

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

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

held on Thursday, 26th January, 2017 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor J Wray (Chairman)

Councillors T Dean, M Hardy, N Mannion, A Martin, B Roberts, C Browne, M Parsons and S Brookfield

In attendance

F Jordan - Executive Director - Place

R Hibbert - Interim Head of Transport Planning

8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Wells-Bradshaw, D Bailey and D Bebbington.

9 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 December 2016 and Jobs, Regeneration and Assets Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 November 2016.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

There were no whipping declarations.

12 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public speaking wishing to speak

13 BUS SERVICE REVIEW

R Hibbert, Interim Head of Transport Planning attended the meeting to update Members on the Bus Service Review and specifically its methodology. The Council provide financial support to secure the operation of socially necessary bus services throughout the Borough, the service enabled residents to benefit from local bus services at those times when commercial services did not operate. It was highlighted that the review would cover the 42 bus services that were funded by Cheshire East Council and in accordance with the budget proposals a £1.6m saving was required.

The methodology would include:

- Passenger surveys
- Accessibility mapping
- Defining the needs based criteria and priorities, accessibility, contribution to strategic priorities and financial considerations.
- Mapping of the needs based criteria
- Redesigning the network

It was agreed that the proposed options would be brought back to the Committee in May 2017, followed by a 10 week consultation exercise, the final recommendations would then be brought back to Committee in November 2017.

The following comments were made:

- It was suggested that non users would also need to be consulted to ascertain what would encourage them to use the buses.
- Direct services to towns should be considered as too many stops could cause the journey time to take too long.
- Developers should contribute to services through a Section 106 Agreement.
- The infrastructure for any new developments needed to be fit for purpose.

RESOLVED

That the proposed options and final recommendations be brought back to the Committee in due course.

14 FORWARD PLAN

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

RESOLVED

That the work programme be received

15 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme. It was suggested that due to the rise in homelessness nationally, the possibility of scrutinising this issue in Cheshire East should be reconsidered.

RESOLVED

1. That the possibility of scrutinising homelessness in Cheshire East be revisited.
2. That the bus services review remain on the work programme.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 11.55 am

Councillor J Wray (Chairman)