

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Local Service Delivery Committee (Crewe)**  
held on Monday, 26th September, 2011 at East Committee Room - Municipal  
Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe, CW1 2BJ

## **PRESENT**

Councillors D Bebbington, P Butterill, J Hammond, S Hogben, M Parsons,  
B Silvester and M J Weatherill

## **WARD MEMBERS**

Councillors I Faseyi, M Sherratt and C G Thorley

## **OFFICERS**

C Allman	Project Manager, East
P Goodwin	Finance Lead, Places
D Moulson	Democratic Services Officer
V Quayle	Head of Policy and Performance
B Reed	Democratic and Registration Services Manager

### **1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Two nominations for Chairman were put forward; Councillor John Hammond and Councillor Steven Hogben. Councillor Hogben declined his nomination and it was therefore -

RESOLVED: That Councillor John Hammond be appointed Chairman of the Committee.

### **2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Steven Hogben was nominated as Vice Chairman of the Committee but he declined the nomination. Councillor Derek Bebbington was then nominated for the position and it was –

RESOLVED: That Councillor Derek Bebbington be appointed Vice Chairman of the Committee.

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members who sat as Crewe Charter Trustees sought advice from officers as to whether their position constituted a personal interest under the Code of Conduct. Having received advice from the Democratic and Registration Services Manager, no declarations of interest were made in respect of the business on the agenda.

#### **4 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

The Council's Constitution provided for public speaking at its meetings. In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos 11 and 35, a total period of 10 minutes was allocated for members of the public to address the Committee on any matters relevant to its work.

As this was the inaugural 'scene setting' meeting of the Committee and in the absence of a Chairman, the public speaking provision had not been included on this occasion. Nevertheless, the Committee considered that the public should still be afforded the opportunity to speak and the Chairman invited members of the public, who were present at the meeting, to address the Committee.

Mrs Kay spoke briefly, seeking reassurance that the work of the Committee would be conducted in an open and transparent manner.

#### **5 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee was invited to consider its draft Terms of Reference.

In order to clarify the role of local Ward Members on the Committee, the Chairman stated it was his intention for Ward Members to be invited to participate in and ask questions during meetings, subsequent to the Committee Members having made their own observations but they, unlike Committee Members, would not have voting rights.

The Committee was supportive of this approach.

Appendix A set out the original recommendation made in respect of the membership of the Committee (i.e. that Ward Members representing the un-parished areas of Crewe be appointed), which had been superseded by Council on 15 December 2010, when it resolved that the Committee be appointed on a political proportional basis. The current membership of 4 Conservative, 1 Labour and 2 Independents reflected this decision.

A list of the un-parished wards of Crewe was provided in the appendix to the report. A Member commented that Leighton should also have been included as a small proportion of the ward fell outside the parish boundary. Conversely, two of the wards included in the list (Crewe South and St. Barnabas) had areas which were parished and clarification of the composition of each ward was requested for the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That, subject to the wording relating to membership of the Committee being amended to reflect the political proportionality of the Council and the inclusion of Leighton in the wards affected, the Terms of Reference for the Local Service Delivery Committee (Crewe) be recommended to Council for approval.

(Note: The Democratic and Registration Services Manager left the meeting at this point in the proceedings. Councillor Martin arrived during consideration of the item but took no part in the discussion nor voted thereon.)

## 6 LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY - TRANSFER AND DEVOLUTION

Local Service Delivery Committees had been established by the Council for the areas of Crewe and Macclesfield to ensure that the provision of services was fair and consistent across the borough. So that each area had the same opportunities and choices as other parished areas regarding the provision of services (consistent with those transferring to parished areas), the Committee, as part of its work, would be invited to consider issues relating to a potential Special Expenses Levy (SEL) which may be imposed on the residents of the area to deliver such services.

In introducing the report, the Head of Policy and Performance explained that the purpose of the paper was to ensure that Members were aware of the current service provision in Crewe by highlighting areas for consideration, thus enabling Members to challenge the arrangements, where appropriate. Members were also asked to identify what additional information they required to consider the matters before them.

Running in parallel with the work of the Committee; a second Community Governance Review was being conducted to consider options for how Crewe should be governed in the future. Despite a difference of opinion amongst Members as to the merits of the review, the Committee accepted that the outcome would impact on its work moving forward.

During the debate, the following points were raised/noted:

- It was important to avoid duplication with activities being provided by the Crewe Charter Trustees
- The list of current services under consideration could be added to or removed as appropriate by the Committee or Cabinet
- Any public consultation exercise over and above the Council's Business Planning Process would be dependent on the recommendations of the Committee
- The Special Expenses Levy (SEL) quoted in the report was indicative at this stage and would be clarified as budgets were finalised
- The differential between the SEL indicated for Macclesfield and that for Crewe required further explanation

The Committee also asked for additional information to be provided as follows

- Figures relating to the numbers of Council Tax payers/population in the non-parished areas of Crewe and Macclesfield for comparison purposes
- Detailed breakdown of budget heads/operational costs referred to in the report
- Copy of the Crewe Charter Trustees budget
- Further information regarding the operation of Crewe Market

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

## **7 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

As recommendations from the Committee would help inform the 2012/2013 budget, future meetings would need to fit in with those scheduled for Cabinet and full Council.

To provide sufficient time for the recommendations to be considered it was -

RESOLVED: That meetings of the Local Service Delivery Committee (Crewe) be arranged for i) Monday, 31 October 2011 at 10.00am; and ii) Thursday 24 November 2011 at 1.30pm, venues in Crewe to be confirmed.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 11.10 am

Councillor John Hammond  
(Chairman)