

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

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

PRESENT

Councillors D Brown

Officers in attendance:

Brendan Flanagan – Tatton And Visitor Economy Manager

Jennifer Tench – Definitive Map Officer

Cherry Foreman – Democratic Services Officer

5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

No members of the public were present.

8 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY FEES FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH DEVELOPERS: IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

Consideration was given to this matter by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure to whom responsibilities and powers in respect of Public Rights of Way matters had been transferred by the Leader of the Council. It was reported that the Public Rights of Way (PROW) team performed some functions as statutory duties and others as discretionary powers and that some of those functions could be fee chargeable whilst others were not. As far as possible for those functions that could be fee chargeable the costs were recovered to reduce the overall service delivery costs to the Council.

The PROW team, as an arm of the Highway Authority, is a statutory consultee on planning applications and is obliged to respond to consultations put to it by the local planning authority. The extent of that obligation is to identify any public rights of way that may be affected by the proposed development and highlight the requirements upon the developer to protect the public right of way during the development process. It is often the case, however, that to provide a more responsive and holistic service PROW officers are called upon to advise developers over mitigating the impact of development on the PROW network and the most effective means of changing the network to accommodate the development.

Fees for involvement in meetings with developers and planners are already levied by Highways and are being developed by Environmental Health and the fee level now proposed had been established in discussions with officers from those services. The PROW team already benchmark some fees to those of Highways and it is proposed that this schedule of fees will be benchmarked in a similar way. In setting the proposed fees officers had taken into account the actual costs and benchmarked with other services; the intention was to charge similar fees plus an element for travel when meetings were requested to be on site.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to a charging scheme for services delivered by the Public Rights of Way Team associated with developments affecting public rights of way, and that the fee for 2016/2017 be £45 per hour per officer plus travel costs.

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and concluded at 9.40 am