

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Date: Thursday, 7th April, 2016
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

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 4 February 2016.

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.

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

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

Tel: 01270 686459

E-Mail: mark.nedderman@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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. **Future Budget Development and Engagement**

The Chief Operating Officer to outline the budget development and engagement arrangements for the 2017/18 financial year.

7. **Chancellors Budget Announcements 2016**

The Chief Operating Officer to provide a summary of issues announced in the Chancellor's Budget speech as they affect Cheshire East.

8. **Work Programme Progress Report** (Pages 5 - 12)

To consider a report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Stewardship

9. **Forward Plan** (Pages 13 - 22)

To note the current forward plan, identify any new items, and to determine whether any further examination of new issues is appropriate.

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held on Thursday, 4th February, 2016 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)
Councillor M Grant (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors C Andrew, Rhoda Bailey, S Corcoran, D Flude, A Moran, J Saunders, B Walmsley, H Wells-Bradshaw, L Wardlaw, J Wray, G Wait(substitute) and G M Walton(substitute)

Apologies

Councillors G Barton, G Baxendale and J Weston

13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14 ALSO PRESENT

Councillor P Groves – Finance and Assets Portfolio older
J Clowes – Adults Health and Leisure Portfolio Holder
R Bailey – Children and Families Portfolio Holder
P Findlow – Performance Portfolio Holder
David Brown - Highways Portfolio Holder

15 OFFICERS PRESENT

Peter Gosling - Principal Manager, Adult Social Care
Susanne Antrobus - Senior Lawyer
Gill Betton – Head of Service - Children's Development & Partnerships
Natalie Robinson – Business Manager Communications
Julian Cobley - Head of Investment
Steve Reading - Principal Accountant

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP

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

18 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

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

19 2016/17 BUDGET

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Operating Officer on the Council's Corporate Plan for the years 2016/17 to 2019/20 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the years 2016/17 to 2018/19.

The provisional funding announcements of 17th December 2015 had confirmed that local government spending would continue to reduce through to 2019/20. However, the Government approach had changed, and the reduction in grant had been greater than forecast in the Council's Pre-Budget report (October 2015) as the potential income from Council Tax increases had been factored in to the settlement for the first time. The report submitted to this meeting was based on the Provisional Settlement, which therefore still required parliamentary approval, and included the following headlines:

- An additional £33m would be spent on improving highways;
- Net Revenue spending on services was being reduced by £2.1m to deliver a balanced position in 2016/17;
- Capital spending on infrastructure and regeneration projects would increase by £60.5m from 2015/16 third quarter review budget;
- Value for money would continue to be supported through management of Council investments. This would include the reduction of external loans by a further £6m;
- Reliance on Central Government grants would reduce by £16.3m;
- Funding for essential local services would require a proposed Council tax increase of 3.75% from £1,216.34 to £1,261.95 for a Band D property.

The Committee reviewed the various elements of the budget consultation report on a section by section basis, and representatives of each of the service areas was invited to explain the principal elements of the budget proposals as they related to their service area and were then questioned by Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted

20 QUARTER 3 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Operating Officer setting out the Council's financial and non financial performance at the third quarter stage of 2015/16 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.

The third quarter review had forecast an underspend of £0.3m . This represented a variance of only 0.1% against a net budget of £246.6m.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

21 WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee reviewed its work programme.

RESOLVED –

(a) – That the work programme be noted

22 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee reviewed the forward plan.

RESOLVED – that the forward plan be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.25 pm

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 7 April 2016
Report of: Head of Corporate Resources and Stewardship
Subject/Title: Work Programme update

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To review items in the 2015/2016 Work Programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by Committee Members.

2.0 Recommendations

That the 2015/2016 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.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 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;
- 10.5 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:

Name: Mark Nedderman
Designation: Scrutiny Manager
Tel No: 01270 686459
Email: mark.nedderman@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2015/16 updated March 2016

Formal meeting	Informal meeting	Formal meeting	Formal meeting	Informal meeting
Date: 7 April 2016 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: 9 June 2016 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: 7 July 2016 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: 8 September 2016 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields	Date: 6 October 2016 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Committee Suite, Westfields

Essential items

Item	Description/purpose of report/comments	Outcome	Lead Officer/organisation/Portfolio Holder	Suggested by	Current position	Key Dates/Deadlines
Performance Management Information	Quarterly reports on Performance and Budget	A responsible effective and efficient organisation	Chief Operating Officer, Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder	The Committee	Reports are considered in line with the Cabinet reporting cycle	7 July 2016, 8 September 2016, 3 November 2016, 2 February 2017
Budget Consultation 2016/17	Corporate will begin the 2016/17 budget consultation process in the summer of 2015 and finally will collate ,on behalf of the 5 other O&S committees, a formal 'scrutiny' response	A responsible effective and efficient organisation	Chief Operating Officer, Finance and Assets	The Committee	Formal consultation on the draft budget TBA	TBA

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2015/16 updated March 2016

			Portfolio Holder			
Capital Programme	To be fed into the budget consultation process	A responsible effective and efficient organisation	Chief Operating Officer, Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder	Director of Children's Services	Formal consultation to be part of the budget process	TBA
Cosocious	To test whether the interface at Cheshire East is sophisticated/radical enough for a modern council	A responsible effective and efficient organisation	Chief Operating Officer, Highways Portfolio Holder	Chief Operating Officer		January 2016 and continuing
Parking Outside Schools	To explore opportunities to improve highway safety around schools across the borough at drop off and pick up times	Our local communities are strong and supportive	Communities Portfolio Holder	Communities Portfolio Holder and Head of Communities	Task and Finish Group to be appointed	August 2016
Local Plan	To review the local plan process	Cheshire East has a strong and resilient economy. Cheshire East is a green and sustainable place.	Director of Children's Services, Children and Families Portfolio Holder	Director of Economic Growth & Children and Families Portfolio Holder		TBA

Monitoring Items

None

Possible Future/ desirable items

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ORACLE - To review whether ORACLE is fit for purpose.

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FORWARD PLAN FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30TH JUNE 2016

This Plan sets out the key decisions which the Executive expects to take over the period indicated above. The Plan is rolled forward every month. A key decision is defined in the Council's Constitution as:

"an executive decision which is likely –

- (a) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards or electoral divisions in the area of the local authority.

For the purpose of the above, savings or expenditure are "significant" if they are equal to or greater than £1M."

Reports relevant to key decisions, and any listed background documents, may be viewed at any of the Council's Offices/Information Centres 5 days before the decision is to be made. Copies of, or extracts from, these documents may be obtained on the payment of a reasonable fee from the following address:

Democratic Services Team
Cheshire East Council
c/o Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach Cheshire CW11 1HZ
Telephone: 01270 686472

However, it is not possible to make available for viewing or to supply copies of reports or documents the publication of which is restricted due to confidentiality of the information contained.

A record of each key decision is published within 6 days of it having been made. This is open for public inspection on the Council's Website, at Council Information Centres and at Council Offices.

This Forward Plan also provides notice that the Cabinet, or a Portfolio Holder, may decide to take a decision in private, that is, with the public and press excluded from the meeting. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, 28 clear days' notice must be given of any decision to be taken in private by the Cabinet or a Portfolio Holder, with provision for the public to make representations as to why the decision should be taken in public. In such cases, Members of the Council and the public may make representations in writing to the Democratic Services Team Manager using the contact details below. A further notice of intention to hold the meeting in private must then be published 5 clear days before the

meeting, setting out any representations received about why the meeting should be held in public, together with a response from the Leader and the Cabinet.

The list of decisions in this Forward Plan indicates whether a decision is to be taken in private, with the reason category for the decision being taken in private being drawn from the list overleaf:

1. Information relating to an individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including to authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under the authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal and professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If you would like to make representations about any decision to be conducted in private at a meeting, please email:

Paul Mountford, Democratic Services Officer paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Such representations must be received at least 10 clear working days before the date of the Cabinet or Portfolio Holder meeting concerned.

Where it has not been possible to meet the 28 clear day rule for publication of notice of a key decision or intention to meet in private, the relevant notices will be published as soon as possible in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made. Any decision made in this way will be published in the same way.

Forward Plan

Key Decision and Private Non-Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 15/16-28 Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone	To note the application of business rates relief to companies locating at Alderley Park within the identified Enterprise Zone Area and to pool business rates income from Alderley Park to the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership for reinvestment in the Enterprise Zone. To authorise the officers to implement these proposals.	Cabinet	8 Mar 2016		Caroline Simpson, Executive Director of Economic Growth and Prosperity	No
CE 15/16-34 Parks Strategy	To adopt the Parks Strategy to support the protection, enhancement and future improvements to Parks and Open Spaces across the Borough	Cabinet	12 Apr 2016		George Broughton	

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 15/16-35 Review of Children Residential Care	<p>Cheshire East Council is looking to optimise the quality and cost effectiveness of the Children's Residential provision it delivers. A review will be undertaken looking at the following main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractual: whether to opt for in-house provision or to commission the service from the independent / voluntary sector or a mix as is the case now • Operational: to consider the model under which the homes operate and any scope for the development of the service • Configuration: the number and size of individual homes and the total number of available beds <p>Cabinet will be asked to consider the outcome of the review and recommend a way forward to provide in-house and / or commissioned services.</p>	Cabinet	12 Apr 2016		Kath O'Dwyer, Director of Children's Services	No

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 15/16-36 Review of Arrangements for the Delivery of Youth Justice Services in Cheshire East	Decision to transfer the specialist Youth Justice Services to the high performing Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Service to create a 'One Cheshire' Youth Offending Service.	Cabinet	12 Apr 2016		Kath O'Dwyer, Director of Children's Services	No
CE 15/16-38 Commissioning Children's Centre Nurseries in Crewe	To agree that officers can explore re-procurement of these childcare settings with a particular emphasis on achieving social value.	Cabinet	12 Apr 2016		Kath O'Dwyer, Director of Children's Services	No
CE 15/16-41 Cheshire East Council Community Equipment Service - Leading the Region	To approve that a number of other named local authorities and public organisations can join the community equipment framework; and that authority be delegated to the Chief Operating Officer to approve the total value of spend on this procurement to be a maximum of £20M-£25M over four years.	Cabinet	12 Apr 2016		Peter Bates, Chief Operating Officer	No
CE 14/15-42 Cheshire East Indoor Facility Strategy	To adopt the Indoor Facility Strategy in support of the Council's Local Plan.	Cabinet	3 May 2016		Mark Wheelton	No

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 15/16-7 Congleton Link Road - Approval to Proceed with the Compulsory Purchase of Land and Agreement to the Procurement Strategy	To authorise officers to proceed with the steps required to compulsorily purchase land for Congleton Link Road, and to seek approval of the procurement strategy.	Cabinet	3 May 2016		Paul Griffiths	No
CE 15/16-10 Cheshire East Playing Pitch Strategy	The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents within Cheshire East. The required decision is for the Strategy to be adopted by the Council and to authorise Officers to take all necessary actions to implement the strategy.	Cabinet	3 May 2016		George Broughton	No

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 15/16-18 Bentley Development Framework	To approve the development framework as a consultation draft document; and to agree to review the development framework following public consultation with a view to considering endorsing the final version of the document as a material consideration when determining future planning applications on the site.	Cabinet	3 May 2016		Caroline Simpson, Executive Director of Economic Growth and Prosperity	No
CE 15/16-37 Technical Assistance Funding under the ELENA Programme	To support the Council's receipt of funding under the ELENA programme for use in providing technical assistance to the identified low carbon and renewable energy projects; and to authorise officers to take all necessary actions to receive the funding and enact the funding programme.	Cabinet	3 May 2016		Matt O'Neill	No
CE 15/16-33 Middlewich Eastern Bypass Route Option Recommendation	To decide on a preferred route and the authorise officers to take all necessary actions to prepare a detailed planning application.	Cabinet	14 Jun 2016		Andrew Ross	No

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 15/16-39 Provision of Consultancy Services	To authorise officers to take all necessary actions to implement the proposed new, longer term contract with NEPRO Ltd for consultancy services.	Cabinet	14 Jun 2016		Janet Ellison-Jones	No
CE 15/16-40 Crewe Green Roundabout Pinch-point Scheme	To accept a favoured option following negotiations with the Duchy of Lancaster; authorise officers to conduct a public consultation exercise on that option and alternatives; authorise officers to embark on the detailed scheme development process; and formally allocate the budget.	Cabinet	12 Jul 2016		Andrew Ross	No

Key Decision	Decisions to be Taken	Decision Maker	Expected Date of Decision	Proposed Consultation	How to make representation to the decision made	Private/ Confidential and paragraph number
CE 15/16-8 Poynton Relief Road - Procurement Strategy	The Poynton Relief Road forms an important part of the Council's strategy of enabling job creation, delivering housing growth and addressing long standing traffic congestion and environmental issues in the town, as well as delivering an important part of the wider SEMMMS Strategy. The report will outline the work undertaken to identify the procurement process to appoint a contractor in order to construct the scheme. The report will also seek authority for the officers to undertake all necessary actions to implement the proposal.	Cabinet	11 Oct 2016		Paul Griffiths	No

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