

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
held on Friday, 5th October, 2018 at Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings,
Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ

PRESENT

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)
Councillor M Grant (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Rhoda Bailey, S Corcoran, H Davenport, T Dean, B Dooley,
S Edgar, A Moran, S Pochin and J Nicholas(substitute)

Apologies

Councillors B Burkhill and S Gardiner

38 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 7 June
2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39 ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Paul Bates - Finance and Communication Portfolio Holder
Councillor Paul Findlow - Corporate Policy and Legal Services Portfolio Holder
PaKath O'Dwyer - Interim Chief Executive
Frank Jordan - Executive Director - Place
Linda Couchman - Acting Strategic Director of ASC & Health
Nigel Moorhouse - Director of Children's Social Care
Sara Barker - Head of Strategic HR
Jo Wilcox - Financial Strategy & Reporting Manager -
Claire Pattinson - Deputy Monitoring Officer

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP

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

42 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

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

43 MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Corporate Services on the Mid-Year Review of Performance for 2018/19.

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 2018/19 and was structured into three sections:

Section 1 - Summary of Council Performance

Section 2 - Financial Stability.

Section 3 - Workforce Development

RESOLVED - That the following Comments be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration at its meeting to be held on 9 October 2018:

1. That this Committee notes the projected overspend of £5.3 million in 2018/19 and that although this amount is less than in previous years at the comparable point in the financial year, the Committee still has concerns about the overall level of the projected overspend;
2. The Committee also notes that for the first time, there is a projected overspend in Corporate Services;
3. The Committee notes that savings of £1.5 million were projected in the Medium Term Financial Strategy but that only £500,000 have been achieved;
4. The committee acknowledges and notes that there are difficulties in producing realistic business cases for digital projects and notes that a meeting of the Best4Business joint working group will be convened in the near future where consideration will be given to this matter and that the Council's representatives on the working group will report be invited to report back this Committee in due course.
5. The Committee acknowledges the hard work of Directorates to improve services across the Council and specifically draws attention to the following:
 - The continuing good work in children's services managing high numbers of cared for children;
 - Excellent A level results across the borough with a provisional pass rate of 99%;
 - The reported 4% increase in usage of leisure centres in the borough;

6 That the attention of Cabinet be drawn to the following additional comments:

- That the Committee intends to undertake a review of the content and style of report it would like in future in relation to performance data and will advise Corporate Leadership Team accordingly on its preferred reporting style;
- That in response to a question about allocation of business rates to Local Authorities, the Head of Finance agreed to circulate a briefing note to all Members;
- The Chief Executive undertook to provide additional information about the 73 awareness events referred to in section 1 of the report – summary of performance paragraph 7;
- In response to a question regarding the number of gypsy and traveller encampments reported in paragraph 24 in section 1 a link to the consultation document on the Council's website would be provided for Members;
- That when the performance score card for Place is considered by Environment and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 October 2018 that details on the removal of weeds on the highway is provided.
- That ANSA would be asked to provide information to town and parish councils on how they can arrange visits to the Environmental Hub in Cledford.

44 WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee reviewed its work programme.

RESOLVED That the following changes be noted:

- That Councillors Harold Davenport and Arthur Moran have been invited to join the Members' Facilities Accommodation and Culture Task and Finish group;
- That the item relating to Members expenses be deleted as this matter would more appropriately be dealt with at Audit and Governance Committee;
- That the fly tipping monitoring group had now been established as a Cabinet group;
- That an item be included to review the Council's communication protocols.

45 FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED- That the Forward Plan be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.11 pm

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)