

# Cheshire East Community Governance Review - Part One

## Introduction

### Purpose of this survey

We are conducting a review of town and parish council governance arrangements across the Cheshire East Borough.

The overarching purpose of the review is in accordance with the 'Department of Communities and Local Government and Local Government Boundary Commission for England guidance on Community Governance Reviews' [LGBCE Guidance] [\[LINK\]](#). to "ensure that community governance arrangements continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government."

Cheshire East has 186 town and parish council wards in 135 town and parish councils covering the whole borough. Cheshire East Council is responsible for electoral and governance arrangements within the borough including:

- town and parish boundaries
- numbers of town and parish councillors
- arrangements for wards and the meetings of groups of parish councils

It is good practice to review community governance every 10-15 years. Cheshire East Council was created in 2009 and has yet to hold a full review of town and parish council governance.

At this stage the Council has undertaken some preliminary analysis of each of the town/ parish council wards within the borough including details of current electorate and councillor representation, together with electorate growth forecasts that take account of expected future house-building. The council has also received a small number of requests from parish councils to review their specific governance arrangements. You can see the results of this analysis here. [\[LINK\]](#).

As part of the process, we would now like your views on how effective you feel the current governance arrangements are and if you feel changes, if any, are required and why.

Please note that the inclusion of any particular town/ parish council ward at this stage does not necessarily mean that its boundaries will change. The list is simply a starting point for deliberation.

Once this stage of the review has been complete we will develop some draft proposals which will be the subject of a formal consultation at a later date.

## Submitting your comments

**Please submit your response by 5pm on ?? ???? 20??**

Please note that a red asterisk next to a question within the survey means that an answer is required before you are able to continue.

For any queries about this survey e-mail:  
communitygovernancereview@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Once the consultation closes we will analyse all responses, produce a summary report of them, and publish this online on our consultation webpages.

## Your confidentiality is assured

We comply with all laws concerning the protection of personal information, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Any personal information you supply will remain strictly confidential and anonymous and will be held and used in line with the Data Protection Act 2018. The information you provide will only be used by Cheshire East Council to analyse the results of surveys and inform decision making. We will not pass on your personal information to any other third parties, without your prior consent. Your response will be stored and kept in line with the council's retention schedule. To find out how we use your information see our privacy policy.

**1. Please choose the town/ parish council ward you are submitting a response for: Please select from the drop down list provided below. You can lookup which town/ parish council ward you live in using this tool [LINK] \***

[Drop Down List]

**2. Which of the following best describes how you are responding to this survey: Please tick one box only**

- ☐ As an individual (e.g. local resident)
- ☐ On behalf of a town/parish council
- ☐ As an elected Cheshire East ward councillor
- ☐ On behalf of a local business
- ☐ On behalf of a group, organisation or club
- ☐ Other (please write in below):

**Please give the name and postcode of the town/ parish council, group, organisation, club or business you are responding on behalf of: Please write in below**

Name of town/parish, group, organisation, club or business:

Your position:

Postcode:

Cheshire East Council has to ensure that parish governance arrangements\* are:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and:
- Effective and convenient (this relates to the ability of parishes to provide services for its residents).

*\* Parish governance arrangements include: town and parish boundaries, the number of town and parish councillors and arrangements for wards and the meetings of groups of parish councils.*

**3. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the current governance arrangements within the town/ parish council ward you are responding about... Please select one option per row only**

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure/ don't know
...reflects local identities and interests?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provides an effective and convenient local government?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain the reasoning for your answer:

**4. Are you able to provide any examples of community governance arrangements, within Cheshire East, which have enabled successful opportunities for engagement, empowerment and coordination? Please write in below**

**A Community Governance Review can make a number of changes to parish governance when there is clear evidence to do so:**

**It can make changes to parish areas – including:**

- changes to boundaries between parishes
- mergers of two or more parishes or even
- creating a new parish out of part of one or more existing parishes

**It can make changes to electoral arrangements within parish areas – including:**

- changes to the number of parish councillors
- introducing or changing parish warding arrangements
- It can accommodate changing the name of a parish
- It can accommodate the grouping together of parishes under a common parish council.

This list is not exhaustive please see our Terms of Reference [\[LINK\]](#) and the LGBCE Guidance [\[LINK\]](#) for further information on the factors that we will need to consider and where appropriate take into account.

**5. For the town/ parish council ward you are responding about please indicate whether you feel there is need for a change or not:**

- ☐ Change
- ☐ No change
- ☐ Unsure/ don't know

Please provide reasons for your answer in the box provided below Please explain why you consider a change or no change will ensure that community governance within the area will reflect the identities and interests of the community and will be effective and convenient. If you are unsure you can still comment with any general concerns or observations you have.

This could include comments on whether the...

- ...name of the parish is appropriate
- ...parish is of an appropriate size and population
- ... current number of councillors is appropriate for the number of electors
- ... delivery of local services is efficient and affordable
- ... current parish precept allows for the active and effective promotion of the well-being of its residents

Your views, if you have any, on the desirability, or otherwise, of the grouping of parishes under a common council or the division of a parish into wards would also be welcome.

If you would like to submit maps or other documentation to explain your answer you can do so using the upload file option below.

**[Upload File Option]**

**6. How many more town/ parish council wards would you like to give your views on? If you would like to answer for more than three other town/parish council wards then you will need to fill in another survey. Please select one answer only \***

- ☐ None
- ☐ One
- ☐ Two
- ☐ Three

**[Survey then loops if required]**

## **18. About you**

Cheshire East Council is committed to the principle that all our customers have the right to equality and fairness in the way they are treated and in the services that they receive. It would help us to check that we are providing services fairly if you would answer the questions below. Information you give will be used to see if there are any differences in views for different groups of people, and to check if services are being delivered in a fair and accessible way. The information in this section will be used for no other purpose.

You do not need to answer any of the following questions if you do not wish to, and you will not be affected in any way if you choose not to answer any, or some, of the questions.

**24. What is your home postcode? We ask this so we can be sure we have obtained a range of views from across the borough Please write in below**

**25. What is your gender identity? Please select one box only**

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Prefer to self describe (please write in below)

**26. What age group do you belong to? Please select one box only**

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-74             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75-84             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 and over       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 |  |

**27. What is your ethnic origin? Please write in below**

- ☐ White British / English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / Irish
- ☐ Any other White background
- ☐ Mixed: White and Black Caribbean / African / Asian
- ☐ Asian / Asian British
- ☐ Black / African / Caribbean / Black British
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Prefer to self describe (please write in below)

**28. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? This includes problems related to old age Please select one box only**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

**29. Which of the following best describes your religious belief / faith? Please select one box only**

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian | <input type="checkbox"/> None                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu     | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish    | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to self describe (please write in): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim    | <input type="text"/>  |

**19. Almost finished**

**If you would like to review / edit any of your answers please do so now, otherwise please click the "Submit response" button below - Once clicked you will have submitted your consultation response.**