

Building Operational Services “Together”

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Council**

Background

- Intent announced 25 July 2007
- Cheshire West and Chester Council to replace VRBC, EP&N BC, C&DC, Cheshire County
- Election 1st May 2008 for 72 Council Seats
- Delivered Conservative Council majority 38
- Vesting Day 1st April 2009
- Election May 2011 for 75 Council Seats
- Delivered Conservative Council majority 9

Pre Vesting Day and Council Election

- Significant difficulties and differences of opinion due to conflicting Unitary bids
- Council's coming together voluntarily to explore proposals did not work
- Lack of Leadership, Strategy, Direction
- Opportunities missed and time wasted
- Lots of talk and meetings with little outcomes or action

Pre Vesting Day post 2008 Election

- New impetus with 11 months to go
- Chief Exec appointed July 2008 took up Shadow post Oct 2008
- Top 3 tier staffing structure agreed appointments made November 2008
- Redundancies take place from within constituent authorities – winter of discontent
- Momentum gathers pace to deliver LGR bid commitments – save £30 million

Ground Zero - Vesting Day

- Ensure payments and charges can be undertaken, sharp focus on Corporate Services
- Ensure Services are maintained and delivered
- Ensure new Council is recognised
- Focus on three things – Reputation, Reputation and Reputation
- New start with electorate very precious, early impressions matter a great deal

Year 1 - 3

- New Corporate Priorities identified
- New service strategies defined
- Challenge process implemented
- Tailored savings targets agreed for 3 years linked to bid
- Focus on reducing cost and increasing quality
- Significant additional staff reductions implemented

Environmental Services

- Single unified strategy
- Economies of Scale
- Contract re alignments
 - Waste collection would be outsourced
 - Disposal would see abandonment of CCC Pfi and then separate new procurement
 - Street Scene would be integrated and become a completely in house service
 - Resources were then systematically reviewed back to a zero base budget

2011 Conservative Government Elected “Its all about the money”

- Management and overhead costs reduced
- Labour reductions made through economies of scale
- Vehicles rationalised and routes optimised
leases terminated
- Property portfolio rationalised and depot operations brought together, sites closed
- Procurement strategy identified for an integrated waste and disposal service

The age of Austerity

- Additional Savings required 3 year plan revisited
- Trade waste business sold
- Recycling credits discontinued
- J C Decaux auto loos contract terminated
- Street Scene service realigned with Highways Contractor - <40mph=Street Scene > 40mph = Ringway

The age of Austerity Continues

- Waste collection system redesigned to maximise recycling (2nd time in 3 years for Chester residents)
- Waste disposal from landfill to incineration
- Environmental Service Standards redefined
- Terms and conditions re negotiated to seven day a week working on flexible shifts (3 Years of negotiations but delivered via dismissal and re-engagement)
- 20% or £8.5 million pounds saved from Environmental Services Budgets

Summary

- Since 2009 the Council has made £113 million pounds of ongoing savings
- £44 million pounds re invested in Council Priorities
- Total Council Tax rises of 4.15% during this period
- Customer Satisfaction up from 70.5% in 2009 to 96% in 2013/14
- Council now held up as a flagship by Central Government