

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee

held on Tuesday, 22nd March, 2011 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor G M Walton (Chairman)
Councillor A Martin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors W S Davies, H Davenport, R Fletcher, L Gilbert, M Hollins,
T Jackson, M Parsons, M J Simon, C G Thorley and M J Weatherill

In attendance

Councillors R Menlove and L Smetham

Officers

A Fisher, J Goodman, R Kidd, P Sherratt, C Simpson

Apologies

Councillors S Broadhurst

86 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

Councillors R Fletcher, C Thorley, T Jackson and A Martin declared a personal declaration in item 5 – Fees and Charges relating to Tatton Park due to being a Member of the National Trust. Councillor G Walton declared a Personal interest in the same item due to being the Chairman of the Tatton Park Board.

87 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/ OPEN SESSION

There were no Members of the public present wishing to address the Committee.

88 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2011.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to Councillor Davenport's apologies being recorded due to Council business.

89 FEES AND CHARGES

Consideration was given to the fees and charges which fall within the remit of the Committee.

Members noted that there were gaps in the table and agreed that all sections should be completed whether or not there had been an increase in the fees and charges.

Members made the following comments with regard to Refuse and Recycling:

- It was noted that there had been an increase in the one off special collection rate which would recover the cost of the bin and service provision over a 20 year period.
- It was agreed that the authority should advertise the fact that it sells composters at a cost of £14.00.

With regard to Markets, it was agreed that this was an area that could be managed by the Town and Parish Councils and that the increase in charges was in line with the surrounding boroughs.

With regard to Cemeteries and Crematoriums, it was noted that the increase in fees reflected the pressures of the service and would cover the cost of new machinery provisions.

With regard to Planning, it was noted that the complainant was required to pay £500.00 for lodging a high hedge complaint, Members agreed that there should be a means of the recovering the costs if the complaint was successful.

With regard to Car Parking, the Committee agreed that it would review the proposed charges for 2012/13 prior to them being implemented.

RESOLVED

That the fees and charges which fall within the remit of the Committee be accepted subject to the issues highlighted above being addressed.

90 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR CHESHIRE EAST

Consideration was given to a report outlining the developments and progress in relation to the Draft Economic Development Strategy for Cheshire East since it was last considered by the Committee on 8 June 2010. The changes raised some fundamental questions as to what should be the scope and content of the final version of the document. Consultation with external partners and other organisations took place in the summer and work had continued on developing a Local Economic Assessment to inform the Strategy.

Comments were made with regard to Crewe Vision and the Macclesfield Masterplan. It was agreed that the public perception of AstraZeneca was that it was closing down; however this was not the case and in fact 400 additional staff were to be employed.

With regard to Cheshire East's Strategic Objectives and Priorities, it was agreed that broadband needed to be rolled out to the rural areas that a map outlining where broadband was currently available would be circulated to Members.

RESOLVED

1. That the changes to the draft Economic Development Strategy be noted.
2. That Cabinet be recommended to approve the revised document.
3. That a map outlining the areas that have broadband be circulated to the Committee.

91 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to the extracts of the forward plan which fall within the remit of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the extracts be noted.

92 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme. It was agreed that due to the election period and lack of business, the meeting scheduled to be held on 26 April 2011 would be cancelled.

RESOLVED

1. That the work programme be noted
2. That the meeting scheduled to be held on 26 April 2011 be cancelled.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.05 pm

Councillor G M Walton (Chairman)