

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting: 24th January 2013
Report of: Interim Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title: Macclesfield Members Forum and the Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to give consideration to a request from the members representing the unparished area of Macclesfield to establish a Macclesfield Members Forum pending the outcome of the Community Governance Review for Macclesfield.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 In considering the request referred to in this report, the Committee takes a view on whether acceding to the request would set a difficult precedent for other areas of Cheshire East and whether it is appropriate to take action of this kind at this point considering that the Macclesfield Community Governance Review is about to start.

3.0

Wards Affected

All Macclesfield Members.

The unparished areas of Macclesfield are:

Macclesfield West and Ivy
Macclesfield Hurdsfield
Broken Cross and Upton
Macclesfield South
Macclesfield Central
Macclesfield Tytherington
Macclesfield East

4.0 Local Ward Members

Cllrs Andrew, Harewood, Boston, L Brown, Hardy, Jeuda, Druce, K Edwards, Jackson, Murphy, Roberts, Neilson.

5.0 Policy Implications

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There are potential implications arising from the proposal in terms of officer support and operating costs associated with the establishment of any Forum, for which no provision exists.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 Any arrangements for a Forum would need to be developed and included in the Constitution, which would need to be agreed by Council, following a recommendation of the Committee.

8.0 Management

Risk

8.1 No risks would appear to arise from the proposals contained in this report.

9.0 Background and Options

9.1 At the meeting of Cabinet on the 19 July 2010, Members approved an initial report entitled "Local Service Delivery (Town and Parish Councils)" which set out the Council's ambitions to transfer services and devolve functions to Town and Parish Councils, to allow them to be delivered at a local level. It was envisaged that this would have a number advantages, including enabling the new unitary Council to concentrate on its core business, to harmonise approaches from Legacy Councils, to resolve the issue of "double taxation, and to generate long term savings for the new Council. It was recognised that structures to support this transfer would need to be established, on an interim basis, in the unparished areas of Crewe and Macclesfield, where devolution to a local council was not possible. On the recommendation of the Constitution Committee, Local Service Delivery Committees were established for both areas by full Council for this sole purpose.

9.2 Given that the Council has now resolved that a Parish Council in Crewe will now be established the Crewe Local Service Delivery Committee has completed its work.

9.3 The Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee has held several meetings recently to consider the way forward pending the outcome of the Community Governance Review for Macclesfield.

9.4 At an informal briefing meeting of the Macclesfield Members on 17 December 2012 the Members agreed to make a request to the Constitution Committee that a consultative body, made up of the elected Borough Councillors from the unparished area of Macclesfield, be established immediately, to represent the views of residents of the town concerning any decisions being made by

Cheshire East Council that affect them, until the Community Governance Review for Macclesfield has been completed.

- 9.5 A timetable for Stage 1 of the Macclesfield CGR was approved by the Community Governance Review Sub-Committee at a meeting on 4 September 2012 (Appendix B). The full review process is expected to begin this month and will then take 12 months after which the chosen governance arrangements will be put in place. These governance arrangements would supersede any role the interim consultative body would have.
- 9.6 Macclesfield Members currently feel they do not have a collective voice to make representations to the Council concerning issues affecting Macclesfield residents or the public services provided to them. They believe that the current Local Service Delivery Committee (LSDC) Terms of Reference (Appendix A) preclude Members from discussing wider issues relating to Macclesfield.
- 9.7 However, as well as the Local Service Delivery Committee there are other bodies which cover the unparished area and include some Borough Councillors as members. The Macclesfield Local Area Partnership (LAP) is made up of several organisations including housing trusts, police and fire services, health and education representatives and other community groups. The Council is represented on the LAP Area Management Group by Councillor Lesley Smetham. The LAP Area includes the unparished area of Macclesfield as well as surrounding towns and parishes such as Bollington, Siddington and Gawsorth. Its role is to improve services, ensure people influence decision-making and to actively engage and empower communities. Appendix C shows the LAP's terms of reference.
- 9.8 "Make it Macclesfield" is a forum which operates in the Macclesfield area with the purpose of regenerating the economy of Macclesfield and making it a vibrant town. The Forum is a partnership/consortium of private sector individuals from various sectors of the local community with support from the Council and other organisations such as Cheshire Peaks and Plains Housing Trust.
- 9.9 The "Make It Macclesfield" Forum has developed various sub-groups that focus on a variety of key areas in regeneration. In each of these sub-groups and on the Forum there is Council Representation as follows:
- Make it Macclesfield Forum – Cllrs Janet Jackson, Damien Druce and David Neilson.
 - Communications and Visitor Economy – Cllrs Alift Harewood, Jamie Macrae, Lesley Smetham and David Neilson.
 - Finance and Funding – Cllrs Louise Brown and Martin Hardy.
 - Town Centre Regeneration – Cllrs Janet Jackson and Jamie Macrae.
 - Property Owners – Cllr Damien Druce.
 - Wider Economy & Inward Investment – Cllr Brendan Murphy.
 - Heritage & Culture – Cllrs Laura Jeuda and Carolyn Andrew.
 - Silk Qtr Development – Cllr Janet Jackson

9.10 All Macclesfield Members are democratically accountable to the residents of the town and were in agreement that they wanted a democratically accountable consultative body to represent Macclesfield residents regarding the work of the Council; until such a time as the Macclesfield Community Governance Review (CGR) has been completed and governance arrangements chosen by the electorate could be put in place.

10.0 Access to Information

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

Name: James Morley

Designation: Scrutiny Officer

Tel No: 01270 686468

Email: james.morley@cheshire.gov.uk

LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEES

The Council has appointed the following Committees for the unparished parts of Crewe and Macclesfield respectively:

Local Service Delivery Committee (Crewe)

11 Members, comprising the local ward members for the unparished part of Crewe

Local Service Delivery Committee (Macclesfield)

12 Members, comprising the local ward members for the unparished part of Macclesfield

The Committees' terms of reference are:

- To consider and review the delivery of services and the transfer of assets within the relevant unparished area in accordance with the Council's Policy for Local Service Delivery Arrangements, namely the transfer of assets and the devolution of local services to Town and Parish Councils within the Cheshire East area.
- To consider and review the cost implications of both the delivery of services and the transfer of assets within the relevant unparished area in accordance with the Council's Policy for Local Service Delivery arrangements.
- To make recommendations to Cabinet on the level of service provision for those services and/or assets being considered as part of the Local Service Delivery arrangements within the relevant unparished area.
- To consider and make recommendations to Cabinet on any necessity for, and the amount of, a special expense levy in the relevant unparished area to represent the cost of the Local Service Delivery arrangements and to ensure consistency with the arrangements in the Parished areas.

Appendix B

MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PROJECT PLAN

Task/activity		Decision-making process	Date
Officer Project Team	Officer Responsible	Community Governance Review Sub Committee meetings	w/c 7 January 2013
Guidance summary Project Plan Map of Review Area Electorate figures Options appraisal (As per Crewe CGR) Prepare consultation leaflet Update Website Electoral arrangements - initial views size/warding Consultation – Full list of consultees and		Consider summary of CGR guidance Approve Review Process / project plan Agree consultation methods Agree list of consultees Identify and evaluate options for the review Formulate Leaflet to consultees and electors Agree arrangements for public meetings	

Task/activity		Decision-making process	Date
<p>contact details</p> <p>2 x Public notices prepared for public meetings and for commencement of the Review</p> <p>Arrange public meetings</p> <p>Arrange printing for postal ballot</p>			
		Constitution Committee	24 January 2013
<p>Publish Public Notice giving details of public meetings</p>			<p>21/1/2013 – Media Release</p> <p>28/1/2013 – Public Notice in press</p> <p><i>(commencing 2 weeks before public meetings held)</i></p>
<p>Public Meetings</p>		Series of meetings held across Unparished Area	w/c 11 February 2013
<p>Further public engagement / publicity co-ordinated with assistance from Communications Team and LSP Manager</p>			February 2012

Task/activity		Decision-making process	Date
Publicity for 1 st stage consultation with stakeholders Publish Notice			25/2/2013 <i>(Two weeks before consultation starts)</i>
Comments / submissions invited from interested parties on Options (4 week consultation period)		Consultation Period (stage 1)	11/3/2013 – 1/4/2013
All submissions / comments considered and evaluated. Collate representations			Monday 1/4/2013
		Community Governance Review Sub Committee meeting Consider outcomes from stage 1 consultation Agree Stage 2 Consultation	w/c 15/4/2013

Macclesfield Local Area Partnership

Macclesfield Area Management Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose:

To focus collective effort on what really matters, delivering improved outcomes for local people and places. To improve local services, ensure people influence decision making and to actively engage and empower communities.

Key Roles:

- Develop and implement an Area Plan on guidance of the Area Assembly, which contributes to Ambition for All (Sustainable Community Strategy).
- Ensure actions meet the needs identified in the Area Plan and are evidence based and performance managed.
- Develop appropriate responses to local priorities identified by the Area Assembly and other community engagement mechanisms.
- Unblock situations and enable joint problem-solving which turbo-charges local solutions.
- Develop and deliver specific localised projects and initiatives, as identified by the Area Assembly, Area Management Group, PACE Executive.
- Commission projects or services to meet local priorities, through shared resources and budgets and/or external funding.
- Build partnerships and inter-agency working with local public, private, voluntary and community organisations.
- Influence the development and delivery of responsive local services, which are effective, efficient and provide value for money.
- Develop opportunities to improve local services through different ways of working.
- Respond to strategic policies or resource allocations which may impact on the area.
- Join up local activities and events.
- Develop structures and approaches that ensure meaningful engagement and empowerment of local people.
- Increase community ownership of issues and community led delivery in neighbourhoods.

Accountable to:

- i) Area Assembly for delivery of the Area Plan and responding to locally identified needs, issues and priorities.
- ii) Relevant commissioning body for specific projects and initiatives.
- iii) PACE Executive for the development of Area Action Plans which underpin "Ambition for All".
- iv) Funding organisation for the effective allocation of financial resources devolved down to local level.