

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet**  
held on Tuesday, 1st April, 2014 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

Councillor M Jones (Chairman)  
Councillor D Brown (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Rachel Bailey, J Clowes, J P Findlow, L Gilbert, B Moran,  
P Raynes and D Topping

## **Members in Attendance**

Councillors Rhoda Bailey, L Brown, K Edwards, R Fletcher, M Grant,  
P Hoyland, W Livesley, R Menlove, A Moran, B Murphy, D Newton,  
L Smetham, A Thwaite and S Wilkinson

## **Officers in Attendance**

Mike Suarez, Peter Bates, Lorraine Butcher, Anita Bradley, Caroline  
Simpson, Heather Grimbaldeston, Tony Crane, Brenda Smith, Stephanie  
Cordon, Barbara Dale and Paul Mountford

## **Apologies**

Councillors D Stockton

## 153      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

## 155      **QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS**

Councillor K Edwards asked about progress with, and the timescale for, the Macclesfield Community Governance Review. The Leader asked for a written response to be sent to Councillor Edwards.

Councillor B Murphy sought assurances that any further proposals to establish Alternative Service Delivery Vehicles would be notified to Members in sufficient time to enable Members to give them full consideration in advance of any relevant decision-making meeting. He also asked if a briefing session could be arranged for all Members in relation to a proposed ASDV for Integrated Transport, with particular reference to the governance arrangements. The Leader indicated that he was happy to arrange such a session.

Councillor L Brown asked if the primary objective for the proposed Integrated Transport ASDV as set out in the (now deferred) report on the agenda could be reviewed. The Leader indicated that the primary objective would be reviewed.

Councillor L Brown also sought assurances that any future governance arrangements for Macclesfield would protect the position of the town's Mayor. The Leader replied that Macclesfield would continue to have a Mayor; this was not in question.

156      **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 be approved as a correct record.

157      **MIDDLEWICH EASTERN BYPASS & MIDPOINT 18 (FORWARD PLAN REF: CE 13/14-39)**

Cabinet considered a proposal for the Council to underwrite the remaining cost of the Middlewich Eastern Bypass by up to £2.5m in order to open up the Midpoint 18 site for development, thus facilitating significant private sector investment.

Pochin Developments Ltd had been granted outline planning consent in 2008 for an extension to the existing Midpoint 18 scheme ('Phase 3') to include the completion of the southern section of the Middlewich Eastern Bypass, which was a requirement to open up the site for development. £19.5m of the £22m cost of the Bypass had been identified, subject to securing the final £2.5m.

The report also sought Cabinet support to delegate authority to accept a revised final grant offer letter from Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for £4.1m Regional Growth Fund.

**RESOLVED**

That Cabinet agrees

1. to make a formal offer to Pochin Developments Ltd (PDL) to underwrite the shortfall in cost of delivering the final section of Middlewich Eastern Bypass, up to a maximum of £2.5m.
2. that the Council continue to seek alternative funding for the bypass, including from developer contributions, Community Infrastructure Levy and other public sector funding sources (e.g. Local Growth Fund), which could be used as an alternative to replace its underwriting, or for the Council to recoup if allocated.

3. that if the Council's underwriting is called upon, authority be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Prosperity, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holders, to award this sum by means of a grant agreement in a form approved by the Head of Legal Services to PDL, subject to the securing of all other funding to deliver the bypass.
4. that authority be delegated to the Director of Economic Growth and Prosperity and Head of Legal Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders, to accept a revised final grant offer letter from BIS in relation to the £4.1m Regional Growth Fund (RGF) allocation, subject to:
  - (a) the satisfactory advice of the Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer.
  - (b) CEC obtaining legal advice clarifying whether formal procurement of any involved entities (including principal contractor) is required by law or by BIS or recommended to manage risk as referred to in 9.0, and PDL's acceptance of our resulting approach.
  - (c) securing agreement of all funding parties to a revised delivery timetable that complies with respective requirements.
  - (d) appropriate inputs from PDL and its partners in providing all information required to satisfy RGF criteria, s278 agreement, etc.

158        **FUTURE DELIVERY MODEL FOR THE INTEGRATED  
TRANSPORT UNIT (FORWARD PLAN REF: CE 13/14-76)**

This matter had been deferred to a later meeting.

159        **SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES STRATEGY (FORWARD PLAN REF:  
CE 13/14-84)**

Cabinet considered an updated Sustainable Libraries Strategy.

The Council was committed to retaining its libraries and to broaden their role to develop community hubs that appealed to a wider audience.

The updated Strategy defined the service priorities to ensure that the Council delivered a comprehensive, efficient and sustainable library service. These priorities included improved literacy, informal learning, digital inclusion, information provision, the development of community hubs and improved efficiency.

**RESOLVED**

That the Sustainable Libraries Strategy be endorsed.

160      **RESPONSE TO CARE LEAVERS/HEALTH TASK AND FINISH  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet considered an updated report on Cared for Children and Care Leavers.

The Children and Families Scrutiny Task and Finish Group had completed a review of the 16 Plus service for Cared for Children and care leavers, the aim of the review being to look at how to improve the outcomes of some of the Borough's most vulnerable young adults. The report had initially been presented to Cabinet in November 2013 and officers had been asked to review the recommendations and report on progress.

The updated report now before Members set out the various recommendations of the Care Leavers Review and the current state of progress in each case. Of over 50 recommendations, the vast majority of actions had now been completed.

Cabinet had requested the views of Officers in regard to recommendation 13.2.2: "That alongside the Lead Member for Corporate Parenting, a non-Executive Councillor, with no Chairmanship duties, be appointed as a 'Cared for Children' champion to liaise with cared for children and to drive through the Corporate Parenting agenda and to monitor the outcomes of the Task Group reports on cared for children. (p21 – para 7.4)".

As all elected members were Corporate parents and the Council had a portfolio holder, it was felt that this particular recommendation should not be taken forward.

**RESOLVED**

That

1. progress be noted in light of the recommendations from the work undertaken by the Task and Finish – Scrutiny group; and
2. the recommendation not to pursue the appointment of a non-executive Councillor as a Cared for Children champion be endorsed.

161      **BETTER CARE FUND PLAN (FORWARD PLAN REF: CE 13/14-  
78)**

Cabinet considered the Council's Better Care Fund Plan.

The Better Care Fund had been announced by Government in June 2013 and provided an opportunity to transform local services so that people were provided with better integrated care and support.

The Cheshire East Better Care Plan united a shared vision of Cheshire East Council, NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group and

South Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group, for improving outcomes for residents through improving how health and social care services worked together.

There was a requirement to submit the Council's Better Care Plan to NHS England by the 4<sup>th</sup> April. A first draft had been submitted in February. A revised draft was attached as Appendix 1.

## **RESOLVED**

That Cabinet

1. endorses the Better Care Fund Plan for submission to NHS England;
2. notes the decision not to expand the Better Care Fund with additional resources from the partners at this time, but to keep under review the opportunities to incorporate further funding at a future date;
3. endorses the commitment to providing the best possible care within the community and ensuring that local hospitals continue to play a key part within the continuum of care in Cheshire East, which supports people to live well and for longer in their local communities; and
4. notes and endorses the amended decision of the Health and Wellbeing Board that for reasons associated with the Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group being identified as part of a 'challenged economy' by Monitor that separate operational plans are progressed using the Better Care Fund resources to drive the intended outcomes for residents via Connecting Care (South) and Caring Together (East).

## **162 OUTCOMES OF CREATING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES REVIEW AND HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN (FORWARD PLAN REF: CE 13/14-73)**

Cabinet considered a report setting out proposals which focussed on early intervention and building stronger communities.

The approach focussed on how the Council delivered services as locally as possible to develop strong communities. There were five main strands: to develop a community engagement strategy; to promote and support community partnerships; to develop community hubs; to support Members in their front line role; and to establish strategic partnerships

## **RESOLVED**

That Cabinet

1. agrees that this is a resident and partnership-led approach to creating stronger communities;

2. agrees that the engagement of residents and partners, especially the faith and voluntary communities and their commitment and enthusiasm, be encouraged and supported;
3. notes that the five main areas of focus as set out in Appendices A-E to the report are the right ones to pursue once the Council's partners have been consulted; and
4. notes that detailed papers on each area will be brought to Cabinet for discussion on progress on a six-monthly basis, or more frequently if there are significant items to report, following consultation with local residents.

163      **DETERMINATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY COORDINATED SCHEME AND ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS (FORWARD PLAN REF: CE 13/14-83)**

Cabinet considered the co-ordinated scheme and admission arrangements for 2015 and subsequent years.

The co-ordinated scheme (Annex 1 to the report), would apply to applications for places in all publicly funded mainstream primary and secondary schools (including academies) for the school year 2015-16.

The proposed admission arrangements (Annex 2) included the overall procedure, practices, criteria, published admission number and supplementary information to be used in deciding on the allocation of school places.

Current admission numbers and proposed changes for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2015 were set out in Appendix 1.

**RESOLVED**

That Cabinet approves

1. the proposed coordinated admission scheme, which all local authorities are required by section 88M of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to have in place (Annex 1 to the report); and
2. the proposed admission arrangements for Cheshire East community and controlled schools, which are the overall procedure, practices, criteria and supplementary information to be used in deciding on the allocation of school places (Annex 2).

Cabinet considered proposals to ensure the continuity of service delivery during the transformation process relating to facilities management.

Under Major Change Project 7.5 – Asset Major Change, the Council would be considering options for the future delivery of all property-related services, building on the achievement of the Corporate Landlord model and the formation of the Development Company.

A number of facilities management contracts, which ensured that buildings could continue to operate, were due to expire within the next 12 months. In order to ensure continuity of service it would be necessary to publish a contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union for such works.

Linked to the wider project, the report dealt with mechanisms that must be put in place to ensure that effective service delivery was maintained during the transformation process.

## **RESOLVED**

That

1. approval be given to publish a contract notice in the OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union);
2. approval be given to the establishment of Facilities Management contracts or a Total Facilities Contract, should this be the most cost effective route following the tender process;
3. delegated authority be granted to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets, to award contracts to providers meeting the requirements of the Contract/s;
4. delegated authority be granted to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets, to abort the procurement, should the Contract no longer be required; and
5. delegated authority be granted to the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets, to utilise the Stockport Strategic Property Partnership on the basis of recommendations from Assets, Finance, Procurement and Legal Services.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.35 pm

M Jones (Chairman)