

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire and Warrington Joint Committee**
held on Friday, 16th May, 2025 in the Committee Room, Ellesmere Port
Library, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG

PRESENT

Councillor L Gittins (Chair)
Councillor N Mannion (Vice-Chair)
Councillors H Mundry, M Gorman and Shore

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Janet Witkowski, Acting Governance, Compliance and Monitoring Officer,
Cheshire East Council
Peter Skates, Director of Growth and Enterprise, Cheshire East Council
Nikki Bishop, Democratic Services Officer, Cheshire East Council
Delyth Curtis, Chief Executive Officer, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Gemma Davies, Director of Economy and Housing, Cheshire West and
Chester Council
Paul Clisby, Director of Law and Governance, Warrington Borough Council
Steve Park, Director of Growth, Warrington Borough Council
Philip Cox, Chief Executive, Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington
Steve Purdham, Chair of Business Advisory Board
Dan Price, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Cheshire Police and
Crime
Joanne Morecroft, UNISON North West's Regional Convenor

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jean Flaherty.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 January 2025 be
approved as a correct record.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no public speakers.

5 ENTERPRISE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON BUSINESS PLAN 2025 - 2026

The Joint Committee received an update on the Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington Business Plan 2025 – 2026 from Councillor Michael Gorman.

The Joint Committee were updated that Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington's proposed budget for 2025 / 2026 was £14.4 million, 80% of which was for programmes funded by grants. It was noted that a number of projects were being funded by central government at a level similar to 2024 / 2025, with the exception of the Skills Bootcamp which would see its budget increase to over £9 million for 2025 / 2026.

It was noted that income from capital balances would be used to support the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Strategy, manage the Enterprise Zone, support the Plastic Recycling Site in Ellesmere Port, and ensure Cheshire and Warrington residents felt the economic benefits offered by the Hynet Programme, support Marketing Cheshire, and a provision of a £500,000 fund to cover the cost of subregional work which the Joint Committee wished to commission.

Trade Unions requested that the Fair Employment Charter work should be co-designed with the Trade Unions and standards be codified into commissioning and procurement policies. Trade Unions also asked for information on what checks were in place to ensure that the Skills Bootcamp providers met the high employment standards, and for information on the schools and hospitals decarbonisation scheme, how the scheme would promote inclusive growth and ensure that funding, investment and opportunities, would reach the most deprived areas and communities in Cheshire and Warrington.

Officers committed to providing a written response to the above.

Members noted that Trade Unions had been engaged with the Fair Employment Charter, and the government had identified Cheshire and Warrington as a pilot area for the Skills Bootcamp.

RESOLVED:

That the Joint Committee:

1. Approve the Budget and Business Plan for Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (ECW) including Marketing Cheshire (MC) for 2025/26.
2. Delegate authority to accept additional income for programmes already being delivered by ECW should it be made available, to the ECW CEO, in consultation with CEC Finance Manager and the appropriate lead member of the Joint Committee (JC) on the understanding that any sums agreed will be reported to the next JC.
3. Agree that if ECW receives more commercial income during the year than currently budgeted, it can deploy this in consultation with Growth

Directors and the CEC Finance Manager on projects of up to £100k that will strengthen C&W's ability to deliver the sub-regional vision.

4. Note that for any additional items of funding offered to the sub region, outside the scope of ECW programme, it will be for the Joint Committee to consider how it wants those funds to be deployed
5. Note that ECW will be transferring to the North East Combined Authority the remaining NP11 assets it holds.

6 DEVOLUTION WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2025/26

The Devolution Work Programme and Budget 2025/26 item was deferred to the next meeting of the Cheshire and Warrington Joint Committee on 30 May 2025.

It was noted that work was continuing to progress the workstreams and devolution.

7 JOINT COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

Members received an update and sought direction on the Cheshire and Warrington Joint Committee Forward Plan, from Councillor Louise Gittins.

RESOLVED:

That the reports on the Forward Plan be adopted and approved.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.16 pm

Councillor L Gittins (Chair)