

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet**
held on Tuesday, 10th July, 2018 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor Rachel Bailey (Chairman)
Councillor L Wardlaw (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors A Arnold, J Clowes, JP Findlow and J Saunders

Councillors in Attendance

Councillors Rhoda Bailey, G Baxendale, S Corcoran, I Faseyi, R Fletcher,
M Grant, L Jeuda, D Marren, B Moran, B Walmsley and G Williams

Officers in Attendance

Frank Jordan, Executive Director of Place/Acting Deputy Chief Executive
Mark Palethorpe, Acting Executive Director of People
Linda Couchman, Acting Strategic Director Adult Social Care & Health
Alex Thompson, Head of Finance and Performance
Sara Barker, Head of Strategic HR
Suzanne Antrobus, Team Leader Legal Services
Rachel Graves, Democratic Service Officer

LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader announced that Mike Suarez, Chief Executive, had forwarded his resignation, which had been accepted. She went on to say that there would be no questions or further debate on this matter.

The Leader asked all to join her in wishing the England football team well for their semi-final match against Croatia.

The Leader welcomed all to the meeting and in particular a young student, who was shadowing Democratic Services Officers to see how the Council worked and operated.

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors P Bates and D Stockton.

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interests of openness, Councillor JP Findlow declared, in relation to Items 9 and 14, that he was the Council's nomination to the Board of the Peaks and Plains Housing Trust.

18 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

Jane Smith asked if schools in Cheshire East could provide a plant based option at meal times and work towards providing a wholly plant based menu one day a week. The Portfolio Holder for Children and Families responded by saying that 75% of dishes provided were freshly prepared from unprocessed ingredients and that a vegetarian option was provided daily. A vegan dish could be provided if requested by parents.

Sue Helliwell referred to the disposal of public open space in Alsager, which was advertised by the Council in January 2014 and asked if the land disposal took place and was the land large enough to use as a burial ground. The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Regeneration responded that disposal of the public open space related to the grant of a lease of more than 7 years of the Alsager Leisure Centre site and following the disposal process the land had been leased to the Everybody Sport & Recreation Trust to facilitate the future management of leisure facilities for local residents.

Caroline Whitley spoke on the Early Help and Community Grants Scheme and asked that consideration be given to including the payment of volunteers' costs and expenses. The Leader responded that this would be considered when the agenda item was debated.

Sylvia Dykes spoke on the findings of the Cemeteries Strategy in relation to Alsager and stated that there had been opportunities in the last ten years of land that could have been used for burials but this had been ignored and that the two alternatives options provided would involve extreme journeys to reach. She asked if projected population figures and age demographics had been included in preparing the strategy. The Leader of the Council responded that these points would be considered when the Item was debated.

Paul Redstone asked when would Fairerpower be available to the residents of Alsager. The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Regeneration responded that Fairerpower was open to the residents of Alsager and the reason that certain postcodes did not generate a quote could be that the property was a new build and had not been registered on the national database yet.

Michael Unett spoke on the findings of the Cemeteries Strategy in relation to Alsager and noted that the report showed that the church yard in Alsager had the highest demand but the lowest capacity and that it stated town and parish cemeteries and churchyards played an important role in meeting local need for burials. He asked would the Portfolio Holder meet with Alsager Town Council to resolve this issue.

Rob Vernon thanked the Portfolio Holder for Environment for the action taken in relation to Becks Lane, Macclesfield. He then referred to Priory

Lane in Macclesfield, on which was located St Albans Catholic Primary School and Fallibroome Academy, and asked if the safety of this road could be reviewed with a view to providing a crossing outside the primary school.

19 QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Councillor D Flude referred to her Notice of Motion on Taxi Licensing which had been considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 10 April 2014. It was resolved the Portfolio Holder would write to the Secretary of State for Transport asking the Government to close the loopholes and potential for abuse left open as a result of cross border hiring and that the letter would also be sent to local MPs. She asked if the letter had been sent and if any responses had been received. The Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Regeneration agreed to look into this.

Councillor D Flude stated that the residents of Lunt Avenue in Crewe had written to the Highways Department on 31 May 2018 about the London Plane trees, asking for them to be taken down. No response had been received and she asked if the Portfolio Holder for Environment or the Executive Director of Place could look into this.

Cllr Corcoran stated that after Lyme Green it took 6 months of pressure before the Designated Independent Person's report was released and asked when would the Designated Independent Person reports into the recently departed senior officers be released. The Leader of the Council responded that the Council had a cross party Independent Disciplinary Committee which was still considering matters and whilst this was happening there would be no debate and no response to questions relating to these matters.

Cllr G Baxendale asked if the Council would do a review of the strategy for dropped kerbs in the major towns in the Borough. The Leader of the Council agreed to forward this to the Portfolio Holder for Environment to consider.

20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2018 be approved as a correct record.

21 EXPANSION OF SPRINGFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL, CREWE

Cabinet considered a report on the proposal to expand Springfield Special School.

The Council had undertaken and published its Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities Joint Strategy and

Sufficiency Statement for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs. The Sufficiency Statement had identified the need to increase specialist provision in the Borough as the amount of provision currently provided did not meet its needs.

Springfield Special School had already initiated work to expand their current provision and had undertaken formal consultation on the proposals.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet, having given full consideration to the formal consultation process, approve the proposed expansion of Springfield Special School from 132 places to 156 places over a phased period.

22 SUSTAINABLE MODES OF TRAVEL TO SCHOOLS (SMOTS) STRATEGY

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval for the Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy.

The Strategy set out the framework for how the Council, in collaboration with key delivery partners, would support schools to enable and encourage sustainable travel to and from schools. The Strategy had been informed by consultation with parents, schools and key stakeholders.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approve the Sustainable Modes of Travel to Schools Strategy as part of the Council's Education Travel policy framework.

23 CHESHIRE EAST CEMETERIES STRATEGY AND CHESHIRE EAST REVISED CEMETERY REGULATIONS

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval to consult on the draft Cemeteries Strategy and draft Cemeteries Regulations for Cheshire East Council.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

- 1 approve the draft Cheshire East Cemeteries Strategy and Cheshire East Cemeteries Regulations for the basis of public consultation; and
- 2 delegate authority to the Executive Director – Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment to finalise and publish the Final Strategy and Cemetery Regulations, taking account of the representations received during the consultation exercise.

24 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL COMMON ALLOCATIONS POLICY REVIEW

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of the revised Common Allocations Policy.

Consultation had been carried out on proposed changes to the Common Allocations Policy, which had come about due to changes in legislations, case law, Government guidance and a review of comments, complaints and compliments and feedback from a recent Peer Review.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

- 1 approve the revised Cheshire East Council Common Allocations Policy; and
- 2 delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Regeneration to make any future revisions to the Commons Allocations Policy following changes in legislation and Government guidance.

25 CORPORATE GRANTS POLICY

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of the Corporate Grants Policy and Grant Funding Protocol.

The Corporate Grants Policy set out the overall approach to be taken to the allocation of grants, donations and other contributions to outside bodies. The Grant Funding Protocol provided further guidance on how the Council determined whether assistance was to be provided by way of grant funding or whether a service was to be commissioned and thereby be subject to the procurement process.

RESOVLED: That Cabinet

- 1 approve the draft Corporate Grants Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- 2 approve the draft Grant Funding Protocol, as set out in Appendix 2 to the Report.

26 EARLY HELP AND COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of draft Early Help and Community Grant Scheme.

The Council's Community Grant Scheme had been refreshed and renamed the Early Help and Community Grants Scheme. In order to provide guidance for the operation of the Grant Scheme, approval was sought for the Policy for Allocation of Early Help and Community Grants

Scheme to allow continuation of community grant scheme throughout the financial year 2018/19.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

- 1 approve the draft Early Help and Community Grants scheme, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report; and
- 2 delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to make decisions on grant applications for funding from the Early Help and Community Grant Scheme.

27 BETTER CARE FUND YEAR-END REPORT 2017/18

Cabinet considered the year-end report for the Better Care Fund, which detailed the performance of the Fund in Cheshire East over 2017/18.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet note that

- 1 the Better Care Fund in Cheshire East is making a significant difference to people's lives, as evidenced by the highlights of scheme performance in section 5.9 of the Report;
- 2 notable improvements to Delayed Transfers of Care have taken place during the course of 2017/18; and
- 3 at the same time the Better Care Fund plan covers a two year period 2017/18 and in 2018/19 there remains much to do, as noted in next steps in section 5.24 of the Report. The next steps include concluding the evaluation process, confirming schemes for 2018/19, the completion of a number of self-assessments to better understand progress against 7 days working, integration and High Impact Care.

28 NEW DOMESTIC ABUSE COMMISSION 2019-22

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval to commence procurement of a whole family domestic abuse service.

The Council had previously commissioned a whole family domestic abuse service from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019 and the report sought approval to re-commission the service rather than taking the option to extend, as this would allow the Council greater flexibility to change the delivery model to meet needs.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

- 1 approve the commencement of procurement of a whole family domestic abuse service; and

- 2 authorise the Executive Director – People to award the whole family domestic abuse contract.

29 RE-COMMISSIONING OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Cabinet considered a report which sought approval for the re-commissioning of the Assistive Technology Services.

Assistive Technology played an important role in addressing the cares needs of individuals at reduced cost in place of traditional care, such as care at home. Re-commissioning would ensure that appropriate equipment was supplied where it could help to deliver the social care assessed outcomes required.

The Leader asked for it to be noted that a WARN had been signed regarding the current arrangements for these services.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

- 1 approve the procurement of the Assistive Technology services; and
- 2 delegate authority to the Executive Director of People to award contracts to the supplier(s) of Assistive Technology services.

30 RISK MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY POLICY STATEMENTS

Cabinet considered a report seeking approval of the updated Risk Management Policy, Risk Appetite Statement and the Business Continuity Policy Statement and Strategy.

A review had been undertaken on the Council's Risk Management Policy Statement and a small number of actions had been made to improve the Council's risk management arrangements. These were reported to the Audit and Governance Committee in May 2018, who recommended to Cabinet that the update Risk Management Policy be adopted. The Audit and Governance Committee, at the same meeting, had also considered the updated Business Continuity Statement and Strategy and had recommended to Cabinet that it be adopted.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

- 1 approve the updated Risk Management Policy and Risk Appetite Statement, as set out in Appendix A to the Report; and
- 2 approve the Business Continuity Policy Statement and Strategy, as set out in Appendix B to the Report.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.43 pm

Rachel Bailey (Chairman)