

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Constitution Committee**
held on Thursday, 23rd March, 2017 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor A Martin (Chairman)
Councillor M Beanland (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors G Baxendale, E Brooks, B Burkhill, M Deakin, S Edgar,
H Gaddum, S Hogben, D Mahon, N Mannion, R Menlove and G Williams

Officers

Brian Reed, Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Suzanne Antrobus, Legal Team Manager Commercial Projects and Property
Paul Mountford, Executive Democratic Services Officer
Martin Smith, Civic and Administration Manager
Charlotte Simpson, Public Health Consultant

Apologies

Councillor D Newton

At the start of the meeting, all stood for a minute's silence in memory of the tragic events in Westminster the previous day.

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

33 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

34 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2017 be approved as a correct record.

35 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee considered revised terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Health and Wellbeing Board's Terms of Reference included the requirement for them to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that

they remained fit for purpose. The Board had reviewed and agreed amendments to its terms of reference at its meeting on 31st January 2013 and the terms of reference as amended were attached as an Appendix to the report.

Members referred to the quorum arrangements for the Health and Wellbeing Board and sought assurances that these were adequate. Members also asked how the member organisations of the Board would hold one another to account and in this respect emphasised the role of the Council's overview and scrutiny committee in scrutinising the work of the Board. The officers were asked to convey Members' comments to the Board.

RESOLVED

That

1. the revised terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in the Appendix to the report be recommended to Council for approval;
2. subject to such approval, the Director of Legal Services be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly; and
3. the Committee's comments on the revised terms of reference be conveyed to the Board.

36 WEBCASTING, RECORDING OF MEETINGS AND THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The Committee considered a report on the logistical implications of recording, webcasting and providing social media commentary in respect of the Council's decision-making meetings.

The report outlined and evaluated the Council's experience to date and briefly summarised the arrangements at a range of other local authorities. It set out four options for future recording and broadcasting arrangements, together with their associated costs.

A short film on an alternative audio recording system with enhanced functionality was viewed by the Committee.

RESOLVED

That

1. the current recording and webcasting arrangements continue until the end of the current municipal year;

2. with effect from the next municipal year, an enhanced audio recording system as referred to as Option 2 in the report be introduced for use in relation to all of the Council's formal decision-making bodies, and the webcasting of Cabinet meetings be discontinued; and
3. the arrangements be reviewed 12 months after coming into operation.

37 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Committee considered proposed arrangements for the ongoing review of the Constitution. A systematic review of the Constitution was currently taking place at officer level which included a survey of best practice at other authorities. It was now appropriate to bring forward proposals for members' consideration and in this respect it was suggested that a member working group be appointed to consider proposed changes to the Constitution and make recommendations to the Committee.

RESOLVED

That

1. a member working group of five members of the Constitution Committee (3 Conservative; 1 Labour; 1 Independent) be appointed to review the Constitution, the names to be notified by the Group Whips; and
2. substitute members may be appointed to the Group from within the membership of the Constitution Committee.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 3.15 pm

Councillor A Martin (Chairman)