

Community Governance Review Sub-Committee

Agenda

Date:	Wednesday, 16th October, 2013
Time:	10.30 am
Venue:	Macclesfield Leisure Centre Meeting Room, Priory Lane, Macclesfield SK10 4AF

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 disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **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 relating to the work of the body in question. 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.

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.

For any apologies or requests for further information, or to give notice of a question to be asked by a member of the public

Contact: Cherry Foreman
Tel: 01270 686463
E-Mail: cherry.foreman@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2013.

5. **Options for the Next Stage of the Review** (Pages 5 - 38)

To consider the briefing note of the Registration Services and Business Support Manager on the options for the next stage of the Macclesfield Community Governance Review.

6. **Date of Next Meeting**

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Community Governance Review Sub-Committee**
held on Thursday, 15th August, 2013 in The Capesthorne Room - Town Hall,
Macclesfield SK10 1EA

PRESENT

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

Councillors G Baxendale, J Jackson, B Murphy and P Whiteley.

Councillor in attendance:

Councillor L Jeuda

Officers in attendance:

Cherry Foreman – Democratic Services Officer
Rose Hignett – Senior Electoral Services Officer
Jamie Oliver – Media Relations Officer
Lindsey Parton - Registration Service and Business Manager

10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

12 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

No members of the public were present.

13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2013 be approved as a correct record.

14 TO REVIEW THE PROCESS FOR THE STAGE 1 CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to the findings of the first stage of consultation with stakeholders and the public which had run from 24 June to 30 July 2013. A resume was given of the 8 public meetings that had been held in each of the Borough Wards, with an additional meeting in the Central Ward, of the publicity that had been given throughout the period, and of the comments and feedback received.

It was agreed that the feedback be considered in detail as part of the following agenda item.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

15 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FEEDBACK FROM THE STAGE 1 CONSULTATION

The Registration Service and Business Manager circulated a summary of the key points raised by the public and by Local Councillors at the public meetings held between 24 June and 30 July 2013; these were considered in conjunction with the meeting notes and the representations that had been received on-line and in hard copy.

In total 114 members of the public had attended the eight public meetings and 90 responses had been received although an additional 165 people had viewed the information on line but had then chosen not to complete the form. Unfortunately the responses from stakeholders had been lower than expected with only 15 out of a possible 137 being received. Following analysis of the views expressed a summary report had been produced and this had been circulated with the agenda papers.

Both Members and Officers were disappointed at the low level of returns and it was speculated that this could be partly due to uncertainty over which assets and services could be transferred to a town or parish council, and to the resultant inability to predict the resulting cost to local residents. In addition the fact that certain assets and services had potentially been excluded from transfer had led some people to believe that the introduction of a new council was perhaps not worthwhile due to the limited nature of what was possible. With regard to this last point it was agreed that the range and scope of the assets and services that could be devolved be discussed further with the Leader and the Cabinet.

Due to the low level of responses the Sub-Committee did not feel it was possible to ascertain with confidence what the public wanted. Comparisons were drawn between the current arrangements and services provided by Congleton and Nantwich Town Councils, and by Poynton Parish Council, all of which were well established, and the newly established and evolving Councils in Wilmslow, Styal, Handforth and Crewe.

It was felt by some that the information given as part of the consultation process should have included more detail in respect of arrangements remaining unchanged and also on the possibility of an enhanced Local Service Delivery Committee. Cllr Brendan Murphy referred to a paper he had prepared on this latter option and it was agreed that he would forward it to the Registration Service and Business Manager for information.

Before proceeding to the next stage it was agreed that more work needed to be done to inform and engage the local community, including young people, by the innovative use of more varied and wider means of communication such as local radio and twitter. It was agreed that the Communications Team should give further consideration to this matter. Also future information should include specific

examples of what other town and parish councils do along with examples of the associated costs to local residents.

RESOLVED

1. That the consultation information be reformatted to include two options in respect of no change with the retention of an enhanced Local Service Delivery Committee; and a Town Council for Macclesfield, and that specific examples of services, functions, and the associated costs be drawn from existing town councils.
2. That the Communications Team prepare a plan on how to make better use of a wider range of media.

16 PROJECT PLAN

RESOLVED

That, in view of the recommendations shown in minute no 15 above, consideration of this matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

17 TO CONSIDER THE STAGE 2 CONSULTATION

RESOLVED

That, in view of the recommendations shown in minute no 15 above, consideration of this matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

That the next meeting date be agreed in due course.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 11.45 am

Councillor D Marren (Chairman)

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Community Governance Review Sub Committee
16th October 2013

Briefing Note

Options for the Next Stage of the Community Governance Review

1. Introduction

At the last meeting of the Sub Committee members considered feedback received from the first stage of consultation with the public and with stakeholders. It was noted that despite publicity and public meetings being held the response had been disappointing. 114 members of the public had attended the public meetings but some of these were multiple attendees. 90 responses to the consultation were received. The majority of those who responded felt that a parish/town council was the best option for Macclesfield – but only 56 people in total gave a view on this issue. The Sub Committee agreed that further publicity should be undertaken to engage the community, including young people and that the next stages of consultation should now focus upon the two options of:

- No change - with an enhanced Service Delivery Committee; and
- A Town Council for Macclesfield.

It is difficult to pursue further publicity until such time as the option of an enhanced Service Delivery Committee has been developed and can be articulated clearly to the public. It is suggested that this is placed as a high priority to seek political agreement for an operating model.

Two additional responses received since the last meeting of the Sub Committee (in response to the first stage of consultation) are attached as **Appendix A**.

2. Macclesfield Local Members Briefing

There was an extended discussion relating to Macclesfield Community Governance Review at Macclesfield Local Members Briefing held on 13th September and it was requested that the following key points be reported to the CGR Sub Committee:

1. Members generally acknowledged the poor response to the consultation, in terms of attendance at events and formal representations.
2. There was some debate as to whether there was any case to support a local referendum on the establishment of a Town Council.
3. An alternative to a Town Council was proposed by the Leader in the form of an 'enhanced Local Service Delivery Committee' to ensure a

localist approach, representation of existing Cheshire East Council elected Members, and engagement of other local key interests.

4. Members indicated that they wish to more fully understand what a 'enhanced LSDC' could take on and deliver, and how it would be structured and resourced.

5. That this information be reported to the next Community Governance Review Committee.

3. Options for the Next Stages of the Review

Having considered the limited level of public response and feedback from the Macclesfield Local Members Briefing, the Sub Committee may wish to consider whether or not they wish to proceed with a ballot of electors in Macclesfield. It is suggested that if a decision was made to proceed with a ballot, that this would need to take place in December 2013 to allow enough time for the review to be completed within the statutory period of 12 months. See suggested draft revised timetable attached as **Appendix B**.

In terms of potential outcomes for the review, the Council could decide to proceed with the "No change option with an enhanced service delivery committee" with immediate effect, without the need for a ballot of electors, as this outcome does not require a CGR decision to proceed. However, this would not be the case if the Council decided to create a town or parish Council - as there is a statutory requirement "to consult local government electors" before reaching this outcome. A ballot would generally be deemed the most appropriate method to achieve this (as has been undertaken by Cheshire East for all Community Governance Reviews conducted to date).

In terms of the cost of a ballot of electors it is estimated that this would be approximately £6,700 for the printing of the ballot packs, plus approximately £12,000 for the outgoing and return postage. Members may wish to consider whether they consider the benefits of conducting a ballot would merit this level of expenditure.

4. Further Publicity (in advance of any ballot)

At the last meeting of the Sub Committee Members requested that the Communications team prepare a plan on how to make better use of a wider range of media to support the next stage of the review and also requested that the consultation information be reformatted to include the two options of a Town Council for Macclesfield (with examples of services, functions and associated costs drawn from existing town councils) and no change with an enhanced service delivery committee.

Draft publicity material is attached as **Appendix C**. Wording on the emerging proposals for an enhanced service delivery committee would need to be added. Stakeholders could be reconsulted on the two options and the general public engaged via the website.

In terms of additional publicity the Communications Team have suggested the following approach:

- To arrange a Schools Voting day – one week prior to any ballot being undertaken and try encourage media interest.
- To engage young people via twitter.
- Identify campaigners for both options and use this to encourage press interest / promote press ownership.

Councillor Janet Jackson has helpfully suggested that we need to make as much use of local radio, press and social media as possible; need to tweet people in Macclesfield who have a lot of followers and wide networks; and that we could promote the review /ballot at the Macclesfield Town Football matches and any other events happening around the town. It has also been suggested that Cheshire East take over an empty shop in the Town to publicise the options for Governance and Cllr Jackson has asked for this suggestion to be included on this agenda for discussion.

If a decision is taken to proceed with a ballot, clarity is needed asap on the option of an enhanced service delivery committee so that this can be communicated to the public in advance.

Lindsey Parton
Registration Service and Business Manager
Governance and Democratic Services

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From: Richard Grieve [rgrieve1@fsmail.net]
Sent: 04 September 2013 23:16
To: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Subject: Macclesfield Community Governance Review

Dear Sir/Madam ,

I have read the leaflet on the Community Governance Review, and considered the various options mentioned .

My preference is for Option 1 - No Change

This is because :-

a) When Macclesfield Borough Council and Cheshire County Council were abolished and Cheshire East Council established , it was claimed that the removal of a layer of government would increase efficiency and reduce cost .If, now, another layer of government is added back in - in the form of Parish/Town Councils - it would negate some of that alleged benefit of the previous change , without the new councils having many (or any ?) of the powers of the abolished Macclesfield Borough Council.

b) Parish Councils for Macclesfield and possibly Tytherington would simply add an extra layer of cost , in the form of allowances (doubtless substantial) for Parish/Town Councillors, salaries for Parish Clerks , fees for Consultants (e,g on Local Plans) etc etc . Furthermore, some services which are currently provided within our present Council Tax rates could then be 'devolved' by Cheshire East to Parish Councils without that part of the budget being devolved with them , thus allowing Cheshire East to wash its hands of the matter and put the blame on Parish Councils who would have to raise an extra rate to pay for what we get at the moment ! The cost of all these matters to be borne by the residents via higher/ extra Parish precepts to be added to the existing level of their Cheshire East Council Tax .

If Cheshire East needs to raise the Council Tax they should have the honesty to say so and not attempt backdoor 'stealth taxes ' in this way

c) Parish Councils would probably provide simply an extra talking shop for local politicians with no visible extra benefit to residents.

d) Had Parish Councils existed prior to the decision on Macclesfield's new shopping centre , it would not, in my view, have made the remotest difference to the end result because the Parish/Town Council would have had no vote in the final decision.

Please ensure that my views are taken into account as part of the present consultation exercise .

Could you , please , confirm receipt of this ?

Thank you ,

R.F Grieve

17 Newmarket Close , Macclesfield SK10 2WL



Online Surveys, Data Collection and Integration
www.SurveyGizmo.com

Summary Report - Auto Run

Survey: Macclesfield community governance review

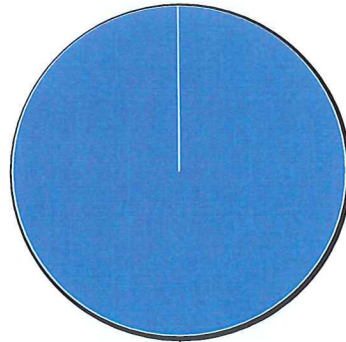
1. Generally speaking, within your local area how satisfied are you with...

	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Not sure	Responses
...local democracy?	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	100.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	1
...how local services are currently delivered?	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	100.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	1
...the existing arrangement for community engagement?	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	100.0% 1	0.0% 0	0.0% 0	1

2. And how could Cheshire East Council improve any or all of these things?

Count	Response
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3. Which form of local governance (as explained within these webpages) do you think would be best for Macclesfield?



Parish/Town council 100%

3. Which form of local governance (as explained within these webpages) do you think would be best for Macclesfield?

Value	Count	Percent %
No change	0	0.0%
Parish/Town council	1	100.0%
Community Forum	0	0.0%
Community Development Trust	0	0.0%
Neighbourhood Management	0	0.0%
Residents' and Tenants' Associations	0	0.0%
Community Associations	0	0.0%
Other (please select and write in)	0	0.0%

Statistics

Total Responses 1

Which form(s) of local governance (as explained in this leaflet) do you think would be best for Macclesfield? Please choose your preferred option(s), and rank them in order of preference. You can choose as many as you like, with 1 being your preferred one.

Item	Total Score ¹	Overall Rank
Residents' and Tenants' Associations	0	1
Community Associations	0	2
Other (please rank, and write in comments below)	0	3
Neighbourhood Management	0	4
Community Development Trusts	0	5
Parish/Town councils	0	6
Community Forums	0	7
No change	0	8

Total Respondents: 0

¹ Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is the sum of all weighted rank counts.

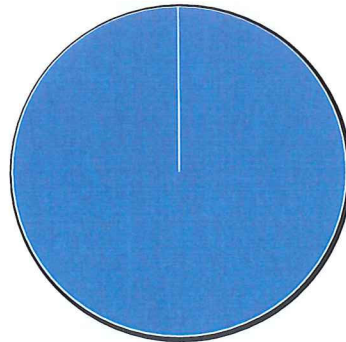
4. What role and/or services would you like this form of local governance to provide?

Count	Response
1	all

5. Are there any other comments you would like to make about future community governance in Macclesfield?

Count	Response
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6. How many Town and Parish councils do you think should be created in the current un-parished area of Macclesfield?



Seven or more 100%

6. How many Town and Parish councils do you think should be created in the current un-parished area of Macclesfield?

Value	Count	Percent %
One	0	0.0%
Two	0	0.0%
Three	0	0.0%
Four	0	0.0%
Five	0	0.0%
Six	0	0.0%
Seven or more	1	100.0%

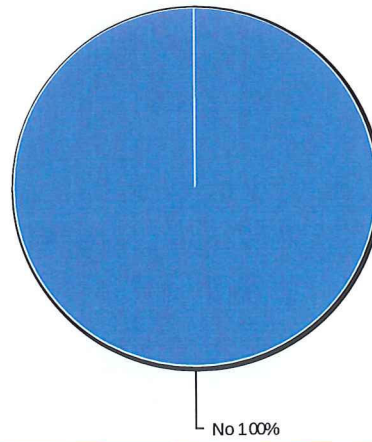
Statistics

Total Responses 1

7. What area(s) do you think the new Town/Parish councils should be based on?

Count	Response
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8. Are you a resident of the un-parished area of Macclesfield?



8. Are you a resident of the un-parished area of Macclesfield?

Value	Count	Percent %
Yes	0	0.0%
No	1	100.0%
Not sure	0	0.0%

Statistics	
Total Responses	1

9. Which Macclesfield Ward do you live in?

Value	Count	Percent %
Broken Cross and Upton	0	0.0%
Macclesfield Central	0	0.0%
Macclesfield East	0	0.0%
Macclesfield Hurdsfield	0	0.0%
Macclesfield South	0	0.0%
Macclesfield Tytherington	0	0.0%
Macclesfield West & Ivy	0	0.0%
Not sure	0	0.0%

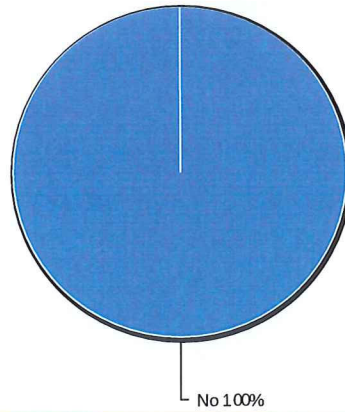
Statistics

Total Responses	0
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10. What is your postcode?

Count	Response
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11. Are you a member of an existing community group or organisation in Cheshire East?



11. Are you a member of an existing community group or organisation in Cheshire East?

Value	Count	Percent %	Statistics	
Yes	0	0.0%	Total Responses	1
No	1	100.0%		

MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – PROJECT PLAN
(updated 7 October 2013)

Appendix B

Task/activity	Decision-making process	Date
	Community Governance Review Sub Committee meetings	25 February 2013 11 April 2013 17 May 2013
<p>Guidance summary Project Plan Map of Review Area Electorate figures</p> <p>Prepare consultation leaflets (A4 and A5) Prepare Consultation Feedback Form (online and hard copy versions) Update Website Electoral arrangements - initial views size/warding</p> <p>Consultation – Full list of consultees and contact details</p> <p>2 x Public notices prepared for public meetings and for commencement of the Review</p> <p>Arrange public meetings and book venues</p>	<p>Consider summary of CGR guidance</p> <p>Approve Review Process / project plan Agree consultation methods Agree list of consultees Identify and evaluate options for the review Formulate Leaflet to consultees and electors Agree arrangements for public meetings</p>	
<p>Publish Notice giving details of public meetings and press release; and Publicity for 1st stage consultation with stakeholders Publish Notice</p>		<p>June 2013</p> <p><i>(To commence as early as possible with advice from the Communications Team)</i></p>
Public engagement / publicity co-ordinated with assistance from Communications Team and LSP Manager		24 June – 23 July 2013
Public Meetings	Series of 8 meetings held across Unparished Area. (Majority of the meetings to be held at 7pm).	3,4,8,9,10,11,12 and 22 July 2013

MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – PROJECT PLAN
(updated 7 October 2013)

Appendix B

Task/activity	Decision-making process	Date
Comments / submissions invited from interested parties on Options (4 week consultation period)	Consultation Period (stage 1)	24 June – 23 July 2013
All submissions / comments considered and evaluated. Collate representations		August 2013
	Community Governance Review Sub Committee meetings Considered outcome from stage 1 consultation (NB- Agreed to defer stage 2 consultation)	15 th August 2013
Refine the Consultation to 2 options – a Town Council; and no change (with an enhanced service delivery committee) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A communications plan - Updated leaflet 		(NB -LP on leave from 28.8 – 13.9)
Sign off/ implement communications plan Plan arrangements for stage 2 consultation	Community Governance Review Sub Committee meeting	16 October 2013 (agenda dispatched on 8 October 2013)
Extended period of public consultation (with stakeholders and to encourage further public response)		
Engagement with Schools		October 2013
Publish Notice of Ballot		2 September 2013 November 2013
Conduct Ballot of Electors (3 weeks)	Consultation Period (stage 2/ballot)	23 September – 11 October 2013 2 – 20 December 2013

MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – PROJECT PLAN
(updated 7 October 2013)

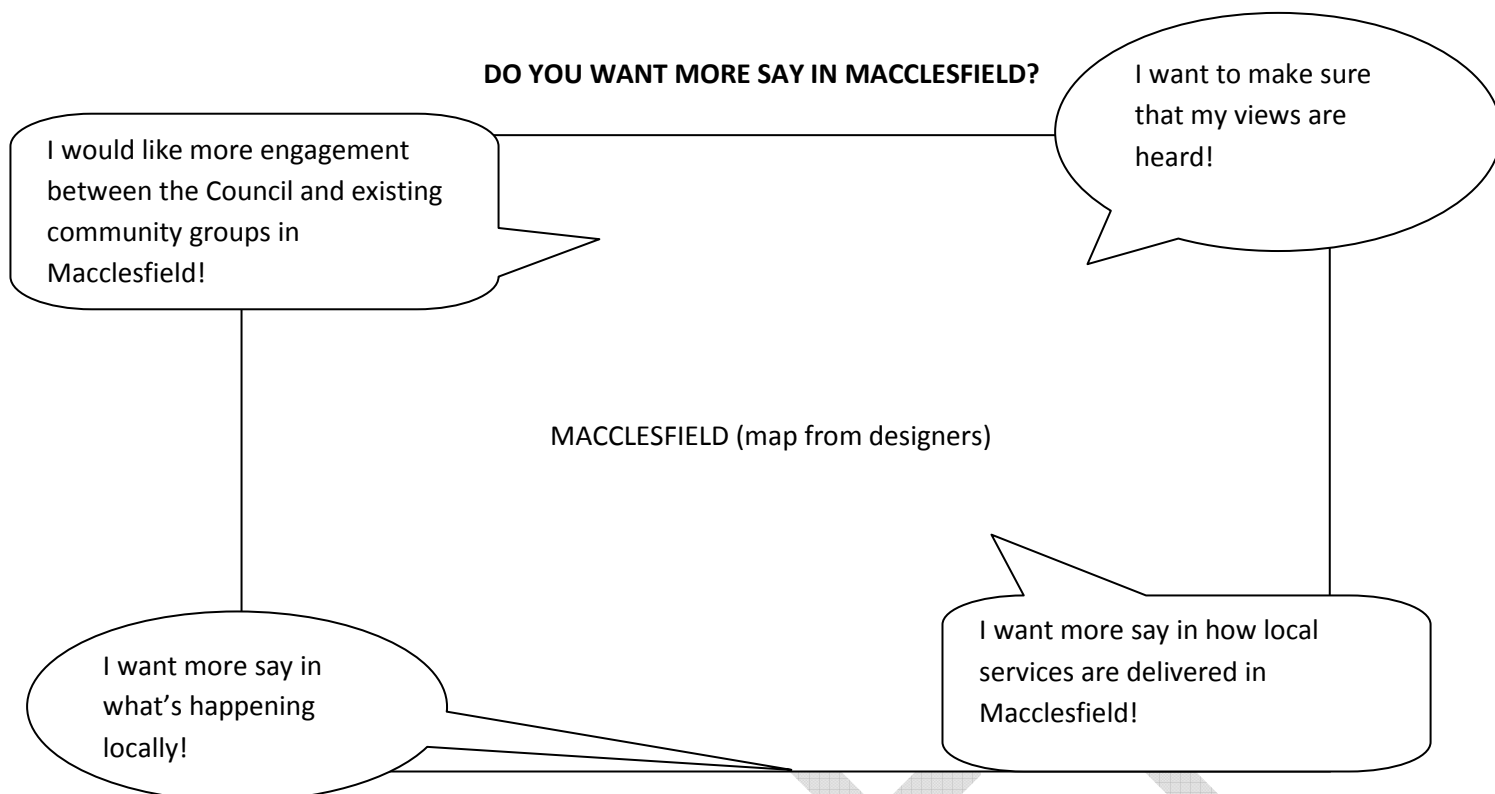
Appendix B

Task/activity	Decision-making process	Date
Collate representations and prepare committee report		October 2013 Early January 2014
	Community Governance Review Sub Committee meeting Make draft recommendations to Constitution Committee for consideration	Early January 2014
Prepare reports to Constitution Committee		Early January 2014
	Constitution Committee Submit draft recommendations to Full Council for approval	21 November 2013 23 January 2014
Preparation of report to Council on draft recommendation (including any warding arrangements)	Formulate draft recommendation to Council	
	Full Council Approve draft recommendations for final stage of consultation	12 December 2013 27 February 2014
Publicity for final stage consultation with stakeholders Publish Notice Produce literature and FAQs for final stage Update Website	Agree public notice for final stage consultation Agree literature for final stage	Mid December 2013 (3-4 weeks before consultation starts) Early March 2014 (3-4 weeks before consultation starts)
Implement Consultation (3 weeks)	Public Consultation Period (Final Stage)	13 January – 31 January 2014 24 March – 11 April 2014
Preparation of analysis/evaluation of consultation outcome Develop final recommendations – to include Implementation Plan, interim arrangements and election arrangements Update Website	Analysis of consultation outcome Formation of final recommendation and Implementation Plan for consideration by Constitution Committee	

MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – PROJECT PLAN
(updated 7 October 2013)

Appendix B

Task/activity	Decision-making process	Date
	Community Governance Review Sub Committee Consider outcomes of final stage consultation Make final recommendations to Constitution Committee for consideration	February 2014 Mid April - Mid May 2014
Preparation of report to Constitution Committee detailing final recommendation for consideration.	Approval of final recommendation and Implementation Plan for consideration by Council.	
	Constitution Committee Submit final recommendations and draft reorganisation Order to Council	20 March 2014 End of May 2014
Preparation of final recommendation and report to Council Implementation arrangements Draft Order and associated documents including maps, asset transfer and precept for first year budget. Implementation Plan including interim arrangements		
	Full Council Approve Reorganisation Order	10 April 2014 July 2014 (NB – A request could be made to full council on 27 February for the final decision and approval of the order to be made by the Constitution Committee in May 2014. This will enable the review to be concluded within the specified 12 month period).
Re-organisation Order takes effect and new parish arrangements come into being		1 April 2015
Implementation of any changes in electoral arrangements		Thereafter
Any elections required		May 2015

DO YOU WANT MORE SAY IN MACCLESFIELD?**What happens now?**

At present Cheshire East Council provides a wide range of local services, from planning and pest control to street lighting and leisure. The Council continually strives to provide services as cost-effectively as possible. The Council is made up of 82 elected councillors who make decisions on how to provide these local services on behalf of local people within the 52 wards that make up Cheshire East. Decisions are made by full Council, the Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members and Committees.

Community Governance Review

Cheshire East Council has committed to a programme of devolving services and assets to local groups and Parish Councils that will be able to run those services more effectively. As Macclesfield does not have a Parish/Town Council, this community governance review offers an opportunity to look at all the options available for Macclesfield. Although Parish/Town Councils are widely seen as the most local form of government there are other options which should also be considered.

What arrangements exist now?

At the moment, Macclesfield has Charter Trustees, a Local Service Delivery Committee and a Local Area Partnership. (these are explained further overleaf).

How can I know what is best for Macclesfield?

One of the best ways of deciding what's best for Macclesfield is to consider three key questions

- will it improve community engagement?
- will it deliver better local democracy?
- can it delivery local services in a more effective and convenient way?

What will it cost?

Whatever is decided, there will be a cost, as there is now. Currently, as Macclesfield residents, you contribute to the cost of delivery of local services through your Cheshire East Council Tax.

Appendix C

Whatever is decided, Cheshire East Council will remain responsible for major services such as social care, highways, education admissions, children's services, environmental protection, planning decisions etc. Cheshire East Councillors will continue to represent individuals and groups in their wards.

We are consulting local people over the next few months (see local media and Cheshire East website) and will take account of any views and opinions that we receive. Please check the Cheshire East website and local notice boards for details.

What are the options for Macclesfield?

As part of undertaking a Community Governance Review the Council should have regard to different forms of community governance which could be out in place. The earlier stage of consultation with the public and stakeholders in July 2013 provided an opportunity for people to express their support for No Change, Parish / Town Council(s), Community Forums, Community Development Trusts, Neighbourhood Management, Residents and Tenants Associations and community Associations.

There was demonstrable support for either no Change or for a Town Council to be created for Macclesfield, but no public support was demonstrated for any of the other options. For this reason, the Council has decided to undertake the next stages of consultation based upon two options, which are: 1) A Town Council for Macclesfield; and No change (with an enhanced Macclesfield Service Delivery Committee). Both options are explained below.

1. A Town Council for Macclesfield

A Town Council is exactly the same as a Parish Council, but in the case of a Town Council the Chairman is entitled to use the title of Mayor. Parish/Town councils (PTCs) are the most local form of government and can represent areas ranging from around 100 people (e.g., Barthomley which is a small local Parish Council of 180 people) to up to approx 36,500 people (which is the size of the newly formed Crewe Town Council). The general rule is that PTCs are based on an area which reflects community identity and interests. The community interests of the residents of the parish are represented by elected local councillors. Parish/Town councils(s) represent your local community's interests to Cheshire East Council on things like planning applications and highways; they can choose to deliver services that can improve the local area (e.g., public toilets, allotments, Christmas lighting, floral arrangements, bus shelters, burial grounds, litter bins, tourism, traffic calming and public transport schemes). The Localism Act 2012 gives greater powers to town and parish councils as they offer democratic representation and accountability, the ability to influence decision making by other bodies and the ability to deliver existing services or provide additional services. These include the preparation of a neighbourhood development plan or order which when completed becomes part of the local development plan for the area and has to be used as a basis for making decisions on planning applications. They can comment on all planning applications in their area as a Statutory consultee. Costs would be met by setting a council tax.

A Town Council would cover the whole of the unparished area of Macclesfield. It is usual in the case of Town Councils for the area to be divided into wards and Town Councillors would then be elected to represent electors in those wards. The warding arrangements could for example be based on the boundaries of the current Borough Wards. The number of Councillors to be elected would also need to be determined.

If a Town council was formed, Cheshire East Council would remain responsible for major services such as social care, highways, education admissions, children's services, environmental protection, planning decisions etc. Cheshire East Councillors would continue to represent individuals and groups in their wards and influence officers' actions with the support and advice of the Town/ Parish councillors. So in effect you would have two

tiers of local Government, both of which are separate entities with different functions and responsibilities and their own elected members. Anyone can stand for election as long as they are not disqualified for legal reasons and as long as they meet the criteria upon which they can be nominated.

If a Town Council was created to cover the whole of the unparished area of Macclesfield, then the Charter Trustees (explained below) would be dissolved. The Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee would also cease to exist. The Macclesfield Local Area Partnership (as explained below would continue).

Cost: Costs vary depending on the size of PTCs and the services they deliver. The costs to residents for PTCs in Cheshire East range from as low as £5.53 for Aston by Budworth Parish to as high as £95.24 for Nantwich Town Council. The newly created Crewe Town Council, for example, will meet its costs by setting a council tax of £28.96; but there will no longer be a Charter Trustee charge nor a Special Expense charge introduced.

Please see the attached appendix, which indicates the range of services which Parish Councils have the power to undertake and some examples of the range of precepts charged by some of the existing Town Councils in Cheshire East.

2. No change – with an enhanced Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee

The second option is to continue with current arrangements, which includes working with all the existing organisations – Macclesfield Local Area Partnership, Macclesfield Charter Trustees and the Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee.

- #### Local Area Partnership (LAP)

The Macclesfield LAP is one of seven across Cheshire East. It brings together the 17 neighbouring Parish Councils and associated Cheshire East Councillors (including those from the unparished area of Macclesfield) as well as a wide range of people from the voluntary, community and private sectors to focus on improving services, to influence decision making and to engage and empower communities. The LAP management group is consulted by Cheshire East Council; it influences service delivery, such as decisions on minor highway works including traffic regulations, but does not have the power to deliver local services itself. It is envisaged that the Macclesfield LAP will continue alongside any future governance arrangement for Macclesfield.

Cost: will continue to be covered by Cheshire East Council.

- #### Macclesfield Charter Trustees

Charter Trustees preserve the historic identity of the town by carrying out ceremonial functions, usually by the Mayor. The Trustees are Cheshire East (Macclesfield wards) councillors. In the capacity of Trustee they do not represent the interests of the local people to Cheshire East Council on issues such as planning or highways and they do not have the power to deliver local services. They can raise money to cover the costs of their ceremonial functions (eg Remembrance Day).

Cost: You currently pay £1.55 (Council Tax band D) to Charter Trustees.

If a Town Council was created in Macclesfield, which covered the whole of the Charter Trustee area, then the Charter Trustees would be replaced by that Town Council which would then carry out its functions and recover the costs by setting a council tax.

- **Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee**

This was set up by Cheshire East Council (CEC) as Macclesfield currently has no Parish/Town Council(s). It is run by 12 Cheshire East Councillors who were elected to serve Macclesfield's town wards. The Committee doesn't represent the interests of the local community on things such as planning applications and highways matters. It has been set up in its current form to consider and advise the Council on the quality, quantity and cost of service provision in Macclesfield. Its function is to ensure fairness of taxation for local services (such as community halls and allotments) that elsewhere in the Borough are provided by Parish / Town Councils.

If the no change option was chosen, it is proposed that the role of the Macclesfield Service Delivery Committee could be enhanced as follows:

Take in wording yet to be supplied.

Cost: In the future, the cost of some services provided principally for the benefit of Macclesfield Town residents may be met from part of the Council Tax set for Macclesfield residents, (called a Special Expense) rather than through the Cheshire East Council Tax.

If you would like more information please visit the Macclesfield Community Governance Review website on www.cheshireeast.gov.uk or email us at communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk

We would like to know your views on what arrangements would work best for you to secure improved community engagement, better local democracy and delivery of services in the most efficient and convenient way.

Please send your views in writing to :

Registration Service and Business Manager
Democratic Services
Cheshire East Council
Westfields
Sandbach
Cheshire CW11 1HZ

or by email to: communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1**LIST OF LEGAL POWERS AND DUTIES**

This is a list of powers and functions for parish councils which are covered by Acts of Parliament. The services which parish councils provide vary considerably and this is reflected in the amount of council tax they charge for the delivery of services.

Function	Powers and Duties
Allotments	Powers to provide allotments. Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied and if reasonable to do so
Borrowing Money	Power for councils to borrow money for their statutory functions or for the prudent management of their financial affairs
Baths and Washhouses	Power to provide public baths and washhouses
Burial Grounds, cemeteries and crematoria	Power to acquire and maintain Power to provide Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries
Bus Shelters	Power to provide and maintain shelters
Byelaws	Power to make bylaws in regard to pleasure grounds Cycle Parks Baths and Washhouses Open spaces and burial grounds Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms
Charities	Duties in respect of parochial charities Power to act as charity trustees
Clocks	Power to provide public clocks
Closed churchyards	Powers to maintain
Commons and common pastures	Powers in relation to inclosure, regulation and management and providing common pasture

Function	Powers and Duties
Conference facilities	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities
Community Centres	Power to provide and equip buildings for the use of clubs having athletics, social or educational objectives Power to acquire, provide and furnish community buildings
Crime Prevention	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures
Drainage	Power to deal with ponds and ditches
Entertainment and the Arts	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts
Environment	Power to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti and offenses under dog control orders
Gifts	Power to accept
Highways	Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways Power to light roads and public places Provision of litter bins Power to provide parking places for vehicles , bicycles and motor cycles Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening Power to provide roadside seats and shelters and omnibus shelters Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway Power to complain to district council as to protection of rights of way and roadside wastes Power to provide certain traffic signs and other notices Power to plant trees etc. and to maintain roadside verges
Honorary titles	Power to admit to be honorary freemen of the council's area persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area
Investments	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment

Function	Powers and Duties
Land	Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of
Litter	Provision of receptacles
Lotteries	Power to promote
Markets	Power to establish or acquire by agreement markets within their area and provide a market place and market buildings
Mortuaries and Post mortem rooms	Power to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms
Newsletters	Power to provide information relating to matters affecting local government
Nuisances	Power to deal with offensive ditches
Open Spaces	Power to acquire land for public recreation and maintain Power to acquire and maintain land for open spaces
Parish property and documents	Power to direct as to their custody Duty to deposit certain published works in specific deposit libraries
Public Buildings and village halls	Power to acquire and provide buildings for public meetings and assemblies
Public conveniences	Power to provide
Recreation	Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control them Power to provide a large range of recreational facilities Provision of boating pools
Town and Country Planning	Right to be notified of planning applications if right has been requested
Tourism	Power to contribute to organisations encouraging tourism
Traffic Calming	Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes
Transport	Powers to spend money on community transport schemes
War Memorials	Power to maintain, repairs, protect and adapt war memorials

Function	Powers and Duties
Water Supply	Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water from them
Websites	Power for Councils to have their own websites
Well-being	Power for (eligible) parish councils to do anything they believe is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic and /or social and/or environmental well-being of their area

APPENDIX 2

EXAMPLES OF TOWN COUNCILS IN CHESHIRE EAST

TOWN COUNCIL	NUMBER OF ELECTORS	EXAMPLES OF SERVICES PROVIDED (NB - THIS IS ILLUSTRATIVE AND NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST)	PARISH COUNCIL TAX (PER BAND D PROPERTY)
Alsager Town Council	9605	<p>Runs facilities including Alsager Civic Centre, Crewe Road Toilets, Alsager Market and Allotment sites.</p> <p>Provision of grants to local organisations totalling £28,000.</p> <p>Play facilities at Wood Park and Northholme Gardens.</p> <p>Support of community events such as “the big switch on”; Christmas market; annual carnival and summer concerts.</p> <p>The Town Council also owns and manages the Alsager Institute which provides a valuable and well used community building .</p> <p>Funding is provided to support two PCSOs for the Town .</p>	£64.48
Bollington Town Council	6,113	<p>Running of Bollington Civic Hall, and during 2013 consideration being given to running of the Town Hall and the Bollington Recreation Ground.</p> <p>Improvements to footpaths and rights of way.</p> <p>Provision of grants to local organisations.</p> <p>Funding provided to support one PCSO for the Town.</p> <p>Support for and organisation of numerous community and civic events including Christmas lights, annual carol service, mayor making ceremony and regular litter picks. Investment has been made in the Coronation Gardens and land has been acquired by the Town Council for allotments at Harrop Road.</p>	£55.00

Congleton Town Council	21,580	<p>Management of Congleton Town Hall and Allotments.</p> <p>Management of Congleton Paddling Pool and the accountable body for the Congleton Market Town Initiative.</p> <p>Provision of grants to local organisations.</p> <p>Organisation and support of various community events such as home coming parades, music and food festivals and carnival.</p> <p>Provision of notice boards, road signs and street furniture.</p> <p>Tourism including Tourist Information kiosk.</p> <p>Community safety, crime prevention measures and traffic calming.</p> <p>Shopmobility, public toilets and play areas.</p> <p>Maintenance of closed churchyard and clock tower and war memorial.</p> <p>Budget for Highways / Roads.</p>	£66.56
Crewe Town Council	36,000	<p>Council established in April 2013.</p> <p>Allotments and public conveniences to transfer to the town council to manage in 2013.</p> <p>The Town Council will determine other services it wishes to provide in due course.</p>	£28.96
Knutsford Town Council	10,579	draft	£27.35
Middlewich Town Council	10,701	draft	£66.34
Nantwich Town Council	11,453	<p>Management of Nantwich Civic Hall, Market, and Public Toilets.</p> <p>Planting of hanging baskets and planters.</p> <p>Shop Mobility.</p>	£95.24

		Tourism. Town Centre Management. Street Entertainment. Christmas Lights. Financing Town Events. Allotments. Provision of grants to local organisations. Millenium Clock. CCTV. Organisation and support of various community events such as home coming parades, music and food festivals, carnival annual carol service, mayor making ceremony and regular litter picks. Provision of notice boards, road signs and street furniture.	
Poynton Town Council	11,863	draft	£53.06
Sandbach Town Council	14,684	draft	£56.82

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