

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet**
held on Tuesday, 7th November, 2017 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor L Wardlaw (Chairman)

Councillors A Arnold, P Bates, J Clowes, J Saunders and D Stockton

Members in Attendance

Councillors G Baxendale, J Bratherton, D Brown, S Corcoran, L Durham, S Edgar, R Fletcher, S Gardiner, S Hogben, A Kolker, R Menlove, J Nicholas, J Rhodes, B Roberts, A Stott, B Walmsley, M Warren and G Williams

Officers in Attendance

Frank Jordan, Peter Bates, Mark Palethorpe, Dan Dickinson, Jan Willis, Andrew Ross and Paul Mountford

Apologies

Councillors Rachel Bailey (Leader of the Council) and J P Findlow, and Kath O'Dwyer, Acting Chief Executive.

Councillor L Wardlaw, Deputy Leader of the Council, welcomed everyone and announced that in the Leader's absence she would be chairing the meeting.

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

70 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

David Reeves, Managing Director of D&G Bus Ltd., spoke in relation to the Supported Local Bus Service Review and specifically the decision by the Council not to re-tender unaffected services which he felt was unacceptable on the basis that some operators would benefit from the decision not to re-tender unaffected services. He felt that all services included in the Supported Bus Service Review should be put out to competitive tenders. The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Communication, as the Cabinet member now responsible for the review, replied that it would be inappropriate to comment at this stage as it was not possible to say which services would need to be retendered until the matter had been considered by Cabinet later in the meeting.

Carol Jones was concerned at the proposed withdrawal of the weekday evening bus service 6E from Brookhouse to Leighton Hospital. She said that this service was crucial to people's health and wellbeing and that

there were cost-effective alternatives which would allow the service to continue. She also criticised the way in which the public consultation had been carried out.

Andrew Needham of CPRE Cheshire commented that the figures quoted in the Government's consultation document on the options for the Crewe HS2 Hub and the Council's response were not BCR (benefits to costs ratio) but rather net transport benefits. In order to work out BCR it was necessary to know the capital cost. In this respect he commented that Scenario 3 as outlined in the document would require a new Junction at Wimboldsley/Stanthorne/Minshul Vernon, the capital cost of which was not known but could be as much as £1bn. Accordingly he believed it was quite possible that Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 would have a better benefits to cost ratio. Mr Needham also referred to a recent public meeting at which Esther McVey MP appeared to question the need for HS2. The Chairman undertook to provide a written reply.

Jonathan Parry of Middlewich Town Council had submitted a question which had been received after the deadline for questions. In view of the weight of business before Cabinet and the lateness of the question, the Chairman was not minded to accept the question. However, as the question had been asked and answered on a number of previous occasions, the Chairman undertook to provide Councillor Parry with a written response.

Sinead Wheeler referred to the bus consultation report considered by the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 23rd October 2017. The report had been circulated to follow and members had only one working day's time in which to read the 264 page document which would have a serious impact on the lives of thousands of residents. She commented that the report contained numerous anomalies and contradictions and that the proposals would result in many people losing their bus links to employment, health and social support. She called on Cabinet to defer a decision on the bus consultation report as she felt that the process leading to its consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been wholly unsatisfactory. She also commented on an unrelated matter concerning a payment of £2.4M to ANSA and asserted that this had been a write-off and not a loan.

Terry Price of Twemlow Parish Council expressed concern at the withdrawal of the 319 bus service (Sandbach – Holmes Chapel – Goostrey), with an alternative service to Twemlow between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm which was an excessively long period of time for some pensioners. In addition, people in Twemlow, Goostrey, Cranage and the surrounding area would be unable to visit the doctors surgery.

Mike Blomeley of Holmes Chapel Parish Council, whilst welcoming the continuation of the 42 bus service, stressed the need for evening services to be maintained, particularly for hospital appointments, and felt that leaving this to the tendering process was unsatisfactory. He was

disappointed with the decision to withdraw the 319 service which he said was a vital service for isolated communities and particularly elderly residents who would be denied access to essential services.

Hazel Faddes commented that following the supported bus service review, a number of bus routes with relatively low numbers of passengers and which had attracted a relatively small number of responses during the consultation process were now being retained whilst a number of other routes with many more passengers and which had attracted a significantly larger number of consultation responses were being reduced and retendered. She felt that this was unfair and questioned the reasoning behind it.

The Chairman thanked all the speakers for attending the meeting.

71 QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Councillor J Bratherton questioned the usefulness of the Cheshire East Homelessness Strategy which she said contained no practical solutions. She asked when it would be submitted to the overview and scrutiny committee for detailed consideration. She also asked about the role and function of the Homelessness team and what support was being offered to those in greatest need. Finally, she expressed disgust at a notice produced by ANSA in co-operation with the Homelessness Team and left under the old library building in Crewe which indicated that any belongings left there would be removed and destroyed. The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Regeneration responded that the Housing Team as a whole were immensely caring people and provided a range of services to support the homeless. He added that ANSA had given an apology for the notice posted under the old library building, the wording of which had been ill-judged. He would be more than happy to discuss the Council's Homelessness Strategy and the work of the Homelessness Team further with Councillor Bratherton outside the meeting.

Councillor B Walmsley referred to proposed changes to the No 37 bus service (Crewe – Sandbach – Middlewich – Winsford) and urged the Council not to leave Middlewich cut off. Residents of the town had to travel elsewhere to access post 16 education and leisure and entertainment facilities and the bus service was therefore vitally important.

Councillor M Warren referred to a proposal in the Macclesfield Movement Strategy approved by Cabinet in October 2014 to establish a local member forum to review the delivery of the Strategy. He asked if local members could be given an opportunity to review progress with the Strategy before any further works were undertaken and if the local member forum could now be appointed. The Portfolio Holder for Environment indicated that he was happy to discuss the matter with local members and he undertook to provide a written response.

Councillor S Corcoran welcomed the independent review of the Council's culture and asked if the Deputy Leader could give some reassurance to staff on how they could participate in the review without fear of repercussions and without their identity being revealed. He also asked if the Deputy Leader would agree that any member who revealed information about a vulnerable member of staff should not hold a position of authority in the Council. He added that the review should be conducted on a cross-party basis. The Deputy Leader responded that the review would be an independent review and that there would be various ways in which members of staff could make their views known whilst protecting their anonymity and privacy.

Councillor S Hogben commented that during consideration of the budget at the Council meeting in February 2017, an amendment had been moved that during 2017/18 the Council consult on a compulsory residential landlord licensing scheme for all privately-let residential accommodation in Cheshire East, including all houses in multiple occupation (HMOs), the administration of the scheme to be cost-neutral, with its set-up and running costs to be covered by income from licence and inspection fees within the forthcoming three year budget cycle. The amendment had been withdrawn after the then Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets undertook to submit a report on the matter to a future Cabinet meeting. Councillor Hogben asked what progress had since been made. The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Regeneration undertook to provide a written response by the end of the week.

Councillor A Stott referred to the review of supported bus services and asked Cabinet members to support the suggestion referred to in the report that extending the hours of operation of Route F be incorporated into the proposals.

72 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2017 be approved as a correct record.

73 SUPPORTED LOCAL BUS SERVICE REVIEW - PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Cabinet considered a report on the outcome of the bus service review and an approach to implement a new network of supported local bus services for Cheshire East.

A comprehensive public consultation had been completed, based upon on a consulted network of supported bus routes. The Consultation Summary Report was attached as Appendix 3 to the report. It was recommended that a set of modifications be made to the routes as consulted on in order to better reflect the needs of residents as identified during the public

consultation. A summary of the resulting network and the changes from the consulted network was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The recommended approach could require some relaxation of the funding targets stated in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The approach would realise savings in excess of £1m in 2018/19 whilst responding positively to issues raised in the consultation.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance and Communication reported the recommendations of the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meetings on 23rd October and 2nd November 2017 as appended to these minutes.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. approves the proposals for the new network of supported local bus services as set out in the report, as a basis for commencement of a suitable procurement process;
2. authorises the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Communication, to finalise costed proposals for the network proposals, to commence from April 2018 subject to satisfactory tender returns from operators;
3. subject to the outcome of the procurement process, agrees that the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Communication, identify any additional enhancements to the proposals for supported local bus services, informed by the evidence base from this review and public consultation and taking into account the Medium Term Financial Strategy; and
4. notes that any material changes to the proposals arising as a result of the procurement process will be reported to Cabinet at the appropriate time, for instance, should any route attract no bids or there are significant changes to the commercial bus network.

74 CREWE HS2 MASTERPLAN

Cabinet considered a report which sought authority to launch a consultation on the draft HS2 Masterplan Vision for Crewe.

The draft Masterplan vision provided a strategic framework for the town, showing how development and infrastructure interventions could be delivered over time to capture the local growth and transformative benefits of HS2 and the Crewe hub station, thus acting as a catalyst for growth and regeneration for Crewe. The outputs of the draft Masterplan Vision would also inform the Constellation Partnership Growth Strategy.

The report also sought the approval and authorisation of Cabinet to the proposed consultation and stakeholder engagement plans as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. authorises the Executive Director of Place to commence a full public consultation on the draft Masterplan Vision for Crewe;
2. authorises the Executive Director of Place to enter into engagement with key stakeholders groups regarding the draft Masterplan Vision;
3. approves the use of the draft Masterplan Vision to inform the Crewe Hub Station Campus Integrated Study including the hub station design;
4. notes the potential future consideration of any necessary changes to planning policy that may be required to support the implementation of the Masterplan Vision; and
5. notes that a final Masterplan for Crewe will be presented to Cabinet following any responses from the public consultation being received.

75 STRATEGIC EVENTS

Cabinet considered a report presenting the Strategic Events Framework for consideration as an important pillar in delivering the Council's strategic priority of 'Quality of Place'.

The Framework at Appendix 1 to the report set out the Council's priorities with regard to strategic events – events which had the potential to generate visitors, economic value, inward investment and place marketing benefits, as well as helping to achieve council outcomes and to support or celebrate local communities. The Framework would also help to guide the strategic approach of the Council's partners and stakeholders, national agencies, the voluntary sector, commissioners of public services and event organisations.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. endorses the Strategic Events Framework for delivery from April 2018; and
2. delegates decisions made within the Framework to the Head of Rural and Cultural Economy in consultation with the Portfolio holder responsible for Culture and Visitor Economy at the time, in line with financial regulations.

76 **CONNECTED COMMUNITIES - CONNECTED TO DECISION-MAKING**

Cabinet considered a report setting out a work plan on how Cheshire East Council could apply the principles of Participatory Budgeting in the mainstream commissioning cycle to allow communities to be better informed and part of the decision-making process.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. notes how the principles of Participatory Budgeting can be used to inform mainstream commissioning and to ask Cabinet;
2. endorses the existing Open Data and Transparency agenda, including formally launching the website and committing existing resources (staff) to achieve this, as well as launching a collaboration with residents to help prioritise the publication of Open Data items, similar to the award winning Back Hacked;
3. acknowledges the range of community partnerships and networks that have been established across the Borough in towns and areas of deprivation;
4. recognises the importance of Community Development work to support and establish resident-led initiatives, and recognising that this work is supported and needs intelligence to provide evidence-led decisions; and
5. notes that the Council will need new community-led approaches to develop community-based solutions that will support the Council to overcome challenges (such as the increasing demand on services such as Adult Social Care), which will result in enhanced community empowerment.

77 **CHESHIRE EAST INTEGRATED CARERS HUB**

Cabinet considered a proposal to develop an all age (Young Carers and Adult Carers) Integrated Carers Hub for Cheshire East.

The development of an Integrated Carer's Hub model was an integral part of the Carers Strategy and Delivery Plan and contributed to a 'Whole System Redesign' for Carers outcomes, services and pathways. The service would provide a single point of contact for Carers, professionals and the community across the whole of Cheshire East offering both access to a range of intervention and support services, and a route through to other appropriate support services.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. approves the development of a Cheshire East Integrated Carers Hub to provide a single point of contact for carers of all ages through the coordination and delivery of a wide range of services;
2. delegates authority to the Executive Director of People:
 - (a) to award a contract for an initial period of 2 years (with options to extend for a maximum of 2 years) following a compliant OJEU procurement process; and
 - (b) in consultation with the Acting Director of Legal Services, to enter into a contract with the successful bidder; and
3. notes and approves the use of funding available through the Better Care Fund to commission the Cheshire East Integrated Carers Hub.

78 CONSTRUCTION RELATED CONSULTANCY SERVICES FRAMEWORK

Cabinet considered a report on the establishment of a framework agreement through which to commission construction-related consultancy services.

Current arrangements for the delivery of construction and development projects included the commissioning of external construction-related consultancy services, such as those provided by architects, engineers and surveyors, via the Council's own Framework. This Framework was due to expire on 31st October 2018 and could not be extended within EU Procurement Rules. An analysis of options had been undertaken with the conclusion that a replacement Framework would be the preferred option

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. approves the establishment of a Framework Agreement through which to commission construction-related consultancy services;
2. delegates authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Regeneration, to award contracts to providers meeting the requirements of the Framework; and
3. delegates authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Regeneration, to

abort the procurement, should the need for the Framework no longer be required.

79 LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017

Cabinet considered a report recommending the adoption of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The Strategy formalised and developed the Council's partnerships in respect of flood risk, setting out the links between Cheshire East Council and the other risk management authorities with responsibilities for dealing with flooding. As required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Council had consulted other risk management authorities and the public that may be affected by the Strategy and the document had been updated to reflect the results of that consultation.

RESOLVED

That the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2017 be approved and adopted in accordance with Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

80 MID-YEAR REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE 2017/18

Cabinet considered a report on the Mid-Year Review of Performance for 2017/18.

The report outlined the budgetary pressures facing the Council and the mitigation measures used to address forecast overspends. The report also highlighted examples of good performance in Quarter 2.

Annex 1 to the report set out details of how the Council was performing in 2017/18 and was structured into three sections:

- Section 1 Summary of Council Performance
- Section 2 Financial Stability.
- Section 3 Workforce Development

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

1. notes the mid-year review of 2017/18 performance in relation to the following issues:
 - The summary of performance against the Council's six Strategic Outcomes (Section 1 of the report);
 - The projected service revenue and capital outturn positions, overall financial stability of the Council, and the impact on the Council's reserves position (Section 2);

- The delivery of the overall capital programme (Section 2, paragraphs 179 to 187, Appendix 4 and Appendix 5);
 - Fully funded supplementary capital estimates and virements up to £250,000 approved in accordance with Finance Procedure Rules (Appendix 6);
 - Changes to Capital Budgets made in accordance with the Finance Procedure Rules (Appendix 9);
 - Treasury management investments and performance (Appendix 10);
 - Management of invoiced debt (Appendix 12);
 - Use of earmarked reserves (Appendix 13);
 - Update on workforce development and staffing (Section 3);
 - The intention of the S.151 Officer to identify further financial mitigation, in relation to the Council's 2017/18 revenue budget, through a review of the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision, (Appendix 15) and the funding of other revenue costs through capitalisation or the appropriate use of available reserves;
 - The intention to implement a flexible use of capital receipt strategy to be approved by full council (Appendix 14).
2. approves supplementary revenue estimates to be funded by additional specific grant (Appendix 11);
3. recommends that Council approve:
- (a) Fully funded supplementary capital estimates and virements above £1,000,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules as detailed in Appendix 8.
 - (b) The Supplementary Capital Estimate of £12.6m for Poynton Relief Road as detailed in Appendix 8 and paragraphs 183-185.
 - To approve the forward funding of developer contributions to the scheme and to approve the underwriting, in principle, of any necessary gap funding required to deliver the proposed relief road.
 - That the scheme budget profile be adjusted accordingly in the capital programme.

(c) The use of the flexibility to apply capital receipts to fund transformation projects as detailed in Appendix 14.

4. recommends that Council note the financial implications of the change in the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy to the use of the annuity method as detailed in Appendix 15.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.00 pm

Councillor L Wardlaw (Chairman)

Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee 23 October and 2 November 2017

Recommendations to Cabinet on the Supported Bus Service Review

On 23 October consideration was given to the final proposals following the Councils review of its local supported bus network to assess whether the services best met the needs of residents and represented value for money. The following comments were made:

1. That if there was an additional cost saving resulting from the tendering process, the funding should be used for the provision of evening and weekend services to the principal towns.
2. The proposals did not take into consideration the long term costs to Council (e.g. additional road maintenance costs).
3. If an evening service was not to be provided, there would be no evening public transport to or from Middlewich.
4. The aspirations of the Council would not be achieved if access to the night time economy was not provided.
5. The number 38 bus service should provide an evening service as a matter of priority.
6. A further root and branch holistic transport review should take place in the future to investigate what services are required, including new, existing routes and extra services, be carried out.
7. The possibility of providing a 'Smart Ticket' option should be investigated.

The Committee then agreed to adjourn the meeting to give consideration to financial information and resolved that the press and public be excluded from the rest of the meeting. The Committee reconvened on 2 November and made the following additional comments:

- 75 The bus operators be requested to provide a more direct bus service from Northwich to Middlewich to Crewe.
- 76 Rural communities, particularly High Legh would become isolated due to the removal of services.
- 77 The Council should consider options such as providing community buses to mitigate the impacts.
- 78 The Council should consider utilising financial contributions from developers and any government funding streams available.
- 79 As an unintended consequence of the review, residents may become reliant on taxis; therefore robust licensing enforcement should be in place.
- 80 A clover leaf service linking Upton Priory, Weston and Moss Rose estates in Macclesfield should be considered as an alternative to the number 19 service.
- 81 Manchester Airport be requested to provide financial contributions towards the number 200 service.

- 82 Connectivity between the various modes of public transport should be optimised. Information on bus services should also be improved at railway stations.
- 83 An update report be brought back to the Committee prior to any changes to the little bus service being made.