

Council Agenda

Date: Thursday, 22nd July, 2010
Time: 6.00 pm
Venue: Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton

The agenda is divided into two parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Prayers**

2. **Apologies**

3. **Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 May 2010** (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the minutes as a correct record.

4. **Mayor's Announcements**

To receive such announcements as may be made by the Mayor.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests in any item on the agenda.

6. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 35 and Appendix 7 to the rules, a total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to speak at Council meetings.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes, but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned, where there are a number of speakers.

Members of the public must provide 3 clear working days notice, in writing, if they wish to ask a question at the meeting. It is not a requirement to give notice of the intention to make use of public speaking provision. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours notice is encouraged.

7. **Recommendation from Cabinet Meeting on 19 July 2010 - Corporate Plan**
(Pages 7 - 10)

To adopt the Corporate Plan.

N.B: Copies of the Corporate Plan can be viewed on the Council's website as part of a supplementary agenda pack to this agenda and are available, upon request, from Democratic services. Printed copies have been circulated separately to Council Members. Would Members please bring their copy to the meeting.

8. **Recommendation from Cabinet Meeting on 19 July 2010 - Cheshire East Sustainable Community Strategy** (Pages 11 - 14)

To adopt the Sustainable Community Strategy.

N.B: Copies of the Sustainable Community Strategy can be viewed on the Council's website as part of the supplementary pack to this agenda and are available upon request from Democratic Services. Printed copies have been circulated separately to Council Members. Would Members please bring their copy to the meeting.

9. **Recommendation from the former Governance and Constitution Committee. - Committee Procedure Rules, Recorded Votes** (Pages 15 - 20)

To approve the recommendations of the former Governance and Constitution Committee.

10. **Recommendation from Constitution Committee - Wilmslow Community Governance Review, First Stage Consultation** (Pages 21 - 132)

To approve the recommendations of the Constitution Committee.

11. **Recommendation from Constitution Committee - Overview and Scrutiny Working Arrangements** (Pages 133 - 138)

To approve the recommendations of the Constitution Committee.

12. **Supplementary Estimates Approvals** (Pages 139 - 142)

To approve the requests for Supplementary Capital Estimates, to be funded from capital reserves, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

13. **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/2010** (Pages 143 - 160)

To receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/2010.

14. **Local Electoral Arrangements for Cheshire East** (Pages 161 - 218)

To note the final recommendations of the Boundary Commission, published on 13th July 2010.

15. **Questions**

In accordance with Procedure Rules 11, opportunity is provided for Members of the Council to ask the Chairman, the appropriate Cabinet Member or the Chairman of a Committee any question about a matter which the Council, the Cabinet or the Committee has powers, duties or responsibilities.

Questions must be sent in writing to the Monitoring Officer at least 3 clear working days before the meeting.

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council**
held on Thursday, 27th May, 2010 in The Assembly Room, Town Hall,
Macclesfield

PRESENT

Councillor G Baxendale (Chairman)
Councillor R West (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors C Andrew, A Arnold, Rachel Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, A Barratt, G Barton, C Beard, T Beard, D Bebbington, D Beckford, S Bentley, D Brickhill, S Broadhurst, D Cannon, R Cartlidge, S Conquest, J Crockatt, M Davies, S Davies, P Edwards, P Findlow, R Fletcher, H Gaddum, L Gilbert, E Gilliland, J Goddard, J Hammond, M Hardy, D Hough, B Howell, O Hunter, T Jackson, J Jones, S Jones, F Keegan, A Knowles, A Kolker, W Livesley, J Macrae, A Martin, M Martin, P Mason, S McGrory, A Moran, H Murray, J Narraway, D Neilson, R Parker, M Parsons, A Ranfield, B Silvester, M Simon, L Smetham, D Stockton, D Thompson, C Thorley, C Tomlinson, R Walker, G M Walton, J Weatherill, R Westwood, P Whiteley, S Wilkinson and J Wray

APOLOGIES

Councillors E Alcock, M Asquith, D Brown, H Davenport, R Domleo, B Dykes, W Fitzgerald, D Flude, S Furlong, R Menlove, G Merry, B Moran, A Thwaite and D Topping

22 PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, Father W Kilkenny, said Prayers, at the request of the Mayor.

23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest from Members.

24 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY AND RECONVENED ON 13 MAY 2010

That the minutes, together with the circulated lists of Members appointed to Committees and Chairmen/Vice-chairmen and also the details of the Leader's appointments to the Cabinet and functions delegated to Cabinet Members, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to the deletion of Councillor M Hardy from the list of apologies for the meeting on 12 May 2010, as he was present.

25 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor :-

1. Announced that since the Annual Council meeting, he had carried out a large number of engagements and had been extremely busy.
2. Thanked Members for making time available for this special meeting of Council which had been arranged at relatively short notice. The date and time of the meeting had to be arranged with Cheshire West and Chester Council, so that both meetings would take place simultaneously. Because of this, the Leader and Deputy Leader were not able to be present at the meeting, since they had leave commitments which were in place prior to the date of the meeting being agreed.

26 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present, wishing to use the public speaking facility.

27 NOTICE OF MOTION

Consideration was given to the following Notice of Motion, submitted by Councillor G Baxendale :-

That Council approve, in principle, a homecoming parade for the 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment and that the Chief Executive be authorised to make the necessary arrangements, in conjunction with the officer commanding the Rear Operations Group, for the Freedom of the Borough to be awarded and the Homecoming Parade, in November 2010.

Background

The following background information was provided :-

The 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment (Cheshire), had recently deployed to the Helmand Province in Afghanistan, for a six month active service tour. The Battalion recruited from Congleton, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich, Macclesfield and Crewe. Therefore, local men were involved. The Mayor, Councillor Baxendale, had been in contact with Major Barney Barnbrook, the officer commanding the Rear Operations Group, to discuss this matter. The Regimental Secretary from the 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment has also contacted him.

The demised Councils of Crewe and Nantwich, Macclesfield and Congleton had all admitted the Regiment to the Freedom of their Boroughs. He proposed that, to coincide with the Homecoming Parade, that Cheshire East should, in its own right, admit the Regiment and make arrangements for an appropriate ceremony. The reason for this motion was to ensure that

appropriate arrangements could be made for the Parade and to agree a process, to ensure that matters affecting the Mayoralty could be agreed in a timely manner, with appropriate Member input.

Following a request from the Mayor, the Borough Solicitor advised Council that the motion should stand referred to the Constitution Committee, subject to Council approval being given to the item relating to Proposed Changes to the Council's Committee Structure.

RESOLVED

That, subject to approval of the item relating to Proposed Changes to the Council's Committee Structure, at minute 28, the motion stand referred to the new Constitution Committee.

28 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Consideration was given to the report to and recommendations of the Governance and Constitution Committee, which met earlier in the day, in respect of proposed changes to the Council's Committee Structure, the minutes of which were circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That a new Audit and Governance Committee be established, with the powers and functions set out in Appendix B of the report, as submitted to Council (together with the expanded responsibility at paragraph 4 of the report, as recommended by the Governance and Constitution Committee), (as attached to these minutes) and with an allocation of seats to the political groups of 7:2:1:0 (Conservative: Liberal Democrat: Labour: Independent), this being achieved by the deletion of the Labour Group's seat on the Lay Member Appointments Committee;
- (2) That the Leaders of the Political Groups, as appropriate, notify the Borough Solicitor of their nominations to the Audit and Governance Committee.
- (3) That a Constitution Committee be established to replace the existing Governance and Constitution Committee, with the powers and functions set out in Appendix C of the report, (as attached to these minutes) and with the same allocation of seats to the political groups as the existing Governance and Constitution Committee.
- (4) That the Constitution Committee shall retain the membership and current schedule of meetings of the existing Governance and Constitution Committee as agreed by Council, subject to any changes of meeting dates agreed by the Chairman.

(5) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee be elected by the Committee at its first meeting, which shall be arranged to take place on a date to be agreed by the Democratic Services Manager, in consultation with the Leaders of the Political Groups.

(6) That the political group representation in respect of the Council's ordinary committees, as agreed by Council at its annual meeting, be amended in accordance with these proposals, resulting in a new proportional entitlement of seats as follows:

New	131	27	13	9
Proportional	(72.8%)	(14.8%)	(7.4%)	(5%)
Entitlement				

(7) That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make such changes to the Constitution as he considers necessary, to give effect to the wishes of Council.

29 **STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER**

Consideration was given to the recommendations of the Governance and Constitution Committee in respect of the designation of an officer as the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

RESOLVED

That the Democratic Services Manager be appointed as the Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

30 **PETITIONS - THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION ACT 2009 AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (PETITIONS) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010**

Consideration was given to a report relating to the introduction of a scheme, by the Council, for dealing with petitions.

RESOLVED

1. That the draft Petition Scheme be approved.
2. That the Borough Solicitor be designated as the Petitions Officer and that he be requested to report annually to Council on the operation of the Scheme,
3. That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to incorporate the Petition Scheme in the Council's Constitution and make consequential amendments.

4. That the Borough Solicitor be authorised to report to the Constitution Committee on the development of an on-line petition facility.

31 QUESTIONS

Consideration was given to the following question, submitted by Councillor R Fletcher :-

Some years ago Cheshire County Council accepted that signalled crossings met the required criteria and were needed in Alsager at Sandbach Rd. North, close to the junction with Lodge Rd, Sandbach Rd. South, by the Health Centre, Crewe Rd, in the vicinity of the west end shops, where three people have been killed in recent years, as well as some seriously injured.

Due to concerns about the safety of pupils going to and coming from the High School, preference was given to the crossing on Sandbach Rd. North and because of the high number of pupils involved, it would be paid for out of the safer routes to Schools budget. After about two years of consultation, Alsager Councillors were advised that this would no longer be proceeding out of the safer routes to Schools budget.

Can I have an assurance from the Cabinet Member that the three signalled crossings are still on the list of highway improvements to be carried out in Alsager in the future?

Councillor A Knowles, on behalf of Councillor R Menlove, the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, in response stated :-

The current position with regards to the crossing outside the High School on Sandbach Road is that no solution that was put forward was acceptable to all parties and therefore the scheme was not able to be fixed in time for submission to the Safer Routes to School programme this year.

With regard to the remaining 2 pedestrian crossings, they have been assessed and ranked within the Ward Minor Works funding option. Unfortunately they have not ranked sufficiently high to be in this year's delivery plan. The schemes will remain on a list for improvements however it is not possible to guarantee at this point that they will be brought forward in the short-term due to strong likelihood of reduced funding next year from Government.

Although these proposed sites may have been ranked according to footfall, and had some accidents history, none of them are among the worst accident sites/routes in our Borough and therefore have not attracted Road Safety funding.

I regret the news is not of a more positive nature, but it is an unfortunate fact that there is demand for more schemes generally than funding can support, and we all wish it were otherwise.

32 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

33 WASTE TREATMENT PFI CONTRACT - AFFORDABILITY CEILING

Consideration was given to the recommendations from Cabinet relating to the Waste Treatment PFI Contract Affordability Ceiling.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations contained in the report to Cabinet, with the additional recommendation of the Environment and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee be approved.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 7.25 pm

Councillor G Baxendale (Chairman)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**REPORT: CABINET**

Date of Meeting:	19 th July 2010
Report of:	Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development
Subject/Title:	Corporate Plan
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Brown

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To update Members on the outcome of consultation about the Corporate Plan.

2.0 Decisions Requested

- 2.1 To determine any final amendments to the Corporate Plan and to recommend that it be adopted by Council on 22nd July 2010.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable the Corporate Plan to be adopted by the Council.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All.

6.0 Policy Implications including

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan provides the framework for all policy development within the Council. It is important that the priorities plans and ambitions set out within the plan are translated into objectives and actions for delivery within departmental, service, team and individual performance plans.

7.0 Financial Implications 2010/11 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 8.1 There are likely to be financial implications in delivering the plan. In planning the delivery of the plan the Council will need to prioritise key actions and allocate available resources accordingly.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 9.1 The Corporate Plan forms part of the Policy Framework and must be submitted to Council for adoption following a process prescribed in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 None

11.0 Background and options

- 11.1 The Council's inaugural Corporate Plan was adopted on an interim basis for 2009/10 in order to set direction and allow Cheshire East to set a budget.
- 11.2 This plan now needs to be replaced and we have an option to either refresh the original plan for a further year or to produce a new plan aligned to the Council's mid term financial planning. In order to provide a longer term focus on our plans along with how the Council's resources should be prioritised, a decision was taken to produce a three year Corporate Plan for the period 2010 to 2103.
- 11.3 The purpose of the Corporate Plan is to set the overall strategic direction of the Council for the next three years, against which the objectives, priorities resources and actions of the Council and it's departments, services, teams and individuals can be aligned, set and performance managed.
- 11.4 In terms of its production, the draft plan emerged from the Cabinet and CMT away-day on 26th January 2010 (which looked at the Council's vision and priorities) and from the 2010 to 2013 business planning consultation process in January. In pulling the outcomes of the away-day together it was evident that the priorities identified could be readily grouped in 5 areas, which have become the 5 proposed Corporate Objectives, as follows:
- To give the people of Cheshire East more choice and control about services and resources.
 - To grow and develop a sustainable Cheshire East.
 - To improve life opportunities and health for everybody in Cheshire East.
 - To enhance the Cheshire East environment.
 - Being an excellent Council and working with others – to deliver for Cheshire East.
- 11.5 The plan along with the 5 proposed objectives have been the subject of consultation with; CMT, SMT, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Scrutiny, a Member briefing and Cabinet formally on 14th June 2010. Arising from this further drafting amendments have been made since Cabinet

considered the draft plan. These further amendments have been in the form of minor changes and improvements to the terminology used and some changes to the layout of Appendix 1. In addition section 9 “How We Will Resource Our Priorities” has been updated. The final version of the report however has changed little from the version Cabinet has already considered.

- 11.6 As the final stage of the consultation process the five Scrutiny Committees will consider the plan during July, culminating at the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee on 15th July. Appropriate minutes from the Scrutiny Committees will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting in order that the views of the Committee can be considered. A verbal update can also be provided.
- 11.7 A copy of the Corporate Plan will be circulated to all Members of the Council early in July by Democratic Services. Further copies will not be included within the agenda packs for Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committees and Members are asked to bring their copy with them to the forums they sit on. Further copies will of course be available on the day should they be required.

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 19th July 2010
Report of: Head of Policy & Performance
Subject/Title: Cheshire East Sustainable Community Strategy
Portfolio Holder: David Brown

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To update Members on the outcome of consultation about the Sustainable Community Strategy.

2.0 Decisions Requested

- 2.1 To determine any final amendments to the Sustainable Community Strategy and to recommend that it be adopted by Council on 22nd July 2010.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To enable the Sustainable Community Strategy to be adopted by the Council.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy provides the framework for all policy development within Cheshire East. It is important that the priorities and ambition set out in the Strategy are translated into delivery through partner agencies' business plans and issue based plans.

7.0 Financial Implications 2010/11 and beyond (authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 8.1 There are likely to be financial implications in delivering the Strategy. In planning its responsibilities in delivering the Strategy, the Council will need to prioritise key actions and allocate resources accordingly.

9.0 Legal Implications (authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

- 9.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy forms part of the Policy Framework and must be submitted to Council for adoption following a process prescribed in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 None

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 Over recent months, the Cheshire East Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has been preparing a Sustainable Community Strategy for Cheshire East. The purpose of the Strategy is to set the overall strategic direction and long term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area from 2010 to 2025, in a way that contributes to sustainable development. It tells the 'story of the place' backed by clear evidence and analysis.

11.3 Preparation of the strategy began at the first LSP Assembly in October 2009 and a range of engagement and consultation activities took place in the early part of 2010. These enabled service providers, businesses, town & parish councils, community & voluntary groups and members of the public to shape the Strategy.

11.3 In terms of its production, the draft Strategy has emerged from this extensive engagement exercise and it became evident that the priorities identified could be readily grouped in 7 areas which have become the 7 priorities for action as follows:

- Nurture strong communities
- Create conditions for business growth
- Unlock the potential of our towns
- Support our children and young people
- Ensure a sustainable future
- Prepare for an increasingly older population
- Drive out the causes of poor health

The vision which emerged is that "Cheshire East is a prosperous place where all people can achieve their potential, regardless of where they live. We have a beautiful productive countryside, unique towns with individual character and a wealth of history and culture. The people of Cheshire East live active and healthy lives and get involved in making their communities safe and sustainable places to live"

11.4 The Strategy along with the vision and priorities has been the subject of consultation with CMT, Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet formally on 14th June 2010. Arising from this, further drafting amendments have been made since Cabinet considered the draft Strategy. These further amendments have been in the form of changes and improvements to the terminology used. In addition, the priority area of Supporting our Children and Young People has been updated. Other than this, the final version has changed little from the version Cabinet has already considered.

11.5 As the final stage of the consultation process Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee will consider the Strategy on 15th July. Appropriate minutes from the Scrutiny Committee will be tabled at the Cabinet meeting in order that

the views of the Committee can be considered. A verbal update can also be provided.

- 11.6 The Executive Board of the Local Strategic Partnership considered the draft Strategy at its meeting on 28th June, 2010 and agreed to adopt the Strategy on behalf of the Partnership.

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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**EXTRACT FROM GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES 27 MAY 2010**

COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULES - RECORDED VOTES

The Committee considered an amendment to the Constitution to include a provision relating to recorded votes at committee and sub-committee meetings.

Paragraph 31 of the Committee Procedure Rules dealt with voting arrangements at committee and sub-committee meetings and currently read as follows:

“31 Voting

31.1 Voting at Committee and Sub-Committee meetings will be by a show of hands.

31.3 A recorded vote will not be taken if the vote has already begun to be taken by a show of hands.”

In order to complete these provisions, it was necessary to include a paragraph on the requirements for taking recorded votes.

RESOLVED

That Council be recommended to approve the adoption of the following provision and its incorporation into the Council’s Committee Procedure Rules:

“At committees, sub-committees or special committees, when a Member stands in his/her place and asks for a recorded vote to be taken, and one other Member stands in his/her place to support the request, the vote will be recorded to show whether each Member present voted for or against the motion or abstained.”

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Governance and Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting: 27th May 2010
Report of: Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title: Committee Procedure Rules – Recorded Votes

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report considers an amendment to the Constitution to include a provision relating to recorded votes at committee and sub-committee meetings.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee recommend to Council the adoption of the following provision and its incorporation into the Council's Committee Procedure Rules, subject to any amendments which the Committee might wish to suggest:

“31.2 At Committees, Sub-Committees or Special Committees comprising ten or more elected Members, when a Member asks for a recorded vote to be taken, and five other Members stand in their place to support the request, the vote will be recorded to show whether each Member voted for or against the motion or abstained. At Committees, Sub-Committees or Special Committees comprising nine or fewer elected Members, a recorded vote may be requisitioned where one Member stands and asks for a recorded vote to be taken and he/she is supported by one other elected Member.”

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council's Constitution is accurate and complete.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 N/A

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 N/A

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 N/A

7.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 N/A

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

8.1 The purpose of the proposed amendment to the Constitution as outlined in this report is to include a provision within the Council's Committee Procedure Rules relating to the recording of votes.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 There are no risks associated with this proposal.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 Paragraph 31 of the Committee Procedure Rules deals with voting arrangements at committee and sub-committee meetings and currently reads as follows:

“31 Voting

31.1 Voting at Committee and Sub-Committee meetings will be by a show of hands.

31.3 A recorded vote will not be taken if the vote has already begun to be taken by a show of hands.”

10.2 It is clear that what needs to be added to complete these provisions is a paragraph on the requirements for taking recorded votes. The following is suggested:

“31.2 At Committees, Sub-Committees or Special Committees comprising ten or more elected Members, when a Member asks for a recorded vote to be taken, and five other Members stand in their place to support the request, the vote will be recorded to show whether each Member voted for or against the motion or abstained. At Committees, Sub-Committees or Special Committees comprising nine or fewer elected Members, a recorded vote may be requisitioned where one Member stands and asks for a recorded vote to be taken and he/she is supported by one other elected Member.”

Members may have a particular view as to whether the terms of the proposed provision on recorded votes are appropriate, for instance with regard to the number of Members required to stand in their place to require a recorded vote, or indeed whether the requirement to stand is appropriate for a committee or sub-committee.

10.5 The Committee is therefore asked to recommend to Council the inclusion of the

paragraph within the Council's Committee Procedure Rules, subject to any amendments to the wording of the paragraph which the Committee might wish to suggest.

11.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

11.1 N/A

12.0 Access to Information

Any background papers used in preparing this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE ON 24 JUNE AND 12 JULY 2010

24 June

4 WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Committee considered the recommendations of the Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee following the outcome of the Stage 1 consultation with a view to advising Council on the formulation of its draft recommendation.

The Committee had before it the papers considered by the Sub-Committee at its meeting earlier in the day. These comprised a briefing paper on formulating the Council's draft strategy, together with the following:

- (a) Valid petition requesting a Wilmslow and Handforth Town Council
- (b) Valid petition requesting a Handforth Community Council
- (c) Valid petition requesting a Parish Council for Styal
- (d) Results of the consultation with electors
- (e) Other representations received
- (f) Notes of three public meetings held on 26th, 28th and 29th April 2010

Three ballots had been conducted, one for the area covered by the Handforth petition, one for Styal and one for Wilmslow. In each case, the voter was asked to indicate whether they wanted a parish council and, if so, whether this should be for their area alone or for the whole of the unparished area comprising Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal. A clear majority of respondents in each area wanted to have a parish council, and of those, a clear majority wanted a separate parish council for their area.

In considering the results of the Stage 1 consultation and formulating its recommendations, the Sub-Committee had had regard to the need to ensure that community governance within the area under review would be:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- Effective and convenient.

The Sub-Committee had also had regard to the historical and traditional identities within the area and in this respect had felt that Polling District 8EE1, which had been included in the Handforth petition, should be included in any future parish for Wilmslow, given that the River Dean, which formed the northern boundary of the polling district, was the natural geographic, as well as historical, boundary between Wilmslow and Handforth. The Sub-Committee had asked that a map be prepared for the meeting of the Constitution Committee, showing the areas of the three proposed parishes but with the inclusion of Polling District 8EE1 within the Wilmslow parish.

The Sub-Committee had agreed that for the parishes of Handforth and Styal, the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole whereas Wilmslow, being significantly larger, should be divided into wards. The Sub-Committee had agreed to consider the detailed arrangements further at its next meeting on 5th July. It would be necessary to hold a special meeting of the Constitution Committee to consider the Sub-Committee's advice in order to submit any further recommendations to Council on 22nd July.

The map requested by the Sub-Committee was circulated at the Committee's meeting. This showed the areas of the three proposed parishes, with polling district 8EE1 being included in the proposed Wilmslow parish.

The Committee considered the detailed advice of the Sub-Committee with which it concurred.

RESOLVED

That

(1) pursuant to Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; and having regard to the provisions of the Department for Communities and Local Government and Electoral Commission Guidance, issued in April 2008, for the conduct of Community Governance Reviews; and having received three valid petitions signed by the required number of electors calling for the constitution of new parishes for the three areas of (1) Handforth; (2) Wilmslow and Handforth; (3) Styal which triggered the Community Governance Review process:

1. Having taken into account

- a. the petitions;**
- b. the results of the consultation with the electors in each of the areas concerned which show in each case that a majority of those who returned their ballot papers were in favour of a new parish council for their area;**
- c. the results of the consultation exercise with stakeholders and the representations from other interested persons;**
- d. the outcomes of the public meetings held in each of the review areas; and**
- e. the information on existing community governance arrangements in the areas concerned and the alternative**

forms of community governance which might have been appropriate for the areas in question;

2. Council be advised

- a. that the interests of effective and convenient local government and community identities in these areas would be served by the creation of new parishes with a parish council for each of Handforth (not including polling district 8EE1 so as to recognise historic and traditional boundaries in the area), Wilmslow (including polling district 8EE1) and Styal, all as shown on the map appended to these minutes, with each parish comprising the polling districts indicated below; such parish councils to be called: Handforth Parish Council, Wilmslow Parish Council and Styal Parish Council respectively, and that Wilmslow Parish Council be advised to consider its designation as a Town Council;

Handforth Parish

Polling districts: 8EF1, 8EG1, 8EH1, 8EJ1

Wilmslow Parish

Polling districts: 8EA1, 8EB1, 8EC1, 8ED1, 8EE1, 8EK1, 8FA1, 8FB1, 8FC1, 8FD1, 8FE1, 8FF1, 8FG1, 8FH1, 8FJ1

Styal Parish

Polling district: 8FK1

- b. that in Handforth the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole;
- c. that in Styal the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole;
- d. that given the substantial size of the proposed Wilmslow parish and in order to reflect longstanding community identities, the parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of election to the Parish Council;
- e. that the first year of elections to the new parish councils should be 2011; and
- f. that these proposals form the basis of a second stage of public consultations and that the Boundary Commission be informed of these proposals;

(2) {a special meeting of the Committee be held on 12th July 2010 at 4.00 pm at the Municipal Buildings, Crewe to consider the advice of the

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee and make further recommendations to Council in relation to:

- a. the number of councillors to serve on each of the new parish councils; and
- b. the ward names and boundaries, and the number of councillors for each ward in the Wilmslow parish, bearing in mind the need to achieve overall electoral equality (ie. the number of electors per councillor) as far as possible}.

12 July

The Sub-Committee met and its recommendations were considered at a meeting of the Constitution Committee on 12 July where it was :-

RESOLVED

That the Constitution Committee recommends to Council that

(1) having regard to comparator information for Parish Councils in Cheshire East, and having regard to electoral equality, the number of Councillors to serve on each of the new Parish Councils should be as follows:

- a. **Handforth: 7 Councillors**
- b. **Styal: 5 Councillors**
- c. **Wilmslow: 15 Councillors**

(2) dependent upon the outcome of the Boundary Review, and bearing in mind the need to achieve overall electoral equality (i.e. the number of electors per councillor) as far as possible:

- a. **if no changes are made to the current Cheshire East Council Ward boundaries, five wards should be created for the Wilmslow Parish and named as follows:**

- i. **Morley (comprising 3 Councillors: polling districts 8FH1, 8FJ1, 8FG1);**
- ii. **Lacey Green (comprising 2 Councillors: polling district 8EK1);**
- iii. **Dean Row (comprising 4 Councillors: polling districts 8EA1, 8EB1, 8EC1, 8ED1, 8EE1);**
- iv. **Hough (comprising 3 Councillors: polling districts 8FC1, 8FD1, 8FE1, 8FF1); and**
- v. **Fulshaw (comprising 3 Councillors: polling districts 8FA1, 8FB1)**

- b. **if the anticipated final recommendations of the Boundary Committee in respect of Cheshire East Council boundaries**

are implemented, four wards should be created for the Wilmslow Parish and named as follows, to provide coterminous boundaries for electoral purposes:

- i. Wilmslow West (comprising 5 Councillors: polling districts 8FH1, 8FJ1, 8FG1, 8FC1, 8FA1(part), 8FB1(part), 8FD1(part);
- ii. Lacey Green (comprising 2 Councillors: polling districts 8EK1, 8EA1(part), 8FD1(part);
- iii. Dean Row (comprising 4 Councillors: polling districts 8EA1(part), 8EB1, 8EC1, 8ED1, 8EE1); and
- iv. Hough (comprising 4 Councillors: polling districts 8FD1(part), 8FA1(part), 8FB1(part), 8FE1, 8FF1)

(3) three wards should be created for the Handforth Parish and named as follows:

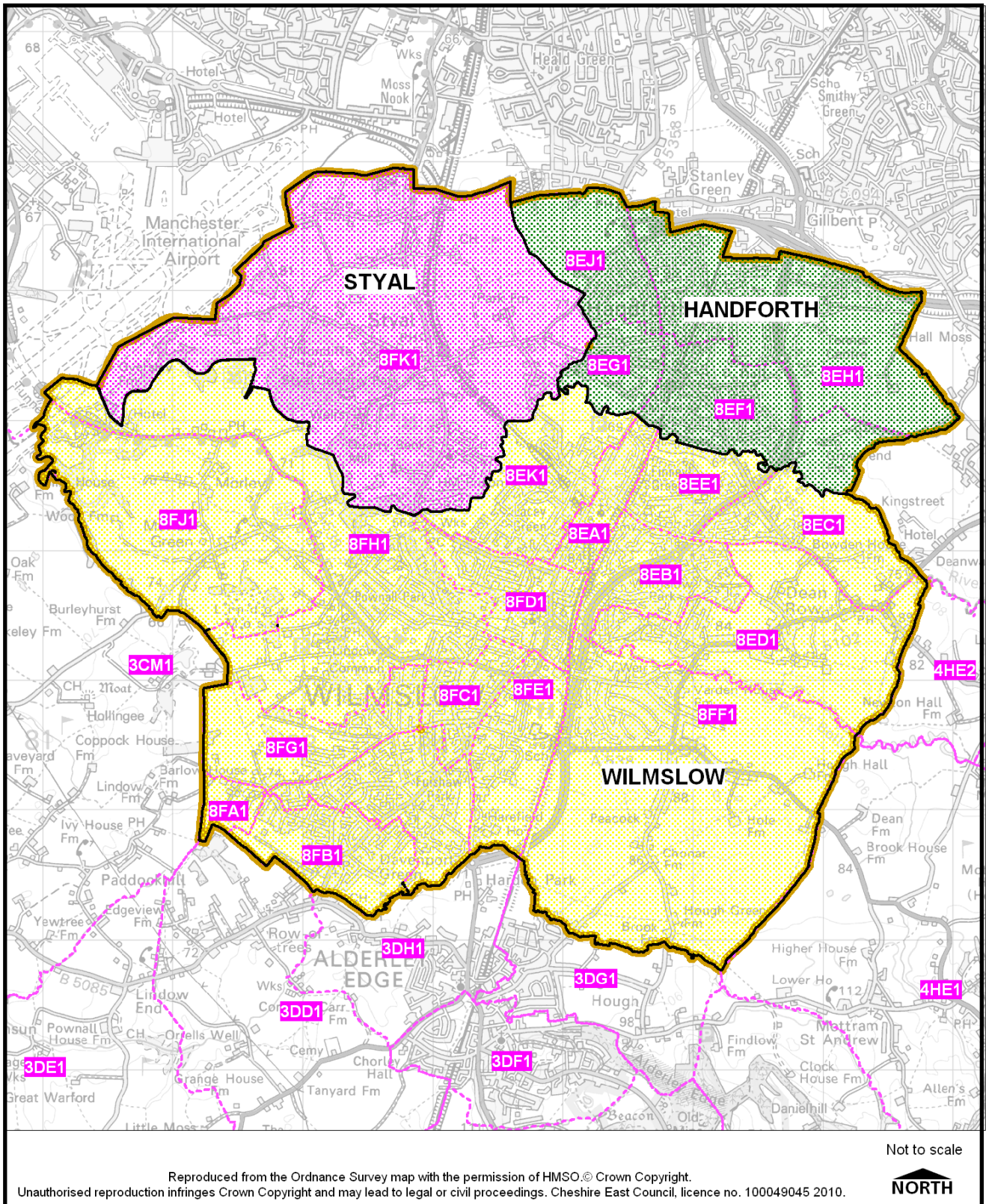
- i. Handforth West (comprising 3 Councillors: polling districts 8EG1, 8EJ1)
- ii. Handforth East (comprising 2 Councillors: polling district 8EH1); and
- iii. Handforth South (comprising 2 Councillors: polling district 8EF1)

and accordingly, the previous recommendation by the Sub-Committee and the Constitution Committee in relation to this matter should be disregarded; and

(4) subject to consultation initially with the Chairman of the Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee, the Borough Solicitor be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any amendments required to electorate figures, polling district boundaries, or the proposed Wilmslow Parish ward boundaries, should this be required as a result of the final outcome of the Boundary review.

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WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW



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EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW SUB- COMMITTEE ON 5TH JULY 2010

11 WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PARISH AND WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Having agreed at the previous meeting to recommend the creation of parish councils for Handforth, Wilmslow and Styal, the Sub-Committee now gave consideration to the number of councillors to serve on each of the new parish councils, together with the warding arrangements.

The Elections and Registration Team Leader had prepared a briefing paper which had been circulated to Members. This provided comparator information on the size of parish councils to assist in determining the appropriate number of parish councillors for each of the three parishes. It also set out options for the warding of the proposed Wilmslow parish.

The comparator information listed a number of comparable towns and parishes throughout Cheshire East and gave electorate totals, electorate ratio per councillor and number of wards in respect of each.

The briefing paper set out two options for the warding of Wilmslow. Option 1 was based on the five traditional wards of the former Macclesfield Borough Council. Using a ratio of approximately 1,000 electors to one Councillor, the number of councillors for each ward had been determined.

The warding arrangements had been complicated by the fact that there was an ongoing Boundary Review. The final recommendations of the Boundary Commission were expected to be announced on 13th July. An electoral changes Order would then need to be laid in draft in both Houses of Parliament. The timescales for the laying of the order were not yet clear.

If the Boundary Commission proposals for Wilmslow were implemented, as anticipated, then adjustments would need to be made to the proposed wards. These adjustments formed the basis of Option 2 in the briefing paper. In essence, the number of wards in the Wilmslow parish would be reduced from five to four, and ward boundaries would no longer be coterminous with polling district boundaries within that parish. Given the uncertainty posed by the current Boundary Review, and the need to comply with the Governance Review timetable, it would be necessary for the Sub-Committee to put forward two alternative sets of proposals with regard to the warding of Wilmslow.

In considering both the numbers of councillors and the warding arrangements, Members had regard to the need to achieve electoral equality as far as possible whilst also ensuring that the size of each parish council reflected the particular needs and circumstances of the parish.

At the meeting, the Sub-Committee reviewed its previous recommendation, which had been endorsed by the Constitution Committee, that for the parish of Handforth, the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole. It was proposed as an alternative that Handforth be divided into three wards. It was felt that the four existing polling districts lent themselves to such an arrangement, which also reflected the geographical features of the parish.

Members were advised that if, following the announcement of the Boundary Commission's final recommendations, it became necessary to make further minor adjustments to electorate figures, polling district boundaries or proposed ward boundaries, it would be appropriate for the Officers to be authorised to agree these in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee and the Leader of the Council so as to avoid any undue delay with the Governance Review timetable.

RESOLVED

That the Constitution Committee be advised to recommend to Council that

(1) having regard to comparator information for parish councils in Cheshire East, and having regard to electoral equality, the number of councillors to serve on each of the new parish councils should be as follows:

- a. Handforth: 7 councillors
- b. Styal: 5 councillors
- c. Wilmslow: 15 councillors

(2) dependent upon the outcome of the Boundary Review, and bearing in mind the need to achieve overall electoral equality (i.e. the number of electors per councillor) as far as possible:

- a. if no changes are made to the current Cheshire East Council Ward boundaries, five wards should be created for the Wilmslow parish and named as follows:
 - i. Morley (comprising 3 councillors: polling districts 8FH1, 8FJ1, 8FG1);
 - ii. Lacey Green (comprising 2 councillors: polling district 8EK1);
 - iii. Dean Row (comprising 4 councillors: polling districts 8EA1, 8EB1, 8EC1, 8ED1, 8EE1);
 - iv. Hough (comprising 3 councillors: polling districts 8FC1, 8FD1, 8FE1, 8FF1); and
 - v. Fulshaw (comprising 3 councillors: polling districts 8FA1, 8FB1)
- b. if the anticipated final recommendations of the Boundary Committee in respect of Cheshire East Council boundaries are

implemented, four wards should be created for the Wilmslow parish and named as follows, to provide coterminous boundaries for electoral purposes:

- i. Wilmslow West (comprising 5 councillors: polling districts 8FH1, 8FJ1, 8FG1, 8FC1, 8FA1(part), 8FB1(part), 8FD1(part);
- ii. Lacey Green (comprising 2 councillors: polling districts 8EK1, 8EA1(part), 8FD1(part);
- iii. Dean Row (comprising 4 councillors: polling districts 8EA1(part), 8EB1, 8EC1, 8ED1, 8EE1); and
- iv. Hough (comprising 4 councillors: polling districts 8FD1(part), 8FA1(part), 8FB1(part), 8FE1, 8FF1)

(3) three wards should be created for the Handforth parish and named as follows:

- i. Handforth West (comprising 3 councillors: polling districts 8EG1, 8EJ1)
- ii. Handforth East (comprising 2 councillors: polling district 8EH1); and
- iii. Handforth South (comprising 2 councillors: polling district 8EF1)

and accordingly, the previous recommendation by the Sub-Committee and the Constitution Committee in relation to this matter should be disregarded; and

(4) subject to consultation initially with the Chairman of the Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee, the Borough Solicitor be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any amendments required to electorate figures, polling district boundaries, or the proposed Wilmslow parish ward boundaries, should this be required as a result of the final outcome of the Boundary review.

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EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW SUB- COMMITTEE ON 24TH JUNE 2010

4 WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - FIRST STAGE CONSULTATION

Members considered the outcome of the Stage 1 consultation which had concluded on 4th June. The Sub-Committee now had to determine its advice to the Constitution Committee on the formulation of the Council's draft recommendation. The Constitution Committee would be meeting on the afternoon of 24th June and would consider the Sub-Committee's advice at that meeting.

In addition to the briefing paper considered earlier in the meeting, Members had before them the following:

- (a) Valid petition requesting a Wilmslow and Handforth Town Council
- (b) Valid petition requesting a Handforth Community Council
- (c) Valid petition requesting a Parish Council for Styal
- (d) Results of the consultation with electors
- (e) Other representations received
- (f) Notes of three public meetings held on 26th 28th and 29th April 2010

Three ballots had been conducted, one for the area covered by the Handforth petition, one for Styal and one for Wilmslow. In each case, the voter was asked to indicate whether they wanted a parish council and, if so, whether this should be for their area alone or for the whole of the unparished area comprising Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal. A clear majority of respondents in each area wanted to have a parish council, and of those, a clear majority wanted a separate parish council for their area.

In considering the results of the Stage 1 consultation and formulating its recommendations, the Sub-Committee had regard to the need to ensure that community governance within the area under review would be:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- Effective and convenient.

The Sub-Committee also had regard to the historical and traditional identities within the area and in this respect felt that Polling District 8EE1, which had been included in the Handforth petition, should be included in any future parish for Wilmslow, given that the River Dean, which formed the northern boundary of the polling district, was the natural geographic, as well as historical, boundary between Wilmslow and Handforth. Members asked that a map be prepared for the meeting of the Constitution Committee, showing the areas of the three proposed parishes but with the inclusion of Polling District 8EE1 within the Wilmslow parish.

Members agreed that for the parishes of Handforth and Styal, the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole whereas Wilmslow, being significantly larger, should be divided into wards. The Sub-Committee would need to consider the detailed arrangements further at its next meeting.

RESOLVED

That

(1) the Constitution Committee be advised

That, pursuant to Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; and having regard to the provisions of the Department for Communities and Local Government and Electoral Commission Guidance, issued in April 2008, for the conduct of Community Governance Reviews; and having received three valid petitions signed by the required number of electors calling for the constitution of new parishes for the three areas of (1) Handforth; (2) Wilmslow and Handforth; (3) Styal which triggered the Community Governance Review process:

1. Having taken into account

- a. the petitions;
- b. the results of the consultation with the electors in each of the areas concerned which show in each case that a majority of those who returned their ballot papers were in favour of a new parish council for their area;
- c. the results of the consultation exercise with stakeholders and the representations from other interested persons;
- d. the outcomes of the public meetings held in each of the review areas; and
- e. the information on existing community governance arrangements in the areas concerned and the alternative forms of community governance which might have been appropriate for the areas in question;

2. Council be advised

- a. that the interests of effective and convenient local government and community identities in these areas would be served by the creation of new parishes with a parish council for each of Handforth (not including polling district 8EE1 so as to recognise historic and traditional boundaries in the area); Wilmslow (including polling district 8EE1); and Styal; such parish councils to be called: Handforth Parish Council, Wilmslow Parish Council and Styal

Parish Council respectively, and that Wilmslow Parish Council be advised to consider its designation as a Town Council;

- b. that in Handforth the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole;
 - c. that in Styal the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole;
 - d. that given the substantial size of the proposed Wilmslow parish and in order to reflect longstanding community identities, the parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of election to the Parish Council;
 - e. that the first year of elections to the new parish councils should be 2011; and
 - f. that these proposals form the basis of a second stage of public consultations and that the Boundary Commission be informed of these proposals;
- (2) a further meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 5th July 2010 at 10.00 am in Macclesfield to make recommendations to Council in relation to:
- a. the number of councillors to serve on each of the new parish councils; and
 - b. the ward names and boundaries, and the number of councillors for each ward in the Wilmslow parish, bearing in mind the need to achieve overall electoral equality (ie. the number of electors per councillor) as far as possible.

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting:	24 th June 2010
Report of:	Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title:	Wilmslow Community Governance Review: Formulating the Council's Draft Recommendation

1. Report Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides Members with an outline of the process to be followed in conducting this review. It is based on the statutory guidance in respect of the process for creating a new local council 'Guidance on community governance reviews' issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Electoral Commission.

2. Petitions

On 21st September 2009 the Council received a valid petition which called for a Community Governance Review and identified the following recommendations arising from a Review:

- 1) That a new parish be constituted under Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 2) That the new parish should have a parish council to be known as Handforth Community Council.
- 3) That members of the Council will not be affiliated to any political party.
- 4) That the area to which the review is to relate be defined as being the electoral ward of Handforth as known in 2007.
- 5) That the Council will not precept the area, only use moneys granted, delegated, awarded or given for the benefit of the area.

Recommendations (3) and (5) were deemed to be outside the scope of any recommendations which could be considered by the Council as part of the review.

A valid petition was also received on 14th October 2009, calling for a community governance review and identifying the following recommendations arising from a Review:

- (1) That a new parish be constituted under Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

- (2) That the new parish should have a parish council to be known as Wilmslow and Handforth Town Council.
- (3) That the area to which the review is to relate comprise the Electoral Wards of Dean Row, Fulshaw, Handforth, Hough, Lacey Green and Morley & Styal.

The Council agreed to extend the Community Governance Review to cover the whole of the unparished area of Wilmslow (i.e. the former Electoral Wards of Dean Row, Fulshaw, Handforth, Hough, Lacey Green, and Morley and Styal).

On 14th January 2010 the Council received a valid petition which called for a Community Governance Review and identified the following recommendations arising from a Review:

- (1) That a new parish be constituted under Section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- (2) That the new parish should have a parish council to be known as Styal Parish Council
- (3) That the area to which the review is to relate to be defined as shown on the attached map, being a part of the Electoral Wards of Morley and Styal.

3. Procedure

1. Since February 2008 the power to take decisions about matters such as the creation of parishes and their electoral arrangements has been devolved from the Secretary of State and the Electoral Commission to principal Councils such as Cheshire East Council.
2. Cheshire East Council can, therefore, decide whether to give effect to the recommendations made arising from the Community Governance Review, provided it takes the views of local people into account.
3. In broad terms the process will follow a number of phases outlined below:
 - Determine viable options for community governance in the area under review.
 - Draw up a Consultation Plan focused on consulting on those viable options.
 - Stage 1 Consultation on the options.
 - Evaluation and analysis of responses.
 - Draft recommendation for the Constitution Committee to consider for recommendation to Council.
 - Draft Proposal advertised
 - Stage 2 Consultation on the Draft Proposal
 - Council decides Outcome of the review.

4. The key element of the Review is the consultation process. The Sub Committee agreed the list of consultees, method of consultation and the timing of the consultation process.
5. The consultation process is central to the Review and must include:
 - Local government electors in the area under review
 - Local businesses, local public and voluntary organisations, schools, health bodies
 - Residents and community groups
 - Area working arrangements.
6. The views of the Electoral Commission on any proposed electoral arrangements must also be sought.
7. The initial phase of consultation has been based largely on written representations received in response to public notices and specific invitations. Three public meetings were held to give members of the public the opportunity to learn more about the review and to express their views in a public forum. Tailored voting papers and an explanatory leaflet were also sent to the electorate of Styal, Wilmslow and Handforth. The website has also been used to allow people to record their views.

4. Criteria when undertaking a Review

1. The Council now needs to consider the results of the initial phase of consultation and formulate recommendations ensuring that community governance within the area under review will be
 - Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area
 - Effective and convenient
2. Key considerations in meeting the criteria include:
 - The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
 - The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish
 - Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest with their own sense of identity
 - The degree to which the proposals offer a sense of place and identity for all residents
 - The ability of the proposed authority's ability to deliver quality services economically and efficiently providing users with a democratic voice
 - The degree to which a parish council would be viable in terms of a unit of local government providing at least some local services that are convenient, easy to reach and accessible to local people.

5. Recommendations and Decisions on the Review Outcome

1. The guidance requires that recommendations must be made with respect to the following:
 - a) Whether a new parish or any new parishes should be constituted
 - b) The name of any new parish
 - c) Whether or not the new parish should have a parish council (if the parish has more than 1000 electors, the review must recommend that the parish should have a parish council)
 - d) What the electoral arrangements for new parishes which are to have parish councils should be
2. These recommendations must have regard to:
 - The need to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area and is effective and convenient
 - Any other arrangements that have already been made for the purposes of community representation or engagement
 - Any representations received and should be supported by evidence which demonstrates that the community governance arrangements would meet the criteria.
3. The Review may make a recommendation which is different from that which the petitioners sought. The Review may, for example, conclude that the proposals were not in the interests of the wider local community, or may negatively impact on community cohesion either within the proposed parish or in the wider community. It may, for example, decide that the arrangements for local area working represent the best option for fulfilling the criteria.

6. Electoral Arrangements

The Review must give consideration to the electoral arrangements that should apply in the event that a parish council is established. In particular the following must be considered:

- a) The ordinary year of election – if a single parish council or multiple parish councils were established, the first year of election would be 2011
- b) Council size – the number of councillors to be elected to the parish
- c) Parish warding – whether the parish should be divided into wards; this includes the number and boundaries of such wards; number of councillors per ward and the names of wards

In considering whether to recommend that a parish should or should not be warded, the council should consider:

- whether the number or distribution of electors would make a single election of councillors impractical or inconvenient;
- whether it is desirable that any area of the parish should be separately represented on the council

If the Council decides to recommend wards – in considering the size and boundaries of the wards and the number of Councillors for the wards it must have regard to the following factors:

- i) the number of electors for the parish
- ii) any change in number / distribution of electors likely to occur in period of 5 years
- iii) desirability of fixing boundaries which will remain easily identifiable
- iv) any local ties which will be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries

6.1 Council Size

The Local Government Act 1972 Act specifies that each parish council must have at least 5 members; there is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocation of those Councillors between parish wards.

There is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. Research in 1992 has shown this is influenced by population:

Between 2501 and 10,000 population had 9 to 16 councillors
Between 10,001 and 20,000 population had 13 to 37 councillors
Almost all over 20,000 population had between 13 and 31 councillors.

The National Association of Local Councils suggests that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be 7 and the maximum 25.

Each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to population, geography and patterns of communities. Principal councils should bear in mind that the conduct of parish business does not usually require a large body of councillors. However, a parish council's budget and planned level of service provision may be important factors in reaching a decision on Council size.

6.2 Parish warding and names of wards

There is likely to be a stronger case for the warding of urban areas. In urban areas community identity tends to focus upon a locality, with its own sense of identity.

In terms of naming parish wards consideration should be given to existing local or historic places, so that these are reflected where appropriate.

6.3 Number and boundaries of parish wards

The Council should take account of community identity and interests and consider whether any ties or linkages would be broken by the drawing of particular ward boundaries.

When considering ward boundaries the Council should consider the desirability of fixing boundaries which will remain easily identifiable.

6.4 Number of Councillors to be elected for parish wards

If the council decides that a parish should be warded, it should give consideration to the levels of representation between each ward.

It is best practice for each persons vote should be of equal weight as far as possible.

7. Grouping of Parish Councils

Section 11 of the LGA 1972 sets out the powers for Parishes to be "Grouped", which means that different Parishes in a particular area may apply to be grouped under a Common Parish Council. Such applicant parishes must not already have their own Parish Council, so they are acting through their Parish Meeting.

Section 91 of the LGPIHA 2007 applies these Section 11 provisions to the Community Governance Review process, so that a CGR may make recommendations for the grouping of any new Parishes which it is proposed to create in the Review area. Such recommendations are subsequently brought into effect through the Reorganisation Order.

However, Section 94(2) of the 2007 Act provides that if a proposed new Parish has 1000 or more Electors, the Community Governance Review **must** recommend that the Parish has a Parish Council. This would apply in terms of the number of electors for Handforth and for Wilmslow, but not for Styal.

Grouping would only be a relevant issue for this Review if parishes of less than 1000 electors were created.

It is also worth noting that a Grouped Parish cannot resolve to confer on itself the status of a Town (Section 245(6) of the LGA 1972).

Paragraph 113 of the statutory Guidance for Community Governance Reviews says "It would be inappropriate for it [Grouping] to be used to build artificially large Units under single Parish Councils.....". The

Grouping powers are more directed at areas which contain a number of small Parishes - rather than a large urban area.

8. Other forms of Community Governance

In conducting the Community Governance Review, the Council must consider other forms of community governance as alternatives to establishing parish councils, for example:

1. Area Committees
2. Neighbourhood management
3. Tenant Management Organisations
4. Area/ community forums
5. Residents/ Tennants organisations
6. Community Associations

The Sub Committee considered a summary of these options at its meeting held on 19th February 2010, followed by an overview report of existing arrangements at its meeting held on 23rd March 2010. These reports are appended for information (appendices A and B).

9. RECOMMENDATION

In summary, in forming a draft recommendation for the Community Governance Review, the Sub Committee needs to have regard to all representations received, and consider and recommend to the Constitution Committee:

- a. Any forms of community governance as alternatives to establishing parish councils, for example:
 - Area Committees
 - Neighbourhood management
 - Tenant Management Organisations
 - Area/ community forums
 - Residents/ Tenants organisations
 - Community Associations
- b. Whether a new parish or any new parishes should be constituted
- c. The name of any new parish or parishes
- d. Whether or not the new parish should have a parish council (if the parish has more than 1000 electors, the review must recommend that the parish should have a parish council)
- e. Whether the parish should have an alternative Style e.g. Community, Neighbourhood, or Village; or whether the status of Town Council should be given
- f. What the electoral arrangements for new parishes which are to have parish councils should be

- g. The ordinary year of election – if a parish council was established the first year of election would be 2011
- h. Council size – the number of councillors to be elected to the parish
- i. Parish warding – whether the parish should be divided into wards; this includes the number and boundaries of such wards; number of councillors per ward and the names of wards.

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE

Date of meeting: 19 February 2010
Report of: Elections and Registration Team Manager
Title: Briefing Paper – Initial Options Evaluation

1. In conducting this Review, the Council must consider how to respond to the proposals contained in the three separate petitions. In summary, the petitions and the proposals that they contain must be assessed in terms of the following criteria and the key considerations set out in the guidance:

Criteria

Community governance in the areas must be

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area
- Effective and convenient

Key considerations

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
 - The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish
 - Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest with their own sense of identity
 - The degree to which the proposals offer a sense of place and identity for all residents
 - The ability of the proposed authority to deliver quality services economically and efficiently providing users with a democratic voice
 - The degree to which a parish council would be viable in terms of a unit of local government providing at least some local services that are convenient, easy to reach and accessible to local people
2. The guidance also indicates that as part of the review other viable options should be considered to determine if they represent a better option in terms of addressing the criteria. The Sub Committee will need to gather further information to make an initial evaluation of the options in the table below:

Area Committees

Formed as part of the structure of principal Councils, often including local councillors. They can be involved in a wide range of service provision and fulfil a number of community governance roles. Their primary role is to contribute to the shaping of Council services and improving local service provision. The Local Area Partnerships do provide a coherent and consistent pattern across the whole of Cheshire East. The approach is premised on coordination of partners in relatively small local area.

Neighbourhood Management

Generally aimed at service delivery improvement and implementation at the local level. Often facilitated by a neighbourhood manager rather than advising or making decisions at local level.

Tenant Management Organisations

Usually estate based, largely public/social housing focused.

Area/Community Forums

Often established as a mechanism to give communities a say on principal council matters or local issues and to influence decision making. Membership usually consists of people living or working in a specific area.

Residents' & Tenants' Associations

Usually focused on issues affecting neighbourhood or estate. They may be established with or without direct support from the principal council.

Community Associations

Democratic model for local residents and community organisations to work together to work together for the benefit of the neighbourhood. The principal council may be represented on the management committee.

Multiple Parish Councils

The review may decide that multiple parish councils may best meet the community cohesion requirements that are key criteria. The presence of geographic boundaries may need to be considered, for example they may form natural communities.

APPENDIX B

EXISTING WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Overview prepared by the Chief Executive's and Partnership Unit

Introduction

Community engagement was at the heart of the business case for Local Government Re-organisation, seeking to ensure that services delivered by the new councils are tailored to reflect local circumstances and need.

In Cheshire East the new approach to community engagement is centred around 7 Local Areas which, between them, cover the whole Cheshire East area. As set out in the LGR business case, the new approach to community engagement includes town and parish councils as well as community and neighbourhood groups. Area partnership groups have been established in each of the 7 areas and their purpose is explained in the following section. Clearly these new arrangements are still evolving and will be developed further, reflecting local circumstances.

Wilmslow Local Area Partnership (LAP)

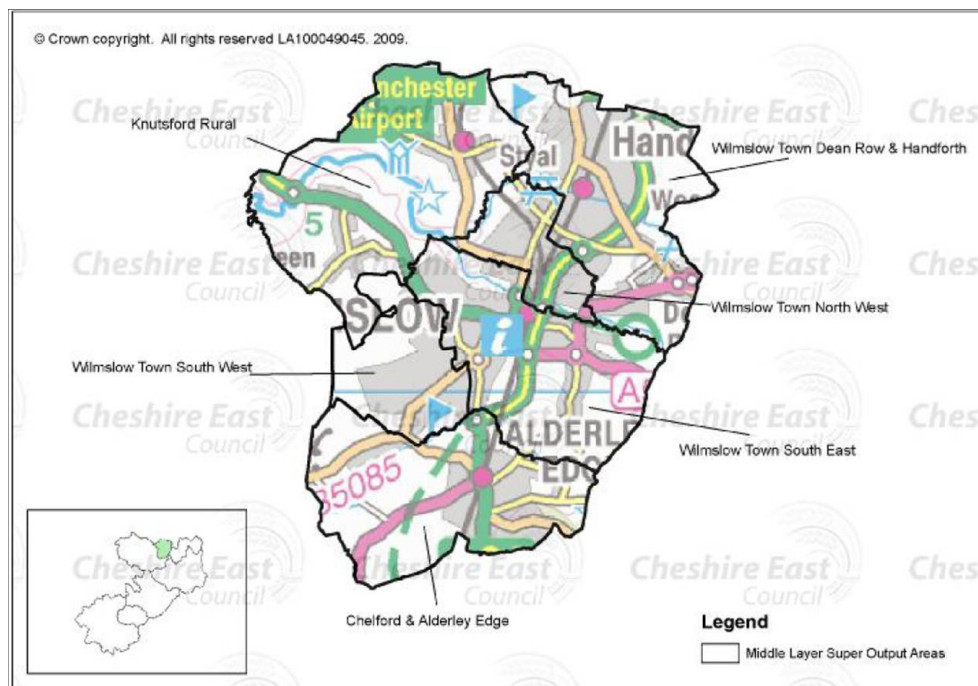
Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) have been established across Cheshire East, to achieve the following outcomes:

- A more effective, co-ordinated approach to tackling local needs and priorities.
- More responsive local management of services.
- Improved engagement with citizens.
- Actual empowerment of citizens.
- Greater citizen satisfaction.
- Enhanced community governance.
- Increased voter turnout.
- Enhanced community leadership role for elected councillors.
- Value for money.

The LAPs are part of the Cheshire East Partnerships Framework and clearly link and work with the Thematic Groups and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Executive. The LAPs are working with neighbourhood and community groups in their area, to engage with local people and address very local issues.

Wilmslow LAP brings together people who have an interest and responsibility for delivering improvements in the area. It is an action group, working together to make a difference. It holds regular meetings which are a touchdown point, where LAP members discuss issues and progress on their work in public. The LAP tackles issues through 'task and finish' groups, and currently has a number of such groups in place. Wilmslow LAP has agreed its initial work programme based on evidence and issues identified by LAP members and the local community.

Wilmslow LAP boundary



Wilmslow LAP membership

Membership includes:

- Cheshire East local councillors (and officers representing the People, Places and Policy and Performance directorates of Cheshire East Council)
- Alderley Edge Town Council
- Chorley Parish Council
- Wilmslow Trust
- Wilmslow Business Group
- Citizens Advice Bureau (representing CE Third Sector Congress)
- Cheshire Police
- Cheshire Fire and Rescue
- Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust

- Equity Housing Group
- Wilmslow Education Improvement Partnership
- Job Centre Plus

Other organisations represented at LAP meetings include:

- Cycle Wilmslow group
- Wilmslow 'Living Streets'
- Wilmslow community website

Neighbourhood Features

- In 2007, the population of the Wilmslow Local Area Partnership (LAP) was 35,200¹.
- This represented a tenth (10%) of the population of Cheshire East.
- Wilmslow LAP area contains 6 Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs), 2 of which it shares with Knutsford, and 22 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). These are based on population characteristics rather than administrative boundaries and form basic units for understanding local information.
- Wilmslow Town has a population of 30,070.

Within the LAP area, there are 3 pockets of disadvantage, the Colshaw and Lacey Green Estates in Wilmslow and the Spath Lane Estate in Handforth. There is some degree of neighbourhood management in these areas, facilitated by the relevant registered social landlords and supported by Cheshire East Council and local partners, acknowledging that these areas have complex needs and require an intensive approach to involve communities to improve outcomes for local people.

The Colshaw Estate

The Colshaw Community Development Group is working to join up local services and develop agreements with service providers to jointly plan and deliver service differently in these areas.

The group includes officers from the Cheshire East Council, Riverside Housing Association, Police and Fire services, Groundwork Cheshire and Connexions.

A recent 'Not in My Neighbourhood' event, coordinated by the Police and Fire Services, in partnership with other agencies, targeted the community of the Colshaw Estate and set up a range of activities addressing issues of anti social behaviour and community safety and awareness. This project was identified as a catalyst for further

¹ Cheshire County Council population estimates 2007.

targeted work in the area and was established as part of a wider remit addressing anti social area across the LAP area as an ongoing subgroup.

Community Groups

There is a range of voluntary and community groups within the Wilmslow area. The purpose of community engagement work is to build the capacity of our communities to lead partnership working in their area. The Cheshire East LSP and the Wilmslow LAP are committed to supporting both existing and new community led partnerships. These neighbourhood partnerships will contribute to the Local Area Delivery Plan for the LAP.

Community Activities

There is a wide range of community activities in Wilmslow, delivered through local partnerships and community groups. These include environmental and heritage preservation projects, business support programmes, sports initiatives, community events and a community website.

LAP projects / working groups

Since the first meeting in May 2009, the Wilmslow LAP has identified and is progressing the following projects –

- The Carrs Country Park, Wilmslow – demolition of a derelict building to diffuse issues of anti-social behaviour (completed) and further investigation to explore the creation of a multi use accessible path to serve pedestrians and cyclists (ongoing)
- Meriton Road Park, Handforth – bringing back a disused pavilion into community use, including accommodating a model railway club (ongoing)
- Exploring the creation of an motor cross site to engage young people in a controlled environment using an area of waste land (ongoing)
- Identifying and addressing potential improvements to the forecourt and access of Wilmslow Railway station, with improved signage in the town (ongoing)
- ‘Not in My Neighbourhod’ event – a multi agency approach to promote safety on the Colshaw Farm Estate and to address anti social behaviour (ongoing working group)

WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – SUMMARY OF VOTING PAPERS RETURNED

1. Introduction

6876 voting papers were returned out of a total of 25,019 issued, representing an overall response rate of 27.48%.

For Wilmslow: 17,732 voting papers were issued; 5,066 were returned (28.57%)

For Handforth: 6,695 voting papers were issued; 1563 were returned (23.25)

For Styal: 592 voting papers were issued; 247 were returned (41.72%)

Appendix A shows the summary of the results of the returned voting papers.

2. Summary of Results for the returned “Wilmslow” Voting Papers

Electors were invited to respond to two questions on the voting paper as follows:-

Question 1 : Do you want a parish council?

1. Yes
2. No

Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below

- A.** I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal
B. I want a separate parish council for Wilmslow

The total number of voting papers received and counted are shown on Appendix 2, broken down into the following combinations of responses :-

1 & A
1 & B
1 Only
2 & A
2 & B
2 Only
A Only
B Only
Rejected

The spreadsheet shows the calculations to question 1 as follows:-

2894 electors indicated that they want a parish council *(calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 1&B and 1 Only).*

2144 electors indicated that they did not want a parish council *(calculated by totalling votes for 2&A, 2&B and 2 Only).*

In relation to question 2 the responses were as follows:-

1090 electors expressed a view for a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal *(calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 2&A and A only).*

1846 electors expressed a view for a separate parish council for Wilmslow *(calculated by totalling votes for 1&B, 2&B and B Only).*

3. Summary of Results for the returned “Handforth” Voting Papers

Electors were invited to respond to two questions on the voting paper as follows:-

Question 1 : Do you want a parish council?

1. Yes
2. No

Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below

- A.** I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal
B. I want a separate parish council for Handforth

The total number of voting papers received and counted are shown on Appendix 2 broken down into the following combinations of responses :-

1 & A
1 & B
1 Only
2 & A
2 & B
2 Only
A Only
B Only
Rejected

The spreadsheet shows the calculations to question 1 as follows:-

1023 electors indicated that they want a parish council (*calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 1&B and 1 Only*).

534 electors indicated that they did not want a parish council (*calculated by totalling votes for 2&A, 2&B and 2 Only*).

In relation to question 2 the responses were as follows:-

415 electors expressed a view for a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal (*calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 2&A and A only*).

619 electors expressed a view for a separate parish council for Handforth (*calculated by totalling votes for 1&B, 2&B and B Only*).

4. Summary of Results for the returned “Styal” Voting Papers

Electors were invited to respond to two questions on the voting paper as follows:-

Question 1 : Do you want a parish council?

1. Yes
2. No

Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below

- A.** I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal
B. I want a separate parish council for Styal

The total number of voting papers received and counted are shown on Appendix 2 broken down into the following combinations of responses :-

1 & A
1 & B
1 Only
2 & A
2 & B
2 Only
A Only
B Only
Rejected

The spreadsheet shows the calculations to question 1 as follows:-

219 electors indicated that they want a parish council (*calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 1&B and 1 Only*).

23 electors indicated that they did not want a parish council (*calculated by totalling votes for 2&A, 2&B and 2 Only*).

In relation to question 2 the responses were as follows:-

25 electors expressed a view for a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal (*calculated by totalling votes for 1&A, 2&A and A only*).

201 electors expressed a view for a separate parish council for Styal (*calculated by totalling votes for 1&B, 2&B and B Only*).

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Area	No of voting papers received	1 & A	1 & B	1 Only	2 & A	2 & B	2 Only	A Only	B Only	Rejected	Total	Do totals match?
2	Wilmslow 'W'	5,066	1,068	1,819	7	17	8	2,119	5	19	4	5,066	YES
3	Handforth 'H'	1,563	407	613	3	6	4	524	2	2	2	1,563	YES
4	Styal 'S'	247	20	198	1	3	0	20	2	3	0	247	YES
5	TOTALS	6,876	1,495	2,630	11	26	12	2,663	9	24	6	6,876	YES
6													
7													
8		Overall	Wilmslow	Handforth	Styal								
9	Want PC	4136	2,894	1,023	219	Adds columns c, d, e							
10	No change	2701	2,144	534	23	Adds columns f, g, h							
11	Expressed a view for 1 TC	1530	1,090	415	25	Adds columns c, f and i							
12	Expressed a view for separate PC	2666	1,846	619	201	Adds columns d, g and j							
13													
14	How to complete this result sheet												
15	Column A	Area	Name of area										
16	Column B	No of Voting Papers recvd	Total number of voting papers received for that area (including doubtful papers)										
17	Column C	1 & A	Voted '1' for question 1 and 'A' for question 2										
18	Column D	1 & B	Voted '1' for question 1 and 'B' for question 2										
19	Column E	1 only	Voted '1' for question 1 and left 'B' blank										
20	Column F	2 & A	Voted '2' for question 1 and 'A' for question 2										
21	Column G	2 & B	Voted '2' for question 1 and 'B' for question 2										
22	Column H	2 only	Voted '2' for question 1 only										
23	Column I	A only	Left question 1 blank and voted 'A' for question 2										
24	Column J	B only	Left question 1 blank and voted 'B' for question 2										
25	Column K	Rejected	Papers where the voter's intention is not clear										
26	Column L	Total	This column will add columns C to K to check that the total matches column B										
27	Column M	Do totals match?	If totals match the word 'Yes' will appear										

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**Wilmslow Community Governance Review – Stage 1 Consultation
List of Representations Received**

1. Mrs Das
2. Christine Wilson
3. Rebecca Wilson
4. David Wilson
5. Wilmslow United Reformed Church
6. Manuel Golding
7. Manchester Airport
8. ChALC
9. Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Estate, The National Trust
10. Steve Rawlings
11. Robin Sibthorpe
12. Wilmslow Trust
13. Mrs Gardiner
14. Heidi Sumner
15. Ken Edwards
16. Steve Edgeller
17. Heather Furnival
18. Dr James Lethbridge
19. Lorraine Millward
20. Derek Randall Smith
21. Dean Oaks Primary School
22. Mike Robinson
23. Bob Keen
24. Keith Purdom
25. J Pass
26. John Gordon
27. Steven Cunliffe
28. Clive Bassil
29. Barry Buxton
30. John Gordon
31. Alderley & District Probus Club
32. Wilmslow Historical Society
33. Mrs Pownall
34. D E Allen
35. J D Collings
36. Michael Morris
37. Mr Keith Hudson
38. Ballot paper received and not included in the summary of voting papers returned
39. Ballot paper received and not included in the summary of voting papers returned
40. Ballot paper received and not included in the summary of voting papers returned

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Centre, Call
Sent: 10 June 2010 16:23
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form

Name Mrs Das

Address 20 Overhill Road
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 2BE

Feedback After careful consideration I do not wish to have a single Parish Council or more than one Parish Council to be set up in the Wilmslow area.

If you require a copy of this form for your records, please print using your web browser print button before submitting.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: David Wilson [davidpwilson@uwclub.net]
Sent: 04 June 2010 20:43
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: community governance review - vote

I would like to vote as follows: Question 1 - Yes Question 2 - B

Ballot Paper No. 16471

Mrs. Christine Wilson

Tel/Fax: +44 162 552 5630
Mobile: +44 795 057 2432
e-mail: davidpwilson@uwclub.net

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Rebecca Wilson [rak_wilson@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 04 June 2010 11:55
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Community Governance Review - vote

Ballot paper no. 16469

I would like to vote as follows:

Question 1 - Yes
Question 2 - B

Many thanks,
Rebecca Wilson

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: David Wilson [davidpwilson@uwclub.net]
Sent: 04 June 2010 11:51
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Communtiy Governance Review - Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

From: David Wilson,
18, Curzon Mews,
Wilmslow SK9 5JN

Voting Slip no. 16470

Question 1 – Do you want a parish council? - 1 -Yes

Question 2 – B - I want a separate parish council for Wilmslow.

David Wilson

Tel/Fax: +44 162 552 5630
Mobile: +44 795 057 2432
e-mail: davidpwilson@uwclub.net

Wilmslow United Reformed Church
Chapel Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 1PR

June 3rd 2010

Dear Madam

Wilmslow Community Governance Review

I am responding on behalf of the Trustees and Elders of Wilmslow United Reformed Church to your invitation to comment on the possibility of setting up an additional tier of local government such as a Parish Council or similar body for Wilmslow and/or other local areas.

Many, but not all, of the Elders are also householders in the town and have responded on a personal basis to the questionnaire which was circulated to each home in the area. However at our meeting last evening we deliberately looked at the proposal from a community point of view. As a church trying to serve not only its own members but the needs of those living around us, particularly the more vulnerable and less powerful members of society we welcome any initiative which could help support these groups and focus attention on local needs and problems. While it is not yet clear how Parish Councils might operate and what powers they might have we would enthusiastically support further development of the idea and would want to be involved in any further consultation on a draft recommendation.

We also considered the specific question on whether any new body should cover only Wilmslow itself or include the wider area mentioned in the consultation document. We are firmly of the opinion that if such a body is created it should be for the wider area ie include Styal and Handforth.

We look forward to being included in any further consultation you may carry out.

Yours sincerely

M H Williams
Elder

Mrs Lindsey Parton
Elections and Registrations Team Manager
Cheshire East Council
Sandbach
Cheshire CW11 1HZ

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: goldingjacob@aol.com
Sent: 03 June 2010 17:46
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Re: Wilmslow, Handforth & Styal proposed council(s).

Dear Mrs. Parton,

Many thanks for your email in reply to my comments and suggestions for your proposed town councils in this area.

I find your comments somewhat disingenuous and patronising in that your Sub Committee should suggest that to include all

options on a ballot paper would "confuse what is already a complicated issue for residents" of Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal.

What is complicated about clearly putting all the choices on a ballot paper? Why is having that choice deemed to be too complicated for us?

This is an outrageous assertion and slur upon this local electorate.

It is more probable that your Sub Committee doesn't relish a vote for one of the no cost alternatives.

Where on the ballot paper can one make a comment, as your email implied?

The leaflet you included with the ballot paper is sufficient in explaining various options but it is the ballot paper that should have carried these options.

This is yet another sad day for local democracy and your Sub Committee and all involved in this gerrymandering process should be thoroughly ashamed.

I and other parties are now considering our legal redress against the Sub Committee, its officers and Cheshire East Council.

Yours sincerely,
Manuel Golding

-----Original Message-----

From: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW <CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk>
To: 'goldingjacob@aol.com' <goldingjacob@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, 2 Jun 2010 18:42
Subject: RE: Wilmslow, Handforth & Styal proposed council(s).

Dear Mr Golding

I realise that it is some time ago since you forwarded your email, however I wanted to thank you for your input to the meeting at Wilmslow and for taking the trouble to put your comments in writing.

As a result of the public meeting held at Wilmslow Leisure Centre, the Sub Committee did in fact convene an urgent meeting that same week to discuss the comments raised and to reconsider the wording of the ballot paper. The Sub Committee agreed to amend the the ballot paper for the residents of Wilmslow, to give the choice of the two questions, as per the representations made - the Sub Committee accepted the argument that this would provide consistency with the ballot papers for the Handforth and Styal areas.

Thank you also for your comments relating to the alternative options to a parish council. The Sub Committee did consider this issue at an earlier date, but decided on balance that to try to include all of the options on the ballot paper would only confuse what is already a complicated issue for residents. The Committee agreed instead that the best course of action was to send a leaflet to all residents to clearly explain all of the various options, and to invite people to submit their comments in writing in this respect.

Kind Regards
Lindsey Parton
Elections and Registration Team Manager
Westfields
Sandbach

From: goldingjacob@aol.com [mailto:goldingjacob@aol.com]

Sent: 30 April 2010 11:26

To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Subject: Wilmslow, Handforth & Styal proposed council(s).

Dear Mrs. Parton,

I am attaching my proposals re the Wilmslow, Handforth & Styal ballot paper as requested at Monday's meeting at the Wilmslow Leisure Centre..

Yours sincerely,

Manuel Golding

=

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15 Ashford Road Fulshaw Park Wilmslow SK9 1QD
Telephones 01625 582517 & 07930 377778

Mrs. L. Parton,
Cheshire East Council,
Elections & Registration Manager,
Sandbach, CW11 1HZ.

30th April, 2010.

Dear Mrs. Parton,
Re: Proposed Wilmslow/Handforth/Styal Council(s).

Following the meeting at the Wilmslow Leisure Centre on Monday evening, I am responding to the request for comments on the voting format for the above council(s).

- 1) As mentioned on Monday, Wilmslow residents must be offered the same choices as both Handforth and Styal residents, i.e. do we wish to have a Wilmslow only council or a joint areas council?
- 2) Whilst your presentation made great play of offering town councils which would attract a precept cost to residents, I suggest you also include on the ballot form the options for residents to consider choosing one of the "no precept" options.
i.e. Area Committees, Community Associations, or Area/Community Forums.
If all the alternatives are not clearly offered it could leave the council open to a legal challenge.

The question would therefore need to be worded as follows or similar:-

Do you want a town council (which will necessitate a precept cost to residents)?

Yes

No

If YES, choose one of the following:-

- a) Wilmslow only council
- b) Wilmslow, Handforth & Styal joint council

OR

Do you want a no cost/no precept alternative?

Yes

No

If YES to alternative tick preference

- a) Area Committee?
- b) Community Association?
- c) Area/Neighbourhood Forum?

An explanatory leaflet outlining the above choices will need to be sent to each elector/resident, such as your "Community Governance Review - Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal" document as available on Monday, which outlines charging basis.

Yours sincerely,

Manuel Golding



JB/gen
0161 489 2206
0161 489 3812
John.Twigg@manairport.co.uk
2 June 2010

Manchester Airport
Olympic House, Manchester M90 1QX United Kingdom
t: + 44 (0) 8712 710 711 f: + 44 (0) 161 489 3813
www.manchesterairport.co.uk

The Elections and Registration Team Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields
Sandbach
Cheshire
CW11 1HZ

Dear Sir / Madam

WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Thank you for advising us of the review of Community Governance arrangements in Wilmslow and for giving us an opportunity to let you have our views.

The Airport Company values partnerships and relationships with communities in the local area. The Airport is a significant local business, a major employer, a neighbour, and landowner. Our aim is to develop strong community links, and communication is the key to this. We are always keen to talk to our neighbours so that we can tell them about our business and listen and understand their concerns.

We understand that the Council has received petitions for the establishment of Parish Councils in Styal, Wilmslow and Handforth, or one Parish Council to represent the whole area. Across large parts of the local area, the Airport has developed good links and relationships with 45 of the established Parish Councils, and over the years we have found them a helpful way of engaging with the local community. We host regular meetings with Parish Councillors, and the local Parish Councils are very helpful in raising issues and working with us to distribute material on a wide range of Airport activities. That includes applications to our Community Trust Fund, our education programmes with local schools and details of Airport operations such as maintenance works and runway closures.

Over many years we have developed a good relationship with the Styal Village Association. To us, the Village Association acts as a Parish Council in all but name and representatives regularly attend our Parish Council meetings. We have a good and a constructive dialogue with the Village Association and have worked with the village to support a range of local activities. The Village Association is representative of the Styal community and important stakeholders for us.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Our links with community groups in Wilmslow and Handforth are not as strong as those with Styal, and unlike Styal there is not an existing single group that represents the local community. Should Parish Councils be established for Wilmslow and Handforth, they would provide a greater community focus and contact point and be useful to us in developing local relationships. We do however consider that the establishment of a Parish Council for Wilmslow would not be appropriate. It would cover too large an area and would replicate much of the community activities that are covered by the Local Area Partnership. However, the wishes and the comments of local people would be particularly important in setting new governance arrangements.

Thank you giving us an opportunity to contribute to the review, and we hope that our comments and observations are helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Cornish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Cornish
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Community Governance Review – Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal Views of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC)

Terms of Reference for assessment

Cheshire East Council should assess the petitions and the proposals that they contain in terms of the following criteria and the key considerations:

Community governance in the areas must be

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area
- Effective and convenient

Main Points to address:-

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish
- Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest with their own sense of identity
- The degree to which the proposals offer a sense of place and identity for all residents
- The ability of the proposed authority to deliver quality services economically and efficiently providing users with a democratic voice
- The degree to which a parish council would be viable in terms of a unit of local government providing at least some local services that are convenient, easy to reach and accessible to local people

ChALC's Views

ChALC considers that an elected Parish Council in each of the three areas would be the most desirable beneficial outcome because of the following:-

- An elected Local Council has a mandate from the population of its area to represent it
- Other forms of local area management can be confusing, undemocratic, have limited focus/powers and may not be able to raise funds
- It is clear that Handforth and Styal see themselves as having separate identities from Wilmslow, and there is no history of 'togetherness'. One large Council covering the whole area may therefore not be the best solution
- Parishes in other areas of Cheshire tend to be much smaller than the area covered by the Wilmslow and Handforth petition (30,700

population). The three largest Councils (in CW&C, CE and Warrington respectively) are very successful – these being Winsford, Congleton and Great Sankey (all just over 20,000 population), two of which are Quality Parishes.

- The three Parish Council option would make Wilmslow the largest at around 22,000 population. Handforth at circa 8,000 and Styal at circa 900 would be large enough to be viable and successful in their own right
- The three Parish Councils option would allow the areas to have their own identities, electoral mandate, statutory powers, fund raising powers and perhaps better reflect the local diversities and interest

Cheshire Association of Local Councils
2 June 2010

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Underhill, Eleanor [Eleanor.Underhill@nationaltrust.org.uk]
Sent: 03 June 2010 12:06
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Cc: NICHOLSON, John
Subject: wilmslow community governance review

To: The Elections and Registration Team Manager, Cheshire East Council, Westfields, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 1HZ

Wilmslow Community Governance Review

Thank you for your letter relating to the Wilmslow Community Governance Review.

I am writing on behalf of Quarry Bank Mill and the Styal Estate, and the National Trust, to support the establishment of a Parish Council for Styal. We believe this would provide a useful forum, to ensure that Styal issues are funnelled effectively through to Cheshire East for attention. We also believe that the Parish Council would provide us with a useful entity, with which to consult and engage with our neighbours.

Please can you confirm that you have received this representation.

Yours sincerely,

Eleanor Underhill

Eleanor Underhill
General Manager
Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Estate
The National Trust

direct line 01625 445855
mobile 07824 597137

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-quarrybankmillandstyalestate

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Steve Rawlings [steve_rawlings@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 02 June 2010 22:23
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: RE: Parish Council ?

... and thank you in return for your measured and informative reply, Lindsey.
The NAPC leaflet only briefly mentions costs and their collection by 'precept'. It (the leaflet) implies the precept is directly converted into improved local services. Are there any available figures on typ collected to distributed sums ? Of course, I realise that direct costs are only part of the story, and that long-term benefits of people becoming more involved in the running of their local communities is es unquantifiable - but one must start somewhere !

Steve Rawlings

--- On Wed, 2/6/10, COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW <CommunityGovernance@chesh wrote:

From: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW <CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Parish Council ?
To: "'Steve Rawlings'" <steve_rawlings@yahoo.co.uk>
Date: Wednesday, 2 June, 2010, 17:52

Dear Mr Rawlings

Thank you for your response.

In answer to your questions, decision making at the moment is only made at one tier of local government i.e. East Council. Parish Councils can give the opportunity for a more local voice.

Parish Councils can take on additional functions which may not currently be provided by Cheshire East Cour decide to take on the running of services provided by Cheshire East, but perhaps to a higher level which cou provided previously. For example, a service such as grass cutting - a parish council could decide, based on l to implement a higher frequency of grass cutting than the standard - and raise a precept to achieve this.

I am not aware that the current system is failing, but some may argue that services to the locality could be er the formation of a parish council.

I have attached a copy of a leaflet prepared by the National Association of Parish councils, which you may fir background information. Please be assured that I am not advocating the formation of a parish council by my hopefully it will provide some context to what parish councils can do.

I will ensure that your comments are put forward to the Council for consideration.

Kind Regards
Lindsey Parton
Elections and Registration Team Manager
Westfields
Sandbach

From: Steve Rawlings [mailto:steve_rawlings@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 21 May 2010 15:57
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Parish Council ?

Dear Sir / Madam,

Having read the four page information leaflet that kindly provided by Cheshire East, I am still not convinced that a Parish Council would deliver compared to what we are currently enjoying.

My queries are:

Who or what exactly is currently making the decisions that a Parish Council would assume if created?
In what way is the current system failing? Are there documented instances of shortcomings of the current system?

From my admittedly limited perspective, communication channels between the public and local government are better than they have ever been, and the present call for more 'hands-on' governance (ie. by parish councils) is tomorrow's "unnecessary layer of bureaucracy".

Steve Rawlings
SK9 4AJ

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Centre, Call
Sent: 02 June 2010 20:45
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form

Name Robin Sibthorpe

Address 5 Manor Close
Wilmslow
Cheshire
sk9 5px

Feedback

Although we are both local electors only my wife received a postal voting paper.

I am in favour of a parish council for Wilmslow.
My preference is for a council just covering the Wilmslow area.

If you require a copy of this form for your records, please print using your web browser print button before submitting.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: martinhoyle@uwclub.net [01625525068@uwclub.net]
Sent: 02 June 2010 20:40
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Community Governance Review- Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal.

Sirs,

The Wilmslow Trust wishes to register the fact that it fully supports the creation of a single Parish Council for the whole area as illustrated by the map covering Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal area issued for that identifying purpose.

Martin Hoyle riba.
Secretary,
Wilmslow Trust.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Sent: 02 June 2010 18:04
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: FW: Community Governance Review -Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

Note: Mrs Gardiner has been informed that the figure of 900 is the population figure, as opposed to the number of people on the electoral register. These are the figures which have been provided by the Council's Research and Intelligence Unit and are based upon projections from the last census. Mrs Gardiner still felt that this figure was high, even given this explanation. Officers have concluded that the figure may be higher than expected due to the polling district including Styal prison, which could make the modelling slightly less accurate in this case. However, this is the best estimate of the population figure available for Styal, until the next census is conducted.

From: Judith M Gardiner [mailto:judithmgardiner@yahoo.co.uk]
Sent: 21 May 2010 10:59
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Community Governance Review -Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

Dear Sir/fMadam,

We have today received the above information document and our ballet papers. At the bottom of page 2 of the information sheet you have the population of Styal area as 900! I think the number on the electoral role for Styal is 568. Could you confirm which number is correct please?
Many thanks, Mrs. J. Gardiner

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: heidi sumner [heidisumner@btinternet.com]
Sent: 02 June 2010 16:57
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Community Governance Review

I would like a Parish Council. I would like a single Parish Council for Wilmslow only.

Heidi Sumner

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Centre, Call
Sent: 02 June 2010 11:36
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form

Name Ken Edwards

Address 48 Hurst Lane
Bollington
Cheshire
SK10 5LT

Feedback

First I welcome the three requests for improved community Governance in the Wilmslow Handforth and Styal Area and I am delighted as a Town Councillor and as Chairman of the Macclesfield Local Area of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils to note that the residents of these three areas wish to create democratically elected Local Councils. These Councils will give local people a chance to articulate policies to improve their local environment and to act as monitors of local services supplied by other bodies. They will also provide a focus for local community activity and contribute to the strength and coherence of their areas.

Secondly I would support particularly the request for the constituted Parish Council for Styal and the Town Council for Wilmslow and Handforth. Serious local governance may well require locally raised finance for locally determined purposes as well as being the recipient of grant monies from elsewhere. In fact there is a view that reasonably well off and socially balanced communities who put out a begging bowl while not prepared to put their hand in their own pocket for improved facilities do not deserve those improved facilities. Equally it is important that Town and Parish Councils should have the ability to raise funds in order to access funds from other sources in terms of matched funding. Also Town and Parish councils have often, very sensibly, offered grants to local community bodies such as Guides, Scouts, Air Cadets, Youth Groups, Friends who support facilities such as Community Halls and Arts Centres and Recreational facilities that contribute greatly to the life of the local community. Such voluntary groups greatly strengthen the bonds of local society as well as providing services that far exceed in monetary value the small grants Town and Parish councils provide.

I hope that Cheshire East Brough Council will do everything in its power to facilitate the creation of the two democratically elected bodies and that they will contribute to the well being of their residents and the strength of their local communities for many years to come.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Centre, Call
Sent: 29 May 2010 11:15
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form

Name Steve Edgeller

Address 27 Wingfield Avenue
Wilmslow

Feedback I don't think there's a need for an additional tier of local government in Cheshire. There doesn't seem to be anything a parish/town council could provide, that couldn't already be provided by Cheshire East.
I vote for no change.

If you require a copy of this form for your records, please print using your web browser print button before submitting.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Heather Furnival [heatherfurnival@hotmail.com]
Sent: 28 May 2010 11:09
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Parish Council

I refer to your information re a parish council. I have mislaid the envelope that came with the voting form so would like to submit my views via this email.

Question 1 - Yes i do want a parish council.

Question 2 - I prefer Option A, a single parish council for WIlmslow, Handforth and Styal.

Please advise me that this has reached you and is satisfactory.

Heather Furnival

Heather Furnival 7 Thorngrove Road Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 1DD 01625 524377

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Centre, Call
Sent: 25 May 2010 21:29
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form

Name Dr James Lethbridge

Address 20 Sagars Road, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3EE

Feedback Community Governance Review - Wilmslow, Handforth, Styal

I am in receipt of my voting paper and will be voting NO to the formation of a Parish Council. However, I object to the form of the paper since, if I vote No, I have no option concerning the area to be covered by the proposed Council. Should a majority vote for a Council and the decision is made to form a Council, or Councils, I am very much against Handforth being included in with a Wilmslow Council. If we are to have a Council locally I would want it to be a Council for Handforth, NOT Wilmslow and Handforth. The voting paper does not allow me express this view and I believe its format and wording do not give a proper choice.

Jim Lethbridge

If you require a copy of this form for your records, please print using your web browser print button before submitting.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Lorraine Millward [hlmmillward@btinternet.com]
Sent: 24 May 2010 13:21
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: RE: Postal voting paper

My preference is for one parish council for the whole district. I also note that Dean Row has been lurr Handforth and object to this in the strongest possible terms. Historically we are part of Wilmslow, NC information paper states that 'over 10% of the electorates' have signed the petitions - so almost 90% h seem that most people therefore do not require any changes.
Lorraine Millward

--- On **Thu, 20/5/10, COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW** <CommunityGovernance@chesi wrote:

From: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW <CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Postal voting paper
To: "Lorraine Millward" <hlmmillward@btinternet.com>
Date: Thursday, 20 May, 2010, 16:05

Dear Mrs Millward

Thank you for your email. I am sorry that your envelope did not contain a voting slip. Please would you be kir to respond to this email with your response to the consultation voting paper. I will then ensure that your reply with the results of representations received.

Thank you.

Lindsey Parton
Elections and Registration Team Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields
Sandbach

From: Lorraine Millward [mailto:hlmmillward@btinternet.com]
Sent: 20 May 2010 09:22
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Postal voting paper

I have received the information on the community review but, unlike my husband's envelope, my er not contain a voting slip. Please would you forward one as I very much need to vote on this importa
Thank you,
Lorraine Millward
89 Dean Drive
Wilmslow SK92EY

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Centre, Call
Sent: 24 May 2010 11:13
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Wilmslow Community Governance Review

[Submitted by Anonymous User]

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Feedback Form

Name Mr Derek Randall Smith

Address 42 Welton Drive
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 6HE

Feedback I have mislaid my postal voting paper but would prefer a single council covering Wilmslow Styal and Handforth.

If you require a copy of this form for your records, please print using your web browser print button before submitting.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: DEAN OAKS PRIMARY HEAD
Sent: 21 May 2010 10:22
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Response from Dean Oaks Primary

I would be **against** having a single or multiple parsh councils.

The reasons are:

1. The proposed parish boundary is drawn including some of our catchment area but excluding a large part.
2. It is not an economic climate in which to increase the costs for families. We have many families unable to contribute to the costs of school trips and who are not having holidays etc because of their financial position.

Janet Ciaputa
Headteacher

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: FMRobinson@talktalk.net
Sent: 20 May 2010 19:20
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Re: Community Governance Review

Dear Ms Parton,

Thank you for your prompt, lucid and comprehensive reply.

Regards, Mike Robinson

----- Original Message -----

From: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
To: 'FMRobinson@talktalk.net'
Cc: FLYNN, Mike ; GARRITTY, Mike
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 5:54 PM
Subject: RE: Community Governance Review

Dear Mr Robinson

Thank you for your email. The petition which was received from the electors in Handforth requested the Council to conduct a review which considered making a recommendation that a new parish be constituted to be known as Handforth Community Council - the area of which would be defined as the electoral ward of Handforth as known in 2007 (i.e. when part of the former Macclesfield Borough Council). This is the boundary shown on the map in the leaflet for Handforth.

The current Cheshire East Council Boundaries are different to those mentioned above, in that there is a Wilmslow North Ward and Wilmslow South Ward. The area south of the river that you refer to - plus the Dean Row ward are included in Handforth North ward, along with Handforth. The rest of the area on the map falls under Wilmslow South Ward.

The situation is also complicated by the fact there is currently a separate boundary review being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for England for the Cheshire East Council wards, the outcome of which is awaited - so these wards are likely to change for next year's local elections in May.

The Wilmslow Community Governance Review itself is only concerned with the potential creation of parish councils for the area and the potential boundaries of such.

If you feel, as part of the consultation, that the boundary for a potential Handforth Ward would be more appropriate to be contained to the north of the river, rather than as depicted on the map - then those views can be put forward as part of the consultation, by reply to this email. Historically (prior to the boundary review in 1999) the River Dean formed the Handforth Ward boundary, as per your understanding.

I have copied this email to my colleagues, who may be able to comment further on the boundary issues.

Kind Regards
Lindsey Parton
Elections and Registration Team Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields
Sandbach

From: FMRobinson@talktalk.net [mailto:FMRobinson@talktalk.net]
Sent: 19 May 2010 21:55
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Subject: Community Governance Review

Cheshire East Council are carrying out a Community Governance Review, having received three petitions asking for parish councils in the Wilmslow area. Included in the documentation of the review is a map of the area which seems to have re-drawn the boundaries of Wilmslow, Styal and Handforth. For example, the map shows Handforth extending south of the River Dean.

Am I correct in assuming an outcome of the review may be changes to existing recognised boundaries?

Mike Robinson
Handforth

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Bob Keen [bob-pollyk@tiscali.co.uk]
Sent: 19 May 2010 10:08
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Wilmslow, Handforth Styal - Views

I have received your circular and voting paper for the above proposals. I attended the meeting in Handforth but had to leave before the end.

My preference would be to leave things as they are to allow Cheshire East to settle down without any further layers of government. However, if the decision is that there should be a parish council, then I would vote for a single parish council for the whole of Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal and definitely NOT just for the separate parts.

The voting form does not allow me to express this view and hence the necessity for sending this email.

I shall send the voting form back voting for Question 1 - NO, but no doubt you will take into account my alternative choice.

R D Keen
44 Woodlands Road
Handforth
SK9 3AU

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Keith [keithpurdom@btinternet.com]
Sent: 16 May 2010 21:13
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: FW: Review Wilmslow Style and Handforth

Hi

You want people's views.

Stop this waste of money. If you are forced by law to consult you are not forced by law to send envelopes and prepay the reply.

Stop these ridiculous parish councils. Why would I want my taxes to go up so more self serving councillors can make more and more expense claims and fund more and more worthless but PC "initiatives" Get real Consult us please on how you are going to save my money not spend it

Keith Purdom
Bluechip Aviation Consulting
www.bluechip-aviation.co.uk
Mobile 44 (0) 78 1082 5497
Office 44 (0) 1625 536 063

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: J Pass [jacqueline.pass@googlemail.com]
Sent: 16 May 2010 13:46
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Cc: CROCKATT, Jim (Councillor)
Subject: community governance review

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my views on the above issue.

As a Wilmslow resident I can sympathise with the view that the creation of Cheshire East has meant that direction and decision making has significantly shifted in favour of areas further South, and that little is being done to redress this, but I do not believe that the creation of parish councils is the way ahead. These would merely add a further tier at local authority level with, in practice, very narrow remits and with significant expense. As to the notion that they would, "give a voice to represent local issues and interests", if there is an acknowledgment that this is needed, then Cheshire East should not have been created.

As to the alternative methods outlined there is only one viable suggestion, namely that there should be Area Committees composed of existing Councillors. All other alternatives cited would be undemocratic because they are not elected, and it would be a further transfer of power away to unelected pressure and interest groups.

Mrs Pass

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: JOHN GORDON [johnmoyragordon@btinternet.com]
Sent: 28 April 2010 18:58
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Wilmslow Town Council.

I should like to add to my comments submitted last week.

I have just become aware and I am sure most residents of Wilmslow do not know there are SIX County Councillors living in Wilmslow (plus those in Alderley representing Fulshaw) who have already been elected as being capable of looking after Wilmslow's interests.

There is a consultative Forum and The Wilmslow Tust lobby who have easy access to our Councillors.

To add another tier of representatives with their costs is not the best example of efficiency savings.

John Gordon 34 SK9 6JB 01625523833

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Sent: 20 May 2010 18:23
To: 'Steven Cunliffe'
Subject: RE: resident's submission on wilmslow governance review

Dear Mr Cunliffe

Thank you for your email. I will ensure that your comments are put forward to the Council as part of the consultation process. The feedback from the public meeting was very helpful. We have responded to the comments made about the ballot paper by amending the questions asked to the residents of the Wilmslow area.

Regards

Lindsey Parton
Elections and Registration Team Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields
Sandbach

From: Steven Cunliffe [mailto:steve@cheshiremedia.co.uk]
Sent: 28 April 2010 09:30
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: resident's submission on wilmslow governance review

1 Edgeway
WILMSLOW
SK91NH
Dear Mrs. Parton,

Thank you for the presentation that you gave to the meeting at the Wilmslow Leisure Centre on Monday and inviting written comments. Nobody gave a convincing case for the establishment of a parish or town council. Cheshire East already carries out the functions which can be devolved to a lower tier authority. The establishment of a second tier would lead to a blurring of responsibilities, with each authority blaming the other when anything went wrong. There would also be an additional precept for council tax payers already having to cope with the effects of the recession.

The ballot procedure appears to be flawed, with Wilmslow not having the same opportunity to vote on its own future as neighbouring Handforth and Styal, which are much smaller areas. I also feel that any ballot should be binding on the council, and not merely part of the consultation exercise.

Yours sincerely,
Steven Cunliffe (Wilmslow resident)

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: clive bassil [joyclive@hotmail.com]
Sent: 27 April 2010 10:52
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Cc: jimcrockatt@cheshireeast.gov.uk; paulwhiteley@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Subject: A Future Town Council

Dear Mrs. Parton,

Thank you for the presentation that you gave to the meeting at the Wilmslow Leisure Centre last evening and inviting written comments and questions. I felt that to ask my question and receive your answer in the "warm" atmosphere that developed last evening could have risked this most important and possibly seminal argument in favour of a Town Council, being lost.

As I understand the proposed operation of a W.T.C they would be empowered to carry out certain services for the local community. The funds for these services would be provided by CEC.

Let us use the example of grass cutting. CEC would presumably allocate funds within an annual budget for this purpose to a WTC. WTC would then be required to expend these funds for the purposes allocated. Should WTC by virtue of better (than CEC) purchasing be able to have the work executed at a lesser cost, is the resultant saving kept within the WTC and available for additional services or is the saving remitted to CEC?

Should the saving be remitted to CEC then what incentive is there upon WTC to purchase services locally or cost effectively?

Yours Sincerely

Clive Bassil (Wilmslow Resident)

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: Barry Buxton [barry@yobuxton.com]
Sent: 24 April 2010 23:38
To: KEEGAN, Frank (Councillor); COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Cc: ANDREW, Carolyn (Councillor); GILLILAND, Elizabeth (Councillor); FITZGERALD, Wesley (Councillor); MENLOVE, Rod (Councillor); BARTON, Gary (Councillor); QUINN, Lisa; HARRISON, Ceri
Subject: Re: Proposed 'parish' council for Wilmslow

Mr Keegan,

Many thanks for your prompt and reasoned response. I am encouraged to hear that there is no expectation that Council Tax will rise as a direct result of operating a Wilmslow Town Council.

I am somewhat disturbed, however, by the litter example you give for justifying this new body. It would seem to me that greater cost-effectiveness can be achieved by awarding one (possibly 2) contract(s) to an external contractor with true county-wide capability rather than allowing multitudes of local councils to each set up their own smaller (more expensive) arrangements. Or am I missing something here? I certainly don't see the rationale for "staff up in Macclesfield for all the potential problems..." when external contracting can be utilised. The rigidity and fully-costed expense of added headcount is the last thing that Cheshire East (and its associated parishes) should be contemplating!

Regards
Barry H Buxton

----- Original Message -----

From: KEEGAN, Frank (Councillor)
To: Barry Buxton ; COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Cc: ANDREW, Carolyn (Councillor) ; GILLILAND, Elizabeth (Councillor) ; FITZGERALD, Wesley (Councillor) ; MENLOVE, Rod (Councillor) ; BARTON, Gary (Councillor) ; QUINN, Lisa ; HARRISON, Ceri
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2010 9:31 AM
Subject: RE: Proposed 'parish' council for Wilmslow

Mr Buxton,

I agree with you entirely about the Financial success of Cheshire East. It has been a terrific rolling back of the cost base. We have more to do in actually starting to provide services locally.

The drive for Unitary Government in a Cheshire which was split into East and West was strongly supported in the Macclesfield Borough.

We always felt that we wanted to distinguish best practice locally and encourage that practice in other parts; for example, Poynton Town Council has been proactive in spearheading an approach which has introduced "Restorative Justice" and we can learn from their experience in tackling anti social behaviour in other parts of Cheshire East (which has no wheat fields - but the wheatsheaf was the recognised symbol for Cheshire County Council for many, many years and no one raised an army and marched on Chester.)

I have been a Parish Councillor in Alderley Edge for 23 years, and I know the good points and the weak points.

The good points are that as a Parish Councillor I am more empowered to effect change in my community. Cheshire East (which, to my mind, feels like a place, rather than a bus stop) has 107 Parishes at the present time and could have 110.

I am alive to the point you make about creating a new cost base for the electorate in bloated Parish or Town Councils.

An example of our dilemma was this. Litter is dealt with in the Wilmslow area by sending clean up teams from Macclesfield; we have been set challenging targets by Government in response times to actually clean up an area which has been reported.

If we staff up in Macclesfield for all the potential problems in Wilmslow, Alderley Edge, Knutsford, Poynton, Bollington, Macclesfield, Prestbury, Rainow, Disley and Handforth, then we would finish up with a bureaucratic cost base.

We felt that the litter could be dealt with locally, in each of the above instances, and that Cheshire East should give the role (AND THE MONEY) to each of the above places to carry out this task. That, in essence, is the thrust of the drive for a Wilmslow Town Council. We would contract certain functions to be performed locally in Wimslow, and as Cheshire East, we would give Wimslow the money which we, as Cheshire East, currently spend on the task within Wilmslow.

That means your Council Tax in future would be split between a Cheshire East portion and a Wilmslow Town Council portion; the important point is that in future your Council Tax bill should not go up because we have asked Wilmslow Town Council to carry out certain functions. Rather I would expect the Town Councillors of Wilmslow to be able to take the money which they receive from Cheshire East and actually deliver more value for money within their local community.

I am happy to carry on the debate on the benefits of local Town Councils, together with the cost implications for the local taxpayer.

Best wishes,

Frank Keegan

From: Barry Buxton [barry@yobuxton.com]

Sent: 21 April 2010 16:07

To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Cc: ANDREW, Carolyn (Councillor); GILLILAND, Elizabeth (Councillor); KEEGAN, Frank (Councillor)

Subject: Proposed 'parish' council for Wilmslow

Dear Sir / Madam

As a Wilmslow resident and Council Tax payer I object most strongly to this proposal. It is contrary to the ethos of Unitary Authorities whereby wasteful layer(s) of local government have been stripped out - something which has only just got underway and should be allowed time to prove itself before tinkering with the structure. For me, the removal of Cheshire CC and Macc BC and replacement with 'Cheshire East' (despite the daft name and logo - what's wrong with 'East Cheshire' and where are all the wheat fields?) has been a successful approach to cost-effectiveness in local / community governance. Parish councils can add cost, obfuscation and delay and seem to act simply to feed the needs of local worthies who think they know better than "big brother".

If this proposal goes forward with implications for increasing my Council Tax bill I shall be protesting in the strongest possible terms to the highest authority in the land.

Yours faithfully

Barry H Buxton
Tinctures, SK9 1QF

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COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

From: JOHN GORDON [johnmoyragordon@btinternet.com]
Sent: 22 April 2010 09:16
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Fw: Town Councils

--- On Tue, 20/4/10, JOHN GORDON <johnmoyragordon@btinternet.com> wrote:

From: JOHN GORDON <johnmoyragordon@btinternet.com>
Subject: Town Councils
To: communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Date: Tuesday, 20 April, 2010, 10:52

I am against any proposal to form a council for Styal Handfdorth & Wilmslow and certainly not in favour of a town council for Wilmslow alone.
I think it ridiculous to consider another tier of local government when we have just gone through the expense and trauma of abolishing one.
Politicians (and the public) say they want to reduce government and its costs.
Alderley Edge has certainly not been successful raising their precept by 70%.
Noone in Wilmslow wants that.

John Gordon 34 Knutsford Rd Wilmslow SK9 6JB

ALDERLEY & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Secretary's Address:-
Mr. R. A. Burden
"Mindanao"
44 Chesham Road
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 6HA
Telephone: (01625) 583079

Elections & Registration Team Manager
Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Middlewich Road
Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 1HZ

26th May, 2010

Dear Mrs. Parton,

Wilmslow Community Governance Review

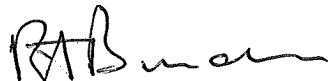
We thank you for consulting Alderley & District Probus Club on the subject of Wilmslow Community Governance.

The Club, being based in Alderley Edge, has no views on the establishment of parish councils for Wilmslow, Handforth or Styal.

It would not, however, be in favour of any change to the status of Alderley Edge Parish Council by way of combination with any parish council emanating from this Review.

Please note, this does not necessarily represent the views of individual members who have been invited by you to respond as local electors.

Yours faithfully,



Robert A Burden - Hon. Secretary
Alderley & District Probus Club

26 MAY 2010

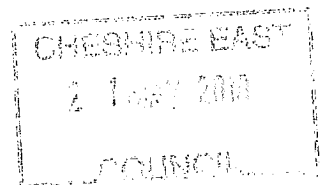
Wilmslow Historical Society

5, Sandown Close
Wilmslow.
SK9 2QP

Wilmslow Community Government Review

WHS has a membership of 120 of which only 49% live in Wilmslow, Handforth & Salford. As they will all have their individual reasons for how they believe the area should be governed, I feel it inappropriate to comment on behalf of the Society as a whole.

Mavis Jansen,
Vice Chairman.



75 Hampson Crescent
Handforth
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 3HF
19th May 2010

Dear Government Review Committee

I write in reference to views about the proposed parish/town councils. My views are as below:-

1. I do not want to be part of Wilmslow parish.
2. I would like an independent non fee paying parish council in Handforth.
3. Styal definitely deserves to be independent but that is up to the village to decide.

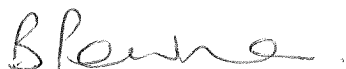
I appreciate that the 3 petitions were submitted all at the same time and this will cause lots of conflict. Personally, Cheshire East has yet to be fully established. Their full potential has yet to be seen. I am sure it will take several years for the administration to be fully organised.

I came to the meeting held at the Leisure Centre in Wilmslow. It created more questions than solutions. I expect the committee will have lots of debates and decisions to make over this.

My main concern is that Cheshire East does its best for the communities within its jurisdiction. If for instance, the council at the moment sees to the cutting of the grass in Handforth on a regular basis. If a parish council was established and they saw fit to undertake this job themselves what happens to the money allocated for this job budgeted for already? Would the council use this extra money for another needed resource in the community? To have a parish council incurs costs as the meeting in Wilmslow stated that a non-fee paying parish could not happen. The price per capita or household over time could amount to a large sum of money. There could be no capping and could be several pounds per week. Realistically at the moment it could be £1.00 per week per household.

Based on the above I will be voting NO. As the meeting stated a re-application could be submitted in two years when there has been more thought and organisation on the implications of a parish/town council.

Yours faithfully



Mrs B Pownall

8, Bollin Court
WILMSLOW
Ches., SK9 2AP

Electoral Services
Cheshire East Council
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

27th May 2010

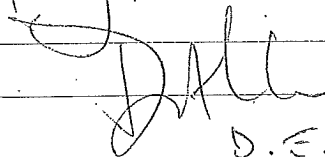
Dear Sir/Madam,
Wilmslow Parish Consultation

Further to my telephone call to your office
I confirm that the above documentation
has not been received at the above address.
I understand that you will include the
opinion expressed in this letter.

I am in favour of a Parish Council
for Wilmslow.

I am not in favour of a council
for Wilmslow Handforth and Styal.

Yours faithfully,



D.E. ALLEN

13 Draxford Court.
Parkway
Wilmslow.
17.5.10.

Dear Sir,

I would like to
know what if you have
a Wilmslow Council what
are STYAN and HANDFORTH
going to have nothing
of their own Councils.

Please let me know.

yours sincerely,

S. J. COLLINGS.

121.524881

Replied by hand 3.12.10 - L. Wilson 25/12/10.

7 Green Drive

Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 2EU

June 2, 2010.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to

convey my concern over the re-drawing of the Wilmslow/Hanford boundary to include my property in Wilmslow, as shown on the map delivered to my house at ^{No. 7} Green Drive, Wilmslow, where I have lived since 1969.

I have nothing against Hanford, indeed I like it. But I completely identify myself with Wilmslow, where I have for long been a member of the Wilmslow Guild, shop almost entirely in Wilmslow, use the town's library, attend the Methodist Lunches club, have so many friends here, I could go on.

The map shows Hanford to have moved to exclude a line up to the 'Blubell' corner, at the junction of the Manchester road and Dean Row Road. This is in spite of the natural boundary of the River Dane, where an official notice reads Hanford. ~~As~~ ^{after} you pass ~~pass~~ Wilmslow Garden Centre and travel northwards to Hanford.

All of this has come to my attention through your publication, Community Government Review (Wilmslow, Handforth, Styal) including the map of boundaries sent by East Cheshire Council. I'm invited to vote for a parish council, either a single one for Wilmslow or one for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal. I prefer one for Wilmslow alone. I don't want to be annexed to any area other than remain in Wilmslow, in spite of the Boundary Commission's decision as I understand it.

Thank you very much for your attention, and I would appreciate your comment on my views.

Yours faithfully,

M. Morris

(MICHAEL MORRIS)

Community Governance Review – Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

Voting Paper for Electors

1. You have two votes. One for Question 1 and one for Question 2 below.
2. Place a tick in the box on the right hand side of the voting paper opposite the option you are voting for under each question.
3. Put no other mark on the voting paper or your vote may not be counted.
4. Once completed, return by post in the pre-paid envelope without delay.
5. The voting paper must be received by the Electoral Registration Officer no later than 5pm on Friday 4th June 2010.

Question 1: Do you want a parish council?

1	Yes <i>W</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below:-

A	I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	I want a separate parish council for Wilmslow <i>W</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

W

April 2010

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

Cheshire East
Council

MR KEITH HUDSON.

48 CUMBER LANE,

WILMSLOW,

CHESHIRE,

SK9 6EA.

01625 528638

Dear Sir or Madam, I have

just received voting forms for another layer of governing.

In principal good, but the people who proposed it must of course have a good income. I on the other hand do not, and just a year from a basic pension.

In these times of belt

tightening it seems the opposite is on the cards.

A parish council will have an opinion, based on what the locals in the area want, and will find acceptable. So what is the point, Cheshire East will take no notice and do what they want.

For ten years I have driven past the Salamanca pub, but a proposal put forward by locals is out of keeping with area, have planners looked across the road.

What use there is a local Council, Cheshire east will override it.

Yours
Mr Keith Hudson

Community Governance Review – Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

Voting Paper for Electors

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3. Put no other mark on the voting paper or your vote may not be counted.
4. Once completed, return by post in the pre-paid envelope without delay.
5. The voting paper must be received by the Electoral Registration Officer no later than 5pm on Friday 4th June 2010.

Question 1: Do you want a parish council?

1	Yes	
2	No	✓

Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below:-

A	I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal	
B	I want a separate parish council for Wilmslow	



Community Governance Review – Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal

Voting Paper for Electors

1. You have two votes. One for Question 1 and one for Question 2 below.
2. Place a tick in the box on the right hand side of the voting paper opposite the option you are voting for under each question.
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Question 1: Do you want a parish council?

1	Yes	
2	No	✓

Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below:-

A	I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal	
B	I want a separate parish council for Wilmslow	



**Community Governance Review –
Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal**

Voting Paper for Electors

- 1. You have two votes. One for Question 1 and one for Question 2 below.
- 2. Place a tick in the box on the right hand side of the voting paper opposite the option you are voting for under each question.
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Question 1: Do you want a parish council?

1	Yes	
2	No	X

Question 2: If yes, please tick the option you agree with below:-

A	I want a single parish council for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal	
B	I want a separate parish council for Handforth	

H

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**Notes of Questions and responses – Wilmslow Community Governance
Review Public Meeting, held at Wilmsow Leisure Centre at 7pm on
Monday, 26 April**

Present:-

Councillors:-

Jim Crockatt - Cheshire East Council, in the chair
Paul Whiteley - Cheshire East Council
Don Stockton - Cheshire East Council
Gary Barton - Cheshire East Council
Rod Menlove - Cheshire East Council

Officers:-

Brian Reed – Democratic Services Manager
Lindsey Parton – Elections and Registration Team Manager
Julie North – Senior Democratic Services Officer

Public/Residents:-

Sarah Flannery – Independent candidate (Tatton)
Liz Jones – Wilmslow Resident
Adrian Bradley – Wilmslow Resident
Christopher and Jill Dobson – Wilmslow Residents
Steven Cah Wilmslow Resident
Claire Basil – Wilmslow Resident
D Roberts - Wilmslow Resident
Ronnie Dykstra - Wilmslow Resident
Mike Harping - Wilmslow Resident
B and J Pownall – Friends of Meriton Road Park
J Crompton - Wilmslow Resident
M Golding - Wilmslow Resident
Sally-Anne Hu – Pownall Park Residents' Association
Susan A Williams - Wilmslow Resident
Desmond J Williams – Resident/Parkwatch, Wilmslow Park
JF Gordon – Knutsford Road, Wilmslow
D Cash - Wilmslow Resident
Chris Murr – Resident of Handforth
Stuart Gould - Wilmslow Resident
Howard Ebdon - Wilmslow Resident
Pauline Hendley - Wilmslow Resident
Graham Beech - Wilmslow Resident
Helen Richardson - Wilmslow Resident

Questions and responses

1. It was queried what the wording on the postal voting paper would say.

Lindsey Parton – Outlined the wording on each of the three voting papers. She explained that this was a form of consultation, along with the representations which were expected to be received, and was not a

binding ballot. The feedback would have to be measured and there would be a summary of the voting papers received.

2. It was suggested that the voting paper for Wilmslow was “slightly skewed” and it was considered that the wording on each of the three voting papers should be the same.
3. Reference was made to the previous year’s reorganisation of Local Government and the formation of the new Cheshire East Council. It was stated that, when the Council was formed, residents had been told that one Council would cost less. It was considered that any proposal to create another tier of local government would increase costs.

Cllr Whiteley responded and agreed that it had been said that costs would reduce. Costs had, indeed, dramatically reduced and the process was still ongoing. The vast majority of the Cheshire East Borough already had Town and Parish Councils and the people had asked for this review.

4. It was commented that only 10% of the voting population had asked for the review.

Cllr Barton responded that the Council was obliged, by law, to conduct the review and during the Local Government Review, it had been said that there would be options. The Council had a legal duty to respond to the petitions, but would not force anything on the residents.

5. Reference was made to Alderley Edge Parish Council, which it was stated, had spent £2,500 on the renewal of signs and had increased its precept by 70%.
6. It was queried what a Town Council for Wilmslow and Handforth would do that Cheshire East Council was doing now and what would it do better. It was not fully understood how a Town Council would work.

Cllr Barton responded that it was not possible to say exactly how a Town council would work, as it would be up to those elected to it to decide. The Town Council would have money allocated to it and could use the precept money to focus on particular areas e.g Dog wardens. It would mean creating a body which focused on the Wilmslow area specifically.

7. Reference was made to the number of Cheshire East Councillors already representing the Wilmslow area. Were they not capable of looking after the area?
8. A comment was made that any Town Council would be able to decide the amount of its precept and how much it would pay for its services. Concern was expressed that this might lead to “double charging”.

Cllr Barton gave assurance that there would not be “double charging” for any services.

9. A comment was made that it was essential that it be made clear on the voting paper and any information relating to the Community Governance Review, what services were already provided by Cheshire East Council and what services could be carried out by a Town Council. It was suggested that this could be set out in a table format.

Cllr Whiteley referred to Poynton Town Council as an example of a Council which had raised funding for a particular service to be provided, through a precept. The Town Council had requested that Community Police Officers be provided, in Poynton and funding had not been available from Cheshire East Council for this. The Town Council had, therefore, raised the funding through a precept. This had not, therefore, lead to double taxation. Cheshire East Council was not pushing for a Town Council and the review was being carried out in response to the petition. If it was not what residents wanted, then they should vote against it.

10. A comment was made that there was a general expectation in the country that there should be Town and Parish Councils, as one level of Local Government. What had happened in Alderley Edge might not happen in Wilmslow. If residents wanted to influence Local Government, they should get involved in it.
11. It was queried how much weight a Town Council would have when commenting on large development schemes.

Cllr Crockatt responded that Town and Parish Councils did comment on planning applications and that their views were taken into account. Submitting a local view was a very important function of Town and Parish Councils.

12. It was queried why Wilmslow had not been separated for the purpose of the review.

Cllr Stockton responded that a petition had not been received for Wilmslow alone. The petition was for the whole area.

13. A comment was made that the voting paper was poorly worded and that it should be reworded to refer to the whole area and then each of the individual towns/villages.

Lindsey Parton responded that residents could make their views known today and that the Committee would then consider and reflect on the comments made.

14. Reference was made to one of the key considerations of the review, “the degree to which the proposals offer a sense of place and identity to residents”. It was felt that Wilmslow currently lacked community spirit and it was difficult to define the area. It did not operate as a village and groups did not work together, but existed in a fragmented manner.

Cllr Crockatt referred to the former Wilmslow Urban District Council, which functioned very effectively as a District Council and suggested that the community spirit needed to be brought back Wilmslow.

15. It was queried how long the decision would last, if it was decided not to have a Town Council for Wilmslow and Handforth.

Lindsey Parton responded that, under the legislation, the Council was not under a duty to conduct a further review in response to a petition for a period of two years.

16. It was queried whether there was a legal restriction to prevent the Council asking residents whether they wanted a Town Council for Wilmslow alone. Could the Council be lenient in its interpretation?

Brian Reed responded that there was a timescale constraint, in that the review must be completed by September 2010. The Council was responsible for conducting the review and had to decide whatever it felt appropriate, taking the residents’ views into account.

17. A comment was made that Local Government would be hit with a reduction in funding and that Cheshire East Council was likely to have to reduce its level of service, as it would be getting less funding from Central Government. It was queried whether this was a risk.

Brian Reed responded it was impossible to predict the future, but no doubt, there would need to be some reductions.

Cllr Whitley responded that, if there were cuts to be made, this would be across the Council area. It would differ from area to area. It was very likely that some areas would accept it, but there would be others who would take the views of local residents into account and this was the benefit of Town/Parish Councils.

Cllr Barton responded that it could not be said for certain whether a Town Council would reduce services, or increase its precept.

18. It was suggested that, if it came down to costs, would it not be better to have an option relating to Area Committees, as there would be no cost associated with introducing them.

19. It was queried whether the precept would be a “flat rate” charge.

Cllr Crockatt responded that it would be based on the Council Tax Band D charge. He stated that there were many businesses in the centre of Wilmslow, which put a strain on services and he understood the concerns of local residents that charges should not be passed on to them.

Brian Reed stated that Cheshire East Council would continue to provide a certain level of service and any Town Council would have to decide whether it wanted to provide more.

20. Cllr Barton stated that Wilmslow already paid for the tidying up of Wilmslow. He was not against a Town Council for Wilmslow, but could foresee difficulties in that residents would have to pay for this. In addition, the Travelling Community visited Wilmslow on two occasions per year and he queried who would fund the clean up operation.

Cllr Crockatt confirmed that Cheshire East Council would continue to fund this.

Cllr Whiteley clarified that the Cheshire East Councillors would still be Cheshire East Councillors and not Town Councillors. Any Town Councillors would be elected and decisions would be based on what the residents asked for. Rather than comparing Wilmslow with smaller areas, like Poynton, it might be helpful to compare it with, for example, Congleton or Holmes Chapel to see how they operated. In addition, he stated that the precept also depended on the area. For example, Knutsford Town Council owned some properties, in Knutsford and the income from them subsidised the precept.

21. A comment was made, by a local resident, that when he first lived in Wilmslow he felt that he could approach his Ward Member regarding services which needed to be carried out (e.g grass cutting) and the work would be done. However, he no longer felt that this was the case.

The public meeting commence at 7pm and terminated at 8.30pm.

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Wilmslow Community Governance Review Public Meeting held at the Handforth Youth and Community Centre at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 28 April 2010

PRESENT:

Councillor J Crockatt (in the Chair).

Councillors G Barton, D Stockton and P Whiteley.

OFFICERS:

Mike Flynn (Review Team Officer)

Brian Reed (Democratic Services Manager)

Cherry Foreman (Democratic Services Officer)

PRESENT:

Sarah Flannery (Independent Candidate, Tatton).

Councillor Frank Keegan (also of Alderley Edge Parish Council)

Councillor Howard Murray (also of Poynton Town Council)

Public/Residents:

Adrian Bradley, Malcolm Calvert, Rebecca Calvert, Bob Keen, Nick King, Rosemary King, Peter Mainwaring, Rod Menlove, Joanne Minnes, Christine Mitchell, John Mitchell, Robert Moore, David Pincombe, Anna Triantis, Anne Walsh, Elizabeth White and W White.

Questions and Responses

Q1 If a Town Council goes ahead how many Councillors will there be for Handforth, Wilmslow and Styal?

Ans *Brian Reed and Mike Flynn:* the number cannot be predicted at this stage but will come out of the process; it will be a minimum of 5 and the maximum is not set but generally is no more than 25.

Q2 What will the precept for Handforth be?

Ans *Brian Reed:* the precept will be dependent on the services carried out by the town or parish council.

Q3 PCSO's (Police Community Support Officers) have been appointed by Poynton Town Council, how and why?

Ans *Cllr Murray:* the PCSO's have been an excellent addition to the service: he explained the different categories of PCSO, the duties they can perform, and the cost to the Town Council.

Q4 Is the cost of town/parish councillors entirely funded by the precept?

Ans *Brian Reed:* they are funded by the precept initially unless other arrangements are made such as future grant monies.
Cllr Keegan: the wish is that eventually the whole of Cheshire East will be parished and that, with the award of the necessary finance, they would then take over the responsibility for certain functions and duties. At present Cheshire East Council provides a number of discretionary services and there would be discussions with the councils as to whether they wished to take them on.

- Q5 Are parish councillors remunerated? What resident's opinions were researched when including Finney Green in the Handforth proposal?
- Ans *Mike Flynn*: CHALC (Cheshire Association of Local Authorities) has a generic remuneration scheme which PC's can adopt, although none have. Travel and subsistence can be claimed but no allowances.
Cllr Whiteley: Finney Green has been included in the Handforth petition, although this is puzzling as the proposal describes the boundary quite accurately using the River Dean. He did not believe the Finney Green residents supported it, it was based on a Boundary Commission change in 2007 which was designed to retain 3 councillors in the ward but which as a result distorted the traditional boundaries,
Cllr Barton: the Handforth petition referred to the boundary of the old borough ward, but the ballot would enable this to be agreed, the petition boundaries were indicative not final.
- Q6 If the decision made by Council is different to the petition, it would be undemocratic.
- Ans *Brian Reed*: the Council has to conduct the consultation exercise to ascertain the views of the public and that could throw up something different to what was envisaged.
Cllr Barton: it is fully democratic, hence the ballot. The final option will be in line with the most popular opinions and, ultimately, the ballot response may be no.
- Q7 What questions will be on the ballot paper, and what happens next?
- Q8 Regarding counting and interpretation of the vote, are all the responses put together or is there separate counting for Handforth and Wilmslow i.e. will the Wilmslow vote affect the Handforth vote?
- Ans *Mike Flynn*: responded that the format of the ballot paper was to be discussed at a meeting later that evening. He explained the options for the 3 different areas, which would be separately identifiable, in order to separate out each area from the whole area of 'greater Wilmslow'. The ballot paper would ask whether or not a parish council was wanted and then, if yes, whether for the whole area or for a single area (relating to the area in which the respondent resided).
- Q9 The natural boundary is the River Dean, and until that is resolved how can those in the grey area make a decision?
- Ans *Cllr Crockatt*: the boundary will be decided before the ballot paper is sent out.
Cllr Stockton: there may not be a boundary to decide if a single entity is determined.
- Q9 Is there a capping mechanism for the precept?
- Ans *Cllr Whitely*: the precept is what is asked for by the parish council and Cheshire East Council only approves it.
Cllr Keegan: referred to the precept to be levied by Alderley Edge Parish Council which reflected the need to cover the costs of building a medical centre on to the front of the Festival Hall. The higher amount

was for one year only. The parish council had the power to raise money in this way, as did Poynton Town Council in order to cover the cost of its PCSO's.

Cllr Murray: stated that Poynton Town Council had not raised its precept for three years running. Accountability meant that if people did not like what was happening then you did not get re elected. The public could attend all the council meetings and ask questions, and also go to the Parish Assembly and raise questions – there was a whole raft of accountability. He referred to the current complications of double taxation on some of the services provided/carried out by parish and town councils but that this would not continue in the future as the parish council would have control of the costs and the services provided.

Q11 With reference to the services which Cheshire East Council wants to offload, do we know what they are?

Ans *Cllr Murray:* there is a difference between 'transfer' and 'devolve' e.g. Cheshire East Council has responsibility for litter but would like to devolve it to a local council or to a cluster of local councils, the finance for that primary function would follow it.

Q12 How will people not present at (this) meeting be able to understand, from the leaflet, the issues around double taxation etc.

Ans *Brian Reed:* the process identifies that there will be some benefits but there is a limit to the amount of information that can be included in the leaflet; its aim is to get people attention, there are other ways they can find out more.

Cllr Murray: it is a weak document and it does not do justice to the benefits. How do you put out the benefits of big v small groupings?

Cllr Crockatt: the parish councils would start in a small way and they would decide what services they would provide, gradually building in experience.

Cllr Keegan: a presentation was given recently in Middlewich, which set out the duties and responsibilities of town and parish councils; it would be useful to distil that information down for circulation with the leaflet.

Brian Reed: explained that the timescales for printing, meetings etc were extremely tight but that Cllr Keegans suggestion (above) would be looked into and, if possible, it would be put on the website.

Cllr Barton: confirmed that this would be discussed at the Sub Committee meeting to be held at the close of the public meeting.

Brian Reed summarised what would happen next and urged all those present to participate in the consultation exercise, in addition to having attended the meeting. He confirmed that the consultation exercise would end on 4 June, and that the results were due to be considered at a meeting of the Council on 22 July 2010.

Thanks were extended to the Councillors Keegan and Murray, from Alderley Edge Parish Council and Poynton Town Council respectively, for attending and assisting in answering questions.

The public meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.20 pm

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Public Meeting held at Styal Primary School at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 29 April 2010

PRESENT:

Councillor J Crockatt (in the Chair).

Councillors G Barton, D Stockton and P Whiteley.

Also in attendance Councillors H Murray and R West

OFFICERS:

Mike Flynn (Review Team Officer)

Brian Reed (Democratic Services Manager)

Paul Jones (Democratic Services Team Manager)

PUBLIC/RESIDENTS

B and T Torrington – Styal residents

A E Kawcock – Styal resident

Julia and Bill Mahon – Styal residents

Malcolm Fox – Styal resident

Aiden and Beryl Killoran – Styal residents

Eric and Brenda Wilkins – Styal residents

Simon Poyser – Styal resident

Alan and T Gardiner – Styal residents

E Wagner – Styal resident

S Briggs – Styal resident

Liz Jones – Styal resident

Ian Jones Styal Village Association

Oliver Swinburne – Styal resident

Jackie Haslam – Styal Village Association

Louise Drummond – Styal resident

Jean Nolan – Styal resident

Kate Leigh – Styal Village Association

Tony Gilbert – Styal resident

Peter Andrew – Styal resident

Jane Andrew – Styal resident and Styal PTA Secretary

Andrew and Judith Hewitt – Styal residents

Peter Highfield – Styal resident

Shirley and Eric Holt – Styal residents

Questions and Responses

1. A statement in favour of a Parish or Town Council was made but a question was asked on any potential disadvantages.

Ans Parish or Town Council can raise precepts to provide services. The disadvantages are not having the advantages, for example conclusion on matters such as planning and the right to be heard. Under Cheshire

East you have 3 representatives. Under a Parish you might have as many as 20? As a Parish you can raise funds for local activities.

2. Concerns were expressed that as a small village Styal may be lost in Cheshire East. Is there an appeal process should the council decide not to proceed?

Ans. Not that the Council was aware of.

3. If the town council "paid" for services, would there be a reduction in Cheshire Council Tax?

Ans. Parish or Town Council have the potential to deliver a better service. Some services could be devolved from Cheshire East. The Parish or Town Council would need to consider what might be viable. If services were devolved the Town or Parish councils might receive funding aid. With this you can improve the service.

4. Concern was expressed that as Styal had such a small population that it might not influence services in Wilmslow that the community relied upon.

Ans. Styal would still have Cheshire East so could still influence Wilmslow. If you have one big Parish council for the whole area, that could be influential. If you are small, would you have sufficient weight? The local community would need to consider how Styal would relate to Wilmslow and if its interests were best served by a small or large Parish or Town Council

5. If Styal were part of a big council would it have fair representation and get fair allocation of the precept.

Ans. If a large single council likely to be warded which would address this. For example there might be a ward for this area. In a bigger Council Styal might benefit more because of the larger pot of funding available. You would also continue to have Cheshire East Councillors and local groups. There are opportunities to take part through existing mechanisms.

6. What are we voting for?

Ans All electors will be invited to complete a voting paper, sent by post, which will ask the following:-

1. Do you want a Parish Council
2. Single Council for all three areas
3. Separate for Styal

Parish or Town Council will need a Parish clerk. As part of a wider area would only need one for all three and would be more effective.

7. The National Trust are a significant landholder. What experience if any is there working with such a body. They are an influential body. The village association are working closely with the Trust.

Ans They cannot put a representative on the Town Council, but they would be a partner. They are on the list of consultees.

8. Styal is next to the airport, can a Parish Council influence this.

Ans You might have more influence as a bigger Parish Council. You can produce a Parish plan that is sent to Cheshire East to form part of a policy planning document that influences planning developments

9. Can Parish councils be dominated, especially in a small area such as Styal?

Ans The point of a Parish Council is to focus on their locality.

10. When the Parish Council is elected must they do what we require?

Ans Through the parish assembly you can hold them to account and ask questions of your representatives

11. How do we make sure the Parish Council addresses the views of the majority of people? A bigger Parish may become a political body driven by the parties.

Ans A local Parish Councillor for Styal would be well known. Parish Councillors are not paid; they are volunteers and are not always politically motivated.

12. What happens next?

Ans The Council has to follow the statutory guidelines and timetables. Notes had been made of the comments made and these would be published. They will form part of the reports going forward. The Consultation would close on 4th June and be considered by Council on 22nd July.

The public meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.20 pm

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting: 5th July 2010
Report of: Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title: Wilmslow Community Governance Review: Supplementary Briefing Paper on Numbers of Parish Councillors and Warding Arrangements

Briefing Paper Summary

It has been recommended by the Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee and the Constitution Committee that three parish councils be created for Handforth ; Wilmslow (including polling district 8EE1) and Styal and:

- That in Handforth the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole;
- That in Styal the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole; and
- That given the substantial size of the proposed Wilmslow parish, and in order to reflect longstanding community identities, the parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of election to the Parish Council.

Members now need to consider the number of councillors to serve on each of the parish councils, and the warding arrangements for Wilmslow.

Section A below provides comparator information on the size of parish councils to assist in determining the appropriate number of parish councillors for each of the three parishes.

Section B then sets out options for the warding of the proposed Wilmslow parish, taking into account the imminent report by the Boundary Commission.

A. COMPARATOR INFORMATION RE: SIZE OF PARISH COUNCILS

The current electorate for the three parish areas is as follows:

Proposed Parish Council	Electorate April 2010
Handforth	5,313
Styal	592
Wilmslow	19,098

An analysis of other Town and Parish Councils in Cheshire East is provided below for comparison purposes:

Town / Parish Council	Electorate	No of Wards	No of Councillors	Electorate ratio per Councillor
Alsager	9,676	3	14	691
Congleton	21,694	6	20	1,084
Middlewich	10,743	2	12	895
Sandbach	14,833	3	18	824
Bollington	6,213	3	12	517
Knutsford	10,541	4	15	702
Mottram St Andrew	517	2	7	73
Poynton with Worth	11,994	3	17	705
Prestbury	2,880	3	12	240
Sutton	2,715	4	12	226
Nantwich	11,375	4	12	947

The following (non-grouped) Parish Councils have the minimum number of 5 Parish Councillors (All other parish Councils have at least 7 parish Councillors).

Town / Parish Council	Electorate	No of Wards	No of Councillors	Electorate ratio per Councillor
Swettenham	249	0	5	50
Lyme Handley	129	0	5	25
Millington	179	0	5	36
Snelson	126	0	5	25
Hankelow	216	0	5	43

Summary

The electorate for the proposed Wilmslow Parish Council is comparable with that of Congleton Town Council, with an elector ratio of approximately 1,000 electors per Councillor. This would seem a reasonable comparator for determining the number of Councillors for Wilmslow.

As the proposed Styal Parish Council is larger than those parish Councils with 5 councillors, and all other small parish councils have at least 7 parish Councillors, then it would be reasonable for Styal to have 7 Parish councillors, giving an elector ratio of 85 electors per Councillor. This would also be comparable to Mottram St Andrew Parish Council.

It would seem that Handforth cannot be compared directly to the list above, but if, say, 8 parish Councillors were elected, this would provide an elector ratio of 664 electors per Councillor.

B. PROPOSED WARDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR WILMSLOW PARISH COUNCIL

It has been recommended by the Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee and the Constitution Committee that: "Given the substantial size of the proposed Wilmslow Parish and in order to reflect longstanding community identities, the parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of election to the Parish Council".

The proposed options for warding are set out below:

Option 1

Members have expressed a desire for the Wilmslow Parish to be warded in accordance with the former boundaries of the Macclesfield Borough Council wards.

Map 1 attached shows this option.

Wards would be created for Morley, Lacey Green, Dean Row, Hough and Fulshaw. Polling District 8EE1 is to be included in the Dean Row Ward.

The wards would comprise the following polling districts and electorate figures (as at 28.4.2010). A further column is included to show the 5 year electorate forecast, which should be taken into account when considering electoral equality.

None of the polling districts need to be split to create this warding arrangement. This warding would work well on the basis of the current Cheshire East ward boundaries. The Fulshaw parish ward forms part of Alderley Borough Ward, but this does not create any electoral difficulties. The Dean Row and Handforth parish wards are co-terminus with the Wilmslow North Borough ward; and Hough, Morley, Styal and Lacey Green are co-terminus with the Wilmslow South Borough ward.

Using a ratio of approximately 1,000 electors to one Councillor; the proposed number of councillors for each ward can be determined; and is indicated in the end column of the table below. This would give a total number of 18 or 19 parish councillors.

Morley			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8FH1	1,867	1,820	
8FJ1	137	140	
8FG1	1,261	1,260	
Total	3,265	3,220	3

Lacey Green			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8EK1	2,139	2,090	
Total	2,139	2,090	2

Dean Row			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8EA1	847	810	
8EB1	2,148	2,180	
8EC1	478	470	
8ED1	793	810	
8EE1	1,378	1,280	
Total	5,644	5,550	5/6

Hough			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8FC1	1,342	1,330	
8FD1	905	920	
8FE1	621	630	
8FF1	1,191	1,190	
Total	4,059	4,070	4

Fulshaw			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8FA1	2,469	2,410	
8FB1	1,522	1,510	
Total	3,991	3,920	4

Option 2

The Wilmslow Community Governance Review is complicated by the fact there is an ongoing Boundary Review. The final recommendations of the Boundary Commission are expected to be announced on 13th July. An electoral changes Order will then need to be laid in draft in both Houses of Parliament. The timescales for the laying of the order are not yet clear.

If the Boundary Commission proposals for Wilmslow are implemented, as anticipated, then it is suggested that adjustments would need to be made to the proposed wards outlined in option 1 above, so that the new Borough Ward Boundaries aligned with the parish ward boundaries. In particular, there are 4 existing polling districts (8EA1, 8FD1, 8FA1 and 8FB1) which would be

divided by the Boundary Commission proposals. It is only possible at this stage to give indicative electorate figures for splitting these polling districts, as further detailed work will need to be done to provide greater accuracy. However, indicative figures are considered to be sufficient for the purpose of the Stage 2 consultation. Further work will be done upon publication of the Boundary Commission proposals.

Map 2 attached reflects the anticipated Boundary Commission recommendations.

The old Macclesfield Borough Fulshaw Ward would be divided on a North East / South West axis, in effect dividing polling districts 8FA1 and 8FB1.

Members may therefore feel it appropriate to create parish wards for “Morley and Fulshaw”; “Lacey Green”; Dean Row”; and “Hough” as shown on **map 2 attached**.

To accord with the revised boundaries, the wards would comprise the following polling districts and electorate figures (as at 28.4.2010). A further column is included to show the 5 year electorate forecast, which should be taken into account when considering electoral equality. As explained above – some of these figures can only be estimated at the current time.

Using a ratio of approximately 1,000 electors to one Councillor, the proposed number of councillors for each ward can be determined, and is indicated in the end column of the table below. This would give a total number of 18 parish councillors.

Morley and Fulshaw			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8FH1	1,867	1,820	
8FJ1	137	140	
8FG1	1,261	1,260	
8FC1	1,342	1,330	
8FA1 (40 %)	988 E	964 E	
8FB1 (40 %)	609 E	604 E	
8FD1 (22%)	199 E	202 E	
Total	6,403 E	6,320 E	6

Lacey Green			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8EK1	2,139	2,090	
8EA1 (33%)	280 E	267 E	
8FD1 (63 %)	570 E	580 E	
Total	2,989	2,937	3

Dean Row			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8EA1 (67%)	567 E	543 E	
8EB1	2,148	2,180	
8EC1	478	470	
8ED1	793	810	
8EE1	1,378	1,280	
Total	5,364	5,283	5

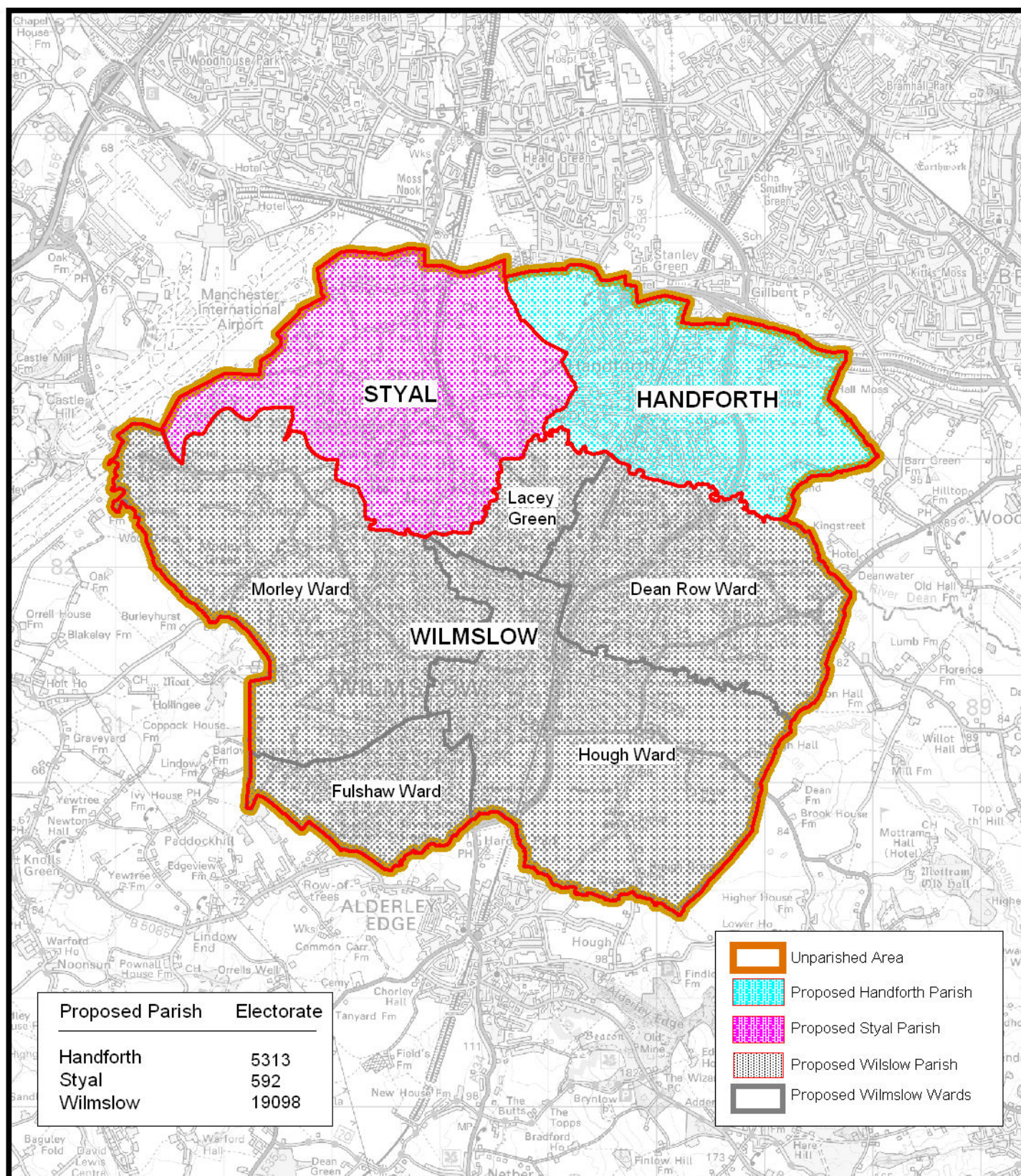
Hough			
Polling District	Electorate April 2010	Electorate 2015	No of Councillors
8FD1 (15%)	136 E	138 E	
8FA1 (60%)	1,481 E	1446 E	
8FB1 (60%)	913 E	906 E	
8FE1	621	630	
8FF1	1,191	1190	
Total	4,342	4310	4

Map 3 attached includes polling district references for further information.

Contact Officer : Lindsey Parton
Elections and Registration Team Manager

WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Proposed Parishes and Warding arrangements for Wilmslow



Not to scale

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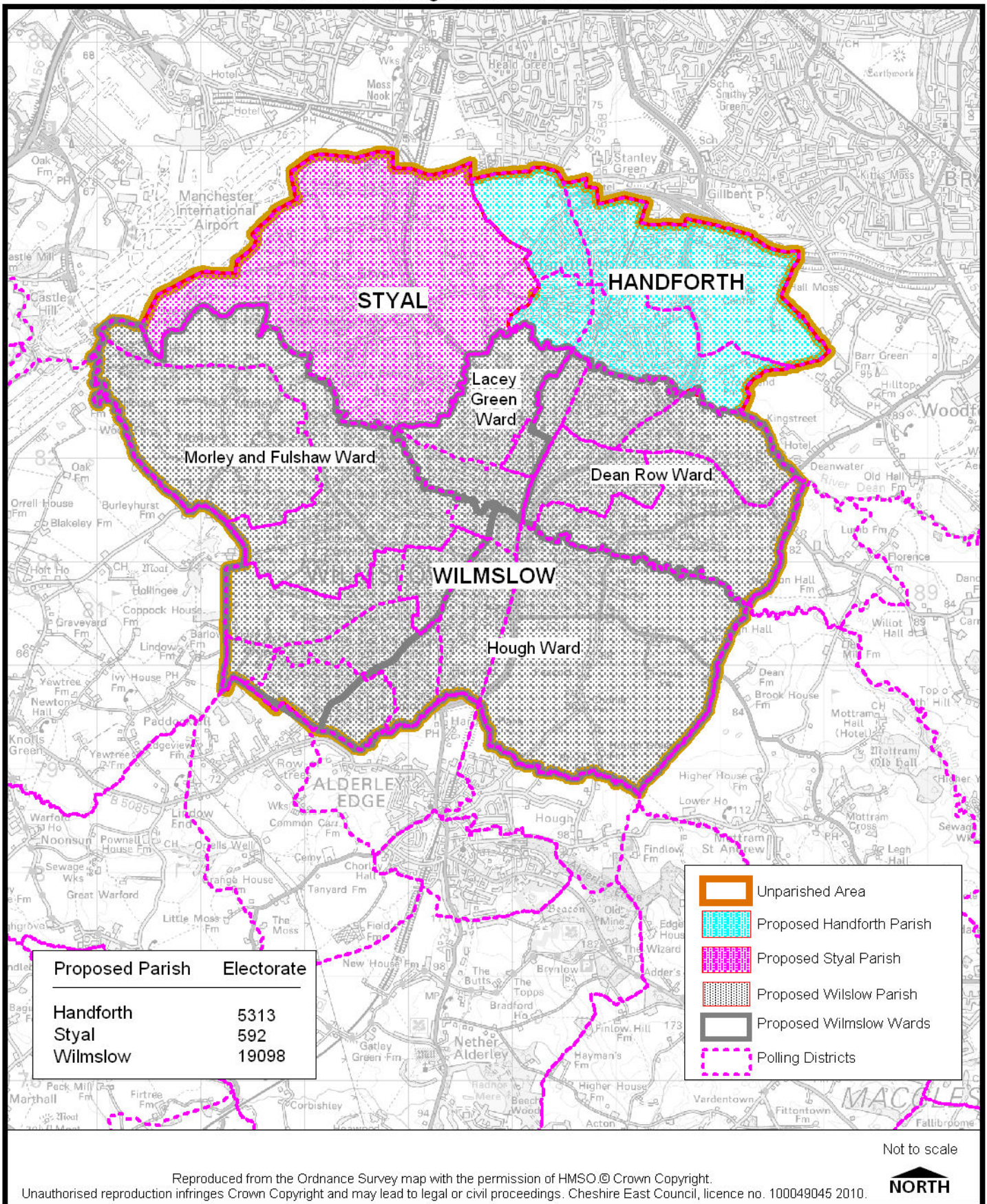
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WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Map 2

Proposed Parishes

Warding arrangement for Wilmslow shown here are based on Boundary Committee proposals for new electoral arrangements for Cheshire East Council

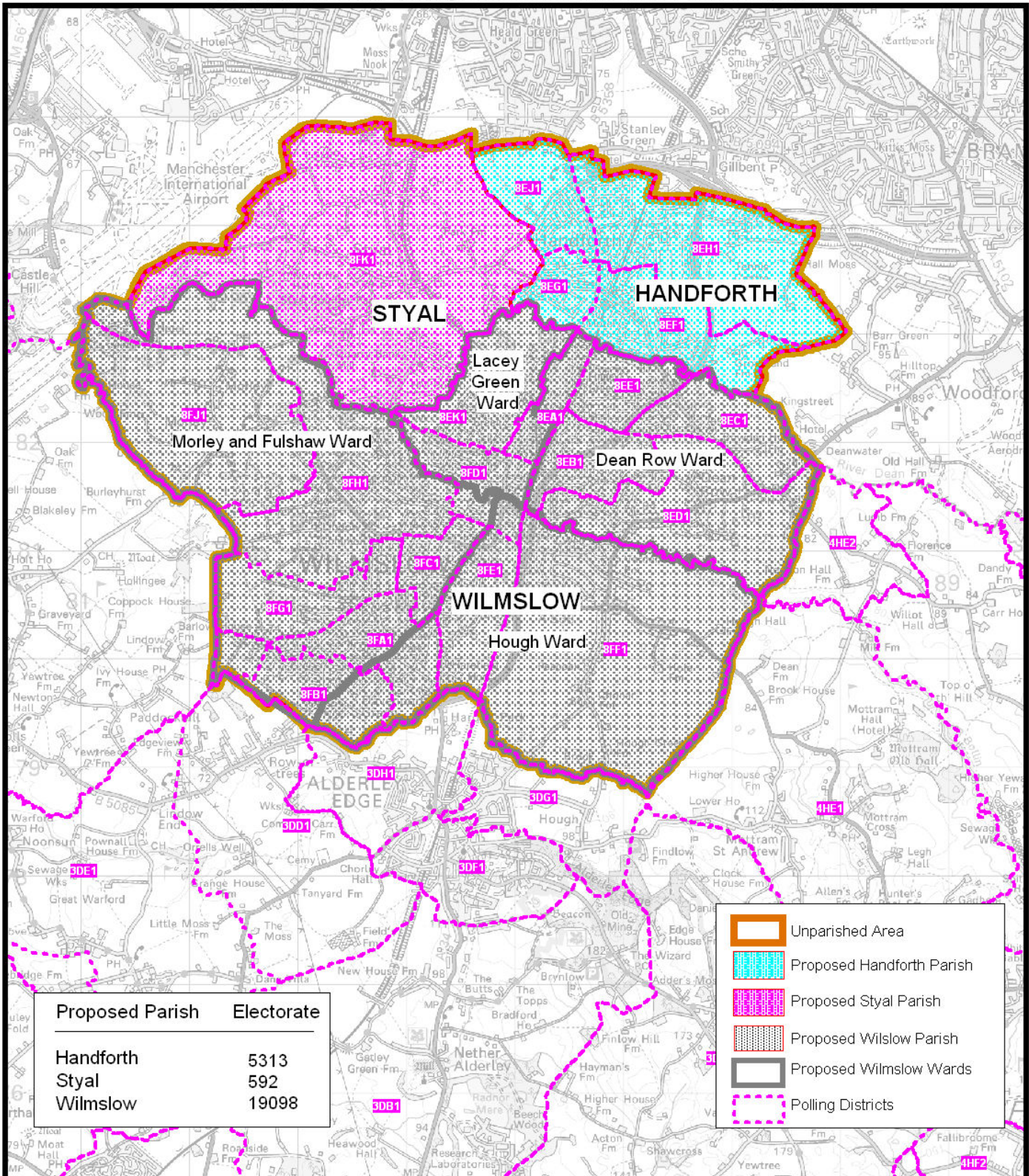


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WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Proposed Parishes

Warding arrangement for Wilmslow shown here are based on Boundary Committee proposals for new electoral arrangements for Cheshire East Council



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EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE ON 24TH JUNE 2010

6 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered a report seeking amendments to the Constitution to:

- (1) reflect the realignment of the overview and scrutiny committees with the new portfolio responsibilities reported at Council on 13th May 2010; and
- (2) make appropriate reference to the role of the Scrutiny Chairmen's Group.

Councillor Howard Murray attended for this item and was welcomed to the meeting.

It had become apparent over the last twelve months that the existing remits of the overview and scrutiny committees needed refining as some Portfolio Holders were being asked to attend meetings of more than one committee. The recent changes to Cabinet portfolios announced by the Leader of the Council had provided an opportunity to review the committees' remits. Revised remits were now proposed which would enable seven of the nine portfolios to be aligned to a single overview and scrutiny committee, the responsibilities of the two remaining portfolios, Health and Wellbeing and Performance and Capacity, each being aligned to two committees.

The role of the Scrutiny Chairmen's Group was to oversee and co-ordinate the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function. The Group had a key role in deciding on which committee should take the lead on cross-cutting issues. The Group also acted as a sounding board on matters of common interest across all overview and scrutiny committees, including new legislation and best practice. It also monitored progress with work programmes and reviewed workloads. It was appropriate to acknowledge the Group's role formally within the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED

That

- (1) the report be noted;**
- (2) Council be advised to approve the new overview and scrutiny remits as set out in paragraph 9.2 of the report, subject to the Performance and Capacity portfolio being added to the list of portfolios for the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in relation to the corporate plan and risk management responsibilities of that**

portfolio, and to authorise the Borough Solicitor to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution; and

- (3) the role of the Scrutiny Chairmen's Group in resolving cross-cutting issues and reviewing work programmes and workloads be recognised and Council be recommended to authorise the Borough Solicitor to make appropriate reference to the Group's role in the Constitution.**

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting: 24th June 2010
Report of: Democratic Services Manager
Subject/Title: Overview and Scrutiny Working Arrangements

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To seek amendments to the Constitution to recognise the re-alignment of Overview and Scrutiny Committees with the new portfolios reported at Council on 13th May 2010 and to agree to changes to the Constitution as it relates to the role of the Scrutiny Chairmen's Group (SCG).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That

- (1) the content of this report be noted;
- (2) the new overview and scrutiny remits be recommended to Council for approval, and the Constitution be amended accordingly; and
- (3) the role of the Scrutiny Chairmen's Group in relation to resolving conflict, resolving cross-cutting issues and reviewing work programmes and workloads be recognised and Council be recommended to authorise the Borough Solicitor to make appropriate reference to this role in the Constitution.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 By simplifying the reporting arrangements between portfolio holders and overview and scrutiny committee responsibilities, there will be greater clarity for Officers and Members. Co-ordination of the work of overview and scrutiny committees is a key element of managing work programmes.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 N/A

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 N/A

**6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change
- Health**

- 6.1 The Constitution sets out the procedures by which the Council policy is set. Any proposed changes to the Constitution would need to align with the requirements of legislation which often stipulates the Council decision-making route associated with the adoption of policies.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 Any changes to the Constitution would need to be agreed by Council, following a recommendation from the Constitution Committee. Proposed changes would need to align with any statutory requirements.

8.0 Risk Management

- 8.1 There are no identifiable risks.

9.0 Background and Options

Scrutiny Committee Remits

- 9.1 Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the 5 overview and scrutiny committees meet informally on a monthly basis as the Scrutiny Chairs Group (SCG) to review the work of the Scrutiny function. In April of 2009, the SCG put forward suggestions to define the scope of Overview and Scrutiny activity for each committee, based on the responsibilities listed in the Constitution for the 9 Portfolio Holders. Each committee was subsequently allocated a remit based on the recommendations of the SCG. It has become clear during the intervening 12 months that the remits need refining, as some Portfolio Holders were being asked to attend more than one committee, and the recent changes to portfolios announced by the Leader of the Council provided an ideal opportunity to undertake this task.
- 9.2 The SCG has attempted to improve clarity and accountability and to simplify matters by seeking to ensure that Portfolio Holders are responsible to only one O&S committee each. This has been achieved in 8 out of 9 portfolios, the only exception being Health and Wellbeing which will be divided by health matters being dealt with by the Health and Adult Social Care Committee and wellbeing being dealt with by Corporate. In this case, the Portfolio Holder has been consulted and is content with the proposed arrangements.

The new overview and scrutiny arrangements supported by the SCG are as follows:

COMMITTEE	PORTFOLIOS	PORTFOLIO HOLDER
Corporate	Resources	Cllr F Keegan
	Procurement, Assets and Shared Services	Cllr P Mason
	Health and Wellbeing	Cllr A Knowles
Children and Families	Children and Family Services	Cllr H Gaddum
Health and Adult Social Care	Health and Wellbeing	Cllr A Knowles
	Adult Services	Cllr R Domleo
Sustainable Communities	Safer and Stronger Communities	Cllr R Bailey
	Performance and Capacity	Cllr D Brown
Environment and Prosperity	Environmental Services	Cllr R Menlove
	Prosperity	Cllr J Macrae

The Scrutiny Chairs Group

- 9.3 The role of the SCG is to drive forward the Overview and Scrutiny function. Members of the group have recognised that it plays a key role in resolving potential areas of conflict /duplication and deciding upon which committee will take the lead on cross cutting issues. The SCG is forging a crucial role acting as a sounding board for matters of common interest across all O&S Committees, including new legislation and best practice. It also monitors progress with work programmes and reviews work loads. It is considered that its role in dealing with all of the above matters should be formally acknowledged in the Council's constitution.

10.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Mark Nedderman
 Designation: Senior Scrutiny Officer
 Tel No: 01270 686459
 Email: mark.nedderman@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 22nd July 2010
Report of: Borough Treasurer and Head of Assets
Subject/Title: Supplementary Estimates Approvals
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Frank Keegan

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 19 July 2010, Cabinet was due to consider the Final Outturn 2009-10 report which set out the financial position of the Council at the end of the financial year.
- 1.2 Cabinet was asked to recommend that Council approve requests for Supplementary Revenue and Capital Estimates, in excess of £1m, or which require funding from later years, or which are to be funded from reserves, in accordance with Finance Procedure Rules. Consequently this report seeks Council approval to the items shown below. The decision of Cabinet will be reported orally at the meeting.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 Council is asked to approve the following requests for Supplementary Revenue Estimates, previously approved as subject to outturn, which require funding from balances :-
- £2,291,000 for Adults Social Care Redesign
 - £125,000 for Economic Development
- 2.2 Council is asked to approve requests for Supplementary Capital Estimates to be funded from capital reserves, as detailed in Appendix 1.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Finance Procedure Rules require the approval of Council to requests for supplementary estimates in excess of £1m, or which require funding from general reserves, or which have significant implications for future years' budgets.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 Not applicable.

**6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change
- Health**

6.1 None.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 As covered in the report.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

8.1 There are no specific legal implications related to the issues raised in this report.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 Financial risks are assessed on a regular basis and will be reported to members quarterly. Remedial action will be taken if and when required.

10.0 Supplementary Estimates for Approval

Revenue

10.1 At its meeting on 15th October 2009, Council approved Supplementary Revenue Estimates (SREs), subject to outturn, of up to £3.8m for Adults Social Care Redesign, and up to £125,000 for Economic Development. At outturn these costs are not containable within the Directorate outturn positions, and therefore Council is requested to approve the SREs. In the case of the Adults Social Care item, £1.5m of this funding has been earmarked centrally for Voluntary Redundancies, leaving a balance of £2.3m to be approved as part of this report.

Capital

10.2 Approval is sought to Supplementary Capital Estimates (SCEs) to be funded from the Capital Reserve as set out in Appendix 1.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name:	Lisa Quinn
Designation:	Borough Treasurer and Head of Assets
Tel No:	01270 686628
Email:	lisa.quinn@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Matters for Decision - Requests for Supplementary Capital Estimates (SCEs) & Virements

Capital Scheme	Starts Year	Amount Requested £	SCE/ Virement	Funding of SCE/Virement	Virement FROM ...	
					Starts Year	Amount Requested £
Council are asked to approve SCE and Virements over £1.0m and funding from future years and funding from reserves						
People						
Children & Young People Gorse Bank	2008/09	538,000	SCE	Capital Reserve - Agreed by Lisa Quinn	2009/10	538,000
Health & Wellbeing Ground work Cheshire - Beech Rd Play Area	2009/10	12,762	SCE	Capital Reserve	2009/10	12,762
Places						
Environmental Services Vehicle & Plant Replacement	2002-03	39,825	SCE	Fully funded by earmarked Capital Reserve	2002-03	39,825
Safe & Stronger Communities Alley Gating, Crewe	2008-09	24,669	SCE	Funded Crewe & Nantwich BC - Capital Reserve		24,669
Performance & Capacity						
Total value of Supplementary Capital Estimates/Virements		615,256				615,256

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Council

Date of Meeting: 22 July 2010
Report of: Democratic Services Manager
Subject/Title: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/2010

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 The 2009/2010 Overview and Scrutiny report is attached.

2.0 Recommendation

(1) That the annual report be received.

(2) That the report be posted on the Council's Website.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 It is good practice to produce an annual report reviewing Overview and Scrutiny Activity.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 N/A

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 N/A

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 There are no identifiable policy implications

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 The financial implications of the 2010/2011 work programme are not known at this stage.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 There are no identifiable risks

10.0 Background

10.1 The reference text version of 2009/2010 Overview and Scrutiny Annual report attached summarises the activities of all 5 Overview and Scrutiny Committees over the period of the 2009/2010 municipal year. The report explains that the main aim of the Scrutiny function is to focus on the quality of Council services and other strategic Borough-wide issues that affect the lives of people in Cheshire East, and how Overview and Scrutiny will be improved to meet those aims. The report also sets out in section 5 an ambitious programme of activity for the 2010/2011 municipal year, and finally, offers advice to Members and public as to how to get involved in Scrutiny activity.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Mark Nedderman
Designation: Senior Scrutiny Officer
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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2010

Contents

1. Welcome from Councillor Andrew Thwaite
2. Introduction to Scrutiny in Cheshire East
3. Scrutiny Highlights
4. Improvements in Scrutiny
5. The year ahead
6. Getting Involved

1 Welcome

- 1.1 Welcome to this Council's first Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report. The Council came into existence on the 1 April 2009 and on day one, 58 members of the new Cheshire East Council formed five Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 In the intervening 12 months, each Committee has spent a considerable amount of time learning about the new authority and coming to terms with the sheer scale of the mission ahead. It has been a challenging but rewarding task, and I am pleased to be able to report that Overview and Scrutiny in Cheshire East has managed to carry out a varied and interesting programme of Scrutiny reviews. It is our duty now to ensure that momentum gathers pace for the year ahead and subsequent years, so that Overview and Scrutiny committees play a leading role in shaping the future direction of the Cheshire East Council
- 1.3 This report takes a brief look at the activities of all 5 Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Andrew Thwaite
Chairman Corporate Scrutiny Committee

2 Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny in Cheshire East

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny played a major part in the reforms introduced in 2001 in the Local Government Act 2000, to modernise the political management arrangements of Local Authorities. It provides opportunities for non Executive members of the Council to examine the way the Council provides its services, question how and why decisions are made, and plays a pivotal role in the shaping of future Council policies. The Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 further enhanced the role and powers of, Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 2.2 Overview and Scrutiny focuses on matters of real concern to residents of the Borough by challenging decision makers with evidence based reviews to drive forward better performance.
- 2.3 The four key principles are:-
- To provide a 'critical friend' challenge to the Executive (Cabinet)
 - To reflect the voice and concerns of the public
 - To be led and owned by Members of the Council
 - To make an impact on service delivery
- 2.4 The focus of Overview and Scrutiny activity is on the quality of Council services and other strategic Borough-wide issues that affect the lives of people in Cheshire East and in this respect, Overview and Scrutiny Committees must have regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy, which sets out the overall strategic direction and long term vision for the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area. Our approach is to be flexible and responsive, in order that we can react quickly to new challenges as they are presented to the Council.

3. Scrutiny Highlights

Corporate

- 3.1 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is mainly concerned with the internal operation of the Council and has been leading the way in promoting Performance Monitoring as a key tool to develop work programmes and ensure that Scrutiny investigates the areas that matter to the residents of Cheshire East.
- 3.12 The Committee has focussed in the first year mainly on learning about the internal performance of the Council and on forging links with its partner organisations, and on overseeing arrangements to have in place good support systems such as Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Customer Relation Management (CRM) for the Council.
- 3.13 The Committee set up a Budget Consultation Group just before Christmas 2009, to oversee the Business Planning process. This group played a vital part in the 2010/2011 Budget, was approved in March 2010. The group looked initially at the detailed budgets in each service area, and recommended that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee held formal consultation meetings prior to Cabinet recommending the final budget proposals in February of this year. The Group will continue to operate in 2010 to oversee consultation arrangements, but perhaps more importantly, to become involved in the construction of the budget and to monitor medium term financial plans.
- 3.14 The Committee also undertook to unravel the very complex arrangements that existed within the 4 demised authorities, in relation to the funding of voluntary and community organisations. In view of the intricacies involved, the Committee allowed detailed investigations in this area to be undertaken by a corporate officer working group. This matter has now been passed over to the Sustainable Communities Committee which will review the findings of corporate officer group.
- 3.15 As part of its asset management monitoring arrangements, the Committee was interested to learn that the Council inherited 79 farms formerly owned by Cheshire County Council consisting of approximately 10,000 acres of land. The Committee received a presentation on plans to review the land holding and to sell various assets on a controlled basis over 4 years, to realise £1.2 million in

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capital receipts per annum for the authority. This work led onto a further potential area of investigation into the asset held generally within Cheshire East, and this is expected to generate a significant work programme item in 2010/2011.

- 3.16 The Committee on 1 September 2009 called in a Cabinet decision to procure land for a waste transfer station in Macclesfield at the Hurdsfield Industrial Estate. The call- in generated significant interest from public and press alike, and although Cabinet rejected calls by the Committee to defer a decision locate a waste transfer on this site, in order to allow further investigations to resolve a number of inconsistencies identified by Committee Members, the site was subsequently withdrawn from sale to the Council, by the owners, due largely to matters brought to public attention by the Scrutiny call –in process.
- 3.17 The Committee undertook a brief investigation into the merits of web-casting Council meetings, but concluded that until the long term meeting arrangements of the Council were settled, it would be unwise to invest in the necessary infrastructure at this point in time.

Children and Families

- 3.2.0 Children and Families has had a particularly busy year starting in May with the committee taking on the continuation of a project originally identified by the People Policy Panel in the shadow year, to review the former Cheshire County Council's Transforming Learning Communities (TLC) initiative. The Committee set up a Task and Finish Group which made its final report to Committee on 16 November 2010, under the revised heading of Managing the Provision of School Places. The review outlined the attributes of a new system for managing school places taking into consideration key factors such as school's cost effectiveness, academic performance and local popularity. Cabinet accepted all recommendations.
- 3.2.1 A significant area of work concerns the safeguarding of children and this was brought into sharp focus recently with the Baby 'P' case. Lord Laming in his 'The protection of children in England: A progress report' had made a number of recommendations and the Committee had been kept informed of the Council's response to those recommendations. The Committee subsequently agreed to receive regular reports on the National Indicator set in relation to Safeguarding children. The Committee had also received regular updates from the Head of Children's services on the redesign of children's social care. The work in this area is ongoing.
- 3.2.2 In August 2009, the Committee was consulted on a particularly sensitive case concerning the findings of the Ombudsman in relation to a young person formerly in the care of Cheshire County Council. The

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Ombudsman had found that the County Council had been guilty of maladministration and had recommended that Cheshire East as successor authority should pay compensation to the complainant. The Committee commended the Ombudsman's recommendations to cabinet.

- 3.2.3 There are currently 2 Task and Finish Groups underway. The first is reviewing current residential provision for young people aged 11 -17 with a view to making recommendations as to future residential provision for Cheshire East children.
- 3.2.4 The second is investigating the range of different services currently offered in support of families. The group is expected to conclude its investigation in November this year and is currently in the process of assessing services currently provided, assessing the level of and improvements in the service the Council should provide, identifying whether there any gaps in service or duplication.
- 3.2.5 The Committee recently received a report on the current position in Cheshire East in relation to the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and national targets and support received from Government Office North West and the National Support Team.
- 3.2.4 Cheshire East rates varied considerably between areas. For example the rates in the Congleton area were relatively low but had seen a rise over the 10 year period, whereas for Macclesfield, Crewe and Nantwich the under 18 conceptions were much higher, but had shown a small decrease in rate.
- 3.2.5 The 'hotspot wards' where the rates of under 18 conceptions were high, were those that had the highest index of multiple deprivation. The largest number being in Crewe
- 3.2.6 The Committee supported recommendations by the National Support Team on contraceptive and sexual health services and the steps being taken to formulate a more targeted programme of action to address the issue of teenage pregnancy.
- 3.2.7 The Committee also received an update on the Care Matters White Paper, issued in 2007, which set out an ambitious programme of change to improve the outcomes of children in care. Care Matters set out a vision to ensure that in the future, children in care would have the same opportunities in life as their peers – a good education, good health care, and consistent support, advice and practical help to give them strong foundations on which they can build happy and successful lives. Improving the lives of children in care must involve all local partners and professionals including local authorities, Primary Care Trusts, foster carers, residential care workers, social workers, GPs and other health care practitioners and teachers

Environment and Prosperity

- 3.3.0 The Committee has had a busy year and covered a wide range of interesting and important topics embracing the responsibilities of 4 portfolios; Environmental Services, Health and Wellbeing, Safer and Stronger Communities and Prosperity..
- 3.3.1 On 6 August 2009, the Committee received a presentation on the Strategic Housing Review, Members decided that a significant area of importance for the Committee was to concentrate on affordable housing. It was agreed that along with developing a policy for affordable housing, Members would also visit examples of successful schemes in rural areas.
- 3.3.2 This year the authority dealt with the longest and deepest winter for some 30 years, the Committee gave consideration to the work undertaken by the authority and made recommendations to Cabinet for improvement.
- 3.3.3 The Committee received several updates on Performance Indicators, Members decided to focus their attention around street cleansing as this area was underperforming. Several suggestions for improvement, such as employing litter picking teams, implementing a charter and awareness raising were made to the Portfolio Holder and the Committee agreed to monitor this issue.
- 3.3.4 The Committee has some major issues coming up relating to waste. Members will first of all be reviewing the project to procure Waste Treatment Facilities by the Private Finance Initiative and will then set up a Task and Finish Group to look at the recycling collection methods.
- 3.3.5 The Committee was requested to review the Called-In Cabinet decision of 16 June 2009, for car parking control and charging in the area of the former Borough of Congleton. Members raised detailed questions relating to the consultants report being flawed and inaccurate, the proposed parking charges, the number of car parks and parking spaces being taken into account, the consultation process, residents parking schemes, civil enforcement and the proposed tariff bands. After detailed consideration of the explanations' and reasons for the decision, the Committee decided to offer advice to Cabinet, part of this advice, relating to the consultation period, was accepted by Cabinet.
- 3.3.6 The Committee was requested to review the Called-In Cabinet Member decision of 9 July 2009 regarding the introduction of parking charges on Thomas Street Crewe. Members raised questions and commented in respect of the detrimental effect on the income of the shops and office workers employed within the town centre, the current economic climate, the location of the car park in relation to the town centre, the effect on the use of the sports ground, displacement of parking, the

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number of car parking spaces and occupancy, the Car Parking Policy, the viability of the market, the development of Lyceum square and the charging being contrary to the local strategy. However after detailed consideration of the explanations' and reasons for the decision given by the Portfolio Holder and Officers from the Places Directorate, the Committee decided to offer no advice to Cabinet.

Sustainable Communities

- 3.4.0 This year Members concentrated on gaining an understanding of the services which fall within the remit of the Committee.
- 3.4.1 Amongst other issues the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee is responsible for the external scrutiny of the Local Area Agreement (LAA), Community Strategies and Crime and Disorder matters as provided by Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. To enable successful scrutiny to take place, a Protocol was developed, which set out the mutual expectations of Scrutiny Members and partners in connection with the involvement of the Committee in the community safety scrutiny process. Throughout the year the Committee received several updates on the LAA.
- 3.4.2 On 9 July 2009, the Committee received an introduction to Community Safety, which provided an overview of the service including CCTV, Community Wardens and the role of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership. Members received regular updates on the review being undertaken on the Community Warden Service and the CCTV systems and several observations were made to the Portfolio Holder for consideration.
- 3.4.3 On 11 February 2010, the Committee scrutinised the areas of the Budget which fell within the remit of the Committee. Members paid particular attention to the Regulatory Service, Libraries, Leisure and Cultural Services, CCTV and the Registration Service.
- 3.4.4 The Committee scrutinised the performance of the services, which fell within the remit of the Committee and that of the LAA. One particular National Indicator NI47 – number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents was highlighted by the Committee as underperforming, as the number of killed or seriously injured was considered to be exceptionally high, therefore the Committee requested that a representative of the Safer Cheshire East Partnership, attend a Committee meeting to enable this issue to be scrutinised further. A representative from the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service attended the Committee on 25 March 2010 and explained the reasons for the poor performance in this area. It was agreed that the Committee should try to help improve the performance of the service and the representative and Relevant Portfolio Holders will be attending a future meeting of the Committee to tackle this issue.

- 3.4.5 On 19 November 2009, the Committee scrutinised the Community Safety Strategy and felt that although the Strategy was comprehensive, it was too lengthy and written in a language that was difficult to understand. These comments were passed onto the Safer Cheshire East partnership for Consideration.

Health and Adult Social Care

- 3.5.0 The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee has built on the work and training undertaken during the Shadow Year in order for Members to undertake their scrutiny roles of looking at both adult social care and also externally to look at the work of various NHS partners.
- 3.5.1 The Committee has had a continuing focus on Social Care Redesign which is a major programme to redesign services for adults. The aim of the programme is to develop local services, improve preventative services and introduce changes to the shape and nature of service provision. Service users should experience greater choice and control including the opportunity to have personal budgets if they wished.
- 3.5.2 The Committee has engaged fully with the Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) as the commissioner of NHS services in the area. The Committee has been kept fully up to date with work at the Primary Care Trust to address its financial difficulties through its Financial Sustainability Plan. Specific work was undertaken to scrutinise the PCT's proposals to develop a healthcare centre in Knutsford. The Committee was kept fully informed of arrangements made by the PCT to deal with the suspected Pandemic Flu outbreak.
- 3.5.3 The Committee has received a number of presentations by the North West Ambulance Service who have discussed their performance in Cheshire East with the Committee paying close attention to response times in particular. The Committee has also looked at measures undertaken by the Ambulance Service to address issues raised by the Care Quality Commission following its unannounced inspection in July which resulted in a warning notice on cleanliness.
- 3.5.4 In accordance with its statutory responsibilities, the Committee has received a number of NHS proposals for Substantial Developments or Variations to services, commented on these as necessary and satisfied itself that the proposals have been subject to appropriate public consultation.
- 3.5.5 Members have been briefed on measures taken to ensure robust adult safeguarding procedures are in place including the introduction of a Safeguarding Board. Members also attended a training session on safeguarding – at this event Members met the independent Chairman

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of the Safeguarding Board and also received presentations on various aspects of adult safeguarding.

- 3.5.6 The Committee has been briefed on the preparation and content of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which was a joint document between the Council and PCT. The JSNA identified current and future health and well being needs of the local area and helped identify priorities and targets.
- 3.5.7 The Committee has spent time developing a working relationship with the Local Involvement Network (LiNK), including welcoming LiNK representatives at meetings and attending the LiNK Launch and Conference in November at Crewe Alexandra Football Club.
- 3.5.8 Members of the Committee have joined a Joint Scrutiny Panel with Cheshire West and Chester Council to participate in a pilot project to undertake specific scrutiny work around addressing health inequalities in rural areas.
- 3.5.9 The Committee set up a Task/Finish Group to scrutinise Obesity and Diabetes taking as its starting point previous scrutiny recommendations from work undertaken by the County Council on both these topics. This Group finished its work and submitted a report with recommendations to the Committee on 1 July.
- 3.6.0 Members have commented on the draft Quality Accounts produced by the Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and East Cheshire Hospital Trust.
- 3.6.1 The Committee has worked in a Joint Committee with Cheshire West and Chester Council and Wirral Council to scrutinise the work of the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, the provider of mental health, learning disability and drug and alcohol services.

4 Improvements in Scrutiny

- 4.1 We are making significant changes in the way that we chose work programme items. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee in April of this year, agreed a more structured approach in the way that Overview and Scrutiny Committees approve their work programmes, to ensure that the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees adds value to the work of the Council. For this reason, a full consultation process has been undertaken with colleagues in Cabinet and Corporate Management Team (CMT) as part of the formal business planning process of the Council. Input from Cabinet and CMT will not in any way dilute the independence of Overview and Scrutiny, but will build upon the inclusive ethos developed by Overview and Scrutiny over the first twelve months of the Council's existence.
- 4.2 In the interest of improving lines of communication and accountability between Cabinet, Portfolio Holders and senior management, the responsibilities of the five Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been reviewed, so that in future, portfolio holders will on the whole only deal with one Committee.
- 4.3 A joint protocol has been approved by the Sustainable Communities Committee to advise on the statutory arrangements to involve Community Safety partners in the Sustainable Communities Committee
- 4.4 A Scrutiny Toolkit will shortly be available which sets out the way in which the Overview and Scrutiny function carries out its work, and offers advice to Members, partners and public about getting involved in the work of Overview and Scrutiny committees.
- 4.5 The Scrutiny Chairmen's group which consists of the 5 Chairmen and Vice Chairmen plays a vital role in monitoring work loads of individual committees and will continue to meet monthly and oversee continual improvements in Overview and Scrutiny practice by keeping up to date with latest developments in Overview and Scrutiny nationally and regionally. The role of this group will now formally be recognised in the Council's Constitution.

5 The Year Ahead

- 5.1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Chairmen have recognised the need to acknowledge the important links between the Scrutiny function and the Council's Corporate business planning process .Consequently, in 2010/2011 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will focus attention on the priorities contained within the Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Council's own Corporate plan.
- 5.1.2 The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive recently met members of the Scrutiny Chairs Group at which they outlined the main challenges facing the Council over the coming year. The Leaders main priorities are:
- Adult Services - the personalisation agenda in adult services and the need to consolidate the 'jointness' of this service with the health service.
 - Children's services – safeguarding and underperforming schools
 - Health and Wellbeing – rationalisation of leisure centres, particularly addressing the varying standards of provision of service
 - Environment – particularly the performance of the planning function
 - Rationalisation of off street parking.
 - Sustainable - Area neighbourhood working – now have LAP managers in place and hoping for a leap forward in their effectiveness.
- 5.1.3 The Chief Executive highlighted issues raised by the Audit Commission during the area assessment and use of resources assessment undertaken as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process and although the new coalition government has abolished the CAA regime, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will continue to have regard to the key messages highlighted by the Audit Commission in relation to:
- Health Inequalities
 - Road Safety
 - Recession mitigation
 - Housing affordability and stock condition
 - Alcohol misuse

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- Anti Social behaviour
 - Improvement of Performance management
- 5.1.4 Two particular areas for improvement mentioned recently by the Audit Commission in relation to the affordability and stock condition of housing, and health inequalities, are already integral parts of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Work programmes
- 5.1.5 The Environment and Prosperity Committee is due to review the interim affordable housing strategy on 6 July 2010 and in the summer will be embarking on a tour of the Borough to witness at first hand the levels of affordable housing in the Borough. The Committee is also committed to reviewing the results of the Audit Commission Housing Inspection in November. Additionally, the Committee is programmed to revive the Task and Finish Group that started work on a review of car parking arrangements in 20 priority towns across the Borough by ranking each town in terms of its economic vitality by comparing employment levels, amenities, retail opportunities, transport, and commercial viability. .
- 5.1.6 The Council is part of a joint initiative with Cheshire West and Chester Council, in partnership with the Centre for Public Scrutiny, to undertake a pilot project on health inequalities m across Cheshire.
- 5.1.7 The Audit Commission has also given specific mention to educational attainment in Cheshire East, and this features prominently within the Children and Families Committee work programme.
- 5.1.8 The Sustainable Communities Committee will be undertaking a value for money study on the Community Warden Service and the links between that service and the functions provided by Police Community Support Officers. Linked to this, the committee will undertake a study of anti - social behaviour across the Borough.
- 5.19 The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee has a very ambitious programme involving a number of consultations with partner organisations and including:
- PCT Financial Sustainability and resultant Substantial Developments or Variations in Service (SDVs)
 - Cheshire East Community Health (CECH) – Services under Review
 - Alcohol Services – commissioning and delivery in Cheshire East
 - Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment – consultation
 - Mid Cheshire Hospital – Clinical Services Strategy
 - Vaccinations
 - Changes in the NHS - White Paper
 - Review of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
 - Caring Together programme
 - Health Inequalities including life expectancy and Marmot Report

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- Quality Accounts: North West Ambulance Service;
- Review of QA's from both Hospital Trusts;
- PCT Direct Delivery of Services (Autumn)
- Dementia Strategy
- Support for Carers
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Local Involvement Network (LINK) – Work Programme; Future arrangements and development of a working protocol

5.2 Corporate Scrutiny Committee is leading a consultation group looking at the business planning process for the next and subsequent years. This will lead to a clear programme of Member engagement in the budget construction and consultation processes for the 2011/12 Budget. The committee also intends to oversee the Asset challenge process that the Council is currently undergoing to rationalise its huge asset portfolio, inherited from the demised Council's. The Committee will also be monitoring the Leisure review currently being carried out by a cabinet sub - committee.

6 Getting Involved

- 6.1 Cheshire East is committed to working on behalf of its residents, and generating more interest from the Public, Media and Partners is a significant area for development. Overview and Scrutiny can make a difference and we would like all sections of the community to become involved in our work.
- 6.2 If you have a particular area or service that you think we should be looking at, please tell us about it. Following receipt of your suggestion, we will consider this issue for review. You may be invited to contribute by providing advice, information or expressing your views, if a formal review is carried out.
- 6.3 The overview and Scrutiny Team would be glad to hear from you.

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News release

Tuesday 13th July 2010 (for immediate release)

Local electoral arrangements for Cheshire East finalised

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has published its final recommendations for new local government electoral arrangements in Cheshire East.

Today's publication follows months of public consultation and draws boundaries for each ward across the Cheshire East council area. The Commission published its draft recommendations, which provided for a council of 82 members, in November 2009 and today confirms that figure in its final recommendations.

Max Caller, Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, said: "Our recommendations determine how many councillors will serve on the council. They also decide which wards you vote in. We're grateful to all the people across East Cheshire who took the time and effort to send us their views because having fair wards, where each councillor represents around the same number of people, is important."

The proposed new arrangements must now be implemented by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force the recommendations – will be laid in Parliament in October. Parliament can either accept or reject the recommendations. If accepted, the new electoral arrangements will come into force for the next council elections in May 2011.

Ends

Notes to editors

Full details of the final recommendations (including maps) can be found at the LGBCE's website at www.lgbce.org.uk

For further information contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England press office:

Tel: 0207 664 8530

Email: press@lgbce.org.uk

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for reviewing local authority electoral arrangements, e.g. defining boundaries for local elections and the number of councillors to be elected, and for conducting reviews of local government external boundaries and structure.

2. Table of new electoral divisions for Cheshire East:

	Electoral ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Alderley Edge	1	3713	3,713	4
2	Alsager	3	9,886	3,295	-7
3	Audlem	1	3,851	3,851	8
4	Bollington	2	6,716	3,358	-6
5	Brereton Rural	1	3,932	3,932	10
6	Broken Cross & Upton	2	6,944	3,472	-3
7	Bunbury	1	3,645	3,645	2
8	Chelford	1	3,299	3,299	-7
9	Congleton East	3	10,819	3,606	1
10	Congleton West	3	11,006	3,669	4
11	Crewe Central	1	3,683	3,683	3
12	Crewe East	3	10,590	3,530	-1
13	Crewe North	1	3,627	3,627	2
14	Crewe South	2	7,118	3,559	0
15	Crewe St. Barnabas	1	3,449	3,449	-3
16	Crewe West	2	7,705	3,853	8

17	Dane Valley	2	7,597	3,798	7
18	Disley	1	3,622	3,622	2
19	Gawsworth	1	3,217	3,217	-10
20	Handforth	2	7222	3,611	-1
21	Haslington	2	6,761	3,381	-5
22	High Legh	1	3,539	3,539	-1
23	Knutsford	3	10,247	3,416	-4
24	Leighton	1	3,918	3,918	10
25	Macclesfield Central	2	6,893	3,447	-3
26	Macclesfield East	1	3,682	3,682	3
27	Macclesfield Hurdsfield	1	3,532	3,532	-1
28	Macclesfield South	2	6,592	3,296	-7
29	Macclesfield Tytherington	2	7,174	3,587	1
30	Macclesfield West & Ivy	2	6,449	3,225	-9
31	Middlewich	3	10,646	3,549	0
32	Mobberley	1	3,606	3,606	1
33	Nantwich North & West	2	7,144	3,572	0
34	Nantwich South & Stapeley	2	6,545	3,273	-8
35	Odd Rode	2	6,888	3,444	-3
36	Poynton East & Pott Shrigley	2	6,458	3,229	-9
37	Poynton West & Adlington	2	7,074	3,537	-1
38	Prestbury	1	3,606	3,606	1
39	Sandbach Elworth	1	3,926	3,926	10

40	Sandbach Ettiley Heath &	1	3,870	3,870	9
41	Sandbach Heath & East	1	3,654	3,654	3
42	Sandbach Town	1	3,910	3,910	10
43	Shavington	1	3,251	3,251	-9
44	Sutton	1	3,619	3,619	2
45	Willaston & Rope	1	3,889	3,889	9
46	Wilmslow Dean Row	1	3,433	3,433	-4
47	Wilmslow East	1	3,328	3,328	-7
48	Wilmslow Lacey Green	1	3,742	3,742	5
49	Wilmslow West	2	7,645	3,823	7
50	Wistaston	2	7,637	3,819	7
51	Wrenbury	1	3,758	3,758	6
52	Wybunbury	1	3,907	3,907	10
	Totals	82	291,964	–	–
	Averages	–	–	3,562	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Cheshire East Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the area. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number



New electoral arrangements for Cheshire East Council

July 2010

Translations and other formats

For information on obtaining this publication in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

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Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body which conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. The broad purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors and the names, number and boundaries of wards or divisions – for a specific local authority. We are conducting an electoral review of Cheshire East to ensure that the authority has appropriate electoral arrangements that reflect its functions and political management structure.

The review aims to ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same. The Boundary Committee for England commenced the review in 2009. However, on 1 April 2010 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England assumed the functions of the Boundary Committee and is now conducting the review. It therefore falls to us to complete the work of the Boundary Committee.

This review was conducted in four stages:

Stage	Stage starts	Description
Council size	24 February 2009	Submission of proposals to us and our analysis and deliberation on council size
One	12 May 2009	Submission of proposals to us on wider electoral arrangements
Two	3 August 2009	Our analysis and deliberation
Three	10 November 2009	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
Four	15 February 2010	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Draft recommendations

The Boundary Committee proposed a council size of 82 comprising a pattern of six three-member wards, 18 two-member wards and 28 single-member wards. The proposals were based on the four authority-wide schemes with some modification. Broadly speaking, the draft recommendations would provide good levels of electoral equality.

Submissions received

During Stage Three the Boundary Committee received 201 submissions, including submissions from the Council, the Congleton and Macclesfield Conservative Associations, the Cheshire East Labour Local Government Committee and the Crewe & Nantwich Liberal Democrats. The remainder of the submissions received were localised comments, predominantly from parish councils and local residents. In particular, alternative proposals were put forward for the Crewe and Nantwich area, Poynton and the rural east of the authority and Handforth. Furthermore, several

minor proposed changes to the draft recommendations were submitted. All submissions can be viewed on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk.

Analysis and final recommendations

Electorate figures

The Council submitted electorate forecasts for December 2013, a period five years on from the December 2008 electoral roll which is the basis for this review. The electorate forecasts projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 1.8% over this period. The majority of this growth is expected in urban areas, such as Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield and Sandbach. The Council advised the Boundary Committee of development that they considered likely to be completed by 2013 which has been included in their estimates. Following recent changes in legislation, we also need to have regard to a five-year forecast from the date of the publication of our final recommendations. We therefore requested that the Council provide a forecast for 2015. Having considered these projected electoral forecasts, we are content that they provide the best estimate that can be made at this time.

General analysis

Throughout the review process, the primary consideration has been to achieve good electoral equality, while seeking to reflect community identities and securing effective and convenient local government. Having considered the submissions received during Stage Three, we have sought to reflect community identities and improve the levels of electoral fairness. The Boundary Committee's draft recommendations were based on elements of a number of warding proposals submitted. Our final recommendations take account of submissions received during Stage Three, and several minor changes have been made to reflect the evidence received.

Our final recommendations for Cheshire East are that the Council should have 82 members, with 28 single-member wards, 18 two-member wards and six three-member wards.

What happens next?

We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Cheshire East Council. The changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Parliament can either accept or reject our recommendations. If accepted, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the next elections for Cheshire East Council, in 2011.

We are grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have contributed to the review through expressing their views and advice. The full report is available to download at www.lgbce.org.uk.

1 Introduction

1 The Electoral Commission directed the Boundary Committee for England to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements for Cheshire East. The review commenced on 24 February 2009. Subsequently, the Committee wrote to the principal local authorities in the Cheshire East area (the former county and district councils) together with other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals on the most appropriate council size for the new council. Following its decision on council size, the Boundary Committee invited the submission of proposals on the warding arrangements for the new council. The submissions received during Stage One of this review informed the Boundary Committee's *New electoral arrangements for Cheshire East Council*, which was published on 10 November 2009. It then undertook a further period of consultation which ended on 15 February 2010.

2 On 1 April 2010, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England assumed the functions of the Boundary Committee. We have now reconsidered the draft recommendations in the light of the further evidence received and whether to modify them.

What is an electoral review?

3 The main aim of an electoral review is to try to ensure 'electoral equality', which means that all councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors. Our objective is to make recommendations that will achieve good electoral equality, while also trying to reflect communities in the area and provide for effective and convenient local government.

4 Our three main considerations – equalising the number of electors each councillor represents; reflecting community identity; and providing for effective and convenient local government – are set out in legislation and our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations.¹

5 Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Why are we conducting a review in Cheshire East?

6 A Statutory Instrument was approved by Parliament on 25 February 2008, establishing a new Cheshire East unitary authority from 1 April 2009. The Order provided for a shadow authority for Cheshire East based on the area of the districts of Macclesfield, Congleton and Crewe & Nantwich. On 1 April 2009, Cheshire East Council was formerly established and took over its responsibilities from the former county and district councils. On 1 May 2008, elections to the shadow authority were held on the basis of the 27 former county divisions for the area, each returning three members.

7 The Electoral Commission was obliged, by law, to consider whether an electoral review was needed following such a change in local government. Its view was that an electoral review of Cheshire East should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

¹ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) assuming the functions of the Boundary Committee, the LGBCE is now conducting the review. It therefore falls to us to complete the work of the Boundary Committee.

How will our recommendations affect you?

8 Our recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the council. They will also determine which electoral ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward and, in some instances, which parish or town council wards you vote in. Your electoral ward name may change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. If you live in a parish, the name or boundaries of that parish will not change.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

9 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. It is responsible for conducting reviews.

Members of the Commission are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL (Deputy Chair)
Jane Earl
Joan Jones CBE
Professor Colin Mellors

Chief Executive: Alan Cogbill
Director of Reviews: Archie Gall

2 Analysis and final recommendations

10 We have now finalised our recommendations on the electoral arrangements for Cheshire East.

11 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for Cheshire East is to achieve a level of electoral fairness – that is, each elector’s vote being worth the same as another’s in the election of councillors. In doing so we must have regard to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009², with the need to:

- secure effective and convenient local government
- provide for equality of representation
- reflect the identities and interests of local communities, in particular
 - the desirability of arriving at boundaries that easily identifiable
 - the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties

12 Legislation also states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over the next five years following the end of a review. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for the wards we put forward at the end of the review.

13 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable and there must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum. We therefore recommend strongly that, in formulating proposals for us to consider, local authorities and other interested parties should also try to keep variances to a minimum, making adjustments to reflect relevant factors such as community identity and interests. As mentioned above, we aim to recommend a scheme which provides improved electoral fairness over a five-year period.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Cheshire East or the external boundaries or names of parish or town councils, or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that our recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. Our proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries, and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

15 Prior to and during the initial stages of the review, members and officers of the Boundary Committee visited Cheshire East and met with officers, members and parish and town councils. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance. The Committee received 44 submissions during its initial consultation on council size for the new authority, 60 representations during Stage One, and 201 submissions at Stage Three. All submissions may be inspected at both our offices and those of Cheshire East Council. All representations received can also be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

16 We take the evidence received during consultation very seriously and the submissions received were carefully considered before we formulated our final recommendations. Officers from the Commission have also been assisted by officers at Cheshire East Council who have provided relevant information throughout the review. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance.

Electorate figures

17 As part of this review Cheshire East Council, supported by the three former district councils in the area of the authority, submitted electorate rolls for December 2008, along with electorate forecasts for the year 2013. These figures projected an increase in the electorate of approximately 1.8% over the five-year period from 2008 to 2013. This growth is projected to be concentrated in the urban areas of the authority such as Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield and Sandbach.

18 During Stage One, the Boundary Committee received several comments from respondents querying the electorate projections in areas such as Poynton, Holmes Chapel and Alsager and citing the potential impact of additional residential development and demographic changes in these areas. The Boundary Committee discussed these concerns with the Council. The Council have advised that those portions of potential new developments that they consider likely to be completed by 2013 had been included in their estimates and provided details of the specific development sites involved. They have also provided details of the manner in which they had factored the impact of changes in household numbers and composition into their electorate forecasts.

19 Following recent changes in legislation, we are required to have regard to a five-year forecast from the date of the publication of our final recommendations. We therefore requested that the Council provide a further electorate forecast for 2015. Having considered these projected electoral forecasts, we remain satisfied that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality, strong boundaries and reflect community identities. We have therefore used them as the basis of our final recommendations.

Council size

20 The Cheshire (Structural Changes) Order ('the Order') provided electoral arrangements for the new Cheshire East unitary authority. The authority is currently operating with a council size (the term we use to describe the total number of councillors elected to any authority) of 81 members. The Order allocated three members for each ward, based on the historic pattern of Cheshire County Council divisions in the area of Cheshire East, last subject to an electoral review by the Local Government Commission for England in 2000.

21 As the authority is a new council which combines the responsibilities of the former county and district councils, it is necessary to consider the number of members required to provide for effective and convenient local government. Furthermore, it is important to consider this without being bound by the former number of county and district councillors in the area and to consider how the new authority is managed and how it intends to engage with and empower its local communities.

22 At the beginning of the electoral review, the Boundary Committee consulted locally on the most appropriate council size for the authority and received 44 submissions. These submissions included proposals by Cheshire East Council, local Liberal Democrat groups, the Cheshire Labour Local Government Committee, parish councils, along with individual councillors and residents. It is noteworthy that 18 of the submissions received at this stage exclusively raised concerns in relation to unitary ward boundaries. The Committee considered all of the submissions received when formulating its draft recommendations for Cheshire East.

23 There was a lack of consensus in the proposals received during this stage. From the 22 submissions that did indicate a specific council size, proposals encompassed a potential range from 34 to 135 members, of which 20 suggested a council size of between 80 and 100 members. The Liberal Democrat and Labour submissions sought an increase in council size to 90 members, while the Council sought an increase of one member to a council size of 82.

24 In its draft recommendations, the Boundary Committee considered that the Council's proposal for 82 members was supported by the evidence it supplied, particularly the considerations of councillor workload and the internal political management structure of the authority. While other representations, especially those for 90 members, did suggest local concerns about under-representation, the Boundary Committee did not consider that these outweighed the substantial evidence in support of 82 members provided by Cheshire East Council.

25 No further specific comments on council size were received at Stage Three. Therefore, based on the evidence received we have decided to confirm a council size of 82 elected members for Cheshire East as part of our final recommendations. We are of the view that a council size of 82 members would provide for effective and convenient local government in the context of the new Council's internal political management structure and will facilitate the new role of councillors.

Electoral fairness

26 As discussed in the introduction to this report, the prime aim of an electoral review is to achieve electoral fairness within a local authority.

27 Electoral fairness is a fundamental democratic principle, by which each elector in a local authority has a vote of equal weight. It is expected that the Commission's recommendations provide electoral fairness, reflect communities in the area, and provide for effective and convenient local government.

28 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we work out the average number of electors per councillor. The authority average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the county (286,942 in December 2008 and 291,190 by December 2013) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council, 82 under our draft recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our final recommendations is 3,499 in 2008 and 3,551 by 2013. By 2015, the electorate is forecast to rise further to 291,964, with the average number of electors per councillor increasing to 3,562.

29 Under our final recommendations, there will be no wards in which the number of electors per councillor will vary by more than 10% from the average across the authority by 2015. Overall, we are satisfied that we have achieved very good levels of electoral fairness under our final recommendations for Cheshire East.

General analysis

30 During Stage One, the Boundary Committee received 60 submissions, including four authority-wide schemes from Cheshire East Council (hereafter referred to as the 'the Council'), Cheshire East Labour Local Government Committee (hereafter referred to as the 'Labour LGC'), Cheshire East Liberal Democrats and a local resident. The Boundary Committee also received two additional patterns of warding for the eastern part of the former borough of Macclesfield from the Cheshire East Green Party (hereafter referred to as 'the Greens') and two former independent district councillors.

31 With the exception of the local resident, who proposed a uniform pattern of single-member wards, the authority-wide schemes all proposed a mixed pattern of wards, including both multi- and single-member wards. The Liberal Democrats stated that they had sought to propose a single-member ward scheme, but did not consider it desirable in parts of the south of Cheshire East due to the pattern of communities. Consequently, they proposed three two-member wards in this part of the authority.

32 There was little consensus between the four authority-wide schemes or the two partial authority schemes. While they all sought to use parishes (and polling districts) as the building blocks of the majority of their proposed wards, they also all divided parishes and polling districts to improve electoral equality or to achieve desired new boundaries. In general, they all sought to maintain splits in their warding proposals between the more urban and rural areas of Cheshire East.

33 While the Council, Liberal Democrat and Labour LGC schemes and the partial scheme from the former independent councillors did contain some background information on some areas of Cheshire East, we were not persuaded that the schemes received were supported by sufficiently robust evidence of community identity and interests.

34 The four authority-wide proposals appear to have focused strongly on achieving electoral equality within a +/-10% range, rather than seeking to achieve a balance of all of the statutory criteria. In some instances, the Boundary Committee considered that these schemes, in seeking to reduce electoral variances, included a number of boundaries which would appear to either split communities or not provide sufficiently clear ward boundaries.

35 The two proposals for warding in the north of the authority, from the former independent councillors and the Greens, contained larger electoral variances. As with the other authority-wide schemes, the Boundary Committee did not consider that either proposal included sufficient evidence relating to community identities or interests that would justify such high variances. Due to this lack of evidence, the Boundary Committee did not recommend the adoption of these schemes in its draft recommendations.

36 The remainder of the submissions received were localised comments, predominantly from parish and town councils and local residents. The majority of these representations referred to possible warding arrangements in the Adlington and Handforth areas, with some submissions received in relation to the remainder of the authority. The majority did not provide evidence of community identities or interests in support of their submissions. However, there was some such evidence supplied in submissions from the areas of Handforth, Poynton, Sandbach and Adlington which is discussed in the relevant sections of this report.

37 Given the lack of specific evidence submitted relating to community identities and interests, the Boundary Committee focused on achieving good electoral equality and strong boundaries that would provide for effective and convenient local government. It also visited the area to examine the various proposals 'on the ground'. This led it to recommend a scheme that was based on aspects from each of the authority-wide schemes, as well as incorporating its own proposals (as in parts of the towns of Crewe and Macclesfield). While the Committee focused on electoral equality and the provision of strong boundaries in the absence of supporting evidence of community interests and identities, where local respondents provided strong evidence of community identity, it sought to reflect this in the draft recommendations.

38 After the publication of the draft recommendations, two errors were noted in the report mapping for the Sandbach and Crewe areas, as well as inconsistencies in the ward electorate figures for the Macclesfield area. The Boundary Committee agreed revisions to the draft recommendations for these areas at its meeting on 25 November 2009. The consultation stage on the draft recommendations was extended by two weeks with a closing date of 15 February 2010. All local stakeholders were notified of this change and revised mapping and an errata sheet were inserted into the reports.

39 During Stage Three, the Committee received 201 submissions including submissions from the Council, the Congleton and Macclesfield Conservative Associations (hereafter referred to as 'the Conservatives'), the Labour LGC, the Liberal Democrats and the Crewe & Nantwich Liberal Democrats. There was general support for the draft recommendations. However, in several areas, alternative proposals were put forward, in particular for the Crewe and Nantwich area, Poynton and the rural east of the authority and Handforth. Furthermore, several more minor changes to the draft recommendations were proposed which are discussed in more detail below.

40 The remainder of the submissions received were localised comments, predominantly from parish councils and local residents. The vast majority of the remaining submissions related to the draft recommendations in the Adlington area and (to a lesser extent) the Handforth area. It was clear that the draft recommendations were particularly controversial in these two areas and the Commission has given careful consideration to the submissions received. In the Poynton and Adlington area, we have examined the potential for an alternative proposal that would better reflect local opinion while ensuring good electoral equality. We have also given careful consideration to the alternative proposal from the Council in the Handforth area and the alternative proposals put forward in a number of submissions for Crewe and adjoining areas.

41 We have noted the submission of a local resident to make minor boundary amendments in a number of areas to tie them clearer ground detail. However, in

some cases, this would require the creation of small parish wards which we do not consider would be viable.

42 In formulating our final recommendations, we have borne in mind that there is no consensus in the submissions received with regard to single- or multi-member wards. However, there does appear to be more consensus that the rural areas of Cheshire East would benefit from single-member wards as this would promote effective and convenient local government and avoid combining too many disparate rural communities within each ward. The Boundary Committee also received several comments from local councils and residents during its consultation on council size, which make a specific request for single-member wards to replace the very large current three-member rural ward of Cholmondeley.

43 In general we have sought to reflect broad local agreement in the provision of single-member wards wherever possible in rural areas. However, it should be noted that we have provided for warding patterns, whether single- or multi-member, on the basis of which best meet our statutory criteria in the areas concerned, and separately from the submissions which may oppose or support multi-member wards solely on principle. We have assessed each of these areas on their individual characteristics and pattern of communities. This has resulted in us proposing a diverse pattern of single-, two- and three-member wards in the urban areas of Cheshire East.

44 Our final recommendations are for a pattern of 28 single-member wards, 18 two-member wards and six three-member wards. We consider that our proposals provide for good electoral equality and strong identifiable boundaries while, where we have received such evidence, reflecting community identities and interests. We have also sought to reflect communication links and, where possible, use parishes as the 'building blocks' of the proposed wards. In areas where we have not received substantial evidence of community identities and interests, we have sought to unite areas of common interest and to provide strong and easily identifiable ward boundaries.

Electoral arrangements

45 This section of the report details the submissions we have received, our consideration on them, and our final recommendations for each area of Cheshire East. The following areas of the authority are considered in turn:

- Northern Cheshire East (page 11)
- Central Cheshire East (page 19)
- Southern Cheshire East (page 21)

46 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Table C1 on pages 41–45, and illustrated on a number of large maps we have produced. The outline map which accompanies this report shows our final recommendations for the whole authority. It also shows a number of key boxes for which we have produced more detailed maps. These maps are available to be viewed on our website, and have been distributed to the respective council offices and libraries, according to area.

47 It should be noted that the Boundary Committee in its draft recommendations report used forecast electorate variances for 2013. All forecast variances in our final recommendations are 2015 figures.

Northern Cheshire East

Alderley Edge

48 The draft recommendations proposed a single-member ward for the area, coterminous with Alderley Edge parish. The Boundary Committee considered that this best reflected community identities and interests and encompassed a clearly defined community.

49 At Stage Three, there were no objections to the draft recommendations for this area. We therefore recommend that the draft recommendations be confirmed as final. Under the final recommendations, the proposed three-member Alderley Edge ward would have 4% more electors per councillor than the average for the authority by 2015. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Map 1. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Wilmslow area

Handforth

50 During Stage One, the Labour LGC, the Liberal Democrats and a number of local residents all proposed a distinct Handforth ward. By combining the two Liberal Democrat proposed wards in this area, which included part of Finney Green, the electoral variance would be 1% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015. This ward, by including a section of the Manchester Road south of the River Dean, would also have improved internal access, ensuring more effective and convenient local government.

51 At Stage Three, the Council proposed combining Handforth ward and the single-member Wilmslow Dean Row ward to the south in a three-member ward. The Council considered that this would avoid ‘artificial’ boundaries that would divide communities. The Council said that, while a solution to warding arrangements in this area that would satisfy the views of local residents was difficult, a three-member ward would avoid the need to separate the Finney Green area from the remainder of Wilmslow. Its proposed ward would have 4% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the authority by 2015.

52 A local councillor and 19 local residents also opposed the draft recommendations for Handforth. They primarily came from the Finney Green area, which is in the south of the proposed ward, and argued that they have no affinity with Handforth and should be warded with other areas of Wilmslow to the south. Several local residents in the Dean Row area opposed any move to transfer them into the proposed Handforth ward.

53 We have carefully considered the Council’s alternative proposal for this area. While providing for good electoral equality, it would result in the whole of the Dean Row area being warded with Handforth which, based on the submissions received, would appear to be even more at odds with the views of the local community than the draft recommendations. On balance, we are not persuaded that the Council’s

proposals will provide a better reflection of community identities than the draft recommendations.

54 While we noted the concerns of local residents, we are constrained by the location of this area on the edge of the authority and the need to secure good electoral equality. We also note that the Council recognises the clear and numerous communication links between Handforth and areas in the north of Wilmslow. Based on the evidence received, we have decided to confirm the draft recommendations for Handforth ward as final subject to one amendment. We propose that the southern boundary of the proposed ward follow the northern perimeter of Wilmslow cemetery and that the cemetery be transferred to Wilmslow Lacey Green ward.

55 Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Maps 2 and 3. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Wilmslow town

56 The draft recommendations for this area were based on the Liberal Democrats proposal in the north and the south-east of the town. This would have resulted in three single-member wards, Wilmslow Lacey Green, Wilmslow Dean Row and Wilmslow East, which were projected to have 5% more, 4% fewer and 7% fewer electors per councillor respectively than the authority average by 2015.

57 In respect of the south-west of Wilmslow, the Boundary Committee were not persuaded that either the Labour LGC or Liberal Democrat proposals for single-member wards in this area contained robust evidence of community identities or interests. In the absence of further supporting evidence the Committee decided against either proposal, in order to avoid the risk of arbitrarily splitting established communities within the town of Wilmslow.

58 Accordingly, the Committee proposed a two-member ward in this area of the town, combining the Liberal Democrat's proposed Fulshaw and Pownall Park & Morley wards. The draft recommendations proposed the inclusion of the parish of Chorley in an expanded two-member Wilmslow West & Chorley ward, which would have strong communication, transport and community links. This ward would have 7% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

59 As stated above, a number of residents in the Finney Green area of the proposed Handforth ward opposed the draft recommendations and expressed a strong wish to be located in wards in the Wilmslow area. The Council also proposed that Handforth and the proposed single-member Wilmslow Dean Row ward be combined in a three-member ward. As outlined above, we have decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final. Other than this, the Council supported the draft recommendations for the remainder of Wilmslow town. No further submissions were received in opposition to the draft recommendations for this specific area. We therefore have decided to confirm the draft recommendations as final.

60 Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Maps 2 and 3. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Knutsford

61 The draft recommendations were for a three-member ward for the town, as proposed by the Council. The Boundary Committee were of the view that this would provide for a strong ward boundary, good electoral equality, and would avoid splitting established communities within the town. This Knutsford ward would have 4% fewer electors than the authority average by 2015.

62 At Stage Three, the Council supported the draft recommendations for this area. No further submissions were received in opposition to the draft recommendations. We consider that the proposed ward reflects community identities in this area as it is a geographically compact ward broadly coterminous with the built-up area of the town. We have therefore decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) details the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Map 1. This is available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Knutsford hinterland

63 The Boundary Committee recommended a single-member High Legh ward (based on proposals from the Council and Labour LGC), which would have 1% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015. It also recommended a single-member Chelford ward and a single-member Mobberley ward. Both of these wards were broadly based on the Labour LGC submission. However, amendments were made to accommodate the proposal to include the parish of Chorley in a Wilmslow West & Chorley ward (as discussed earlier).

64 In order to maintain good electoral equality in this area, the Committee proposed transferring the parish of Little Warford. As a result, the Chelford and Mobberley wards would have 7% fewer and 1% more electors respectively than the authority average by 2015.

65 At Stage Three, the Council supported the draft recommendations. Mobberley Parish Council expressed concern at being represented in a single-member ward given that the current elected representative is an Executive member on the Council and may not have the capacity to effectively represent the community. Plumley with Toft Parish Council expressed a preference to be in the proposed High Legh ward from Chelford ward. However, no supporting evidence to justify this change was provided.

66 We note the concerns of Mobberley Parish Council. However, the status of the elected member in terms of their duties on the Council cannot be a legitimate consideration when we develop our electoral arrangements for the council. On the basis of the evidence provided at Stage Three, we have decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final.

Poynton and Adlington

67 The town of Poynton is located at the north-eastern edge of Cheshire East. In its draft recommendations, the Boundary Committee acknowledged the strong views expressed by some that more rural areas surrounding Poynton with Worth should not be warded with the town. The Committee sought to identify an alternative warding

pattern for this part of the authority that would facilitate a Poynton ward that includes only Poynton.

68 A three-member ward for the town would have 12% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015. Furthermore, to adopt this solution would then require the warding of the neighbouring parishes of Kettleshulme, Pott Shrigley and Lyme Handley with the adjacent Sutton, Bollington and Disley wards respectively in order to avoid any significant deterioration in electoral equality for those wards. There would also need to be significant amendments to the wards of Chelford, Mobberley, High Legh and Gawsorth in order to maintain good electoral equality. A consequence of this would be to move away from locally sourced and evidenced warding proposals across the north of the authority. On balance, the Committee did not consider that it had received sufficient evidence to justify such a departure from the locally generated warding proposals it had received.

69 The Committee therefore based its draft recommendations on the proposals from the Labour LGC and Poynton with Worth Town Council. The Town Council provided details of transport, economic and educational links between the town and the parish of Adlington. On balance, the Committee considered that it would be preferable to combine a part of Poynton with Adlington rather than pursuing extensive and potentially arbitrary parish splits in the wider rural hinterland in this area.

70 The evidence supplied by Poynton with Worth Town Council indicated that links are stronger between the west of the town and the parish of Adlington, which supported the Labour LGC's proposed warding pattern for the area. For example, the train line between Adlington and Poynton runs from West Poynton. The A523 also passes through West Poynton and Adlington, whereas traffic running from East Poynton into Adlington relies on less direct B roads. The industrial estate on the outskirts of Poynton also lies alongside the A523 to the south of west Poynton.

71 On the basis of the evidence received, the Committee proposed a two-member Poynton West & Adlington ward, which would have 1% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015. The Committee also put forward a two-member Poynton East & Pott Shrigley ward that would have 9% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015. To the east, the Committee put forward a single-member Disley ward which would have an electoral variance of 2% more electors per councillor, and to the south, a single-member Prestbury ward which would have 1% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

72 At Stage Three, the Council put forward alternative proposals for this area. These would result in Adlington parish being warded with the east of Poynton town and Pott Shrigley parish. It also proposed a two-member Poynton West ward, without the inclusion of Adlington parish. As a consequence of these proposals, the Council also put forward consequential changes to the adjoining Disley ward and proposed the transfer of Kettleshulme parish to Sutton ward to the south. These proposals were also endorsed by the Conservatives.

73 Poynton with Worth Town Council broadly supported the draft recommendations but, as proposed by Cheshire East Council, considered that Adlington should be warded with the east of the town rather than the west and suggested a minor boundary modification between Poynton East and West wards to provide a clearer ward boundary.

74 Adlington Parish Council strongly opposed the draft recommendations. It wished to see the existing warding arrangements maintained and be warded with Prestbury to the south. It also stated that, if this was not possible, it could accept being warded with the eastern part of Poynton parish on the proviso that none of the town itself be included in the proposed ward. These views were echoed by the Adlington Civic Society. A total of 85 submissions were received from residents in the Adlington area objecting to any proposal that would include Adlington with part of the town of Poynton.

75 Sir Nicholas Winterton (former MP for Macclesfield) asked that sympathetic consideration be given to the views expressed by Adlington Parish Council. Disley Parish Council opposed the draft recommendations and wished to be warded with Lyme Handley to its west. Kettleshulme Parish Council also opposed the draft recommendations and wished to be warded with Disley rather than in Sutton ward.

76 We recognise that the draft recommendations for this area have proved particularly contentious. We have given careful consideration to the submissions received and note that the Council have put forward proposals that would result in Adlington being warded with the east of Poynton town and that this reflects the proposals supported by Poynton with Worth Town Council. However, we consider that this alternative proposal would have a significant consequential effect on the warding arrangements to the south and east of the authority, particularly in Sutton ward, for which, as noted below, there is some local support. Furthermore, simply warding Adlington with the east of Poynton would not satisfy the concerns of local residents and organisations in the Adlington area.

77 The preference of Adlington Parish Council and a vast majority of local residents who made submissions that the parish be warded with Prestbury to the south was supported by some evidence of links between the communities of Adlington and Prestbury, including historic, social, religious and agricultural ties. However, a revised Prestbury ward including Adlington parish would have a significant electoral variance. To accommodate this would require the significant re-warding for the eastern and central part of the authority, for which we are not persuaded there is sufficient evidence.

78 On balance therefore, we have decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final. We note that Poynton with Worth Town Council provided some evidence of health, educational, economic and transport links between Adlington and the town. Furthermore, we agree with the view of the Boundary Committee that the evidence indicates that these links are stronger between the west of the town and Adlington. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Maps 1 and 4. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Macclesfield

East Macclesfield

79 The draft recommendations in this area were based on the two single-member wards proposed by the Labour LGC. This would result in a Macclesfield Hurdsfield ward, which would have 1% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015 and a Macclesfield East ward, which would have 3% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

80 At Stage Three, for this part of the town, the Council and the Labour LGC supported the draft recommendations. No comments were received in opposition to the draft recommendations for this area. On this basis, we have therefore decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final.

North and Central Macclesfield

81 The draft recommendations for this area were based on the Labour LGC proposals with some amendments to secure more easily identifiable boundaries. For the Tytherington area, the Boundary Committee proposed a two-member Macclesfield Tytherington ward which would have 1% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015. The Committee proposed an extension of the proposed ward boundary in the south of the ward to Cumberland Street on the perimeter of the town centre, in order to enable good access between Tytherington and Bollinbrook.

82 The Committee also recommended a two-member ward which would preserve the whole of the town centre in a single ward along with neighbouring residential estates. Under the draft recommendations, the proposed Macclesfield Central ward would have 3% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

83 The draft recommendations also provided for a two-member Broken Cross & Upton Priory ward. This ward would have 2% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015. The proposed ward was based on an amended version of the Labour LGC's proposed two-member ward for this area. The ward would use the A537 as a boundary to the south, and the B5807 as a boundary to the east, resulting in a clearly identifiable ward boundary and good electoral equality.

84 At Stage Three, the Council and the Labour LGC supported the draft recommendations for this area. The Council did however propose that the proposed Broken Cross & Upton Priory ward be named Broken Cross & Upton to better reflect the constituent communities of the proposed ward. We have decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final, subject to the proposed ward name change put forward by the Council.

South-West Macclesfield

85 The draft recommendations for a two-member Macclesfield Weston & Ivy ward were based on a combination of the proposals in the three schemes proposed by the Labour LGC, the Liberal Democrats and a local resident. However, the Boundary Committee also made amendments in order to use the more identifiable boundaries of the A537 to the north, the B5088 and Ivy Lane in the east and the boundary of the unparished area to the south and west. This Macclesfield Weston & Ivy ward would have 9% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

86 At Stage Three, the Council supported the draft recommendations but proposed that the ward name be changed to better reflect the communities of the proposed ward. It proposed that the ward be called Macclesfield West & Ivy. The Labour LGC opposed the draft recommendations stating that the ward would combine areas that were different demographically and could result in the more deprived Weston estate not being adequately represented or getting the support its residents required. Seven submissions were received from local residents from the Ivy Farm area of the ward

who objected to the proposals on the basis that the ward contained communities with little sense of shared community identity.

87 We recognise that there is some local opposition to the draft recommendations in this area of the town. However, we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to suggest amending the draft recommendations in this area and no detailed alternative warding arrangements were put forward that would maintain good levels of electoral equality and avoid the need for a wider re-warding of the town itself. On balance, we consider that the draft recommendations provide the best balance between the statutory criteria and have decided, subject to the ward name change proposed by the Council, to confirm the draft recommendations as final.

South Macclesfield

88 In the remainder of the town, the Boundary Committee proposed a two-member ward for Macclesfield South in its draft recommendations. The proposed ward would comprise a slightly amended combination of the Macclesfield Thornton and Macclesfield Moss wards as proposed by the local resident. This ward would have good electoral equality and also provide for a strong boundary with good internal communication links. Under the draft recommendations, Macclesfield Moss ward would have 7% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

89 At Stage Three, the Council proposed that the Lyme Green area of the adjoining Sutton parish be included in the proposed Macclesfield Moss ward. It considered that Lyme Green was more urban in nature and that local residents use amenities and services in the town. The Council also proposed that the ward name be changed to Macclesfield South. Sutton Parish Council supported the draft recommendations to keep the whole of Sutton Parish in a single-member Sutton ward (to the south and east of Macclesfield town). While expressing reservations concerning the geographical size of the proposed Sutton ward, it stated this better reflected the community identities of the parish and adjoining rural communities. It expressed its opposition of warding the Lyme Green area of the parish with the adjoining urban part of Macclesfield.

90 The Council's proposals would provide for good electoral equality for Macclesfield Moss ward. However, they appear primarily to be a consequential change to facilitate its proposals in the Poynton and Adlington areas (as discussed earlier). Given our recommendations with regard to the Poynton area, adopting the Council's proposals for this ward would have a negative impact on electoral equality for the proposed Sutton ward to the south of Macclesfield town. It is also noted that the draft recommendations have the support of Sutton Parish Council. Effectively, to accept this proposed change would also necessitate adopting the Council's proposed revisions to the draft recommendations for the entire eastern part of the authority.

91 On balance, we have decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final, subject to the proposed name change. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Maps 1 and 5. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Bollington

92 The draft recommendations for this area were based on the Council's proposal for a two-member Bollington ward comprising the parishes of Bollington and Higher Hurdsfield. This Bollington ward would have or 6% fewer electors than the authority average by 2015. At Stage Three, the Council supported the proposals. Bollington Parish Council welcomed the draft recommendations as reflecting local community identities. The proposals were also supported by Bollington Civic Society.

93 On the basis of the submissions received at Stage Three, we have decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Map 1. This is available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Macclesfield hinterland

94 Given the lack of evidence submitted in support of the proposals for this area, the draft recommendations sought to achieve good electoral equality, and provide for good access within the rural ward, together with strong boundaries. As such, the Boundary Committee recommended a single-member Sutton ward based on the Council's scheme (subject to the inclusion of the Lyme Green area of the parish in the proposed ward), which would have 2% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

95 The Committee also proposed a single-member Gawsworth ward (based on the Labour LGC scheme), which would have 10% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015, and a single-member Prestbury ward, which would have 1% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015 and was proposed by both the Council and Labour.

96 At Stage Three, the Council supported the Boundary Committee's proposed Prestbury ward but, as stated above, proposed an alternative Sutton ward which would result in the Lyme Green area of Sutton parish being transferred to Macclesfield Moss ward and Kettleshulme parish being transferred into Sutton ward. Prestbury Parish Council supported the proposed Prestbury ward but requested that Adlington Parish also be located in the proposed ward. As stated above, Sutton Parish Council supported the proposed single-member Sutton ward subject to expressing reservations about its geographical size. Gawsworth Parish Council objected to the transfer of the Gawsworth Moss area of the parish into the wards of Macclesfield.

97 Having carefully considered the evidence received at Stage Three, we are not persuaded to combine the whole of Gawsworth Parish in a single ward. The area of Gawsworth Moss is effectively overspill from Macclesfield town and it is considered that the draft recommendations would provide a better reflection of community identities than the alternative proposals put forward at Stage Three. While we note that for Sutton ward we have maintained the whole of the parish in a single ward, the Lyme Green area is different in nature to Gawsworth Moss in that it is an established community and is not overspill development from Macclesfield town. On this basis, we consider we have taken a consistent approach to these areas and are satisfied that the proposed wards will secure good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests. Therefore, while recognising the differing views

submitted at Stage Three we have decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final.

98 Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in the Macclesfield town area. Our final recommendations are shown on Map 1. This is available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Central Cheshire East

Congleton

99 The draft recommendations for this area were based on the Council's proposals for two three-member wards of Congleton West and Congleton East (with 3% and 1% more electors per councillor respectively than the authority average by 2015). The Committee noted that the proposed wards provide good electoral equality and clearly defined ward boundaries for the town. The recommendations used a strong boundary through the middle of Congleton, perpendicular to the A527, bisecting the parish into western and eastern halves. It was also noted that these proposals were supported by Congleton Town Council.

100 At Stage Three, the Council supported the draft recommendations for the town. No further specific comments relating to the proposals in this area were received. On this basis, we have decided to confirm the draft recommendations for the town as final.

101 Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Maps 1 and 6. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Holmes Chapel

102 The draft recommendations in this area were based on the Council's proposals which provided for a two-member Holmes Chapel ward, which would have 7% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015. The proximity of Twemlow parish to Holmes Chapel and the strong transport links between the two provided by the A535 was noted, as opposed to the less direct access from Twemlow into the Brereton ward.

103 At Stage Three the Council supported the draft recommendations but proposed that the ward be renamed Dane Valley to better reflect its constituent communities. No submissions were received in opposition to the draft recommendations for this specific area. On this basis we have decided, subject to the proposed name change, to confirm the draft recommendations as final. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Map 1. This is available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Odd Rode area

104 The draft recommendations for this area were for a two-member Odd Rode ward, as proposed by the Council and supported by Odd Rode Parish Council. This proposed ward included the parishes of Church Lawton, Odd Rode, Moreton Cum Alcumlow and Newbold Astbury. The proposed ward would have 3% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015. Furthermore, to the north a single-member Brereton ward was proposed which would have 10% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

105 At Stage Three, the Council supported the draft recommendations as did Odd Rode Parish Council. Betchton Parish Council (in the adjoining Brereton ward) argued that they had greater links with the communities in Odd Rode ward and wished to be transferred to this ward. Brereton Parish Council requested that an alternative name be provided for the proposed Brereton ward to reflect all the communities within it. The Parish Council suggested that the ward name be changed to Brereton Rural.

106 On the basis of the information provided we have decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final. While noting the objections of Betchton Parish Council, to adopt its proposals would have an adverse effect on electoral equality and would require a wider re-warding of this area for which we have received no substantive justification. We have also decided to adopt the alternative ward name of Brereton Rural as part of the final recommendations.

107 Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Map 1. This is available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Sandbach

108 There is projected to be significant growth in Sandbach. Accordingly, the draft recommendations proposed a pattern of four single-member wards for the area: Sandbach Elworth, which will have 10% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015, Sandbach Ettiley Heath & Wheelock, which will have 9% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015, Sandbach Town, which will have 10% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015, and Sandbach Heath & East, which would have 3% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

109 At Stage Three, the Council and the Conservatives proposed an amendment to the boundary between Sandbach Town and Sandbach Elworth wards to reflect the Elworth community and move the ward boundary closer to the Elworth village sign. Sandbach Town Council fully supported the draft recommendations and stated that it did not support the proposed amendment put forward by the Council.

110 We have considered the proposed amendment between the proposed Sandbach Town and Sandbach Elworth wards and are not persuaded that it would reflect community identities and interests and notes that it would link an isolated residential road in the Elworth area with Sandbach Town ward. We consider this area should be located in Sandbach Elworth ward. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations for this area as final.

111 Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Maps 1 and 7. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Alsager

112 The draft recommendations were for a three-member ward for the town of Alsager which would contain 7% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average projected for 2015. The Boundary Committee was of the view that this would avoid the possibility of unnecessarily dividing cohesive communities and result in a strong ward boundary and good electoral equality.

113 At Stage Three, the Council supported the draft recommendations for this area. The Labour LGC proposed that the village of Oakhanger in Haslington ward be located in the proposed Alsager ward. They argued Alsager is the nearest large town from which Oakhanger residents obtain services.

114 We have noted the Labour LGC proposals for this area. However, we also note that the village of Oakhanger itself is separated from Alsager by the motorway. While it is acknowledged that residents in the village are likely to use Alsager for local amenities and facilities, we are not persuaded that we have received substantive evidence that would support the proposed change. Moreover, it would require a wider re-warding of adjoining areas for which there is not support based on the submissions received.

115 We have therefore decided to confirm the draft recommendations as final. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Map 1. This is available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Middlewich

116 In its draft recommendations, the Boundary Committee proposed that the town form a three-member ward, providing for excellent electoral equality and a strong boundary for the ward. The ward would contain an equal number of electors per councillor to the average for the authority by 2015.

117 At Stage Three, the Council supported the draft recommendations for the town. No further specific comments relating to the proposals in this area were received. We have therefore decided to confirm the draft recommendations for the town as final. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Map 1. This is available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Southern Cheshire East

Nantwich

118 In its draft recommendations, the Boundary Committee considered that the Council proposal to include the parishes of Stapeley and Batherton in Nantwich for warding purposes had merit. The majority of electors in this area reside in the dense residential area that lies within the A5301 ring road, an area contiguous with housing

estates in the south of the parish of Nantwich. However, it was of the view that the boundary through the town proposed by the Council would risk dividing communities in the west of Nantwich and provided poor internal access within its proposed Nantwich South ward.

119 Accordingly the Committee made several amendments to this proposal. The draft recommendations were for a two-member Nantwich North & West ward, which will have an equal number of electors per councillor to the authority average by 2015, and a two-member Nantwich South & Stapeley ward, which would have 8% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

120 At Stage Three, the Council proposed a modification in the centre of the town between the two wards to facilitate its proposed warding arrangements in the more rural wards to the south. It also proposed that Batherton and Stapeley parishes be transferred from Nantwich South & Stapeley ward to Wybunbury ward as it considered this better reflected community identities. It argued that the ribbon housing development on the southern edge of Nantwich town was not part of Nantwich and noted that most children in the area attend schools to the south and not those in the town. The Liberal Democrats supported the draft recommendations.

121 While we recognise the community evidence provided by the Council, we did not consider that the proposed boundary between the two wards of the town would be sufficiently clear and well defined. We consider that the draft recommendations would also provide a strong boundary along the A51 and avoids splitting communities in the west of Nantwich as in the Council's proposal. Furthermore, given our proposals for warding arrangements in areas to the south of the town, it would not be possible to accommodate the Council's proposals in this area.

122 On balance, we have therefore decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final. The team therefore recommends that the Commission confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Maps 1 and 9A. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Haslington, Wybunbury and Wychwood Park

123 In the draft recommendations, the Boundary Committee adopted a two-member ward for the parishes of Haslington, Crewe Green, Weston, Basford and Barthomley minus that part of the parish of Weston that is in the relatively new Wychwood Park development. This ward was broadly based on the proposals from Haslington Parish Council, the Council and the Liberal Democrats. Under the draft recommendations, the proposed Haslington ward would have 5% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

124 The Boundary Committee also proposed a single-member Wybunbury ward comprising the 10 parishes of Wybunbury, Hough, Chorlton, Blakenhall, Lea, Walgherton, Hatherton, Hunsterson, Bridgemere, Checkley Cum Wrinehill, along with the Wychwood Park development in the parish of Weston. This ward would have 10% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

125 At Stage Three, the Council reiterated its Stage One view that the Wychwood Village be located in Haslington ward. It argued that the part of the Wychwood area

in Weston Parish was very different from the gated community located directly on the other side of the parish boundary. The Council's proposed Wybunbury ward would also have an electoral variance of 10% by 2015. The Council also proposed that the Holly Bush Inn area be transferred from the wards of Sandbach to Haslington ward. It argued that this better reflected community identities and interests. It would also facilitate its proposed warding arrangements in surrounding areas.

126 The Liberal Democrats strongly supported the draft recommendations for this area, saying that the recommendations 'admirably' sought to address the conflicting issues of community identity and the need for improved electoral equality. Weston and Basford Parish Council opposed the draft recommendations considering them to not reflect geographical and social differences in the Wychwood area. It opposed the division of the parish between wards and listed a number of community facilities and activities shared by residents of the Wychwood area and the established communities of the parish.

127 Chorlton Parish Council supported the proposed Wybunbury ward as did several local residents who noted that residents of the parish use amenities and facilities in the Wychwood area. Conversely a number of local residents from Weston parish opposed the draft recommendations stating that there were few links between the part of the development in Weston parish and the adjoining gated community.

128 It is clear that conflicting evidence has been received in relation to this area, with strong evidence provided both for and against the draft recommendations. We consider, on balance, that the draft recommendations provide the best reflection of the statutory criteria. From our tour of the area, it was clear that both parts of the Wychwood development share good communication links as well as some amenities and facilities with Chorlton (in the proposed Wybunbury ward). Furthermore, the transportation links are more direct to Chorlton than to Weston. On this basis, and recognising that there is no clear consensus for warding arrangements in this area, we have decided to confirm the draft recommendations as final.

129 Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Maps 1 and 9B. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Former Cholmondeley ward

130 The draft recommendations were for a Bunbury ward which would have 2% more electors than the authority average by 2015, a Wrenbury ward which would have 5% more electors than the authority average by 2015, and an Audlem ward which would have 8% more electors than the authority average by 2015. All three wards would each return one member.

131 At Stage Three the Council supported the draft recommendations, as did Audlem Parish Council. No submissions were received in opposition to the draft recommendations in this area. We have therefore decided confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Map 1. This is available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Area between Crewe and Nantwich

132 At Stage One, the Labour LGC's, the Liberal Democrats' and a local resident's scheme all proposed a single-member ward for the parish of Shavington, which lies to the south of Crewe. However, there is a residential estate at the northern tip of this parish, which does not have any road access into the remainder of the proposed ward. Accordingly, the Boundary Committee adopted a modified single-member Shavington ward as part of its draft recommendations, which would have 9% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

133 At Stage One, the Liberal Democrats proposed a two-member Wistaston ward and a two-member Cheerbrook ward which would contain whole parishes, have good communication links within each ward, as well as good electoral equality. It would also retain the current boundary with the unparished Crewe area. However, as a consequence of the Committee's recommendation for warding in the Nantwich and Stapleley area, it was necessary to amend the Liberal Democrat proposals.

134 Accordingly, the Boundary Committee recommended amending parish warding in the parish of Willaston and transferring a new Willaston North parish ward into the proposed Wistaston ward. This resulted in the transfer of approximately 400 electors in the north of the parish into the proposed Wistaston ward. This would result in a single-member Cheerbrook ward (which the Boundary Committee renamed Willaston & Rope), as well as an enlarged two-member Wistaston ward.

135 Under the draft recommendations, the proposed single-member Willaston & Rope ward and two-member Wistaston ward would have an electoral variance of 9% and 7% more electors per councillor respectively to the authority average by 2015.

136 At Stage Three, the Council opposed the draft recommendations and proposed that the two wards be combined in one three-member ward with an electoral variance of 8% by 2015. It considered that the proposed Willaston & Rope ward would arbitrarily divide Willaston parish and that a three-member ward would ensure the community was located in a single ward. Both Willaston and Wistaston parish councils supported the Council's proposals.

137 We note that there is a measure of opposition to the draft recommendations in this area. We also recognise that this is a finely balanced issue and that the Council's proposals would provide for slightly improved electoral equality when compared with the draft recommendations. However, we are not persuaded that combining the two wards in one three-member ward would necessarily better reflect community identities and interests. In particular, we consider that the proposed three-member ward, while having some local support, would result in the creation of a rather large and dispersed ward that would not necessarily contain a cohesive community. On balance, we have therefore decided to confirm the draft recommendations for this area as final.

138 Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Maps 1, 8 and 9A. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Crewe and Leighton

139 The draft recommendations adopted the Liberal Democrats' proposal for a single-member ward for the parish of Leighton. This ward would have 3,580 electors by 2015 (or 1% more electors per councillor than the authority average) and would also retain the whole parish within one ward, avoiding a split between established communities in the parish. To the south of Crewe, the Committee put forward a single-member Shavington ward which would have 9% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

140 The draft recommendations for Crewe town were primarily devised by the Boundary Committee, based on proposals from the Labour LGC and a local resident. It was noted that most of the locally proposed schemes submitted at Stage One put forward wards that would straddle the main London to Manchester railway line which was felt to provide a very strong barrier between communities in Crewe. The Boundary Committee therefore proposed a three-member Crewe East ward (based on the Labour LGC submission) to the east of the railway line which would have 1% fewer electors per councillor than the authority average by 2015.

141 To the west of the railway line, the Boundary Committee proposed a single-member Crewe North and single-member Crewe St. Barnabas ward which would have 2% and 6% more electors per councillor respectively than the authority average by 2015. In the south west of Crewe the Boundary Committee recommended two, two-member wards of Crewe West and Crewe South with electoral variances of 8% more and an equal number of electors per councillor to the authority average by 2015. Crewe South would also include Gresty Brook parish ward of Shavington parish. The Committee also proposed a Crewe Central ward which would have 3% more electors per councillor than the average by 2015.

142 At Stage Three, the Council put forward alternative warding arrangements for the town, which would divide the proposed Crewe West ward in to two single-member wards of Crewe West and Kings Grove with electoral variances of 5% fewer and 10% more electors per councillor. It also proposed a smaller amendment to the boundary between Crewe St Barnabas and Leighton to move a part of the unparished area into Leighton ward. This proposed amendment between Leighton and St Barnabas was also put forward by a local resident. It was argued that this would secure more easily identifiable ward boundaries. The Council also strongly opposed the inclusion of Gresty Brook in Crewe South ward and proposed that it be transferred to the proposed Shavington ward, with amendments to the western boundary of Crewe South to facilitate this.

143 The Labour LGC also opposed the draft recommendations for the west of Crewe and provided an outline of their preferred warding option which shared some similarities, but was not identical to that of the Council. The Liberal Democrats put forward warding proposals for single-member wards for the town. It also put forward an alternative warding arrangement for the east of the town that would breach the railway line and provide for a pattern of single-member wards. It argued that, while railway lines provided strong ward boundaries, there was a limitation to their use in defining communities. Both opposed the inclusion of Gresty Brook in Crewe South ward.

144 We have carefully considered the submissions received and recognise that the draft recommendations for the town have met with some opposition. We

acknowledge the concerns with regard to the electoral arrangements for Gresty Brook parish ward. However, we are not persuaded that this specific area shares community interests with the remainder of Shavington parish to the south. We note, in particular, that it is separated from the remainder of the parish by the railway line and the A500 to its south. While we acknowledge that Gresty Brook would be likely to share the greatest community links with Rope parish to its west this would not achieve an acceptable level of electoral equality. We note that Gresty Brook has clear transportation links into Crewe and electors in this area are likely to use amenities and facilities in the town.

145 We also consider that the alternative proposals for the south of Crewe would not provide for sufficiently clear ward boundaries and would also result in higher electoral variances than the draft recommendations. In conclusion, we consider that the evidence received is not sufficient to warrant us moving away from the draft recommendations in the south and west of Crewe. We therefore confirm the draft recommendations for Crewe South and Crewe West and Crewe East ward as final.

146 We do, however, propose to move away from the draft recommendation in the north of Crewe. We consider that the Council's and the local residents' proposal for a realignment of the boundary between the proposed Crewe St Barnabas and Leighton wards would provide a more distinct ward boundary that would better reflect community identities. The proposed ward boundary under the draft recommendations follows the Leighton parish boundary that has become defaced in recent years as development in Crewe has overspilt into the parish. We have therefore decided to adopt the Council's proposed amendment in this area as part of the final recommendations.

147 Under the final recommendations, Crewe St Barnabas and Leighton wards would have 3% fewer and 10% more electors per councillor than the average for the authority by 2015. Table C1 (on pages 41–45) provides details of the electoral variances of our final recommendations for wards in this area. Our final recommendations are shown on Maps 1 and 8. These are available at our website, www.lgbce.org.uk.

Conclusions

148 Details of our final recommendations are set out in Table C1 on pages 41–45, and illustrated on a number of large maps we have produced. The outline map which accompanies this report shows our final recommendations for the whole authority. It also shows a number of boxes for which we have produced more detailed maps. These maps are available to be viewed on our website.

149 Table 1 shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements based on 2008 and 2015 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2008	2015
Number of councillors	82	82
Number of electoral wards	52	52
Average number of electors per councillor	3,499	3,562
Number of electoral wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	0
Number of electoral wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Cheshire East Council should comprise 82 councillors serving 52 wards, as detailed and named in Table C1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Parish electoral arrangements

150 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

151 During Stage Three, some parishes requested changes to parish electoral arrangements, specifically to parish warding and the number of parish councillors. Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make such changes as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Cheshire East Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

152 To meet our obligations under the 2009 Act, we proposed consequential parish warding arrangements for the parishes of Congleton, Gawsworth, Nantwich, Poynton, Sandbach, Weston and Willaston.

153 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries, and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Congleton parish to reflect our proposed ward arrangements in this area.

Final recommendations

Congleton Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Congleton East parish ward (returning 10 parish councillors) and Congleton West parish ward (returning 10 parish councillors). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 6.

154 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries, and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Gawsworth parish to reflect our proposed ward arrangements in this area.

Final recommendations

Gawsworth Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Gawsworth Village parish ward (returning six parish councillors) and Gawsworth Moss parish ward (returning three parish councillors). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 5.

155 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries, and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Nantwich parish to reflect our proposed ward arrangements in this area.

Final recommendations

Nantwich Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Nantwich North & West parish ward (returning seven parish councillors) and Nantwich South parish ward (returning five parish councillors). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 9A.

156 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries, and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Poynton with Worth parish to reflect our proposed ward arrangements in this area.

Final recommendations

Poynton with Worth Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, one more than at present, representing two wards: Poynton West parish ward (returning nine parish councillors) and Poynton East parish ward (returning nine parish councillors). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 4.

157 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries, and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Sandbach parish to reflect our proposed ward arrangements in this area.

Final recommendations

Sandbach Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, two more than at present, representing four wards: Sandbach Elworth parish ward, Sandbach Ettiley Heath & Wheelock parish ward, Sandbach Town parish ward, Sandbach Heath & East parish ward, all returning five members. The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 7.

158 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries, and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Weston parish to reflect our proposed ward arrangements in this area.

Final recommendations

Weston Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Weston Village parish ward (returning five parish councillors) and Weston Wychwood parish ward (returning three parish councillors). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 9B.

159 As a result of our proposed electoral ward boundaries, and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Willaston parish to reflect our proposed ward arrangements in this area.

Final recommendations

Willaston Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Willaston North parish ward (returning two parish councillors) and Willaston Village parish ward (returning ten parish councillors). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 9A.

3 What happens next?

160 We have now completed our review of electoral arrangements for Cheshire East Council. The changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Parliament can either accept or reject our recommendations. If accepted, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the next elections for Cheshire East Council in 2011.

4 Mapping

Final recommendations for Cheshire East

161 The following maps illustrate our proposed electoral ward boundaries for Cheshire East Council:

- **Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed wards for Cheshire East Council.
- **Sheet 2, Map 2** illustrates the proposed wards in North Wilmslow.
- **Sheet 3, Map 3** illustrates the proposed wards in South Wilmslow.
- **Sheet 4, Map 4** illustrates the proposed wards in Poynton.
- **Sheet 5, Map 5** illustrates the proposed wards in Macclesfield.
- **Sheet 6, Map 6** illustrates the proposed wards in Congleton.
- **Sheet 7, Map 7** illustrates the proposed wards in Sandbach.
- **Sheet 8, Map 8** illustrates the proposed wards in Crewe.
- **Sheet 9, Map 9A** illustrates the proposed wards in Nantwich.
- **Sheet 9, Map 9B** illustrates the proposed wards in Weston.

Appendix A

Glossary and abbreviations

AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)	A landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it
Boundary Committee	The Boundary Committee for England was a committee of the Electoral Commission, responsible for undertaking electoral reviews. The Boundary Committee's functions were assumed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in April 2010
Constituent areas	The geographical areas that make up any one ward, expressed in parishes or existing wards, or parts of either
Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral Commission	An independent body that was set up by the UK Parliament. Its aim is integrity and public confidence in the democratic process. It regulates party and election finance and sets standards for well-run elections

Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral imbalance	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Local Government Boundary Commission for England (or LGBCE)	The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for undertaking electoral reviews. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England assumed the functions of the Boundary Committee for England in April 2010
Multi-member ward or division	A ward or division represented by more than one councillor and usually not more than three councillors
National Park	The 12 National Parks in England and Wales were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 and can be found at www.nationalparks.gov.uk
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town Council'
Parish (or Town) Council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
PER (or periodic electoral review)	A review of the electoral arrangements of all local authorities in England, undertaken periodically. The last programme of PERs was undertaken between 1996 and 2004 by the Boundary Committee for England and its predecessor, the now-defunct Local Government Commission for England
Political management arrangements	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enabled local authorities in England to modernise their decision making process. Councils could choose from two broad categories; a directly elected mayor and cabinet or a cabinet with a leader
Town Council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average

Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

Appendix B

Code of practice on written consultation

The Cabinet Office's *Code of Practice on Written Consultation* (November 2000) (http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/servicefirst/2000/consult/code/_consultation.pdf) requires all government departments and agencies to adhere to certain criteria, set out below, on the conduct of public consultations. Public bodies, such as the Boundary Committee for England, are encouraged to follow the Code.

The Code of Practice applies to consultation documents published after 1 January 2001, which should reproduce the criteria, give explanations of any departures, and confirm that the criteria have otherwise been followed.

Table B1: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's compliance with Code criteria

Criteria	Compliance/departure
Timing of consultation should be built into the planning process for a policy (including legislation) or service from the start, so that it has the best prospect of improving the proposals concerned, and so that sufficient time is left for it at each stage.	We comply with this requirement.
It should be clear who is being consulted, about what questions, in what timescale and for what purpose.	We comply with this requirement.
A consultation document should be as simple and concise as possible. It should include a summary, in two pages at most, of the main questions it seeks views on. It should make it as easy as possible for readers to respond, make contact or complain.	We comply with this requirement.
Documents should be made widely available, with the fullest use of electronic means (though not to the exclusion of others), and effectively drawn to the attention of all interested groups and individuals.	We comply with this requirement.
Sufficient time should be allowed for considered responses from all groups with an interest. Twelve weeks should be the standard minimum period for a consultation.	We consult at the start of the review and on our draft recommendations. Our consultation stages are a minimum total of 16 weeks.

Responses should be carefully and open-mindedly analysed, and the results made widely available, with an account of the views expressed, and reasons for decisions finally taken.

We comply with this requirement.

Departments should monitor and evaluate consultations, designating a consultation coordinator who will ensure the lessons are disseminated.

We comply with this requirement.

Appendix C

Table C1: Final recommendations for Cheshire East

	Electoral ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2008)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Alderley Edge	1	3,680	3,680	5	3,713	3,713	4
2	Alsager	3	9,588	3,196	-9	9,886	3,295	-7
3	Audlem	1	3,686	3,686	5	3,851	3,851	8
4	Bollington	2	6,723	3,362	-4	6,716	3,358	-6
5	Brereton Rural	1	3,869	3,869	11	3,932	3,932	10
6	Broken Cross & Upton	2	6,554	3,277	-6	6,944	3,472	-3
7	Bunbury	1	3,511	3,511	0	3,645	3,645	2
8	Chelford	1	3,307	3,307	-5	3,299	3,299	-7
9	Congleton East	3	10,656	3,552	2	10,819	3,606	1
10	Congleton West	3	10,797	3,599	3	11,006	3,669	4
11	Crewe Central	1	3,437	3,437	-2	3,683	3,683	3
12	Crewe East	3	10,428	3,476	-1	10,590	3,530	-1

Table C1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Cheshire East

	Electoral ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2008)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Crewe North	1	3,613	3,613	3	3,627	3,627	2
14	Crewe South	2	6,985	3,493	0	7,118	3,559	0
15	Crewe St. Barnabas	1	3,297	3,297	-6	3,449	3,449	-3
16	Crewe West	2	7,536	3,768	8	7,705	3,853	8
17	Dane Valley	2	7,562	3,781	8	7,597	3,798	7
18	Disley	1	3,604	3,604	3	3,622	3,622	2
19	Gawsworth	1	3,212	3,212	-8	3,217	3,217	-10
20	Handforth	2	6,785	3,393	-3	7,222	3,611	-1
21	Haslington	2	6,613	3,307	-6	6,761	3,381	-5
22	High Legh	1	3,528	3,528	1	3,539	3,539	-1
23	Knutsford	3	10,261	3,420	-2	10,247	3,416	-4
24	Leighton	1	3,926	3,926	12	3,918	3,918	10
25	Macclesfield Central	2	6,728	3,364	-4	6,893	3,447	-3

Table C1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Cheshire East

	Electoral ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2008)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
26	Macclesfield East	1	3,535	3,535	1	3,682	3,682	3
27	Macclesfield Hursfield	1	3,539	3,539	1	3,532	3,532	-1
28	Macclesfield South	2	6,540	3,270	-7	6,592	3,296	-7
29	Macclesfield Tytherington	2	7,176	3,588	3	7,174	3,587	1
30	Macclesfield West & Ivy	2	6,319	3,160	-10	6,449	3,225	-9
31	Middlewich	3	10,550	3,517	1	10,646	3,549	0
32	Mobberley	1	3,604	3,604	3	3,606	3,606	1
33	Nantwich North & West	2	6,912	3,456	-1	7,144	3,572	0
34	Nantwich South & Stapeley	2	6,408	3,204	-8	6,545	3,273	-8
35	Odd Rodde	2	6,944	3,472	-1	6,888	3,444	-3

Table C1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Cheshire East

	Electoral ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2008)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
36	Poynton East & Pott Shrigley	2	6,485	3,243	-7	6,458	3,229	-9
37	Poynton West & Adlington	2	7,105	3,553	0	7,074	3,537	-1
38	Prestbury	1	3,610	3,610	3	3,606	3,606	1
39	Sandbach Elworth	1	3,652	3,652	4	3,926	3,926	10
40	Sandbach Ettiley Heath & Wheelock	1	3,486	3,486	0	3,870	3,870	9
41	Sandbach Heath & East	1	3,579	3,579	2	3,654	3,654	3
42	Sandbach Town	1	3,896	3,896	11	3,910	3,910	10
43	Shavington	1	3,249	3,249	-7	3,251	3,251	-9
44	Sutton	1	3,614	3,614	3	3,619	3,619	2
45	Willaston & Rope	1	3,883	3,883	11	3,889	3,889	9
46	Wilmslow Dean Row	1	3,357	3,357	-4	3,433	3,433	-4

Table C1 (cont.): Final recommendations for Cheshire East

	Electoral ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2008)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2015)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
47	Wilmslow East	1	3,306	3,306	-6	3,328	3,328	-7
48	Wilmslow Lacey Green	1	3,717	3,717	6	3,742	3,742	5
49	Wilmslow West	2	7,634	3,817	7	7,645	3,823	7
50	Wistaston	2	7,537	3,769	8	7,637	3,819	7
51	Wrenbury	1	3,654	3,654	4	3,758	3,758	6
52	Wybunbury	1	3,765	3,765	8	3,907	3,907	10
Totals		82	286,942	-	-	291,964	-	-
Averages		-	-	3,499	-	-	3,562	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Cheshire East Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the county. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix D

Additional legislation to which we have had regard

Equal opportunities

In preparing this report we have had regard to the general duty set out in section 71(1) of the Race Relations Act 1976 and the statutory Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality (Commission for Racial Equality, May 2002), i.e. to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful racial discrimination
- promote equality of opportunity
- promote good relations between people of different racial groups

National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Broads

We have also had regard to:

- Section 11A(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as inserted by Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995). This states that, in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park, any relevant authority shall have regard to the Park's purposes. If there is a conflict between those purposes, a relevant authority shall attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park.
- Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This states that, in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of the AONB.
- Section 17A of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act (as inserted by Section 97 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). This states that, in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the Broads, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purposes of the Broads.

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The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament in April 2010. It is independent of Government and political parties, and is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government areas.

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