. In November 2021, the Adults and Health Committee had agreed a new Day Opportunities Strategy, which had been developed with people who use services. Based on what people had experienced during the pandemic the Council had been told there was a need to redesign the Council’s Day Services to move away from a predominantly traditional, building based service, to a more community-based approach, to future proof services. This approach would also allow the development of more cost-effective models of provision for the future, that better match the needs of a wide range of individuals, promote independence, quality of life, wellbeing, community engagement and inclusion. If a decision was made to proceed with the proposal a further consultation on the Stanley Centre would take place with all key stakeholders to gather people’s views and determine what people would like to see in terms for future day opportunities in the local area for individuals who attend now and those people that may need support in the future.

Ms Sue Helliwell referred to a recent newspaper article quoting that more than £20 million of Council Tax had not been collected by the Council in

the past few years, and asked if this money had been collected, would there have been no cuts to services. She also asked if the Council could guarantee that NHS workers, patients and visitors would still be able to get to Leighton Hospital on the 317 bus and that there would be no amalgamated bus services. Ms Helliwell then asked if it was correct that the Environment Act 2021 states that recyclable household waste, which was food waste, must be collected at least once a week and asked how did this affect the proposals to charge for garden waste.

In response Cllr A Stott, Chair of the Finance Sub Committee, stated that the total quoted arrears of £20.8m had to be set against the total amount billed over the same period which was £854m. The Council budgeted for a level of none or late payments for council tax each year and these figures were within the expected levels that are included within the budget. The collection of arrears continued over several years so that, over time, any impact is reduced. Last year's figures showed that the Council's collection rate was at 97.4 per cent, which was higher than the average for councils in England at 95.7 per cent; and for all unitary councils 95.8 per cent. The Council followed best practice in terms of collection of local taxes by applying a firm but fair process to those who avoid payment, whilst supporting those residents who find themselves in genuine difficulty.

Cllr C Browne, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee responded that the Council recognised the importance of access to Leighton and other hospitals by local buses. The bus network faced unprecedented pressures due to a fall in the passenger numbers and cost inflation and all bus operators were reviewing their networks. The Council aimed to retain key services for passengers, as far as local funding allowed, but it was impossible to guarantee that there would be no changes to bus services at this time.

Cllr M Warren, Chair of Environment and Communities Committee, responded that as part of the Environment Act, the Government had consulted on mandating a weekly food waste collection to all properties along with other changes to recycling collections. The final form of the legislation and outcome of the consultation had yet to be published by DEFRA. However, there was no certainty at this point if this aspect would be required. Should a weekly separate food waste collection be mandated, and sufficient funding made available for central government to initiate and operate it as the consultation proposed, it was believed that it would work well alongside the proposed chargeable garden waste service.

Congleton Town Councillor Kay Wesley spoke on the potential loss of another recycling facility in Congleton with the proposal to charge for the collection of garden and food waste, which for many Congleton families would mean their garden and food waste would no longer be collected because they could not afford to pay.

In response Cllr M Warren, Chair of Environment and Communities Committee, stated that the proposal to introduce an annual subscription

charge for the service was necessary to assist the authority in the cost of operating the waste recycling service. The authority was experiencing a significant increase in its contract costs associated with recycling and waste and in addition to making efficiencies needed to look for additional income streams to continue to cover its costs. Similar authorities and surrounding authorities already charged for garden recycling and nationally, according to 2019 figures, 65% of Local Authorities charged for garden waste collections.

Mr Ken Edwards referred to the number of responses received to the budget consultation, which was less than 1000, and compared it to the number of electors in the Borough - around 310,000 and asked that this fact be taken into consideration when deciding on the Budget. He also wished to bring to the Council's attention the process of devolution, which when the Council came into being in 2009 had seen a rush to get a policy and devolve services to town and parish councils but in his view not a lot had happened and asked if the Council would take forward this devolution policy.

Alsager Town Councillor Michael Unett asked if the Council would work with Alsager Town Council and local residents to find solutions to multiple issues on the Crewe Road and Station Road junction in Alsager. He also asked if the Council would revisit a previous decision and give permission to Alsager Town Council to deploy a portable Speed Indicator Device in Alsager.

70 **LEADER'S AND DEPUTY LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader, in summary:

- 1 reported that the Council had re-signed the Cheshire Armed Forces Covenant and was working towards the gold employer recognition award, having been awarded the bronze award in 2020 and silver award in 2022. He thanked Councillor A Farrall for his work as the Council's Armed Forces Champion.
- 2 reported that he would be attending and speaking at the Cheshire East 'Achieving Net Zero' conference at Reaseheath College. The event provided an opportunity to promote the commitment to make the entire Borough carbon neutral by 2045. The Council had set an ambitious target of being carbon neutral by 2025 with the Carbon Neutral Action Plan setting out the details on how this target would be achieved. He thanked Councillor Q Abel for his work as the Council's Environment and Climate Change Champion.
- 4 reported that this month was LGTB History Month and that the rainbow flag would be flying at Council offices.
- 5 stated that at the coming weekend the Ukrainian Flag would be flying at Council offices to mark the first anniversary of the Russian

invasion of Ukraine. He thanked all those who had opened their homes to Ukrainians seeking refuge from the war.

- 6 referred to the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and reported that the Government had match funded £5m of donations to the Disaster Emergency Committee appeal. In response to a question at the Corporate Policy Committee, he reported that any donations made now would not be match funded by the Government.
- 7 reported that due to the significant budgetary challenges facing the Council, it would not be able to allocate the same level of funding to support community events to mark the King's Coronation as it had for previous celebrations. However, officers were exploring the option of waiving the costs associated with road closures for events during the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend and details would be announced in due course.
- 8 reported on the Town Centre Vitality Plans, which had been developed by Council officers, Town Councils, local stakeholders, and external expert advisors. The Plans set out an agreed set of priority actions for each town centre and asked that the Plans were used to enhance and protect the town centres.
- 9 reported that a grant scheme was being introduced in Crewe to enable businesses to take on vacant commercial premises in the town centre. It was hoped the scheme would reduce the number of vacant premises and also create new jobs, strengthen the mix of businesses and increase the footfall into the town centre.
- 10 made reference to the fact that this was the last Council meeting before the elections and thanked all those councillors who were not seeking re-election for their service to their communities.

The Deputy Leader, in summary:

- 1 provided an update on HS2 Hybrid Bill and that the Select Committee had been formed and heard opening statements from HS2 Ltd in January and the initial forward plan of petition hearings had been announced. The Select Committee would be hearing petitioners on a geographical basis, from the southern end of the proposed scheme to the north. This meant the Council would be the first petitioner heard and had been allocated the 13 and 14 March for its hearing. Select Committee was always considered the last resort for a petition and Council officers were currently negotiating with HS2 Ltd to seek a package of assurances that would address the key concerns raised in the Council's petition. If the package offered by HS2 Ltd was not considered adequate, the Council would look to present the issues to the Select Committee in March to seek appropriate assurances directly from the Committee.

- 2 reported on the progress with Northwest Crewe Highway Package. The two new junctions on the A530 Middlewich Road were now substantially complete and the road had reopened. Work would now move to the northern end of the A530, with further phases of traffic management to allow construction of the junctions and the scheme remains on programme to fully open in early 2024.
- 3 reported that on Friday 3 March he would be attending a ceremony to open the Poynton Relief Road for pedestrians and cyclists to explore in a traffic free environment until it opened to all traffic on the following Monday. He thanked the Highways Team and the contractor, Graham, for delivering the project and the people of Poynton, Woodford and Bramhall for their patience and tolerance during the construction work.
- 4 reported on the Mill Street Corridor project in Crewe, which was a £2.8m Towns Fund project that aimed to deliver a new sustainable and public realm corridor from the town centre to Crewe Station and future HS2 hub. Funding for the scheme would all come from the Crewe Towns Fund and there was no requirement for match funding from the Council. The Mill Street Corridor would connect to other Towns Fund projects including Crewe Pocket Parks & Public Open Spaces Improvement Programme and the Valley Brook Green Corridor Project.
- 5 reported that the Council had been developing plans for a scheme to improve cycle links between Wilmslow and Handforth by delivering improvements to pedestrian crossing points and the provision of a two-kilometre segregated cycle lane to support active travel. The Council would be bidding to Active Travel England for £2m of capital investment supported by local developer funding to enable the new project to be constructed, which had been identified in the Walking and Cycling Improvement Plan. The outcome of the bid was expected by the middle of March.

**71 RECOMMENDATION FROM CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE:
MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023 TO 2027**

The Corporate Policy Committee, at its meeting on 9 February 2023, had considered a report on the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for Cheshire East Council for 2023-27.

The Corporate Policy Committee had recommended to Council the recommendations set out in Appendix A to the report.

The recommendations were proposed and seconded, and during the debate an amendment was proposed.

Amendment

1. *That Cheshire East Council, as the local highway authority, develops a Lane Rental Scheme and to prioritise its implementation, following approval by the Secretary of State*
2. *That this item is added to the Highways and Transport Committee work programme (2023/24) and the Highways Team are asked to identify associated, process, costs and benefits of a scheme for Cheshire East Council with the intent to introduce potential benefits in the MTFS from 1st April 2024.*
3. *That the benefits of the scheme, (financial and operational) are evaluated annually, as required under the legislation.*

The amendment was moved and seconded. The mover and seconder of the recommendations from the Corporate Policy Committee to Council agreed to accept the amendment and therefore the amendment became part of the substantive proposition.

Following debate on the substantive recommendations, these were put to the vote, and in accordance with legislation, a recorded vote was carried out with the following results:

FOR

Councillors Q Abel, S Akers Smith, L Anderson, J Barber, L Braithwaite, J Bratherton, S Brookfield, C Browne, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill, S Corcoran, L Crane, A Critchley, D Edwardes, H Faddes, A Farrall, K Flavell, M Goldsmith, A Gregory, S Handley, A Harewood, S Hogben, M Houston, M Hunter, D Jefferay, L Jeuda, I Macfarlane, N Mannion, A Moran, R Moreton, D Murphy, C Naismith, J Nicholas, J Parry, B Puddicombe, J Rhodes, L Smith, A Stott, M Warren and P Williams.

AGAINST

Councillors R Bailey, M Beanland, M Benson, D Brown, J Clowes, S Davies, T Dean, S Edgar, JP Findlow, A Gage, S Gardiner, P Groves, G Hayes, S Holland, A Kolker, C Leach, S Pochin, P Redstone, J Saunders, M Sewart, M Simon, L Smetham, J Smith, D Stockton, L Wardlaw, J Weatherill, J Wray and N Wylie.

NOT VOTING

Councillors R Fletcher, D Marren and B Murphy.

The motion was declared carried with 41 votes for, 28 against and 3 not voting.

RESOLVED:

That Council notes

- 1 the report of the Council's Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), contained within the MTFS Report, regarding the robustness of estimates and level of reserves held by the Council based on these budget proposals (Appendix C to the report, Report from the Section 151 Officer).

That Council, having given due regard to the report of the Chief Finance Officer, approves:

- 2 The Revenue estimates for the 2023/24 budget and the medium-term Capital Programme estimates 2023-2027, as detailed in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy Report (MTFS) 2023-2027 (Appendix C to the report).
- 3 Band D Council Tax of £1,707.39 representing an increase of 4.99%. This is below the referendum limit (including 2% ringfenced for Adult Social Care) and arises from the provisional finance settlement (Appendix C to the report, Section 2).
- 4 The 2022/23 planned use of Flexible Capital Receipts of £1.8m to fund transformational projects within the Council (Appendix C to the report, Section 2).
- 5 The allocation of Revenue Grant Funding for 2023/24 of £301.158m (Appendix C to the report, Annex 7), and delegates authority to the Chief Finance Officer, to approve supplementary estimates if the value of any named grant changes from the figures contained within Appendix C to the report, Annex 7 (noting that all such variations will subsequently be reported to the appropriate Committee, and that any new, previously unnamed, grants are subject to approval in-line with the Constitution)
- 6 The allocation of Capital Grant Funding for 2023/24 of £89.754m (Appendix C to the report, Annex 8), and delegates authority to the Chief Finance Officer, to approve supplementary estimates if the value of any named grant changes from the figures contained within Appendix C to the report, Annex 8 (noting that all such variations will subsequently be reported to the appropriate Committee, and that any new, previously unnamed, grants are subject to approval in-line with the Constitution)
- 7 The Capital Strategy (Appendix C to the report, Annex 10).
- 8 The Prudential Indicators for Capital Financing (Appendix C to the report, Annex 10).
- 9 The Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix C to the report, Annex 11).

- 10 The Investment Strategy; including the financial limits for various classifications of investment, and the investment decision making process set out in the Strategy (Appendix C to the report, Annex 12)
- 11 The Reserves Strategy (Appendix C to the report, Annex 13), which includes proposed movements to and from reserves.
- 12 The amendment to Key Decisions as defined in the Constitution and the financial limits to be included within the Council's Finance Procedure Rules (Appendix C to the report, Annex 14).
- 13 The proposal, subject to Regulations being passed following the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill, to implement a premium second homes of up to 100% and to amend the timing of the premium on empty and unoccupied property with effect from 1 April 2024;
- 14 That Cheshire East Council, as the local highway authority, develops a Lane Rental Scheme and to prioritise its implementation, following approval by the Secretary of State.

That this item is added to the Highways and Transport Committee work programme (2023/24) and the Highways Team are asked to identify associated, process, costs and benefits of a scheme for Cheshire East Council with the intent to introduce potential benefits in the MTFS from 1st April 2024.

That the benefits of the scheme, (financial and operational) are evaluated annually, as required under the legislation.

That Council recognises that Corporate Policy Committee noted:

- 15 The year-end outturn forecast position for 2022/23 (Appendix C to the report, Section 2).
- 16 The Budget Engagement exercise undertaken by the Council, as set out in the attached (Appendix C to the report, Annex 2a).
- 17 The results of the Budget Consultation (Appendix C to the report, Annex 2b).

72 COUNCIL TAX STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Consideration was given to a report relating to the setting of the Council Tax for 2023/24.

It was reported that there was an error in the report in paragraph 3.1.1 - second line, as the Council Tax amount had a full stop rather than a comma after the number 6. The figure should read £271,096,891 and it was this figure that the Council was being asked to approve.

As a billing authority Cheshire East Council was responsible for the billing and collection of Council Tax from local taxpayers and must, therefore, make a resolution to set the overall Council Tax level. This meant the Authority also collected Council Tax income to cover not only its own services but also precepts set by other authorities.

The Council Tax levied was therefore made up of four elements:-

- Cheshire East Borough Council
- Town & Parish Council precepts
- Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire precept
- Cheshire Fire Authority precept.

The motion in respect of the setting of the Council Tax was proposed and seconded. Following debate, in accordance with legislation a recorded vote was carried out in respect to this item, with the following results:-

FOR

Councillors Q Abel, S Akers Smith, L Anderson, J Barber, L Braithwaite, J Bratherton, S Brookfield, C Browne, J Buckley, C Bulman, P Butterill, S Corcoran, L Crane, A Critchley, D Edwardes, H Faddes, A Farrall, K Flavell, M Goldsmith, A Gregory, S Handley, A Harewood, S Hogben, M Houston, M Hunter, D Jefferay, L Jeuda, I Macfarlane, N Mannion, A Moran, R Moreton, D Murphy, C Naismith, J Nicholas, J Parry, B Puddicombe, J Rhodes, L Smith, A Stott, M Warren and P Williams.

AGAINST

Councillors R Bailey, M Beanland, M Benson, D Brown, J Clowes, S Davies, T Dean, S Edgar, JP Findlow, A Gage, S Gardiner, P Groves, G Hayes, S Holland, A Kolker, C Leach, B Murphy, S Pochin, P Redstone, J Saunders, M Sewart, M Simon, L Smetham, J Smith, D Stockton, L Wardlaw, J Weatherill, J Wray and N Wylie.

NOT VOTING

Councillors R Fletcher and D Marren

The motion was declared carried with 41 votes for, 29 against and 2 not voting.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 the Council Tax for Cheshire East Council for the financial year 2023/24, at £271,096,891 in accordance with the formal resolutions as shown in Section 14 of the report, as follows:

Formal Resolution

1. That it is noted that on 14 December 2022 the Council calculated the Council Tax base 2023/24.

- (a) for the whole Council area as 158,778.54 (item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the “Act”)).
- (b) for individual parishes, as in Appendix A to the report.
2. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2023/24 (excluding Parish precepts) is £271,096,891.
3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
- a. £740,744,041 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
 - b. £459,530,957 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
 - c. £281,213,084 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - d. £1,771.10 being the amount at 3(c) above divided by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
 - e. £10,116,193 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act
 - f. £1,707.39 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.
 - g. Appendix A to the report being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulations 3 and 6 of the Local Authorities

(Calculation of Council Tax Base)
Regulations 1992, as its total council tax base for the year and Council Tax base for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- h. Appendix B to the report being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (f) above, the amounts of special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided by in each case the appropriate tax base from Appendix A, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the 1992 Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of the area to which one or more special items relate. (Band D charges for each Parish area).
- i. Appendix C to the report being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the 1992 Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the 1992 Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands (Local charges for all Bands).
- j. Appendix D to the report being the aggregate of the local charges in (i) above and the amounts levied by major precepting authorities, calculated in accordance with Section 30(2) of the 1992 Act (The total Council Tax charge for each band in each Parish area).
- 4 Note that the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to Cheshire East Council in accordance with section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as shown in sections 11 and 12 of the report.
- 5 accepts that Cheshire East Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 was not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- 2 notes that the Council Tax precept of Cheshire Fire Authority, Police Crime and Commissioner for Cheshire, and each Town and Parish Council have been approved and notified to the Council in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by sections 72 to 79 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 3 notes the average Council Tax for the Cheshire East Borough is £2,109.02 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by sections 72 to 79 of the Localism Act 2011.

73 RECOMMENDATION FROM CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE: PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2023/24

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Corporate Policy Committee in respect of the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24.

The Corporate Policy Committee, at its meeting on 9 February 2023, had considered the draft Pay Policy Statement and resolved that Council be recommended to approve and publish the Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 and agree the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 be reviewed in-year and any further changes be approved by the Monitoring Officer and published accordingly.

RESOLVED: That

- 1 the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 be approved and published accordingly; and
- 2 the agreed Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 be reviewed in-year and any further changes be approved by the Monitoring Officer and published accordingly.

74 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR OF FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the appointment of the Vice Chair of the Finance Sub Committee.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor B Puddicombe be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Finance Sub Committee.

75 NOMINATION OF THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Consideration was given to the nominations for the office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.

Mayor for 2023/24

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Rod Fletcher should become Mayor Elect for 2023/24.

Councillor Fletcher declared an interest in respect of this item and left the Chamber during its consideration.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Rod Fletcher be designated as the Mayor Elect with a view to their formal election and appointment as Mayor for Cheshire East for 2023/24, at the Mayor Making ceremony to be held on 24 May 2023.

Councillor Fletcher returned to the meeting.

Deputy Mayor for 2023/24

It was separately proposed and seconded that Councillor David Brown, Councillor David Edwardes and Councillor Marilyn Houston be designated as Deputy Mayor Elect.

Councillors Brown, Edwardes and Houston declared an interest in respect of this item and left the Chamber during its consideration.

A vote was taken in respect of the three nominations with Councillor Edwardes receiving the fewest vote. He was therefore removed from the contest.

Councillor Edwardes returned to the meeting.

A vote was taken in respect of the two remaining nominations with Councillor Houston receiving the most votes.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Marilyn Houston be designated as the Deputy Mayor Elect, with a view to their formal election and appointment as Deputy Mayor for Cheshire East for 2023/24, at the Mayor Making ceremony to be held on 24 May 2023.

Councillors D Brown and M Houston returned to the meeting.

76 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Consideration was given to the Notices of Motion which had been submitted in accordance with the Council's Procedural Rules.

1 Establishment of a 1,000-metre buffer around silica extraction sites

Proposed by Councillor P Williams and Seconded by Councillor J Buckley

Quarrying and extraction is important to the economy of our Borough with its rich deposits of salt, silica and sand. The industry is, quite rightly, well-regulated but there remain concerns about the health and environmental impacts. These concerns are particularly acute where quarrying silica extraction takes place close to residential areas. Airborne dust and noxious fumes can have serious health implications for people, particularly children, older adults and others with existing disease, exposed to them for prolonged periods.

Matt Western MP issued a Private Members' Bill in the UK Parliament in December 2021 calling for a buffer zone of at least 1,000 metres between new or proposed quarries of silicates and residential areas. The Bill is supported by a number of Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat MPs.

We ask that Cheshire East Council should implement a distance restriction of at least 1,000 metres when considering applications for quarrying or silica extraction. We propose that the relevant environmental and planning committees and the Council's emerging minerals strategy take account of this issue for the well-being of residents.

RESOLVED:

That the Motion be referred to the Environment and Communities Committee or such other appropriate committee, based upon the constitutional terms of reference.

2 Leasehold Reform

Proposed by Councillor L Crane and Seconded by Councillor M Goldsmith

This Council notes:

Government promised to tackle the leasehold reforms through two pieces of legislation. The first to help new 'leases' and the second to help 'Existing' leaseholders. The first part was delivered earlier this year via The Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Act 2022. This was to be followed swiftly by the second part of the promised reforms, but this has been further delayed and leaves over 6 million existing leaseholders struggling to navigate a system that is currently stacked against them.

As a result of this delay, sales are falling through on many leasehold properties due to the ground rents. Many remain in leasehold limbo, with no affordable way out in the middle of a Cost-of-Living Crisis.

This Council further notes that:

Developers may have moved away from building leasehold homes but they have replaced this with another model by creating the Private Residential Estate model (PRE's) for new build developments.

Historically, estate infrastructure would be adopted by the local authority.

It is now increasingly common that at least some of the estate's infrastructure is not adopted and for homeowners to pay maintenance. These charges can cover a large range of items: public open spaces, play areas, landscaped or ecological buffer areas, roads, highways, ground maintenance, street lighting, games areas, administration & management fees & public liability insurance.

Unlike leasehold properties homeowners of freehold properties with these private estate charges have no mechanism to challenge these charges/services. They are unregulated. There is no transparency and little accountability.

This Council further notes:

Local authorities have policies on the requirements for adoption which include meeting minimal standards and developers must meet these standards prior to adoption. If they do not meet these standards, then the council will not adopt. Infrastructure can often be built, without ever meeting the required standards. In the past it was common practice for developers to pay a commuted sum to cover the adoption and maintenance of items such as amenity land, playgrounds and path ways so that these could be adopted by the Council. Now processes lean towards adoption of highways alone.

Unadopted infrastructure is often built to lower standards. Private roads may be narrower with less room for parking and no pavements, have lower specification street lighting. There may also be problems when the estate is not maintained to an appropriate standard and disgruntled residents may then look to the local authority to help them out.

Therefore this Council resolves to:

- 1. Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request that the Government:*

- a. *Delivers the leasehold reforms that were promised and that they include the online calculator for lease extensions and enfranchisement as soon as possible;*
 - b. *Prevents the sector from fixing capitalisation rates at a low rate in the calculation to avoid pushing up the cost for the leaseholder;*
 - c. *speeds up progress on other reforms from the Law Commission - such as Right to Manage and commonhold to address the issues that we see today with service charges and insurance commissions; and*
2. *Asks the Council to consider through the refresh of the Local Plan:*
- a. *implementing planning policy changes to ensure developers are unable to create so called 'fleecehold' where fees are typically secured by a rent charge (which means if residents fall into default on those fees the property can be converted from freehold to leasehold again and so the cycle begins again); and*
 - b. *if and when Cheshire East Council sells any reversionary freehold or leasehold interests then it will offer first refusal to the existing leaseholder at fair value.*

RESOLVED:

That the Motion be referred to the Economy and Growth Committee or such other appropriate committee, based upon the constitutional terms of reference.

77 QUESTIONS

Cllr Q Abel referred to climate change and asked if Cheshire East had a water management plan for drought, possibility of wildfires and the potential for huge quantities of water falling in a short period of time causing extensive damage. He asked if, as the lead flood authority, the Council had applied for and received grants, how any grants had been spent and which committee did this responsibility sit under.

Cllr C Browne, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee, responded that the Council did have a water management plan. As a lead local flood authority, the Council had a statutory duty to participate in a six-year cycle identifying flood risk areas, and there was also a flood risk management plan, which was a national strategic plan, that had measures or actions that were identified in flood risk areas. The flood risk management plans were published by the Environment Agency, who obviously work closely with the Council, but also with other risk management authorities as well to produce them. In addition, the Council itself had a local flood risk management strategy that considered measures to help reduce flood risk including everything from better planning of new developments to ensuring emergency responders had a better understand where the greatest risks

are. In relation to the question about where the responsibility sat, Cllr Browne reported that this was recently the subject of a report which went to the Highways and Transport Committee for consideration entitled 'It's Not Just Water' and the Committee unanimously agreed that at this particular time oversight of that statutory function was retained under the remit of the Highways and Transport Committee. Cllr Browne undertook to provide a written response in relation to the grants received and how the money had been spent.

Cllr J Clowes referred to the Council receiving nearly £4.5m of additional Household Support Grant funding and asked how the Council would implement these additional funds and, in particular, take advantage of the examples of good practice that the Government had identified that all local authorities should take on board where applicable.

She also asked when she would receive a definitive answer on the transfer of maintenance of the closed church yards in Wybunbury to Cheshire East Council.

In response Cllr A Stott, Chair of the Finance Sub Committee, stated that the funding had come through very recently and the scheme was similar to previous covid 19 schemes, so although the funding would not impact on the Council's budget as such, it would impact on workload. The Council would be responsible for passporting the funds out to residents as appropriate.

Cllr D Edwardes referred to EV charging points and asked what grants the Council had applied for to allow the instalment of chargers, how much money had been received, and did the Council have a policy on charging infrastructure in Cheshire East.

In response Cllr C Browne, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee, stated that the Council had a policy, which was adopted by the Highways and Transport Committee, and set out the mix of public and private investment that was needed. The Strategy was kept under regular review and an updated version was due to come back to the Committee for consideration during 2023. In relation to grants, the Council applied to the On Street Residential Charge Point Fund for a sum of £200k and was successful in being awarded £151k from that fund, which had to be used by March 2024. It was expected that the Council would submit an expression of interest to the new national Low Emission Infrastructure Fund when the opening of expressions of interest was announced.

Cllr S Gardiner asked if it was possible to have an item on a future agenda of the Adults and Health Committee to consider the issue of the Stanley Centre and to look at what could be done to save it or if not look at alternative provision of day care within Knutsford.

In response Cllr J Rhodes, Chair of Adults and Health Committee, stated that the matter would come to the Committee in the new Council because

a decision had to be taken by the Committee following consultation so there would be an opportunity for the matter to be discussed.

Cllr P Redstone asked what mitigation measures officers had applied to the approved MTFS to ensure the spending cuts put forward did not disproportionately affect the rural community. He stated that the Leader of the Council had suggested that it made good sense for residents or areas which do not receive specific services should not have to pay for them and asked when this policy would be enacted.

Cllr S Corcoran responded that he thought that Cllr Redstone had misquoted him slightly and what he had said was that if a resident cannot use a service, for example if they have not got a garden and they cannot use garden refuse, this was not the same as do not use. Cllr Corcoran stated that there was an interesting discussion around 'what about education,' if you don't have children but he did think everybody benefited from education. What about Leisure Centres because some people do not use leisure centres, but you have to pay for them if you go there, but they are funded by the Council. It had been mentioned about electric car charging points. It was quite hard to provide enough electric car charging points in rural areas, it was much easier to provide them in urban areas, so there was a balance there and Cllr Corcoran stated he was happy to discuss this over the coming years.

Cllr L Anderson thanked Councillor Corcoran for his announcement earlier about looking at the charges of the fees for the road closures for the Coronation and asked when it was considered, could it include anyone that had already applied for road closures and had already paid their fees. Cllr S Corcoran agreed that this was a good point and would look into it.

Cllr L Wardlaw asked that the leadership commit to a refresh and a recommitment to the Brighter Futures Programme in view of some of the behaviours exhibited at the meeting when the Council went into the new cycle of meetings following the elections. Cllr J Rhodes responded and stated that she was currently the Chair of the Members Input Panel and that the Panel and, Members as a whole, had never not been committed to the Brighter Future programme.

Cllr S Handley asked a question in relation to comments made earlier in the meeting regarding cuts to staff in the Children and Families services and sought reassurances that there would not be any reduction in statutory frontline workers. Cllr K Flavell, Chair of Children and Families Committee, responded and gave assurance that there would be no cuts to staff and statutory frontline workers. The Council was trying to fill the vacancies in the social workers team. The savings that were being made would include some staff reductions, but this would be as part of streamlining services to make the service work more efficiently and more effectively.

Cllr B Puddicombe referred to claims being made in leaflets and on social media that the Administration had removed £5m of planned expenditure for Macclesfield Town and asked the Chair of the Economy and Growth Committee if there were any truth to these claims. In response Cllr N Mannion stated that there never was a guaranteed £5m pot of money for Macclesfield Town Centre. Funding of that order was referenced in what was called the addendum to the Council's budgets between 2017 and 2021/2022 with relation to capital expenditure and to be approved only if suitable projects and business cases could be developed demonstrating affordability and sustainability. The presence of the addendum was found to have raised too many expectations and was costly from a revenue perspective, therefore full Council, at its meeting when it set the budget last year, agreed to stop having such a mechanism and the addendum was therefore no longer part of the Council's business planning process.

Cllr Mannion reported that new projects and, therefore investment, for Macclesfield had been developed in line with the Council's requirements for fully costed business cases. For example, in the last two years two levelling up bids were submitted seeking funding from central government to make significant capital improvements to the market and public realm area in Macclesfield Town Centre. However, they were unsuccessful despite being commented upon for the quality of the submissions. Work was currently ongoing to enable the installation of the replacement public toilets through the Changing Places programme in the Indoor Market in Macclesfield, with a project cost of around £160k. A funding package significantly boosted by a generous contribution by Macclesfield Town Council. These replaced the public toilet facilities lost some years ago on Churchill Way.

Cllr A Farrall stated that sometime ago the Highways and Transport Committee had reviewed the Highways Service Improvement Plan and resolved to investigate the recruitment of an independent Quality Assurance Officer for the highways programme and asked if this had taken place. Cllr C Browne, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee, confirmed that the recruitment process had taken place before Christmas and that the relevant officer was now in post, and carrying out evaluation and quality assurance processes on behalf of the Council.

Cllr R Moreton referred to a question he had asked at the last Council meeting asking if Cheshire East would be contacting all their social housing providers concerning issues around damp in their properties. He reported that he had been working closely with Plus Dane in Congleton and work had been programmed for nearly 20 houses. Plus Dane had been really helpful in their approach to this in Congleton and he would continue to work with them. He asked if other areas were getting the same support.

In response Cllr N Mannion, Chair of Economy and Growth Committee, thanked Cllr Moreton for his hard work in Congleton, and reported that the Regulator for Social Housing had written to all registered providers of

social housing to ask about property conditions in relation to damp and mould. In Cheshire East there nearly 22,000 social rented homes and the Cheshire East Council's Housing Strategy Team had also contacted all the local registered providers of social housing to ask them to share their response that they submitted to the regulator. Of those contacted, over half had responded. The information had been shared with the Council on a confidential basis and would not be shared outside the Council. Cllr Mannion stated that all the registered providers that responded had demonstrated they were taking a proactive approach to concerns raised by tenants in relation to damp and mould. Cllr Mannion reported that the Regulator for Social Housing had published an initial report and he would share details of the initial report with Members. The Council was also focusing on the private rented sector and was due to start a review and develop a protocol of how the Council would work with that sector to have the robust processes in place to deal with complaints associated with disrepair within their properties. Sessions were to be organised for Members on the Council processes in relation to damp and mould and the main registered housing providers would be invited to attend and share their learning.

Cllr S Hogben asked if the Council would consider the installation of solar farms on its public car parks in the future with a view to generating power and income. Cllr S Corcoran responded that he knew that Bentley Motors have done something similar, and Crewe Alexander Football Club were planning to do something similar and stated that it was something the Council should be looking at.

78 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 as amended on the grounds that it involves the likely discussion of confidential information as defined in Section 100(A)(3)(A) and of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

79 HOME UPGRADE GRANT PHASE 2

Consideration was given to the report on the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations as set out in the report be approved.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am and concluded at 4.20 pm

Councillor D Marren
MAYOR/CHAIR

COUNCIL 22 February 2023

Item 13 – Questions: Written Responses

1 Cllr Q Abel

Written Response

Cheshire East Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, contribute to the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) programmes of work for worthwhile projects wherever we can to attract Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) and Local Levy funding. However, due to the nature of flooding and surface water flood risk across Cheshire East many projects can be difficult to justify and require robust business cases to demonstrate value for money. A number of grants have been applied for and received from these funding streams with success in areas like Bradfield Green where extensive new capital works were delivered in 2014/15 (£215k grant allocation) and an Asset Inspection Scheme in Poynton / Wilmslow in 2013/14 (£50k grant allocation).

Also, Cheshire East submitted a draft business case in 2019 for FDGiA for works on tributaries in Poynton to defend them from flooding. Feedback on the submitted draft business case was that additional work was needed to justify the funding and this has not been resubmitted due to the nature of these requirements. However, Cheshire East have undertaken extensive local drainage improvements though from within their own capital highways budgets to improve surface water drainage to significantly reduce the risk of flooding. We have also been pro-active in partnership working with the water company and other agencies on Natural Flood Management and community liaison. This has also helped established a collaborative multi-faceted model that we would look utilise across the borough to address drainage issues and manage flood risk.

Cheshire East will continue to work collaboratively with the Environment Agency and other key stakeholders via the established Cheshire and Mid Mersey Flood Partnership and work proactively with the EA in relation to the current 6-year FDGiA programme (2021 to 2027) spending cycle. As part of this the Head of Highways and the Flood Risk Management team will work proactively with the relevant officers from the Environment Agency in relation to the extra work required to the existing business case for the £250k FDGiA allocation for the Tributaries of Poynton Brook.

Alongside this the Council is continuing to invest significant funds into drainage and flood alleviation schemes annually through its management and maintenance of the highway network.

2 Cllr J Clowes

Written Response

Ansa have been instructed to commence grounds maintenance activities to the site and also to add this into their annual maintenance programme

moving forward and will update you directly as to when this maintenance will be happening.

3 Cllr L Anderson

Written Response

Further to the question at Council on 22/2/23 regarding road closure fees and street parties for the King's Coronation, I can confirm that the Council will not be charging. At present I am not aware that any fees have been charged; however, had they have been, a reimbursement would have been given.

Council Officers will be working with event organisers to ensure safe but proportionate traffic management is undertaken to help facilitate these events. This will need to be funded by the event organisers as with previous events

4 Cllr Moreton

Written Response

The link to the government report relating to housing standards:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/damp-and-mould-in-social-housing-initial-findings>

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Council**24 May 2024****Election of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council****Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance****Report Reference No: C/01/23-24****Ward(s) Affected: All****Purpose of Report**

- 1 To secure a resolution of Council to elect a Leader of the Council and a Deputy Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2023/24.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Constitution states that the functions of full Council include to elect the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Council.
- 3 The role of the Leader of the Council is not a formal legal role, but he or she is, in practice, the political head of the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1 elects a Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2023/24.
- 2 elects a Deputy Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2023/24.

Background

- 3 The Annual General Meeting of the Council is required to elect a Councillor to be the Leader of the Council and a Councillor to be the Deputy Leader of the Council for that municipal year.
- 4 The Councillors appointed will hold these offices until:
 - (a) The next Annual Meeting of the Council; or
 - (b) The Leader or Deputy Leader resigns from the office; or
 - (c) The Leader or Deputy Leader is no longer a Councillor; or
 - (d) The Leader or Deputy Leader is removed from the office by resolution of the Council.
- 5 The role of the Leader of the Council is not a formal legal role, but they are in practice the political head of the Council, and the Member with greatest responsibility for driving forward the broad policies of the Council.
- 6 The Council expects that the Leader will:
 - be the political (rather than ceremonial) leader of the Council, for the benefit of all the Borough's communities - its citizens, taxpayers, businesses, public bodies and other public authorities;
 - lead and work with the Council, particularly the Chairs of its Committees and Sub-Committees,
 - in the development of the Council's vision for the future, policy framework, budgets and strategies;
 - in overseeing service delivery and the implementation of policies approved by the Council;
 - represent and pursue the interests of the Council in the community and at international, national and regional levels;
 - act as Chair of the Corporate Policy Committee;
 - fulfil the role of Leader at full Council meetings;
 - lead in providing policy direction and guidance to the Chief Executive and Chief Officers;
 - meet regularly to progress the Council's objectives, with Committee Chairs, the Chief Executive and Chief Officers, Leaders of other political groups on the Council, partner organisations, stakeholders, community representatives, government representatives, local Members of Parliament etc.

7 The Leader shall be recognised in the following ways: -

- Chair Corporate Policy Committee: the Leader shall be appointed at the Council's Annual Meeting as Chair of the Council's Corporate Policy Committee.
- Attend and speak at any meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council, provided that they will only be entitled to vote if appointed as a voting member of that Committee or Sub-Committee.
- Be available to respond to questions at Full Council meetings.
- Establish policy direction, and the Council's priorities, and to facilitate discussion thereon.
- Be principal ambassador for the Borough and the Council (recognising the role of the Mayor).
- Represent the Council on external bodies, as considered appropriate, and to make decisions and vote on behalf of the Council at meetings of such bodies.
- Be involved in arrangements around major emergencies. The Leader and Deputy Leader must be informed if an emergency is likely to take place or has been declared under the Council's emergency planning or business continuity procedures.
- Promote and uphold high standards of ethical conduct by Members and the Council's equalities policies.

5 The Deputy Leader may be appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Corporate Policy Committee of the Council.

6 The Deputy Leader is empowered to act in place of the Leader.

7 The Deputy Leader is empowered to represent the Council on any external body, as agreed with the Leader, and to make decisions and vote on behalf of the Council at meetings of such bodies.

8 Involvement in Major Emergencies: the Leader and Deputy Leader must be informed if an emergency is likely or has been declared under the Council's emergency planning or business continuity procedures.

Reasons for Recommendations

9 To ensure that the Council elects a Leader and a Deputy Leader.

Other Options Considered

10 Whilst the Council could choose not to elect a Leader and a Deputy Leader, to do so would be contrary to the assumption made in the Council's Constitution that it will do so.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 11 As the Council operates a Committee system, the Leader has no formal legal powers and duties vested in him or her under the Local Government Act 1972 or the Local Government Act 2000.
- 12 However, in practice, all local authorities need to appoint a Leader and each Leader will hold the most significant elected Member role within the Council. The Council's Leader will be the political/elected head, the focus for policy direction and community development and the chief advocate and ambassador for the Borough.
- 13 Under the Committee system of governance, the Deputy Leader has no formal legal powers and duties vested in him or her under the Local Government Act 1972 or the Local Government Act 2000.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 14 The positions of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council receives a special responsibly allowance.

Policy

- 15 There are no direct policy implications.

An open and enabling organisation

Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 16 There are no direct implications for equality.

Human Resources

- 17 There are no direct financial implications.

Risk Management

- 18 There is no evident risk associated with the election of a Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council.

Rural Communities

19 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

20 There are no direct implications for children and young people.

Public Health

21 There are no direct implications for public health.

Climate Change

22 There are no implications relating to climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed Head of Democratic Services and Governance brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	Role of Leader and Deputy Leader

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Council**24 May 2023****Political Representation on the Council's Committees**

Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance**Report Reference No: C/02/23-24****Ward(s) Affected: All****Purpose of Report**

- 1 To report to Council changes in political group membership and to secure a resolution from Council in respect of the political proportionalities of the Council, and committee memberships.

Executive Summary

- 2 The law requires that each relevant Council decision-making body must be politically balanced as far as reasonably practicable, and that there is an appropriate total balance of Committee seats across the political structure of the Council of the whole.
- 3 This report addresses the changes in political group memberships following the Borough Council elections on 4 May 2023.
- 3 At the time of writing this report, discussions had not been concluded with the Council's political groups and any non-grouped independent members. The Council's revised political proportionalities and the allocation of committee places had not therefore been finalised. The Appendix to this report, which will reflect the product of those discussions, will be circulated to all Members, and distributed around the Council Chamber at the Council meeting.
- 4 The report recommendations seek a resolution of Council, as required by legislation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committees, set out in the Appendix to this report, be appointed with the same functions, roles and responsibilities as are currently set out in the Constitution.
2. That the political group and other representation, as set out in the Appendix to this report, and the methods, calculations and conventions used in determining this, as outlined in the report, be adopted and the allocation of places to Committees be approved.

Background

- 5 The Appendix sets out the political representation on committees, this being based on the political structure of the Council as a whole.
- 6 The proportionalities in the Appendix are based upon the following methods and conventions:
 - applying the relevant percentage to each body
 - rounding up from 0.5 and above, and rounding down below 0.5
 - where rounding up would result in more than one political Group (or non-grouped members) receiving an additional seat, and the total allocation of seats exceeding what is required, the Group (or non-grouped members) having the lowest residual entitlement will not receive an additional seat
 - where the required number of members for a decision-making body cannot be achieved using the above methods and calculations, the political group (or non-grouped members) having the largest residual entitlement for that body will be entitled to be awarded the additional place (e.g. if one group etc is entitled to 4.25 places, and another group is entitled to 1.48 places, the first group will be awarded 4 places on the body in question, and the second group will be awarded 2 places)
 - where two or more political Groups (or non-grouped members) have an identical residual percentage, the agreement of one Group etc to sacrifice a seat will be observed. Alternatively, the matter will be resolved by the toss of a coin.

Consultation and Engagement

- 7 In preparation of the Appendix to this report, and insofar as possible, given the proximity of the establishment of the new Council to the date of the Annual General Meeting of Council, officers sought to liaise with the Council's political groups.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 8 To comply with primary legislation, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and supporting secondary legislation, Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Other Options Considered

- 9 Legislation requires the Council's political representation on committees, and its political structure, to be reviewed upon a change in political group membership. Whilst one option might be for the Council to take no action in response to the change in group membership, this is not an option which Council is advised to take.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 10 The main rules on political proportionality are set out in S. 15(5) Local Government Housing Act 1989, and they are to be applied sequentially. The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, made pursuant to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, make additional provisions in respect of the political group and non-grouped representation on a local authority's committees, in relation to the overall political composition of the Council. The legislation applies to overview and scrutiny committees and the decision-making committees and sub committees of the Council.
- 11 The legislation requires that, where proportionality applies, and seats are allocated to different political groups, the authority must abide by the following principles, so far as is reasonably practicable:
- Not all of the seats can be allocated to the same political group (ie there are no single-group committees).
 - The majority of the seats on the body are to be allocated to a political group with a majority membership of the authority.
 - The total number of seats on all ordinary committees and sub committees allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the proportion on the full Council.
 - The proposals contained in this report meet the requirements of the legislation.
 - The 1990 Regulations require political group leaders to notify the Proper Officer of the groups' nominations to the bodies in question.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 12 There are no direct financial implications.

Policy

13 There are no direct implications for policy.

An open and enabling organisation

Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

14 There are no direct implications for equality.

Human Resources

15 There are no direct human resource implications.

Risk Management

16 Failure to comply with the Act and Regulations when appointing its committee memberships would leave the Council open to legal challenge.

Rural Communities

17 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

18 There are no direct implications for children and young people/Cared for Children.

Public Health

19 There are no direct implications for public health.

Climate Change

20 There are no direct climate change implications.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services and Governance brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A - Political Proportionalities
Background Papers:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

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Council**24 May 2023****Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs****Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance****Report Reference No: C/03/23-24****Ward(s) Affected: All****Purpose of Report**

- 1 To allocate Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council's committees.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Constitution states that one of the functions of full Council is to appoint the Chairs and Vice Chairs to Committees.
- 3 This report sets out the nominations to the positions of Chairs and Vice Chairs to the Council's committees

RECOMMENDATION

That the offices of Chairs and Vice-Chairs be allocated, as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

Background

- 4 For the forthcoming Municipal Year there is an expectation that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of each of the Council's decision-making bodies be allocated by Council.
- 5 The Appendix to the report details the councillors allocated to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 6 To allocate the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council's committees.

Other Options Considered

- 7 Whilst the Council could choose not to allocate the offices of Chairs and Vice Chairs to the Council's committees this would create an administrative burden for those committees, given that a person would have to be appointed at each meeting, to preside.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 8 The Annual Meeting of the Council appoints the Council's decision-making and other bodies. It also determines the allocation of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of these bodies.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 9 Some of the listed Chairs and Vice-chairs attract a Special Responsibility Allowance, in accordance with the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme.

Policy

- 10 There are no direct implications for policy.

An open and enabling organisation

Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 11 There are no direct implications for equality.

Human Resources

- 12 There are no direct implications for Human Resources.

Risk Management

- 13 Failure to comply with the requirements of the Constitution would leave the Council open to legal challenge.

Rural Communities

- 14 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 15 There are no direct implications for children and young people/Cared for Children.

Public Health

- 16 There are no direct implications for public health.

Climate Change

- 17 There are no implications relating to climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed Head of Democratic Services and Governance brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix – Chairs and Vice Chairs
Background Papers:	None

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ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 24TH MAY 2023**CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023-2024****RECOMMENDATION**

That the draft calendar of meetings for Cheshire East Council for the period May 2023 to October 2024, as attached, be approved.

Extract from the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting on 23rd March 2023

82 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023-2024

The Committee considered a report on the Calendar of Meetings for 2023-2024.

Officers reported two changes to the draft calendar:

- The Council meeting scheduled in the draft calendar for 21st February 2024 had been rescheduled to 27th February to avoid the school half-term break.
- The General Appeals Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for 13th June 2023 had been rescheduled to 20th June.

Officers advised that the Constitution Working Group had agreed to undertake a survey of members in the new Council on the question of whether some committee meetings should be moved to evenings.

It was noted that the Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee may decide to review the start times for its meetings so that some were held in the morning.

RESOLVED (by majority)

That subject to the changes reported at the meeting, the draft calendar of meetings for Cheshire East Council for the period May 2023 to October 2024 be recommended to Council for approval.

Note: since the meeting of the Corporate Policy Committee, the draft calendar of meetings has been updated to reflect the changes reported to the Committee. The updated version is attached to this minute.

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Working for a brighter future together

Corporate Policy Committee

Date of Meeting:	23 March 2023
Report Title:	Calendar of Meetings 2023-2024
Report of:	David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance
Report Reference No:	CP/60/22-23
Ward(s) Affected:	All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement of the Committee in respect of a draft calendar of meetings for the Council, for an 18-month period from May 2023 to October 2024. Full Council will then be asked to formally approve the calendar at the Council's Annual General Meeting.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In accordance the Local Government Act 1972, the Council is required to give public notice of its meetings. The calendar of meetings assists in fulfilling this legal obligation and provides certainty for Council members.
- 2.2 Having an approved and published calendar of meetings enables effective business planning and decision-making procedures.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the draft calendar of meetings for Cheshire East Council May 2023 to October 2024 be recommended to Council for approval.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Council is required to give public notice of its meetings in order to fulfil its legal obligations under the Access to Information Rules set out in the Constitution and to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 1972.

The calendar will assist the Council in meeting these requirements and will provide certainty for Members.

5. Background

- 5.1 As set out in its Constitution (Chapter 3 – Part 1 para 1.1) the Council is required to decide when its meetings will take place. These are set out in a calendar of meetings. The Calendar of Meetings is intended only to deal with formal decision-making meetings and, therefore, does not provide details of other meetings involving Members.
- 5.2 Full Council must approve the calendar.
- 5.3 The scheduling of meetings has taken into account the Council's business planning/performance reporting cycle, together with a range of additional issues arising from the implementation of the committee system and learning from its operation since May 2021.
- 5.4 The Constitution Working Group gave consideration, prior to the preparation of the Calendar of Meetings for 2023-24, to the question of whether it would be appropriate to introduce a standard commencement time for all morning meetings of formal bodies, and proposed that these should have a start time of 10.00 am.
- 5.5 Where possible August has been retained for recess, except for planning committee meetings.
- 5.6 Meetings of full Council have been scheduled to be held on 24 May 2023, 19 July 2023, 18 October 2023, 13 December 2023 and 21 February 2024, with the start time of 11 am.
- 5.7 The meetings of service committees have been scheduled to take place on the same day of the week where possible. If there is a specific need for additional or fewer meetings, this can be dealt with under existing arrangements.
- 5.8 Strategic Planning Board, Northern Planning Committee and Southern Planning Committee are scheduled to meet on Wednesdays: with any site visits taking place on the Friday before the meeting in question.
- 5.9 The Audit and Governance Committee and Licensing Committee have been scheduled to meet five times each year. Provisions exist for additional meetings to be called if needed.
- 5.10 The scheduling of meetings of the Scrutiny Committee has been approached on a quarterly basis. It is acknowledged however that there may be the need to arrange ad-hoc meetings, when required to deal with bespoke external scrutiny matters e.g., external proposals by health providers, using the general powers of the Committee Chair. The quarterly scheduling will provide for

annual reporting, with flexibility around the dates of meetings, to suit business needs.

- 5.11 The Committee is asked to refer the Calendar to Council for approval.

6 Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1 The Calendar has been shared with the Group Leaders, Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees.

7 Implications

7.1 Legal

- 7.1.1 In accordance the Local Government Act 1972 and the Access to Information Rules in the Constitution, the Council is required to give public notice of its meetings, and a calendar of meetings assists in fulfilling this legal obligation.

- 7.1.2 Members of the public have a legal right to attend to participate in and observe council meetings, e.g., make representations in respect of planning applications, asking questions at meetings, and presenting appeals.

7.2 Finance

- 7.2.1 There are no direct finance implications.

7.3 Policy

- 7.3.1 There are no direct policy implications.

7.4 Equality

- 7.4.1 There are no direct implications for equality.

7.5 Human Resources

- 7.5.1 There are no direct implications for human resources.

7.6 Risk Management

- 7.6.1 A published calendar of meetings enables effective business planning and decision-making procedures.

7.7 Rural Communities

- 7.7.1 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

7.8 Children and Young People/Cared for Children

- 7.8.1 There are no direct implications for children and young people

7.9 Public Health

- 7.9.1 There are no direct implications for public health.

7.10 Climate Change

- 7.10.1 There are no implications for climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services and Governance brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Calendar of Meetings May 2023 to October 2024
Background Papers:	None

Calendar of Meetings 2023-2024

COMMITTEE	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT
Council (11 am)	24		19			18		13		27			15		17			16
Corporate Policy (10.00 am)		15	6			5	30		18	8	21			13	4			3
Economy and Growth (2 pm)		6	11		12		14		16		12			4	9		10	
Highways and Transport (10.00 am)		22	20		21		23		25			4		20	18		19	
Environment and Communities (10.00 am)		8	27		28		9			1	28			6	25		26	
Children and Families (2 pm)		5	10		18		13		15	12		8		3	8		16	
Adults and Health (10.00 am)		26	24		25		20		22		25			24	22		23	
Finance Sub Committee (2 pm)		7			6		1		17		6			5			4	
Scrutiny Committee (10.00 am)		29			7			14			14			27			5	
Audit and Governance Committee (10.00 am or 2 pm)		8 (2 pm)	27 (2 pm)		28 (2 pm)			7 (10 am)			7 (10 am)		30 (10 am)		25 (2 pm)		26 (2 pm)	
General Appeals Sub Committee (10 am)		20	4	22		10	7	12	9	6	5	9		11	2	20		8
Licensing Committee (2 pm)		12			4		6		8		4			10			2	
General Licensing Sub Committee (10 am)		19	17		19	12	27		29	26		15		17	15		17	10
Strategic Planning Board (10 am)		21	26	23	20	25	22	20	31	28	27	24	22	19	24	21	18	23
Southern Planning Committee (10 am)	31	28		2 30	27		1 29		10	7	6	3	1 29	26	31	28	25	30
Northern Planning Committee (10 am)		7	5	9	6	4	8	6	17	14	13	10	8	5	3	7	4	2
Public Rights of Way Sub Committee (2pm)			3		11			4			11				1		9	
Health and Wellbeing Board (2 pm)		27			26		21		23		19			25			24	
Local Authority School Governor Nomination Sub Committee (10 am)		14			13					7 (2pm)				12			11	
Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee (2 pm)		20			5			5			5			18			3	
Shared Services Joint Committee (10 am)		30					24											

COMMITTEE	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT
Cheshire East Health and Care Partnership (2pm)	17		5		6		1		10		6							

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS MAY 2023 TO OCTOBER 2024

MAY 2023	
1	BANK HOLIDAY
2	
3	
4	BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	2.00 pm Cheshire East Health and Care Partnership
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	11.00 am ANNUAL COUNCIL
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	BANK HOLIDAY
30	
31	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee

JUNE 2023	
1	
2	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
3	
4	
5	2.00 pm Children and Families Committee
6	2.00 pm Economy and Growth Committee
7	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee 2.00 pm Finance Sub Committee
8	10.00 am Environment and Communities Committee 2 pm Audit and Governance Committee
9	
10	
11	
12	2.00 pm Licensing Committee
13	
14	10.00 am LA School Governor Nomination Panel
15	10.00 am Corporate Policy Committee
16	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
17	
18	
19	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
20	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee 2.00 pm Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee
21	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
22	10.00 am Highways and Transport Committee
23	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
24	
25	
26	10.00 am Adults and Health Committee
27	2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board
28	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
29	10.00 am Scrutiny Committee
30	<i>(planning site visits)</i> 10 am Shared Services Joint Committee

JULY 2023	
1	
2	
3	2.00 pm Public Rights of Way Sub Committee
4	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
5	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee 2.00 pm Cheshire East Health and Care Partnership
6	10.00 am Corporate Policy Committee
7	
8	
9	
10	2.00 pm Children and Families Committee
11	2.00 pm Economy and Growth Committee
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
18	
19	11.00 am COUNCIL
20	10.00 am Highways and Transport Committee
21	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
22	
23	
24	10.00 am Adults and Health Committee
25	
26	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
27	10.00 am Environment and Communities Committee 2.00 pm Audit and Governance Committee
28	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
29	
30	
31	

AUGUST 2023	
1	
2	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
3	
4	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
19	
20	
21	
22	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
23	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
24	
25	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
26	
27	
28	BANK HOLIDAY
29	
30	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
31	

SEPTEMBER 2023	
1	(planning site visits)
2	
3	
4	2.00 pm Licensing Committee
5	2.00 pm Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee
6	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee 2.00 pm Finance Sub Committee 2.00 pm Cheshire East Health and Care Partnership
7	10.00 am Scrutiny Committee
8	(planning site visits)
9	
10	
11	2.00 pm Public Rights of Way Sub Committee
12	2.00 pm Economy and Growth Committee
13	10.00 am LA School Governor Nomination Panel
14	
15	(planning site visits)
16	
17	
18	2.00 pm Children and Families Committee
19	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
20	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
21	10.00 am Highways and Transport Committee
22	(planning site visits)
23	
24	
25	10.00 am Adults and Health Committee
26	2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board
27	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
28	10.00 am Environment and Communities Committee 2.00 pm Audit and Governance Committee
29	(planning site visits)
30	

OCTOBER 2023	
1	
2	
3	
4	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
5	10.00 am Corporate Policy Committee
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
11	
12	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	11.00 am COUNCIL
19	
20	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	

NOVEMBER 2023	
1	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee 2.00 pm Finance Sub Committee 2.00 pm Cheshire East Health and Care Partnership
2	
3	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
4	
5	
6	2.00 pm Licensing Committee
7	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
8	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
9	10.00 am Environment and Communities Committee
10	
11	
12	
13	2.00 pm Children and Families Committee
14	2.00 pm Economy and Growth Committee
15	
16	
17	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
18	
19	
20	10.00 am Adults and Health Committee
21	2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board
22	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
23	10.00 am Highways and Transport Committee
24	10 am Shared Services Joint Committee
25	
26	
27	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
28	
29	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
30	10.00 am Corporate Policy Committee

DECEMBER 2023	
1	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
2	
3	
4	2.00 pm Public Rights of Way Sub Committee
5	2.00 pm Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee
6	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
7	10.00 am Audit and Governance Committee
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
13	11.00 am COUNCIL
14	10.00 am Scrutiny Committee
15	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	CHRISTMAS DAY
26	BOXING DAY
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	

JANUARY 2024	
1	New Years Day
2	
3	
4	
5	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
6	
7	
8	2.00 pm Licensing Committee
9	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
10	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee 2.00 pm Cheshire East Health and Care Partnership
11	
12	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
13	
14	
15	2.00 pm Children and Families Committee
16	2.00 pm Economy and Growth Committee
17	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee 2.00 pm Finance Sub Committee
18	10.00 am Corporate Policy Committee
19	
20	
21	
22	10.00 am Adults and Health Committee
23	2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board
24	
25	10.00 am Highways and Transport Committee
26	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
27	
28	
29	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
30	
31	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board

FEBRUARY 2024	
1	10.00 am Environment and Communities Committee
2	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
3	
4	
5	
6	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
7	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee 2.00 pm LA School Governor Nomination Sub Committee
8	10.00 am Corporate Policy Committee
9	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
10	
11	
12	2.00 pm Children and Families Committee
13	
14	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
24	
25	
26	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
27	11.00 am COUNCIL (Budget)
28	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
29	

MARCH 2024	
1	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
2	
3	
4	2.00 pm Licensing Committee
5	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee 2.00 pm Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee
6	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee 2.00 pm Finance Sub Committee 2.00 pm Cheshire East Health and Care Partnership
7	10.00 am Audit and Governance Committee
8	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
9	
10	
11	2.00 pm Public Rights of Way Sub Committee
12	2.00 pm Economy and Growth Committee
13	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
14	10.00 am Scrutiny Committee
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board
20	
21	10.00 am Corporate Policy Committee
22	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
23	
24	
25	10.00 am Adults and Health Committee
26	
27	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
28	10.00 am Environment and Communities Committee
29	GOOD FRIDAY
30	
31	

APRIL 2024	
1	EASTER MONDAY
2	
3	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
4	10.00 am Highways and Transport Committee
5	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
6	
7	
8	2.00 pm Children and Families Committee
9	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
10	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
16	
17	
18	
19	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
25	
26	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
27	
28	
29	
30	

MAY 2024	
1	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
2	[Police and Crime Commissioner Elections]
3	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
4	
5	
6	BANK HOLIDAY
7	
8	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	11.00 am COUNCIL (AGM)
16	
17	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
23	
24	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
25	
26	
27	BANK HOLIDAY
28	
29	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
30	10.00 am Audit and Governance Committee
31	<i>(planning site visits)</i>

JUNE 2024	
1	
2	
3	2.00 pm Children and Families Committee
4	2.00 pm Economy and Growth Committee
5	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee 2.00 pm Finance Sub Committee
6	10.00 am Environment and Communities Committee
7	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
8	
9	
10	2.00 pm Licensing Committee
11	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
12	10.00 am LA School Governor Nomination Sub Committee
13	10.00 am Corporate Policy Committee
14	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
15	
16	
17	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
18	2.00 pm Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee
19	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
20	10.00 am Highways and Transport Committee
21	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
22	
23	
24	10.00 am Adults and Health Committee
25	2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board
26	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
27	10.00 am Scrutiny Committee
28	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
29	
30	

JULY 2024	
1	2.00 pm Public Rights of Way Sub Committee
2	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
3	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
4	10.00 am Corporate Policy Committee
5	
6	
7	
8	2.00 pm Children and Families Committee
9	2.00 pm Economy and Growth Committee
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
16	
17	11.00 am COUNCIL
18	10.00 am Highways and Transport Committee
19	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
20	
21	
22	10.00 am Adults and Health Committee
23	
24	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
25	10.00 am Environment and Communities Committee 2.00 pm Audit and Governance Committee
26	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee

AUGUST 2024	
1	
2	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
17	
18	
19	
20	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
21	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
22	
23	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
24	
25	
26	BANK HOLIDAY
27	
28	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
29	
30	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
31	

SEPTEMBER 2024	
1	
2	2.00 pm Licensing Committee
3	2.00 pm Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee
4	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee 2.00 pm Finance Sub Committee
5	10.00 am Scrutiny Committee
6	
7	
8	
9	2.00 pm Public Rights of Way Sub Committee
10	2.00 pm Economy and Growth Committee
11	10.00 am LA School Governor Nomination Sub Committee
12	
13	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
14	
15	
16	2.00 pm Children and Families Committee
17	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
18	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
19	10.00 am Highways and Transport Committee
20	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
21	
22	
23	10.00 am Adults and Health Committee
24	2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board
25	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
26	10.00 am Environment and Communities Committee 2.00 pm Audit and Governance Committee
27	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
28	
29	
30	

OCTOBER 2024	
1	
2	10.00 am Northern Planning Committee
3	10.00 am Corporate Policy Committee
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	10.00 am General Appeals Sub Committee
9	
10	10.00 am General Licensing Sub Committee
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	11.00 am COUNCIL
17	
18	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	10.00 am Strategic Planning Board
24	
25	<i>(planning site visits)</i>
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	10.00 am Southern Planning Committee
31	

Council**24 May 2023****Appointments to Cheshire Police and Crime Panel and
to Cheshire Fire Authority****Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance****Report Reference No: C/04/23-24****Ward(s) Affected: All****Purpose of Report**

- 8 The report invites Council to make appointments to the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel and the Cheshire Fire Authority.

Executive Summary

- 9 The Cheshire Police and Crime Panel and the Cheshire Fire Authority are bodies which carry out statutory functions and therefore the Council is required to make appointments to ensure that the Council meets its obligations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to appoint:-

- (a) three Councillors and a nominated substitute to the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel;
- (b) nine Councillors to Cheshire Fire Authority.

Background

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

- 3 In accordance with Section 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, each Police area must establish a Police and Crime Panel.
- 4 The Cheshire Police and Crime Panel comprises 10 Councillors appointed by the constituent Councils and the allocation of seats to Cheshire East Council is three.
- 5 The Council is being asked to appoint three members on a political proportional basis of 1 Conservative, 1 Labour and 1 Independent. Council is also requested to nominate a substitute Member.
- 6 The members for the 2022/23 municipal year were Councillors JP Findlow, L Jeuda and M Warren, together with Councillor D Murphy as the nominated substitute.

Cheshire Fire Authority

- 7 The Cheshire Fire Authority is the Combined Fire Authority of Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East, Halton and Warrington Councils and it has a membership of 23: -

Halton – 3 members
Warrington – 4 members
Cheshire West and Chester – 7 members
Cheshire East – 9 members
- 8 The Council is being asked to appoint three members on a political proportional basis of 4 Conservative, 3 Labour and 2 Independent.
- 9 The members for the 2022/23 municipal year were Councillors R Bailey, M Beanland, D Brown, M Houston, N Mannion, R Moreton, D Murphy, J Nicholas and J Parry.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 10 These bodies carry out statutory functions and appointments are needed to ensure that the Council meets its obligations.

Other Options Considered

- 11 Whilst the Council could choose not to make appointments, this would be contrary to legislation governing the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel and the Cheshire Fire Authority.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 12 There are no direct legal implications.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 13 An annual allowance is paid to permanent members of the Cheshire Policy and Crime Panel which comes from payments made by Central Government to the Panel's host authority.
- 14 Members of Cheshire Fire Authority are paid a basis allowance in accordance with the Cheshire Fire Authority's Members' Allowance Scheme.

Policy

- 15 There are no direct implications for policy.

An open and enabling organisation

Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 16 There are no direct implications for equality.

Human Resources

- 17 There are no direct implications for Human Resources.

Risk Management

- 18 There are no direct risk management implications.

Rural Communities

- 19 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 20 There are no direct implications for children and young people/Care for Children.

Public Health

21 There are no direct implications for public health.

Climate Change

22 There are no implications relating to climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed Head of Democratic Services and Governance brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None

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Council**24 May 2023****Appointments to the Adoption Panel and
the Fostering Panel****Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance****Report Reference No: C/05/23-24****Ward(s) Affected: All****Purpose of Report**

- 1 The report invites Council to approve a number of appointments to Statutory Panels which do not fall within the definition of “Committee” for the purposes of legislation.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Adoption Panel and the Fostering Panel are bodies which carry out statutory functions and therefore the Council is required to make appointments to ensure that the Council meets its obligations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to appoint:-

- (a) one Councillor to the Adoption Panel; and
- (b) one Councillor to the Fostering Panel.

Background

- 3 The Council needs to make appointments to the following bodies. These bodies are Statutory Panels which do not fall within the definition of “Committee.”

Adoption Panel

- 4 The Panel considers the suitability of anyone who applies to become an adopter, and whether or not to recommend that they are suitable to adopt; and also considers the placement of any child with a particular adopter. The Elected Member is a full member of the Panel and is defined as an 'independent panel member' by the Independent Review of Determinations (amendments) 2011. Under the performance objectives of the Panel, each member is asked to attend 75% of the meetings, which are currently held every 6 weeks. In addition, each member is asked to attend any training events and induction events that are held at least annually, and also to undergo an annual appraisal.
- 5 The role of the Adoption Panel and the appointment of Elected Members are governed by the Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 and the Adoption Agencies and Independent Review of Determinations (amendments) 2011, Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- 6 Councillor B Puddicombe served on the Adoption Panel during the 2022/23 municipal year.

Fostering Panel

- 7 The establishment of fostering panels is laid down by the Fostering Service (England) Regulations 2011. Regulation 23(1) requires the fostering service to provide a central list of persons considered to be suitable members of the Panel, similar to the Adoption Panel.
- 8 The Fostering Panel makes timely and appropriate recommendations in line with the overriding objective to promote the welfare of children in foster care. The Panel considers and advises on the suitability of persons who apply to be foster carers for children who are "cared for" by the local authority. It states what its recommendations are in respect of a particular child or children and clarifies whether the prospective carers matching considerations are to be for certain ages or categories of children.
- 9 It considers the continuing approval of foster carers following their annual carer's review or other significant changes in their circumstances and advice on any other matters relating to the fostering service.
- 10 Councillor Carol Bulman served on the Fostering Panel during the 2022/23 municipal year.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 11 These bodies carry out statutory functions and appointments are needed to ensure that the Council meets its obligations.

Other Options Considered

- 12 The Council could choose not to nominate to these Panels.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 13 The report and recommendations demonstrate adherence to the Council's Constitution, alongside statutory requirements.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 14 There are no direct implications for finance.

Policy

- 15 There are no direct implications for policy.

An open and enabling organisation

Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 16 There are no direct implications for equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Human Resources

- 17 There are no direct implications for Human Resources.

Risk Management

- 18 There are no direct risk management implications.

Rural Communities

- 19 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 20 There are no direct implications for children and young people/Cared for Children.

Public Health

21 There are no direct implications for public health.

Climate Change

22 There are no implications relating to climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed Head of Democratic Services and Governance brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None

Council**24 May 2023****Acceptance of Green Heat Network Fund**

Report of: Peter Skates – Acting Executive Director of Place**Report Reference No: C/06/23-24****Ward(s) Affected: Handforth****Purpose of Report**

- 1 To agree the acceptance of a Green Heat Network Fund grant of £2,604,059 as required by the constitution of Cheshire East Council, and to deliver the Commercialisation phase of the project.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2021-25 sets out our vision for a more open, fairer, greener Cheshire East and at the full Council meeting on 22 May 2019, members approved a Notice of Motion relating to Climate Change, and committed to "work with all businesses, residents and organisations in Cheshire East to reduce their carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption and promoting healthy lifestyles". The Council also has since signed up to the UK100 target to become net-zero as a borough by 2045.
- 3 As part of these commitments, the Council is committed to the sustainable development of the North Cheshire Garden Village at Handforth, and as part of this development the Council has sought to deliver a heat network to provide low carbon and secure heat through the use of ground source heat pumps. This was included within the approved Supplementary Planning Guidance for the site and the recent planning application.
- 4 The Council has successfully applied to the Green Heat Network Fund from the Department for Energy Security which provides capital grant support for the development of new and existing low and zero-carbon heat networks. The offer of funding to support this project is £2,604,059

over 2023/24 and 2024/25. This grant funding is part of the £13.7m allocation for the heat network in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

- 5 The grant consists of £680,000 commercialisation funding to establish the deliverability of the project in 2023/24. This is 100% funded by the Green Heat Network Fund and would not be subject to clawback if used for eligible expenditure should the project not be deliverable after this stage.
- 6 If deliverable, then a further £1,924,059 of capital has been awarded for the initial construction as gap funding. This will be utilised alongside the existing supplementary capital estimate in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

- 7 This funding is outlined below:

	2023/24 (£)	2024/25 (£)	Total (£)
Grant for Commercialisation	680,000		680,000
Grant for Construction		1,924,059	1,924,059
Total	680,000	1,924,059	2,604,059

- 8 The funder requires that both elements are accepted at this stage, so the purpose of the decision is to accept the funding under the conditions which have been reviewed by legal services, in order to progress the Commercialisation phase to determine the viability of the scheme.
- 9 Once viability has been established through Commercialisation, the scheme will be subject to further approval through the Economy & Growth Committee prior to spend of the Construction grant. A full detailed report of the Garden Village project will be presented to Economy & Growth Committee in the autumn later this year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is recommended to:

1. Authorise the Section 151 Officer to accept and spend a grant from the Green Heat Network Fund of £2,604,059 towards the development of a heat network to support the Garden Village at Handforth, and the creation or amendment of a supplementary capital estimate as required.
2. Approve the procurement, contracting and award of £680,000 of the Green Heat Network Fund grant for the commercialisation phase of the project.

Background

- 10 This project meets the corporate objective for an open, fairer and greener Cheshire East. It contributes directly to the delivery of the Environment Strategy and the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan, following on from the Council motion on 22 May 2019 to commit Cheshire East Council to be carbon neutral by 2025, and the UK100 objective for the borough to be net-zero by 2045.
- 11 The proposal is a district heat network which could eventually cover the entire Handforth Garden Village site, served primarily by a ground source heat pump (GSHP) located in an energy centre in the village centre. The scheme will be developed in three phases to correspond with the site build out. The Green Heat Network fund only relates to the first phase, and the delivery of this phase is not contingent on delivering the other two phases. These could be delivered separately through building level solutions.
- 12 The project will directly benefit the delivery at Handforth Garden Village and reduce project risk. The government are planning for gas boilers to be phased out for all new development from 2025. Therefore, a heat network should provide an economic and deliverable solution to provide heat on site. It is the purpose of the commercialisation phase, of this funding, to determine if there is a viable business case for the heat network.
- 13 Internal stakeholders have been engaged throughout the development of the project. In particular, the Economic Development Service, plus legal and procurement. Input has also been gained from the Heat Network Delivery Unit of BEIS and experienced external consultants to ensure that the assumptions within the proposal are realistic and deliverable.
- 14 A critical part of the commercialisation phase will be to engage with developers and the market, to clarify assumptions in the business case, and ensure that the project is deliverable prior to construction. This is alongside any consideration of the wider Garden Village delivery, including the delivery vehicle of the heat network.
- 15 This proposal will have a significant benefit towards the Council's approach to the Climate Emergency through enabling the delivery of low carbon heat at one of our strategic housing sites, and through the stimulation of heat networks across the borough.

- 16 A full His Majesty's Treasury (HMT) Outline Business Case has been developed for the proposal.

Consultation and Engagement

- 17 The heat network has been a part of the consultation on the Garden Village at Handforth including through the Supplementary Planning Guidance and the recent planning application. A full detailed report on the Garden Village Project will be presented to Economy & Growth Committee this autumn.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 18 The Council's Constitution states that accepting an external grant of over £1,000,000 must be approved by full Council.
- 19 The delivery of the heat network is an integral part of the sustainable development of the garden village, and the grant funding will enable the initial Commercialisation to assess the viability of the project.
- 20 The project aims to deliver a financial return for the Council, have significant benefits to the delivery of the Garden Village at Handforth, and also deliver other benefits in stimulating the low carbon economy, improving health, and delivering inward investment and reputational benefits. The specific objectives of the project are:
- Tackle the climate emergency and support the Council to achieve carbon neutrality for the borough by 2045.
 - Improving the attractiveness of Cheshire East and Handforth as a location for new investment, living and employment.
 - Reduce harmful air emissions and heating bills to improve health and well-being and help desirability of living and working in the village.
 - Support the development of local energy and low carbon businesses.
 - Support secure, decentralised and locally sourced energy.

Other Options Considered

- 21 The Council could refuse acceptance of the funding. This would require additional borrowing by the authority to deliver the heat network, or the cessation of delivery which would not be in line with the Council's climate emergency commitment.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 22 Legal has been supplied with copies of the grant documentation which takes the form of a Memorandum of Understanding to be entered into between the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (described as “the Authority”) (1) and the Council (2) (“MoU”) and has reviewed the same. The MoU provides for payment of the following amounts:

Instalment Period	Maximum Grant Sum Payable (£)
Year 1 (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)	0.00
Year 2 (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024)	680,000.00
Year 3 (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)	1,924,059.00
Year 4 (1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026) indicative only, not currently contemplated within GHNF.	0.00
Year 5 (1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027) indicative only, not currently contemplated within GHNF.	£0.00

The MoU is drawn up on what could be considered as standard terms so as to ensure that the funding is utilised for the purposes for which the funding has been awarded. This translates itself into clawback provisions the “headline” terms of which provide:

- 26.1 The Authority may exercise its rights set out in paragraph 26.2 if any of the following events occur:

- 26.1.1 the Grant Recipient or the Project:

- (a) does not satisfy any part of the Eligibility Criteria by the fifth anniversary of the commencement of Commercial Operations; or
- (b) having satisfied any part of the Eligibility Criteria, ceases to meet such part of the Eligibility Criteria thereafter at any time during the Reporting Period;

- 26.1.2 the Grant Recipient (or any Investment Vehicle) uses the Grant for a purpose other than the Funded Activities;

- 26.1.3 the Grant Recipient fails to comply with any obligation under this MoU, which is material in the opinion of the Authority;

- 26.1.4 where delivery of the Funded Activities does not start within one (1) month of the Funded Activities Start Date and the Grant Recipient fails to provide the Authority with a satisfactory explanation for the delay, or fails to agree a new date on which the Funded Activities shall start with the Authority;

- 26.1.5 the Grant Recipient (or any Investment Vehicle) uses the Grant for Ineligible Expenditure;

- 26.1.6 the Grant Recipient fails, in the Authority’s opinion, to make satisfactory progress with the Funded Activities and in particular, with meeting the Milestones set out in Annex 6: Milestones (but a breach solely of this paragraph 26.1.6 shall not enable the Authority to claw back already spent Grant pursuant to paragraph 26.2.3);

(The rights in para 26.2 are the rights to suspend; reduce amounts advanced; or clawback monies.)

On enquiry it has been confirmed that clawback would not apply to the Year 2 monies (£680k) noted above (also referred to as eligibility expenditure) if the same are correctly expended but a halt is called to the project before it proceeds to commercialisation. The MoU obliges the Council to ensure that any utilisation of the sums advanced comply with the provisions of the subsidy control regime.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 23 The recommendation is to accept external grant funding applied on the terms upon which it has been granted and to authorise spend on the first tranche of £680,000 which will focus on the commercialisation and viability of the scheme.
- 24 There is current provision within the MTFS to reflect the development and building of the heat network i.e. beyond the initial commercialisation and viability stage. This equates to over £13m made up of grant funding, external third-party contributions and Council prudential borrowing. This in itself is part of the wider Garden Village project and as such decisions need to be taken with that wider project in mind.
- 25 That decision on the development and construction phase will need to be considered through a further decision-making process which will determine whether the second element of the grant, £1.924m, should be utilised.

Policy

- 26 The Corporate Plan 2021-25 includes the vision for an Open, Fair and Green Cheshire East. The corporate plan includes delivery of the actions in the carbon action plan, including reducing emissions and providing support to a wider borough to reduce their carbon use.

A thriving and sustainable place
Aim: Green
Priorities:
Reduce impact on the environment
Be a carbon neutral Council by 2025

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 27 As part of the delivery of the heat network the Council will ensure that the standards of the Heat Trust are met which provides support for customers in vulnerable circumstances.

Human Resources

- 28 No implications.

Risk Management

- 29 The project utilises the Council's approach to risk management and risk logs are maintained in line with best practice from the Programme Management Office. The project will be overseen by a specific working group and the Strategic Housing Programme Board.

Rural Communities

- 30 No direct implications.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 31 No direct implications.

Public Health

- 32 Climate change is one of the most important public health issues we face, and the delivery of this project will assist with mitigating that impact. In addition, the application of Heat Trust standards for the heat network will require the Council to meet supplier obligations and support vulnerable customers to ensure they have adequate heating.

Climate Change

- 33 The project will directly contribute towards the Council's commitment to respond to the Climate Emergency and deliver boroughwide net-zero by 2045 through reducing carbon emissions from housing.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	n/a

Background Papers:	Technical information is available on demand.
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Schedule of Urgent Decisions Made by the Chief Executive following consultation with Members

Date	Summary of decision	Decision on behalf of
8/3/2023	<p>Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Grant</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>1. That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Three separate grants of up to £7.8 million be accepted from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for further decarbonisation of Council buildings, including schools, museum, leisure centres and Tatton Park. b. A supplementary capital estimate be made for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Financial years, this to be funded from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Grants, which will be paid over two years. c. The Economy and Growth Committee authorise the Director of Growth and Enterprise and the Section 151 Officer to sign the grant offer agreements with Salix Finance on behalf of the Council and to take all necessary measures to administer, spend and distribute the grant. d. The Economy and Growth Committee authorise the Director of Growth and Enterprise to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. take all necessary associated action to administer, spend and distribute the grant, including allocation of the grant monies in order to ensure the delivery of the necessary programmes of work, in line with the Council's financial and procurement rules and the conditions of grant; and ii. to approve the delivery of the programme of work, in line with the conditions of grant, and the identification of local match-funding resources, and to obtain further approvals as required by the Council's financial procedure and procurement rules. <p><u>Urgent Decision - Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Grant</u></p>	Council

15/5/2023	<p>Removal of Reasons for Refusal from the determined planning application 22/2347M</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>To utilise urgency powers to authorise the removal of reasons for refusal No.1 (viability) and No.3 (lack of parking) from the determined planning application (reference 22/2347M) - the demolition of existing buildings and erection of 34 Retirement Living Apartments including Lodge Manager's office and reception, communal facilities, guest suite, car parking and landscaping at 17-19 Holly Road South, Wilmslow.</p> <p><u>Urgent Decision - Removal of Reasons for Refusal from the determined planning application 22/2347M</u></p>	Council/ Northern Planning Committee
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