

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Local Service Delivery Committee – Macclesfield.

Date of Meeting: 1st November 2011
Report of: Vivienne Quayle – Head of Performance, Customer Services and Capacity
Lisa Quinn- Director of Finance and Business Services
Subject/Title: Local Service Delivery – Transfer and Devolution
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Rachel Bailey
Cllr Michael Jones

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 his report and Appendices provides detailed information to support the costs associated with the list of assets that could potentially form the calculation for a special expense levy for 2012/13. The report at the previous meeting gave background information and set out the main financial implications. This report builds on that information and presents the financial position in more detail. T
- 1.2 his information it is intended to assist members in making an informed decision on those existing services that they wish to see provided in the currently unparished area of Macclesfield (consistent with those transferring to parishes areas) and the associated budgets that related to those services. T
- 1.3 his is the first time any such special expenses levy has been considered and the financial information needs to be clear and transparent. Service and finance officers will be available at the meeting to answer questions of clarification. T

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to make a recommendation to Cabinet on the level of service and related budgets they wish to see continue to be provided in the unparished area of Macclesfield potentially leading to the levying on a relevant charge.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 Macclesfield Town is currently an unparished area and as such has no local Council (at a lower tier than Cheshire East) at present to make decisions about service delivery. To ensure that the area of Macclesfield has similar opportunities and choices as the parished areas and that all areas of Cheshire East are treated consistently, it has been necessary to set up this specific committee to carry out the functions as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

4.0 Wards Affected (either fully or partially)

- 4.1 Macclesfield West and Ivy
- 4.2 Macclesfield Hurdsfield
- 4.3 Broken Cross and Upton
- 4.4 Macclesfield South
- 4.5 Macclesfield Central
- 4.6 Macclesfield Tytherington
- 4.7 Macclesfield East

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 All Macclesfield members

6.0 Policy Implications including – Carbon Reduction - Health

6.1 This initiative aligns with the first priority of the Sustainable Community Strategy “nurturing strong communities” and is part of Cheshire East’s stated drive to ensure that working locally is at the heart of what we do.

6.2 National policy is designed to decentralise government and give communities power to make a difference in their area. This initiative clearly aligns with this national drive.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Director of Finance)

7.1 Appendix A of this report is a summary of financial information, which provides an indication of the likely special expense levy if the services were to be maintained at their current level.

7.2 A copy of the budget for the Chartered trustees was requested as part of the Crewe LSD committee meeting and is thought that it would be

helpful to provide the same for the Macclesfield LSD committee; this information has been requested and will be forwarded to members once received.

- 7.3 In order to provide a consistent approach across Cheshire East a special expense levy is being proposed within Macclesfield. By way of background information, the council tax (or in this case, the special expenses council tax) is simply calculated by taking the net cost of Services provided in an area and dividing by the tax base (being the number of Band D equivalent properties). A summary of the tax base calculations for the current financial year, 2011/12, is attached in Appendix B, illustrating the tax base for Cheshire East, along with the particular calculation for Macclefield unparished area. Clearly, the tax bases for 2012/13 are being prepared and will be slightly different to the current year figures (i.e. to reflect changes in total numbers of properties, incidence of discounts etc.), but any change is not expected to be too material.

8.0 *Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)*

The legal implication of setting a levy will be considered once the communication from DCLG has been received in relation to the freeze on council Tax.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 There is a potential risk that inconsistencies could occur where services are continued to be funded centrally. If services are continued to be delivered in this way then it will be important that the reasoning behind this is clearly communicated.
- 9.2 There is a risk that the charge on the people of Macclesfield is unclear given the potential for a special expense and a charter trustee level as well as the usual Council Tax. This is part of the reason for setting up this Local Delivery Committee and communication of the results for this committee's recommendations and the Council decision will be designed to give as much clarity as possible to residents.

10.0 Background and Options

At the first meeting of Local service delivery committee for Macclesfield Members of the committee asked for further detailed financial information on the services that will form the special expense payment.

As part of Cheshire East Council's initiative to transfer and devolve services to Town and Parish Councils, Full Council agreed that Local Service Delivery Committees are required to represent the unparished areas in the Borough to determine the level of local services required by communities. This decision was taken in November 2010.

The list of the relevant services is contained in the report to cabinet on 5th September 2011. (The report was circulated to members of the committee prior to the last meeting)

In order to be consistent with the overall Cheshire East policy, it is necessary to carry out an assessment of the cost of the relevant services within the unparished area for consideration by this local service delivery committee. This may result in a special expense levy on the CEC Council Tax bill. This is designed to be an equivalent to a precept for local services provided by a Town or Parish Council. If and when a Town or Parish Council is established in these areas, the local service delivery committee will no longer be required.

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Vivienne Quayle/Lisa Quinn

Designation: Head of Performance, Customer Services and Capacity /Director of Finance and Business Services

Tel No: 01270 685859

Email: Vivienne.quayle@cheshireeast.gov.uk