

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
held on Monday, 10th November, 2014 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor S Wilkinson (Chairman)
Councillor B Murphy (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors G Baxendale, K Edwards, M Grant, P Groves, W Livesley,
A Moran, D Neilson, J Saunders and M J Simon

Apologies

Councillors F Keegan and P Hoyland

1 ALSO PRESENT

Councillor P Raynes – Finance Portfolio Holder
Councillor B Moran – Performance Portfolio Holder
Councillor P Findlow - Governance Portfolio Holder

2 OFFICERS PRESENT

Peter Bates – Chief Operating Officer
Lorraine Butcher - Executive Director of Strategic Commissioning
Steve Reading - Principal Accountant

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP

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

6 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

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

7 2014/2015 MID YEAR REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Operating Officer which set out the Council's financial and non financial performance at the mid year stage of 2014/15 and highlighted the latest progress towards achieving the Council's residents first outcomes as described in the Council's three year plan 2013 to 2016. Permanent savings of £5m in management costs had been achieved from 2013/14 to 2014/15.

The mid-year review showed how the Council was continuing to build on the final outturn position for 2013/14. The outturn position was recently signed off by the Council's external auditors, without qualification, and demonstrated that the overall financial health, performance, resilience and value for money at Cheshire East Council was strong despite taking £50m out of its cost base from 2011/12, and freezing Council Tax for the fourth consecutive year. Savings had been consistently achieved through efficiency, removing any duplication of effort, making reductions in management costs, and a planned programme of asset disposals. This approach had protected funding provided to front line services. The Council's strong financial position reflected its enhanced governance, innovative delivery arrangements and effective stewardship of public money.

Following the mid year review the Council's reserves strategy remained effective, although currently there was a potential overspend being forecast of £1.1m, which represented only 0.4% against a budget of £253.8m. This was the lowest figure ever reported for the Council at this stage in the financial year.

The Committee considered the report section by section and invited comments and questions from Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted

8 FORWARD PLAN

The committee considered items listed in the current forward plan.

RESOLVED – That the forward plan be received.

9 WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee reviewed the work programme.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the work programme be noted;
- (b) That an additional meeting be added into the calendar of meetings in mid – January to consider the formal budget consultation and medium term financial strategy

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.00 pm

Councillor S Wilkinson (Chairman)