

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Member for Housing and Jobs**
held on Monday, 28th July, 2014 at Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillors D Stockton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Jobs

Officers

Karen Carsberg, Strategic Housing Manager
Victoria Kell, Homechoice and Homelessness Manager
Julie North, Senior Democratic Services Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

No members of the public were present.

4 HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the draft Homelessness Strategy for Cheshire East.

Local authorities were required to undertake a homelessness review within their area and use the information to formulate a strategy. Cheshire East's Homelessness Team had carried out a review in January 2014. The review looked at levels and likely levels of homelessness, established activities to be carried out to prevent homelessness and established the accommodation needs for the homeless and support needed.

Extensive consultation with statutory and voluntary agencies, as well as services users had taken place to identify gaps in service and ways of improving access to services. This had been feed into the Strategy and the actions attached to it.

The Homelessness Strategy was now ready to progress to the consultation stage. Following this 6 week stage any required amendments would be made to the Strategy before bringing to Cabinet for approval.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Homelessness Strategy and its preliminary findings be noted; and
- (2) approval be given for officers to publicly consult on the draft strategy, before incorporating the responses into the finalised strategy.

5 MACCLESFIELD TOWN CENTRE HOUSING STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the Macclesfield Town Centre Housing Strategy.

Members of the Macclesfield 'In Town Living project' were currently working to develop a Macclesfield Town Centre Housing Strategy with the aim of articulating their vision to "to bring empty or under-utilised properties back into a useable condition and to stimulate interest to support a rejuvenated town centre."

The Macclesfield Town Centre Housing Strategy had been created as a complementary document to support the Macclesfield Town Centre Plan. The Strategy set out how housing could play a part in the regeneration through encouraging people to move back into the town centre by bring underutilised properties back into use and/or assisting in the conversion of commercial properties into residential use.

The Strategy highlighted a wide range of evidence and research on which the strategic approach had been formulated, including the national picture of the state of Britain's town centres, reflecting the local position in Macclesfield. The Strategy outlined the housing needs within the area, drawing on evidence for social and private rented accommodation.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the draft Macclesfield Town Centre Housing Strategy and its preliminary findings be noted; and
- (2) approval be given to officers to publicly consult on the draft Strategy for a 4 week period, after which the response be incorporated into the finalised Strategy.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.15 am

Councillor D Stockton