

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

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

held on Monday, 12th November, 2018 at Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ

PRESENT

Councillor H Davenport (Chairman)
Councillor T Dean (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors C Green, O Hunter, S Pochin, B Roberts, G M Walton, Rhoda Bailey, A Moran, J Rhodes and J Nicholas

33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Browne, P Groves and N Mannion.

34 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2018.

RESOLVED

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

35 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

36 WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

There were no whipping declarations.

37 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

Ms H Faddes attended the meeting to speak about the bus routes review and its impact on the little bus service. She highlighted that to withdraw the service would have a negative impact on the elderly's mental health, the Council needed to fully understand the impact of a reduced service and should look at all options including sponsorship from local businesses.

38 HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRES REVIEW

Consideration was given to an update on the implementation of the changes to the household waste recycling centre provision in line with the authority's waste strategy. The proposals that were introduced included:

- Closure of Arclid household waste recycling centre in September 2017 – the closure of the smallest and least used site. This proposal had been delivered with very few incidents of waste being abandoned at the closed site and no queueing issues at other sites
- Introduction of rubble/construction waste charging – rolled out in January 2018, the amount of material through this waste stream had dropped significantly (over 80%) with no measured impact on rubble fly tipping rates.
- Reduction of opening hours at all sites – introduced in November 2017, this proposal had seen the sites open from 8.30-4pm in the winter and 8.30-5pm in the summer.
- Enabling rubble trade waste to be accepted – this provided a new outlet for very small scale rubble trade waste, one of the sources of rural fly tipping.

It was noted that more time would be needed to fully analyse the impact of the changes and that a breakdown of the data by ward would be circulated to the committee.

RESOLVED

That a breakdown of the data by ward be circulated to the Committee.

39 AIR QUALITY ANNUAL STATUS REPORT

The Committee received an update on the review of the Council's 2018 Annual Status Report (ASR) prior to its submission to DEFRA, which provided an overview of air quality in Cheshire East 2017. The ASR is a requirement setting out the results of monitoring, strategies employed by the Council to improve air quality and any progress in regard to actions contained in the Council's AQAP.

It was noted that two further air quality management areas had been declared for a small area of Chelford Road, Knutsford and part of Lewin Street, Middlewich.

Members made the following comments and observations:

- The Council's departments need to work together to ensure that strategies did not conflict with each other.
- Weather conditions can affect the readings in air quality management areas.
- Most of the problems within Cheshire East relate to traffic flow.
- Middlewich railway line should be re-opened.
- Crewe should be reviewed to ensure that no further air quality management areas are required.
- Any future growth resulting from HS2 would require infrastructure improvements.

RESOLVED

That the Portfolio Holder give consideration to the comments highlighted above.

40 FORWARD PLAN

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

RESOLVED

That the forward plan be received.

41 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the work programme. It was agreed that the visit to the Environmental Hub in Middlewich would be held on 24 January 2019.

RESOLVED

That the visit to the Environmental Hub in Middlewich be held on 24 January 2019.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 5.50 am

Councillor H Davenport (Chairman)