

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Jobs, Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee

held on Monday, 16th May, 2016 at Committee Suite 1 & 2, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

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

Councillors D Bebbington, S Brookfield, C Browne, T Dean, B Dooley and
B Roberts

OFFICERS PRESENT

Karen Tierney – Regeneration and Major Projects Manager
Joanne Jones – Property Services Manager
James Morley – Scrutiny Officer

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence

17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting on 21 March 2016 be approved
as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests

19 DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of party whip

20 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

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

21 STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Joanne Jones provided a presentation about the progress made since May 2015 in implementing the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP). The presentation explained the four objectives of the SAMP and the seven key actions and how the Council had progress with each actions.

Members asked questions and the following points arose:

- Council had achieved £20.7m capital receipts in 2015/16; this was followed by a further £5.7m delivered in April 2016. There were already c£19m of receipts in the process of being developed during 2016/17.
- Council had achieved business rates reductions of £3m for the current five year period of rates calculations.
- There had been 37 transfers to town and parish councils since September 2011. 66 outstanding assets were currently in the programme of transfers and had been sorted into priority order to help offices focus on transferring assets requested by town and parish councils. These priorities had been communicated to town and parish councils.
- A new head of asset management had been appointed at the beginning of 2016 and a Corporate Property Board (made up of key cabinet members and officers) had been established.
- Collaborative work with other public bodies such as those in the NHS, DCLG and DWP had been developing to progress the One Public Estate agenda which would hopefully enable partners to benefit by sharing facilities or making better use of assets together.
- The data management system used by the Assets Team had been improved and the data within had also been made more robust and reliable.
- Officers had regular training to ensure their skills and knowledge were up to date with new legislation and the team carried out training with community groups taking on assets to ensure they understand requirements to comply with various regulations (e.g. asbestos control/fire safety etc.)
- The Council had made savings c£450k by exiting leased accommodation within the year (such as Dalton House in Middlewich).
- Future work included making further work on capital receipts, investing in estate to increase its capital value and improving rental income from small industrial units and business generation centres.
- The Council also needed to consider how assets linked with schools would be affected by academy status and whether the Council could use its own land to support the housing needs of the Borough.

The Committee requested further information about a variety of aspects of the SAMP that was not available at the meeting including figures for 2016/17 targets to enable the Committee to monitor future performance.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted

22 HIGH GROWTH CITY TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT OF MARCH 2015

Karen Tierney attended the meeting to request that the Committee defer consideration of this item until a later meeting. Karen informed the Committee that significant developments in relation to several work streams linked with High Growth City and HS2 were imminent and that a better response to the High Growth City Task and Finish Group report recommendations could be provided at the Committee's July meeting.

Karen also provided a brief oral report on the current status of work streams in relation to high growth city and HS2 generally and what the developments she would report on in July were expected to be.

RESOLVED – That the item on the High Growth City Task and Finish Group Report of March 2015 be deferred until 18 July 2016 meeting.

23 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee gave consideration to its work programme. The Committee agreed to reschedule the informal meeting scheduled for 20 June 2016 and proposed that the 27 June 2016 be considered as a new date.

RESOLVED – That the work programme be noted

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.00 pm

Councillor H Wells-Bradshaw (Chairman)