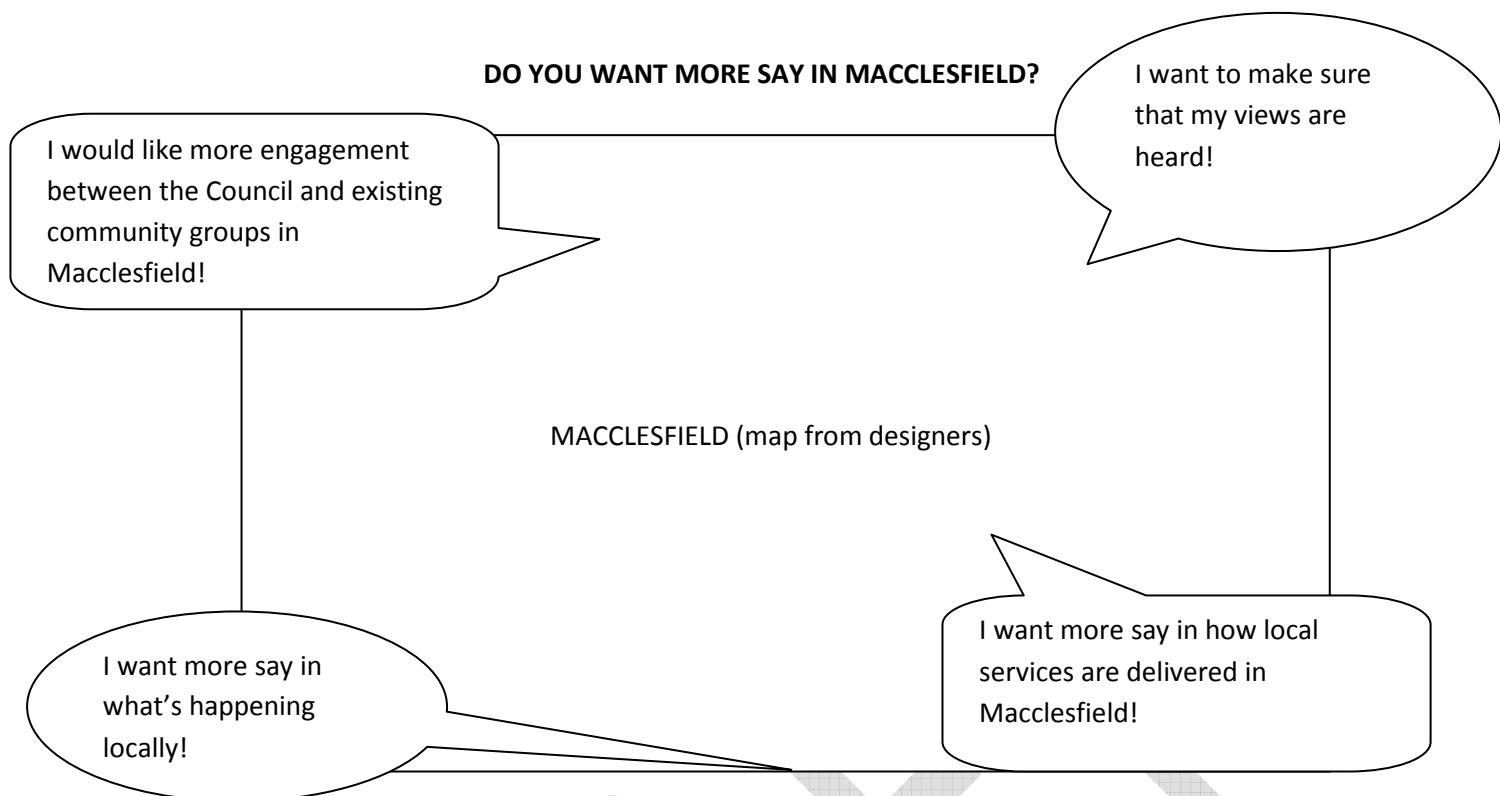


**DO YOU WANT MORE SAY IN MACCLESFIELD?**



**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 and Parish Councils 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 which should also be considered.

**What arrangements exist now?**

At the moment, Macclesfield has Charter Trustees, a Local Service Delivery Committee and a Local Area Partnership. (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 is decided, there will be a cost, as there is now. Currently, as Macclesfield residents, you contribute to the cost of delivery of local services through your Cheshire East Council Tax.

## Appendix C

Whatever is decided, Cheshire East Council will remain responsible for major services such as social care, highways, education admissions, children's services, environmental protection, planning decisions etc. Cheshire East Councillors will continue to represent individuals and groups in their wards.

*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. Please check the Cheshire East website and local notice boards for details.*

### **What are the options for Macclesfield?**

As part of undertaking a Community Governance Review the Council should have regard to different forms of community governance which could be out in place. The earlier stage of consultation with the public and stakeholders in July 2013 provided an opportunity for people to express their support for No Change, Parish / Town Council(s), Community Forums, Community Development Trusts, Neighbourhood Management, Residents and Tenants Associations and community Associations.

There was demonstrable support for either no Change or for a Town Council to be created for Macclesfield, but no public support was demonstrated for any of the other options. For this reason, the Council has decided to undertake the next stages of consultation based upon two options, which are: 1) A Town Council for Macclesfield; and No change (with an enhanced Macclesfield Service Delivery Committee). Both options are explained below.

#### **1. A Town Council for Macclesfield**

A Town Council is exactly the same as a Parish Council, but in the case of a Town Council the Chairman is entitled to use the title of Mayor. Parish/Town councils (PTCs) 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 Town Council). The general rule is that PTCs are based on an area which reflects community identity and interests. The community interests of the residents of the parish are represented by elected local councillors. Parish/Town councils(s) represent your local community's interests to Cheshire East Council on things like planning applications and highways; they can choose to deliver services that can improve the local area (e.g., public toilets, allotments, Christmas lighting, floral arrangements, bus shelters, burial grounds, litter bins, tourism, traffic calming and public transport schemes). The Localism Act 2012 gives greater powers to town and parish councils as they offer democratic representation and accountability, the ability to influence decision making by other bodies and the ability to deliver existing services or provide additional services. These include the preparation of a neighbourhood development plan or order which when completed becomes part of the local development plan for the area and has to be used as a basis for making decisions on planning applications. They can comment on all planning applications in their area as a Statutory consultee. Costs would be met by setting a council tax.

A Town Council would cover the whole of the unparished area of Macclesfield. It is usual in the case of Town Councils for the area to be divided into wards and Town Councillors would then be elected to represent electors in those wards. The warding arrangements could for example be based on the boundaries of the current Borough Wards. The number of Councillors to be elected would also need to be determined.

If a Town council was formed, Cheshire East Council would remain responsible for major services such as social care, highways, education admissions, children's services, environmental protection, planning decisions etc. Cheshire East Councillors would continue to represent individuals and groups in their wards and influence officers' actions with the support and advice of the Town/ Parish councillors. So in effect you would have two

## Appendix C

tiers of local Government, both of which are separate entities with different functions and responsibilities and their own elected members. Anyone can stand for election as long as they are not disqualified for legal reasons and as long as they meet the criteria upon which they can be nominated.

If a Town Council was created to cover the whole of the unparished area of Macclesfield, then the Charter Trustees (explained below) would be dissolved. The Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee would also cease to exist. The Macclesfield Local Area Partnership (as explained below would continue).

Cost: Costs vary depending on the size of PTCs and the services they deliver. The costs to residents for PTCs 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 Town Council, for example, will meet its costs by setting a council tax of £28.96; but there will no longer be a Charter Trustee charge nor a Special Expense charge introduced.

Please see the attached appendix, which indicates the range of services which Parish Councils have the power to undertake and some examples of the range of precepts charged by some of the existing Town Councils in Cheshire East.

### **2. No change – with an enhanced Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee**

The second option is to continue with current arrangements, which includes working with all the existing organisations – Macclesfield Local Area Partnership, Macclesfield Charter Trustees and the Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee.

- **Local Area Partnership (LAP)**

The Macclesfield LAP is one of seven across Cheshire East. It brings together the 17 neighbouring Parish Councils and associated Cheshire East Councillors (including those from the unparished area of Macclesfield) as well as a wide range of people from the voluntary, community and private sectors to focus on improving services, to influence decision making and to engage and empower communities. The LAP management group is consulted by Cheshire East Council; it influences service delivery, such as decisions on minor highway works including traffic regulations, but does not have the power to deliver local services itself. It is envisaged that the Macclesfield LAP will continue alongside any future governance arrangement for Macclesfield.

Cost: will continue to be covered by Cheshire East Council.

- **Macclesfield Charter Trustees**

Charter Trustees preserve the historic identity of the town by carrying out ceremonial functions, usually by the Mayor. The Trustees are Cheshire East (Macclesfield wards) councillors. In the capacity of Trustee they do not represent the interests of the local people to Cheshire East Council 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 Town Council was created in Macclesfield, which covered the whole of the Charter Trustee area, then the Charter Trustees would be replaced by that Town Council which would then carry out its functions and recover, the costs by setting a council tax .

- **Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee**

This was set up by Cheshire East Council (CEC) as Macclesfield currently has no Parish/Town Council(s). It is run by 12 Cheshire East Councillors who were elected to serve Macclesfield's town wards. The Committee doesn't represent the interests of the local community on things such as planning applications and highways matters. It has been set up in its current form to consider and advise the Council on the quality, quantity and cost of service provision in Macclesfield. Its function is to ensure fairness of taxation for local services (such as community halls and allotments) that elsewhere in the Borough are provided by Parish / Town Councils.

If the no change option was chosen, it is proposed that the role of the Macclesfield Service Delivery Committee could be enhanced as follows:

Take in wording yet to be supplied.

Cost: In the future, the cost of some services provided principally for the benefit of Macclesfield Town residents may be met from part of the Council Tax set for Macclesfield residents, (called a Special Expense) rather than through the Cheshire East 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 know your views on what arrangements would work best for you to secure improved community engagement, better local democracy and delivery of services in the most efficient and convenient way.

Please send your views in writing to :

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

or by email to: [communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

**APPENDIX 1****LIST OF LEGAL POWERS AND DUTIES**

This is a list of powers and functions for parish councils which are covered by Acts of Parliament. The services which parish councils provide vary considerably and this is reflected in the amount of council tax they charge for the delivery of services.

<b>Function</b>	<b>Powers and Duties</b>
<b>Allotments</b>	<b>Powers to provide allotments. Duty to provide allotment gardens if demand unsatisfied and if reasonable to do so</b>
<b>Borrowing Money</b>	<b>Power for councils to borrow money for their statutory functions or for the prudent management of their financial affairs</b>
<b>Baths and Washhouses</b>	<b>Power to provide public baths and washhouses</b>
<b>Burial Grounds, cemeteries and crematoria</b>	<b>Power to acquire and maintain</b> <b>Power to provide</b> <b>Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials</b> <b>Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries</b>
<b>Bus Shelters</b>	<b>Power to provide and maintain shelters</b>
<b>Byelaws</b>	<b>Power to make byelaws in regard to pleasure grounds</b> <b>Cycle Parks</b> <b>Baths and Washhouses</b> <b>Open spaces and burial grounds</b> <b>Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms</b>
<b>Charities</b>	<b>Duties in respect of parochial charities</b> <b>Power to act as charity trustees</b>
<b>Clocks</b>	<b>Power to provide public clocks</b>
<b>Closed churchyards</b>	<b>Powers to maintain</b>
<b>Commons and common pastures</b>	<b>Powers in relation to inclosure, regulation and management and providing common pasture</b>

Appendix C

Function	Powers and Duties
Conference facilities	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities
Community Centres	<p>Power to provide and equip buildings for the use of clubs having athletics, social or educational objectives</p> <p>Power to acquire, provide and furnish community buildings</p>
Crime Prevention	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures
Drainage	Power to deal with ponds and ditches
Entertainment and the Arts	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts
Environment	Power to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti and offenses under dog control orders
Gifts	Power to accept
Highways	<p>Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways</p> <p>Power to light roads and public places</p> <p>Provision of litter bins</p> <p>Power to provide parking places for vehicles , bicycles and motor cycles</p> <p>Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening</p> <p>Power to provide roadside seats and shelters and omnibus shelters</p> <p>Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway</p> <p>Power to complain to district council as to protection of rights of way and roadside wastes</p> <p>Power to provide certain traffic signs and other notices</p> <p>Power to plant trees etc. and to maintain roadside verges</p>
Honorary titles	Power to admit to be honorary freemen of the council's area persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area
Investments	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment

Appendix C

<b>Function</b>	<b>Powers and Duties</b>
<b>Land</b>	<b>Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of</b>
<b>Litter</b>	<b>Provision of receptacles</b>
<b>Lotteries</b>	<b>Power to promote</b>
<b>Markets</b>	<b>Power to establish or acquire by agreement markets within their area and provide a market place and market buildings</b>
<b>Mortuaries and Post mortem rooms</b>	<b>Power to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms</b>
<b>Newsletters</b>	<b>Power to provide information relating to matters affecting local government</b>
<b>Nuisances</b>	<b>Power to deal with offensive ditches</b>
<b>Open Spaces</b>	<b>Power to acquire land for public recreation and maintain</b> <b>Power to acquire and maintain land for open spaces</b>
<b>Parish property and documents</b>	<b>Power to direct as to their custody</b> <b>Duty to deposit certain published works in specific deposit libraries</b>
<b>Public Buildings and village halls</b>	<b>Power to acquire and provide buildings for public meetings and assemblies</b>
<b>Public conveniences</b>	<b>Power to provide</b>
<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control them</b> <b>Power to provide a large range of recreational facilities</b> <b>Provision of boating pools</b>
<b>Town and Country Planning</b>	<b>Right to be notified of planning applications if right has been requested</b>
<b>Tourism</b>	<b>Power to contribute to organisations encouraging tourism</b>
<b>Traffic Calming</b>	<b>Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes</b>
<b>Transport</b>	<b>Powers to spend money on community transport schemes</b>
<b>War Memorials</b>	<b>Power to maintain, repairs, protect and adapt war memorials</b>

Appendix C

<b>Function</b>	<b>Powers and Duties</b>
<b>Water Supply</b>	<b>Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for obtaining water from them</b>
<b>Websites</b>	<b>Power for Councils to have their own websites</b>
<b>Well-being</b>	<b>Power for (eligible) parish councils to do anything they believe is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic and /or social and/or environmental well-being of their area</b>

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## APPENDIX 2

## EXAMPLES OF TOWN COUNCILS IN CHESHIRE EAST

TOWN COUNCIL	NUMBER OF ELECTORS	EXAMPLES OF SERVICES PROVIDED (NB - THIS IS ILLUSTRATIVE AND NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST)	PARISH COUNCIL TAX (PER BAND D PROPERTY)
Alsager Town Council	9605	<p>Runs facilities including Alsager Civic Centre, Crewe Road Toilets, Alsager Market and Allotment sites.</p> <p>Provision of grants to local organisations totalling £28,000.</p> <p>Play facilities at Wood Park and Northholme Gardens.</p> <p>Support of community events such as “the big switch on”; Christmas market; annual carnival and summer concerts.</p> <p>The Town Council also owns and manages the Alsager Institute which provides a valuable and well used community building .</p> <p>Funding is provided to support two PCSOs for the Town .</p>	£64.48
Bollington Town Council	6,113	<p>Running of Bollington Civic Hall, and during 2013 consideration being given to running of the Town Hall and the Bollington Recreation Ground.</p> <p>Improvements to footpaths and rights of way.</p> <p>Provision of grants to local organisations.</p> <p>Funding provided to support one PCSO for the Town.</p> <p>Support for and organisation of numerous community and civic events including Christmas lights, annual carol service, mayor making ceremony and regular litter picks. Investment has been made in the Coronation Gardens and land has been acquired by the Town Council for allotments at Harrop Road.</p>	£55.00

## Appendix C

<b>Congleton Town Council</b>	<b>21,580</b>	<p><b>Management of Congleton Town Hall and Allotments.</b></p> <p><b>Management of Congleton Paddling Pool and the accountable body for the Congleton Market Town Initiative.</b></p> <p><b>Provision of grants to local organisations.</b></p> <p><b>Organisation and support of various community events such as home coming parades, music and food festivals and carnival.</b></p> <p><b>Provision of notice boards, road signs and street furniture.</b></p> <p><b>Tourism including Tourist Information kiosk.</b></p> <p><b>Community safety, crime prevention measures and traffic calming.</b></p> <p><b>Shopmobility, public toilets and play areas.</b></p> <p><b>Maintenance of closed churchyard and clock tower and war memorial.</b></p> <p><b>Budget for Highways / Roads.</b></p>	<b>£66.56</b>
<b>Crewe Town Council</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<p><b>Council established in April 2013.</b></p> <p><b>Allotments and public conveniences to transfer to the town council to manage in 2013.</b></p> <p><b>The Town Council will determine other services it wishes to provide in due course.</b></p>	<b>£28.96</b>
<b>Knutsford Town Council</b>	<b>10,579</b>	<b>draft</b>	<b>£27.35</b>
<b>Middlewich Town Council</b>	<b>10,701</b>	<b>draft</b>	<b>£66.34</b>
<b>Nantwich Town Council</b>	<b>11,453</b>	<p><b>Management of Nantwich Civic Hall, Market, and Public Toilets.</b></p> <p><b>Planting of hanging baskets and planters.</b></p> <p><b>Shop Mobility.</b></p>	<b>£95.24</b>

Appendix C

		<p><b>Tourism.</b></p> <p><b>Town Centre Management.</b></p> <p><b>Street Entertainment.</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Lights.</b></p> <p><b>Financing Town Events.</b></p> <p><b>Allotments.</b></p> <p><b>Provision of grants to local organisations.</b></p> <p><b>Millenium Clock.</b></p> <p><b>CCTV.</b></p> <p><b>Organisation and support of various community events such as home coming parades, music and food festivals, carnival annual carol service, mayor making ceremony and regular litter picks.</b></p> <p><b>Provision of notice boards, road signs and street furniture.</b></p>	
<b>Poynton Town Council</b>	<b>11,863</b>	<b>draft</b>	<b>£53.06</b>
<b>Sandbach Town Council</b>	<b>14,684</b>	<b>draft</b>	<b>£56.82</b>