

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
held on Thursday, 5th November, 2015 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,  
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

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

Councillors C Andrew, Rhoda Bailey, G Baxendale, S Corcoran, A Moran,  
J Saunders, B Walmsley, H Wells-Bradshaw, L Wardlaw, J Wray, L Jeuda  
and S Pochin (substitute)

## **Apologies**

Councillor G Barton

## **25 ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor P Groves	Finance and Assets Portfolio Holder
Councillor R Bailey	Children and families Portfolio Holder
Councillor J Clowes	Adults health and Leisure Portfolio Holder
Councillor A Arnold	Housing and Planning Portfolio Holder
Councillor D Stockton	Regeneration and Assets Portfolio Holder
Councillor P Findlow	Performance portfolio Holder

## **26 OFFICERS PRESENT**

Peter Bates	Chief Operating Officer
Kath O'Dwyer	Executive Director-Children's Services/Deputy Chief Executive
Brenda Smith	Director, Adult Social Care & Independent Living
Paul Bayley	Principal Manager Local Community Services
Alex Thomson	Corporate Manager Strategy & Reporting
Steve Reading	Principal Accountant
Carl Griffin	Locum Consultant Public Health

## **27 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **29 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP**

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

### **30 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

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

### **31 2015/16 SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Operating Officer setting out the Council's financial and non financial performance at the mid year stage of 2015/16 and highlighted the latest progress towards achieving the Council's Residents First Outcomes as described in the Council's three year plan 2013 to 2016. The report indicated that permanent savings of £5m in management costs had been achieved from 2013/14 to 2014/15.

Annex 1 of the report set out further details of how the Council was performing in 2015/16.

**Section 1** provided a Summary of Council Performance – brought together the positive impact that service performance and financial performance had had on the 5 Residents First Outcomes in the first half of the year.

**Section 2** -Financial Stability - provided an update on the Council's overall financial position. It demonstrated how spending in 2015/16 had been funded, including the positions on overall service budgets, grants, council tax and business rates, treasury management, centrally held budgets and the management of the Council's reserves.

**Section 3** - Workforce Development - provided a summary of the key issues relating to the Council's workforce development plan.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be received;
- (b) That the committee notes the projected overspend of £0.5million and acknowledges that this is the smallest projected overspend at this point in time in the budget since the inception of Cheshire East;
- (c) That in consequence, the Committee is of the opinion that on the whole the mid year performance report indicates that operationally, the Council is in a strong position.

### **32 PRE -BUDGET CONSULTATION 2016/17**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Operating Officer setting out the Council's pre-budget report 2016/17. The report provided detail as to how the Council intended to vary existing budgets in order to continue to maintain viable and sustainable services and specifically set out proposals to:

- i. Maintain appropriate reserves levels that protected against risks.
- ii. Ensure no additional borrowing in 2016/17.
- iii. Achieve Net Revenue Budget savings in response to forecast reductions in Government Grants of £13m, additional service

demands of £5.3m and inflationary pressures of £5.4m, totalling £23.7m.

- iv. The committee was informed that comments received throughout the budget setting process would support Cabinet in developing a balanced budget which would be agreed in February 2016, and at this stage in the process, Overview and Scrutiny Members were being provided with an opportunity to consider proposals contained within the report, and to consider additional recommendations for consideration as potential budget variations.
- v.

Each Head of Service was then invited to highlight the main budget proposals relating to their respective service areas.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report be received and the more detailed information provided in this year's report be welcomed;
- (b) That Cabinet be requested to re-consider the proposal to reduce Council Tax Support Compensation grant for Town and Parish Councils totalling £0.3 million as outlined on page 98 of the agenda pack;
- (c) That the proposal to fill the current vacancy for a Section 106 officer be welcomed;
- (d) That in future years, Cabinet be requested to provide disaggregated budgets for each of the 6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of the formal budget consultation process.

### **33 WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee reviewed its work programme.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) – That the work programme be noted;
- (b) That the following Members be appointed to the 'parking outside schools' Task and Finish group:

M Simon (Chairman)  
M Beanland  
M Grant  
S Pochin  
B Walmsley

### **34 FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee reviewed the forward plan.

**RESOLVED –** that the forward plan be received and noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.00 pm

Councillor M Simon (Chairman)