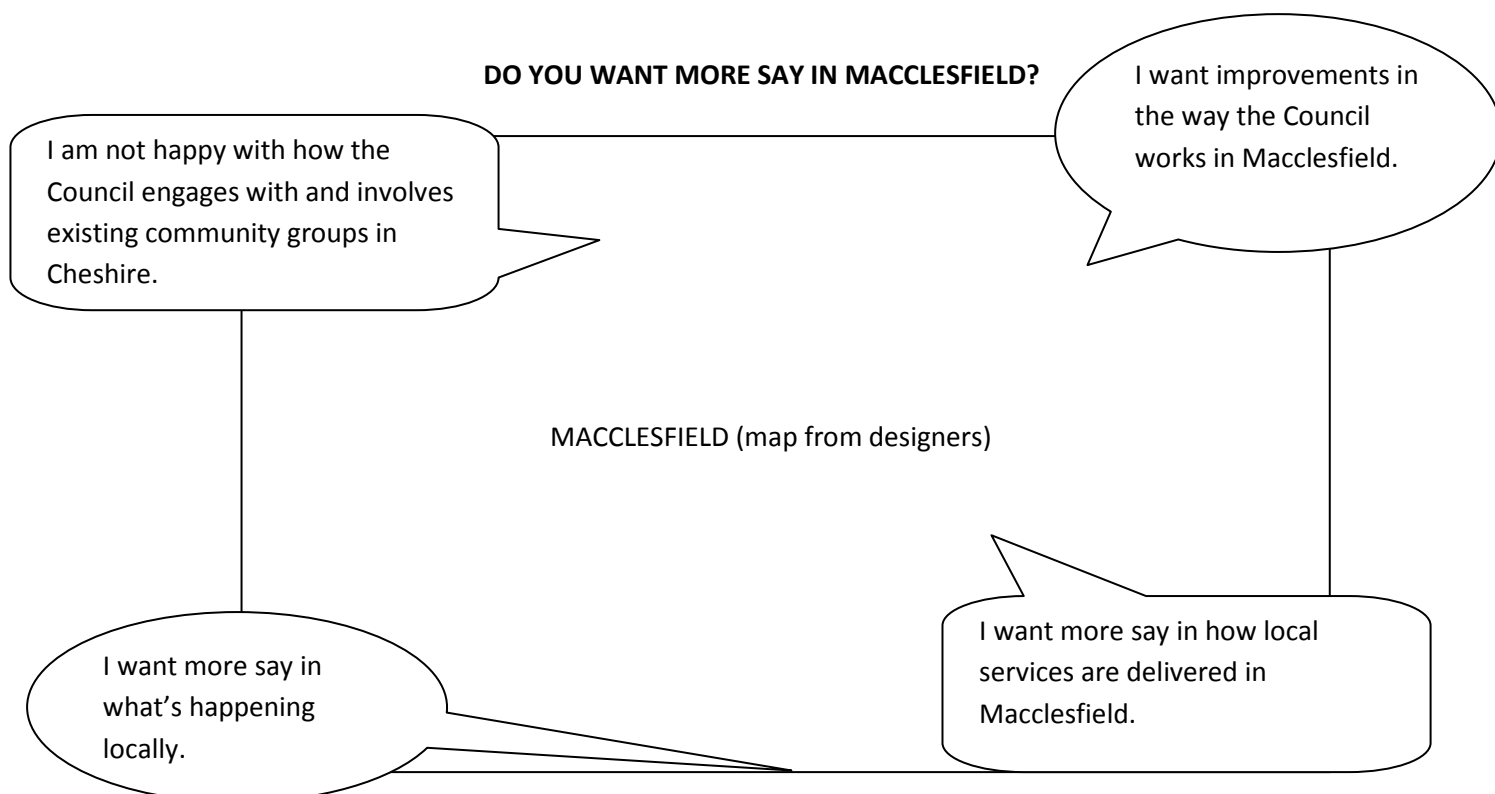


## DO YOU WANT MORE SAY IN MACCLESFIELD?



### 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 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 to consider.

### What arrangements exist now?

At the moment, Macclesfield has Charter Trustees, a Local Service Delivery Committee, a Local Area Partnership and the Make it Macclesfield Forum (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 option is chosen, there will be a cost associated. Currently as Macclesfield residents you contribute to the delivery of local services as part of your Cheshire East Council Tax.

*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. In addition to this leaflet, we will be out and about in Macclesfield ready to answer your questions. Please check the Cheshire East website and local notice boards for details.*

## What are the options for Macclesfield?

### 1. No change

Continue with current arrangements and community engagement through working with all the existing organisations – Macclesfield Local Area Partnership, Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee and Charter Trustees

- **Local Area Partnership (LAP)**

The Macclesfield LAP is one of seven across Cheshire East which brings together a wide range of people from the voluntary, community and private sectors to focus on improving services, influence decision making and engage and empower communities. It brings together groups from a wide range of sectors. The LAP management group is consulted by Cheshire East Council; it influences service delivery but does not have the power to deliver local services. It is envisaged that the Macclesfield LAP will continue alongside any future governance arrangement for Macclesfield.

Cost: covered by Cheshire East Council.

### **Local Service Delivery Committee**

This was set up by Cheshire East Council (CEC) as Macclesfield currently has no Parish/Town Council (or alternative form of local government structure). It is run by 12 Cheshire East Councillors who were elected to serve Macclesfield's town wards. Whilst the Committee doesn't specifically represent the interests of the local community on things such as planning applications and highways matters, it has been set up to consider and advise the Council on the level of local services and facilities in Macclesfield. Its function is to ensure fairness across the area, in relation to a range of functions delivered in Macclesfield that elsewhere in the Borough are provided by Parish / Town Councils.

Cost: costs would be dependent on the levels of service provided, and in the future may be met from part of the Council Tax set for Macclesfield residents.

- **Macclesfield Charter Trustees**

Charter Trustees preserve the historic identity of the town by carrying out ceremonial functions, usually by the Mayor. They are run by Cheshire East (Macclesfield wards) councillors. They do not represent the interests of the local people to CEC 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 Parish/Town Council was created in Macclesfield, the Charter Trustees would be replaced by that Council who would carry out its functions and the costs would be met by setting a council tax.

### 2. Parish/Town council(s) (you may see these words used separately but they mean the same thing)

Parish/Town councils (PTC) 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 Parish Council). The general rule is that a PTC is based on an area which reflects community identity and interests, and the individuals of the PTC area elected are local councillor members. They represent your local community's interests to Cheshire East Council on things like planning applications and highways; they deliver services that can improve the local area (e.g., public toilets, allotments, Christmas street lighting, floral arrangements, bus shelters, burial grounds, litter bins, tourism, traffic calming and public transport schemes); costs would be met by setting a council tax.

A Parish/ Town Council could be established to cover the whole of the unparished area of Macclesfield; or one or more Parish Councils, of smaller geographical areas could be formed.

Cost: Costs vary depending on the size of the PTC and services it delivers. The costs to residents for PTC 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 Parish (Town) Council, for example, will meet costs by setting a council tax of £28.96; but there will no longer be a Charter Trustee charge.

3. **Community forums** – such as the Make it Macclesfield Forum - can be set up by Cheshire East Council , or created by local residents as a way of giving communities a say on Cheshire East Council matters or local issues. They increase participation and consultation, aiming to influence decision making, determine key priorities for Macclesfield and inform the implementation of local services. They can vary in size, purpose and impact, but membership usually consists of people working or living in a specific area. A Forum could include local Cheshire East Ward Councillors along side representatives from the community, business, education, charities, youth and church and include representatives from Cheshire East Council.

These are run by local volunteers and/or council officers and would represent Macclesfield's interests to Cheshire East Council on areas such as are economic development, town centre regeneration and development, planning and highway matters. They can influence local service by working with local partners but do not have the power to deliver services.

Cost: They can not raise money by setting a council tax, but can obtain funds through grants for specific projects.

**4. Community Development Trusts** – these engage in a wide range of economic, social and environmental regeneration; ranging from the development and restoration of property to advice and training. They promote and support economic activity; they improve the local environment and can improve local services and amenities. A Development Trust is an independent not-for-profit organisation and is usually a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. They bring together private, public and voluntary sectors to take action to renew an area physically and socially. They can deliver some local services. Profits can not be distributed to members but must be used for the further benefit of the local community. Membership of a Trust would be drawn from the Macclesfield Area and members can be both individuals and organisations.

Cost: A Trust would expect to obtain revenue to cover its costs from a mix of grants and trading income. They can not raise money by setting a council tax.

*The following options usually work over a smaller area than Macclesfield and if they were selected for the town more than one would need to be set up to represent the whole town area.*

### **5. Neighbourhood management**

Neighbourhood management programmes create the opportunity for residents to work with local agencies to improve services at the neighbourhood level. They aim to improve 'quality of life' through implementation of (rather than advising or making decisions on) better management of the local environment, increasing community safety, improving housing stock, and encouraging employment opportunities. They are supported by Local Area Partnerships, and tend to cover smaller populations than area committees or Parish/Town Councils.

These are run by volunteers and are not set up to represent the interests of the local community to Cheshire East Council on planning and highways matters, but they can influence local services. However they cannot deliver or raise money to deliver local services.

Cost: As run by volunteers no direct cost; but there could be some running costs depending on scope of activity. They cannot raise money by setting a council tax.

### **6. Residents' and tenants' associations**

Residents' and tenants' associations enable local people to participate in local issues affecting their specific neighbourhood or housing estate, e.g., the local environment, crime, anti-social behaviour matters, or housing management. They can be set up by any group of people living in the same area and can choose who members will be; how they will be represented and what they want to achieve. In the case of tenants' and residents' associations on estates, they may be established with direct support from the principal council, as a mechanism for communicating with the tenants and residents on its estates. To engage effectively with other organisations, residents' and tenants' associations must be able to show that they are accountable and represent the views of the whole community, rather than narrow self interests of just a few local people. These are run by volunteers and are not set up to represent the interests of the local community to Cheshire East Council on planning and highways matters but they can influence local services.

Cost: As run by volunteers no direct cost; but there could be some running costs depending on scope of activity. They cannot raise money by setting a council tax.

### **7. Community associations**

Community associations offer a model for local residents and local community-based organisations in a defined neighbourhood to work together for the benefit of that neighbourhood. They can use a model constitution registered with the Charity Commission. The principal council may also be represented on the association's committee. They usually manage a community centre as a base for their activities. Membership is open to everyone resident in the area.

These are run by volunteers and are not set up to represent the interests of the local community to Cheshire East Council on matters such as planning or highways. They can run some local services but they can't raise money to deliver local services.

Cost: As run by volunteers no direct cost; but there could be some running costs depending on scope of activity. They cannot raise money by setting a council tax.

If you would like more information please visit the Macclesfield Community Governance Review website on [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk) or email us at [communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

We would like to hear your views and opinions on this governance review for Macclesfield you can fill it in online or on the attached comments sheet and return to:

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

or via email on [communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk)