

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet Member for Communities**
held on Monday, 18th January, 2016 in Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor L Gilbert

Councillor in attendance:

Councillor G Williams

Officers in attendance:

Steph Cordon – Head of Service {Partnerships and Communities
Cherry Foreman – Democratic Services Officer

38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

40 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

No members of the public were present.

41 SITE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT TO CONTROL THE ACTIVITY OF FACE TO FACE PUBLIC FUNDRAISERS

It was reported that Cheshire East Council had received a number of complaints regarding the large number of face to face public fundraisers, otherwise known as chuggers, operating in towns within Cheshire East Council resulting in a detrimental effect on both shoppers and retailers. A working group had been established to consider how best to respond to these issues and all Town Councils and Town Centre Managers in Cheshire East had been invited to join the group and Crewe; Congleton, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Nantwich and Wilmslow had subsequently joined.

Following full consultation the Council signed a Site Management Agreement (SMA) with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority (PFRA) on 24 April 2015 and this placed the responsibility on Chuggers to adhere to agreed visiting schedules and working practices.

Following an implementation period of six months the SMA had been reviewed and it had positively addressed the activities of the chuggers. Significant improvements included improved communication with local businesses and retailers, who are now given advance notice of the scheduled visits, the PFRA has provided swift and satisfactory response to issues reported to it, and the visits have been restricted to those days of the week acceptable to the individual town. There has been a marked reduction in the number of complaints received

which has provided reassurance to both visitors to the towns and to the local business communities.

RESOLVED

1. That the operation of the Site Management Agreement across the borough continue to be used to enhance the working relationship with the retail and local businesses communities.
2. That a closer working relationship between the Council and Town and Parish Councils, and the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority, continue to be enhanced.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 10.10 am