

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Member for Prosperity**
held on Monday, 27th June, 2011 at Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillors Jamie Macrae, Cabinet Member for Prosperity

In attendance

Councillor Roy Cartlidge, Local Ward Member

Officers

Caroline Simpson, Head of Regeneration
Peter Hall, Property Services Manager
Julie North, Democratic Services
Lee Beckett, Property Services
Marc Jones, Property Services
Steve Plack, Property Services
Charlotte Roper, Property Services

Mr Peter Barnard, a Trustee of the Crewe Heritage Centre, was in attendance and was welcomed to the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

4 CREWE HERITAGE CENTRE

Cheshire East Council was seeking to establish a long-term viable future for the Crewe Heritage Centre. The Council had taken on the responsibility for the site in Crewe as a legacy arrangement from the former Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council. The site was currently leased to a board of trustees who operated the site as a visitor attraction. However, the museum element of the site was no longer self-sustainable and was now financially dependent on an informal sub-let to a railway engineering operation on the site.

It was considered that the most appropriate way forward was to sell a long leasehold interest in the site with restrictive covenants to protect the site for rail heritage, allowing for future training and employment.

Local ward members had been consulted on the options earlier in the year and had been advised of the proposed way forward. Newly-elected members had since been updated on the current position.

In considering this matter, the Cabinet Member for Prosperity had regard to a letter from the Chairman of Crewe Heritage Trust dated 21st June 2011.

RESOLVED

That the Cabinet Member for Prosperity agrees that the site of the Crewe Heritage Centre be declared surplus to the requirements of Cheshire East Council and that a 125 year lease be offered for sale on the open market with a restrictive covenant to preserve the site for the rail heritage of Crewe, the lease to be subject to such terms and conditions as are determined by the Assets Manager, Borough Solicitor and Head of Regeneration.

5 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

6 DISPOSAL OF AUDLEM PUBLIC TOILETS TO AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

The public toilets at Audlem had been declared surplus to requirements by the Street Cleansing Service and were not required for service delivery by Cheshire East Council. Audlem Parish Council was seeking to acquire the toilets in use. In transferring the toilets to the Parish Council, Cheshire East Council would free itself of all maintenance and cleaning responsibilities.

RESOLVED

That Audlem Public Toilets be transferred to Audlem Parish Council on terms and conditions to be determined by the Borough Solicitor and Assets Manager.

7 PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN EASEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF LAND TO THE REAR OF 22/24 PRINCESS STREET, KNUTSFORD

The applicants referred to in the report had made a request to acquire the land edged red to provide a bin store. The requested pedestrian fire escape was required in order to satisfy planning conditions as part of a proposed extension to the applicants' existing premises.

The land was located within the boundaries of Princess Street Car Park, Knutsford but was not suitable to be included as chargeable spaces; the land was therefore surplus to requirements. The Cabinet Member for Environmental Services supported the recommendations.

RESOLVED

That

- (1) the land edged in red on the plan attached to the report be disposed of to the applicants;
- (2) an easement be granted to the applicants for the purpose of a pedestrian fire escape route over the land to the rear of 22/24 Princess Street, Knutsford as shown shaded brown on the plan; and
- (3) the disposal and easement to be subject to the total consideration referred to in the report, to the applicants meeting the Council's reasonable legal and advertising costs and to such other terms and conditions as may be determined by the Assets Manager and Borough Solicitor.

8 DISPOSAL OF LAND AT WEST VIEW, CREWE

West View, Crewe was formerly utilised as an elderly persons' care home and had been declared surplus to operational requirements by Adult Services. An internal consultation process had confirmed that there were no internal re-uses.

There was a need for affordable housing across Cheshire East and there were not sufficient market-led proposals coming forward for development to meet that need.

West View adjoined a site that provided affordable housing within Crewe and it was felt that the site lent itself to the provision of a similar scheme.

RESOLVED

That

- (1) West View, Crewe be formally declared surplus to the requirements of Cheshire East Council and be disposed of for the provision of

affordable housing on terms and conditions to be determined by the Borough Solicitor and Assets Manager; and

(2) the property be included within the first phase of the Strategic Housing Sites Development Programme.

9 DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS ASSETS

The properties referred to in the report had all been declared surplus to requirements by the former Service occupiers. An internal consultation exercise had been undertaken to determine if there was an internal re-use for any of these properties; no interest had been declared for any of the properties. Local Area Partnership organisations had also been consulted and had no re-uses for the properties. The properties were therefore surplus to Cheshire East Council requirements. Further details of the properties were set out in the report.

RESOLVED

That the following properties be formally declared surplus to the requirements of Cheshire East Council and be placed on the open market for disposal on terms and conditions to be determined by the Borough Solicitor and Assets Manager:

- Former Ludford School, Crewe
- Former Day Centre, 291 Nantwich Road, Crewe
- Priors Hill, Macclesfield

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 10.20 am

Councillor Jamie Macrae (presiding)