

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Member for Strategic Communities**  
held on Monday, 10th March, 2014 in Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

### **PRESENT**

Councillor D Brown.

### **Councillor in attendance:**

Councillor Rhoda Bailey.

### **Officers in attendance:**

Tom Evans – Planning Officer

Ruth Parry – Spatial Policy Team Leader

Cherry Foreman – Democratic Services Officer

### **18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

Councillor Rhoda Bailey spoke on behalf of the Astbury and Moreton Neighbourhood Plan Group; the Group acknowledged the importance of the planned Congleton link road and of the need to protect the land for it, and was pleased that the area of land concerned had reduced from that discussed in the first instance with the result that nobody in the parish had been disenfranchised.

### **21 NEWBOLD, ASTBURY AND MORETON NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA APPLICATION**

It was reported that Astbury and Moreton parish Councils had expressed intent to undertake the preparation of a neighbourhood plan and had submitted a valid application to formally designate the Parishes of Astbury and Moreton as a neighbourhood area.

Within the neighbourhood area, however, lies an extent of land of strategic importance to the delivery of the Congleton Link Road. The land required to deliver the road is of such high strategic importance that the land identified in appendixes 3 and 4 of the report is considered necessary to it and, therefore, needs to be excluded from the neighbourhood area application. Exclusion will ensure it remains subject to the emerging policy framework of the Cheshire East Local Plan and outside the potential influence of future policies established under a neighbourhood plan (which, once adopted, holds equal weight to the Local Plan for decision making purposes).

Existing legislation does not place a limit on the number of neighbourhood areas a relevant body can submit to the authority for consideration; the Authority can also reconsider the extent of existing designations. Therefore it should be noted that there are mechanisms through which the excluded land may be designated as part of the Astbury and Moreton Neighbourhood Area in the future.

The designation of Newbold Astbury and Moreton Parishes as a single neighbourhood area (as identified in appendixes 3 and 4) will enable Newbold Astbury Parish Council and Moreton cum Alcumlow Parish Council to prepare a joint neighbourhood plan for this area.

#### **RESOLVED**

That approval be given to the Astbury and Moreton Neighbourhood area as shown in appendixes 3 and 4 of the report.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am and concluded at 11.10 am

Councillor (none)