

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

On 1st April 2009 Cheshire East Unitary Council will become operational and will take over the responsibility for all local government service provision for the former Boroughs of Congleton, Crewe & Nantwich and Macclesfield.

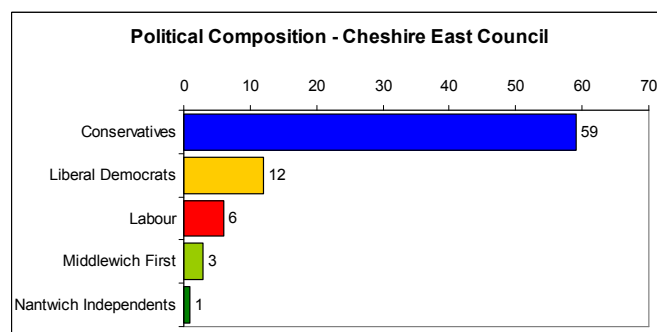
Cheshire East Council is the third largest Council in the North West of England and will have a powerful voice on the international, national and regional stage. The Council's vision is based upon a seamless approach across all public, private and voluntary sectors from the neighbourhood up to the regional level. The new authority will lead in forging strong and effective partnerships to ensure the needs and aspirations of the community are addressed at all times.

POLITICAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

There are 81 Councillors, representing the 27 wards of the new authority, who were elected to the Cheshire East Shadow Council in May 2008. Councillors were elected for four year terms and the Shadow Council will be superseded by the new Cheshire East Council on 1st April 2009.

The political composition as of May 2008 is as follows:-

Conservative	59
Liberal Democrats	12
Labour	6
Middlewich First	3
Nantwich Independents	1



Councillors are directly accountable to citizens for the running of the Council and the overriding duty of Councillors is to the whole community. They are required to agree to follow a code of conduct to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties. The Standards Committee trains and advises Councillors on ethical issues.

Prior to April 2009 all Councillors will meet together as 'the Shadow Council' to prepare for the assumption of local government functions and full local authority powers on 1st April 2009. Once the new authority is operational they will meet as 'the Council'. Meetings of the Council are normally open to the public. Councillors, when they meet as 'the Council' will decide the Council's overall policy framework and prepare the budget each year.

The two main areas of the Council's political structure comprise the Executive and Scrutiny.

The Council appoints the Executive (to be known as the Cabinet at Cheshire East Council) which comprises of the Leader of the Council together with 9 other Members. The Cabinet is responsible for most of the day to day decisions about how the Council is run and is required to act within the policy and budgetary framework which has been decided by the Council

Three Cabinet Advisory Panels have also been appointed to provide advice to the Cabinet:

- Advisory Panel-People
- Advisory Panel-Places
- Advisory Panel-Performance and Capacity

The Council's scrutiny arrangements ensure that Members of the Shadow Council who are not on the Executive may be involved in Executive decisions. The Shadow Council has appointed a Scrutiny Committee to oversee the Council's scrutiny function.

The Shadow Council has also appointed the following decision making bodies:

Standards Committee;
Governance and Constitution Committee; and
Joint Liaison Committee.

The political structure will be expanded further with the addition of regulatory committees (e.g. Development Control; Licensing) once the new authority is operational to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory requirements. There will also be a number of local area-based committees across Cheshire East.

Details of the Calendar of Meetings and copies of meeting papers are available on the Council's Website at cheshire-east.gov.uk

ORGANISATIONAL VALUES

Core Values

The overall aim of the authority is to have a positive impact on all sections of the community we serve. Cheshire East Council has developed a set of core values and key behaviours to underpin this aim.

Our values mean that we will:-

- **Act** with integrity and challenge others to do the same;
- **Support** and help others to grow, learn and develop;
- **Push** to deliver our promises and make the right things happen;
- **Involve** and engage others, valuing all views and contributions;
- **Respond** positively to change and find ways to improve the things we do;
- **Empower** colleagues, customers and communities to find solutions.

These core values will underpin the Council's vision by defining how the Council will achieve its ASPIRATIONS.

ASPIRE VALUES FRAMEWORK

Act with integrity and challenge others to do the same	Support and help colleagues and customers to grow, learn and develop	Push to deliver our promises and make the right things happen for customers
We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat everyone with dignity and respect • Speak up when others are behaving inappropriately • Respect the standards and practices that help us to operate • Be accountable for taking informed risks and difficult decisions • Separate personal feelings from professional requirements 	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take ownership of our own development • Coach and encourage others to grow and go outside of comfort zones • Take time to reflect and learn from own and others experiences • Give and seek constructive feedback • Find ways to narrow gaps and remove inequalities for others 	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take time to understand customer needs and requirements • Manage expectations and keep customers informed • Make efficient and best use of money and resources • Own problems and take responsibility for solving them • Get it right first time, balancing urgency with quality and efficiency
Involve , communicate and engage with others, valuing all contributions	Respond positively to change and find ways to improve the services we deliver	Empower colleagues, customers and communities to find the right solutions
We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively listen and encourage ideas • Influence others positively and constructively • Work in partnership and be prepared to compromise • Be open and honest in our communication with others • Recognise and acknowledge contributions and achievements 	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage creativity from everyone • Be flexible about ones job, responsibilities and ways of working • Quickly implement agreed changes • Keep abreast of new developments • Try new ideas and approaches • Take the initiative and make suggestions • Push to be better 	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring people together • Actively share knowledge and information with others • Provide appropriate resources to enable things to happen • Remove barriers and support others in resolving issues • Develop simple and easy to use processes