

# Corporate Scrutiny Committee

## Agenda

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| <b>Date:</b>  | <b>Monday, 12th August, 2013</b>   |
| <b>Time:</b>  | <b>2.00 pm</b>   |
| <b>Venue:</b> | <b>Committee Suite 1,2 &amp; 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,<br/>Sandbach CW11 1HZ</b> |

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The agenda is divided into 2 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.

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013.

3. **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.

4. **Declaration of Party Whip**

To provide an opportunity for Members to declare the existence of a party whip in relation to any item on the agenda.

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For any apologies or requests for further information, or to give notice of a question to be asked by a member of the public

**Contact:** Mark Nedderman

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5. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

A total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to make a statement(s) on any matter that falls within the remit of the Committee.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes, but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned, where there are a number of speakers.

Note: In order for officers to undertake any background research, it would be helpful if members of the public contacted the Scrutiny officer listed at the foot of the agenda, at least one working day before the meeting to provide brief details of the matter to be covered.

6. **Children's and Adults' Safeguarding Issues**

To receive a presentation on Adult Safeguarding issues.

7. **Quarter 1 Budget/Performance Report**

To consider a report of the Chief Operating Officer (to follow)

8. **Work Programme Progress Report** (Pages 5 - 14)

To Consider a report of the Head of Governance and Democratic Services.

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Scrutiny Committee**  
held on Tuesday, 9th July, 2013 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

**PRESENT**

Councillor S Wilkinson (Chairman)

Councillors S Corcoran, D Newton, R West, J Wray and R Menlove  
(substitute)

**Apologies**

Councillors P Edwards and W Fitzgerald

**19 ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor Rachel Bailey – Children and Families Portfolio Holder  
Councillor Rhoda Bailey – Cabinet Support Member

**20 OFFICERS PRESENT**

Tony Crane - Director of Children's Services  
Finatn Bradley- Head of Service: Strategy, Planning & Performance  
Mark Bayley- Principal Manager, Quality Assurance  
Mark Nedderman- Senior Scrutiny Officer

**21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 June  
be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**23 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of the existence of a party whip.

**24 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

**25 SCHOOLS AND THE NEW OFSTED FRAMEWORK**

Fintan Bradley and Mark Bayley attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the Ofsted inspection framework and its impact on the school improvement agenda locally.

Cheshire East currently had 150 schools of which 124 were primary, 21 secondary, 4 special and 1 pupil referral unit. Of those, 9 primaries (7%) and 12 secondaries (57%) were academies.

Currently, 86% of all schools were good or outstanding, 12% were satisfactory or required improvement and 1% considered inadequate.

The Committee was informed that the new Ofsted inspection framework would judge the quality of education provided in the school and its overall effectiveness, taking account of four other key judgements:

- The achievement of pupils at the school;
- The quality of teaching in the school;
- The behaviours and safety of pupils at the school;
- The quality of the leadership in, and management of, the school.

Ofsted would continue to inspect good schools less frequently than weaker schools.

Ofsted would also judge schools based upon progress from starting points, not just attainment alone, as starting points were different for each school.

Ofsted had also amended some of its terminology. For instance, 'satisfactory' had been replaced with 'requires improvement' and the 'notice to improve' category had been replaced with 'serious weakness'

In response to a question about where the responsibility for Special Education Needs (SEN) would sit in the context of increasing numbers of academies at primary and secondary level, Fintan Bradley informed the Committee that the responsibility for SEN, exclusions and attendance remained the responsibility of the local authority.

**RESOLVED** – That at the same time the Committee scrutinises the 2013 examination results (expected to be November) the Head of Service: Strategy, Planning & Performance be requested to report back to the committee on the experiences of the Council and the effect on provision of services arising from the new Ofsted Framework.

## **26 CHILDREN'S IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

Tony Crane updated the committee on the setting up of the Children's Improvement Board which had arisen from the Ofsted inspection of the Council's safeguarding arrangements, in March 2013.

The Improvement Board had met once and was being chaired independently by Helen Denton from Lancashire County Council. The board was due to meet again next week.

Although confirmation had not been received from the Department of Education regarding the issuing of an improvement notice, work in response to the Ofsted inspection would continue. In response to the Committee's previous request for Members to be further involved in this work, volunteers were sought to 'shadow'

front line staff in Children's Services, to allow Members to gain a better understanding of the day to day activities of staff within the directorate.

Separately, Tony reminded the Committee that the Corporate and Performance Policy Development Group was due to undertake a piece of work to review the Council's recruitment and retention policies in respect of Children's' Social workers.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and that any Members of the Committee wishing to 'shadow' staff within the Children's and Family safeguarding team be requested to contact the Senior Scrutiny Officer.

## **27 ACADEMIES AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

Fintan Bradley reported upon the current situation in Cheshire East regarding primary schools and academies. A consequence of the high number of secondary schools which had become academies, was that the number of staff employed in the schools improvement team had reduced. The numbers of primary schools changing to academies was still relatively low, but it was expected that the number would increase significantly.

RESOLVED – That Fintan Bradley be requested to circulate an update on the latest position regarding academies outside of the meeting.

## **28 WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee reviewed its work programme.

RESOLVED-

- (a) That an additional meeting of the Committee be held on 12 August at 2.00pm to review the quarter 1 Budget and performance report;
- (b) That a the annual Safeguarding report be submitted to the 10 September meeting
- (c) That a formal consultation by Cabinet on the revised Licensing policy be dealt with at the 10 September meeting

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.07 pm

Councillor S Wilkinson (Chairman)

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**.CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL****REPORT TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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**Date of Meeting:** 12 August 2013  
**Report of:** Head of Governance and Democratic Services  
**Subject/Title:** Work Programme update

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**1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 To review items in the 2013/2014 Work Programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by Committee Members.

**2.0 Recommendations**

That the 2013/2014 work programme be reviewed.

**3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is good practice to agree and review the Work Programme to enable effective management of the Committee's business.

**4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All

**5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

**6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon reduction  
- Health**

- 6.1 Not known at this stage.

**7.0 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 Not known at this stage.

**8.0 Legal Implications**

- 8.1 None.

**9.0 Risk Management**

- 9.1 There are no identifiable risks.

## **10.0 Background and Options**

- 10.1 The schedule attached has been updated to reflect the decisions taken by the Committee at its previous meeting.
- 10.2 Members are asked to review the schedule attached to this report, and if appropriate, add new items or delete items that no longer require any scrutiny activity. When selecting potential topics, Members should have regard to the Council's new three year plan and also to the general criteria listed below, which should be applied to all potential items when considering whether any Scrutiny activity is appropriate.

The following questions should be asked in respect of each potential work programme item:

- Does the issue fall within a corporate priority;
  - Is the issue of key interest to the public;
  - Does the matter relate to a poor or declining performing service for which there is no obvious explanation;
  - Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends;
  - Is it a matter raised by external audit management letters and or audit reports?
  - Is there a high level of dissatisfaction with the service;
- 10.3 If during the assessment process any of the following emerge, then the topic should be rejected:
- The topic is already being addressed elsewhere
  - The matter is subjudice
  - Scrutiny cannot add value or is unlikely to be able to conclude an investigation within the specified timescale

## **11 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 12 August 2013

| <b>Issue</b>                            | <b>Description/Comments</b>                                | <b>Suggested by</b>             | <b>Portfolio Holder as at February 2013</b>            | <b>Current Position R,A,G</b>   | <b>Date for completion</b>   |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|
| Children and Adults Safeguarding issues | Standard agenda item to receive updates                    | The Committee                   | Children and Families and Health and Adult Social Care | Standard item to be introduced from April 2013                              | 16 April 2013 and continuing |
| Ofsted Inspection                       | To review the findings of the Ofsted Inspection March 2013 | The Committee                   | Children and Families                                  | Further action required to co-ordinated with the Children and Families PDG. | TBA                          |
| Performance Management information      | To be received at least quarterly                          | Handover from Previous Scrutiny | Performance  | To be received quarterly.   | 2013                         |
| Budget Monitoring                       | To be undertaken at least quarterly                        | Handover from Previous Scrutiny | Finance  | To be received quarterly.   | 2013                         |

|                                       |  |                                 |                                     |  |                        |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Annual Safeguarding Report            |  | The Committee                   | Children and Families               | Item on today's agenda   | 10 September 2013      |
| Licensing Policy                      | To Comment on the Revised Licensing Policy   | Consultation from Cabinet       | Communities and Regulatory Services |  | 10 September 2013      |
| Regulation 33 update                  | To receive periodic reports on Section 33 visits to Children's establishments.   | Handover from Previous Scrutiny | Children and Families               | To be received quarterly   | 10 September 2013      |
| Budget Consultation                   | To determine the Committees involvement in budget consultation arrangements in accordance with constitutional requirements | Handover from Previous Scrutiny | Finance                             | Further information to be provided by the Finance Portfolio Holder on specific consultation arrangements | September/October 2013 |
| Section 106 Agreements                | To receive progress reports on monies owing/spent  | Handover from Previous Scrutiny | Strategic Communities               | 6 monthly review.  | 8 October 2013         |
| Residential Provision Task and Finish | Review actions of Cabinet in response to the scrutiny review   | Handover from Previous          | Children and families               | Further information to be obtained   | 8 October 2013         |

|                                      |   |   |                       |   |                  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| Review - update                      |   | Scrutiny  |                       | about the scheduling of this item   |                  |
| School Examination data 2012/13      | To review the annual school examination data  | Handover from Previous Scrutiny Handover from Previous Scrutiny | Children and Families |   | 12 November 2013 |
| Schools and the new Ofsted framework | To review the impact on schools of the new framework                                  | The Committee   | Children and Families | Update on the Council's experiences to be linked with the report on examination results | 12 November 2013 |
| Multi-agency inspection results      |   | The Committee   | Children and families |   | 12 November 2013 |
| New management Structure             | To review the effectiveness of the new management structure approved in February 2013 | The Committee   | All Portfolios        | The new structure is expected to be completed by the Autumn of 2013                     | April 2014       |
| Libraries Strategy                   | 6 month review - to review the success of the strategy following its implementation   | Handover from Previous  | Strategic Communities | To be held in abeyance until after the  | TBA              |

|  |  |                                 |                                      |  |     |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----|
|  | in August.   | Scrutiny                        |                                      | current review of the Libraries Strategy led by the Communities PDG  |     |
|  |  |                                 |                                      |  |     |
| Home to School Transport Task and Finish -update | Review actions of Cabinet in response to the scrutiny review | Handover from Previous Scrutiny | Children and Families                | Further information to be obtained about the scheduling of this item | TBA |
| Business Generation Centres update               | Review actions of Cabinet in response to the scrutiny review | Handover from Previous Scrutiny | Prosperity and Economic Regeneration | Further information to be obtained about the scheduling of this item | TBA |
| BeWilderwood                                     | To review the financing arrangements of this scheme          | The Committee                   | Prosperity                           |  | TBA |



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