

Community Governance Review Sub-Committee Agenda

Date:	Thursday, 22nd September 2011
Time:	3.30 pm (approx.) (following the Constitution Committee meeting)
Venue:	Committee Suite 1, 2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 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. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

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

3. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19th August 2011.

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

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relevant to the work of the meeting. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman or person presiding 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 are not required to give notice to use this facility. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours' notice is encouraged.

Contact:	Paul Mountford, Democratic Services Officer
Tel:	01270 686472
E-Mail:	paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given.

5. **Project Plan and Timetable**

The Officers will report at the meeting.

6. **Public Information Leaflet**

To consider a revised draft public information leaflet with a view to commencing consultations with stakeholders on 30th September 2011.

A revised leaflet will be circulated at the meeting.

7. **Outcome of Public Meetings**

To consider the outcome of the two public meetings to be held on 15th and 16th September.

8. **Existing Community Governance Arrangements in Crewe** (Pages 5 - 8)

To consider a paper on the existing community governance arrangements in Crewe.

(There are no Part 2 items)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**Minutes of a meeting of the Community Governance Review Sub-Committee**

held on Friday, 19th August, 2011 in the East Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe, CW1 2BJ

PRESENT

Councillor D Marren (Chairman)
Councillor P Groves (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors R Cartlidge, B Murphy and P Whiteley.

Officers:

Lindsey Parton, Registration Services and Business Manager
Natalie Bown, Policy Officer Performance and Partnerships
Cherry Foreman, Democratic Services Officer

In attendance:

Councillor S Hogben

6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Baxendale.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R Cartlidge declared a personal interest by virtue of being the Mayor of Crewe.

8 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

9 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2011 be approved as a correct record subject to 'Red Shift Radio' being added to the list of proposed consultees listed in (3)a of the resolution, and Crewe Alexander Football Club being amended to Crewe Alexandra Football Club.

10 CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Consideration was given to the project plan and timetable for the Crewe Community Governance Review which had been circulated with the agenda meeting papers, and to proposed publicity and consultation arrangements as circulated at the meeting.

a) Project Plan and Timetable

A revised project plan and timetable, incorporating changes made at the last meeting, was considered. A summary of the Community Governance Review (CGR) guidance, circulated previously, made reference to the need to take into account any existing Parish boundary anomalies. It was noted that there was a discrepancy in the boundaries in the area 1FJ4, containing approx 400 electors, whereby they would need to be asked if they wished to be included in the area of Crewe Town or Leighton Parish. It was possible that the area concerned would require a specifically worded ballot paper as had been the case for Handforth and Styal in the Wilmslow review.

A query was raised regarding the initial press release which referred to the review lasting 12 months; it was agreed that this should be amended to it being completed within 12 months.

b) Draft Leaflet to Consultees and Electors

At the last meeting copies had been circulated of the public information leaflet produced for the first CGR for Crewe, and also of that for Wilmslow, Handforth and Styal which had drawn on and learnt from the earlier experience.

Consideration was given to paras 80/81 of the Community Guidance Review Government Guidance document, and to the various options available to electors to choose from such as a Town, Parish, or Community Council; Area Committee; Tenant Management or Residents & Tenants Association; Area, Community, Neighbourhood Forum; or Community Association. Members were anxious not to appear to limit the choice available by the wording referring predominantly to, for example, Town or Parish Council. It was, therefore, agreed that the leaflet should give equal prominence to all options and that they should be fully explained at the public meetings.

In considering the inclusion of information on the possible precept to be levied on the formation of a new Council it was noted that there had been some lack of appreciation by electors in the Wilmslow review that separate precepts would be levied for the different areas. Although an initial precept, to get the new Council started, could be set by CE Council in advance of any new Town/Parish Council being established it was stressed that after the first year the amount would be set by the new Council; it was agreed that the leaflet should refer to this fact and that the monetary range of precepts levied by existing Councils should be shown.

A question was raised as to which boundaries should be shown on the map in the leaflet and it was agreed that this should be limited to the red boundary only, namely the extent of the area to be covered by the review.

It was agreed that a draft leaflet for a the CGR be circulated at the next meeting of the Sub Committee with a view to starting the consultations with stakeholders on 30 September 2011, and that the project plan be amended accordingly.

c) Draft Press Release

In the light of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee concerning the content of the public information leaflet it was agreed that the press release be expanded to include details of the different options available so as to encourage people to consider the whole spectrum of choices.

d) Draft Public Notice

Paragraph 1 of the draft public notice was to be amended to reflect the wide choice of options available.

e) Public Meetings

In considering the format of the public meetings it was requested that information be included on all the options available, and a resume of the guidance being followed. Details of the two public meetings were confirmed as follows:

- Thursday 15 September – 7.00 – 9.00 pm, Victoria Centre, Crewe
- Friday 16 September – 2.00 – 4.00 pm Crewe Library, Crewe

f) Ballot Paper Format

It was agreed that consultation with electors via a ballot paper be considered at a later stage once the stakeholder consultation responses were known and had been evaluated.

g) Draft Letter

This additional item was circulated at the meeting for consideration. The Sub Committee agreed that any responses received after the closing date would be considered, and that the first paragraph of the letter be amended to reflect the changes to be made to the leaflet, press release and public notice.

It was noted that in addition to all the above items the Cheshire East website would include full access to the official guidance, copies of public notices etc and that there would be a direct link from the front page.

RESOLVED

1. That approval be given to the revised project plan and timetable now submitted, that Members be further advised on the outcome of investigations into the current boundary discrepancy in Leighton Parish, and that the wording of the press release be amended to reflect the expected completion date of the review.
2. That the public information leaflet give equal prominence to the different types of council available to choose from; clear details around the levying of a precept and an indication of the current range levied by existing Town and Parish Councils; that the map show the area of the review; and that a revised leaflet be considered by the Sub-Committee at its next meeting in time for the consultation period to commence on 30 September 2011, with the project plan being amended accordingly.
3. That the draft press release, and the draft public notice, be amended to reflect the complete range of councils types available.
4. That the format of the public meetings include information relating to the official guidance and detailed information relating to the choices on offer.
5. That the draft letter be amended with regard to the closing date and to reflect the expanded information and changes to the preceding items.
6. That the format of the ballot paper be considered following the close of the initial consultation period which was due to end on 28 October 2011.

11 NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the next meeting of the Sub-Committee be held on 22 September 2011, but that the time be moved from the originally agreed time of 10.30 am to the afternoon on the rise of the Constitution Committee.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 3.52 pm

Councillor D Marren (Chairman)

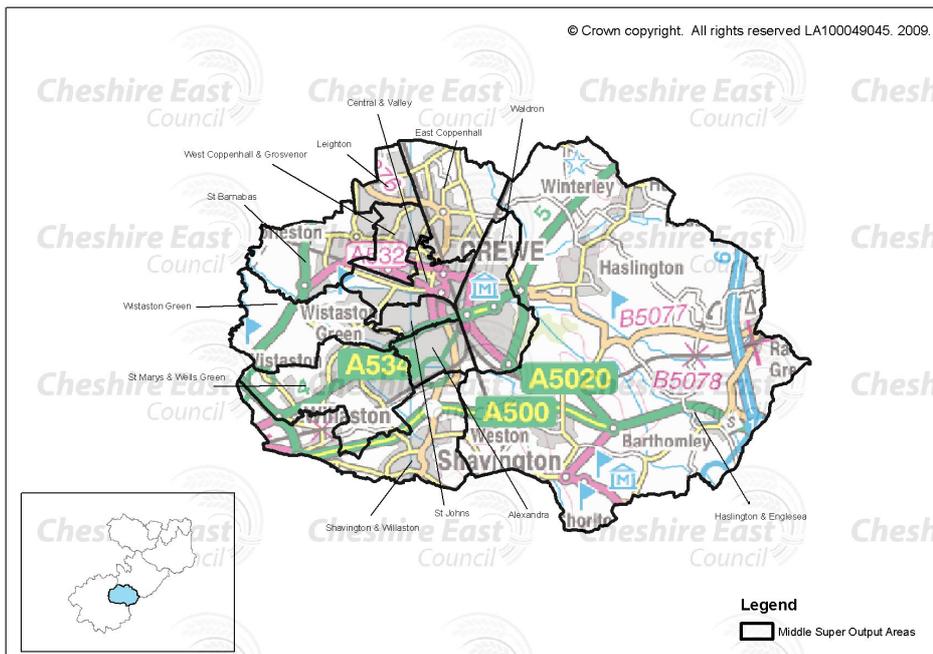
EXISTING CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 In order to engage with communities at a local level 7 Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) were established across Cheshire East . They bring together a wide range of people from the statutory, private, voluntary, faith and community sectors. By working together, they focus collective effort on what really matters, delivering improved outcomes for local people and places. Their role is to improve services, ensure people influence decision making and to actively engage and empower communities.

2.0 Local Area Partnerships

- 2.1 Area Assemblies are held in each LAP area, to engage the wider community and local partners and to feed into the Area Plans which focus on local issues that cannot be tackled by one organisation on its own, bringing together all those with an ability to make a difference.
- 2.2 The LAP working groups are making significant progress on a wide range of projects and are the council's main way of engaging people locally. They involve interested people and local enthusiasts who are working together to make a difference in our town and neighbourhoods.
- 2.3 The LAPs are working with neighbourhood and community groups in their area, to engage with local people and address very local issues.
- 2.4 Crewe 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 with partners through its Area Management Group (AMG), to discuss issues and progress on the Area Plan. The LAP tackles issues through Working Groups and currently Crewe has 6 groups in place. Crewe LAP has also agreed its work programme/action plan based on evidence and issues identified by the community. It also actioning a number of projects within the All Change For Crewe programme as well as ensuring the communities views are included in the town's Place shaping consultation taking place 2011.



5. Community Groups

- 5.1 There are a wide range of voluntary and community groups within the Crewe area. Some of these are issue based and there are a number of neighbourhood based community led groups such as Valley Community Action Project, Crewe West Community Group, and Gresty Community Group. These neighbourhood partnerships are addressing a range of issues within their neighbourhood.
- 5.2 The purpose of community engagement work is to build the capacity of our communities to lead partnership working in their area. Therefore the Crewe LAP is committed to supporting both existing and new community led partnerships. These partnerships are important to the work of the LAP, as they will help to inform the Area Plan.

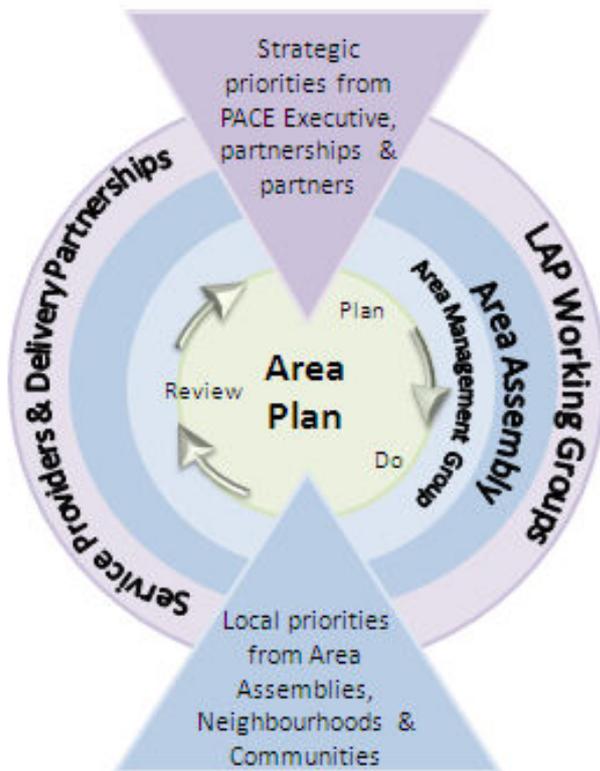
6. Community Activities

- 6.1 There is a wide range of community activities in Crewe, delivered through both the Crewe LAP and local community groups. These include: Environmental improvement projects improving open spaces, Green Crew environmental wardens scheme for the 8 – 16 years, Awareness events, e.g. health issues, residents speed watch, smart water security marking eg Safer Cloughton Avenue, alley gate champions, youth activity clubs and community newsletters. Crewe LAP is supporting a number of Community garden schemes.
- 6.2 Recent activity includes support to the community in re opening the Marshfield Community Centre which has been renamed by the community, The Georges Community Centre. Cheshire East Council has commissioned Big Society

Works a social enterprise company to develop a business plan which will sustain the centre and meet the needs of the community. The business plan will focus on income generation. A steering group of local people will become a community board which will have the ability to take over running of the centre in 2012.

7. Local Area Partnership

Operational Model



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