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## MACCLESFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY

*working for a town to be proud of*

Mrs Erika Wenzel, Chief Executive,

Cheshire East Council,

Westfields,

Middlewich Road,

Sandbach

CW11 1HZ

5 May 2011

Dear Mrs Wenzel

### **Cheshire East Governance Review**

At the meeting of the Civic Society Committee on Monday 13 December 2010 I was instructed to the Democratic Services Team regarding the prospect of a governance review for Macclesfield. The Society and other local organisations have noted the progress of Wilmslow/Handforth towards the establishment of new town and parish councils with both interest and support. We also understand that the position with regard to Crewe may be revisited in 2011. Should these areas eventually obtain town or parish status this would leave only Macclesfield as an area without a lower tier of local government. Rather than remain as an administrative anomaly the Society would wish to see a town council established and to this end have already collected a number of signatories to a petition calling for that end.

The reply received in January of this year from Mrs Parton indicated that the position may be revisited following elections to the Council which take place today.

From recent discussions which the Society has had with the Macclesfield Guild and Chamber of Trade there appears to be real concern that the review ought to be pursued as a matter of urgency given impending changes heralded in the Localism Bill. It would be unfortunate if Macclesfield and Crewe remained the only parts of Cheshire East without a lower tier council in place and reliant upon the workings of ad hoc bodies such as local area committees to oversee delegated or devolved functions.

The Society does not consider that the role of the Macclesfield Charter Trustees (in the absence of direct elections to such positions by Macclesfield residents) would enjoy democratic credibility should they be

accorded further responsibilities for devolved or delegated services. In addition as Cheshire East Councillors the Charter Trustees have many other duties that may have first call on their time and involvement.

In view of this I am instructed by the Society to write to you to formally request that the issue of a governance review for Macclesfield and Crewe be placed before the newly elected Cheshire East Council at the first appropriate opportunity.

I understand that the Macclesfield Guild may be writing to you in similar terms.

With best wishes for the forthcoming Local Government Year and looking forward to your advice I remain

Yours sincerely

*Keith Smith*

Chairman, Macclesfield Civic Society