

# **Jobs, Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

## **Agenda**

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**Date:** Monday, 19th October, 2015  
**Time:** 2.00 pm  
**Venue:** Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,  
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

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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 30 June 2015

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. **Declarations 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**

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For requests for further information

**Contact:** James Morley

**Tel:** 01270 686458

**E-Mail:** [james.morley@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:james.morley@cheshireeast.gov.uk) with any apologies

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, it would be helpful if members of the public notified the Scrutiny Officer listed at the foot of the Agenda at least one working day before the meeting with brief details of the matter to be covered.

6. **Strategic Asset Management Plan implementation process**

To consider a briefing on the implementation of the Strategic Asset Management Plan following its approval by Cabinet in July 2015

7. **Business Engagement**

To monitor the Council's engagement with businesses in Cheshire East

8. **Macclesfield Town Centre Regeneration update**

To consider a briefing providing an update on the regeneration of Macclesfield

9. **Work Programme (Pages 5 - 10)**

To review the current Work Programme

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL****Minutes of a meeting of the Jobs, Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

held on Monday, 20th July, 2015 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

**PRESENT**

Councillor H Wells-Bradshaw (Chairman)  
Councillor J Weston (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D Bebbington, S Brookfield, C Browne, L Durham and B Roberts

**In Attendance**

Councillor L Gilbert – Cabinet Member for Communities  
Councillor T Dean – Deputy Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Assets  
Councillor S Edgar – visiting member  
John Weir – Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union

**Officers Present**

Heather McManus – Head of Assets  
Sharon Angus-Crawshaw – Partnerships Manager  
James Morley – Scrutiny Officer

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence

**2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee gave consideration to the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**4 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of party whip

**5 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

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

### **6 DEVOLUTION OF ASSETS**

Heather McManus, Head of Assets, presented a report on the devolution/transfer of assets by the Council to town and parish councils and community groups. In September 2011 Cabinet had approved the transfer of 50 assets to local town and parish councils in line with the Localism Act 2011. The current position was that the Council had transferred 38 of those assets.

It was stated that progress regarding the transfer of assets had been good. Some town and parish councils had not expressed interest or were not in a position to take on those assets which had not yet been transferred. The rate at which the Council has been able to transfer assets to town and parish councils was considered good based on the resources available and was high compared to other local authorities.

The Council also had to consider requests from community groups to take on local assets and/or services under the Community Right to Challenge rules from the 2011 Act. The number of requests received by the Council had been very low in the first years after the Act was introduced however recently the number of requests had increased. Community Right to Challenge had an impact on the Council's strategic direction because it involved services as well as assets. A Right to Challenge required a full business case and the Council had to be confident that the community group was able to operate the asset and services effectively.

The Committee was requested to consider whether there was any further work required. The Committee was satisfied with the performance of the assets team in the transfer of assets. It was suggested that there may be a need to reconsider the original list of assets which was developed in 2011 to establish what should be done with the assets which remained and were not likely to be taken on by the town and parish council.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

### **7 CHESHIRE NEIGHBOURS CREDIT UNION**

John Weir, Chief Executive of Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union (CNCU), attended the meeting to discuss the performance and support needs of the credit union. A briefing note was provided documenting the recent history of the credit union and the current situation regarding its future.

The credit union had over the previous three years undergone significant changes following poor management of loans and costs. Running costs had been reduced and membership had increased. In 2014 the former Finance Policy Development Group made some recommendations to Cabinet for non financial support to the credit union including use of libraries and officer space. At the beginning of 2015 the Council also provided £60,000 funding to help CNCU to cover costs to enable it to continue operating until September 2015.

Although improvements had been made CNCU was still in an unsecure position and now required another £30,000 to cover some of its costs in order to continue operating into the next year. The credit union was also required by new rules of the Bank of England to maintain 3% capital ratio in its accounts which equated to £25,000.

Members were concerned that the credit union required financial support in order to continue operating however did not have enough information at the meeting to make any recommendations to the Council about provided any support. It was suggested that formally proposals should provided to the Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder by the credit union so a decision could be made.

### RESOLVED

That the Committee urges the Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder to give consideration to how the Council can support Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union to continue operating

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.12 pm

Councillor H Wells-Bradshaw (Chairman)

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## CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

### REPORT TO: Informal Jobs Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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**Date of Meeting:** 19 October 2015  
**Report of:** Democratic Services  
**Subject/Title:** Work Programme update

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#### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 To review items in the 2015/16 Work Programme, to consider the efficacy of existing items listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by Committee Members..

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the work programme be received and noted.

#### **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 Background and Options**

- 6.1 In reviewing the work programme, Members must pay close attention to the Corporate Priorities and Forward Plan.
- 6.2 Following this meeting the document will be updated so that all the appropriate targets will be included within the schedule.
- 6.3 In reviewing the work programme, Members must have regard to the general criteria which should be applied to all potential items, including Task and Finish reviews, when considering whether any Scrutiny activity is appropriate. Matters should be assessed against the following criteria:

- 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

6.4 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

### **7.0 Access to Information**

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

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Designation: Scrutiny Officer  
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# Jobs Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 October 2015

## Essential items

Item	Description/purpose of report/comments	Lead Officer/organisation/Portfolio Holder	Suggested by	Current position	Key Dates/Deadlines
Apprenticeships	To carry out a task group looking at how apprenticeships can be increased and how SMEs can be engaged	Peter Cavanagh Steve Bellairs	Committee	First meeting held on 7 Oct. Scope to be completed	Next meeting TBA
S106 Agreements and CIL	To examine whether agreements are being managed well and if funds are used for and how are ward members engaged	Adrian Fisher	Committee	Requested data on current S106s. Chairman to agree potential item	November/December
Cheshire East Engine of the North	To monitor the performance of EotN and whether it is delivering on its targets	Caroline Simpson	Committee	Committee to be consulted during the new commissioning process for EotN.	TBA
Cheshire and Warrington LEP	To receive a briefing about the LEP and consider how a relationship with the Committee can be developed	Julian Cobley Aiden Manley	Committee	Approach to scrutiny of LEP to be developed, potentially as joint work with CWAC and Warrington	TBA
Skills and Growth ASDV	To monitor the implementation of Cabinet decision to set up new ASDV and have an input into its role and services	Julian Cobley	Committee	Report of the ASDV requested for Sept, deferred to Nov	23 November meeting Agenda 13 Nov
Regeneration of Towns and Villages	To assess the regeneration needs of Cheshire East's towns and villages	Julian Cobley	Committee	Agreed at workshop	TBA

# Jobs Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 October 2015

## Monitoring Items

Item	Description/purpose of report/comments	Lead Officer/organisation/Portfolio Holder	Suggested by	Current position	Key Dates/Deadlines
High Growth City Project	A task and finish group conducted a review to help council prepare for the potential impact of Crewe being part of HS2 and submitted a report to Cabinet with recommendations.	C Simpson K Tierney A Ross	Chairman	TG report submitted to Cabinet 11 Feb. Response to recommendations requested.	Date to receive response to be agreed
Cheshire Neighbours Credit Union	To monitor the progress of the credit union following the reward of a further grant, subject to required actions, by the Cabinet	Sharon Angus Crawshaw CNCU	Committee	Cabinet agreed funding in Sept 15. Committee to consider monitoring	TBA
Business Engagement	Monitor engagement with Top 100 business in CE. Consider how CE supports SMEs (high growth). How do we stimulate the market and enable development	John Willis	Committee	Agreed at workshop. Briefing on support for SMEs offered. Requested Sept, deferred to Oct	19 Oct meeting Agenda 9 Oct
Strategic Asset Management Plan	To monitor the implementation of SAMP and the transfer of surplus assets	Heather McManus	Committee	Requested report for Sept meeting. Deferred to Oct	19 Oct meeting Agenda 9 Oct
Macclesfield Town Centre Regeneration	To receive a paper about the strategy for the town and potential risks and ongoing issues	Jo Wise	Caroline Simpson	Members to be provided with a briefing note.	Ongoing
Crewe Town Centre Regeneration	To receive a briefing about the regeneration framework for Crewe	Jez Goodman	Committee	Presentation on All Change for Crewe	Ongoing

## Jobs Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 October 2015

	Town Centre			received in March.	
HS2	To receive an update on developments	Caroline Simpson/Andrew Ross	Committee	Agreed at workshop	2016
Local Plan	Monitor site allocations, housing delivery and impact on regen and other strategies	Adrian Fisher	Committee	Agreed at workshop	TBA

### Possible Future/ desirable items

- End to End Planning Process
- Homelessness Task Group – postponed in sept 15

### **Dates of Future Committee Meetings**

19 October, 23 November, 18 January 2016, 21 March

### **Dates of Future Informal Meetings**

14 December, 22 February 2016, 25 April

### **Dates of Future Cabinet Meetings**

13 October, 10 November, 8 December, 12 January 2016, 9 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May

### **Dates of Future Council Meetings**

22 October, 17 December, 25 February 2016, 18 May

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