

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
held on Thursday, 3rd September, 2020 at Virtual Meeting

PRESENT

Councillor J Clowes (Chairman)

Councillors Q Abel, C Bulman, JP Findlow, R Fletcher, A Moran, J Saunders,
M Simon, R Vernon and L Wardlaw

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor J Rhodes, Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Corporate
Services

Councillor A Stott, Portfolio Holder for Finance, ICT and Communication

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Frank Jordan, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Place

Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People

Alex Thompson, Director of Financial and Customer Services

Dr Matt Tyrer, Interim Director of Public Health

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M Hunter.

12 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 June 2020, be
approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a party whip.

15 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

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

16 COVID-19: UPDATE ON RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

The committee considered an update on the work the council undertook in response to the Covid-19 public health emergency, and the work that was carried out to support the recovery from the pandemic.

Members asked questions and put comments in relation to;

- the current, up-to-date rates of Covid-19 infection in Cheshire East;
- the council's supply and distribution of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE);
- what progress had been made by the council to get young people into paid internship schemes;
- whether Covid-19 had negatively impacted on the performance of early years settings, or increased the risk of closure to some settings;
- when the £1bn catch-up fund from central government would be received and when it would be administered by the council;
- whether lockdown and school closures had led to a financial saving on transport services, and would this be enough to help to offset some of the council's wider financial challenges;
- how the groups referred to in paragraph 6.1 of the report would be set up;
- whether the current projected £28 million shortfall included collection fund losses; and
- concern regarding the unknown long-term financial implications of Covid-19.

The committee thanked officers for enabling essential services to remain ongoing throughout lockdown, and gave thanks to all staff for working so flexibly to ensure residents and services were supported.

RESOLVED –

That the update be received and noted.

17 CAPITAL, INVESTMENT AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES ANNUAL REVIEW 2019/20

Consideration was given to an update on the council's Capital, Investment and Treasury Management Strategies for the 2019/20 financial year.

Members asked questions and put comments in relation to;

- the impacts of Covid-19 to the council's General Reserves; and
- whether there had been any impacts on the winter service investment going forward.

RESOLVED –

That the update be received and noted.

18 FORWARD PLAN

The committee reviewed the council's Forward Plan of key decisions.

RESOLVED –

- 1 That the Forward Plan be noted.
- 2 That the 'Case Management Procurement' item be added to the committee's work programme at an appropriate date that allows for it to be scrutinised before the decision is taken by Cabinet.

19 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given the committee's work programme.

RESOLVED –

That the Scrutiny Officer liaise with officers about when the following items could be added to the committee's work programme;

- an update from the (Best4Business) Joint Scrutiny Working Group;
- an update on the proposed committee system structure and any financial implications associated with it; and
- the 'Case Management Procurement' item on the Forward Plan.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.54 pm

Councillor J Clowes (Chairman)