

VOTE NOW!

Please use your vote to have your say!



A Macclesfield Community Governance Review is currently being conducted to consider options for improved community engagement.

We would like to know your views on what arrangements would work best for Macclesfield.

The best way 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?

As well as returning the enclosed voting paper, you can also respond in writing to:
Registration Service and Business Manager, Cheshire East Council, Governance and Democratic Services/ Ground Floor (Westfields), C/O Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe, CW1 2BJ

Or by email to communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk

To request more information please visit our website
www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/maccgovreview
or contact us by :
Email: communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Telephone: **0300 123 5016**

Leaflets can also be collected from Macclesfield Town Hall and Macclesfield Library.

What are the options for Macclesfield?

Option 1 - Parishing

You may see the words Parish / Town Council(s) (PTCs) used separately but they mean the same thing). PTCs are the most local form of government and can represent areas ranging from around 100 to 40,000+ people. They are based on an area which has real community identity and residents are represented by elected local parish councillors. If they choose to do so PTCs can deliver services to improve the 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 2011 gives greater powers to town and parish councils including the preparation of a neighbourhood development plan which becomes part of the local development plan for the area.

A single Parish/ Town Council could be established to cover the whole of the unparished area of Macclesfield; or a number of Parish Councils, of smaller geographical area, could be formed. It is suggested that 7 of these could be created, based upon the existing Borough Ward Boundaries (i.e. for the areas of Broken Cross and Upton; Macclesfield Central; Macclesfield East; Macclesfield Hurdsfield; Macclesfield South; Macclesfield Tytherington and Macclesfield West and Ivy).

If Parish/ Town council(s) were 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. and Cheshire East Councillors would continue to represent their wards. The formation of a Parish / Town Council(s) would not replicate the former arrangements in place (prior to 2009) of a Macclesfield Borough Council. If Town / Parish Council(s) were created which covered the whole of the unparished area of Macclesfield, then the existing Charter Trustees (which carry out civic and ceremonial functions and the mayoralty) would be dissolved.

In summary the main differences between a Single Town/ Parish Council and 7 smaller parish Councils are:

Single Town/ Parish Council	7 x smaller Parish Councils
39,750 electors	Ranging from 3,470 electors to 7107 electors
Area would be warded – and you would vote for Parish Councillors to be elected for your ward, to sit on the Parish/Town Council	You would vote for Parish Councillors to be elected for all the seats available for your parish council
A decision would need to be made as to how many Parish/ Town Councillors should be elected. It is likely that the number of Councillors would either be 12 or upto 24.	Each Parish Council is required to have a minimum of 5 Parish Councillors. If for example each of the 7 Parish Councils had 8 Parish Council seats, there would then be 56 Parish Councillors in total for the whole of Macclesfield.

Single Town/ Parish Council	7 x smaller Parish Councils
May benefit from economies of scale e.g. ability to run services for a larger area; possibly a stronger voice to make representations etc.	Can develop an in depth knowledge of the needs of the area. May be easier to secure a shared vision for continual improvement for a small specific area.
A larger precept would most likely be raised; which could lead to a higher amount of tax per band D property – but the Parish/ Town Council would have the potential to be able to deliver a wider range of services for a larger area. The cost of delivering services and facilities would be spread evenly across all electors in the Macclesfield.	A smaller precept would most likely be raised, and the amount of tax per band D property could be smaller – but the capacity for smaller parish councils to run services would be reduced. Those living in the town centre Parish Council area may pay for (and effectively subsidise) services and facilities used by residents from the surrounding Macclesfield Parish Councils.

Cost: Costs would be met by setting a council tax. Costs vary depending on the size of PTCs and services they deliver. The costs to residents for PTCs in Cheshire East range from £5.52 for Aston by Budworth Parish; to £89.74 for Nantwich Town Council. The tax for newly created Crewe Town Council for example, which is of comparable size to Macclesfield is £28.96.

Option 2 - An Enhanced Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee

This option is to continue with current arrangements, which includes working with all the existing organisations and the Macclesfield Charter Trustees (which carry out ceremonial functions, such as visits by the Mayor), and to enhance the role of the Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee.

The existing Service Delivery Committee was set up by the Council 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 currently 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.

This option proposes that the role of the existing Service Delivery Committee be enhanced. Examples of the functions it could deliver are:

- To investigate and monitor Services and to make recommendations to Cabinet on the level of service provision
- To provide advice and recommend to Cabinet on issues and needs of Macclesfield
- To be a Council consultee on matters and decisions relating to the area of Macclesfield such as planning and traffic management
- To liaise and cooperate with local organisations to pursue the wellbeing of the unparished area
- To nominate representatives from its membership to serve on local bodies
- To advise and liaise with Cheshire East Council on preparatory measures for the devolution and transfer of assets
- To consider the cost implications of the development and transfer of services to the unparished area.
- To encourage provision of leisure facilities
- To make recommendations with regard to local grant aid applications
- To formulate schemes to utilise developer contributions under section 106 of the Town and country Planning Act
- To approve street names serving new developments
- To investigate and make recommendations to cabinet in relation to local car parks, markets, community centres, parks, allotments, visitor centres and toilets
- To receive presentations on key strategic initiatives; and to invite representatives from relevant organisations to provide updates on current performance / initiatives and to answer questions by the committee or members of the public.

Cost: In the future, the cost of some services provided principally for the benefit of Macclesfield Town residents may be met from an additional tax, as part of the Council Tax set for Macclesfield residents, (called a Special Expense) rather than through the Cheshire East Council Tax. The cost of running the Enhanced Service Delivery Committee would be included in this tax. Based on providing a particular range of services, council tax for a town council could be in the order of £25 per year. Alternatively, if the same services were managed by a local service delivery committee and a special expense was calculated, this would be in the order of £19 per year (in addition to the Charter Trustee charge of £1.42 per band D Property). The actual council tax for a Parish/ Town council, or Special Expense Levy for a Local Service Delivery Committee, would be dependent on the costs of the service levels provided.

(NOTE: An Enhanced Service Delivery Committee would be a committee of Cheshire East Council, rather than being a separate legal entity as is the case for Parish/ Town Councils. This means that no assets can be transferred to this Committee)