

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee

held on Monday, 21st January, 2019 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor H Davenport (Chairman)
Councillor T Dean (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors S Brookfield, C Browne, C Green, P Groves, O Hunter,
N Mannion, M Parsons, B Roberts, G M Walton and H Wells-Bradshaw
(substitute)

APOLOGIES

Councillor Sarah Pochin

42 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests.

44 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

There were no declarations of the existence of a party whip.

45 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

On behalf of Town Councillor Suzie Akers Smith from Congleton, Councillor Paul Bates read out a statement expressing concern about the fact that no shared space cycle/walkway, and other features such as dropped kerbs had been created at a development Galloway Green Congleton. This link would have helped children to cycle and walk to Eaton Bank Academy and through into Congleton Park and the town centre.

She suggested that unless cycling and walking links were created to facilitate cycling and walking within and around the new developments, the East/West Greenway in the Congleton North Masterplan would be ineffective. She therefore sought an assurance that planners and highway engineers would create the walking and cycling infrastructure Congleton desperately needed so that the uptake of walking and cycling could be increased.

Town Councillor Ben Minshull from Crewe spoke about proposals to increase car parking in charges. He explained that as car parking charges were higher in Crewe than the rest of the borough there was a feeling that Crewe subsidised car parking in other parts of the borough and he made a plea for parity across the borough.

In addition he referred to the joint working between Crewe Town Council and this Council on the redevelopment of Crewe Town Council and questioned whether the time was right to increase charges. He also suggested that on street parking would increase in the vicinity of Thomas Street/ Brierley Street as a result of increased charges. In addition cuts to bus services would likely increase the number of car journeys into Crewe.

46 ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION BUDGET PROPOSALS, 2019/20 TO 2021/22

On the 12 November 2018 the committee met in an informal session to consider the pre budget consultation 2019/22. The following comments which were made at that meeting on the pre budget consultation document were forwarded to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 December 2018:-

In relation to outcome 2, the following comments were made:

Item 12 - Homelessness Reduction Act, Members questioned whether or not there would be any investment in housing, it was noted that a joint venture was currently being considered.

Item 13 - Community transport, it was agreed that the review of the Councils flexible transport little bus service would be considered by the Committee prior to Cabinet.

In relation to outcome 4, the following comments were made:

Item 24 – Parking Review, it was noted that the base budget was approved in February 2018 and there would be no further income growth until a detailed review had been undertaken.

Item 27 - Planning Reserve, this related to the withdrawal of funding for the Local Plan and was not a reduction to the planning team.

Item 28 - Environmental Services Base Budget – Members question why the original base budget was incorrect and suggested that this should be investigated.

Item 29 - Ansa Income Generation and Efficiencies - this may be done through changes to times and dates of collections or fewer vehicles. The frequency of collections would not be affected. Members suggested that the Council needed to look at reducing costs through improved recycling and the Waste Management Strategy.

RESOLVED – That the comments set out above in respect of the pre budget consultation document be formally placed on record.

47 PLACE PERFORMANCE SCORECARD 2018/19 QUARTER TWO

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Place containing a score card which provided an update on the latest available performance data for the Place Department for 2018/19 relating to quarter two.

It was suggested that in future the report could contain more qualitative information.

In response to a question about the affordable warmth grant, The Executive Director of place undertook to provide a written update for all Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

48 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the areas of the forward plan which fell within the remit of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the forward plan be received.

49 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee reviewed its work programme..

RESOLVED

That an item be added to the work programme to review the home choice priority lists of major registered social landlords in order that they can be compared to the Council's own priority list

50 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED - that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

51 SUPPORTED BUS NETWORK UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation on the supported bus network.

RESOLVED - That the presentation be received.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.24 pm

Councillor H Davenport (Chairman)