

COUNCIL – 10 DECEMBER 2025

NOTICES OF MOTION

Submitted to Council in Accordance with the Council Procedural Rules

1 Adlington New Town

Proposed by Councillor Fiona Wilson and Seconded by Councillor Judy Snowball

1. This Council notes the report and recommendations to the Government by the Independent New Towns Task Force (NTTF) and the urgent need to provide additional housing to include affordable and social housing along with the medical, educational, transport and community services to enable sustainable living. Council also notes the requirement in the NTTF report for these to be in the right locations with priority given to affordable housing and have the public services and amenities required from the outset along with climate resilience and protecting, restoring and enhancing biodiversity.
2. It is widely accepted across mainstream political parties that we need to build over one million homes as soon as possible. Council agrees that we need more housing and also that this must be delivered in the right places. Prioritising developments on brownfield and regeneration areas rather than on valuable green belt and farming land. Government needs to make it easier for brownfield sites to be brought back into use.
We support the commitment of the NTTF for specific sites to have the local support of communities and Councils. Council welcomes future discussions and close involvement in the choice of any suitable sites within our Borough.
3. Council has concerns over the consideration of a site wholly within the green belt on a private estate in Adlington. We must protect our medium and small settlements from urban sprawl. We are disappointed at the lack of any prior or meaningful engagement by the NTTF with local communities, local businesses and the Council prior to their announcement of this potential site as one of the 12 identified locations. This is not in line with the principle commitment of the NTTF that specific sites have the support of local communities.
4. The statement in the NTTF report that 'these are specific sites with a degree of local support and landowners, developers, councils and others ready to welcome a new town' does not reflect the views of local stakeholders or take account of the fact that Adlington has some of the best pastures in the Borough nor the impact on rural communities. Council also notes the commitment to rurality by the

emerging Cheshire and Warrington Combined Authority Shadow Board as part of the Devolution process.

5. Council therefore urges the Government to abandon the proposal for a new town in Adlington, Cheshire and to focus on the development of existing brownfield and town centre sites along with the call for new sites as part of the Local Plan process and the involvement of communities in the discussions.
6. Should the Minister decide to move to the next stage with the current Adlington site this will require the preparation and publication of the draft proposals and final Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Council in drawing up its submission to any consultation will require that if any site in our Borough was eventually considered, infrastructure would be provided that ensures:
 - a) The provision of a New Town, with a focus on affordable and social housing with good employment opportunities.
 - b) Primary health care (GPs), hospitals, education and community services and facilities must be in place prior to first occupation.
 - c) Families can use public open space, sporting and leisure facilities, and access retail needs, within walking distance, and sustainable and affordable public transport.
 - d) Drainage and flood protection to reflect the current environmental experience along with protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ensuring food security.
7. Council re-states its concern over the sudden and significant increase in the housing target for Cheshire East and calls on the Government to halt the speculative housing development applications and restore plan-led development by phasing in the new targets over time. Council also calls on the Government to confirm that additional housing provided through new towns will count towards 5-year housing land supplies.

Council resolves:

- a) Not to support the current proposals for a new town at Adlington.
- b) To ask the Leader and Deputy Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (the decision maker) to confirm the Council's position.
- c) That the Economy and Growth Committee to be asked to consider any further details of any other proposals brought forward for Cheshire East.

2 Adlington New Town

Proposed by Councillor Mike Sewart and Seconded by Councillor Thelma Jackson

This motion seeks to require the Cheshire East Borough Council, as the principal representative authority of the people of the area, to inform the New Towns Task Force and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government of its opposition to the proposal, by a private landowner, for a new town of between 14 and 20,000 dwellings at Adlington.

The decision to put forward this motion has been taken because of the wholesale opposition to the new town proposal by the people of Adlington, a small village in some of the greenest greenbelt in the county.

That opposition has been unequivocally supported by all the surrounding town and parish councils in Bollington, Pott Shrigley, Poynton and Prestbury.

The principal reasons for opposition include:-

The merging of the communities of Bollington, Macclesfield, Prestbury and Poynton with the Greater Manchester conurbation (which borders the proposed new town site).

Loss of high-grade agricultural land,

Destruction of biodiversity,

Loss of trees (there are more trees in Adlington than any other CE parish),

Destruction of the natural environment.

3 Protecting the Role of Police Community Support Officers across Cheshire and Warrington.

Proposed by Councillor Janet Clowes and seconded by Councillor Julie Smith

This Council notes with significant concern, the proposal, announced on 21st November 2025, by Chief Constable Mark Roberts and later confirmed by the Police and Crime Commissioner Dan Price, to axe

sixty PCSO jobs, reducing the current number from 87 to just 27 PCSOs by Spring 2026.

A 30-day internal consultation to consider how £13m savings might be achieved by 2029, was launched on 17th November and is still live, however all PCSOs have already received a notice of redundancy commencing

31st March 2026, (stating that any applications for non-uniform posts must be submitted by 16th December).

The Chief Constable has stated that this drastic action is to enable the introduction of a new Neighbourhood Policing Model that will “meet the needs of modern-day policing” and for which “a reduction in the current number of PCSOs is required”.

In addition, the Chief Constable has stated that the reduction of PCSOs will put more warranted Police Officers in local policing teams, in order to support the Government’s Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.

This statement and action related to Cheshire PCSOs directly contradicts the Labour Government’s own Recommended protocol (13th May 2025), for the implementation of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee Problem Statement which states:

“The Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee (NPG) aims to rebuild the link between police forces and the communities they serve through delivering 13k additional neighbourhood officers and PCSOs. This will be set out through activities that will be delivered through 5 pillars of the NPG”

“INPUT

- £200m commitment for Year 1 (2025/2026)
- Delivery of 13,000 additional police officers, PCSOs and special constables into neighbourhood policing roles”

In addition, each Police Authority is to be assessed every six months by the Home Office with regard to their progress against delivery of the five pillars that underpin the NPG.

In light of the current legislation that demands an increase in the numbers of both warranted police officers **AND** PCSOs on the streets of our neighbourhoods, the proposed actions of both the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner are counter intuitive.

In light of this significant inconsistency:

This Council requires answers to the following concerns and resolves to:

1. Contact the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner and request the following definitive information:
 - i) Please confirm that just £3m has been allocated to the Cheshire Police Force of the £200m funding identified by the Labour Government, for the implementation of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee (NPG)
 - ii) How will the loss of the majority of Cheshire's PCSOs by April 2026 enable the Cheshire Police Force to meet key performance indicators (KPI's) for PCSOs that the Home Office expects?
 - iii) What is the fiscal evidence-base for making 60 of 87 PCSOs redundant?
 - iv) Will the proposed new warranted police officers be funded by these redundancies or by the Government's NPG allocation to the Cheshire Police Force?
 - In either case, how sustainable are these new appointments?
 - v) Will the number of the new warranted police officers to be appointed, be commensurate with the number of PCSOs lost?
 - vi) How has the loss of the invaluable local community knowledge (acquired and shared over many years by Cheshire's PCSOs) been accounted for in implementing the NPG model?
 - vii) How will the allocation of warranted officers across communities address the current sparsity of policing human resources across the wider geographies of rural communities as rural crime continues to rise?
2. Considering the NPG and the concerns raised above, this Council requests that the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner reconsider their decision to reduce their PCSO cohort.

References:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neighbourhood-policing-guarantee>

4 Prohibiting Smartphone Use in Local Authority Schools

Proposed by Councillor David Jefferay, seconded by Councillor Emma Gilman

Recent non-statutory guidance put forward by the Department for Education (DfE) (2024) states that

"All schools should develop and implement a policy that creates a mobile phone-free environment by prohibiting the use of mobile phones and other smart technology with similar functionality to mobile phones throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime".

However, even the schools that do have a ban vary in how it is applied. A recent review of smartphone policies in the UK by Mansfield et al. (2024) found that, among secondary schools,

- 11 per cent implemented what they term an 'Effective ban' (where phones are not allowed in school or are stored in lockers or equivalent, e.g., Yondr pouches, at the start of the day).
- 52 per cent 'Ban, but phone present' (e.g., in school bags).
- 36 per cent 'Partial ban' (phones banned in class, but allowed at some times, such as break or lunch).

Research commissioned by the Children's Commissioner (School phone policies in England, April 2025) found a similar breakdown with very few schools having an effective ban. This research also indicates that exclusion rates in schools with pouches are drastically falling as the addictive nature of smartphones is broken during the school day.

There are some studies which suggest that having smartphones in schools does not affect grades but the more recent studies, where phone and social media use is widespread tend to indicate an adverse effect. The problem with the weaker bans is that they assume the use of the phone is the distraction but even having access to the phone is in itself distracting. Skowronek, J., Seifert, A. & Lindberg, S. (2023) demonstrated that the presence of the smartphone results in lower attentional performance and has a negative influence on the working speed (and thus on cognitive performance and attention). The paper concludes that "Students should avoid having their smartphone with them while attention is required".

It is further noted that the *Phone-Free Schools Movement* and international best practice highlight the benefits of phone-free school days, including improved concentration and learning outcomes,

healthier peer-to-peer interactions, a reduction in classroom disruptions, cheating, and disciplinary incidents; and better safeguarding of pupils during the school day.

Bans are supported by the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner who has launched an initiative for mobile phones to be locked away during the school day in every state high school in Cheshire. The PCC wants Cheshire to be the first county in the UK where all state high schools have lockable phone pouches. It is worth noting that he has a funding plan of up to £150k to launch the initiative. The PCC reports that schools with lockable pouches are seeing immediate, widespread, positive results in wellbeing and a dramatic reduction in online safeguarding incidents; one quoting an 80% reduction in these.

Based on the above, it is proposed that this Council moves to:

1. Prohibit pupils' access to smartphones and similar personal electronic devices during the school day in all local authority maintained schools in Cheshire East, with reasonable exemptions for documented medical or special educational needs.
2. Instruct the Director of Education to work with headteachers and governing bodies to develop and implement a consistent, enforceable policy across all maintained schools, in line with the *Phone-Free Schools* model of a "first bell to last bell" ban.
3. Ensure that alternative communication systems are in place so that parents can contact schools during the day and pupils can access support in emergencies without recourse to personal devices.
4. Support schools, staff, pupils and parents through clear communication, guidance and phased implementation, with a view to commencing the policy in the next academic year.