

MACCLESFIELD COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

PUBLIC MEETING PUSS BANK SCHOOL, MACCLESFIELD 11 JULY 2013

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE
Lindsey Parton	David Marren
Rose Hignett	Bill Livesley
	Brendan Murphy
	David Newton

RESUME OF THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

	QUESTION	ANSWER
1.	If they decided on a Town Council what rebate would they get from Cheshire East	Cheshire East has never raised its Council Tax. It has been frozen for a number of years. Central Government is cutting grants and Cheshire East cutting discretionary services, unless the Parish Council want to take them on.
2.	Does it say that the Town Council can be responsible for parks	They can run parks and a range of services if Cheshire East agrees. The Town Council can request these services. Cheshire East Assets would need to agree to release them. Parish Councils can buy assets if they so wish.
3.	How do you know it will cost more.	Because it will require a Clerk and to rent offices. We have some Parish Councils whose levy is £5, but Nantwich is £95. Wincle doesn't have a Clerk
4.	Is the list you have given us covered by Legal Statute and are these services what will be given.	Statutory Service must be carried out by Cheshire East, but some could be. Public Toilets, Community Halls, Parks and Car Parks are a few examples. Cheshire East enters negotiations with the Parish Council to see what can be taken over. Cheshire East is stopping carrying out discretionary services, but the Parish Council can take these over.
5.	Are you able to make available a list of discretionary powers these Councils have taken up?	These are not available. Congleton Town Council's are available. There is a pilot scheme to take some statutory powers over.

6.	Can you explain what if any special steps have been taken by Cheshire East to include young people, schools and youth clubs.	Cheshire East are engaging with the Sixth Form Colleges. Any under 18s on the Electoral Register will also be included in the ballot.
7.	You are talking about Parish and we are talking about a Town. Would it meet in the Town Hall.	No. Crewe Town Council doesn't meet in the Municipal Buildings, unless it hires a room. Cheshire East owns the Town Hall.
	How much does it cost to run the Town Hall.	Macclesfield Forum has been asked if it wants to run it. And it may be that the Town Council could have 4 meetings a year there, but it is dependant upon negotiations.
8	Would the present Councillors be on the Council.	There would be elections for the Councillors. It is not a given that Cheshire East Councillors would automatically be able to stand for election for the Parish Council.
9.	Would the Parish Councillors be able to sit on the Cheshire East Committees	These are two separate organisations. The Parish Councillors would not sit on the Borough Planning Committee. You still have representation from your Borough Councillors for this. The Parish Council will be asked to provide their comments.
10.	Non Town/Parish Council Option. What powers under the Localism Act does an Economic Forum have. Any group can become an Economic Forum.	They do not have the Powers to deliver services. Limited range of powers, but could possibly influence.
11.	What about Leisure Centres and Libraries	It is unlikely that Leisure Centres will be transferred, as Cheshire East are looking at a Trust. Possibility that Libraries could be. No Parishes run libraries at present.
12.	Did you say that a Parish or Town Council would automatically take over Allotments	Yes. There is a duty to satisfy the demand for allotments, but if the Parishes say they don't want to, Cheshire East must cease to do so and will use the land for something else.
13.	Clarification was sought on the review options. Are the two options no change or a Parish/Town Council. What are the other options regarding governance.	Yes. They are the only two options that can deliver services.