

Corporate Policy Committee

Agenda

Date: Tuesday, 13th February, 2024
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making and Overview and Scrutiny meetings are audio recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the Council's website

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To note any apologies for absence from Members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, other registerable interests, and non-registerable interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2024 (to follow).

For requests for further information

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4. **Public Speaking/Open Session**

In accordance with paragraph 2.24 of the Committee Procedure Rules and Appendix on Public Speaking, set out in the [Constitution](#), a total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to put questions to the Committee on any matter relating to this agenda. Each member of the public will be allowed up to two minutes to speak; the Chair will have discretion to vary this where they consider it appropriate.

Members of the public wishing to speak are required to provide notice of this at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

5. **Cheshire East Electoral Review - Warding Proposals** (Pages 5 - 200)

To consider the recommendations of the Electoral Review Sub-Committee in respect of warding proposals for Cheshire East.

6. **Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25-2027/28**

Report to follow

7. **Peer Review/Corporate Peer Challenge** (Pages 201 - 208)

To consider a report in response to a Notice of Motion proposed at Council on 13th December 2023.

8. **Developing the New Cheshire East Plan** (Pages 209 - 254)

To receive an update report on the development of a new strategic plan for Cheshire East.

9. **Transfer of Local Enterprise Partnership Functions to Local Authority Control** (Pages 255 - 340)

To consider a report which sets out the changes needed to implement the requirements of Government guidance on Local Enterprise Partnership functions.

10. **Targeted Review of Members' Allowances** (Pages 341 - 358)

To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of a targeted review of members' allowances.

11. **Calendar of Meetings 2024-2025** (Pages 359 - 368)

To consider a report on the draft calendar of meetings for 2024-25.

12. **Work Programme** (Pages 369 - 370)

To consider the work programme and determine any required amendments.

13. **Minutes of Sub-Committees** (Pages 371 - 376)

To receive the minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee meeting on 11th January 2024.

THERE ARE NO PART 2 ITEMS

Membership: Councillors C Browne (Vice-Chair), C Bulman, D Clark, J Clowes, S Corcoran (Chair), M Goldsmith, A Harrison, N Mannion, C O'Leary, J Pearson, J Rhodes, J Saunders, M Warren, M Gorman and F Wilson

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CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE – 13TH FEBRUARY 2024**CHESHIRE EAST ELECTORAL REVIEW - WARDING PROPOSALS****RECOMMENDATION**

That the Corporate Policy Committee

- 1. approve the proposals for the future warding of Cheshire East as recommended by the Electoral Review Sub-Committee and set out in Appendix 1 for recommendation to full Council on 27th February 2024 as the Council's submission to the Boundary Commission;**
- 2. delegate authority to the Electoral Review Sub-Committee to make any further required changes to the proposals, and to approve any outstanding proposals and to deal with any matters which arise, following the Corporate Policy Committee's meeting and prior to the consideration of the proposals by full Council, and also in respect of any outstanding proposals which have not been finalised in time for consideration by Council; and**
- 3. recommend to Council that the Electoral Review Sub-Committee be granted delegated authority**
 - (a) to make any further changes to the proposals arising from the Council meeting on 27th February, or which become necessary after that meeting; and**
 - (b) to respond on the Council's behalf to any further informal or formal consultation by the Boundary Commission which relates to the second period of consultation.**

Extract from the Minutes of the Electoral Review Sub-Committee meeting on 31st January 2024

15 **CHESHIRE EAST ELECTORAL REVIEW - WARDING PROPOSALS**

The Sub-Committee considered a report on proposed future warding arrangements for Cheshire East Council, which was in response to an electoral review of Cheshire East by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

In presenting the report, Mr Reed reminded the Sub-Committee that the review was being conducted by the Boundary Commission, and that the Council was being consulted with a view to submitting its own proposals to the Commission. The Sub-Committee was being asked to consider the draft Council proposals and to make

recommendations to the Corporate Policy Committee on 13th February 2024. The final approval of the Council's submission would be by full Council on 27th February 2024.

The report set out the Boundary's Commission's timetable for conducting the electoral review. It also set out the criteria that the Commission would apply to its consideration of the future warding arrangements for Cheshire East: electoral equality, community identity, and effective and convenient local government. Any proposals by the Council would need to conform to those criteria.

The Sub-Committee had met informally on a number of occasions between late November and mid-January to consider in detail proposals for future warding. In addition, individual members of the Sub-Committee had consulted informally with local ward members and within their political groups. Local ward members had attended the meetings and had been afforded the opportunity to speak in relation to the warding proposals for their areas.

Appendix 1 to the report included the vast majority of warding proposals upon which informal agreement had been reached. A number of warding proposals remained unresolved, and the options relating to those proposals were set out in Appendix 2. Detailed maps of the proposals were set out in the appendices and large scale printed versions were available at the meeting.

The officers advised that once the Sub-Committee had approved proposals from among the options in Appendix 2, those proposals would be incorporated into the main set of proposals at Appendix 1 for the Corporate Policy Committee meeting. The officers would also take the opportunity to correct a number of typographical errors that had become apparent in the warding proposals report.

The Sub-Committee was also recommended, for the reasons set out in the report, to seek delegated authority from the Corporate Policy Committee, and then from Council, for the Sub-Committee to make any further changes to the warding proposals following the Corporate Policy Committee and Council meetings, and to respond to any further consultation by the Boundary Commission before or during the second round of consultation between July and October.

The Chair acknowledged the huge amount of work that had been undertaken over the last few weeks and placed on record his thanks to the officers, and in particular to Nick Billington. He also congratulated the Sub-Committee on having secured agreement on the vast majority of warding proposals, with only three areas remaining to be resolved by the day of the meeting.

The Sub-Committee proceeded to consider the proposals set out in the report, including the options for the as yet unresolved areas set out in Appendix 2 relating to Macclesfield and Bollington, Shavington and Rope, and Congleton.

With regard to Knutsford, which was raised under public speaking, the Chair suggested that Mr Godden, who was still present, might wish to work with Mr Billington to see if an appropriate arrangement could be brought forward in time for consideration by the Corporate Policy Committee.

With regard to the optional proposals for Macclesfield, Councillors S Bennett-Wake, L Braithwaite, M Brooks, B Puddicombe and J Snowball spoke as visiting members in support of Option 1 in Appendix 2. Councillor D Edwardes spoke as a visiting member in support of Option 2. Councillors K Edwards and J Place spoke as visiting members in support of the proposed boundary for the Bollington ward under the Macclesfield Option 1 proposal where the ward boundary with Tytherington remained south of the Silk Road.

With regard to the optional proposals for Shavington and Rope, Councillor L Buchanan spoke as a visiting member in support of a single, two-member ward.

Councillor Clowes read out the comments of Councillor M Simon regarding the boundary between the proposed Wistaston and Rope wards. The Chair asked Mr Billington to take away Councillor Simon's comments to ascertain what exactly was being proposed and what the implications might be, and to circulate the results of his analysis to members of the Sub-Committee and the Corporate Policy Committee before the Committee's meeting.

Before the Sub-Committee considered the proposals for Congleton, the Chair reported that Councillor L Smetham had submitted comments, expressing concern about what she referred to as the piecemeal attacks on the edges of her ward, with illogical boundaries not aligning with parishes.

With regard to Congleton, Councillor S Holland spoke as a visiting member against the proposal for three two-member wards. Councillor Clowes reported the comments of Councillor L Wardlaw that she and other Congleton members supported the alternative proposal for two three-member wards.

The Sub-Committee gave detailed consideration to the merits of the various options in Appendix 2 and, following a number of indicative votes and proposed amendments, arrived at a final set of recommendations to the Corporate Policy Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Sub-Committee

1. approves the following proposals on warding for recommendation to the Corporate Policy Committee on 13th February 2024, with a view to these being recommended to Council on 27th February 2024:
 - (a) the proposals set out in Appendix 1 in full, and the proposals relating to Gawsforth and Sutton set out in Appendix 2;

(b) the following proposals set out in Appendix 2:

Macclesfield and Bollington – Option 2 as detailed in the Appendix, subject to the following amendments:

- The whole of the area comprising Polling District 4CBR to be included in the Macclesfield South ward; and
- The whole of the area comprising Polling District 4AF2 to be included in the Macclesfield West ward.

Shavington and Rope – that there be a single, two-member ward as detailed in Appendix 2.

Congleton – that there be two three-member wards as detailed in Appendix 2.

2. agrees to seek delegated authority for the Sub-Committee:

- (c) to make any further required changes to these proposals, and to approve any outstanding proposals and to deal with any matters which arise, following the Corporate Policy Committee's meeting and prior to the consideration of the proposals by full Council, and also in respect of any outstanding proposals which have not been finalised in time for consideration by Council;
- (d) to make any further changes to the proposals arising from the Council meeting on 27th February, or which become necessary after that meeting; and
- (e) to respond on the Council's behalf to any further informal or formal consultation by the Boundary Commission which relates to the second period of consultation.

Note: The warding proposals agreed by the Electoral Review Sub-Committee for recommendation to this Committee as set out in Resolutions 1 (a) and (b) above have been incorporated into a single set of proposals in the Warding Proposals Report and supporting maps attached at Appendix 1.

Electoral Review Sub-Committee

31st January 2024

Cheshire East Electoral Review – Warding Proposals

Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance

Report Reference No: ER/15/23-24

All Cheshire East Council wards are affected

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to consider the proposed warding arrangements for Cheshire East Council for recommendation to the Corporate Policy Committee and full Council.
2. This is to enable the Council to respond as a consultee to the second stage of the electoral review being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
3. In responding to the review, the Council will be fulfilling its Corporate Plan objective, to be “open” by providing strong community leadership and by working transparently with residents, businesses and partners, to deliver the Council’s ambitions within the Borough.

Executive Summary

4. The Council has previously approved its proposals for future council size and submitted them to the Boundary Commission in line with its deadline of 18th December 2023. This report now deals with the second stage of the electoral review, in which the Council is invited to submit proposals for future warding arrangements. The factors which the Commission will apply in considering any warding proposals are set out in the report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Sub-Committee is recommended:

1. to approve the draft proposals on warding set out in **Appendix 1**, and to agree proposals in respect of the remaining areas, for recommendation to the Corporate Policy Committee on 13th February 2024, with a view to these being recommended to Council on 27th February 2024; and
2. to seek delegated authority for the Sub-Committee:
 - (a) to make any further required changes to these proposals, and to approve any outstanding proposals and to deal with any matters which arise, following the Corporate Policy Committee's meeting and prior to the consideration of the proposals by full Council, and also in respect of any outstanding proposals which have not been finalised in time for consideration by Council;
 - (b) to make any further changes to the proposals arising from the Council meeting on 27th February, or which become necessary after that meeting; and
 - (c) to respond on the Council's behalf to any further informal or formal consultation by the Boundary Commission which relates to the second period of consultation.

Background

5. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) is an independent body set up by Parliament. Its main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England. The Commission is undertaking a review of the Council's electoral arrangements. This Council is being asked to respond to the review as a consultee. The Commission will ultimately determine the outcome of the review, and its recommendations will be laid before Parliament for approval.
6. The electoral review is in two stages. The first stage, now complete, addressed the size of the Council: the number of councillors that Cheshire East Council should have in future. The second stage addresses the warding arrangements: the number of wards, their boundaries and the number of councillors for each ward.
7. The Commission met on 16th January to consider the Council size, but has set out the following timetable for the second stage of the review:

- Commission to consult on warding patterns: 23 January-1 April 2024
 - Commission to meet to discuss draft recommendations: 16 July 2024
 - Commission to consult on draft recommendations: 30 July – 7 October 2024
 - Commission to meet to discuss final recommendations: 17 December 2024
 - Final recommendations published: 14 January 2025
 - Order laid before Parliament: early 2025
 - Order made: spring 2025
 - Implementation: 2027
8. The Electoral Review Sub-Committee was appointed by the Corporate Policy Committee at its meeting on 11th July 2023 ‘to make recommendations to the Corporate Policy Committee in respect of all matters relating to the Cheshire East Council Electoral Review’.
9. The Sub-Committee has already made recommendations on the first part of the review regarding council size and has therefore completed this part of its work. The Council, at its meeting on 13th December 2023, approved the Council’s submission on council size which was submitted to the Boundary Commission by its deadline of 18th December. This report deals with the second stage of the review. It presents, for the Sub-Committee’s consideration and approval, the Council’s draft proposals on future warding arrangements.
10. In order to conduct the review, a model has been prepared which has generated forecasts of future electorate numbers up to the start of 2030, for various geographical tiers. Officers have also prepared a detailed technical report that explains the forecasting methodology. A copy of this report was sent to the Commission during the early stages of the review, prior to submitting the council size submission.
11. In considering future warding arrangements, the Sub-Committee must have regard to the statutory warding criteria used by the Commission in its review.
12. The Boundary Commission has three main criteria, as set out below, derived from legislation, which it must follow when producing a new pattern of wards:
1. Delivering electoral equality for local voters

This means ensuring that each local councillor represents roughly the same number of people so that the value of a vote is the same regardless of where a person lives in the local authority area.

Electoral equality is the only criterion which the Commission can measure with precision. It will therefore take a firm view on the extent to which the Council's proposals meet the ambition to deliver electoral fairness. Decisions are based on the number of electors in a ward and not the total population.

2. Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities

This means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties, and where boundaries are easily identifiable.

Unlike electoral equality, it is not possible for the Commission to measure levels of community identity. The Commission will therefore be looking for evidence on a range of issues, such as the existence of communication links and facilities, with an explanation of how local people use those facilities; identifiable boundaries such as rivers, major roads and railway lines, and parish boundaries. The Commission will also have regard to urban, suburban and rural characteristics, such areas having different needs and interests.

3. Promoting effective and convenient local government

This means ensuring that the new wards or electoral divisions can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively. In addition, the pattern of wards must reflect the electoral cycle of the Council.

Where a council holds whole-council elections every four years, the Commission is able to propose any pattern of wards or divisions that it believes best meets its statutory criteria. This is usually a mixture of single-, two- and three-member wards or divisions.

The Commission will also consider the geographic size of wards, to ensure that they are not so large that it would be difficult for a councillor to represent them.

In addition, the Commission will consider the names of wards which are often important to local people. The Commission rarely has strong views on this aspect of a review and will usually use names which have been proposed by local people.

13. The Commission's decisions on new wards and boundaries will always be based on these criteria. The Commission is therefore much more likely to accept the Council's proposals if they are based on one or more of the criteria.

14. Occasionally, it will not be possible for the Commission to put forward a boundary proposal that clearly meets all the statutory criteria which can sometimes contradict one another, for example where a proposed ward might reflect the shape of local communities but deliver poor levels of electoral equality. In such cases, the Commission will use its discretion, and the quality of the evidence presented to it, to reach a conclusion.
15. In accordance with the electoral review timetable, the Council's proposals on future warding arrangements must be submitted to the Commission by the end of March. The submission must therefore be approved by full Council, following a recommendation of the Corporate Policy Committee. The final scheduled Council meeting before the Commission's deadline is 27th February, which means that the Sub-Committee's recommendations on warding must be submitted to the Corporate Policy Committee no later than 13th February. The agenda for the meeting on 13th February must be published by 5th February. This timescale has been determined by the Commission and cannot be changed. Members will understand that this presents significant challenges to the Council in developing, progressing and finalising warding proposals during the time available before the 27th February Council meeting. For this reason, the Council needs a mechanism by which any remaining proposals or changes to proposals can be agreed by the Electoral Review Sub-Committee, after both the meeting of the Corporate Policy Committee and the Council meeting.
16. The Electoral Review Sub-Committee has met informally on a number of occasions between late November and mid-January to consider in detail proposals for future warding. Members of the Sub-Committee have also been consulting informally with local ward members and within their political groups.
17. The warding proposals report and its supporting maps are set out at **Appendix 1**. This shows that agreement has been reached on the vast majority of warding proposals. However, there are a number of areas of the Borough where, at the time of agenda publication, some aspects of the warding proposals remain to be resolved. These are highlighted in the warding proposals report and are the subject of a separate set of maps at **Appendix 2** (to follow). It may be possible that in some cases, counter proposals will be submitted in relation to these areas at or before the meeting.
18. The Sub-Committee is recommended to approve the proposals set out in **Appendix 1**, and to agree proposals in respect of the remaining areas, for recommendation to the Corporate Policy Committee.

19. The Sub-Committee is also recommended to seek delegated authority from the Corporate Policy Committee, and then from Council, to make any further changes to the warding proposals following the Corporate Policy Committee and Council meetings:
 - a. arising from any amendments agreed by the Committee or at Council;
 - b. arising from any relevant feedback which might be received from the Boundary Commission prior to or after the Council meeting;
 - c. and to finalise any warding proposals which, for whatever reason, have not been ready to present to the Committee or to Council.

20. As mentioned in paragraph 7 of this report, the Boundary Commission will be meeting on 16th July 2024 to discuss its draft recommendations. It will then publish its draft recommendations on 30th July 2024 and there will be a further period of consultation on those recommendations which will end on 7th October 2024. This presents a difficulty for the Council in that the nearest Corporate Policy Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on 11th July 2024, which will not allow sufficient time for the Commission's draft recommendations to be fully analysed and a Council response formulated. In addition, full Council would not meet until 16th October, which is after the second consultation deadline. It is therefore proposed that the delegation to the Electoral Review Sub-Committee should include the ability for the Sub-Committee to respond to any informal or formal consultation by the Commission between 16th July and 7th October.

Consultation and Engagement

21. The Council will not undertake any consultation work on the review, except internally, with its own Members. The review is being led by the Commission, not the Council, and the Commission has a clearly identified programme of consultation which it is understood will include the list of stakeholders that the Commission has requested from the Council.

Reasons for Recommendations

22. The recommendation of this report seeks to ensure that the Council responds to the Boundary Commission's review of the Council's electoral arrangements in a timely way in accordance with the timetable laid down by the Commission.

23. In responding to the review, the Council will be fulfilling its Corporate Plan objective of being "open" by providing strong community leadership

and by working transparently with residents, businesses and partners, to deliver the Council's ambitions within the Borough.

Other Options Considered

- 24 The Council could choose not to engage with the Commission's review, but this would be an unhelpful approach and would deprive the Council of the important opportunity to make submissions, and to influence its electoral arrangements which will apply from 2027.
- 25 *Impact assessment:*

Option	Impact	Risk
Do nothing (ie do not engage with the review)	The Council would be deprived of the important opportunity to make representations	The review would not secure the benefit of the Council's input as the key respondent. The resulting electoral review order, which will be implemented in 2027 would not be informed by the Council's views.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 26 The main piece of legislation governing the review is the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). This consolidates and amends provisions previously contained in the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Act 1992 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 27 Section 56 of the 2009 Act requires that the Commission carry out reviews 'from time to time', of every principal local authority in England and make recommendations about electoral arrangements (but not their external boundaries) (Period Electoral Reviews or PERs). In addition, the Commission can at any time review the arrangements for all or any parts of a principal local authority's area if it appears to the Commission to be desirable.
- 28 Subsections 56(1) and (4) require the Commission to recommend whether a change should be made to the electoral arrangements for that area. Electoral arrangements include the total number of councillors to be elected to the council (known as 'council size'); the number and

boundaries of wards/divisions; the number of councillors to be elected for each ward/division; and the name of any ward/division.

- 29 In making its recommendations, Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act requires the Commission to have regard to—
- (a) the need to secure that the ratio of the number of local government electors to the number of members of the district council to be elected is, as nearly as possible, the same in every electoral area of the council,
 - (b) the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and in particular—
 - (i) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable, and
 - (ii) the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties,
 - (c) the need to secure effective and convenient local government,

Further information on the legal implications of the review can be found in the Commission's Technical Guidance:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/technical-guidance-2021.pdf>

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 30 There will be no impact on the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The proposal will be funded from within existing Democratic Services budgets, aided by internal officer resource contributions from various other departments, and it is not anticipated that any external spend will be required in order for the Council to respond to the review.

Policy

- 31 The key policy implication of this report is that, in responding to the review, the Council will be meeting one of its most fundamentally important objectives: providing strong community leadership and by working transparently with residents, businesses and partners, to deliver the Council's ambitions within the Borough. In doing so, the Council will be fulfilling the objective of empowering and caring about people within the Borough. The electoral representation of the Council is of key importance in this regard.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 32 Given that this report is a response to the Commission's review of the Council's electoral arrangements, and that it simply recommends the

means by which the Sub-Committee will make recommendations upon Council size, there would appear to be no equality, diversity and inclusion implications.

- 33 However, in developing its recommendations, the Sub-Committee will be mindful of these important considerations. Undoubtedly, the Commission will be equally mindful of these matters when making its final recommendations on the Council's electoral arrangements.

Human Resources

- 34 There are no direct human resources implications.

Risk Management

- 35 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report, other than the matters referred to within it. However, the risks associated with any decision of the Council not to engage with the review are set out above.

Rural Communities

- 36 There are implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of rural communities. These implications have been given careful consideration as the Sub-Committee committee has developed its proposals.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 37 There are no such direct implications.

Public Health

- 38 No direct public health implications arise from the recommendations of this report.

Climate Change

- 39 There are no direct climate change implications, which arise from the recommendations of this report.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Contact Officer: Brian Reed Brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk

<p>Background Papers:</p>	<p>Background Papers:</p> <p>Report to Council on 13th December 2023 approving the council size submission</p> <p>Local Government Boundary Commission for England website</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Warding proposals report and maps of agreed proposals</p> <p>Appendix 2 – maps of unresolved warding proposals (to follow)</p>

Cheshire East Council Electoral Review 2023-24: Warding Proposal Report

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1 Introduction

Cheshire East Council is keen to ensure that the Local Government Boundary Commission's current Electoral Review produces electoral arrangements that:

- enable the Council to deliver public services effectively and efficiently;
- allow an even division of councillors' workloads, taking into factors such as rurality and deprivation, as well as the numbers of electors;
- reflect the interests and identities of the Borough's communities;
- give electors a fair (broadly equal) say in the Council's decision-making and resource allocation.

The Council therefore welcomes the opportunity to submit proposals for future warding arrangements, as part of the Commission's consultation on warding.

This report sets out in detail the Council's warding proposals, along with the approach taken in developing those proposals. As such, this report will form the basis of the Council's intended response to the warding consultation.

The rest of this report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 outlines the Council's approach to developing its warding proposals.
- Section 3 provides a table of electoral statistics for each ward: the proposed number of councillors or 'seats'; elector numbers; electors per councillor ratios (referred to subsequently as 'electors per seat' ratios); and the variances of these ratios from the Borough average. As can be seen in this section, it is proposed that there should be a mixture of single-, two- and three-Member wards, and a total of 82 seats (no change from the current total), as recommended by the Commission. The Council proposes a total of 48 wards, which would be four fewer than at present.
- Section 4 provides detailed information on the geographical area that each ward would cover, how these differ from existing ward boundaries, and the rationale for the proposed boundaries and ward names.
- Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), which is a separate document accompanying this main report, includes detailed maps for each of the proposed wards and an overview map of the proposed ward boundaries for the Borough as a whole. Apart from the overview map, the Appendix A maps are displayed in alphabetical order (by proposed Borough ward name).

2 Approach

Under the Council's Constitution, Full Council is responsible for "approving the Council's response to any issues or proposals in relation to local government boundaries including Electoral Wards, the conduct of elections and community governance functions".

The Council's Corporate Policy Committee appointed the Electoral Review Sub-Committee to make recommendations upon all matters relating to the Boundary Commission's Review. These recommendations will be considered by the Corporate Policy Committee, prior to the Committee making recommendations to Council.

Officers have provided advice to Members throughout the Review process.

In developing these warding proposals, the Sub-Committee has focused on the criteria laid out in the Commission's guidance¹, namely:

- Delivering **electoral equality** for local voters, which means ensuring that each local councillor represents roughly the same number of people.
- Reflecting the **interests and identities of local communities**, which means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
- Promoting **effective and convenient local government**, which means ensuring that the new wards can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

In assessing potential warding arrangements against the first of the Commission's criteria, electoral equality, the Council has taken account of:

- The electoral forecasts for 2023-30 that it (the Council) produced to inform this Review, and which the Commission has accepted as being fit for purpose.²
- The fact that the Commission tries to ensure that, for all wards, the electors per councillor ratio at the end of the Review's forecast period (2030 in this case) is no more than 10% different from the Borough average. (In the interests of concise wording, this submission subsequently refers to the number of councillors as the number of 'seats' and to the electors per councillor ratio as the 'electors per seat' ratio.)

¹ 'How to propose a pattern of wards', LGBCE: https://www.lgbce.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/how_to_propose_a_pattern_of_wards_2018.pdf

² The base date for the forecasts is 1 July 2023, as (at the time the forecasts were produced) this was the date of the most recently available Electoral Register data. The Commission's guidance on electorate forecasts highlights a requirement for an electoral review to consider changes in the electorate that are likely to occur within five years of the release of the review's final recommendations. The Commission intends to publish its final recommendations for the current review in January 2025. Hence forecasts are required up to January 2030. The resulting forecasts are therefore for the period from mid-2023 (1 July 2023) to the start of 2030 (January 2030).

- The Commission's recommendation, announced on 23 January 2024 at the start of the first public consultation stage of this Review, that the future (post-Review) number of councillors should be 82, the same as now. This is the number proposed in the 'council size' submission that Cheshire East sent to the Commission in December 2023.

In email correspondence about the range of ratios that would meet the electoral equality criterion, the Commission has confirmed to Cheshire East that its usual cut-off point is 10% variance from the Borough average after rounding: so a variance of 10.499%, for example, is acceptable, but 10.5% is (generally) seen as too high.

The Council's forecast is that the number of electors will be 337,339 by 2030. Assuming, as indicated above, a total of 82 Members, this implies an average of 4,113.89 electors per seat (337,339 divided by 82) as of 2030.

Therefore, for all proposed wards to have ratios within the +/-10% range usually sought by the Commission, the number of electors per seat for each ward has to be:

- a minimum of 3,682 ($4,113.89 \times 0.895$, rounded up to the nearest whole number); and
- a maximum of 4,545 ($4,113.89 \times 1.105$, rounded down to the nearest whole number).

Besides the Commission's criteria outlined above, the Council's warding proposals are based on the following broad principles, though with the understanding that exceptions to this general approach are appropriate in some circumstances:

- Ward boundaries should, in general, follow parish boundaries, as the Council has only recently undertaken a Community Governance Review of the whole Borough (with final recommendations approved in April 2022 and implemented in April 2023). Therefore the current parish boundaries are a good reflection of local communities' interests and identities. In other words:
 - Warding in areas with smaller, more rural parishes, should in general use individual parishes as building blocks.
 - Warding in larger towns should, in general, aim to create wards that are subdivisions of the town council area, rather than wards that consist of part of the town council area and part of another (adjacent) town or parish council. However, the level and nature of neighbouring areas' ties to town council areas should also be considered, as well as the fact that Cheshire East Council and its Borough ward councillors have different functions and responsibilities to town and parish councils and their councillors. In addition, it may not always be possible to meet the Commission's electoral equality criterion by 'constraining' Borough ward boundaries to town council boundaries. These factors may mean in some instances that making Borough ward boundaries coterminous with town council boundaries is not necessarily the best warding arrangement.

- In those cases where parish boundaries are unsuitable building blocks for wards, parish wards or else polling districts are likely to be the most suitable alternative building blocks to use.
- Whilst existing electoral geographies should be used as building blocks where practical, splitting individual existing polling districts may be necessary in some cases, in order to best meet all the Commission's warding criteria.
- A mixture of single-, two- and three-Members (as Cheshire East currently has) works well and better meets the Commission's criteria than would a more rigid arrangement under which all wards had the same number of Members. In the more rural parts of the Borough, where settlements are often very small and dispersed and where travel can be challenging because of factors such as more limited road networks and settlements at higher elevations, single-Member wards are the only practical option: two-Member wards in these locations would cover too large a geographical area to enable effective and convenient local government and manageable workloads for Members. Even in more densely populated parts of the Borough, single- or two-Member wards often better reflect community identity and allow Members to focus more on specific local issues.

In developing its warding proposals, the Council has drawn on a wide range of evidence, including the following:

- The Council's electorate forecasts for 2023-30, as noted above. These forecasts were produced for various electoral tiers: polling districts, parish wards, parishes, town/ parish councils, current Borough wards and the local authority as a whole.³
- The Council's corporate mapping software system (QGIS).
- A wide array of map data, including Ordnance Survey data, existing (and possible future) ward boundaries and boundaries for other electoral tiers.
- Data on the locations and extents (boundaries) of sites where housing development has occurred in recent years (2010 onwards), or where housing development is currently ongoing or expected to begin before 2030 – and on the (net) number of homes being developed on each of these sites. This housing completions data formed a key input into the electorate forecasts.
- Data relating to different settlements' and communities' services and amenities (for example, the locations of schools, GP practices, convenience stores and community centres/ village halls). Much of this comes from a recent review undertaken by the Council of Cheshire East's settlement hierarchy.

³ In cases where a proposed ward included a subdivision (rather than the whole) of a particular polling district, additional calculations were necessary, given that the electorate forecasts were not produced below polling district level. In such cases, the number of electors in that subdivision of the polling district was estimated by counting the number of existing residential properties in that subdivision (using Ordnance Survey data), then adding on expected net housing completions in that subdivision up to 2030, and then multiplying the resulting 2030 housing stock estimate by a modelled estimate of the average number of electors per residential property (as of 2030) for the (current) local Borough ward.

- The Community Governance Review (CGR) Final Recommendations Assessment Report (2022)⁴, which has detailed evidence – submitted as part of the autumn 2021 consultation on the CGR Draft Recommendations - on community ties within the Borough.
- Relevant evidence gathered (during summer and autumn 2023) from town/ parish council websites. These websites often include information on services and amenities available within the town or parish council area and sometimes on community ties (or other links) to neighbouring town and parish councils.
- Recent (2023) information, taken from the Borough Council and operators' websites, on current bus and train service routes.
- Members' and officers' local knowledge.

⁴ Cheshire East Council Community Governance Review Final Recommendations Assessment Report, March 2022:
<https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s94017/Appendix%203%20-%20CEC%20CGR%20Final%20Recommendations%20Assessment%20Report%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

3 Summary of the proposals

Table 3.1 below lists the elector numbers, ratios (electors per seat) and variances (percentage variation of the ward’s ratio from the Borough average) for each of the proposed wards agreed so far, for both 2023 and 2030. As can be seen, the proposed warding ensures that all but one of these wards will (by 2030) have variances that are no more than 10% from the Borough average.

Table 3.1: electoral statistics for the proposed wards

Ward name	Council seats	Electors, Jul 2023	Electors, Jan 2030	Electors per seat ratio, Jul 2023	Electors per seat ratio, Jan 2030	Ratio's % variance (from Borough average), Jul 2023	Ratio's % variance (from Borough average), Jan 2030
Alderley Edge	1	4,055	4,091	4,055	4,091	+6%	-1%
Alsager	3	11,567	12,503	3,856	4,168	0%	+1%
Audlem	1	4,306	4,428	4,306	4,428	+12%	+8%
Bollington & Rainow	2	7,437	7,585	3,719	3,793	-3%	-8%
Brereton	1	3,361	4,121	3,361	4,121	-12%	0%
Bunbury	1	3,840	4,021	3,840	4,021	0%	-2%
Chelford	1	3,827	3,977	3,827	3,977	0%	-3%
Congleton East	3	11,910	12,171	3,970	4,057	+3%	-1%
Congleton West	3	11,631	12,386	3,877	4,129	+1%	0%
Crewe East	2	8,845	8,824	4,423	4,412	+15%	+7%
Crewe Maw Green	1	2,802	3,855	2,802	3,855	-27%	-6%
Crewe North	2	8,457	8,564	4,229	4,282	+10%	+4%
Crewe South	2	7,284	7,653	3,642	3,827	-5%	-7%
Crewe St Barnabas	1	3,546	4,038	3,546	4,038	-8%	-2%
Crewe West	2	8,000	8,061	4,000	4,031	+4%	-2%
Dane Valley	2	8,714	8,905	4,357	4,453	+14%	+8%

Ward name	Council seats	Electors, Jul 2023	Electors, Jan 2030	Electors per seat ratio, Jul 2023	Electors per seat ratio, Jan 2030	Ratio's % variance (from Borough average), Jul 2023	Ratio's % variance (from Borough average), Jan 2030
Disley	1	4,245	4,253	4,245	4,253	+11%	+3%
Gawsworth	1	3,197	4,324	3,197	4,324	-17%	+5%
Handforth	2	5,881	7,241	2,941	3,621	-23%	-12%
Haslington	1	4,258	4,387	4,258	4,387	+11%	+7%
High Legh	1	3,647	3,704	3,647	3,704	-5%	-10%
Knutsford	3	10,413	11,639	3,471	3,880	-10%	-6%
Leighton	2	5,463	7,707	2,732	3,854	-29%	-6%
Macclesfield Central	2	7,380	7,640	3,690	3,820	-4%	-7%
Macclesfield East	1	3,620	4,106	3,620	4,106	-6%	0%
Macclesfield Hurdsfield	1	4,042	4,024	4,042	4,024	+5%	-2%
Macclesfield South	2	6,686	8,055	3,343	4,028	-13%	-2%
Macclesfield Tytherington	2	7,672	8,093	3,836	4,047	0%	-2%
Macclesfield West	3	12,909	13,488	4,303	4,496	+12%	+9%
Middlewich	3	11,301	12,626	3,767	4,209	-2%	+2%
Mobberley	1	3,948	3,980	3,948	3,980	+3%	-3%
Nantwich North & West	2	7,723	8,400	3,862	4,200	+1%	+2%
Nantwich South & Stapeley	2	8,549	8,833	4,275	4,417	+11%	+7%
Odd Rode	2	8,137	8,237	4,069	4,119	+6%	0%
Poynton	3	11,765	12,097	3,922	4,032	+2%	-2%
Prestbury	1	4,206	4,239	4,206	4,239	+10%	+3%
Sandbach East & Central	2	8,300	8,660	4,150	4,330	+8%	+5%
Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath	2	7,695	7,966	3,848	3,983	0%	-3%
Shavington	2	8,549	8,784	4,275	4,392	+11%	+7%
Sutton	1	3,059	3,982	3,059	3,982	-20%	-3%
Weston	1	2,117	4,286	2,117	4,286	-45%	+4%
Wheelock & Winterley	1	3,756	3,852	3,756	3,852	-2%	-6%
Wilmslow East	2	8,255	8,484	4,128	4,242	+8%	+3%
Wilmslow Lacey Green	1	3,684	3,758	3,684	3,758	-4%	-9%

Ward name	Council seats	Electors, Jul 2023	Electors, Jan 2030	Electors per seat ratio, Jul 2023	Electors per seat ratio, Jan 2030	Ratio's % variance (from Borough average), Jul 2023	Ratio's % variance (from Borough average), Jan 2030
Wilmslow West	2	8,362	8,450	4,181	4,225	+9%	+3%
Wistaston	2	8,520	8,553	4,260	4,277	+11%	+4%
Wrenbury	1	3,865	4,026	3,865	4,026	+1%	-2%
Wybunbury	1	3,895	4,282	3,895	4,282	+1%	+4%

4 Details of the proposals for individual wards

4.1 Alderley Edge

Proposed ward name	Alderley Edge		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,091	4,091	-1%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of the parish of Chorley (polling district 3DD1)		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The parishes of Alderley Edge and Chorley		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 3DD1, 3DF1, 3DG1, 3DH1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>This proposal improves the electoral equality of the ward by adding the parish of Chorley (forecast to have 380 electors by 2030), giving the ward an electors per seat ratio very close to the Borough average (without Chorley, the ratio's variance would be 10% below average).</p> <p>The proposal would also reflect interests and identities of local communities, as Chorley does not identify with or have significant ties to Wilmslow (with part of which it is currently warded). As detailed in the Council's Community Governance Review (CGR) Final Recommendations Assessment Report (2022), the CGR consultation stage generated substantial evidence to demonstrate the limited nature of Chorley's ties to Wilmslow.</p> <p>Chorley is geographically very close to Alderley Edge (the two were previously warded together) and is well connected to it by road, making its larger neighbour an important centre for many key services and amenities (Alderley Edge has a supermarket, GP practice, pharmacy, library and a large number of retail outlets).</p>		

	<p>The proposal also promotes effective and convenient government by enabling the elected Member to work with two geographically close and linked communities, rather than a more dispersed and less cohesive group of settlements.</p> <p>Adding any of the other adjacent rural parishes to the ward (instead of Chorley) would not meet the Commission’s warding criteria as well as the proposed arrangement. In particular, Alderley Edge shares only a very narrow border with the parish of Mottram St Andrew (525 electors by 2030) and the settlements in the parishes of Over Alderley (406 electors) and Nether Alderley (818) are dispersed and very different in character to Alderley Edge. Adding any of these parishes to the ward would greatly enlarge its geographical extent and disproportionately increase the time required to travel between the ward’s communities. It should also be noted that Alderley Edge is a relatively self-contained community and it has a distinct character that separates it from most of the neighbouring areas.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects community identity, as Alderley Edge is the main settlement within the area.</p>

4.2 Alsager

Proposed ward name	Alsager		
Proposed number of seats	3		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	12,503	4,168	+1%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of polling districts 2GDT (from the current Haslington Borough ward) and LAWY (from the current Odd Rode Borough ward)		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	Alsager Town Council		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 2GDT, ALEA, ALEB, ALEC, ALED, ALEE, ALEF, ALEG, LAWY		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>This proposal would align the Alsager Borough ward boundary with the post-Community Governance Review (CGR) boundaries between Alsager Town Council and Haslington Parish Council, and bring the new housing development on the western edge of Alsager within the Borough ward that contains the town. Similarly, it would align the Alsager Borough ward boundary with the post-CGR boundaries between the Town Council and Church Lawton Parish Council, and bring the whole of the housing development on Local Plan site LPS 21 (the estate including Richard Woodcock Way and roads accessed from it) within Alsager Borough ward.</p> <p>These boundary changes would better reflect local communities' interests and identities, as these new housing developments are intended to support Alsager's outward expansion. The new western boundary, following the M6, would offer a clearer boundary line than the existing one. The proposal also promotes effective and convenient government by enabling the elected Members to work with a single parish council and one community. In addition, the proposed ward would have good electoral equality, with an electors per seat ratio very close to the Borough average.</p> <p>It is essential that the Alsager Borough ward boundary does <u>not</u> extend into the triangular area between LPS 21 and the B5077/ A5011 crossroads, as this includes part of the Church Lawton</p>		

	Barrows: an ancient burial of archaeological importance and which is a key part of Church Lawton’s heritage and identity. This triangular area of land falls within Church Lawton Parish Council.
Rationale for the proposed name	The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects community identity, as the ward would consist solely of the Alsager Town Council area.

4.3 Audlem

Proposed ward name	Audlem		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,428	4,428	+8%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	No changes proposed		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Borough ward area		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 1FH1, 1FH6, 1GK1, 3EA1, 3EL1, 3EU6, 3EV6, 3EW6, 3FH3, 3FH4, 3FH7		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>Although the proposed (and current) Borough ward is forecast to have an above-average electors per seat ratio (8% above the Borough average by 2030), this ratio is within the range usually sought by the Commission and is expected to decline between 2023 and 2030. This ratio could in theory be brought closer to the Borough average by transferring part of the current Borough ward to another ward. However, keeping the existing combination of parishes in this Borough ward would best reflect the interests and identities of the local communities and is therefore proposed. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The village of Audlem is relatively well endowed with services and amenities. Unlike the other parishes in the Borough ward, it has a supermarket, convenience store, GP surgery, nursery/ creche and pharmacy and is the nearest location for these services for Hankelow, Buerton and parts of Dodcott cum Wilkesley and Sound & District. • Buerton, Hankelow and the main settlements in the parish of Dodcott cum Wilkesley are in the catchment for Audlem St James' Church of England Primary School. • The catchment area for Sound & District Primary School includes the five Sound & District Parish Council parishes that are already in Audlem Borough ward (Austerson, Baddington, 		

	<p>Broomhall, Coole Pilate and Sound) and the main settlements in the parish of Newhall (Newhall and Aston).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound, Buerton, Audlem and Hankelow are on the same bus route. <p>Besides its above-average electors per seat ratio, there are other good reasons for not expanding the Audlem Borough ward area to include other parishes, as these other parishes' community ties lie mainly elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though also in Sound & District, Baddiley is on the opposite side of the railway line and its properties are outside the catchment area for Sound & District Primary School. • The village of Wrenbury has a number of key services and amenities, so is not dependent on Audlem. • The settlements of Bridgemere and Hunsterson (in Doddington & District parish) are in the Bridgemere Church of England Primary School catchment. • Hatherton and Walgherton are geographically closer to Stapeley and Wybunbury (than to Audlem) and are in the catchment areas for Wybunbury/ Stapeley primary schools. For Hatherton and Walgherton, the nearest convenience store is in Wybunbury. • The settlements in Marbury & District are geographically much closer to Wrenbury and its services (and in its primary school catchment). <p>The proposed ward would also promote effective and convenient government by enabling the elected Member to serve an entirely rural area that (apart from excluding Baddiley parish, for the reasons explained earlier) consists of whole parish councils and settlements that have community links with each other.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects community identity, as the village of Audlem is the main settlement in the proposed ward and the one where key services and amenities are concentrated, making it a focal point for the ward.</p>

4.4 Bollington & Rainow

Proposed ward name	Bollington & Rainow		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	7,585	3,793	-8%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Transfer (removal) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parish of Higher Hurdsfield (polling district 4FC1) to the proposed Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough ward. Part of 4EE1 (a polling district within Bollington Town Council's West ward) to the proposed Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward (see below for further details). <p>Addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parish of Pott Shrigley (4FE2), from Poynton East & Pott Shrigley Borough ward. The parish of Sutton (4FF1), from Sutton Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The parishes of Pott Shrigley and Rainow and all of the Bollington Town Council area except for the part south of the Silk Road.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts 4EA1, 4EB1, 4EC1, 4ED1, 4EDT, 4EE1 (part only), 4FE2, 4FF1.</p> <p>The part of 4EE1 to be included in the proposed Bollington & Rainow Borough ward would be the part <u>north</u> of the Silk Road (A523).</p> <p>The part of 4EE1 <u>south</u> of the Silk Road (including the properties on Dumbah Lane, Tytherington Lane, Ball Lane, Springwood Way, Webbs Close, Woodward Close, Goodwin Close, Livesley Road, Patterson Close, Monk Close, Hetherington Square, Edgell Close and Wesley Close) would be part of the proposed Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward.</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of 4EE1 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying</p>		

	<p>this main report. This map is the one titled ‘Macclesfield Tytherington: close-up of Springwood Way area’.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding</p>	<p>The current Poynton East & Pott Shrigley Borough ward has too few electors to meet the Commission’s electoral equality criterion. As of 2023, its electors per seat ratio was 19% below the Borough average and is forecast to be 23% below that average by 2030.</p> <p>In addition, Pott Shrigley, along with the other rural parish in the current Poynton East & Pott Shrigley Borough ward (Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley), covers a wide geographical area. Travel times will account for a significant proportion of Members’ working hours and accessibility to parts of the Peak Park area (which spans much of Pott Shrigley and Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley) is more difficult in winter weather. The Park’s different planning policy regime can potentially also add to the complexity of the workload for Members serving this area.</p> <p>For these reasons (and others), as noted in the subsection on Poynton, it is proposed that there should be a single ‘Poynton’ Borough ward, with three Members, covering only the area within the Town Council boundary.</p> <p>Consequently, Pott Shrigley has to be included in another ward. The parish’s main settlement, the village of Pott Shrigley itself, is geographically close to Bollington and well connected to the town by road. Bollington and Pott Shrigley are also on the same bus route. For Pott Shrigley residents, Bollington is therefore the most convenient location for key services such as food shopping, a library, GP surgery and pharmacy. Given their ties and proximity, it is therefore proposed that Bollington and Pott Shrigley be warded together.</p> <p>As noted in the subsection of this report that covers Sutton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current Sutton Borough ward’s electors per seat ratio is forecast to increase to 11% above the Borough average by 2030. • Given the rural nature of that ward, with many of its communities living in remote, dispersed locations, often at high elevations, the workload for the Sutton Member would be relatively high, even if the ratio were close to the Borough average.

- Changes to the Sutton ward boundary are therefore required, to reduce it to a more manageable size that meets the Commission’s criteria. As the subsection on Sutton explains in detail, removing the parish of Rainow from Sutton Borough ward is considered to be the only practical solution to this.

Therefore Rainow also has to be included in another ward – and warding it with Bollington (and Pott Shrigley) is what the Borough Council proposes. There are a number of reasons for warding Bollington and Rainow together. Although they have a number of differences, there are common issues affecting Bollington and Rainow, such as balancing housing development pressures against the need to protect the natural environment. One residential street, Ingersley Vale, has a number of properties on both sides of the parish boundary. For Rainow residents, Bollington is the nearest location (other than central Macclesfield) with key services such as a leisure centre, library, post office, food stores (Bollington’s retail provision includes a supermarket), a GP surgery and pharmacy. Therefore it is considered that having both parishes represented by the same Member would reflect their local communities’ interests and ties.

Warding Bollington with Rainow and Pott Shrigley would also address the fact that the current Bollington Borough ward has too few electors to meet the Commission’s electoral equality criterion. The current Borough ward’s electors per seat ratio is forecast to decline to 15% below the Borough average by 2030, whereas the proposed Bollington & Rainow Borough ward would have a ratio (as of 2030) that was much closer to (8% below) the Borough average. Although this ratio would still be relatively low compared to most of the other proposed wards, Rainow and Pott Shrigley cover a large, very rural area, much of it in the Peak Park and with some isolated communities on high ground. Hence these factors will add significantly to the elected Members’ workloads and so a below-average ratio is justified.

The parish of Higher Hurdsfield is currently warded with Bollington and the two communities have some ties and a good working relationship. However, Higher Hurdsfield’s population is largely concentrated in the Roewood Lane estate, which is adjacent to the current Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough ward and that ward’s residential areas. Higher Hurdsfield is on the opposite side of the canal to Macclesfield Hurdsfield, but there is a road link over the canal in this location. Hence residents on both sides of the parish boundary are within a very short walking distance of

	<p>each other and people in Higher Hurdsfield can easily access services in the Hursfield and more central parts of Macclesfield. Even now, Higher Hurdsfield residents frequently approach the Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough ward Member about local issues. In addition, the current Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough ward has too few electors, with its electors per seat ratio forecast to be 17% below the Borough average by 2030. It is therefore proposed that Higher Hurdsfield should in future be warded with Macclesfield Hurdsfield, not Bollington. This would give the expanded Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough ward an electors per seat ratio very close to (2% below) the Borough average, as well as ensuring that Higher Hurdsfield’s interests and identity are still reflected. This change would also help to promote effective and convenient local government, given the relative proximity of (and the road link between) Higher Hurdsfield and Macclesfield Hurdsfield.</p> <p>The current Borough ward boundary between Bollington and Macclesfield Tytherington is the same as the current boundary between Bollington and Macclesfield town councils. This boundary divides the Springwood Way estate, with residents on some of the estate’s streets being in a different Borough ward to those on adjacent streets and properties on some roads (such as Hetherington Square) being divided between the two wards. However, the responses to the Community Governance Review’s (CGR) draft recommendations consultation stage revealed evidence of ties between Springwood Way estate residents and the part of Bollington north of the Silk Road. Therefore the CGR final recommendations left the town council boundary unchanged, rather than aligning it with the Silk Road.</p> <p>Nevertheless, a Borough ward boundary that divides the estate and individual streets (and in some cases runs through individual properties) does not reflect the local community’s identity and interests, nor does it promote effective and convenient local government. Springwood Way residents are part of the same community and it is more practical for them all to be included in the same Borough ward, so that residents are clear about whom to approach about local matters and so issues related to the estate do not require liaison between Members from different wards. The Silk Road represents a natural boundary and there is also a sizeable green gap between that road and the town of Bollington itself. In contrast, the residential streets south of Tytherington Business Park (such as Cotton Crescent and Tytherington Drive) are relatively close to the Springwood Way estate, with footpaths connecting the southern end of the estate to Tewkesbury</p>
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	<p>Drive and Tytherington Drive. Many of the estate’s properties (those within the current Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward boundary) are in the catchment for the Marlborough Primary School on Tytherington Drive. The B5090 and A538 also provide easy access from the estate to the areas of Tytherington further south.</p> <p>Given the advantages of placing the entire Springwood Way estate in a single ward, the estate’s ties to the parts of Tytherington further south, and the merits of the Silk Road as a natural boundary, it is therefore proposed that the whole estate be warded with Macclesfield Tytherington.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>Bollington is the largest settlement in the proposed ward and is its main centre for key services and amenities. However, the proposed ward would cover a large rural area with its own identity, with the parish of Rainow containing most of this rural area’s land and population, as well as its largest village, Rainow itself. It is appropriate that the ward’s name reflects both its urban and rural communities and the key settlements within each. The name would also provide clarity for local residents on the geographical extent of the ward.</p>

4.5 Brereton

Proposed ward name	Brereton		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,121	4,121	0%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (Brereton Rural) (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Transfer (removal) of the following (from the current 'Brereton Rural' Borough ward):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • polling district BRET to the proposed Middlewich Borough ward. • BRET2 to the proposed Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath Borough ward. • the Bluebell Green estate area (part of BRE1) to the proposed Dane Valley Borough ward. • all of Somerford Booths parish ward (AST5) and all of the parish of Swettenham (DAN4) of to the proposed Gawsworth Borough ward. • the part of Hulme Walfield parish ward (AST4) that lies south of Congleton Link Road and east of Giantswod Lane, to the proposed Congleton West Borough ward. • the rest of Hulme Walfield parish ward (AST4) to the proposed Gawsworth Borough ward. • the parishes of Betchton (LAW3), Hassall (LAW4) and Smallwood (AST6) to the proposed Odd Rode Borough ward. <p>Addition of COWT from the current Congleton West Borough ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	Most of the parish of Brereton (all except the Bluebell Green estate area) and the parishes of Arclid, Bradwall, Moston, Somerford and Warmingham.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts 3FK6, AST3, BRE1 (part only), BRE2, BRE3, BRE4, COWT.</p> <p>The part of BRE1 to be included would be all of this polling district, except for: the Bluebell Green housing estate (Bluebell Road and the roads accessed from it); Field View Close; Paddock Close; numbers 130 & 132 on the west (even) side of London Road; the properties on the Dunkirk Farm site.</p>		

	<p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of BRE1 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Dane Valley: close-up of boundary in Bluebell Green area'.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding</p>	<p>Due to major housing development, the population of the current Brereton Rural Borough ward has grown rapidly and the area is forecast to see a further large increase in population up to 2030. As a result, its electors per seat ratio was 63% above the Borough average by 2023 and forecast to be 127% above average by 2030. The proposed new warding would address this major imbalance in electoral equality and involve a new 'Brereton' ward with an electors per seat ratio very close to the Borough average.</p> <p>There are good reasons for warding these parishes together, as Somerford and Arclid have links and common interests with Brereton (and shared challenges). Bradwall is also rural and geographically close (with direct road links) to Brereton. Moston and Warmingham are, like Bradwall, rural areas with small populations and are more connected to the rural parishes to their east than to those further west. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The settlements of Brereton Heath and Somerford are adjacent. Whilst most of their residential properties are in the parish of Brereton, those on the east side of Holmes Chapel Road (the A54) are in the parish of Somerford, as is Somerford Park Farm (which adjoins the village of Brereton Heath). • Arclid is in the catchment for Brereton Church of England Primary School and is a relatively short distance by road (the A50) to the village of Brereton Green (in Brereton parish). • Although the parish of Arclid extends some way to the south of the rest of the proposed ward, the village and most residential properties are at the northern edge of the parish. • Arclid is the only settlement in the area with a convenience store, which is a conveniently close location for residents in the adjacent (Brereton Green) part of Brereton. • Brereton Green is the nearest village with any amenities to the village of Bradwall.

- The consultation on the Community Governance Review (CGR) draft recommendations generated extensive evidence that the residents of the new housing developments in the southeast of Somerford parish have a strong rural/ semi-rural identity and do not see themselves as part of Congleton. (This includes residents of the COWT polling district that was part of Congleton up until the implementation of the CGR final recommendations.) There are also good road links from this part of Somerford parish to Brereton’s main settlements and to Arclid.
- Warmingham is relatively well endowed with amenities for its small size (having a school, pub, village hall and church) and there is no direct road access between it and the parish of Minshull Vernon to its west. Including it in the same ward as Moston (which has no amenities and so is dependent on Warmingham or nearby towns) is therefore more appropriate.

The parishes of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths and Swettenham, though part of the current Brereton Rural Borough ward, are on the opposite side of the River Dane to the rest of that ward. There is only one road crossing along this long stretch of the river, meaning that there are no community ties or other significant links between Somerford and its eastern neighbours. In addition, the new housing development in the southeastern part of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths is intended to meet Congleton’s housing need and is adjacent to the Town Council’s residential areas and their key services and amenities. Hence the proposal that this southeastern part of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths be warded with Congleton West, but that the rest of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths, along with the parish of Swettenham, be warded with Gawsworth. (The subsections on Congleton West and Gawsworth provide further details on the rationale for this.)

Similarly, the parishes of Betchton, Hassall and Smallwood have links to parts of the current Odd Rode Borough ward, rather than to Brereton or Somerford (see the proposals for the new Odd Rode Borough ward for further details).

Although the CGR draft recommendations consultation revealed substantial evidence of Bluebell Green having ties to the rest of Brereton, it lies immediately outside the village of Holmes Chapel and is dependent on Holmes Chapel for the many key services unavailable in Brereton.

	<p>Similarly, BRET and BRET2 were developed to meet the housing needs of Middlewich and Sandbach and lie on the outskirts of those towns. The CGR resulted in the Middlewich and Sandbach Town Council boundaries being extended to include these new housing areas. Including these areas in, respectively, the proposed Middlewich and Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath Borough wards would therefore align Borough ward and Town Council boundaries and best reflect local community identity and interests.</p> <p>The proposal also promotes effective and convenient government by enabling the elected Member to work with a group of largely rural communities with similar characters and identities, but covering a somewhat smaller geographical area than the current Brereton Rural ward.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>Brereton is one of the two larger parishes (in population terms) in the proposed Borough ward and 'Brereton' features in the names of some of its main settlements (Brereton Green and Brereton Heath). Use of 'Brereton' in the ward name for this area is also well-established.</p> <p>Although Somerford parish also has a sizeable population, the vast majority of its residents live in the southeastern part of the parish, rather than in the settlement of Somerford itself.</p>

4.6 Bunbury

Proposed ward name	Bunbury		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,021	4,021	-2%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Transfer (removal) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> polling district 3FBT, which is the Kingsley Fields housing development, to the proposed Nantwich North & West Borough ward. Burland & Acton Parish Council's Acton & Henhull parish ward (polling districts 3FA5 and 3FA7), to the proposed Wrenbury Borough ward. The parish of Minshull Vernon (3FJ7) to the proposed Leighton Borough ward. <p>Addition of the parishes of Haughton (3EP6) and Spurstow (3EP7) from the current Wrenbury Borough ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The following parishes: Alpraham & Calveley; Aston juxta Mondrum; Bunbury; Cholmondeston; Church Minshull; Haughton; Poole; Spurstow; Stoke & Hurleston; Wardle; Wettenhall; Worleston.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 3EB1, 3ED1, 3EF1, 3EH6, 3EJ6, 3EJ7, 3EN6, 3EN7, 3EP6, 3EP7, 3ES1, 3FB7, 3FB8, 3FB9		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>Major housing development in part of the current Borough ward (the Kingsley Fields development just outside the current Nantwich North & West Borough ward) has resulted in substantial population growth in Bunbury Borough ward, with this forecast to continue. For the current ward area, the electors per seat ratio was 30% above the Borough average as of 2023 and predicted to be 41% above average by 2030. The proposed new warding would however bring this ratio close to the Borough average and also meet the Commission's other warding criteria.</p> <p>The proposal would reflect local communities' identities and interests by:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligning the Borough ward boundary between Bunbury and the Nantwich Borough wards with the post-Community Governance Review (CGR) boundaries between Nantwich Town Council, Burland & Acton Parish Council and Worleston & District Parish Council, and bring the Kingsley Fields housing development (on Local Plan site LPS 46) within the Borough ward that contains the adjacent part of the town of Nantwich. • Reflecting Haughton’s and Spurstow’s ties to Bunbury. The two settlements are geographically close to Bunbury, with a direct road link. A small part of Bunbury village is actually on the Spurstow side of the parish boundary. Both Haughton and Spurstow are in the catchment for Bunbury Aldersey Church of England Primary School. Bunbury is also the nearest settlement to Haughton and Spurstow for key services and amenities such as a GP surgery, convenience store and community centre. <p>There are also good reasons – again related to community identity and interests - for keeping Alpraham & Calveley, Cholmondeston & Wettenhall, Stoke & Hurlleston and Wardle in the same Borough ward (as they are currently):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alpraham and Calveley are affected by issues relating to traffic going on the A51 to and from Wardle Industrial Estate. • The A51 runs through Alpraham, Calveley, Wardle and the settlement of Barbirdge (which is in the parish of Stoke), so they are well connected by road. • Wardle and Barbridge are within walking distance of each other. • Cholmondeston and Wettenhall are in the catchment for Calveley Primary Academy. • Consultation responses to the CGR highlighted the links (related to the importance locally of agriculture and the canal) between Wardle, Stoke and Cholmondeston. <p>Similarly, there is logic in keeping Worleston & District’s parishes (Aston juxta Mondrum, Poole and Worleston) and Church Minshull in the same Borough ward. Church Minshull is in the catchment for St Oswald’s (Worleston) Church of England Primary School and Worleston is relatively well endowed with other amenities, including a store, village hall and Post Office, making it a convenient destination for Church Minshull residents requiring some of these services.</p>
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	<p>However, Minshull Vernon is relatively distant from most of the other parishes in the current (and proposed) Bunbury ward and has significant ties to Leighton and Woolstanwood, with all three parishes forming parts of the same parish council. Hence the proposal (detailed later) that Minshull Vernon be warded with these parishes instead.</p> <p>The parish of Burland & Acton is currently divided between Bunbury and Wrenbury Borough wards, despite the evidence of ties between its two main settlements: Burland (currently in Wrenbury) and Acton (currently in Bunbury). At the time of the CGR draft recommendations consultation, the then Burland Parish Council noted that many Burland residents identified strongly with Acton. The proposed new warding would better reflect community identity by placing the whole parish within Wrenbury Borough ward.</p> <p>The proposal also promotes effective and convenient government by enabling the elected Member to work with an entirely rural area that involves groups of parishes with shared issues and ties.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>Bunbury is the largest settlement in the proposed ward and – because of its size and large number of services and amenities - a key focal point for many of the other parishes in the proposed ward. The use of Bunbury as the local ward name is also well established.</p>

4.7 Chelford

Proposed ward name	Chelford		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	3,977	3,977	-3%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Transfer of the parish of Ollerton with Marthall to the proposed Mobberley Borough ward.</p> <p>Addition of the parish of Over Alderley, from the current Prestbury Borough ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	<p>The following parishes and parish ward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parishes of Chelford, Nether Alderley Over Alderley, Peover Superior & Snelson and Plumley with Toft & Bexton. • Peover Inferior parish ward, which is the part of Lower Peover Parish Council that falls within Cheshire East. (The other parish ward, Nether Peover, is in Cheshire West & Chester and therefore outside the scope of this Review.) 		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 3CD1, 3CN1, 3CR1, 3CS1, 3DA1, 3DA2, 3DB1, 3DC1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>Plumley with Toft and Bexton, Peover Inferior and Peover Superior & Snelson have very strong ties to each other and to Chelford, involving shared services, common school catchments and other longstanding links, so it is important they remain warded together.</p> <p>Nether Alderley and Over Alderley have a number of shared interests. In particular, Alderley Park, one of the main development sites in Cheshire East, is split between the two parishes. Hence, under current ward boundaries, issues relating to the site require the involvement of both the Chelford and Prestbury councillors. The proposed warding would allow these issues to be addressed more efficiently, by bringing the whole site within Chelford Borough ward.</p> <p>Whilst Ollerton with Marthall is currently part of Chelford Borough ward, it has no significant ties to Chelford or any shared services. The issues Ollerton with Marthall faces are more similar to</p>		

	<p>those Great Warford, which is in Mobberley Borough ward and would remain so under the Council’s warding proposals.</p> <p>The proposals would therefore better reflect the identities of the affected communities. They would also enable more effective and convenient local government, for example regarding Alderley Park issues - and the net impact of the changes would mean the electors per seat ratio remains close to the Borough average.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects community identity, as Chelford is the main settlement within the proposed Borough ward and an important local centre for key services and amenities.</p>

4.8 Congleton East

Proposed ward name	Congleton East		
Proposed number of seats	3		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	12,171	4,057	-1%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling district 4CGT2 (the part of Buglawton that moved into Congleton Town Council as part of the Community Governance Review changes), from the current Gawsorth Borough ward. • Part of COC1 (see below for further details). 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The Town Council's North East and South East wards (which collectively cover the current Congleton East Borough ward area plus 4GCT2), and the part of the Kestrel Close estate not currently in the Congleton East Borough ward.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts 4GCT2, COB1, COB2, COC1 (part only), CON1, CON2, CON3, COS1, COS2, COS3, COS4.</p> <p>The part of COC1 to be included would be the part to the south of the line (using the middle of the road in each case) running (from west to east) along Vale Walk, Priesty Fields/ The Vale, Moody Street, Chapel Street, Albert Place, High Street and Lawton Street.</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of COC1 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Congleton East: close-up of Canal Street/ Kestrel Close area'.</p>		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	The current Congleton East Borough ward is a little too small when judged against the Commission's electoral equality criterion. Its electors per seat ratio is forecast to change from 6% below the Borough average (in 2023) to 11% below average by 2030.		

	<p>Boundary changes are therefore necessary to bring the ward’s ratio within the usually-required range (plus/ minus 10% variance from the Borough average).</p> <p>The Borough Council therefore proposes the addition of 4CGT2 and part of COC1, as detailed above. This would give the resulting ward an electors per seat very close to (1% below) the Borough average as of 2030. These changes would also reflect local communities’ identities and interests and promote effective and convenient local government, as they would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place the whole of the Kestrel Close estate area (Local Plan site LPS 32) within the same (East) ward and avoid a need for Members from two wards to liaise over issues relating to the estate. • Place the whole of Buglawton within the same (Congleton East) Borough ward and align the Congleton East Borough ward boundary in this location with the Town Council boundary. <p>The proposed warding also uses the River Dane as a natural boundary (like now) between the parts of the East and West wards that lie north of town centre.</p> <p>This proposed warding, in tandem with the proposed arrangements for Congleton West, would also ensure that both Congleton wards had very similar numbers of electors. As such, the proposals help balance Member workloads within the town.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and indicates the geographical area of the town that the ward would cover.</p>

4.9 Congleton West

Proposed ward name	Congleton West		
Proposed number of seats	3		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	12,386	4,129	0%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4GCT (the parts of Local Plan sites LPS 29 and LPS 30 that moved into Congleton Town Council as part of the Community Governance Review [CGR] changes), from Gawsworth Borough ward. • The part of AST4 (Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council's Hulme Walfield parish ward) that lies to the east of Giantswood Lane and south of the Congleton Link Road. <p>Removal (transfer) of COWT (the Turnstone Grange estate that transferred from Congleton Town Council to Somerford Parish Council under the CGR).</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	All of the area covered by the Congleton Town Council's Central, North and West wards (which includes 4GCT), plus the part of AST4 (Hulme Walfield parish ward) that lies to the east of Giantswood Lane and south of the Congleton Link Road.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts 4GCT, AST4 (part only), CNW2, CNW3, COC1 (part only), COC2, COC3, COCT, COW1, COW2, COW3, COW4.</p> <p>The part of AST4 to be included would be the area that lies to the east of Giantswood Lane and south of the Congleton Link Road (namely Local Plan site LPS 28, the part of site LPS 29 that falls within this polling district, and the properties on the east side of Giantswood Lane that lie immediately southwest of the LPS 28 development).</p>		

	<p>The part of COC1 to be included would be the part to the north of the line (using the middle of the road in each case) running (from west to east) along Vale Walk, Priesty Fields/ The Vale, Moody Street, Chapel Street, Albert Place, High Street and Lawton Street.</p> <p>Maps showing a close-up of the proposed divisions of AST4 and COC1 and the resulting boundary lines can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. These maps are the ones titled 'Congleton East: close-up of Canal Street/ Kestrel Close area' (which shows the division of COC1) and 'Congleton West: close-up of Link Road area' (which shows the division of AST4).</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding</p>	<p>As noted in the subsection on Congleton East, the proposed warding for the two Congleton Borough wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensures both wards have electors per seat ratios close to the Borough average (each of them less than 2% different from the Borough average as of 2030). • better reflects community identity and promotes effective and convenient local government, by bringing the Kestrel Close estate within a single (East) Borough ward. • uses the River Dane as a natural boundary (like now) between the parts of the East and West wards that lie north of town centre. <p>The housing on 4GCT (parts of Local Plan sites LPS 29 and LPS 30) was developed to meet Congleton's housing needs and residents there are adjacent to other residential areas of Congleton and dependent on the town for key services. (This area was transferred from Eaton Parish Council to Congleton Town Council as part of the CGR changes in 2023.) Therefore it is proposed that 4GCT be included in the Congleton West Borough ward.</p> <p>The reasons for including the part of AST4 described above (and excluding other new housing development areas outside the Town Council boundary) in the Congleton West Borough ward are as follows (and are also set out in this report's subsection on Gawsforth):</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LPS 28 (where construction is now complete) and LPS 29 are adjacent to residential areas that are already part of the Town Council. There are no physical barriers in this area that prevent residents of the LPS 28 and LPS 29 developments from engaging in the same community activities and using the same local services in the adjacent part of the Town Council. Residents on these new housing sites will be relatively dependent on Congleton for key services, as the village of Hulme Walfield to the north has no such provision. • The situation is different in some respects for the LPS 27 site (the part of AST4 that is south of the Link Road but west of Giantswood Lane). At the time of writing, construction in this location has not yet started, but the areas of LPS 27 set aside for housing development are separated from the nearest Town Council residential areas because Congleton Business Park and other non-residential development and the River Dane (and Westlow Mere, which will remain as a protected green space) are in between. • The number of electors in the LPS 28 and LPS 29 and established (east side) Giantswood Lane properties is forecast to be 790 by 2030, whilst the number on the west (LPS 27) side is forecast to reach 1,113 by then. Including the properties on the west (LPS 27) side in the Gawsworth Borough ward ensures that Gawsworth’s electors per seat ratio is high enough to be within the range usually sought by the Commission. However, if the properties on the west side were included in the proposed Congleton West ward, Gawsworth would have to cover a much wider rural area in order for its ratio to be within the required range – but this would mean including parishes in the Gawsworth ward that are relatively distant and have no community links to the rest of that ward.
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and indicates the geographical area of the town that the ward would cover.</p>

4.10 Crewe East

Proposed ward name	Crewe East		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,824	4,412	+7%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Division of the current three-Member Crewe East ward into two smaller wards, with the boundary between the two wards running (from west to east) along Broad Street, Remer Street, Sydney Road and finally the southern boundary of the new housing development on Local Plan site LPS 7. Along the section of Sydney Road west of the railway line, the proposed ward boundary follows rear property boundaries (on the west side of Sydney Road), in order to align with the boundary between polling districts 1CE1 and 1CF1.</p> <p>The proposed new Crewe East ward would be the one lying to the south of this dividing line, with the proposed new Crewe Maw Green Borough ward being the one covering the rest (the northern part) of the current Crewe East Borough ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	See description above.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>1AC1, 1AD1, 1CD1 (part only), 1CE1, 1CF1 (part only), 1DF1, 1DF2 (part only), 1DF3, 1DG1.</p> <p>The part of 1CD1 to be included would be the part south of Broad Street: the properties on the south (odd numbers) side of Broad Street and those on Lime Street, Britannia Close, Crossway, Greenway, Middlewich Street, Russet Close and The Haven.</p> <p>The part of 1CF1 to be included would be the part south of Remer Street: the properties on the south (odd numbers) side of Remer Street and those on Acer Avenue, Prunus Road, Cherry Tree Road, Almond Avenue, Ash Road, Hawthorn Grove and Maple Grove.</p>		

	<p>The part of 1DF2 to be included would be all of this polling district, except for: the part of Local Plan site LPS 7 that falls within 1DF2 and the other new development that falls between LPS 7, Sydney Road and the railway line (including numbers 116 to 140 Sydney Road).</p> <p>Maps showing close-ups of the proposed division of 1CD1, 1CF1 and 1DF2 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. These are the maps titled 'Crewe Maw Green: close-up of southeastern boundary' and 'Crewe Maw Green: close-up of southwestern boundary'.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding</p>	<p>The current Crewe East is large and unwieldy, spanning a geographically wide and diverse area covering various communities and the large business park/ industrial estate areas and the Higher Education site (the Apollo Buckingham Health Science Campus) in the southeast of the town.</p> <p>As such, it does not enable convenient and effective local government and needs to be divided into two smaller, more manageable areas.</p> <p>The Maw Green area to the north and east of Sydney Road and Remer Street has housing of a different character to that further south. The development on Local Plan site LPS 7 is more similar to the Maw Green properties than to the established residential areas to its south. Consequently the proposed placement of the Maw Green and LPS 7 areas in a separate Crewe Maw Green ward would better reflect local communities' identities and interests whilst reducing councillors' overall workloads. The proposed division would also ensure electoral equality, with both the new wards having electors per seat ratios within 10% of the Borough average.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The name reflects the geographical area of Crewe covered by the ward and it is a well-established and accepted ward name locally.</p>

4.11 Crewe Maw Green

Proposed ward name	Crewe Maw Green		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	3,855	3,855	-6%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Division of the current Crewe East ward into two smaller wards, with the boundary between the two wards running (from west to east) along Broad Street, Remer Street, Sydney Road (as far as the railway line) and finally the southern boundary of the new housing development on Local Plan site LPS 7. Along the section of Sydney Road west of the railway line, the proposed ward boundary follows rear property boundaries (on the west side of Sydney Road), in order to align with the boundary between polling districts 1CE1 and 1CF1.</p> <p>The proposed new Crewe Maw Green ward would be the one lying to the north of this dividing line, with the proposed new Crewe East Borough ward being the one covering the rest (the southern part) of the current Crewe East Borough ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	See description above.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>1CD1 (part only), 1CF1 (part only), 1DF2 (part only).</p> <p>The part of 1CD1 to be included would be the part north of Broad Street, including properties on the north (even numbers) side of Broad Street (numbers 280 to 334).</p> <p>The part of 1CF1 to be included would be the part north of Remer Street, including properties on the north (even numbers) side of Remer Street (numbers 4 to 180a).</p> <p>The part of 1DF2 to be included would be the part of Local Plan site LPS 7 that falls within 1DF2 and the other new development that falls between LPS 7, Sydney Road and the railway line (including numbers 116 to 140 Sydney Road).</p>		

	Maps showing close-ups of the proposed division of 1CD1, 1CF1 and 1DF2 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. These are the maps titled 'Crewe Maw Green: close-up of southeastern boundary' and 'Crewe Maw Green: close-up of southwestern boundary'.
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	See the Crewe East section of this report, as that sets out the rationale for both that proposed Borough ward and the new Crewe Maw Green ward.
Rationale for the proposed name	Maw Green is the name of the area of Crewe that much of the new ward would cover and it is a well-established and widely recognised name.

4.12 Crewe North

Proposed ward name	Crewe North		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,564	4,282	+4%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Merger of the current Crewe Central and Crewe North Borough wards into a new, enlarged ward called Crewe North		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Crewe Central and Crewe North Borough wards		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 1AB1, 1AE1, 1AF1, 1CB1, 1CB2, 1CC2		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The current Crewe Central ward has an electors per seat ratio that is more than 20% above the Borough average and which is expected to still be more than 20% above by 2030. In contrast, the current Crewe North's ratio (already 6% below average) is forecast to be 13% below average by 2030.</p> <p>Merging the two into a new, two-Member ward would result in the new ward having an electors per seat ratio close to the Borough average.</p> <p>It would also mean that warding in this part of Crewe continued to reflect local communities' identities and interests. The current Central ward is a very diverse community, including a wide range of migrant workers, as well as older residents who have lived in the area a long time. The current North has growing communities of varying nationalities, so it now has some similarities to the current Central ward.</p> <p>The proposal would therefore promote effective and convenient government by enabling the elected Members to serve areas of the town with increasingly similar demographics and facing similar issues.</p>		

Rationale for the proposed name	The name broadly reflects the geographical area of Crewe covered by the ward and it is a well-established and accepted ward name locally. Whilst the new ward would include the central area of the town, it would be less accurate to call the ward 'Central', given that it would extend to the northern outskirts of Crewe.
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4.13 Crewe South

Proposed ward name	Crewe South		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	7,653	3,827	-7%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Transfer of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling district 1BD2 to the proposed Crewe West Borough ward. • Shavington Parish Council's Gresty Brook parish ward (1GM2) to the proposed Borough ward (or one of the proposed wards, if the option of two single-Member wards is agreed) covering Rope and Shavington. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	All of the current Crewe South Borough ward, except for Gresty Brook and 1BD2. This equates to all of the current South ward on Crewe Town Council, except for 1BD2.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 1BD3, 1DA1, 1DB1, 1DC1, 1DE1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>Given the positions of the railway lines running through Crewe, and the relatively few crossings over these, the Borough Council considers that any changes to the current Crewe South ward boundary should be limited to the Crewe West area (which is bounded by the same pair of railway lines) and the parish of Shavington to the south. The railway forms a natural boundary between the South ward and the East and Central wards and alternative boundary lines in those locations would split local communities or merge residential areas that have few ties to each other.</p> <p>Like other current Crewe wards, the current South ward has areas of significant deprivation. However, as noted in Cheshire East Council's proposed council size submission for this Review, the South has an electoral registration rate (registered electors per adult) that is unusually low (under 0.8, against 0.87 or more in all but one of the Borough's other wards). Hence the 2030 electorate forecast numbers alone probably significantly understate the South ward Members' future workloads.</p>		

	<p>Despite this, the current South ward is forecast to have an electors per seat ratio 5% above the Borough average by 2030.</p> <p>The proposed transfer of Gresty Brook would bring this ratio down to 2% below the Borough average, but the current West ward (where the registration rate is not unusually low), if left with its current boundary, would have a ratio 7% below average. Therefore the proposal also involves moving 1BD2 from the South ward to the West, as the variances in the two wards' ratios would then be reversed (to South 7% below, West 2% below). This would be a better reflection of the South's low registration rate, as well as providing a clearer ward boundary line in this area (Nantwich Road).</p> <p>As explained in the subsection of this report on Shavington, Gresty Brook's ties and interests lie with the rest of the Shavington cum Gresty Parish Council area and with the urban area of Rope to the south (which is part of the same housing estate as Gresty Brook), not with Crewe. Therefore the proposal to move Gresty Brook from Crewe South to the proposed Shavington Borough ward also reflects local communities' identities and interests.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The name broadly reflects the geographical area of Crewe covered by the ward and it is a well-established and accepted ward name locally.</p>

4.14 Crewe St Barnabas

Proposed ward name	Crewe St Barnabas		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,038	4,038	-2%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	No changes proposed		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Crewe St Barnabas Borough ward		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 1BE1, 1BER, 1CA1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>Merging St Barnabas with the adjacent North or Central wards (or changing the boundaries between St Barnabas and these wards) is not considered appropriate. The current Central ward is a very diverse community (a mixture of migrant workers and older, more established local residents) and diversity is growing in the North. St Barnabas is very different to these areas. It has its own distinct identity, with St Barnabas church on West Street being a key element of that and the Bentley Motors site being an important feature. Local residents see themselves as West Enders and have a different allegiance to people in the current North ward.</p> <p>Furthermore, St Barnabas' electors per seat ratio is currently within 10% of the Borough average and is expected to converge with the average up to 2030, so the existing boundary ensures electoral equality.</p> <p>Therefore the Commission's criteria are best achieved by leaving the current ward boundary unchanged.</p>		
Rationale for the proposed name	The name is well-established and accepted and St Barnabas is an area with a distinct identity.		

4.15 Crewe West

Proposed ward name	Crewe West		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,061	4,031	-2%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of polling district 1BD2, from the current Crewe South Borough ward.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Crewe West Borough ward, plus 1BD2		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 1BA1, 1BAR, 1BB2, 1BC1, 1BD1, 1BD2, 1BF1, 1DD1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	See the Crewe South section of this report, as that sets out the rationale for both that proposed Borough ward and the new Crewe West ward.		
Rationale for the proposed name	The name broadly reflects the geographical area of Crewe covered by the ward and it is a well-established and accepted ward name locally.		

4.16 Dane Valley

Proposed ward name	Dane Valley		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,905	4,453	+8%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Transfer, from the current Brereton Rural Borough ward, of the part of the parish of Brereton (polling district BRE1) containing the Bluebell Green estate.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Borough ward area (the parishes of Cranage, Goostrey, Holmes Chapel and Twemlow) and the Bluebell Green estate area.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts BRE1 (part only), DAN1, DAN2, DAN3, DAN5, HCE1, HCE2, HCE3, HCE4.</p> <p>The part of BRE1 to be included would be: the Bluebell Green housing estate (Bluebell Road and the roads accessed from it); Field View Close; Paddock Close; numbers 130 & 132 on the west (even) side of London Road; the properties on the Dunkirk Farm site.</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of BRE1 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Dane Valley: close-up of boundary in Bluebell Green area'.</p>		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>There are significant links between Holmes Chapel and the parishes of Cranage, Goostrey and Twemlow, which mean that warding them together will reflect local communities' identities and interests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are geographically close and well connected by road. The Final Recommendations report (2010) from the Commission's previous Review cited the proximity of Twemlow to Holmes Chapel and the strong transport links between the two provided by the A535 – and this remains the case today. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are other transport links connecting these parishes. All four parishes are on the same bus route and Holmes Chapel and Goostrey are adjacent stops on the Crewe-Manchester railway line. • For Cranage and Twemlow (which have no convenience store) and for Goostrey, Holmes Chapel is the closest location within Cheshire East with services and amenities such as a supermarket and GP practice. • Cranage is in the catchment for one of Holmes Chapel’s primary schools and Twemlow is in the catchment for Goostrey Community Primary School. <p>Although the Borough Council’s consultation (2021) on its Community Governance Review draft recommendations revealed substantial evidence of Bluebell Green having ties to the rest of Brereton, it lies immediately outside the village of Holmes Chapel and is dependent on Holmes Chapel for the many key services unavailable in Brereton.</p> <p>The proposed warding would achieve electoral equality by having an electors per seat ratio that (as of 2030) would be within 10% of the Borough average.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects one of key geographical features that form part of this area’s identity, namely the River Dane.</p>

4.17 Disley

Proposed ward name	Disley		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,253	4,253	+3%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of the parish of Kettlethulme & Lyme Handley (polling districts 4FB6, 4FD1, 4FD7), from the current Poynton East & Pott Shrigley Borough ward		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The parishes of Disley and Kettlethulme & Lyme Handley		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 4FA1, 4FB1, 4FB2, 4FB6, 4FD1, 4FD7		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>If the boundary were limited (as now) to the parish of Disley, its electors per seat ratio by 2030 would be 6% below the Borough average, which would be on the low side for a relatively compact settlement that covers a small geographical area and has no deprivation issues. Adding Kettlethulme & Lyme Handley to the ward achieves better electoral equality for Disley and the other proposed Borough wards in this area.</p> <p>The current Poynton East & Pott Shrigley Borough ward spans an area running from the eastern half of the town of Poynton to the rural parishes of Kettlethulme & Lyme Handley and Pott Shrigley. The latter two parishes collectively cover an extensive geographical area that includes a significant part of the Peak Park. This warding arrangement combines some very different communities with varying interests. It also adds to the local Members' workload due to the additional time involved in travelling around the ward and issues arising from the Peak Park's specific needs and its separate planning policy regime.</p> <p>The proposed new arrangements for Disley and for Poynton would better reflect local communities' identities and interests and enable more convenient and effective local government by warding Kettlethulme & Lyme Handley (and also Pott Shrigley) with smaller settlements, and</p>		

	by creating a single ward for Poynton that would cover only the Town Council area. (See the separate section on Poynton for further details.)
Rationale for the proposed name	The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and Disley is the main settlement within this area.

4.18 Gawsworth

Proposed ward name	Gawsworth		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,324	4,324	+5%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of the following (all from the current Brereton Rural Borough ward):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parish of Swettenham (polling district DAN4). • AST5 (Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council's Somerford Booths parish ward). • All of AST4 (Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths Parish Council's Hulme Walfield parish ward), except the part that lies south of Congleton Link Road and east of Giantswood Lane. <p>Transfer (removal) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parishes of North Rode (4GH6) and Bosley (4GA1), to the proposed Sutton Borough ward. • 4GDT (Local Plan site LPS 15) to the proposed Macclesfield South Borough ward. • 4GET (the part of Local Plan site LPS 18 that moved into Macclesfield Town Council as part of the Community Governance Review [CGR] changes), to the proposed Macclesfield West Borough ward. • 4GCT (the parts of Local Plan sites LPS 29 and LPS 30 that moved into Congleton Town Council as part of the CGR changes), to the proposed Congleton West Borough ward. • 4GCT2 (the part of Buglawton that moved into Congleton Town Council as part of the CGR changes), to the proposed Congleton East Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	<p>The following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gawsworth Parish Council's Gawsworth Village parish ward. • The parishes of Eaton, Henbury, Lower Withington, Marton, Siddington and Swettenham. • All of the parish of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths, except the part that lies south of Congleton Link Road and east of Giantswood Lane. 		

<p>Details of area covered by proposed ward</p>	<p>Polling districts 4GC1, 4GD1, 4GE1, 4GF6, 4GJ6, 4GN1, AST4 (part only), AST5, DAN4.</p> <p>The part of AST4 to be included would be all of this polling district, except for the area that lies to the east of Giantswood Lane and south of the Congleton Link Road (namely Local Plan site LPS 28, the part of site LPS 29 that falls within this polling district, and the properties on the east side of Giantswood Lane that lie immediately southwest of the LPS 28 development).</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of AST4 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Congleton West: close-up of Link Road area'.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding</p>	<p>As noted in the section covering the warding proposals for Sutton, the current Sutton ward is expected to have an electors per seat ratio that will be too high by 2030 to fall within the range that the Commission usually requires. As the same section notes, the only parish that could practically be removed from Sutton in order to bring this ratio close enough to the Borough average is Rainow. However, a knock-on consequence is that one or more parishes have to be transferred from Gawsworth Borough ward to Sutton, to avoid Sutton's electors per seat ratio then being too <u>low</u> to satisfy the Commission's electoral equality criterion. Therefore the Borough Council also proposes that the parishes of Bosley and North Rode be included in the redrawn Sutton ward. These two parishes have a rural character that fits with the rest of the proposed Sutton Borough ward and the road network provides a convenient connection between them and Sutton's other settlements. Moving only Bosley from Gawsworth to Sutton would, in tandem with the other proposed warding arrangements for Gawsworth, leave Gawsworth with a ratio 10% above average, while Sutton's would be 8% below. Moving both Bosley and North Rode produces a more even balance between these two very large, rural wards' ratios (plus 5% and minus 3% respectively).</p> <p>4GET is a Local Plan site that is intended to cater for Macclesfield's housing needs and the area covered by this polling district was therefore transferred from Henbury parish to Macclesfield Town Council under the recent CGR changes. Residents on this site will look to Macclesfield for key services and it is appropriate for it to be included in a Macclesfield ward.</p>

4GDT is another Local Plan site (LPS 15) intended to meet Macclesfield’s housing needs. Along with the established properties in 4BFR, it forms part of Gawsworth Parish Council’s Gawsworth Moss parish ward. The CGR generated extensive evidence that the residents of the established properties in 4BFR identify closely with Gawsworth and participate in many communal activities in the other (Gawsworth village) part of the parish. However, 4BFR is part of the same urban conurbation and is dependent on Macclesfield for a number of key services; it is in fact already warded with Macclesfield South. Given this, together with the intended purpose of LPS 15, the Borough Council proposes that Gawsworth Moss parish ward should be warded with Macclesfield South. This warding arrangement for Gawsworth Moss, together with the other boundary changes proposed above and the proposals (detailed below) for the Congleton-Gawsworth boundary, also achieves good electoral equality, with the would-be Gawsworth ward having an electors per seat ratio fairly close to (5% above) the Borough average.

The housing on 4GCT (parts of Local Plan sites LPS 29 and LPS 30) was developed to meet Congleton’s housing needs and residents there are adjacent to other residential areas of Congleton and dependent on the town for key services. (This area was transferred from Eaton Parish Council to Congleton Town Council as part of the CGR changes in 2023.) Therefore It is proposed that 4GCT be included in the Congleton West Borough ward.

The current boundary between Gawsworth and Congleton East Borough wards divides two streets in Buglawton: Crompton Close and Malhamdale Road, with 4CGT2 containing the properties on those streets that are currently in Gawsworth Borough ward. The parish boundary divided these streets in the same way up until the recent CGR changes in 2023, which brought the northern (4GCT2) part within the Congleton Town Council boundary. It would better reflect local communities’ identities and interests for 4CGT2 to be warded with Congleton East, to reflect the fact that all the properties on Crompton Close and Malhamdale Road are part of the same Buglawton community and all now fall within Congleton Town Council.

The reasons for including the part of AST4 described above (and excluding other new housing development areas outside the Town Council boundary) in the Gawsworth Borough ward are as follows (and are also set out in the subsection on Congleton West).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LPS 28 (where construction is now complete) and LPS 29 are adjacent to residential areas that are already part of the Town Council. There are no physical barriers in this area that prevent residents of the LPS 28 and LPS 29 developments from engaging in the same community activities and using the same local services in the adjacent part of the Town Council. Residents on these new housing sites will be relatively dependent on Congleton for key services, as the village of Hulme Walfield to the north has no such provision. • The situation is different in some respects for the LPS 27 site (the part of AST4 that is south of the Link Road but west of Giantswood Lane). At the time of writing, construction in this location has not yet started, but the areas of LPS 27 set aside for housing development are separated from the nearest Town Council residential areas because Congleton Business Park and other non-residential development and the River Dane (and Westlow Mere, which will remain as a protected green space) are in between. • The number of electors in the LPS 28 and LPS 29 and established (east side) Giantswood Lane properties is forecast to be 790 by 2030, whilst the number on the west (LPS 27) side is forecast to reach 1,113 by then. Including the properties on the west (LPS 27) side in the Gawsworth Borough ward ensures that Gawsworth’s electors per seat ratio is high enough to be within the range usually sought by the Commission. However, if the properties on the west side were included in a Congleton ward, Gawsworth would have to cover a much wider rural area in order for its ratio to be within the required range – but this would mean including parishes in the Gawsworth ward that are relatively distant and have no community links to the rest of that ward. <p>Looking at the area of the proposed Gawsworth ward more broadly, it reflects local community identity and interests by warding together a group of rural areas that are generally of similar character, well connected by road and that have links with each other. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Withington, Siddington, Swettenham, Eaton and the part of Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths proposed for inclusion in Gawsworth are all in the catchment for Marton’s primary school.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eaton and Gawsworth are both on the A536 and on the same bus route, while Marton, Siddington and Lower Withington are connected via the A34 and B5392 and Hulme Walfield is relatively accessible, being close to the Congleton Link Road. • Swettenham is linked to the other parishes in the proposed ward by more minor roads. However, the natural barrier of the River Dane (with no road crossings in that location) limits community links between Swettenham and Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths on the east side of the river and Somerford on the west. The responses to the CGR draft recommendations consultation provided persuasive evidence that Hulme Walfield & Somerford Booths has no significant links to Somerford, so warding it (minus the LPS 28 and LPS 29 area) with Gawsworth is considered to be a better reflection of community identity and interests than its current inclusion in Brereton Rural.
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established. Gawsworth is one of the main settlements within this area.</p>

4.19 Handforth

Proposed ward name	Handforth		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	7,241	3,621	-12%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Fairways estate (polling district 8FKT), which is Local Plan site LPS 34, from the current Wilmslow Lacey Green Borough ward. the parish of Styal (8FK1). <p>Transfer (removal) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8EA1 (part of the Finney Green area of Wilmslow) to the proposed Wilmslow Lacey Green Borough ward. 8EE1 (which consists of the Colshaw Farm estate and the Summerfields estate) to the proposed Wilmslow East Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	Handforth Town Council and the parish of Styal		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 8EF1, 8EG1, 8EH1, 8EJ1, 8FK1, 8FKT		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The proposed changes would reflect community identity and interests much better than the current warding, as the changes would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend Handforth Borough westwards, to include the new Fairways development. This new estate was developed to meet Handforth's housing needs and Fairways is very close to and well connected by road to the many shops and other services in the centre of Handforth. Bring the Colshaw Farm estate into a Wilmslow Borough ward. There is no road access from this estate into Handforth and Colshaw Farm residents identify as being part of Wilmslow. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place 8EA1 in the same Wilmslow ward as the rest of Finney Green. The adjacent part of Handforth Town Council consists of Deanway Business Park and this, together with the railway line to the east of 8EA1 and the natural boundary of the River Dean, mean that residents of 8EA1 have limited connections to the nearest residential areas of Handforth. <p>Although there is no direct road link from Styal into Handforth through the Fairways estate, there is pedestrian access, and road travel between the two parishes (which have previously been warded together) is relatively quick via the B5166 and A555. The services and amenities in Wilmslow town centre are not particularly close to Styal and the road network and large retail outlets in Handforth (most obviously Handforth Dean Retail Park) make Handforth a convenient location for many of the service needs of Styal residents.</p> <p>The proposed warding would result in an electors per seat ratio that (as of 2030) would be 12% below the Borough average. However, the Borough Council considers that this is justifiable, given that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There would be a very positive impact on community identity and interests, as set out above. The proposed ward contains the Handforth Garden Village site (Local Plan site LPS 33), which is one of the largest housing developments provided for in the Council’s Local Plan. According to the Council’s housing forecasts that were used to inform the electorate forecasts for this Review, the number of net housing completions on LPS 33 is predicted to reach around 600 by the start of 2030, but a total of 1,500 homes are provided for (and expected) on the site eventually. Therefore it is anticipated that the number of electors in the proposed ward will grow significantly not just up to 2030, but well beyond that date, meaning that the electors per seat ratio is likely to converge with the Borough average over the longer term.
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established. Handforth is the main settlement within this area, as well as a key centre for services and amenities.</p>

4.20 Haslington

Proposed ward name	Haslington		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,387	4,387	+7%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Transfer (removal) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling district 2GDT (areas of new housing development on the western edge of Alsager Town Council), to the proposed Alsager Borough ward. • The parish of Barthomley (2GA6) and Weston & Crewe Green Parish Council's Weston and Crewe Green parish wards (polling districts 1GF1, 1GF1T, 1GG1) to the proposed Weston Borough ward. • The Winterley village and the Wheelock Heath part of the current Borough ward (2GE1) to the proposed Wheelock & Winterley Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	Haslington village (polling districts 2GC1, 2GC2 & 2GC3) and the settlement of Oakhanger (2GD1)		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 2GC1, 2GC2, 2GC3, 2GD1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>By removing 2GDT, this proposal would align the Alsager Borough ward boundary with the post-Community Governance Review (CGR) boundaries between Alsager Town Council and Haslington Parish Council, and bring the new housing development on the western edge of Alsager within the Borough ward that contains the town.</p> <p>The population of the current Haslington Borough ward has grown substantially in recent years as a result of significant new housing development and this trend is expected to continue up to 2030. As a result, the existing ward will (by 2030) be too large for a two-Member ward but too small to justify three Members. In addition, it covers an extensive geographical area and this adds considerably to Members' workloads. The proposed new warding would address these constraints on effective and convenient local government and would better reflect community</p>		

	<p>identity and interests, by allocating parts of the current ward to new wards and leaving the remaining settlements of Haslington and Oakhanger as a single-Member ward.</p> <p>Haslington village is a distinct community, with a number of key services and amenities contributing to its self-containment and sense of identity. Oakhanger residents have a natural tie to Haslington, given that it is the most convenient centre for key services (Alsager is closer as the crow flies, but road access and the scope for community ties to the town are constrained by the physical barrier of the M6).</p> <p>Winterley and Wheelock Heath residents, in contrast, tend to rely primarily on Sandbach for key services, as do people living in the Wheelock part of Sandbach, so warding these communities together, in the proposed Wheelock & Winterley ward, would better reflect local interests and identities.</p> <p>The proposed warding would also result in an electors per seat ratio that (as of 2030) would be within 10% the Borough average, meeting the Commission’s requirement for electoral equality.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established. Haslington is the main settlement within this area, as well as being the proposed ward’s key (and only) centre for services and amenities.</p>

4.21 High Legh

Proposed ward name	High Legh		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	3,704	3,704	-10%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Transfer (removal) of polling district 3CVT (which contains the western part of Local Plan site LPS 36A), to the proposed Knutsford Borough ward.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parishes of Aston by Budworth, High Legh, Little Bollington with Agden, Mere, Pickmere and Tabley Millington & Rostherne Parish Council's Millington parish ward 		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 3CA1, 3CA2, 3CC6, 3CG1, 3CK1, 3CL1, 3CLT, 3CT1, 3CV1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The proposed warding would reflect local communities' interests and identities and enable effective and convenient local government, given that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By removing 3CVT, this proposal would align the Knutsford Borough ward boundary with the post-Community Governance Review boundaries between Knutsford Town Council and Tabley Parish Council, and bring the new housing development on the western edge of Knutsford within the Borough ward that contains the rest of the town. The parishes of Aston by Budworth, High Legh, Mere, Pickmere and Tabley have similarly rural characters and largely lie on the same side of the A556/ M56 road network. Millington & Rostherne Parish Council's Millington parish ward is in the catchment area for High Legh's primary school. Millington is also geographically close to High Legh and is on the same side of the A556, M56 and M6. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although Little Bollington with Agden is on the opposite side the M56 to the rest of the proposed Borough, it is on the western side of the A556 (like most of the proposed ward) and is well connected to High Legh via the A56 and B5159. The village of Mobberley, which forms the main settlement and main location for key services and amenities in the proposed Mobberley Borough ward to east, is much more distant from Little Bollington and there is no direct, quick road link between the two. Therefore warding Little Bollington with Agden with Mobberley would not reflect community identity or promote effective and convenient local government as well. <p>The proposed ward’s electors per seat ratio (10% below the Borough average as of 2030) would be at the lower end of the range usually sought by the Commission. However, other things being equal, Member workloads are higher in large rural areas such as the proposed ward and its geographical position, the location of major road networks and the community ties of neighbouring parishes mean that alternative warding arrangements would be less appropriate. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adding Plumley with Toft and Bexton (and potentially Peover Inferior too) to the High Legh ward would not reflect community identity and interests, as they have very strong ties to Peover Superior & Snelson, involving shared services, common school catchments and other longstanding links. Although it forms part of the same parish council as Millington, the Rostherne & Tatton parish ward lies east of the A556 and its residents fall within the catchment areas for schools in Mobberley and Knutsford.
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and High Legh is the main settlement within this area.</p>

4.22 Knutsford

Proposed ward name	Knutsford		
Proposed number of seats	3		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	11,639	3,880	-6%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> polling district 3CVT (which contains the western part of Local Plan site LPS 36A), from the current High Legh Borough ward. polling district 3CMT (the small part of the Longridge Trading Estate not currently in Knutsford Borough ward), from the current Mobberley Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	Knutsford Town Council		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 3BA1, 3BAR, 3BART, 3BAT, 3BB1, 3BBR, 3BC1, 3BD1, 3BDT, 3BE1, 3BF1, 3BF2, 3CMT, 3CVT		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	The proposed warding would reflect local communities' interests and identities and enable effective and convenient local government, given that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By adding 3CVT, this proposal would align the Knutsford Borough ward boundary with the post-Community Governance Review (CGR) boundaries between Knutsford Town Council and Tabley Parish Council, and bring the new housing development on the western edge of Knutsford within the Borough ward that contains the rest of the town. By adding 3CMT, the proposal would align the Knutsford Borough ward boundary with the post-CGR boundaries between Knutsford Town Council and Mobberley Parish Council. This change would also bring the whole of the Longridge Trading Estate within a single Borough ward, avoiding the potential requirement for Members from two different Borough wards to liaise over issues relating to the Estate. 		

	<p>The proposed ward’s electors per seat ratio (6% below the Borough average as of 2030) would be relatively low for a compact urban area. However, warding part or all of one (or more) of the neighbouring rural parishes would not reflect community identity or promote effective and convenient local government and including some of the more sparsely-populated ones would have minimal impact on the ward’s ratio. The adjacent rural parishes and parish wards all cover very large geographical areas and so would add considerably to the Knutsford Members’ workloads whilst warding together communities with very different characters and interests.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects community identity, as the ward would consist solely of the Knutsford Town Council area.</p>

4.23 Leighton

Proposed ward name	Leighton		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	7,707	3,854	-6%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parish of Minshull Vernon (polling district 3FJ7) from the current Bunbury Borough ward. • The parish of Woolstanwood (1FJ1) from the current Wistaston Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	Leighton, Minshull Vernon & Woolstanwood Parish Council		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 1FJ1, 1FJ4, 3FJ2, 3FJ3, 3FJ5, 3FJ6, 3FJ7		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The current Borough ward has seen substantial housing development and population growth in recent years and this is expected to continue up to 2030. As a consequence, the electors per seat ratio was 23% above the Borough average by 2023 and is forecast to rise to 69% above average by 2030. Taking account of the Commission's electoral equality criterion, this means the current ward's electorate size has become much too high for a single-Member seat, but will not (even by 2030) be high enough to warrant two Members.</p> <p>The proposed new warding would bring the ratio within 10% of the Borough average by 2030. It would also reflect local communities' identities and interests, as the parishes of Leighton, Minshull Vernon and Woolstanwood are part of the same parish council and the recent Community Governance Review (CGR) undertaken by the Borough Council generated a lot of evidence of the ties between these parishes. In particular, the CGR draft proposals to bring Leighton and Woolstanwood within Crewe Town Council and merge Minshull Vernon with Church Minshull prompted a large number of responses – the overwhelming majority opposing the proposal and supporting the retention of the existing parish council. The Parish Council held an official poll on the proposals and over 95% of voters in the parishes of Leighton and Woolstanwood opposed a break-up of the council, as did two thirds of those in Minshull Vernon.</p>		

	<p>The proposed ward’s electors per seat ratio (6% below the Borough average as of 2030) would be relatively low for a compact urban area. However, the proposed ward covers an extensive swathe of land and Minshull Vernon is a large rural area, so its geographical composition will add to Members’ workloads.</p> <p>The option of including other rural parishes to the proposed ward is not favoured, given that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Minshull has ties to Worleston (it is in the same primary school catchment). • Worleston itself has a notable range of amenities and services for its small size, including a shop and Aston Juxta Mondrum has ties to Worleston (both are part of the same parish council). These parishes are in any case geographically distant from the main residential areas of Leighton and Woolstanwood. • A railway line divides Warmingham from Minshull Vernon and road access between these two parishes is only possible via Crewe or settlements in Cheshire West & Chester.
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and Leighton is the main settlement within this area.</p>

4.24 Macclesfield Central

Proposed ward name	Macclesfield Central		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	7,640	3,820	-7%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	No changes to the current Borough ward.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Borough ward		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 4BA1, 4BA2, 4BB1, 4BB2, 4BBR, 4CD1, 4CE1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>Although the current Borough ward is forecast to have an electors per seat ratio below the Borough average by 2030, this ratio would still be within 10% of the average.</p> <p>Adding parts of one or more of the neighbouring wards to Central could bring this ratio closer to the Borough average. Various possible extensions to the ward have therefore been considered, but the Borough Council feels that each of these would reflect local communities' identities and interests much less well than the current warding arrangement, and that the existing boundary meets the Commission's three main criteria better than any alternatives.</p> <p>The existing Borough ward includes all of the town centre and its retail outlets and public buildings. It is enclosed by the natural boundary of the inner road network (A537, B5088, A536 and A523 Silk Road) on three sides.</p> <p>The boundary to the south – the 4CD1 boundary enclosing Macclesfield College, Macclesfield Academy, the Ryles Park Road/ Ridge View residential area and the park and sports grounds on either side of Ryles Park Road – also provides a natural divide between the Central ward and the South ward, with green space separating the Central ward and South ward properties in much of this area. There is no direct road access between the Ryles Park Road/ Ridge View area and the</p>		

South ward properties in 4CAR (such as Primrose Avenue and Craig Road). Nor is there any such access between the Ryles Park Road/ Ridge View area and the South ward properties around Ash Grove Primary School.

The residential area to the east of 4CD1 (consisting of the streets around Briarwood Avenue and Cedar Grove and broadly equating to 4CB1) is the town's most deprived neighbourhood (ranking in the Government's 2019 English Indices of Deprivation's "top" 10% for overall deprivation). To the south of 4CD1 is the Moss estate (spanning the extent of Moss Lane and consequently much of 4CAR and 4CA1), where deprivation is also a significant issue. It is therefore appropriate for 4CB1, 4CAR and 4CA1 to remain in the South ward, given that these areas face different issues and have different needs to the communities in the Central ward.

It is appropriate that the adjacent (eastern) part of 4BF1 (Haldene Road, Clowes Street/ Frances Street, Brooklands Avenue, Cherington Crescent etc) be included in the proposed Macclesfield West Borough ward, not Central: this area west of Oxford Road contains the secondary school that serves the west of the town and so is part of that community.

The residential areas of 4AD2 that are closest to the Central ward (such as West Park Drive, Field Bank Road and Fern Lea Drive) are generally of a character that fits better in the proposed West ward. These properties are also physically separated from the closest (northwestern) part of the Central ward by the road network and the hospital/ health sector complex that covers much of 4AD2.

The inclusion of the Coare Street area (4AC1) in the Central ward has also been considered, as its terraced housing is of similar character and the River Bollin would provide a natural boundary. However, 4AC1 is not part of the town centre and the road network (Hibel Road) is a clear physical barrier between the two. It is a separate community to the current Central ward and to the areas of Tytherington north of the River Bollin. Moving 4AC1 to the Central ward would, though, result in inadequate electoral equality, leaving the Tytherington ward with too few electors to warrant two seats (but far too many for one Member to serve), whilst also increasing the Central ward's electors per seat ratio to more than 10% above the average. The properties in 4AC1 are connected to the rest of the current Tytherington ward via Beech Lane and fall within

	<p>the catchment for Tytherington High School. The Borough Council therefore proposes that 4AC1 remain warded with Tytherington.</p> <p>Hurdsfield ward is very different in character to the central areas of the town and faces different issues (such as deprivation). The East ward, which is relatively affluent, is different again. The A523 and railway line are also a natural boundary between these wards and the Central ward. Including some of the residential parts of the current East or Hurdsfield wards in the Central ward would not therefore reflect local communities' identities and interests.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects the geographical area of Macclesfield that the ward would cover.</p>

4.25 Macclesfield East

Proposed ward name	Macclesfield East		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,106	4,106	0%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	No changes to the current Borough ward.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Borough ward		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 4CF1, 4CG1, 4CH1.		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>Macclesfield East and Macclesfield Hurdsfield are currently the only two single-Member Macclesfield wards. Macclesfield Hurdsfield's electors per seat ratio is already more than 10% below the Borough average and forecast to be 17% below average by 2030. However, whilst a merger of the East and Hurdsfield wards would result in better electoral equality overall, it would fail to satisfy the Commission's other criteria.</p> <p>The current Macclesfield East Borough ward is a relatively affluent area, which is largely urban but includes a sparsely-populated rural area that extends to the edge of the Peak Park. As such, it has a very different character to the Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough ward to its north. Macclesfield Hurdsfield's housing stock is largely former council housing and the ward includes some areas that are relatively deprived, falling within England's "top" 30% for overall deprivation, according to the Government's 2019 English Indices of Deprivation.</p> <p>The East and Hurdsfield have no notable connections: they are in different primary school catchments, on different bus routes and residents shop in different locations. Green space and industrial premises lie between the residential properties at the southern end of Hurdsfield and the East ward's residential areas, so the two communities are largely geographically separate.</p>		

	<p>The Borough Council had considered the option of adding a small part of the South ward to the East, to adjust for the South ward’s deprived communities and the associated higher workload levels that entails for the South ward Members. However, the existing ward boundary line in this area is more natural and the properties in the northern part of 4CBR (Black Road and other streets between Windmill Street and Gunco Lane) are more similar to those in the South ward than those in the East.</p> <p>The current East ward’s electors per seat ratio is already within 10% of the Borough average and is forecast to converge with that average by 2030.</p> <p>Taking all these factors into account, the Borough Council proposes that the East ward’s boundary should stay as it is now.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects the geographical area of Macclesfield that the ward would cover.</p>

4.26 Macclesfield Hurdsfield

Proposed ward name	Macclesfield Hurdsfield		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,024	4,024	-2%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of the parish of Higher Hurdsfield (polling district 4FC1) from the current Bollington Borough ward.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough ward and the parish of Higher Hurdsfield		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 4AB1, 4AB2, 4AB3, 4FC1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The parish of Higher Hurdsfield is currently warded with Bollington and the two communities have some ties and a good working relationship. However, Higher Hurdsfield's population is largely concentrated in the Roewood Lane estate, which is adjacent to the current Macclesfield Borough ward and that ward's residential areas. Higher Hurdsfield is on the opposite side of the canal to Macclesfield Hurdsfield, but there is a road link over the canal in this opposite, so residents on both sides of the parish boundary are within a very short walking distance of each other and people in Higher Hurdsfield can easily access services in the Hurdsfield and more central parts of Macclesfield. Higher Hurdsfield village and the Roewood Lane estate have no amenities or services except a pub and play area and so the parish is relatively dependent on Macclesfield in that respect. Consequently, the existing Borough ward area and Higher Hurdsfield have significant ties and a number of common interests. In addition, the Macclesfield Hurdsfield Member is already frequently approached by Higher Hurdsfield parish residents about local issues, so including the parish in the Hurdsfield ward would reflect that situation and help to enable more effective and convenient local government.</p> <p>The current Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough ward has too few electors, with its electors per seat ratio forecast to be 17% below the Borough average by 2030. Warding Higher Hurdsfield with Macclesfield Hurdsfield would, however, give the expanded Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough</p>		

	<p>ward an electors per seat ratio very close to (2% below) the Borough average, as well as ensuring that Higher Hurdsfield’s interests and identity are still reflected. This change would also help to promote effective and convenient local government, given the relative proximity of (and the road link between) Higher Hurdsfield and Macclesfield Hurdsfield.</p> <p>The current Macclesfield Hurdsfield Borough ward includes some areas that are relatively deprived, falling within England’s “top” 30% for overall deprivation, according to the Government’s 2019 English Indices of Deprivation. The area’s character and its residents’ needs and identity are very different to those of the adjacent Tytherington and East wards, which are in contrast relatively affluent areas and which, in the East’s case, includes a sparsely-populated rural area that extends to the edge of the Peak Park. It is therefore important that Macclesfield Hurdsfield remains as a single-Member ward and is not merged with its neighbours, as this would not reflect local communities’ identities and interests. (This report’s subsection on Macclesfield East provides further information on the differences between the East and Hurdsfield wards.)</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects the name of the area of Macclesfield that would be included, which also features in the name of the parish that would be added to the existing Borough ward.</p>

4.27 Macclesfield South

Proposed ward name	Macclesfield South		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,055	4,028	-2%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of 4GDT (Local Plan site LPS 15) from Gawsworth Borough ward.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Borough ward plus site LPS 15.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 4BF2, 4BFR, 4CA1, 4CAR, 4CB1, 4CBR, 4GDT.		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>As noted in the subsection on Macclesfield Central, there are good reasons for keeping the boundary between the Central and South wards as it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The boundary around 4CD1 - enclosing Macclesfield College, Macclesfield Academy, the Ryles Park Road/ Ridge View residential area and the park and sports grounds on either side of Ryles Park Road – provides a natural divide between the Central ward and the South ward, with green space separating the Central ward and South ward properties in much of this area. There is no direct road access between the Central ward's Ryles Park Road/ Ridge View area and the South ward properties in 4CAR (such as Primrose Avenue and Craig Road). Nor is there any such access between the Ryles Park Road/ Ridge View area and the South ward properties around Ash Grove Primary School. • Part of the South ward – specifically the area consisting of the streets around Briarwood Avenue and Cedar Grove and broadly equating to 4CB1 - is the town's most deprived neighbourhood. This area is one of only four in Cheshire East that ranks in the Government's 2019 English Indices of Deprivation's "top" 10% for overall deprivation. • To the southwest of 4CB1 is the Moss estate, which spans the extent of Moss Lane and much of 4CAR and 4CA1). Deprivation is a predominant issue here too. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is therefore appropriate for 4CB1, 4CAR and 4CA1 to remain in the South ward. Boundaries that divided 4CB1 or the Moss between two wards would make it very difficult to coordinate efforts to address their deprivation and would not result in effective or convenient local government. <p>4BF2 (the residential area of the South ward around Ivy Bank Primary School) has ties to the adjacent parts of the current West & Ivy Borough ward. Including all these areas in the same Borough ward would better reflect local communities’ identities and interests in this part of the town. However, the Borough Council does not propose this change, as it would result in poor electoral equality, leaving the South ward with an electors per seat ratio much more than 10% below the Borough average and giving the proposed West ward (which also has deprived communities and consequently higher workloads) a ratio far more than 10% above the Borough average. Therefore the Borough Council believes the Commission’s collective criteria are better achieved by keeping 4BF2 warded with the South, as this report proposes.</p> <p>As noted in the subsection on Macclesfield East, the Borough Council had considered the option of moving a small part of 4CBR from the South ward to the East, to adjust for the South ward’s deprived communities and the associated higher workload levels that entails for the South ward Members. However, the existing ward boundary line in this area is more natural and the properties in the northern part of 4CBR (Black Road and other streets between Windmill Street and Gunco Lane) are more similar to those in the South ward than those in the East.</p> <p>4GDT is a Local Plan site (LPS 15) intended to meet Macclesfield’s housing needs. Along with the established properties in 4BFR, it forms part of Gawsworth Parish Council’s Gawsworth Moss parish ward. The Community Governance Review generated extensive evidence that the residents of the established properties in 4BFR identify closely with Gawsworth and participate in many communal activities in the other (Gawsworth village) part of the parish. However, 4BFR is part of the same urban conurbation and is dependent on Macclesfield for a number of key services; it is in fact already warded with Macclesfield South. Given this, together with the intended purpose of LPS 15, there is a good case for warding the Gawsworth Moss parish ward with Macclesfield. This warding arrangement for Gawsworth Moss, together with the other</p>
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	<p>boundary changes proposed above and the proposals for the Congleton-Gawsworth boundary (see the subsection on Gawsworth), also achieves good electoral equality, with the would-be Gawsworth ward having an electors per seat ratio fairly close to (5% above) the Borough average.</p> <p>The proposed South ward would have an electors per seat ratio slightly below the Borough average, which suitably reflects the high workload associated with its deprived areas. However, as explained above, changing its boundaries with the adjacent Macclesfield wards (in order to lower its ratio a little further) would not reflect local communities' identities and interests.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects the geographical area of Macclesfield that the ward would cover.</p>

4.28 Macclesfield Tytherington

Proposed ward name	Macclesfield Tytherington		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,093	4,047	-2%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of part of 4EE1 (which forms part of Bollington Town Council's West ward), from the current Bollington Borough ward.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Borough, plus the part of 4EE1 south of the Silk Road.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts 4AA1, 4AA2, 4AA3, 4AA4, 4AAR, 4AC1, 4AE1, 4EE1 (part only).</p> <p>The part of 4EE1 to be included would be the part south of the Silk Road (Dumbah Lane, Tytherington Lane, Ball Lane, Springwood Way, Webbs Close, Woodward Close, Goodwin Close, Livesley Road, Patterson Close, Monk Close, Hetherington Square, Edgell Close and Wesley Close).</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of 4EE1 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Macclesfield Tytherington: close-up of Springwood Way area'.</p>		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The current Tytherington ward's population is largely concentrated in the residential areas spanning 4AA1, 4AA2, 4AA3, 4AA4 and 4AAR, including Tytherington Drive, Marlborough Drive, Rugby Drive, Badger Road and the streets off Dorchester Way. This area has a supermarket and many other amenities and a good community spirit, with many social activities.</p> <p>As noted in the subsection on Macclesfield Central, the inclusion of the Coare Street area (4AC1) in the Central ward has also been considered, as its terraced housing is of similar character and the River Bollin would provide a natural boundary. However, 4AC1 is not part of the town centre</p>		

	<p>and the road network (Hibel Road) is a clear physical barrier between the two. It is a separate community to the current Central ward and to the areas of Tytherington north of the River Bollin. Moving 4AC1 to the Central ward would, though, result in inadequate electoral equality, leaving the Tytherington ward with too few electors to warrant two seats but far too many for one Member to serve. (This is true even allowing for the impact of the Borough Council’s proposed extension of Tytherington’s northern boundary up to the Silk Road, as detailed below.) The properties in 4AC1 are connected to the rest of the current Tytherington ward via Beech Lane and fall within the catchment for Tytherington High School. The Borough Council therefore proposes that 4AC1 remain warded with Tytherington.</p> <p>The Bollinbrook area (4AE1) has been warded with Tytherington since 2011, but was part of the Broken Cross & Upton Borough ward prior to that. As with 4AC1, it is a distinct community in its own right and has its own primary school and social media groups. The Borough Council has considered including this area once again in the same ward as Broken Cross & Upton: there is direct road access from Bollinbrook into the residential area between Prestbury Road and Victoria Road, whereas the railway line and River Bollin mean that access by car or bus into most of Tytherington (4AA1, 4AA2, 4AA3, 4AA4 and 4AAR) involves a longer journey, via the inner road network along Cumberland Street or Hibel Road and the Silk Road. However, moving 4AE1 out of Tytherington would (as with 4AC1) result in poor electoral equality, leaving Tytherington with far too few electors for a two-Member ward but far too many for a single seat. It would also result in the proposed Macclesfield West ward having an electors per seat ratio much more than 10% above the Borough average. As the would-be Macclesfield West ward contains some of the town’s more deprived communities (in the Weston and Ivy areas and in part of Upton), this would result in an unduly heavy workload for the West ward Members. Hence keeping 4AE1 warded with Tytherington is necessary in order to meet the Commission’s criteria relating to electoral equality and effective and convenient local government (as well as reflecting local communities’ identities and interests).</p> <p>The current Borough ward boundary between Bollington and Macclesfield Tytherington is the same as the current boundary between Bollington and Macclesfield town councils. However, this boundary divides the Springwood Way estate, with residents on some of the estate’s streets being in a different Borough ward to those on adjacent streets and properties on some roads</p>
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	<p>(such as Hetherington Square) being divided between the two wards. The responses to the Community Governance Review’s (CGR) draft recommendations consultation stage revealed evidence of ties between Springwood Way estate residents and the part of Bollington north of the Silk Road. Therefore the CGR final recommendations left the town council boundary unchanged, rather than aligning it with the Silk Road.</p> <p>Nevertheless, a Borough ward boundary that divides the estate and individual streets (and in some cases runs through individual properties) does not reflect the local community’s identity and interests, nor does it promote effective and convenient local government. Springwood Way residents are part of the same community and it is more practical for them all to be included in the same Borough ward, so that residents are clear about whom to approach about local matters and so issues related to the estate do not require liaison between Members from different wards. The Silk Road represents a natural boundary and there is also a sizeable green gap between that road and the town of Bollington itself. In contrast, the residential streets south of Tytherington Business Park (such as Cotton Crescent and Tytherington Drive) are relatively close to the Springwood Way estate, with footpaths connecting the southern end of the estate to Tewkesbury Drive and Tytherington Drive. Many of the estate’s properties (those within the current Macclesfield Tytherington Borough ward boundary) are in the catchment for the Marlborough Primary School on Tytherington Drive. The B5090 and A538 also provide easy access from the estate to the areas of Tytherington further south.</p> <p>Given the advantages of placing the entire Springwood Way estate in a single ward, the estate’s ties to the parts of Tytherington further south, and the merits of the Silk Road as a natural boundary, it is therefore proposed that the whole estate be warded with Macclesfield Tytherington.</p> <p>The impact of extending the Tytherington ward’s boundary to the Silk Road is to bring its electors per seat ratio closer to (2% below) the Borough average.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects the name of the area of Macclesfield that the ward would cover.</p>

4.29 Macclesfield West

Proposed ward name	Macclesfield West		
Proposed number of seats	3		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	13,488	4,496	+9%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>This ward would be formed from the merger of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current Broken Cross & Upton Borough ward • The current Macclesfield West & Ivy Borough ward • Polling district 4GET (the part of Local Plan site LPS 18 that moved into Macclesfield Town Council as part of the Community Governance Review [CGR] changes). 4GET is currently part of Gawsorth Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	See row above.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 4AD1, 4AD2, 4AD3, 4AF1, 4AF2, 4AF3, 4BC1, 4BD1, 4BE1, 4BF1, 4GET.		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>As noted in the subsections on the Central, South and Tytherington Borough wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is appropriate that the whole of 4BF1 (including the areas around Haldene Road, Clowes Street/ Frances Street, Brooklands Avenue and Cherington Crescent) be included in the proposed Macclesfield West Borough ward, not Central: this area west of Oxford Road contains the secondary school that serves the west of the town and so is part of that community. • 4BF2 (the residential area around Ivy Bank Primary School) has ties to the adjacent parts of the current West & Ivy Borough ward. Including all these areas in the same Borough ward would better reflect local communities' identities and interests in this part of the town. However, the Borough Council does not propose this change, as it would result in poor electoral equality, leaving the South ward with an electors per seat ratio much more than 10% below the Borough average and giving the proposed West ward (which also has deprived 		

	<p>communities and consequently higher workloads) a ratio far more than 10% above the Borough average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bollinbrook area (4AE1) has been warded with Tytherington since 2011, but was part of the Broken Cross & Upton Borough ward prior to that. It is a distinct community in its own right and has its own primary school and social media groups. The Borough Council has considered including this area once again in the same ward as Broken Cross & Upton: there is direct road access from Bollinbrook into the residential area between Prestbury Road and Victoria Road, whereas the railway line and River Bollin mean that access by car or bus into most of Tytherington (4AA1, 4AA2, 4AA3, 4AA4 and 4AAR) involves a longer journey, via the inner road network along Cumberland Street or Hibel Road and the Silk Road. However, moving 4AE1 out of Tytherington would (as with 4AC1) result in poor electoral equality, leaving Tytherington with far too few electors for a two-Member ward but far too many for a single seat. It would also result in the proposed Macclesfield West ward having an electors per seat ratio much more than 10% above the Borough average. As the would-be Macclesfield West ward contains some of the town’s more deprived communities (in the Weston and Ivy areas and in part of Upton), this would result in an unduly heavy workload for the West ward Members. Hence keeping 4AE1 warded with Tytherington is necessary in order to meet the Commission’s criteria relating to electoral equality and effective and convenient local government (as well as reflecting local communities’ identities and interests). <p>The properties in the eastern (Upton Hall) part of 4AF2 (those east of Prestbury Road) are very few in number. The Borough Council has considered the option of including this part of 4AF2 in Tytherington Borough ward, but does not propose that change, given that services and amenities in Broken Cross & Upton are geographically closer and more accessible by road for these residents than the facilities in Tytherington are.</p> <p>4GET is a Local Plan site that is intended to cater for Macclesfield’s housing needs and the area covered by this polling district was therefore transferred from Henbury parish to Macclesfield Town Council under the recent CGR changes. Residents on this site will look to Macclesfield for key services and it is appropriate for it to be included in a Macclesfield ward.</p>
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	<p>The proposed West ward would contain all of Broken Cross, Upton and Weston, which are distinct communities. However, dividing this area into small wards is not considered to be feasible without splitting one or more of these communities between wards, or without leaving one such ward with a very high electors per seat ratio. The proposed ward includes some of the town’s areas of social housing and some of its most deprived neighbourhoods. One of these (broadly equating to 4BE1) ranks among England’s most deprived 20% under the Government’s 2019 English Indices of Deprivation. Deprivation is also a challenge in parts of 4BC1 and 4BD1 and in the area around Upton Priory School. Although the proposed ward would have an above-average electors per seat ratio and generate a substantial workload for the elected Members, the Council believes (as set out above) that alternative warding arrangements would result in either wards that poorly reflected local communities’ identities and interests, or warding that involved an extremely high electors per seat ratio (well above 10%) for an area containing deprived neighbourhoods.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The proposed ward name reflects the geographical area of Macclesfield that the ward would cover. Whilst this ward would include Broken Cross, Upton, Weston and Ivy, which have distinct identities and make up the ward’s main communities, a composite ward name listing all these areas of the town would be too long for practical use, as would composite name derived from the existing ‘Broken Cross & Upton’ and ‘West & Ivy’ ward names.</p> <p>It should also be noted that ‘Weston’ is the proposed name for one of the wards in another part of the Borough and it is important that the names of that ward and the one covering western Macclesfield do not get confused.</p>

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4.30 Middlewich

Proposed ward name	Middlewich		
Proposed number of seats	3		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	12,626	4,209	+2%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of polling district BRET, from the current Brereton Rural Borough ward.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	Middlewich Town Council		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts BRET, MIAA, MIAB, MIAC, MIAE, MIAF, MIAG, MIAH, MIAJ		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The proposed ward would align the Middlewich Borough ward boundary with the post-Community Governance Review boundaries between Middlewich Town Council and Moston Parish Council, and bring the whole of the housing development on Local Plan sites LPS 42 and LPS 45 within Middlewich Borough ward.</p> <p>This change would reflect local communities' interests and identities, as these new development sites were provided in order to help meet Middlewich's housing needs and residents there will naturally look to Middlewich for services and amenities.</p> <p>The proposal would also leave Middlewich with an electors per seat ratio close to the Borough average.</p> <p>Including one or both of the adjacent parishes of Moston and Bradwall in the ward would not be appropriate, as they are small rural communities with dispersed populations. In addition, Middlewich's ties to neighbouring settlements are primarily to the Cheshire West & Chester towns of Winsford and Northwich, rather than to the rest of Cheshire East. Winsford and Middlewich Town Councils provided evidence of this during the recent (2021-22) consultations on parliamentary constituency boundaries, which led to the Boundary Commission for England</p>		

	placing all three towns in the same constituency. In other words, Middlewich is very much a separate community to the rest of Cheshire East.
Rationale for the proposed name	The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects community identity, as the ward would consist solely of the Middlewich Town Council area.

4.31 Mobberley

Proposed ward name	Mobberley		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	3,980	3,980	-3%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of the parish of Ollerton with Marthall (polling districts 3CJ1 and 3CO1), from the current Chelford Borough ward.</p> <p>Transfer (removal) of polling district 3CMT (the small part of the Longridge Trading Estate currently in Mobberley Borough ward), to the proposed Knutsford Borough ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	<p>The following parishes and parish wards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parishes of Ashley, Great Warford, Little Warford, Mobberley and Ollerton with Marthall. • Millington & Rostherne Parish Council's Rostherne & Tatton parish ward (polling districts 3CU1 and 3CU7). 		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 3CB6, 3CH1, 3CJ1, 3CM1, 3CMR, 3CO1, 3CU1, 3CU7, 3DE1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The current Borough has a relatively low electors per seat ratio: the ratio was 9% below the Borough average as of 2023 and this variance is forecast to widen, to 15% below the average, by 2030. It is therefore necessary to expand the geographical area of the ward, in order for its ratio to fall within the range usually sought by the Commission.</p> <p>The proposed addition of Ollerton with Marthall to the ward would achieve this and result in a ratio (as of 2030) close to the Borough average. This change would also reflect local communities' identities and interests. Whilst Ollerton with Marthall is currently part of Chelford Borough ward, it has no significant ties to Chelford or any shared services. The issues Ollerton with Marthall faces are more similar to those for Great Warford, so there are benefits in warding them together in Mobberley. Ollerton and Mobberley are also on the same bus route.</p>		

	<p>Ashley, Great Warford and Rostherne also have links to Mobberley, meaning that there is logic in keeping these areas warded together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parishes of Great Warford and Ashley are reasonably close to Mobberley and well connected to it by road. Mobberley and Ashley are also adjacent stops on the same (Chester-Manchester) railway line. • Ashley and Rostherne are in the catchment for Mobberley’s primary school. • For Ashley and Great Warford, Mobberley is the nearest location in Cheshire East with a supermarket or a pharmacy. <p>Although the proposed warding would mean that the parish of Millington & Rostherne would still be split between Mobberley and High Legh Borough wards, the Millington parish ward has ties to High Legh rather than High Legh. As noted in the section of this report covering the proposed warding for High Legh, Millington is on the same side of the A556 as High Legh and is in the same school catchment.</p> <p>By transferring 3CMT to the proposed Knutsford Borough ward, the proposal would align the Knutsford Borough ward boundary with the post-Community Governance Review boundaries between Knutsford Town Council and Mobberley Parish Council. This change would also bring the whole of the Longridge Trading Estate within a single Borough ward, avoiding the potential requirement for Members from two different Borough wards to liaise over issues relating to the Estate. As this polling district has no electors either currently or expected by (or after) 2030, its removal from Mobberley ward would have no impact on electoral equality.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects community identity, as Mobberley is the main settlement within the proposed Borough ward and an important local centre for key services and amenities.</p>

4.32 Nantwich North & West

Proposed ward name	Nantwich North & West		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,400	4,200	+2%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> polling district 3FBT (the Kingsley Fields housing development, Local Plan site LPS 46), from the current Bunbury Borough ward. 3FAT (the Malbank Waters housing development), from the current Wrenbury Borough ward. <p>Transfer (removal) of 1NA3 to the proposed Nantwich South & Stapeley Borough ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	Most of the current Borough ward (all except for the Mount Drive estate area covered by 1NA3), plus the Kingsley Fields and Malbank Waters developments.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 1NA0, 1NA1, 1NA2, 1NA6, 1NAC, 3FAT, 3FBT		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The proposed changes would reflect local communities' interests and identities by aligning the Borough ward boundary between the Bunbury and Nantwich Borough wards with the post-Community Governance Review boundaries between Nantwich Town Council, Burland & Acton Parish Council and Worleston & District Parish Council, and bring the Kingsley Fields and Malbank Waters development within the Borough ward that contains the adjacent part of the town of Nantwich. These new developments were intended to meet Nantwich's housing needs and residents of the new properties are dependent on the town for key services and amenities.</p> <p>However, if the addition of Kingsley Fields and Malbank Waters were the only changes made to the ward, Nantwich North & West would have an expected 9,530 electors by 2030, giving it an electors per seat ratio 16% above the Borough average, whilst the Nantwich South & Stapeley Borough ward, if left unchanged, would have a ratio 6% below the average. Hence the Borough</p>		

	<p>Council proposes that polling district 1NA3 be transferred from the North & West ward to the South & Stapeley ward, so that both have a (2030) ratio within 10% of the Borough average.</p> <p>The reasons for proposing to transfer this specific part of the current North & West Borough ward to South & Stapeley are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferring an area of Nantwich North & West that is further west (namely part or all of 1NA0) would, given the physical barrier of the River Weaver, limit direct access between the northern and western parts of the redrawn North & West ward. • It would keep all the properties in the Mount Drive area (which broadly equates to 1NA3) in the same Borough ward. <p>The resulting ratios for the two proposed Borough wards would, as of 2030, both be within 10% of the Borough average (2% above and 7% above respectively).</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects the geographical parts of the town that the proposed ward would cover.</p>

4.33 Nantwich South & Stapeley

Proposed ward name	Nantwich South & Stapeley		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,833	4,417	+7%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Addition of polling district 1NA3, from the current Nantwich North & West Borough ward.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The current Borough ward (which includes the parish of Stapeley & District) plus 1NA3		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 1FC1, 1FC2, 1FC6, 1FCR, 1NA3, 1NA4, 1NA5, 1NAR		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The previous (Nantwich North & West) subsection of this report explains the reasons for the proposed addition of 1NA3.</p> <p>Although Stapeley & District is a separate parish to Nantwich and has its own identity, the vast majority of its residential properties (many of them on recent housing development sites) are part of the same conurbation as Nantwich and there are good, direct road links from the more sparsely-populated parts of Stapeley into Nantwich. Stapeley residents are dependent on Nantwich for many key services.</p>		
Rationale for the proposed name	The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects the geographical parts of Nantwich that the proposed ward would cover. It also reflects the fact that Stapeley makes up a large proportion of the ward's population and (as the recent Community Governance Review confirmed) has its own separate identity.		

4.34 Odd Rode

Proposed ward name	Odd Rode		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,237	4,119	0%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Transfer (removal) of polling district LAWT (to the proposed new Alsager Borough ward). Addition of the parishes of Smallwood (AST6), Betchton (LAW3) and Hassall (LAW4).		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The parishes of Betchton, Church Lawton, Hassall, Newbold Astbury cum Moreton, Odd Rode and Smallwood.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts AST1, AST2, AST6, LAW1, LAW2, LAW3, LAW4, ORD1, ORD2, ORD3, ORD5		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The removal of LAWT will align the Odd Rode Borough ward with the post-Community Governance Review (CGR) boundaries between Alsager Town Council and Church Lawton Parish Council, and bring the whole of the housing development on Local Plan site LPS 21 with Alsager Borough ward. This site was provided to help meet Alsager's housing needs and residents are dependent on the town for key services and amenities. The boundary change will therefore better reflect community identity and interests.</p> <p>The existing Borough ward would be too small to meet the Commission's electoral equality criterion, with its electors per seat ratio forecasts to be 15% below the Borough average by 2030. The removal of LAWT, if not undertaken in tandem with other boundary changes, would exacerbate this slightly, resulting in a ratio 16% below average.</p> <p>Adding the parishes of Smallwood, Betchton and Hassall to the existing ward would address this imbalance and give the expanded ward a ratio that matched the Borough average. Including these parishes in the ward would also reflect local communities' identities and interests, as there are significant community ties between the parishes in the proposed Borough ward. In particular:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the settlements in Church Lawton and Odd Rode parishes have convenience stores or a supermarket and two of them (Rode Heath and Scholar Green) have key services such as a GP surgery and post office, whereas Hassall, Smallwood and Betchton have no such services and no retail provision. There are direct road links from Hassall Green (Betchton’s main settlement) to Rode Heath (in Odd Rode parish) and the main settlements in Church Lawton, making their services relatively accessible to the smaller parishes to their north. Similarly, there are good road links between the main settlements in Smallwood/ Newbold Astbury and Rode Heath/ Scholar Green (which are in Odd Rode parish). • Hassall and Betchton are in the catchment area for Smallwood Church of England Primary School and Moreton parish ward is in the catchment for Scholar Green Primary School. • In the final recommendations report (2010) from the Commission’s last review of Cheshire East, evidence (from Betchton Parish Council) was cited of Betchton’s community ties to Odd Rode. <p>The proposals mean the new ward would cover a large and much expanded geographical area. Even the existing ward’s area sometimes presents challenges arising from the hilly terrain of its Mount Pleasant parish ward (as Odd Rode Parish Council noted in its response to the CGR draft recommendations consultation). Therefore, it is not felt that the ward should be extended to include more than the proposed six parishes. As noted in the proposal for Brereton, Arclid has closer ties to Brereton than to Odd Rode and all the other rural parishes adjoining the proposed ward are relatively large in terms of land area and population and face different issues to those in the proposed Odd Rode ward (for example, major new housing development sites).</p>
Rationale for the proposed name	The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and closely associated with the area (the parish of Odd Rode) where the majority of the proposed ward’s electors live.

4.35 Poynton

Proposed ward name	Poynton		
Proposed number of seats	3		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	12,097	4,032	-2%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Transfer (removal), from the current Poynton East & Pott Shrigley Borough ward, of the parishes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kettlehulme & Lyme Handley (to be added to the proposed Disley Borough ward). • Pott Shrigley (to be added to the proposed Bollington & Rainow Borough ward). <p>Transfer (removal), from the current Poynton West & Adlington Borough ward, of the parish of Adlington.</p> <p>Merger of the residual areas of these two Poynton wards into a single new ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	Poynton Town Council		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 4JC1, 4JC2, 4JD1, 4JDR, 4JE1, 4JF1, 4JG1, 4JG2, 4JH1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>These changes would address the fact that both existing Poynton wards have electors per seat ratios that are well below the Borough average: without boundary changes, both of them would be more than 10% (and one of them more than 20%) below that average by 2030.</p> <p>The changes would mean a Borough ward boundary that is coterminous with the Town Council boundary. The elected Members would consequently be able to focus on the needs and interests of the town, rather than having to address, in addition, the rather different needs and issues of the rural neighbouring parishes currently included in the Poynton wards.</p>		

	<p>It is recognised that Pott Shrigley and Adlington have some ties to Poynton. For example, there are good road connections to the town, Adlington train station is on the line to Poynton – and Poynton Industrial Estate (located in Adlington parish) is adjacent to the town.</p> <p>However, these two parishes, along with Kettlethulme & Lyme Handley, each cover a wide geographical area. Travel times will account for a significant proportion of Members’ working hours and accessibility to parts of the Peak Park area (which spans much of Pott Shrigley and Kettlethulme & Lyme Handley) is more difficult in winter weather. The Park’s different planning policy regime can potentially also add to the complexity of the workload for Members serving this area.</p> <p>All three of the rural parishes currently included in the Poynton wards also have their own primary schools, which again limits their dependency and links to nearby towns.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and reflects community identity, as the ward would consist solely of the Poynton Town Council area.</p>

4.36 Prestbury

Proposed ward name	Prestbury		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,239	4,239	+3%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Transfer (removal) of the parish of Over Alderley (polling district 3DC1) to the proposed Chelford Borough ward.</p> <p>Addition of the parish of Adlington (polling districts 4JA1 & 4JB1), from the current Poynton West & Adlington Borough ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The parishes of Adlington, Mottram St Andrew and Prestbury		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 4HE1, 4HE2, 4HF1, 4HF2, 4HF3, 4JA1, 4JB1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The three parishes in the proposed ward are of similar character, being home to fairly affluent communities and covering large rural areas. The main villages in the three parishes are well connected by road and have well established links to each other. Adlington is also connected to Prestbury by rail. Prestbury is well endowed with services and amenities, including a library, supermarket, GP surgery and pharmacy and is the nearest location for these for many Adlington and Mottram St Andrew parish residents. Adlington has previously been warded with Prestbury and the Commission's final recommendations report from its last (2010) review of Cheshire reported that Adlington Parish Council's preferred option was to be warded with Prestbury.</p> <p>Over Alderley too has some ties to Prestbury, but, as noted in the subsection on Chelford, Nether Alderley and Over Alderley have a number of shared interests, such as the Alderley Park development site, which is split between the two parishes.</p> <p>The Council's consultation on its Community Governance Review draft recommendations had proposed that the parishes of Mottram St Andrew and Over Alderley be merged, but the</p>		

	<p>responses to that proposal included a substantial amount of evidence of a relative lack of links and common interests between the two parishes. In particular, Mottram St Andrew has a diverse array of amenities, including a hotel, golf club and garden centres, whereas Over Alderley has very few. The consultation responses also noted that Mottram St Andrew’s numerous social clubs and other communal activities have no links to Over Alderley.</p> <p>Therefore it is felt that Over Alderley now fits better in the proposed Chelford ward. This change would also result in better electoral equality. The current Prestbury ward’s electors per seat ratio is forecast to be 8% below the Borough average by 2030. However, removing Over Alderley from the ward and ‘replacing’ it with Adlington increases the Prestbury ward’s electorate significantly, making it much closer to the Borough average.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and Prestbury would be the ward’s main village and centre for key services and amenities, making it a major focal point.</p>

4.37 Sandbach East & Central

Proposed ward name	Sandbach East & Central		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,660	4,330	+5%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Transfer, to the proposed Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath Borough ward, of part of polling district SAE2</p> <p>Merger of the rest of Sandbach Town Borough ward and the whole of the current Sandbach Heath & East Borough ward, to form the proposed Sandbach East & Central Borough ward</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	All of the current Sandbach Town and Sandbach Heath & East Borough wards, except for the Middlewich Road/ Park Lane part of SAE2.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts SAE1, SAE2 (part only), SAE3, SAEC, SAN1, SAN2.</p> <p>The part of SAE2 to be included would be all of this polling district, except for: the Park Lane part (both sides of the road); Blackacres Close; Bowles Close; numbers 112-160 on south (even) side and numbers 101-129 on north (odd) side of Middlewich Road.</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of SAE2 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath: close-up of Park Lane area'.</p>		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The proposals for the East & Central ward have been informed in large part by the electoral forecast numbers and identities of the communities in other parts of the town. This is a consequence of recent housing and population growth leading to a situation where Sandbach's current allocation of four council seats is too few to reflect the size of its electorate, but five seats is too many to divide the town into whilst meeting the Commission's main three criteria. An added complication is that of this demographic growth being much more concentrated in some of the</p>		

	<p>town’s current Borough wards than others. In particular, the current Elworth Borough ward has an electors per seat that is at (and forecast to remain) over 20% above the Borough average, whilst the ratios forecast for the other three wards range from 4% to 10% above average.</p> <p>Whilst they largely form part of the same urban area and have the sort of community ties that would justify warding them together, a merger of the current Elworth and Ettiley Heath & Wheelock wards would create a ward with an electors per seat ratio too high to meet the Commission’s electoral equality criterion. Including the new Albion Lock development (polling district BRET2), which identifies as part of Elworth and which became part of the Town Council’s Elworth ward as part of the Community Governance Review changes, would therefore make this ratio higher still.</p> <p>A merger of the Town Council’s Elworth ward (BRET2, SAN3, SAW1 and SAW2) and the Ettiley Heath area (SAW3), to create a two-Member ward, means a somewhat lower ratio, because of the exclusion of polling districts that contain Wheelock. Such a ward would have a ratio within 10% of the Borough average, but would be somewhat on the low side (8% below average). A merger of the current Town and Heath & East wards would likewise have a ratio within 10% of the Borough average, but on the high side (7% above).</p> <p>The proposal addresses this disparity between the two would-be wards’ ratios – and also provides a better reflection of community identity and interests – by doing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taking the Middlewich Road and Park Lane part of SAE2 (currently in the Sandbach Town Borough ward) as far east as the town’s secondary schools - and including these properties in the proposed Elworth & Ettiley Heath Borough ward; • also including the properties on the Park Lane part of SAWR in the proposed Elworth & Ettiley Heath Borough ward. <p>The housing stock in these parts of SAE2 and SAWR are generally of similar character to those along the adjacent (SAW2/ SAN3) stretch of Middlewich Road and form part of the same community, whereas the Middlewich Road properties east of the secondary schools are of a different character and form part of the town’s central areas.</p>
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	<p>The impact of including these parts of SAE2 and SAWR in the Elworth and Ettiley Heath ward is to increase its ratio to 3,983 (3% below average) and lower the Central & East ward's ratio to 4,330 (5% above average).</p> <p>The part of the Town Council not included in these proposed wards is the Wheelock area, which consists of SAW4 and all of SAWR except the Park Lane part. Wheelock has a few retail outlets and amenities, but relies primarily on the central areas of Sandbach for key services. Wheelock on its own has far too few electors to justify its own ward, but it and the Winterley and Wheelock Heath areas of Haslington Parish Council are forecast to have a total of 3,852 electors as of 2030, which equates to a ratio 6% below the Borough average. Although they fall within a different parish council and are a separate community to Wheelock, Winterley and Wheelock Heath residents also tend to rely on Sandbach for key services, rather than Haslington village, and so there is a natural link between these communities. Therefore the council's proposes that Wheelock, Winterley and Wheelock Heath be warded together.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The name clearly indicates the geographical areas of Sandbach that the ward would cover.</p>

4.38 Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath

Proposed ward name	Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	7,966	3,983	-3%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Merger of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the current Elworth Borough ward. the Albion Lock housing development (polling district BRET2), which is currently part of Brereton Rural Borough ward. the Ettiley Heath (SAW3) part of the current Sandbach Ettiley Heath & Wheelock Borough ward. the Middlewich Road/ Park Lane part of SAE2, which is currently part of Sandbach Town Borough ward. the Park Lane part of SAWR, which is currently part of Sandbach Ettiley Heath & Wheelock Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	See above list of merged areas.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts BRET2, SAE2 (part only), SAN3, SAW1, SAW2, SAW3, SAWR (part only).</p> <p>The part of SAE2 to be included would be: the part of Park Lane (on both sides) that is within this polling district; Blackacres Close; Bowles Close; numbers 112-160 on south (even) side and numbers 101-129 on north (odd) side of Middlewich Road.</p> <p>The part of SAWR to be included would be: the part of Park Lane (on both sides) that is within this polling district; Fields Drive; Drovers Way.</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of SAE2 and SAWR and the resulting boundary lines can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate</p>		

	document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled ‘Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath: close-up of Park Lane area’.
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	See section on the warding for Sandbach Central & East, as this sets out the rationale for warding for all those areas containing the existing Sandbach Borough wards and the other area (BRET2) that falls within the Town Council.
Rationale for the proposed name	Elworth and Ettiley Heath are distinct areas of Sandbach with their own sense of identity and their inclusion in ward names is a well-established and accepted practice.

4.39 Shavington

Proposed ward name	Shavington		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,784	4,392	+7%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition (to the current Shavington Borough ward) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shavington cum Gresty Parish Council's Gresty Brook parish ward (polling district 1GM2), from the current Crewe South Borough ward. • 1FE1 (the polling district containing the parish of Rope's urban population), from the current Willaston & Rope Borough ward. • 1FET (part of the Chatsworth Park estate) and 1FET2, from the current Willaston & Rope Borough ward. Both of these areas were moved from Rope Parish Council to Shavington cum Gresty Parish Council under the Community Governance Review (CGR). • Part of 1FE2 (see below for further details), from the current Wistaston Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parishes of Rope and Shavington • Part of 1FE2, which is in the parish of Wistaston 		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts 1FE1, 1FE2 (part only), 1FET, 1FET2, 1GM1, 1GM2, 1GMR, 1GMT.</p> <p>The part of 1FE2 to be included would be all of this polling district, except for: numbers 156 to 160 Wistaston Road; numbers 314-348 on the even (east) side of Crewe Road; the properties in Holly Place and Gerard Gardens that fall within 1FE2; and numbers 351/ 351a to 421 on the odd (west) side of Crewe Road.</p>		

	<p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of 1FE2 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Wistaston: close-up of Wistaston Road area'.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding</p>	<p>As a result of major housing development, the population of Shavington has grown significantly in recent years and consequently the current, single-Member Shavington Borough ward has too many electors for one seat (yet too few to warrant two seats). The ward's electors per seat ratio was 24% above the Borough average as of 2023 and this variance from the average is forecast to decrease only a little (to 22% above average) by 2030.</p> <p>Therefore the ward needs to be either reduced or expanded significantly in size, in order to meet the Commission's electoral equality criterion.</p> <p>A key element of the proposed solution is to include Gresty Brook in the Shavington Borough ward, so that both of Shavington cum Gresty Parish Council's parish wards are in the same Borough ward. The recent CGR draft recommendations consultation stage generated over 900 responses on the draft proposals for Shavington and these clearly demonstrated that Gresty Brook identifies strongly with the rest of Shavington. The responses also highlighted the connections that Gresty Brook has to the adjacent urban area of Rope parish, which forms part of the same housing estate (Laidon Avenue/ Berkeley Crescent) and which has shared services (see below for further details). In addition, it was clear from the consultation responses that Gresty Brook has no significant ties to Crewe, despite it currently being warded with Crewe South. It should also be noted that the Brook itself, and the green space either of it, provides a natural boundary between the Gresty Brook properties and the adjacent area of Crewe.</p> <p>The rationale for dividing 1FE2 and including all but a small southwestern segment of it in the proposed Shavington ward is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1FE2 consists largely of a housing estate (Laidon Avenue/ Berkeley Crescent and roads off these) that spans the parishes of Wistaston, Rope and Shavington (specifically Shavington cum Gresty Parish Council's Gresty Brook parish ward). The entire estate falls within the same primary school catchment (for Berkeley Primary School), as do the Rope Lane and

	<p>Springfield Drive (Wells Green) areas of 1FE2. People on the estate also share the same medical practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the estate is part of the same community, it is proposed that all of 1FE2 be warded with Shavington, except for the small southern ‘loop’ of that polling district (south of the Crewe Road/ Church Lane junction) that forms part of Willaston village. <p>The proposed warding would reflect local communities’ identities and interests by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> placing the whole of the parish of Shavington cum Gresty in a single Borough ward. bringing the whole Chatsworth Park estate within a single Borough ward. placing Shavington High School within Shavington Borough ward. placing the whole of Willaston village in the same Borough ward (currently, Holly Place and Gerard Gardens are split between two Borough wards). <p>The resulting ward would have an electors per seat ratio within 10% of Borough average, though on the high side of this range (7% above average as of 2030). However, the population is concentrated within Laidon Avenue estate, the new housing development off Jack Mills Way (the B5071) and Shavington village - and the A500 and the rest of the road network provide easy access around the area. Deprivation is not an issue for this part of the Borough either, so the relatively high ratio should not imply unreasonably high workloads for the elected Members.</p> <p>The Borough Council has considered the option of having two single-Member wards (collectively covering the same geographical area as the proposed Shavington Borough ward), with the A500 forming the boundary between them. However, it is felt that that arrangement would meet the Commission’s criteria less well, given that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gresty Brook, which is north of the A500, has ties to Shavington village (which is south of the A500). Shavington High School would be in a different Borough ward to Shavington village. This is the situation currently – and it results in some parents contacting the Shavington Borough ward Member about issues relating to the school (as they assume the school is within that Member’s ward) and those parents having to be referred on to the Willaston & Rope Member. Having the school in the same Borough ward as the whole of Shavington cum Gresty village
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	could avoid this confusion and enable more efficient communication between parents and the local Members.
Rationale for the proposed name	The current (and proposed) ward name is well-established and Shavington would be the ward's main settlement and a key centre for services and amenities, making it a major focal point.

4.40 Sutton

Proposed ward name	Sutton		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	3,982	3,982	-3%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Removal (transfer) of the parish of Rainow, to the proposed Bollington & Rainow Borough ward.</p> <p>Addition of the parishes of Bosley (polling district 4GA1) and North Rode (4GH6), from the current Gawsworth Borough ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The parishes of Bosley, Macclesfield Forest & Wildboarclough, North Rode, Sutton and Wincle.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 4CC1, 4GA1, 4GG6, 4GH6, 4GK1, 4GK6, 4GL6, 4GM6, 4GO1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>Largely as a result of new housing development forecast in the area of Sutton parish that adjoins Macclesfield (Lyme Green), the Sutton Borough ward's number of electors is predicted to grow to 4,549 by 2030, which equates to an electors per seat ratio 11% above the Borough average. The ward covers a very widespread geographical area that includes a large part of the Peak Park and many of the communities in the ward live in remote, dispersed locations, often at high elevations. This mean travel times and conditions can be particularly challenging, as can some of the issues faced by the elected Member. Hence the workload would be relatively high, even if the ratio were close to the Borough average.</p> <p>Consequently, changes to the ward boundary are required, to reduce it to a more manageable size that meets the Commission's requirements for electoral equality and effective and convenient local government, whilst ensuring that the new warding arrangement continues to reflect local communities' identity and interests.</p>		

As the responses from the Council’s Community Governance Review draft recommendations consultation stage indicated, the three main villages in Sutton parish have very strong ties to each other, relying on each other’s facilities and amenities and engaging together in many and varied community activities. Parts of the parish’s other parish ward (Sutton Rural) are adjacent to the villages and so can easily access their services and amenities, such as the local shop. Therefore an attempt to reduce the size of the ward’s electorate by moving part of Sutton parish to another ward would not reflect community identity. Because of its small number of electors, transferring Wincle to the adjacent Gawsworth Borough ward would make only a modest difference to electoral equality and would again fail to reflect community identity, as the interests and needs of the Peak Park’s communities are completely different to those of many Gawsworth parishes.

Hence the removal of Rainow from the ward is the only practical solution. The Council proposes that Rainow be included instead in the proposed Bollington & Rainow Borough ward. Although they have a number of differences, there are common issues affecting Bollington and Rainow, such as balancing housing development pressures against the need to protect the natural environment. (One residential street, Ingersley Vale, has a number of properties on both sides of the parish boundary.) Therefore having both parishes represented by the same Member would reflect local communities’ interests. This warding arrangement, including Pott Shrigley too (it is close and well connected to Bollington by road), would also address the fact that the current Bollington Borough ward’s electorate is too small to justify two Members, with an electors per seat ratio that is forecast to be 15% below the Borough average by 2030.

However, if Rainow is removed from Sutton, one or more parishes have to be transferred from Gawsworth Borough ward to Sutton, to avoid Sutton’s electors per seat ratio being too low to satisfy the Commission’s electoral equality criterion. Therefore the Borough Council also proposes that Bosley and North Rode be included in the redrawn Sutton ward. These two wards have a rural character that fits with the rest of the ward and the road network provides a convenient connection between them and Sutton’s other settlements. As noted in the subsection on Gawsworth, moving only Bosley from Gawsworth to Sutton would, in tandem with the other proposed warding arrangements for Gawsworth, leave Gawsworth with a ratio 10% above the Borough average, while Sutton’s ratio would be 8% below average. However, moving both

	Bosley and North Rode ensures a more even balance between the electors per seat ratios for the two very large, rural wards of Gawsworth and Sutton (with variances of plus 5% and minus 3% respectively).
Rationale for the proposed name	Sutton is the parish where the large majority of the proposed ward's population lives and the name of one of the area's main villages. The use of this ward name is well established and accepted.

4.41 Weston

Proposed ward name	Weston		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,286	4,286	+4%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>This new ward would consist of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the parish of Barthomley, which is currently in Haslington Borough ward. • the parish of Weston & Crewe Green. This consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weston parish ward and Crewe Green parish wards, which are currently in Haslington Borough ward. ○ Wychwood parish ward, which is currently in Wybunbury Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The parishes of Barthomley and Weston & Crewe Green.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 1GF1, 1GF1T, 1GFR, 1GG1, 2GA6, 2GB1		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>This proposed warding would reflect community identity and interests by bringing the whole of the parish of Weston & Crewe Green into a single Borough ward. The area is largely rural, but with two relatively large villages, Weston and Wychwood, where the population has grown in size in recent years as the result of major housing developments. The proposed ward would have at its heart the South Cheshire Growth Village (Local Plan site LPS 8), where additional housing development is expected in the years to come.</p> <p>Wychwood village is currently in Wybunbury Borough ward, but is a separate community to the Wychwood Park development to its immediate south. Wychwood village has more in common with Weston than with Wychwood Park. This is reflected in the final recommendations from the recent Community Governance Review, which resulted in Wychwood Park (previously split between the then Weston & Basford and Hough & Chorlton Parish Councils) being located entirely within Hough & Chorlton Parish Council.</p>		

	<p>Including Wychwood village in the proposed Weston Borough ward would therefore reflect local communities' identities and interests better than the existing Haslington-Wybunbury Borough ward boundary. Therefore Weston & Crewe Green Parish Council's Wychwood parish ward (polling district 1GFR, which contains Wychwood village) is included in the proposed Weston Borough ward.</p> <p>This change to the current Borough ward boundary with Wybunbury would also meet the Commission's electoral equality criterion. The proposed Weston Borough ward would have an electors per seat ratio 4% above the Borough average by 2030. By removing 1GFR from Wybunbury, but otherwise leaving that Borough ward unchanged, Wybunbury's ratio would also be 4% above the average, as opposed to 20% above otherwise.</p> <p>Barthomley is roughly equidistant from Weston village and the town of Alsager. It is in the catchment area for an Alsager primary school and the Radway Green Business Park is split between the two parishes. However, Barthomley is a very small rural community of a completely different character to Alsager and Barthomley village is on the opposite side of the M6 and A500 to the town. Barthomley has its own community centre, church and pub, which reduce its dependency on larger settlements for social activities and community ties. Therefore it fits better within the proposed Weston ward, which likewise includes some very small, dispersed communities.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>Weston is the name of one of the area's two main villages and it features in the name of the parish that would comprise most of the proposed Borough ward. The use of this name at parish council level is already well established and accepted.</p> <p>As noted above, Wychwood village is the other main settlement in the proposed ward. However, calling the ward 'Wychwood' or 'Weston & Wychwood' could potentially cause confusion, given that it would not include the Wychwood Park development. Hence the Borough Council's proposal that the ward be named simply 'Weston'.</p>

4.42 Wheelock & Winterley

Proposed ward name	Wheelock & Winterley		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	3,852	3,852	-6%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>This new ward would consist of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of polling district SAWR (all except the part containing Park Lane and the roads accessed from it) and all of polling district SAW4. Collectively these areas cover the Wheelock area of Sandbach Town Council. • Polling districts SAWT and 2GE1, which make up the Winterley parish ward on Haslington Parish Council. This area includes the settlement of Wheelock Heath, as well as Winterley village itself. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The communities of Wheelock, Wheelock Heath and Winterley.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts 2GE1, SAW4, SAWR (part only), SAWT.</p> <p>The part of SAWR to be included would be all of this polling district, except for: the Park Lane part (both sides of the road); Fields Drive; Drovers Way.</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of SAWR and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath: close-up of Park Lane area'.</p>		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	Wheelock is part of Sandbach Town Council and falls within the current Sandbach Ettiley Heath & Wheelock Borough ward, whereas Winterley and Wheelock Heath are part of Haslington Parish Council and currently within Haslington Borough ward.		

	<p>Although they fall within a different parish council and are a separate community to Wheelock, Winterley and Wheelock Heath residents tend to rely on Sandbach for key services (as do people in Wheelock), rather than going into Haslington village. Wheelock is of similar size (in population terms) to Winterley/ Wheelock Heath and the characters of these areas are similar, with a limited number of local amenities and some distinctive natural features, such as the canal network and river around Wheelock and Winterley Pool in Winterley. As such, they share common interests and similar identities and there is logic in warding them together. In addition, the road network provides easy access between Wheelock to the north and Winterley/ Wheelock Heath further south.</p> <p>Looking solely at the Commission’s ‘interests and identities of local communities’ criterion, boundaries based on Sandbach Town Council’s area would be the most appropriate solution. However, this would not achieve good electoral equality due to the town’s ‘fair’ share of Borough ward councillors falling roughly midway between four and five councillors. Therefore electors per seat ratios within the usually-required range (10% of the Borough average) can be obtained only through having a ward that spans both part of the Sandbach Town Council area and part of an adjacent parish. The proposed Wheelock & Winterley ward is considered to be the best means of achieving that, given the similarities and connections to Sandbach that Wheelock, Wheelock Heath and Winterley have. All the other communities surrounding Sandbach are far more rural, with smaller, more dispersed populations and warding any of those areas with part of Sandbach would reflect community identity and interests far less well.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>Wheelock and Winterley are the two main settlements in the proposed ward and, as noted above, are broadly similar in terms of population size. The names ‘Wheelock’ and ‘Winterley’ also appear in the names of some of the area’s key natural features, namely the River Wheelock and Winterley Pool. Including both settlement names in the ward’s name therefore reflects their dual importance and provides clarity as to the extent of the geographical area covered. This is particularly important, given that the ward would span two parishes (Sandbach and Haslington) and two parliamentary constituencies.</p>

4.43 Wilmslow East

Proposed ward name	Wilmslow East		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,484	4,242	+3%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> polling district 8EE1 from the current Handforth Borough ward. the current Wilmslow Dean Row Borough ward. part of 8FC1 from the current Wilmslow West & Chorley Borough ward. <p>Transfer (removal) of 8FA1 to the proposed Wilmslow West Borough ward.</p>		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The eastern and town centre areas of Wilmslow		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts 8EB1, 8EC1, 8ED1, 8EE1, 8FC1 (part only), 8FE1, 8FF1.</p> <p>The part of 8FC1 to be included would be: Grove Avenue/ Grove Way; and the part of the polling district bounded by Water Lane to the north and Hawthorn Street/ Bedells Lane to the west.</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of 8FC1 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Wilmslow East: close-up of town centre area'.</p>		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The current, single-Member Wilmslow East Borough ward is forecast to have a relatively low electors per seat ratio by 2030 (14% below average).</p> <p>The proposed changes would result in a ratio much closer to the Borough average.</p> <p>They would also better reflect community identity and interests and enable more effective and convenient local government than the current warding:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As noted in the section on Handforth, the proposed warding in this part of the Borough would bring the Colshaw Farm estate into a Wilmslow Borough ward, the proposed Wilmslow East. The Colshaw Farm area, which comprises most of 8EE1, is the most deprived community in Wilmslow or Handforth, ranking (according to the Government’s 2019 English Indices of Deprivation) among the ‘top’ 20% in England for overall deprivation. There is no road access from this estate into Handforth and Colshaw Farm residents identify as being part of Wilmslow. The proposed boundary change involving part of 8FC1 would largely concentrate the town centre area and its commercial and retail premises within Wilmslow East. <p>As such, issues relating to Colshaw Farm or the town centre could be readily addressed by councillors from a single ward, rather than having to involve those representing other wards.</p> <p>The transfer of 8FA1 (the Fulshaw Park area west of Alderley Road) to the Wilmslow West Borough ward helps ensure electoral equality (similar ratios) for the East and West wards, but without an adverse impact on community identity and interests. Alderley Road provides a clear boundary between the proposed East and West wards in this location.</p> <p>In the northern part of the proposed Wilmslow East ward, the railway line would provide a clear western boundary. To the south of the River Bollin, the railway line is still a physical barrier, but there are multiple road and pedestrian crossing points that allow access between the southeastern (8FF1) and southwestern (8FE1) parts of the proposed ward.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The name reflects the geographical area of Wilmslow covered by the ward and it is a well-established and accepted ward name locally.</p>

4.44 Wilmslow Lacey Green

Proposed ward name	Wilmslow Lacey Green		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	3,758	3,758	-9%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of polling district 8EA1 (part of the Finney Green area of Wilmslow) from the current Handforth Borough ward.</p> <p>Transfer (removal) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Fairways estate (polling district 8FKT), which is Local Plan site LPS 34, from the current Wilmslow Lacey Green Borough ward. the parish of Styal (8FK1). 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The Lacey Green and Finney Green areas of Wilmslow		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 8EA1, 8EK1, 8EKC		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The proposed changes would reflect community identity and interests much better than the current warding. The changes would, as noted in the section on Handforth's proposed warding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend Handforth Borough westwards, to include the new Fairways development. This new estate was developed to meet Handforth's housing needs and Fairways is very close to and well connected by road to the many shops and other services in the centre of Handforth. There is no direct road link from Fairways into Wilmslow, other than via Handforth. Place 8EA1 in the same Wilmslow ward as the rest of Finney Green. The adjacent part of Handforth Town Council consists of Deanway Business Park and this, together with the railway line to the east of 8EA1 and the natural boundary of the River Dean, mean that residents of 8EA1 have limited connections to the nearest residential areas of Handforth. 		

	The section on the proposed Handforth ward also sets out the rationale for warding the parish of Styal with Handforth, rather than with Wilmslow Lacey Green.
Rationale for the proposed name	The name reflects the geographical area of Wilmslow covered by the ward and it is a well-established and accepted ward name locally.

4.45 Wilmslow West

Proposed ward name	Wilmslow West		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,450	4,225	+3%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of polling district 8FA1, from the current Wilmslow East Borough ward.</p> <p>Transfer (removal) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the parish of Chorley (3DD1) to the proposed Alderley Edge Borough ward. part of 8FC1 to the proposed Wilmslow East Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The western part of Wilmslow		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts 8FA1, 8FB1, 8FBR, 8FC1 (part only), 8FG1, 8FH1, 8FHR, 8FJ1.</p> <p>The part of 8FC1 to be included would be all of this polling district, except for: Grove Avenue/ Grove Way; and the part of the polling district bounded by Water Lane to the north and Hawthorn Street/ Bedells Lane to the west.</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of 8FC1 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Wilmslow East: close-up of town centre area'.</p>		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The proposed changes would better reflect local communities' identities and interests, while ensuring that the redrawn ward would still have an electors per seat ratio close to the Borough average.</p> <p>As noted in the sections on the warding proposals for Alderley Edge and Wilmslow East:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chorley does not identify with or have significant ties to Wilmslow (with part of which it is currently warded). 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chorley is geographically very close to Alderley Edge (the two were previously warded together) and is well connected to it by road, making its larger neighbour an important centre for many key services and amenities. • The proposed boundary change involving part of 8FC1 would largely concentrate the town centre area and its commercial and retail premises within Wilmslow East. • The transfer of 8FA1 (the Fulshaw Park area west of Alderley Road) to the Wilmslow West Borough ward helps ensure electoral equality (similar ratios) for the East and West wards, but without an adverse impact on community identity and interests. Alderley Road provides a clear boundary between the proposed East and West wards in this location.
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The name reflects the geographical area of Wilmslow covered by the ward and it is a well-established and accepted ward name locally.</p>

4.46 Wistaston

Proposed ward name	Wistaston		
Proposed number of seats	2		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	8,553	4,277	+4%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of polling districts 1FD1, 1FDC and 1FDR (which collectively cover almost all of Willaston village), from the current Willaston & Rope Borough ward.</p> <p>Transfer (removal) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parish of Woolstanwood (1FJ1) to the proposed Leighton Borough ward. Part of 1FE2 to one of the proposed wards covering the Rope and Shavington area. (The warding arrangements for Rope and Shavington have yet to be agreed.) 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The settlements of Wistaston and Willaston		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	<p>Polling districts 1FD1, 1FD2, 1FDC, 1FDR, 1FE2 (part only), 1FF1, 1FFR, 1FG1, 1FG2.</p> <p>The part of 1FE2 to be included would be: numbers 156 to 160 Wistaston Road; numbers 314-348 on the even (east) side of Crewe Road; the properties in Holly Place and Gerard Gardens that fall within 1FE2; and numbers 351/ 351a to 421 on the odd (west) side of Crewe Road.</p> <p>A map showing a close-up of the proposed division of 1FE2 and the resulting boundary line can be found in Appendix A ('Maps of the proposed wards'), the separate document accompanying this main report. This map is the one titled 'Wistaston: close-up of Wistaston Road area'.</p>		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>Although currently warded with Wistaston, there are few ties between the parish of Wistaston and the parish of Woolstanwood. In addition, Woolstanwood is part of Leighton, Minhsull Vernon & Woolstanwood Parish Council and (as noted in the section on warding for Leighton) the recent Community Governance Review revealed extensive evidence that Woolstanwood residents</p>		

	<p>identify with the other parishes in their parish council. Therefore the proposed warding includes Woolstanwood with Leighton, not with Wistaston.</p> <p>The rationale for dividing 1FE2 and including only a small southwestern segment of it in the proposed Wistaston ward is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1FE2 consists largely of a housing estate (Laidon Avenue/ Berkeley Crescent and roads off these) that spans the parishes of Wistaston, Rope and Shavington (specifically Shavington cum Gresty Parish Council’s Gresty Brook parish ward). The entire estate falls within the same primary school catchment (for Berkeley Primary School), as do the Rope Lane and Springfield Drive (Wells Green) areas of 1FE2. People on the estate also share the same medical practice. • As the estate is part of the same community, it is proposed that all of 1FE2 be warded with Rope and Shavington, except for the small southern ‘loop’ of that polling district (south of the Crewe Road/ Church Lane junction) that forms part of Willaston village. <p>The proposed warding would also reflect local communities’ identities and interests by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • placing the whole of the parish of Shavington cum Gresty in a single Borough ward. • placing Shavington High School within Shavington Borough ward. • placing the whole of Willaston village in the same Borough ward (currently, Holly Place and Gerard Gardens are split between two Borough wards).
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The name reflects the main settlement covered by the ward and it is a well-established and accepted ward name locally.</p>

4.47 Wrenbury

Proposed ward name	Wrenbury		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,026	4,026	-2%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	<p>Addition of Burland & Acton Parish Council's Acton & Henhull parish ward (polling districts 3FA5 & 3FA7), from the current Bunbury Borough ward.</p> <p>Transfer (removal) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3FAT (the Malbank Waters housing development), to the proposed Nantwich North & West Borough ward • the parishes of Haughton and Spurstow, to the proposed Bunbury Borough ward. 		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The following parishes: Baddiley; Bickerton; Brindley; Bulkeley & Ridley; Burland & Acton; Cholmondeley; Chorley (near Wrenbury); Egerton; Faddiley; Marbury & District; Peckforton; Wrenbury.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 3EC1, 3EC2, 3EC8, 3EE1, 3EET, 3EG1, 3EK6, 3EK7, 3EM6, 3EO6, 3EQ1, 3ER6, 3ER8, 3ER9, 3ET1, 3FA5, 3FA6, 3FA7, 3FH8, 3FHT		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>The proposed change involving 3FAT would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflect local communities' interests and identities by aligning the Borough ward boundary between Wrenbury and the Nantwich Borough wards with the post-Community Governance Review (CGR) boundaries between Nantwich Town Council and Burland & Acton Parish Council, and bring the Malbank Waters development within the Borough ward that contains the adjacent part of the town of Nantwich. This development was intended to meet Nantwich's housing needs and residents of the new properties are relatively dependent on the town for key services and amenities. 		

- greatly reduce the ward’s electors per seat ratio. This change alone would reduce the 2030 ratio from 19% above average to 2% above.

The other proposed changes would also reflect local communities’ identities and interests by:

- Reflecting Haughton’s and Spurstow’s ties to Bunbury. The two settlements are geographically close to Bunbury, with a direct road link. A small part of Bunbury village is actually on the Spurstow side of the parish boundary. Both Haughton and Spurstow are in the catchment for Bunbury Aldersey Church of England Primary School. Bunbury is also the nearest settlement to Haughton and Spurstow for key services and amenities such as a GP surgery, convenience store and community centre.
- placing the whole of Burland & Acton parish within Wrenbury Borough ward. The parish is currently divided between Bunbury and Wrenbury Borough wards, despite the evidence from the CGR of ties between its two main settlements: Burland (currently in Wrenbury) and Acton (currently in Bunbury).

The net impact of all the boundary change proposals is to bring Wrenbury’s electors per seat ratio down to slightly (2%) below the Borough average.

There are good reasons for keeping Bickerton & Egerton, Bulkeley & Ridley and Cholmondeley & Chorley parish councils and their respective parishes warded together in Wrenbury Borough (as they are currently):

- Bulkeley & Ridley and Cholmondeley & Chorley are in the catchment for Bickerton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School.
- The responses to the consultation on the Council’s CGR draft recommendations provided evidence that Bulkeley & Ridley relies on Bickerton’s village hall and church for many social and recreational activities and religious worship (and mentioned the dependence on Bickerton’s school).

In addition, there are sounds reasons for keeping Wrenbury Borough ward’s other existing parishes with the ward:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For parishes such as Chorley, Baddiley and Marbury & District, Wrenbury is the nearest settlement in the Borough with a Post Office, GP surgery and convenience store – and Marbury & District is in the catchment for Wrenbury Primary School. • Burland, Brindley and Faddiley are relatively close to each other and well connected via the A534. <p>Peckforton’s ties to the rest of the proposed ward (or to Spurstow in the adjacent part of the proposed Bunbury ward) are less strong: residents are largely concentrated in the village itself and the CGR consultation responses highlighted the fact that it has a different character and faces different issues to some of the adjacent parishes. Peckforton’s village hall is shared with Beeston in Cheshire West & Cheshire and so to some extent its links are outside Cheshire East. Warding Peckforton with Bunbury would give Bunbury a ratio above the Borough average. Keeping Peckforton as part of the Wrenbury Borough, however, as the Borough Council proposes, would give both Bunbury and Wrenbury ratios below the Borough average, achieving a better balance of the workload arising from those two wards’ very large rural areas.</p>
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The name reflects the main settlement covered by the ward and it is a well-established and accepted ward name locally.</p>

4.48 Wybunbury

Proposed ward name	Wybunbury		
Proposed number of seats	1		
Electoral statistics (for 2030)	Electors	Electors per seat ratio	Ratio's variance from Borough average
	4,282	4,282	+4%
Summary of any changes proposed to the current (pre-Review) ward boundary	Transfer (removal) of Weston & Crewe Green Parish Council's Wychwood parish ward (polling district 1GFR) to the proposed Weston Borough ward.		
Summary of area covered by proposed ward	The following parishes: The following parishes: Doddington & District; Hatherton; Hough & Chorlton; Walgherton; Wybunbury.		
Details of area covered by proposed ward	Polling districts 1GFT, 1GG2, 1GG3, 1GH6, 1GH7, 1GH8, 1GJ6, 1GJ7, 1GJ8, 1GL6, 1GN1, 1GN6		
Rationale for the proposed boundary and for any changes to current warding	<p>As noted in the section on the proposed Weston Borough ward, Wychwood village (the settlement that makes up Wychwood parish ward) is currently in Wybunbury Borough ward, but is a separate community to the Wychwood Park development to its immediate south. Wychwood village has more in common with Weston than with Wychwood Park. Including Wychwood village in the proposed Weston Borough ward would therefore reflect local communities' identities and interests better.</p> <p>This change would also address the problem of Wybunbury Borough having a very high electors per seat ratio. The current Borough ward is forecast to have a ratio 20% above the average by 2030, but removing the Wychwood parish ward, as proposed, would make this ratio only 4% above average.</p> <p>This proposed change would leave Wybunbury Borough ward consisting of four parish councils: Wybunbury, Hough & Chorlton, Hatherton & Walgherton and Doddington & District. These parish councils have a number of community ties to each other, meaning that the proposed ward would reflect local communities' identities and interests:</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The four parishes have a recent history of working together, notably on the Wybunbury Combined Parishes Neighbourhood Plan. • The main settlements in Hatherton and Walgherton fall within the Wybunbury Delves Church of England Primary School catchment, as does the northern half of Doddington & District. • For some of these settlements, such as Hatherton & Walgherton, Wybunbury is the nearest location with a convenience store, a place of worship or a play area.
<p>Rationale for the proposed name</p>	<p>The name reflects the main settlement covered by the ward and it is a well-established and accepted ward name locally.</p>

Cheshire East Council Electoral Review 2023-24: Warding Proposal Report

Appendix A: Maps of the proposed wards

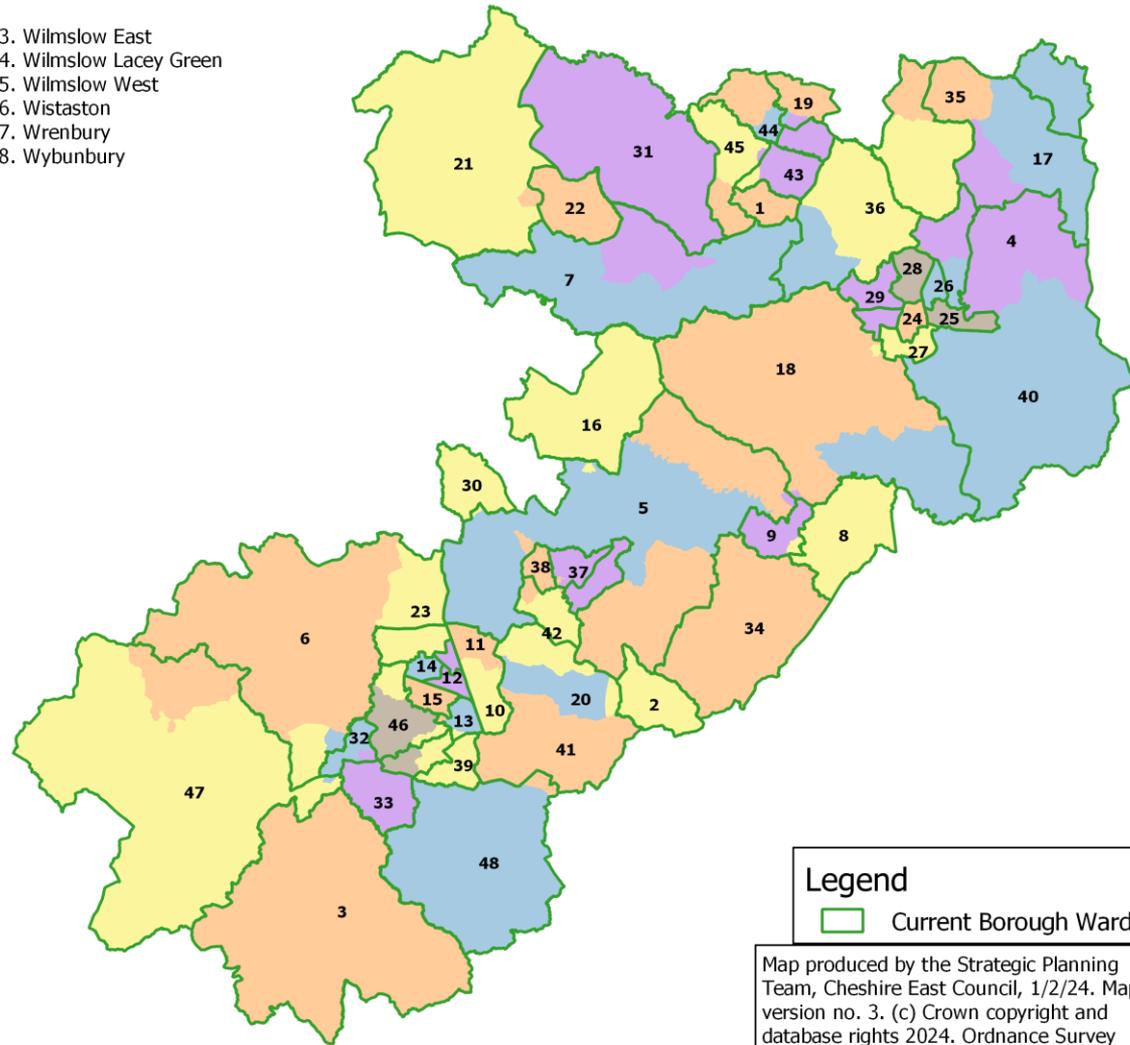
Document version no. 3 (5 February 2024)

Overview Map

Cheshire East: Proposed Borough Wards

MAP GUIDE

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Alderley Edge | 43. Wilmslow East |
| 2. Alsager | 44. Wilmslow Lacey Green |
| 3. Audlem | 45. Wilmslow West |
| 4. Bollington & Rainow | 46. Wistaston |
| 5. Brereton | 47. Wrenbury |
| 6. Bunbury | 48. Wybunbury |
| 7. Chelford | |
| 8. Congleton East | |
| 9. Congleton West | |
| 10. Crewe East | |
| 11. Crewe Maw Green | |
| 12. Crewe North | |
| 13. Crewe South | |
| 14. Crewe St Barnabas | |
| 15. Crewe West | |
| 16. Dane Valley | |
| 17. Disley | |
| 18. Gawsworth | |
| 19. Handforth | |
| 20. Haslington | |
| 21. High Legh | |
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| 24. Macclesfield Central | |
| 25. Macclesfield East | |
| 26. Macclesfield Hurdsfield | |
| 27. Macclesfield South | |
| 28. Macclesfield Tytherington | |
| 29. Macclesfield West | |
| 30. Middlewich | |
| 31. Mobberley | |
| 32. Nantwich North & West | |
| 33. Nantwich South & Stapeley | |
| 34. Odd Rode | |
| 35. Poynton | |
| 36. Prestbury | |
| 37. Sandbach East & Central | |
| 38. Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath | |
| 39. Shavington | |
| 40. Sutton | |
| 41. Weston | |
| 42. Wheelock & Winterley | |



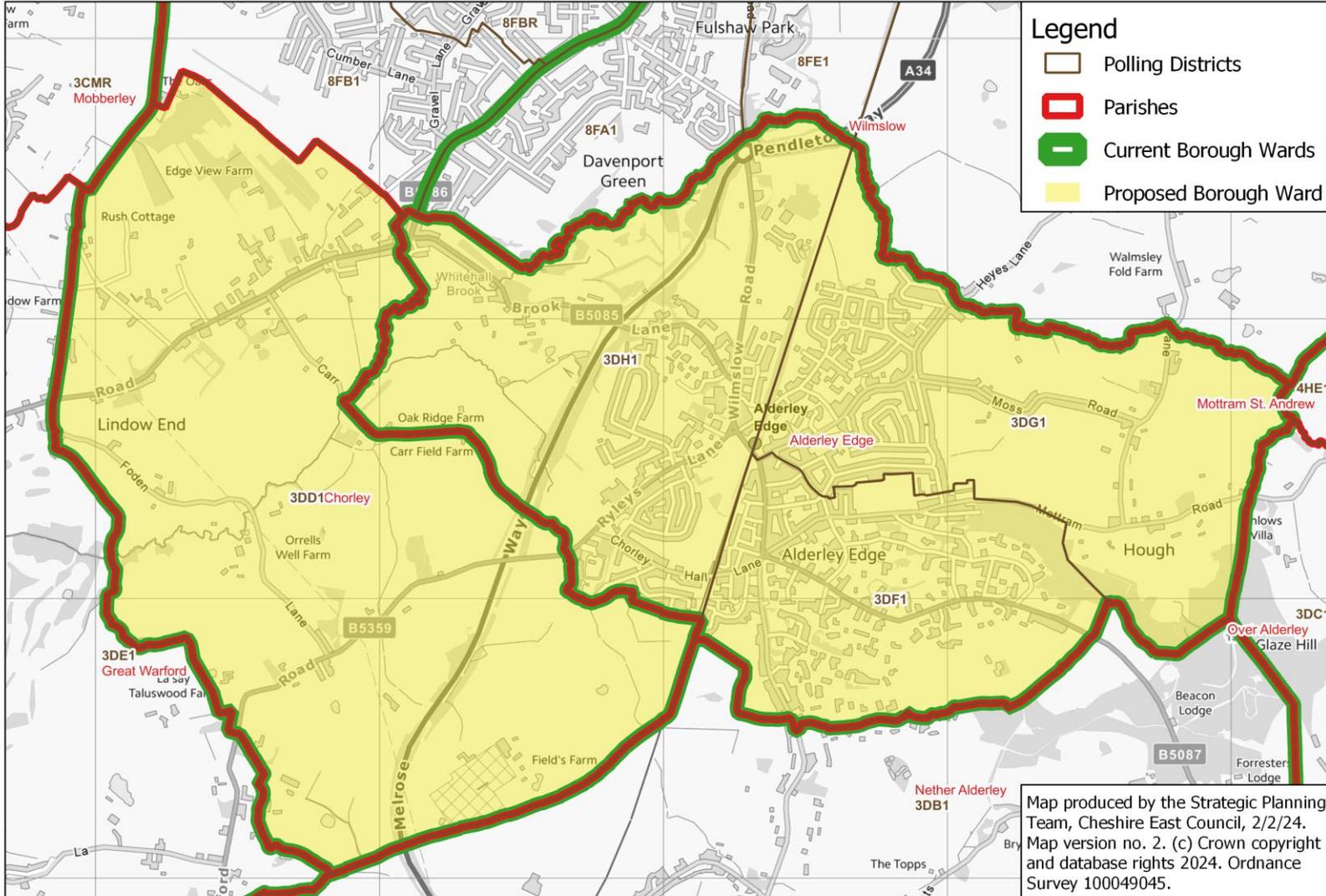
Legend

Current Borough Wards

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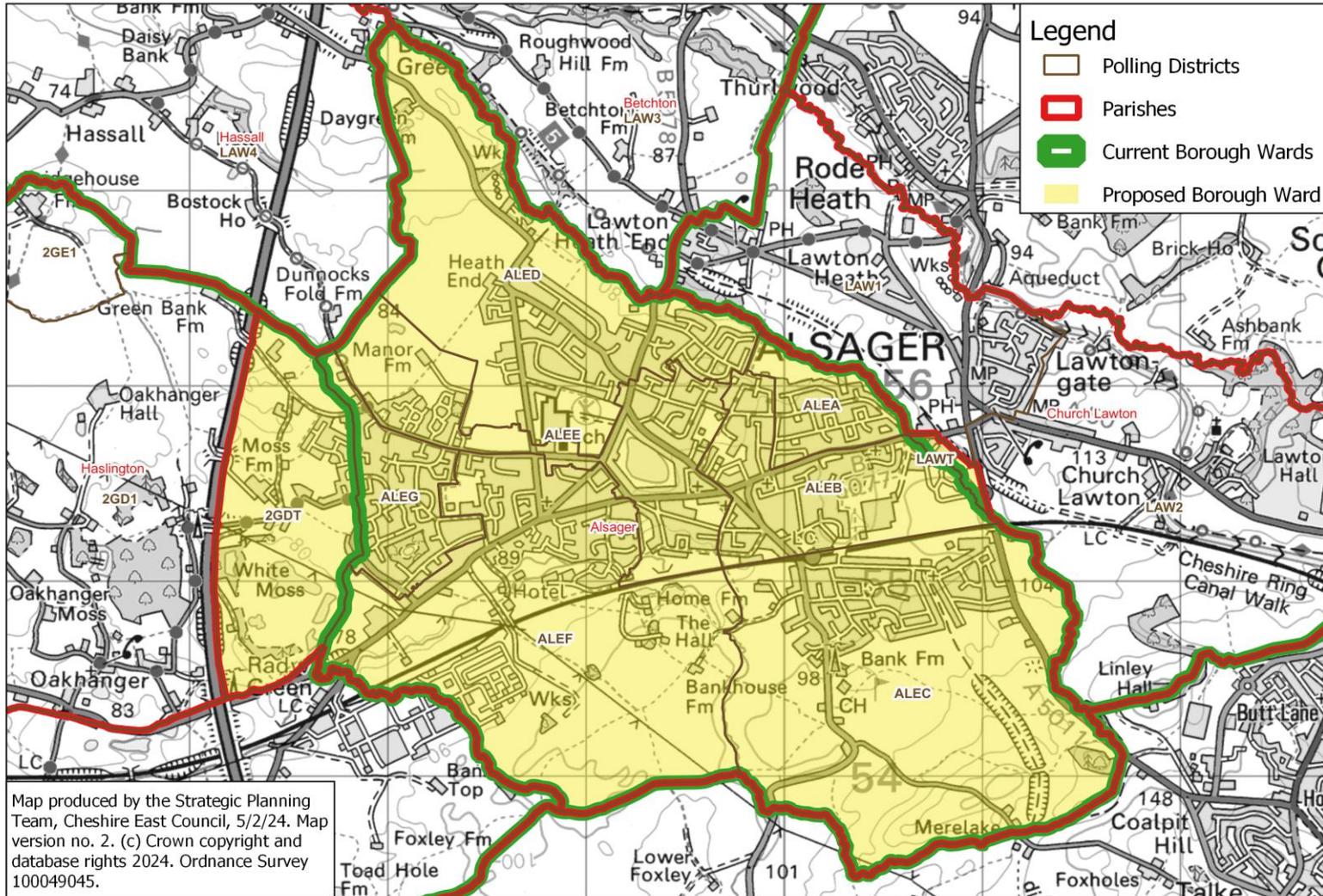
Alderley Edge

Proposed Borough Ward: Alderley Edge



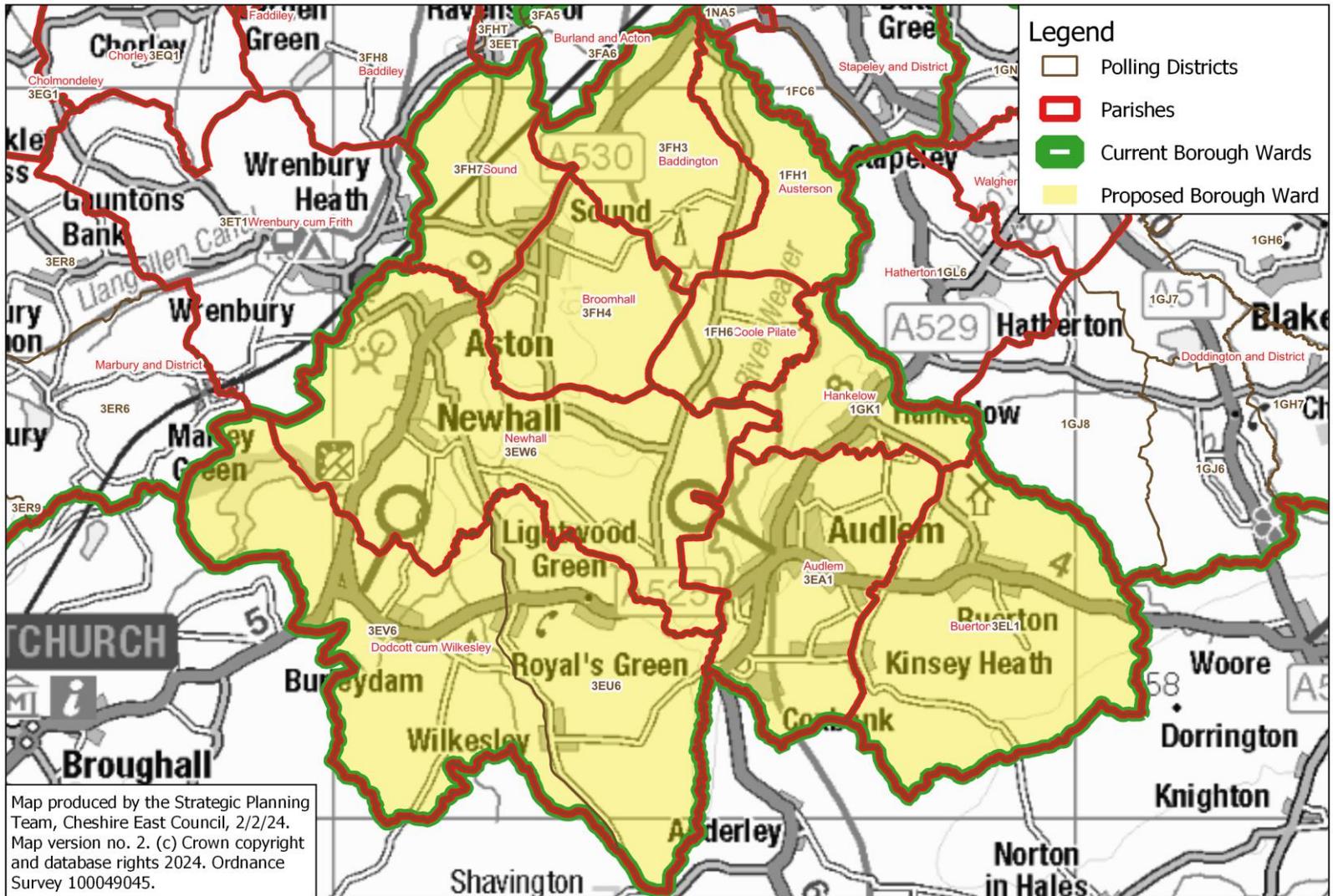
Alsager

Proposed Borough Ward: Alsager



Audlem

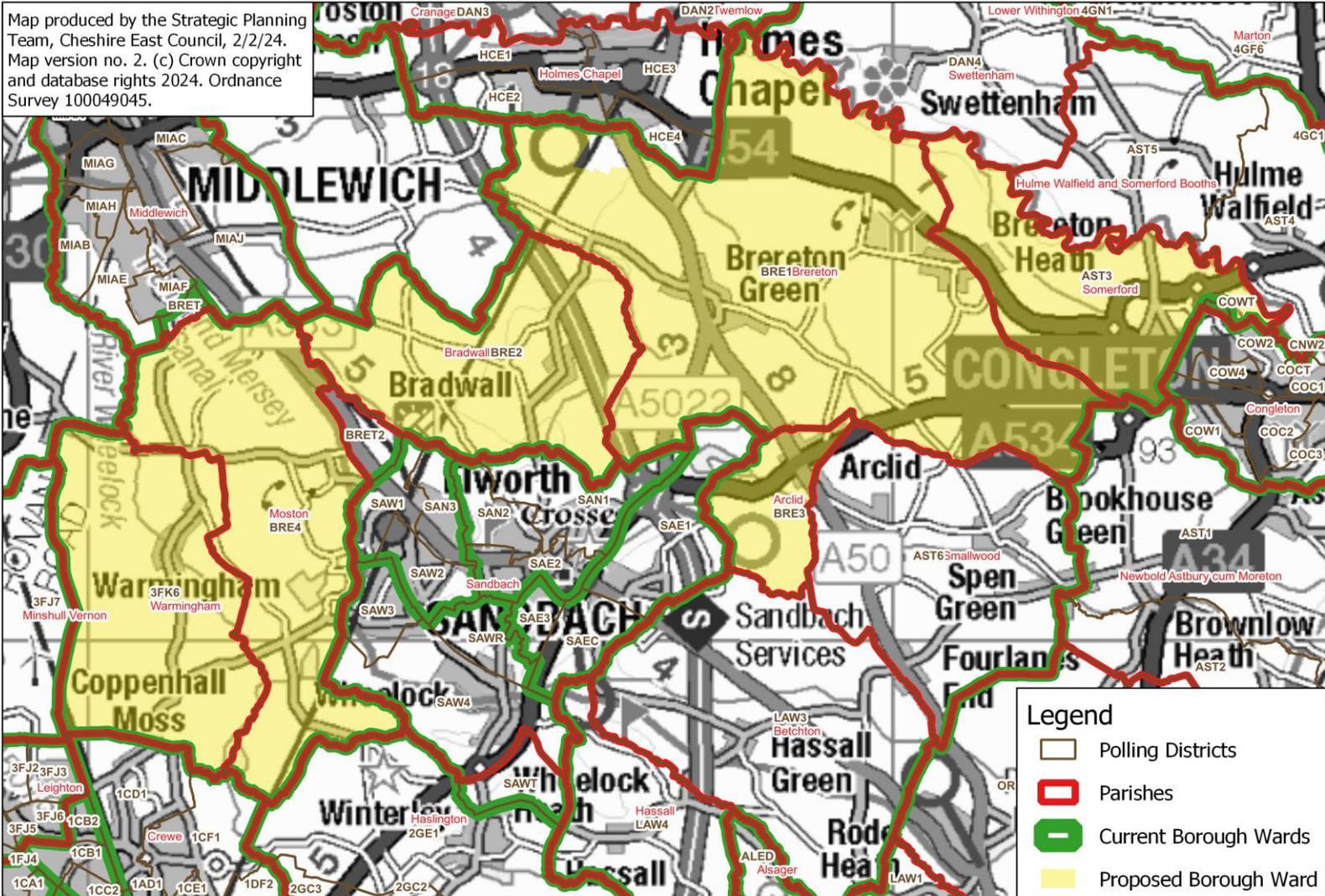
Proposed Borough Ward: Audlem



Brereton

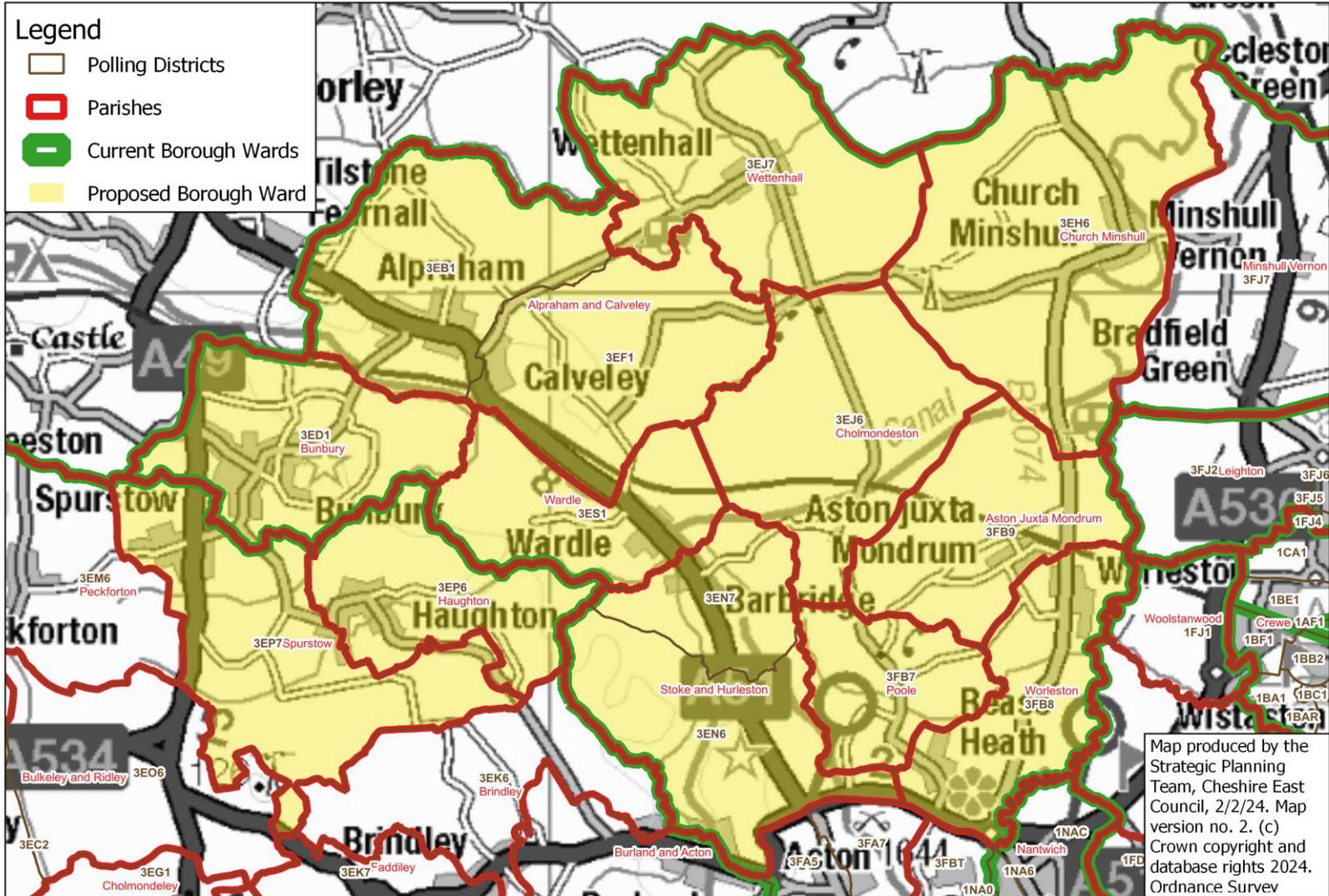
Proposed Borough Ward: Brereton

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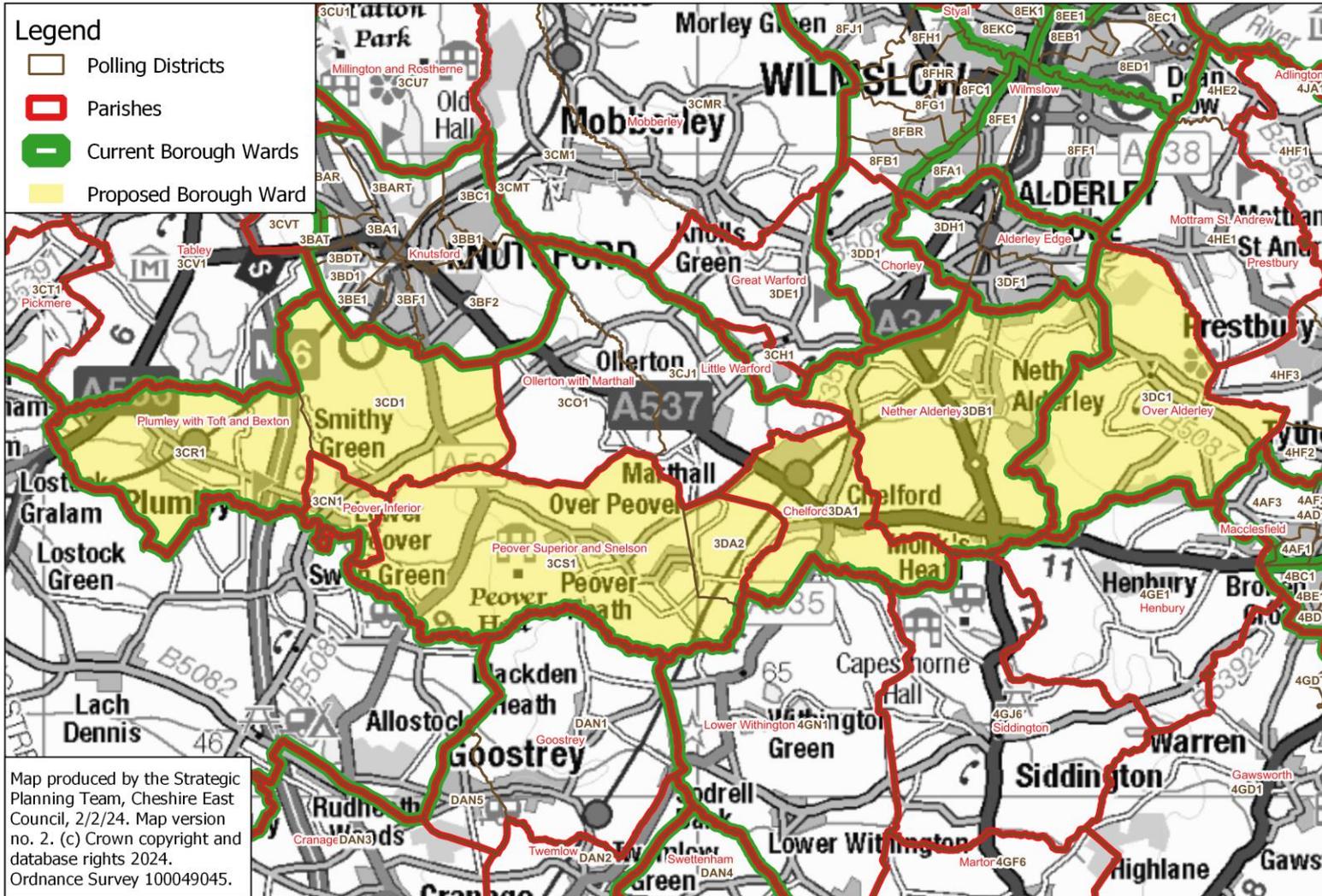
Bunbury

Proposed Borough Ward: Bunbury



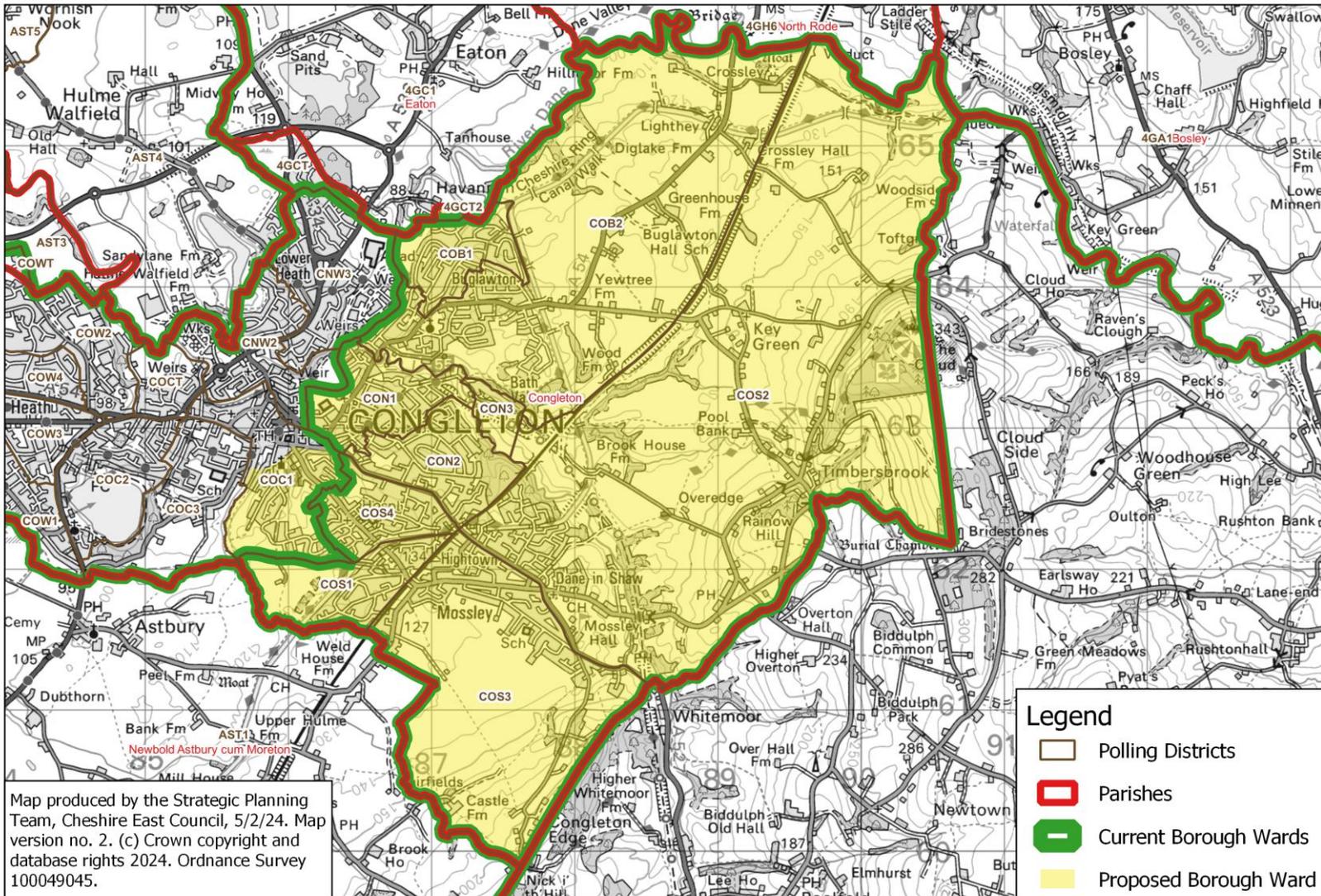
Chelford

Proposed Borough Ward: Chelford



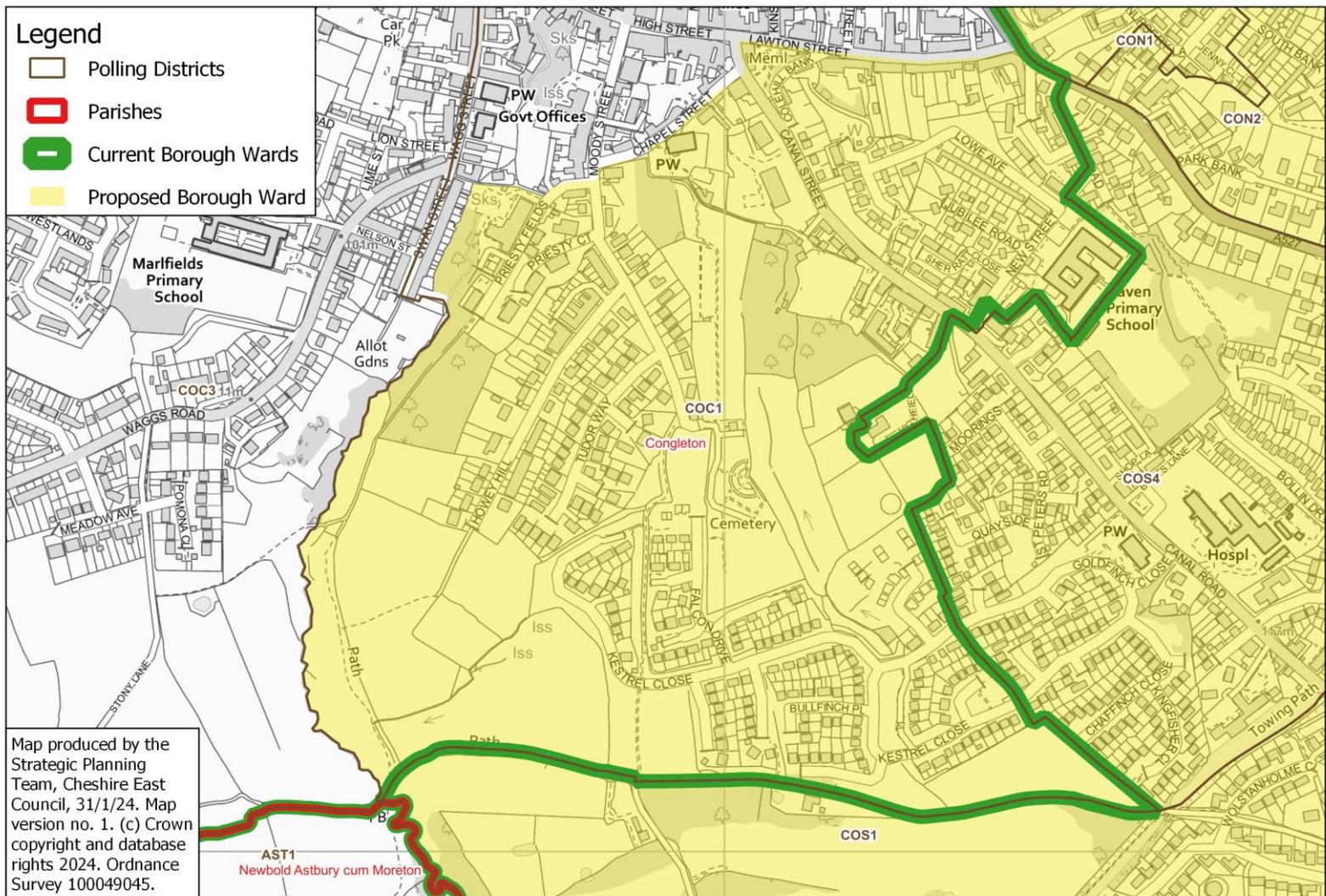
Congleton East

Proposed Borough Ward: Congleton East



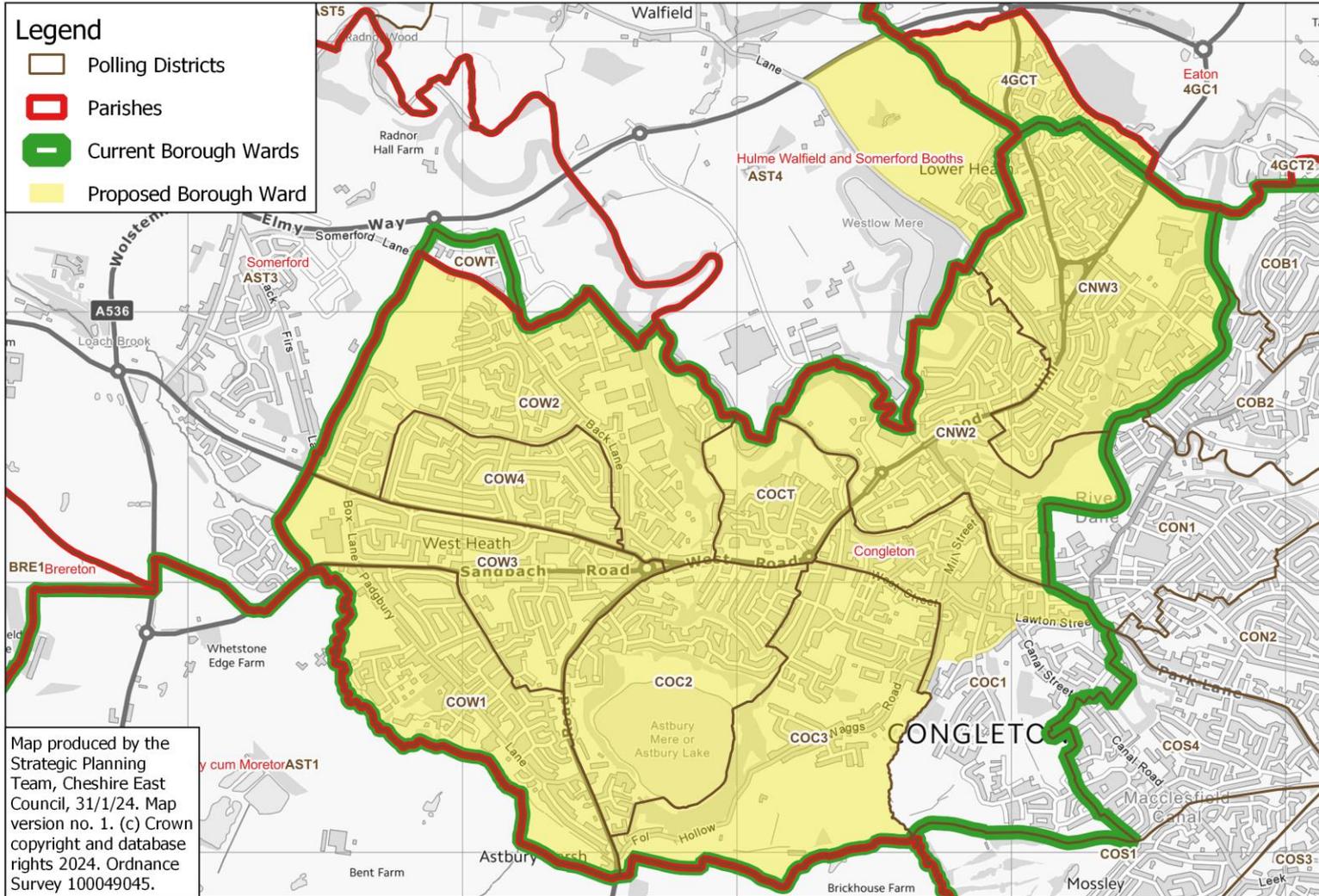
Congleton East: close-up of Canal Street/ Kestrel Close area

Proposed Borough Ward: Congleton East - close-up of area of COC1 to be included



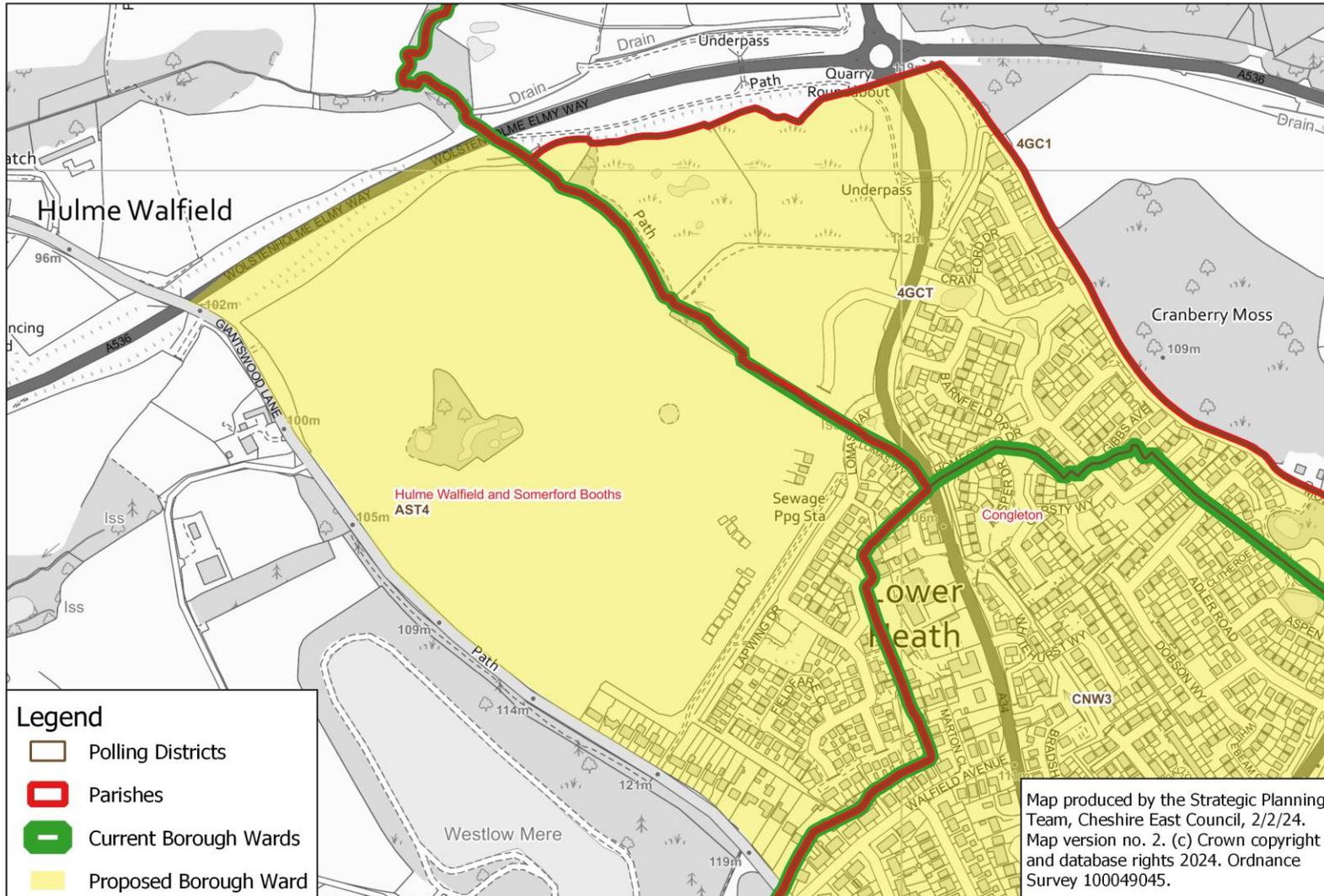
Congleton West

Proposed Borough Ward: Congleton West



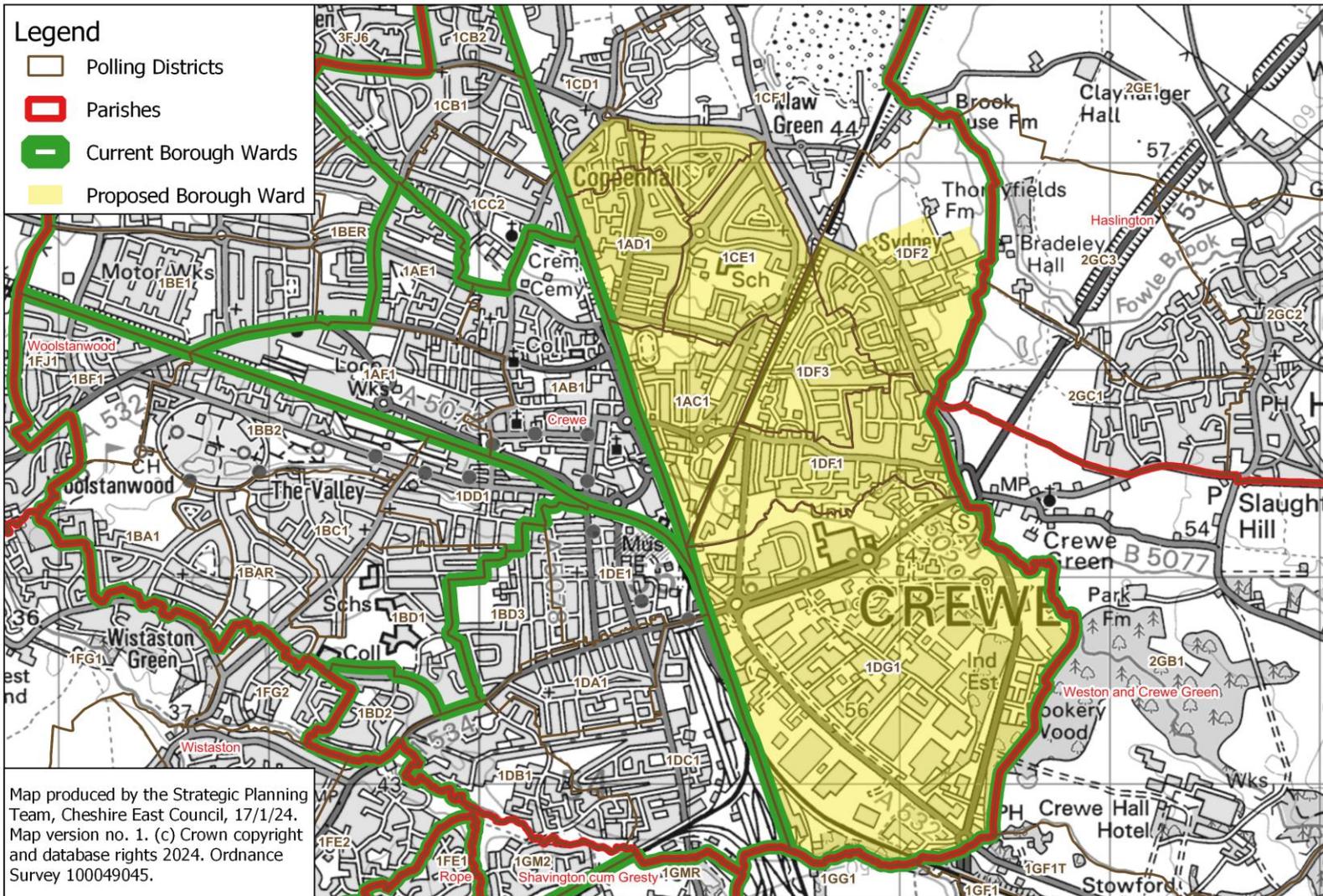
Congleton West: close-up of Link Road area

Proposed Borough Ward: Congleton West - close-up of area of AST4 to be included



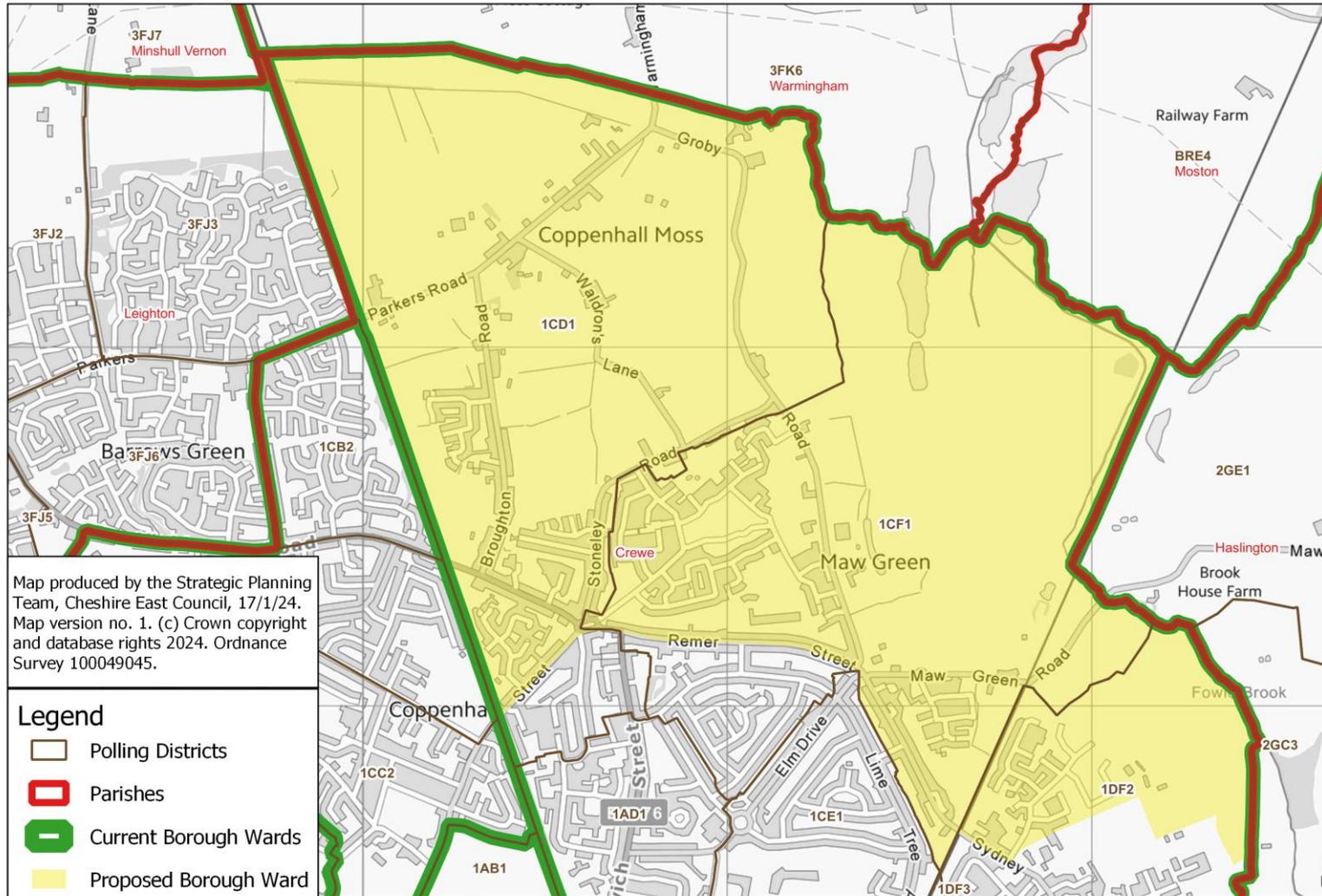
Crewe East

Proposed Borough Ward: Crewe East



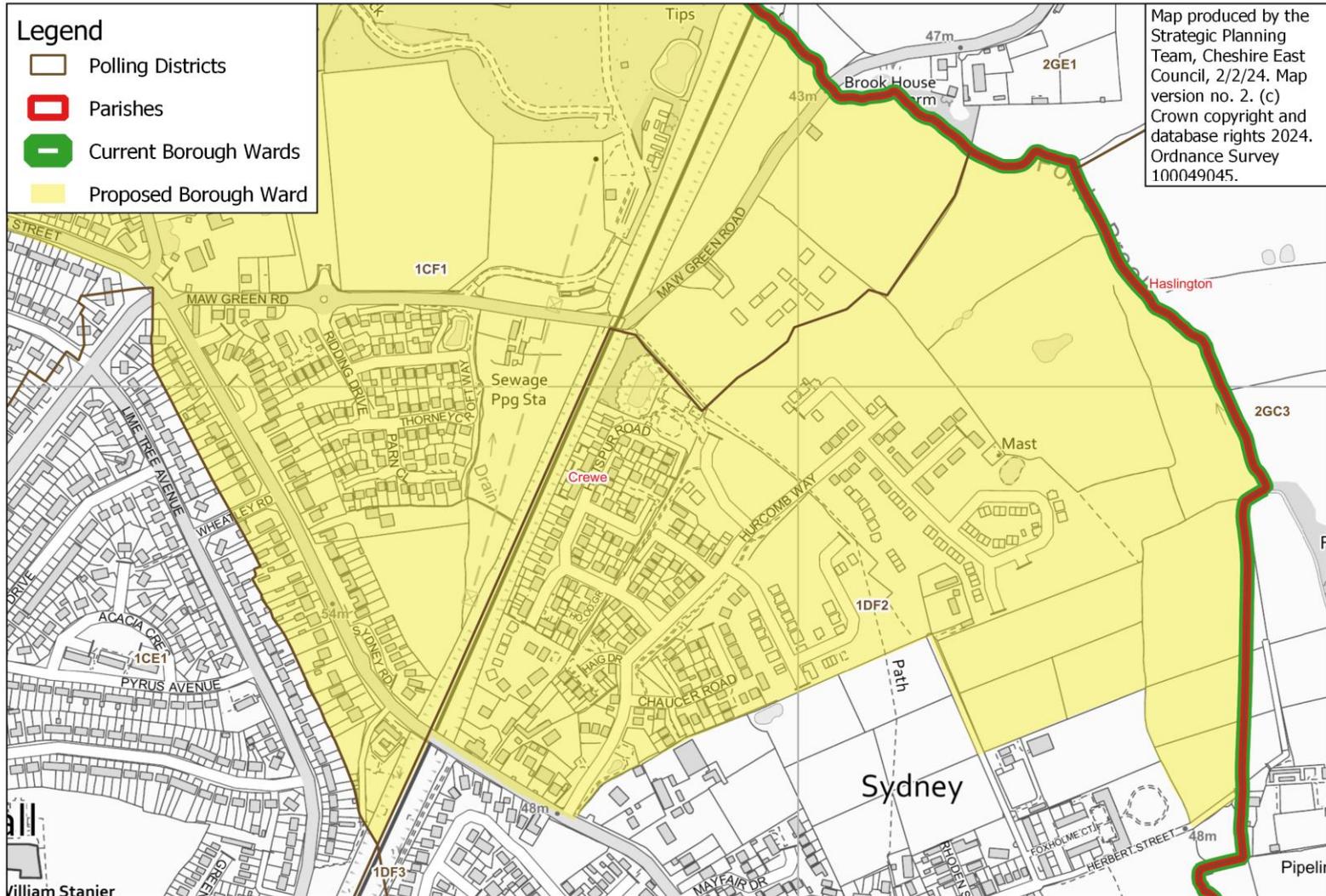
Crewe Maw Green

Proposed Borough Ward: Crewe Maw Green



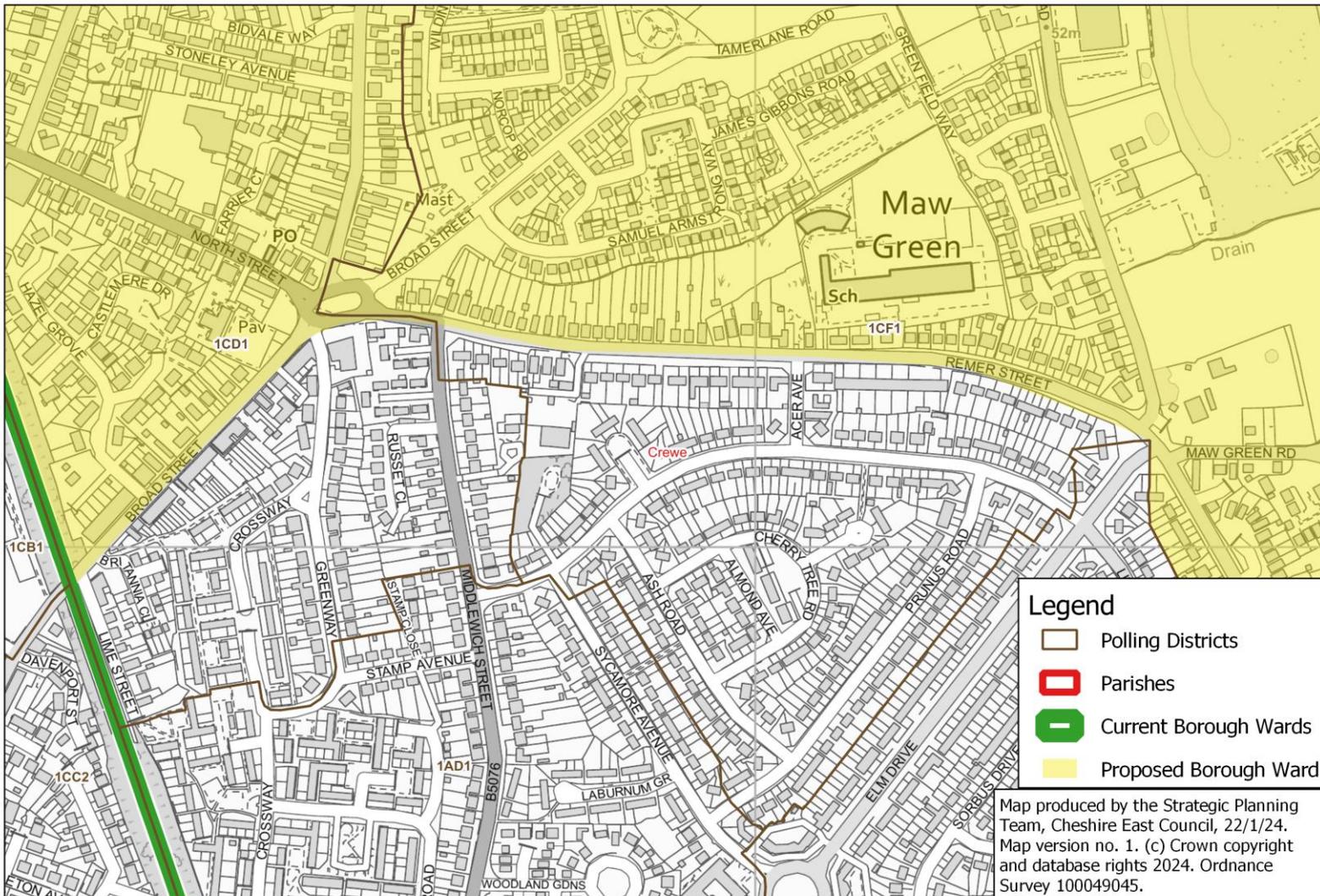
Crewe Maw Green: close-up of southeastern boundary

Proposed Borough Ward: Crewe Maw Green - close-up of southeastern section of proposed boundary



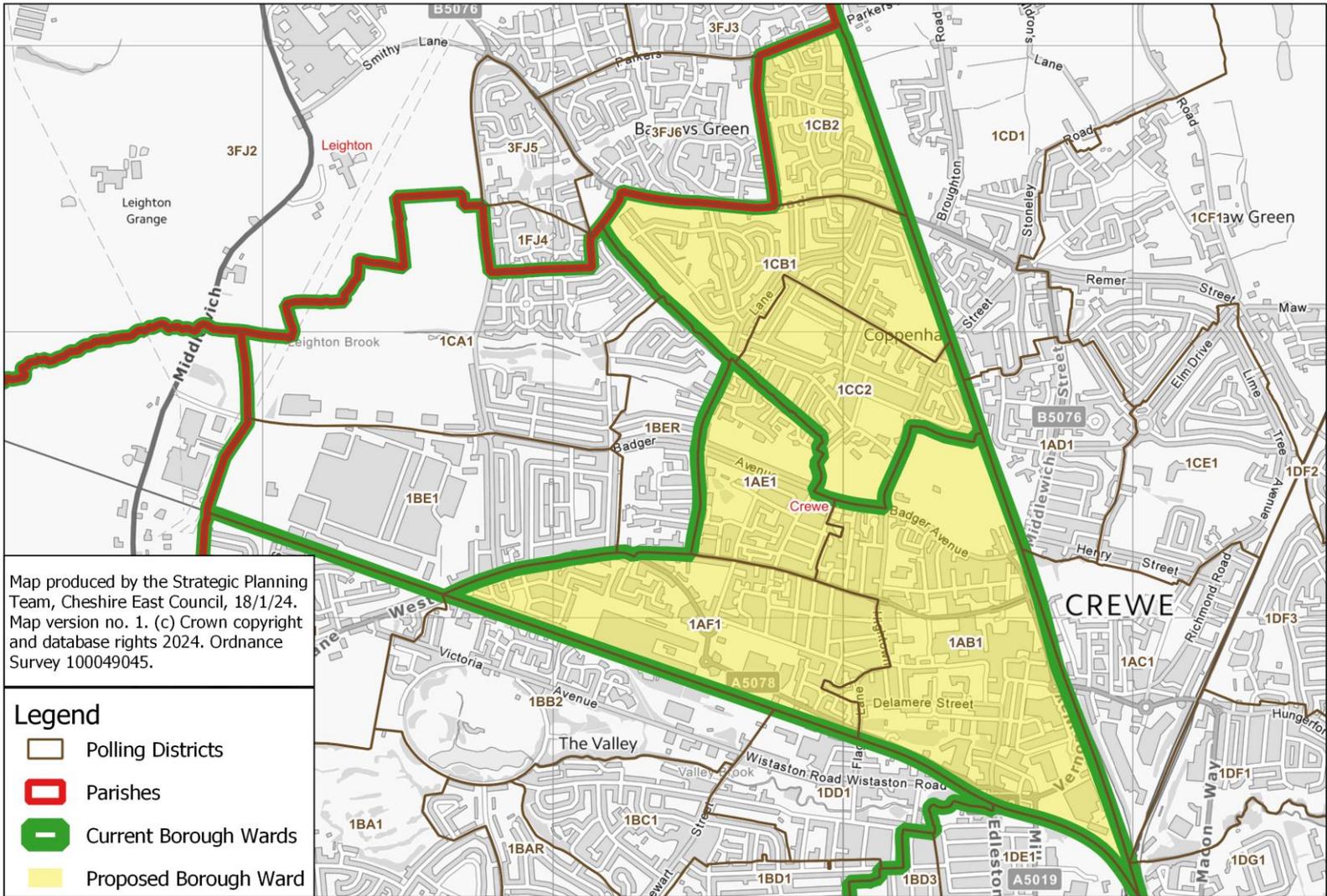
Crewe Maw Green: close-up of southwestern boundary

Proposed Borough Ward: Crewe Maw Green - close-up of southwestern section of proposed boundary



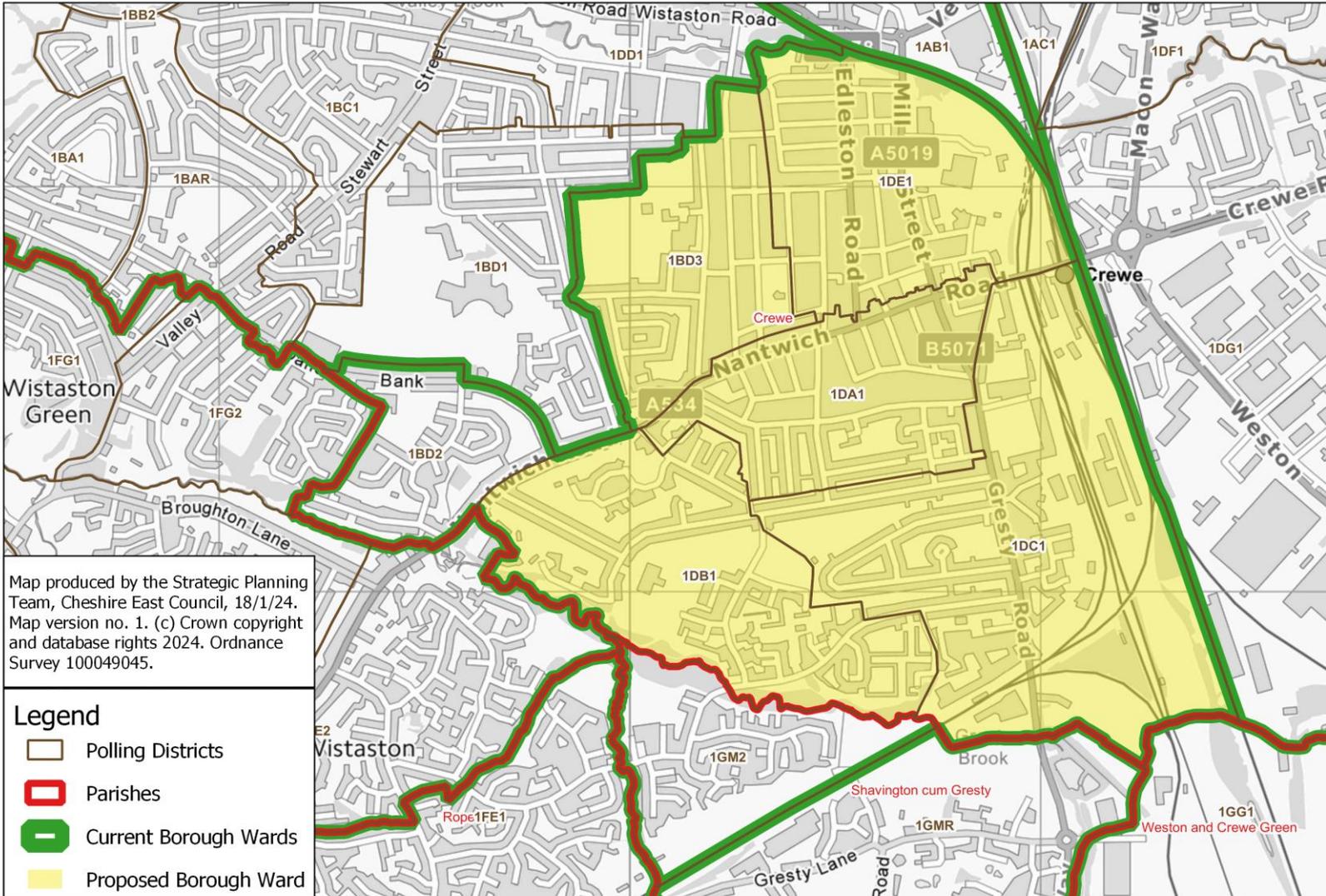
Crewe North

Proposed Borough Ward: Crewe North



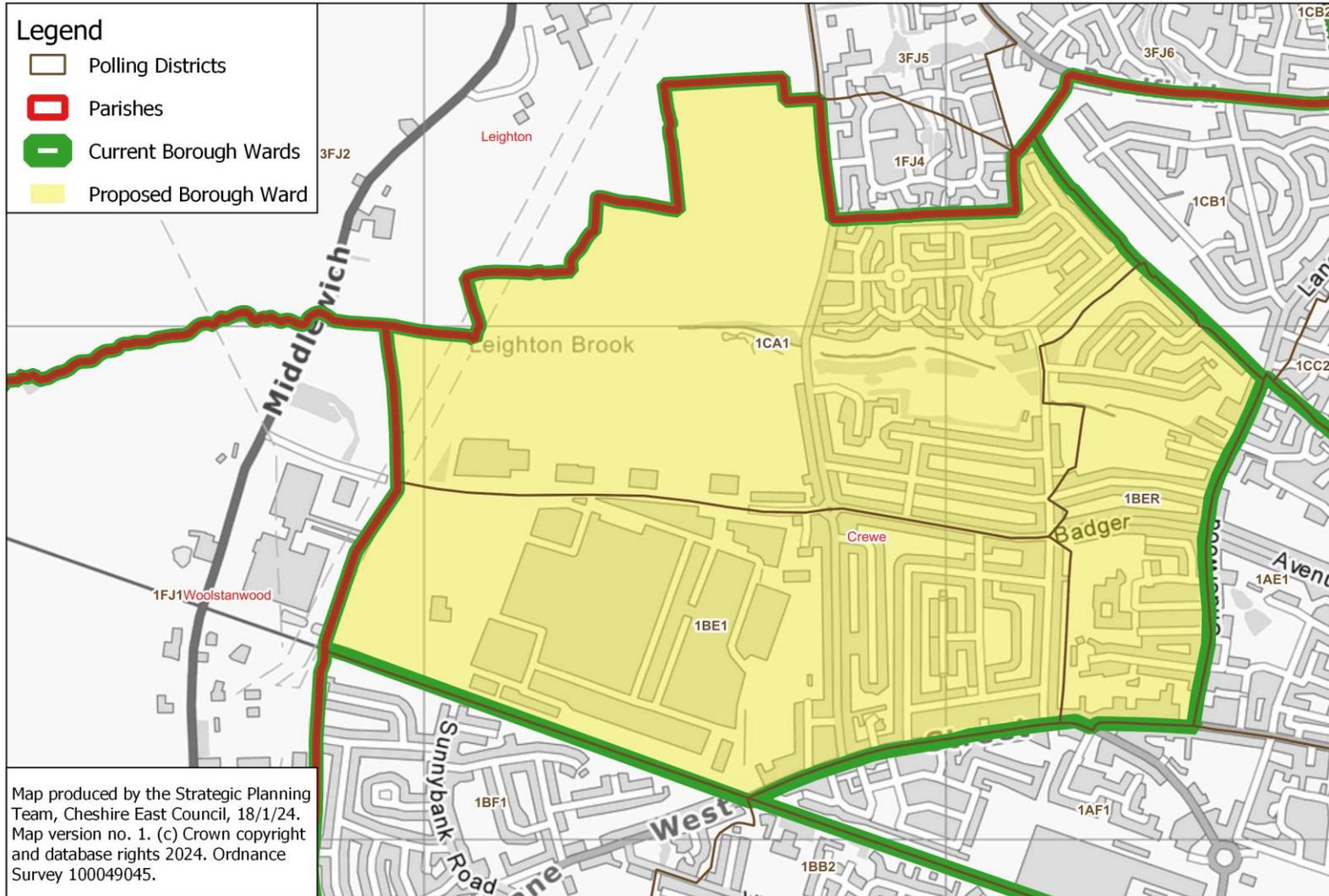
Crewe South

Proposed Borough Ward: Crewe South



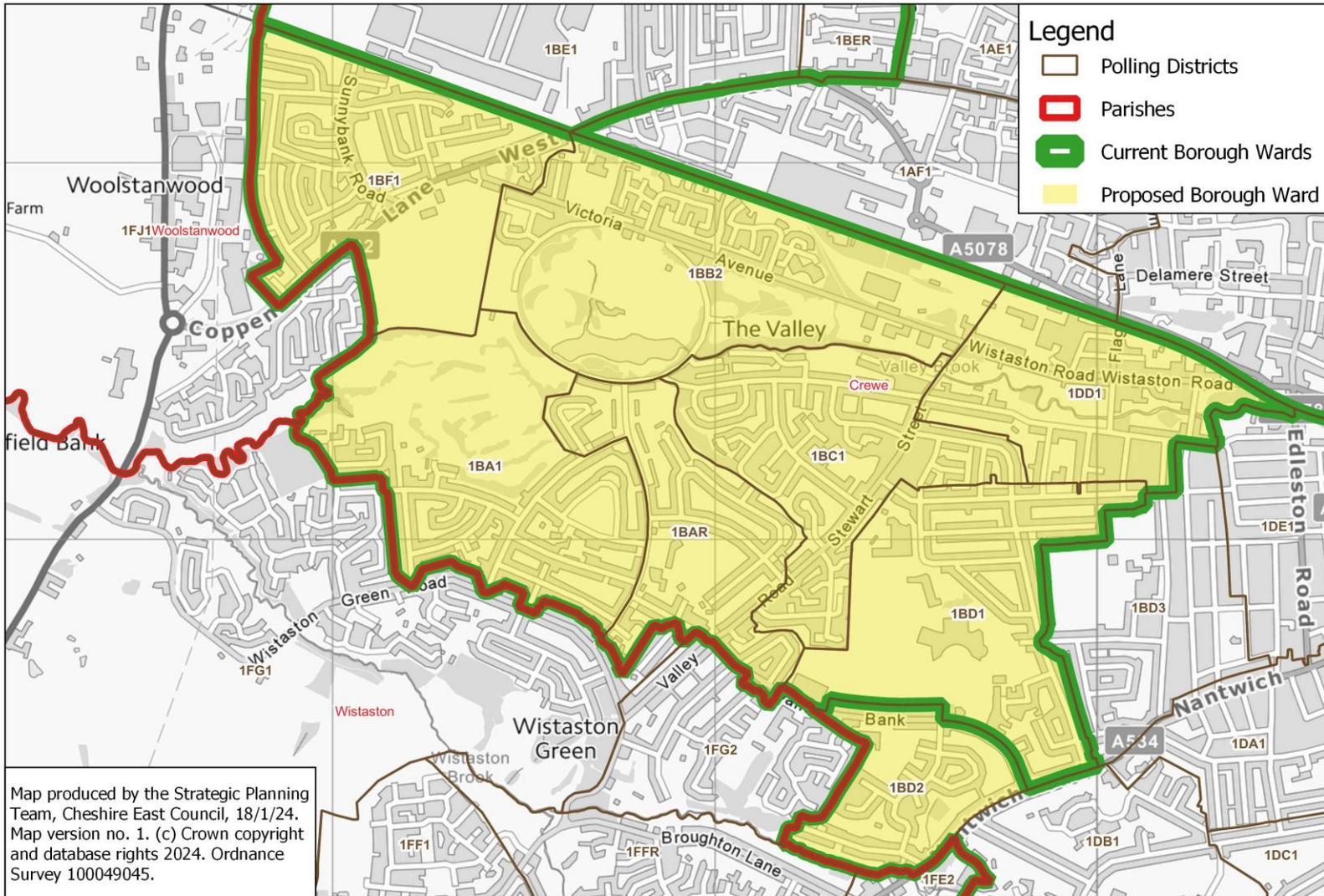
Crewe St Barnabas

Proposed Borough Ward: Crewe St Barnabas



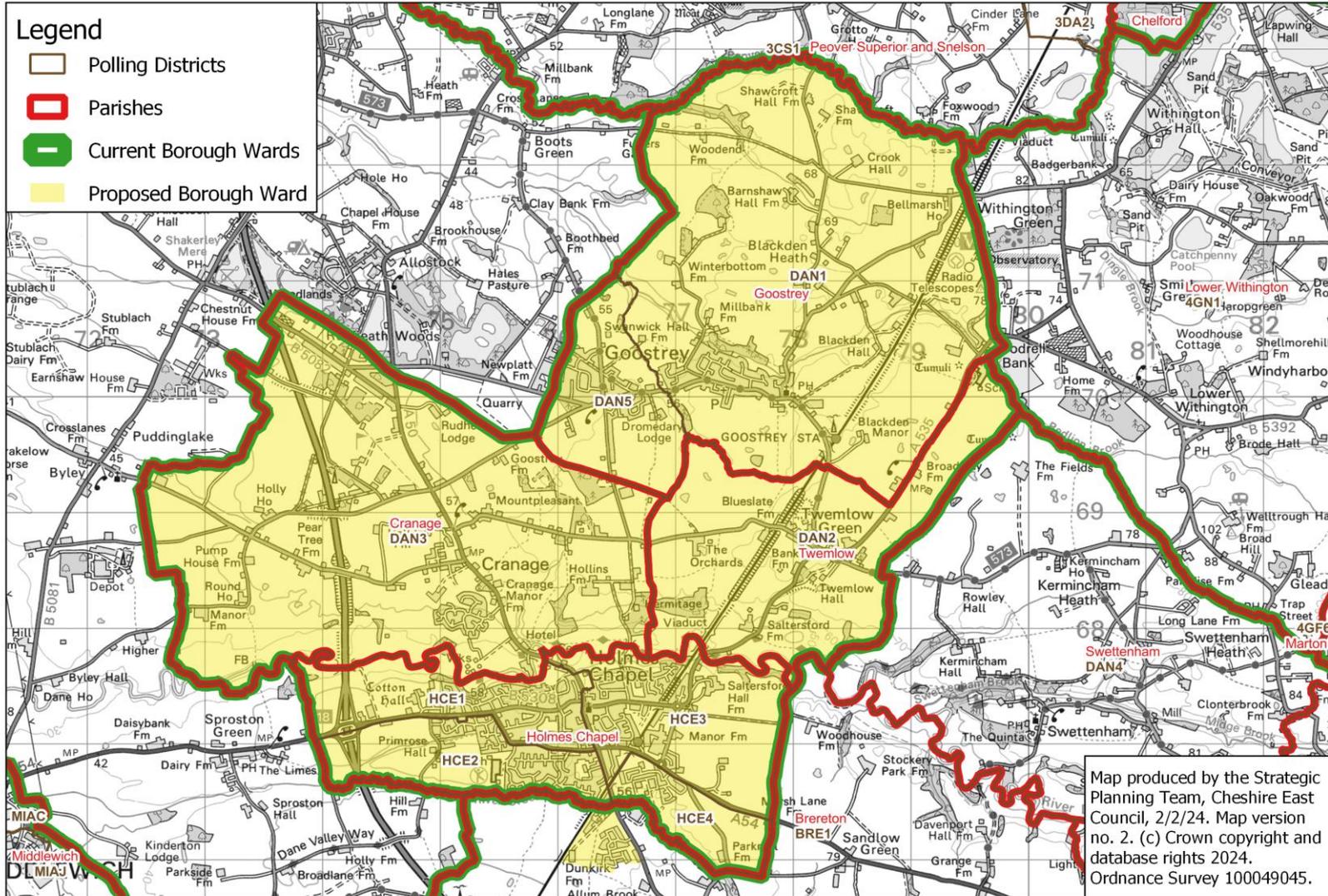
Crewe West

Proposed Borough Ward: Crewe West



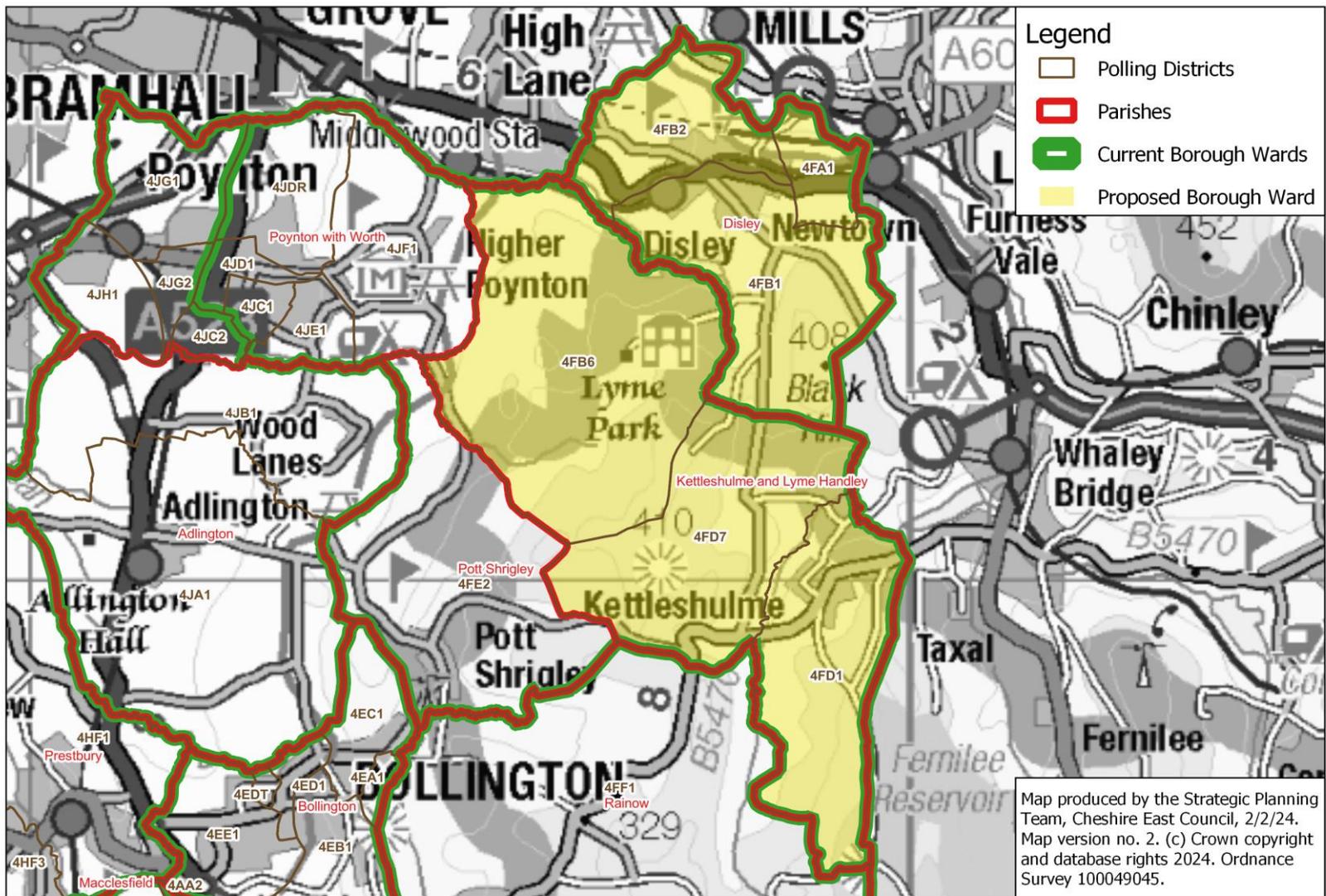
Dane Valley

Proposed Borough Ward: Dane Valley



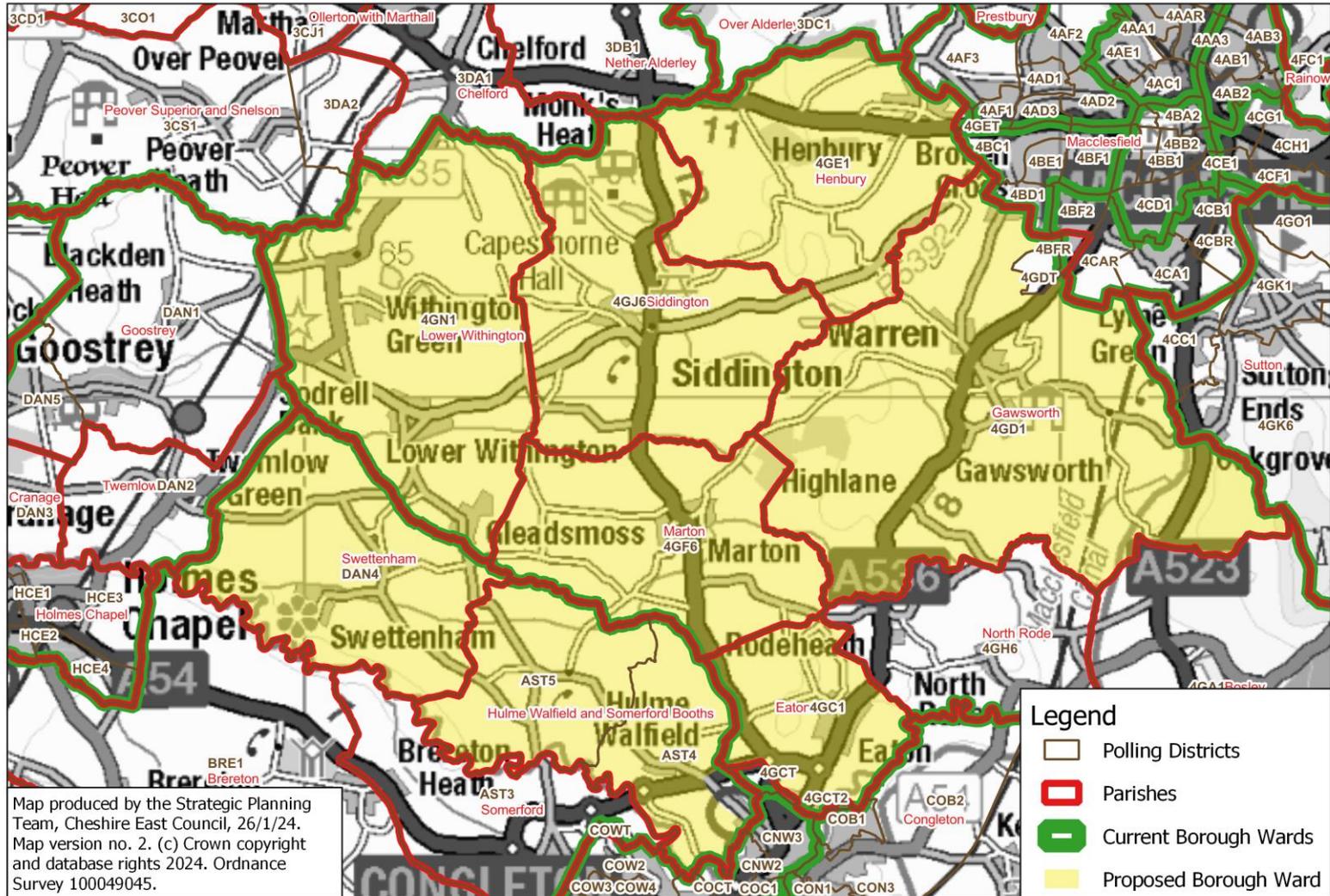
Disley

Proposed Borough Ward: Disley



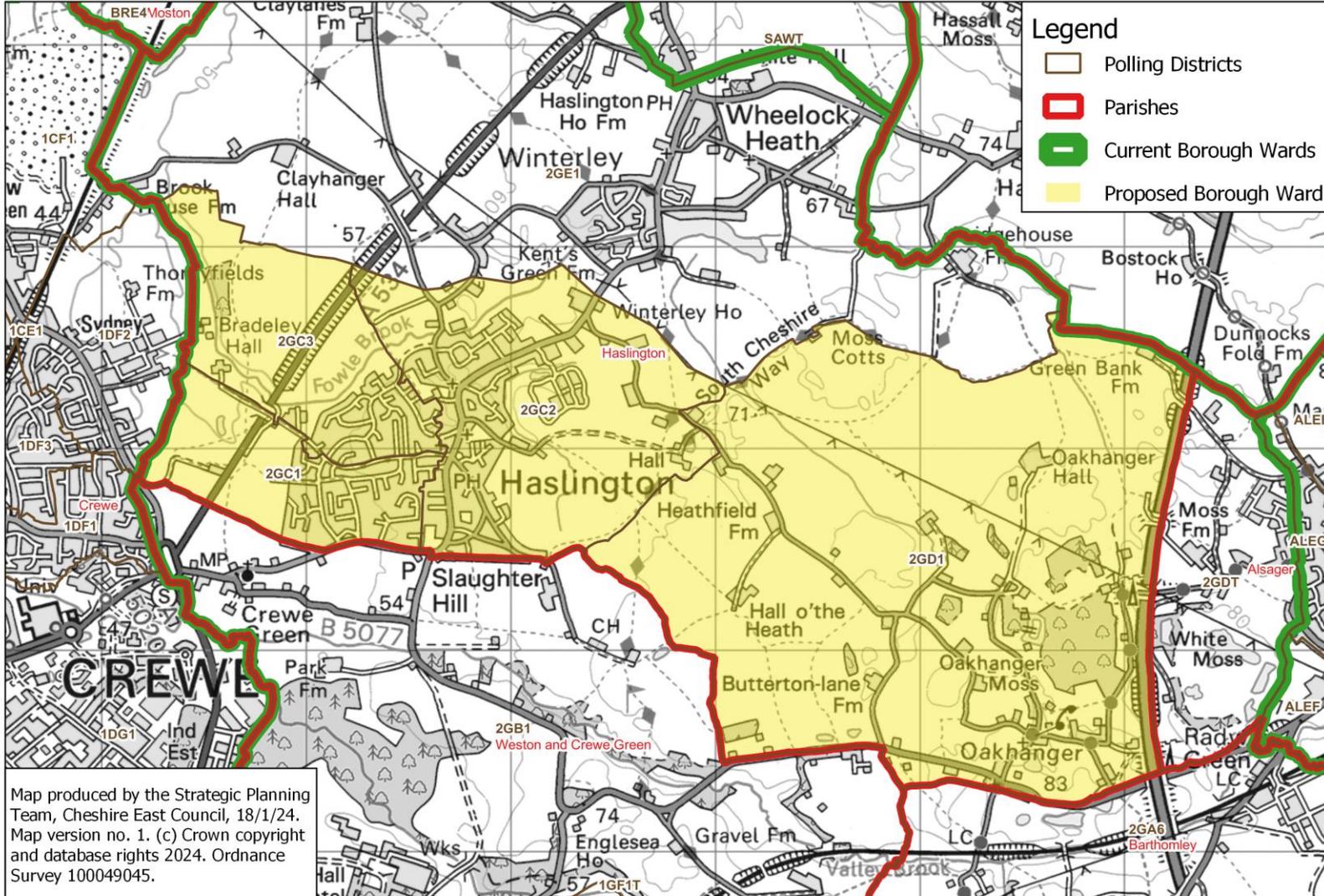
Gawsworth

Proposed Borough Ward: Gawsworth



Haslington

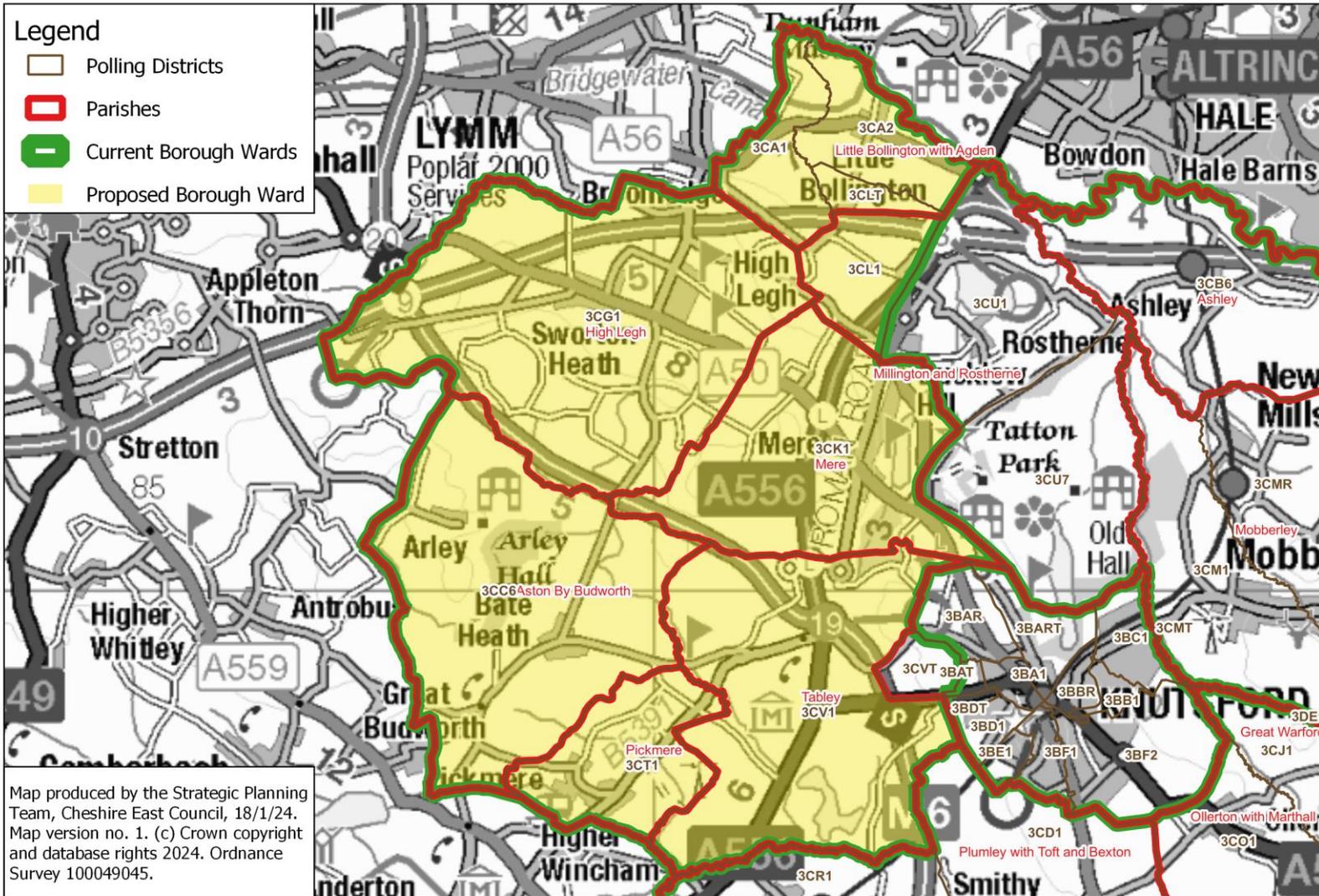
Proposed Borough Ward: Haslington



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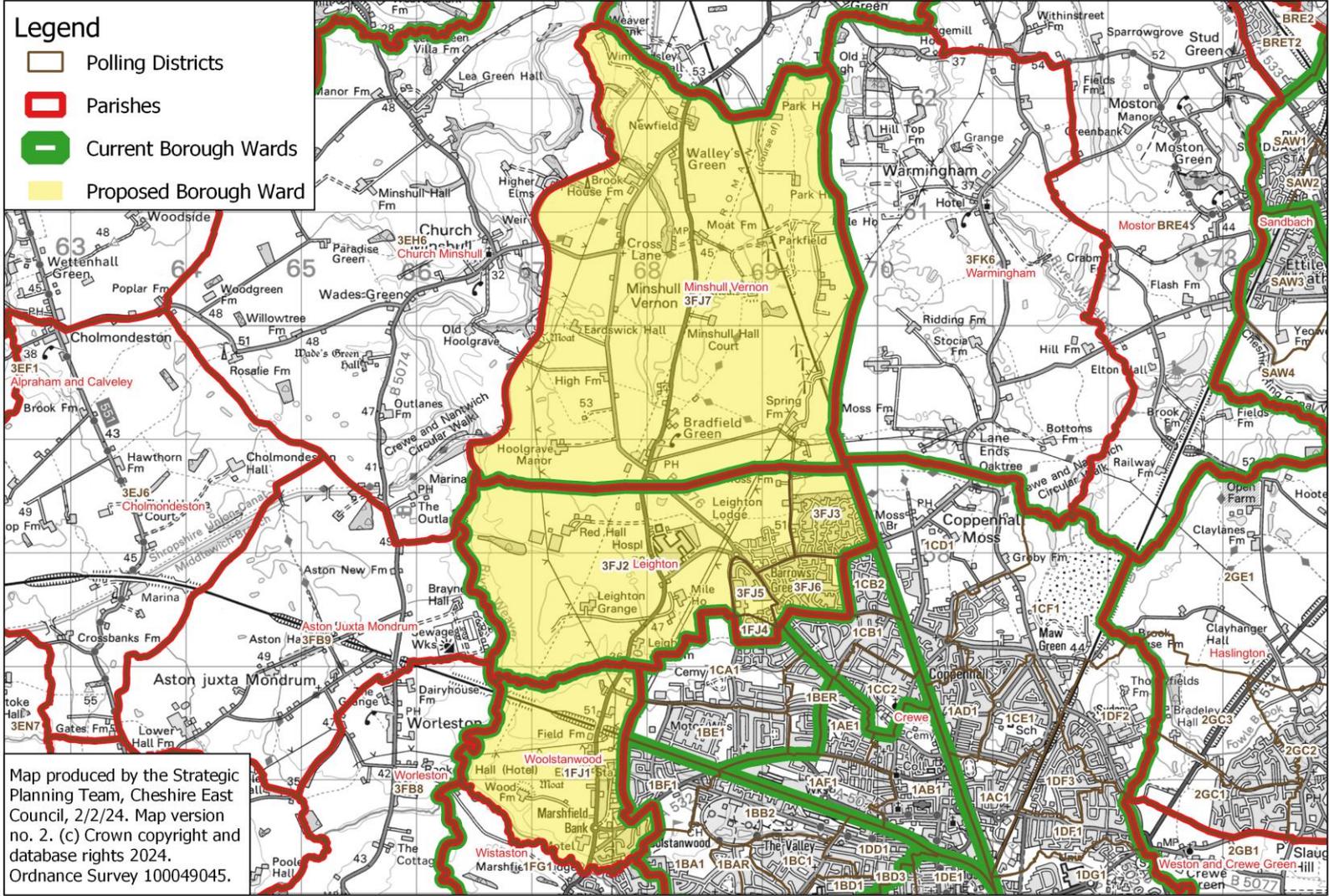
High Legh

Proposed Borough Ward: High Legh



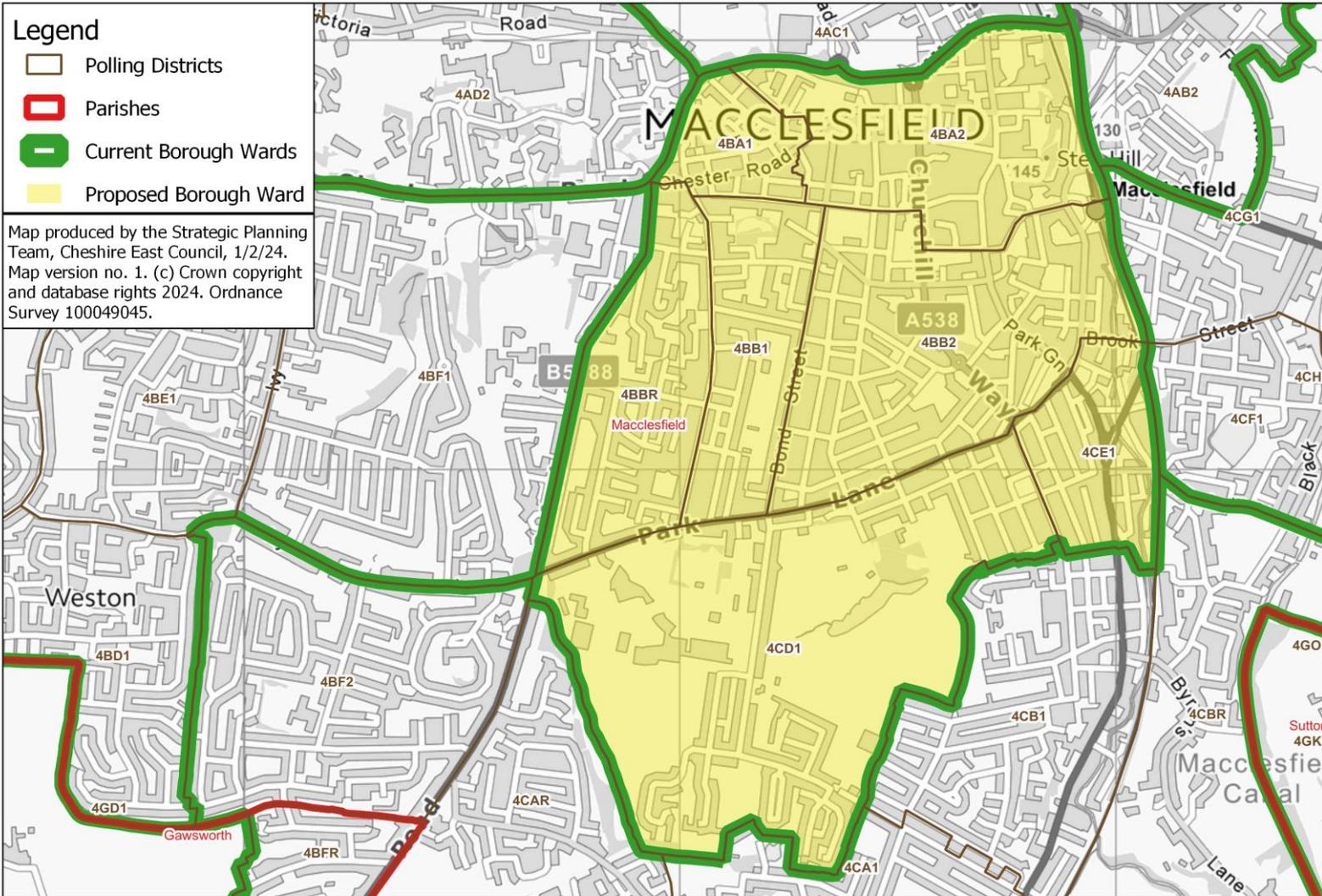
Leighton

Proposed Borough Ward: Leighton



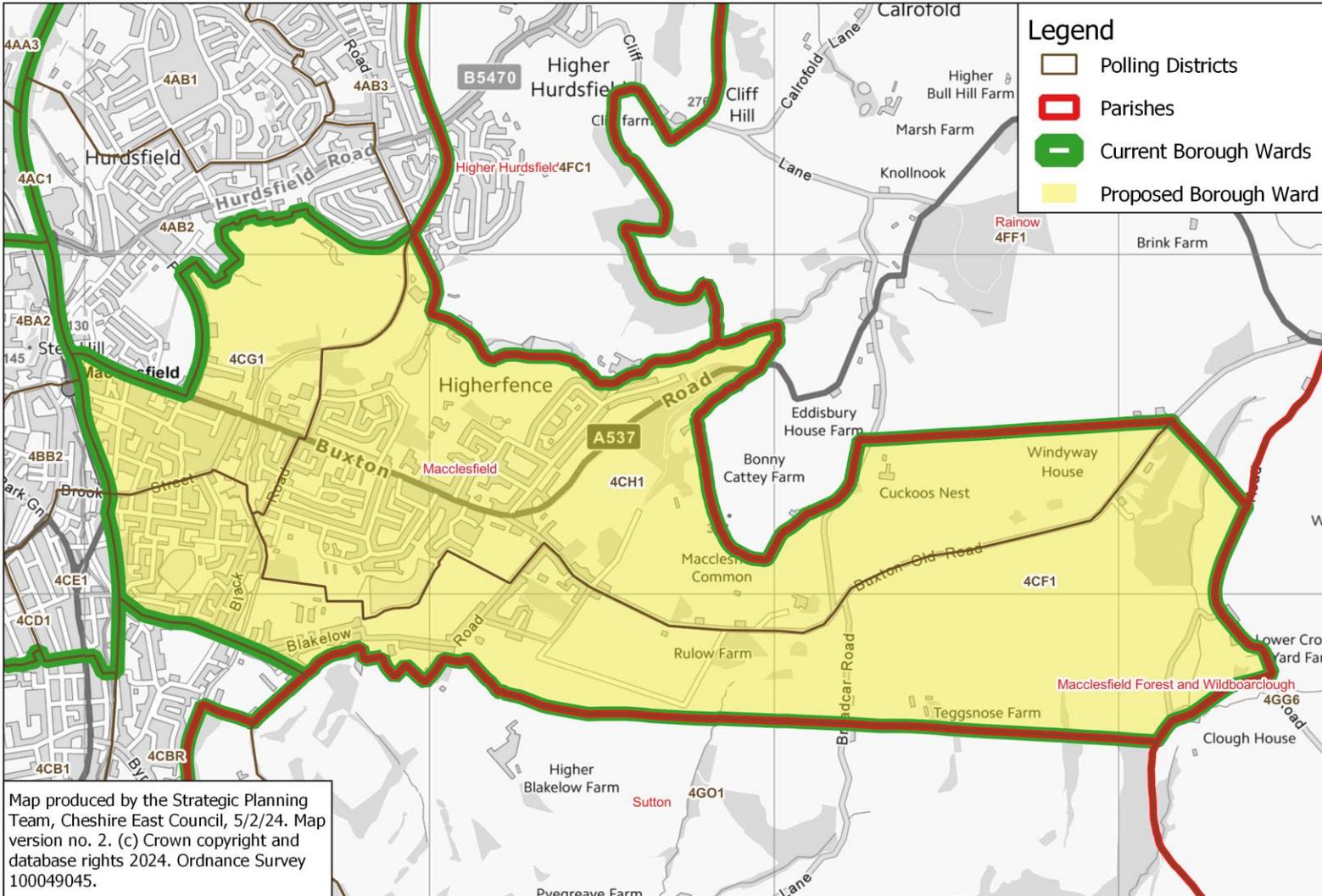
Macclesfield Central

Proposed Borough Ward: Macclesfield Central



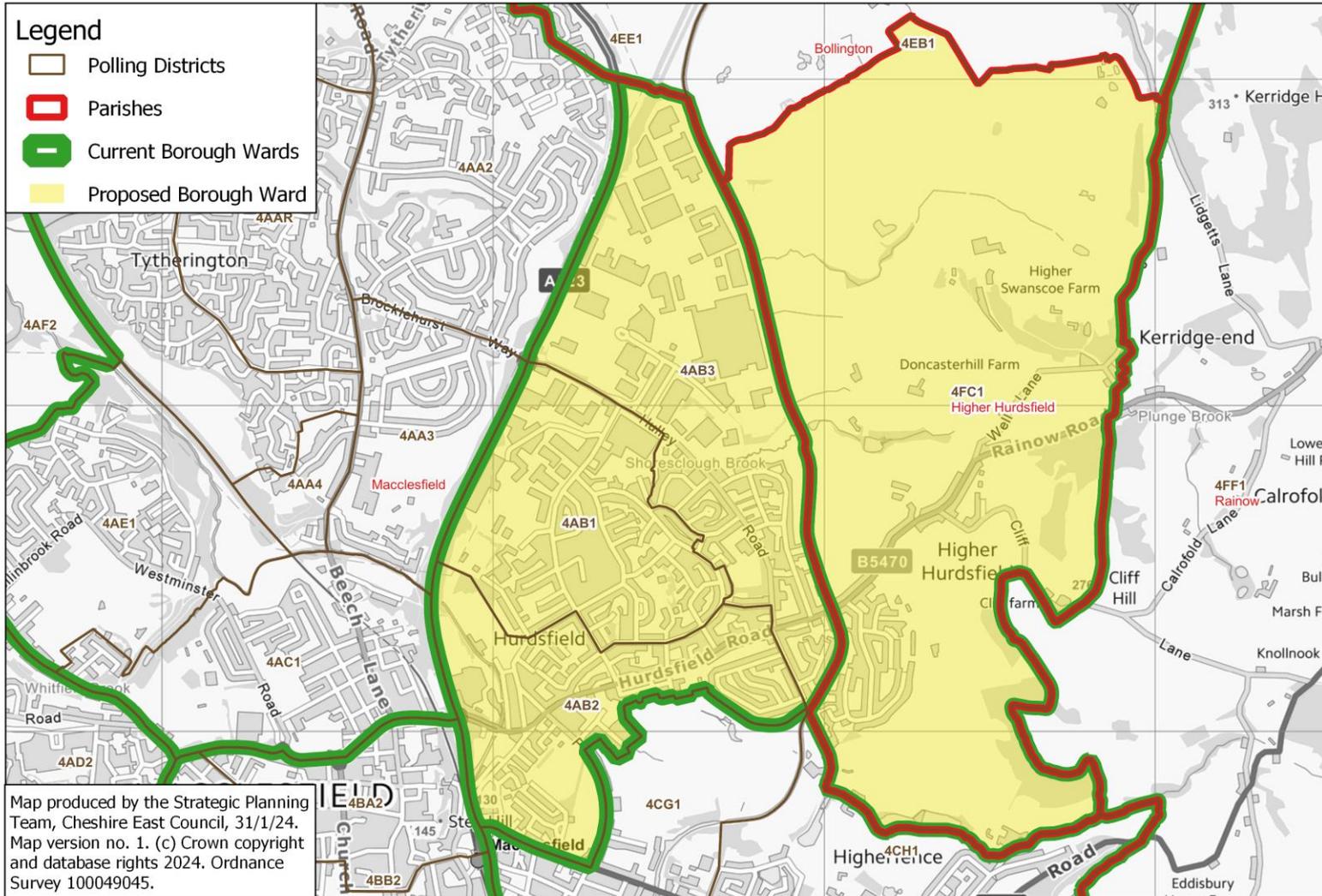
Macclesfield East

Proposed Borough Ward: Macclesfield East



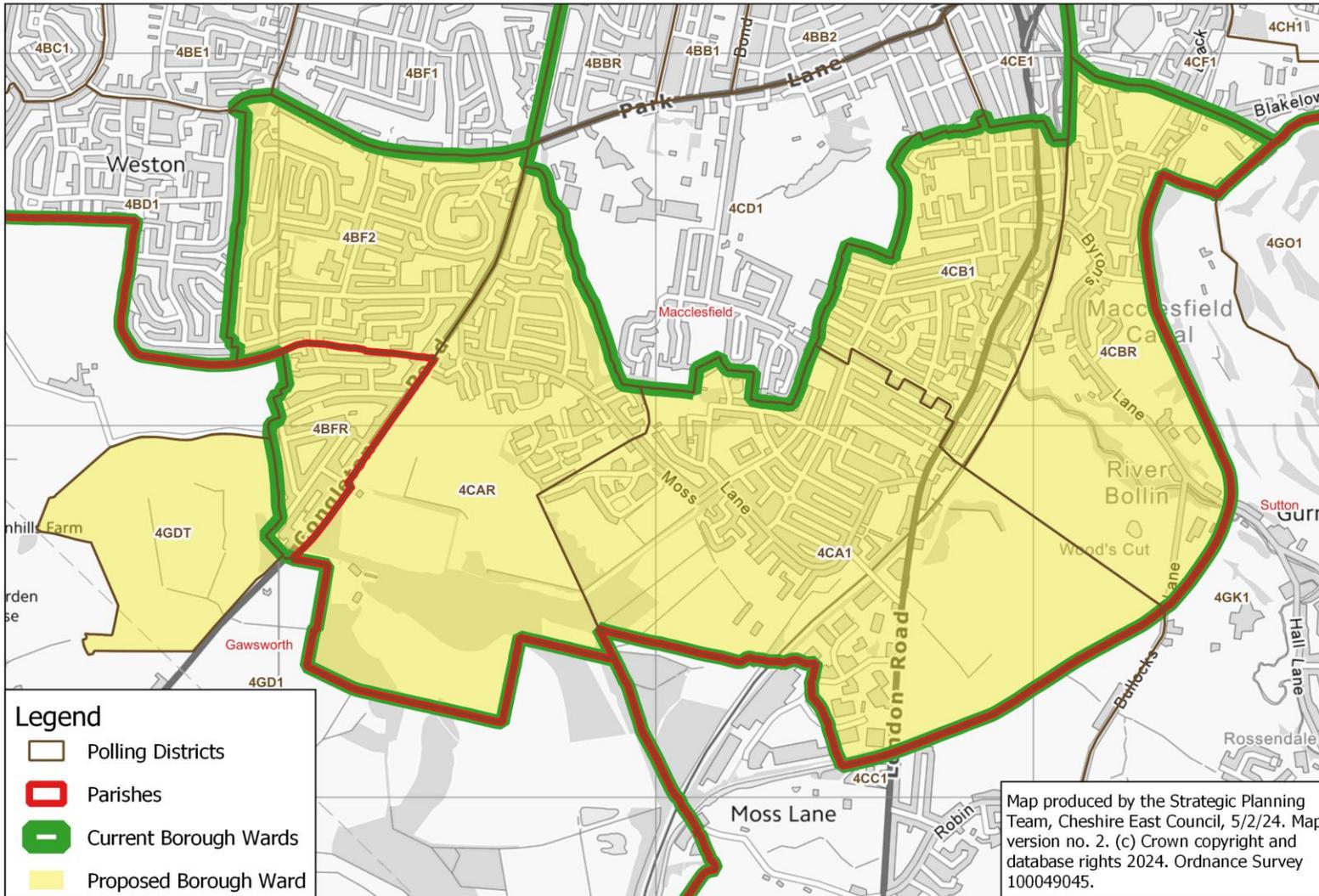
Macclesfield Hurdsfield

Proposed Borough Ward: Macclesfield Hurdsfield



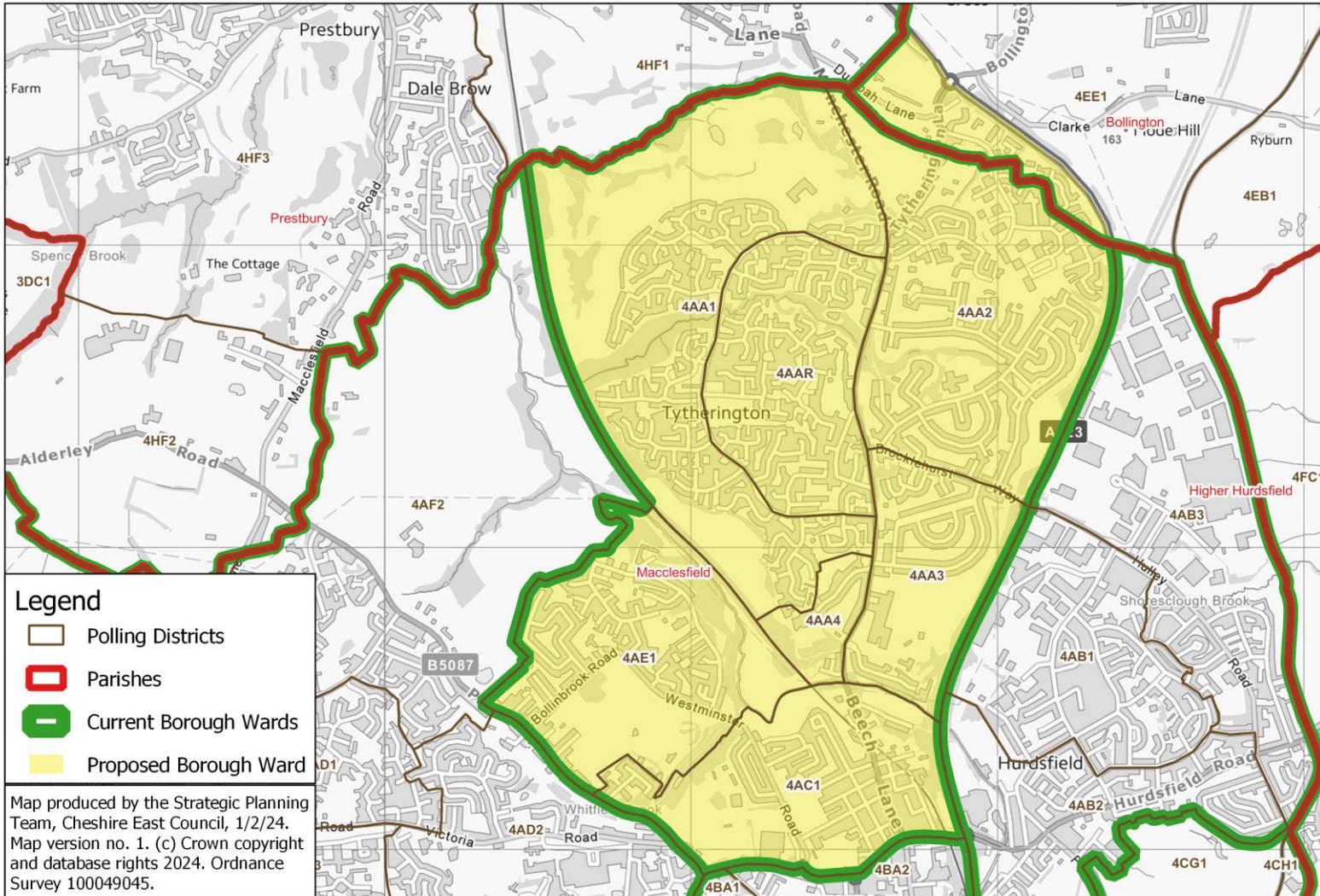
Macclesfield South

Proposed Borough Ward: Macclesfield South



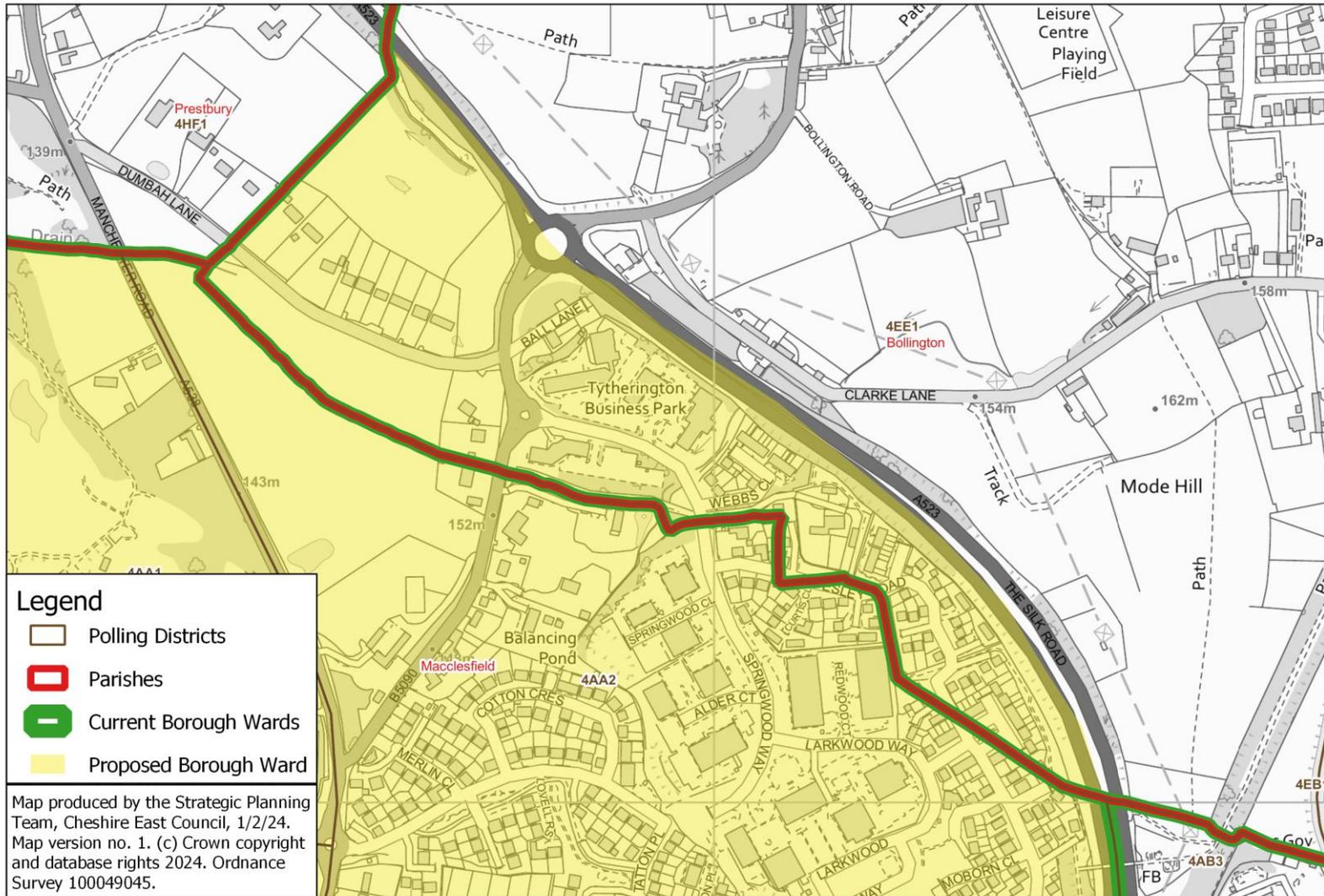
Macclesfield Tytherington

Proposed Borough Ward: Macclesfield Tytherington



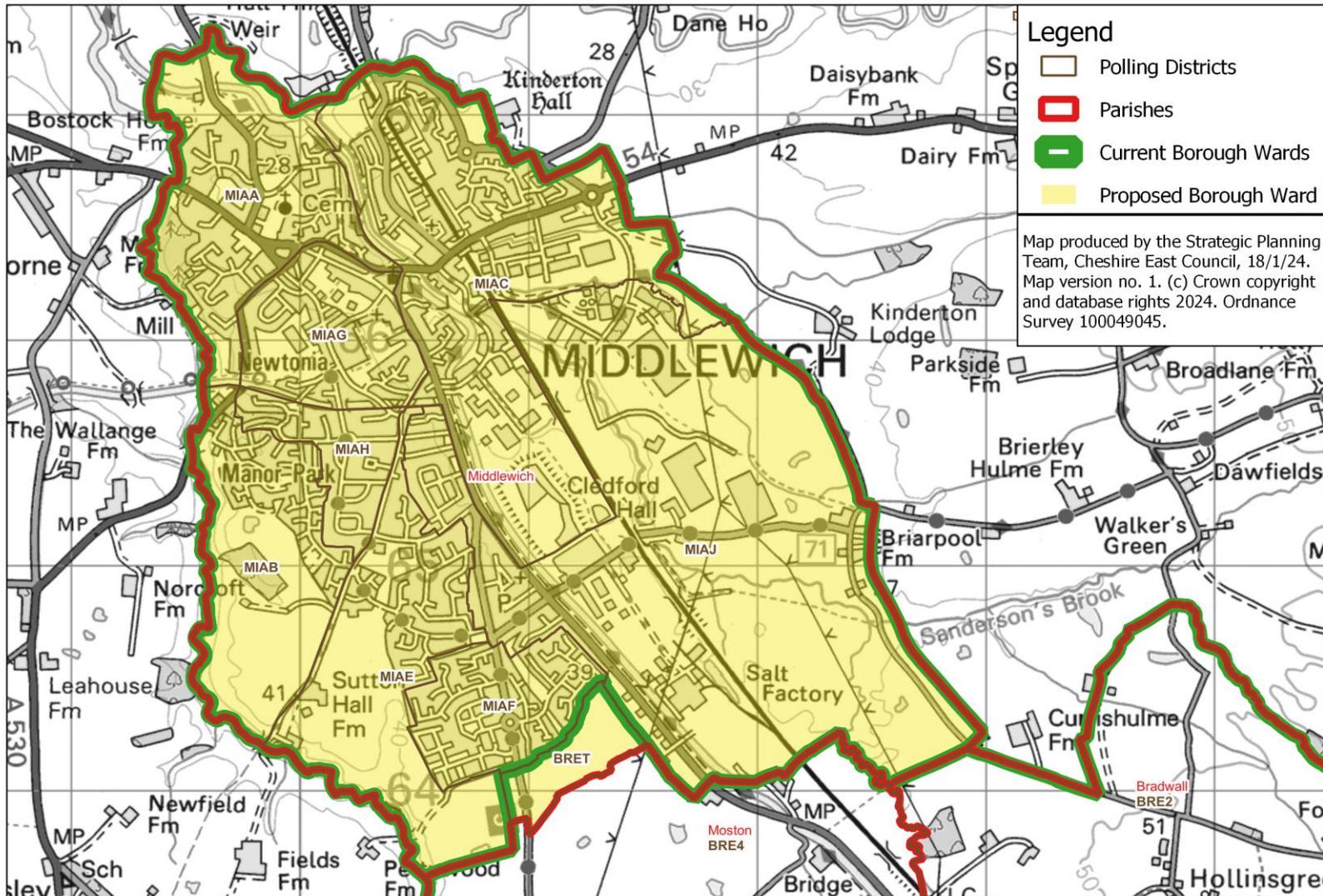
Macclesfield Tytherington: close-up of Springwood Way area

Proposed Borough Ward: Macclesfield Tytherington - close-up of area of 4EE1 to be included



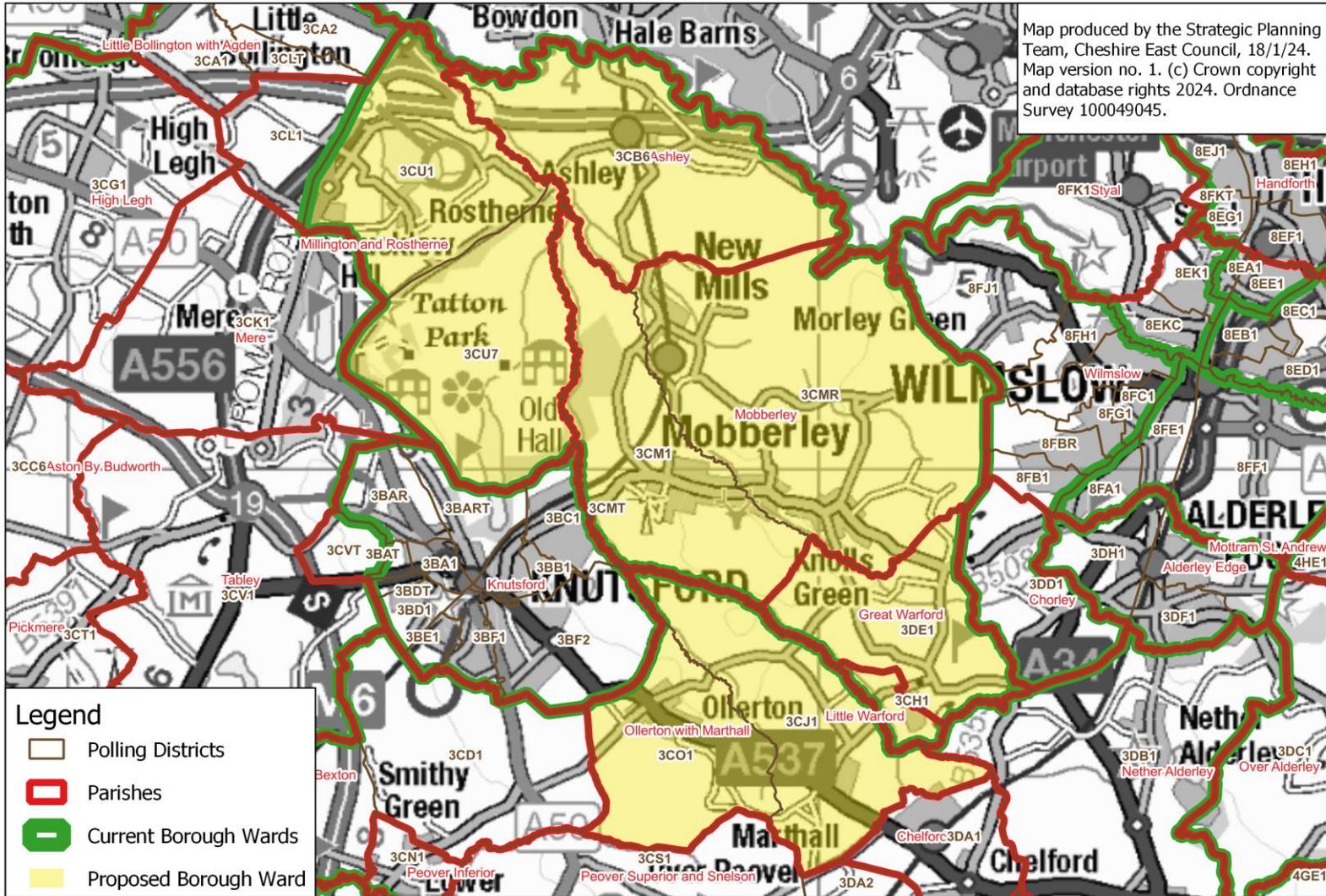
Middlewich

Proposed Borough Ward: Middlewich



Mobberley

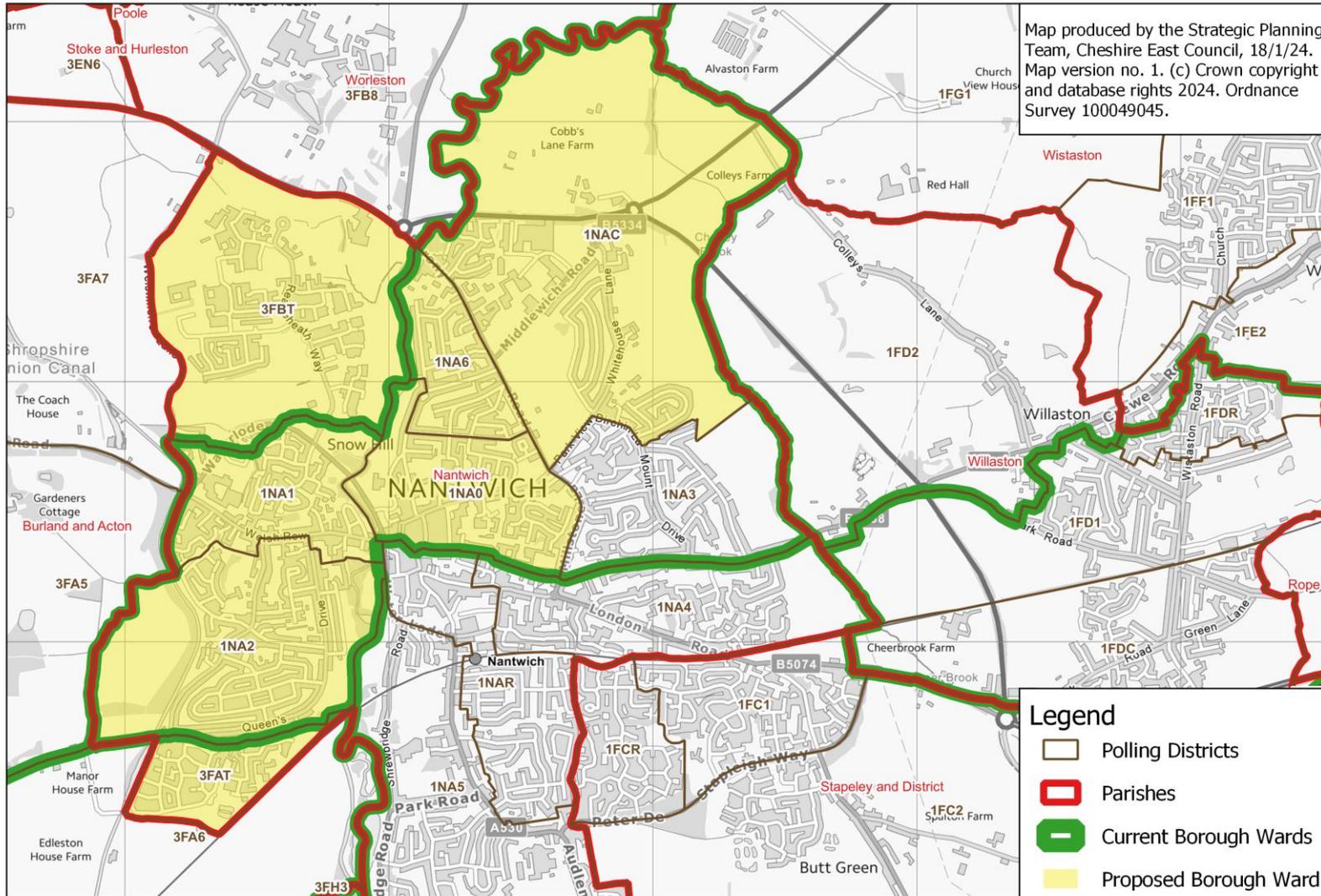
Proposed Borough Ward: Mobberley



Nantwich North & West

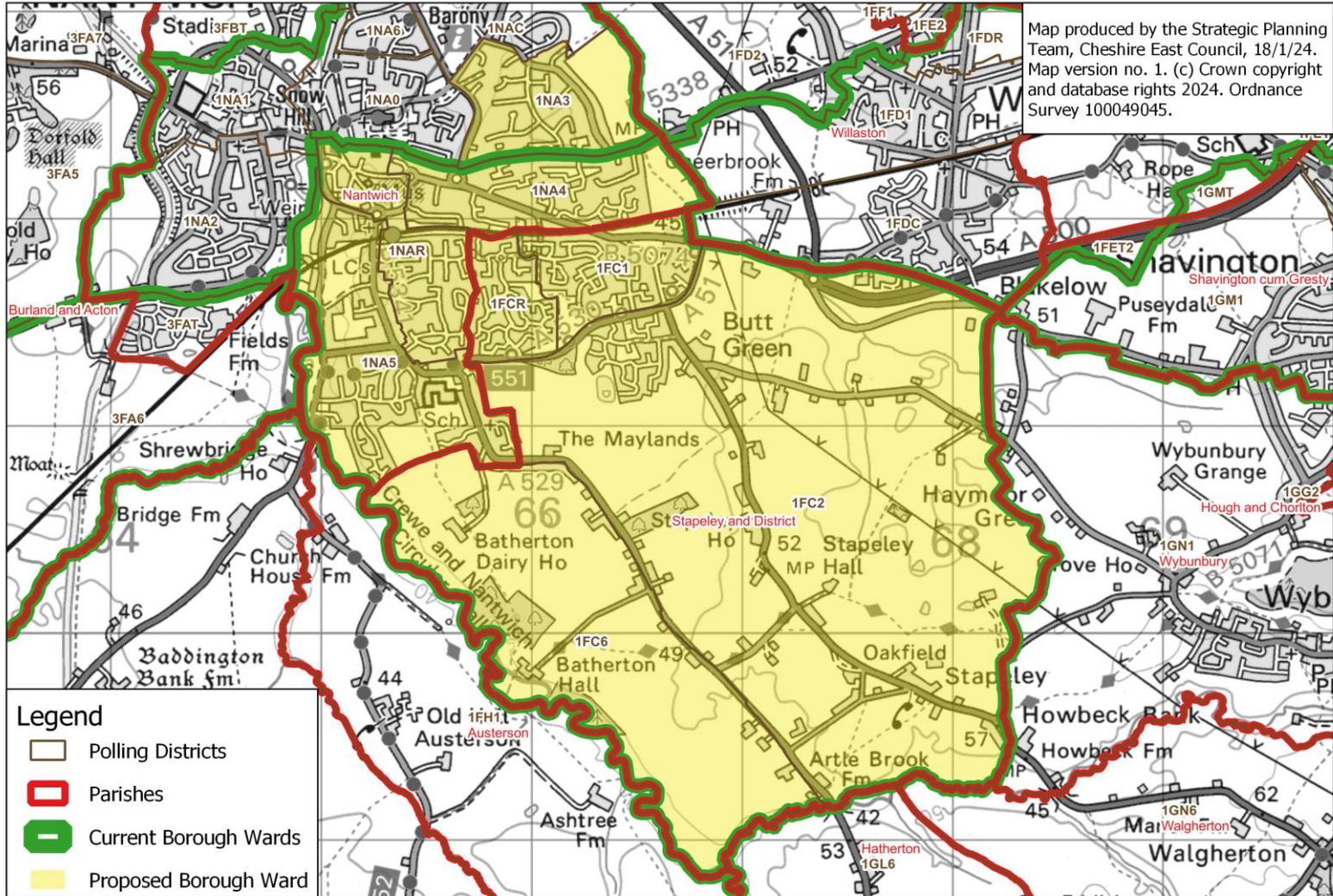
Proposed Borough Ward: Nantwich North & West

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Nantwich South & Stapeley

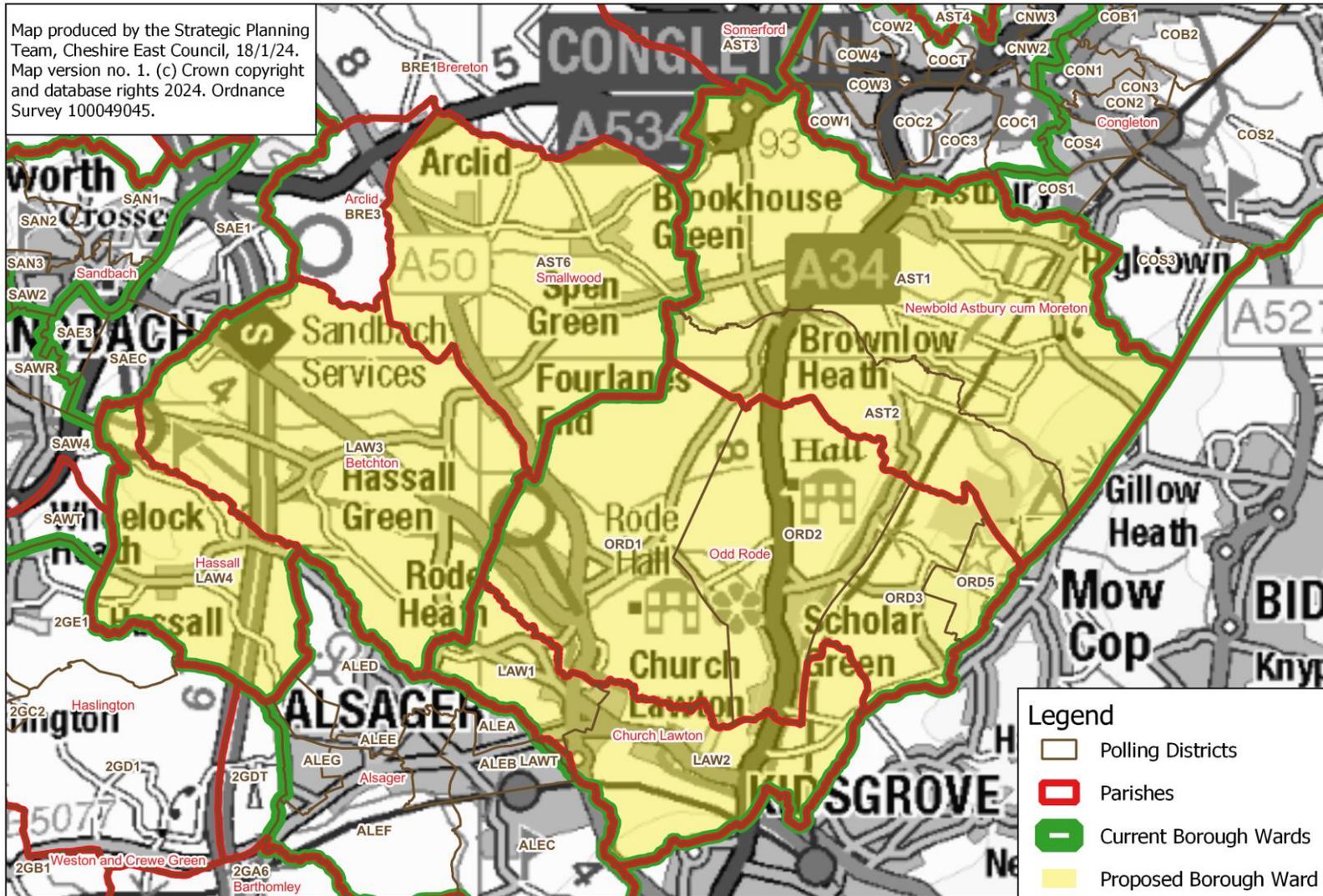
Proposed Borough Ward: Nantwich South & Stapeley



Odd Rode

Proposed Borough Ward: Odd Rode

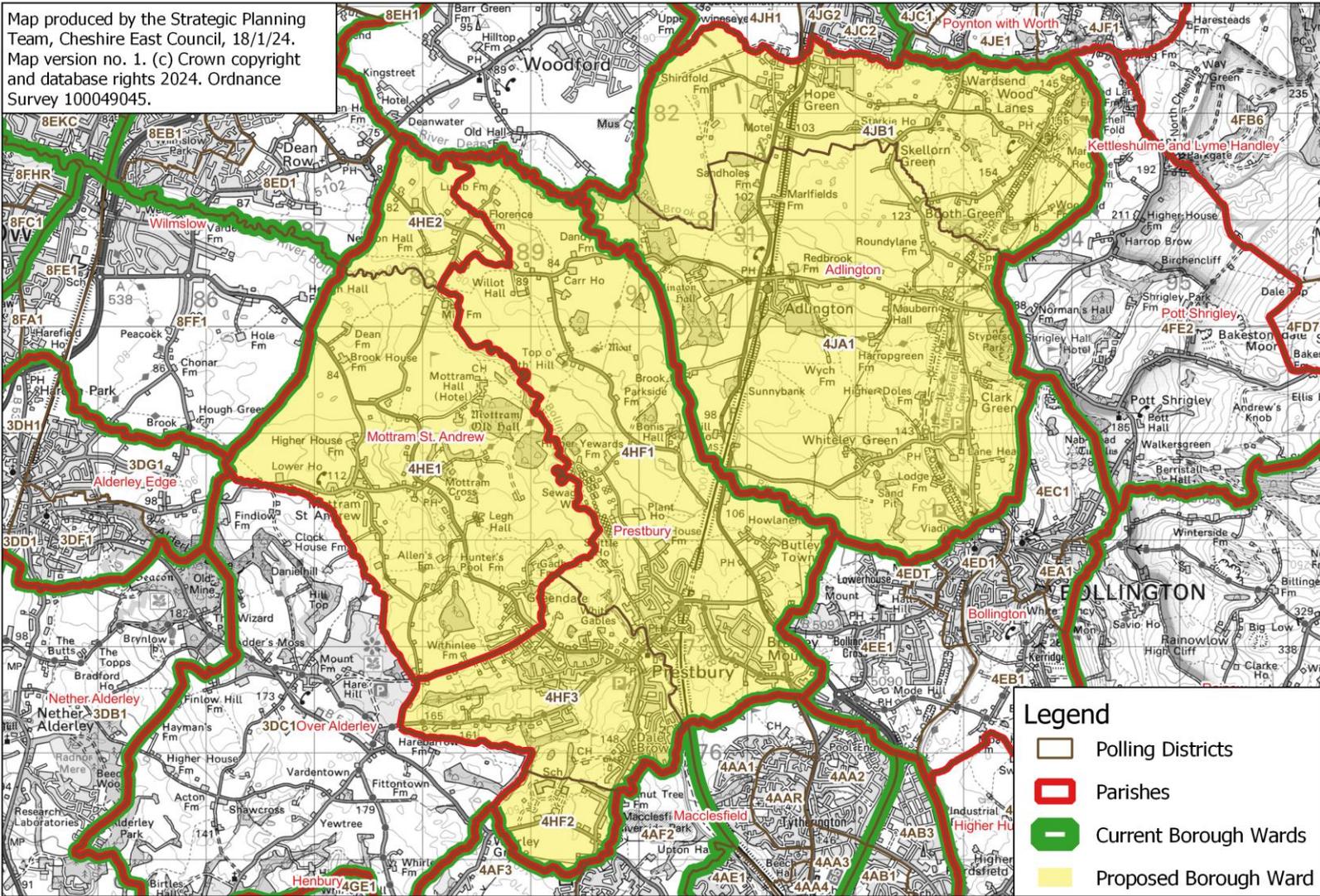
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Prestbury

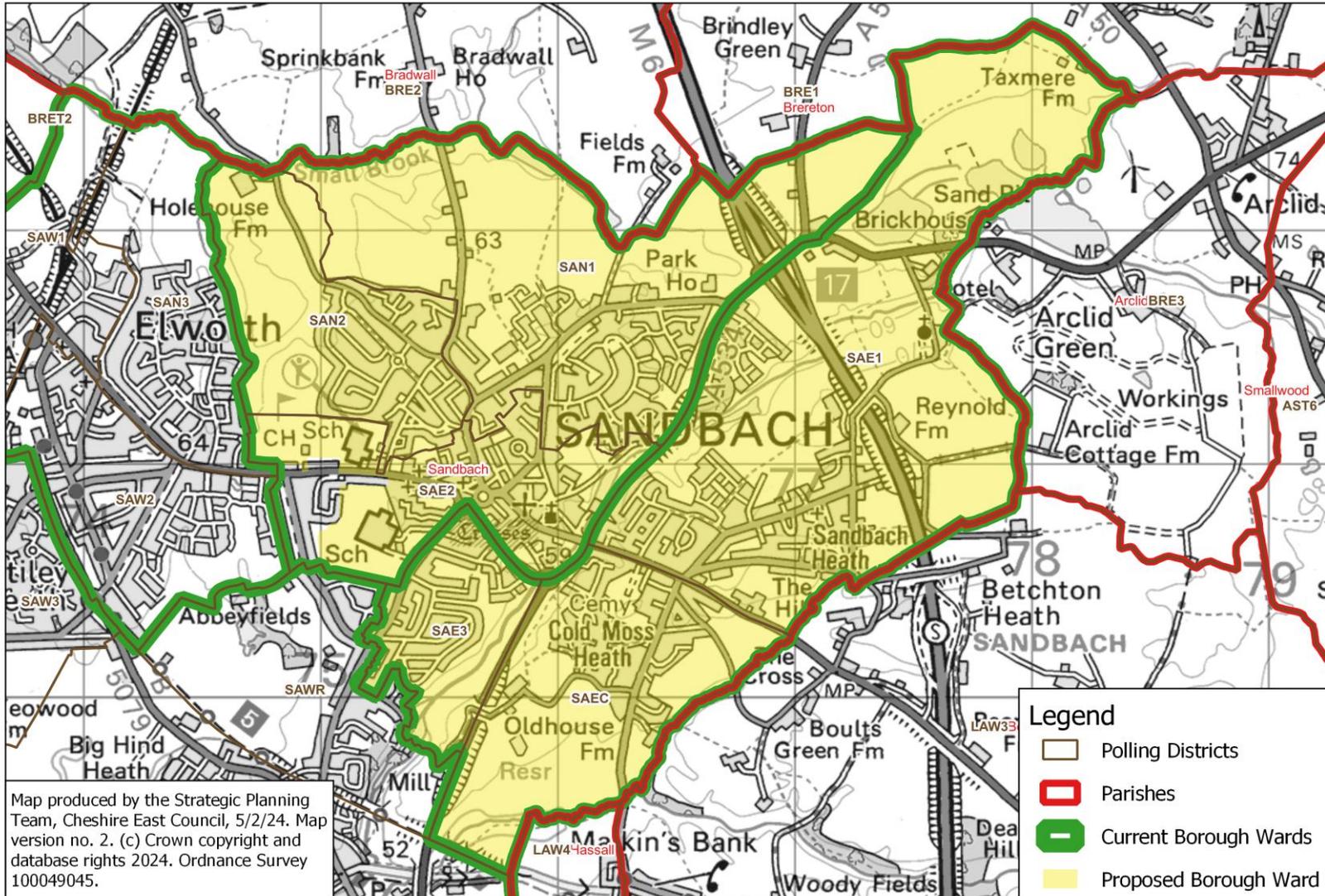
Proposed Borough Ward: Prestbury

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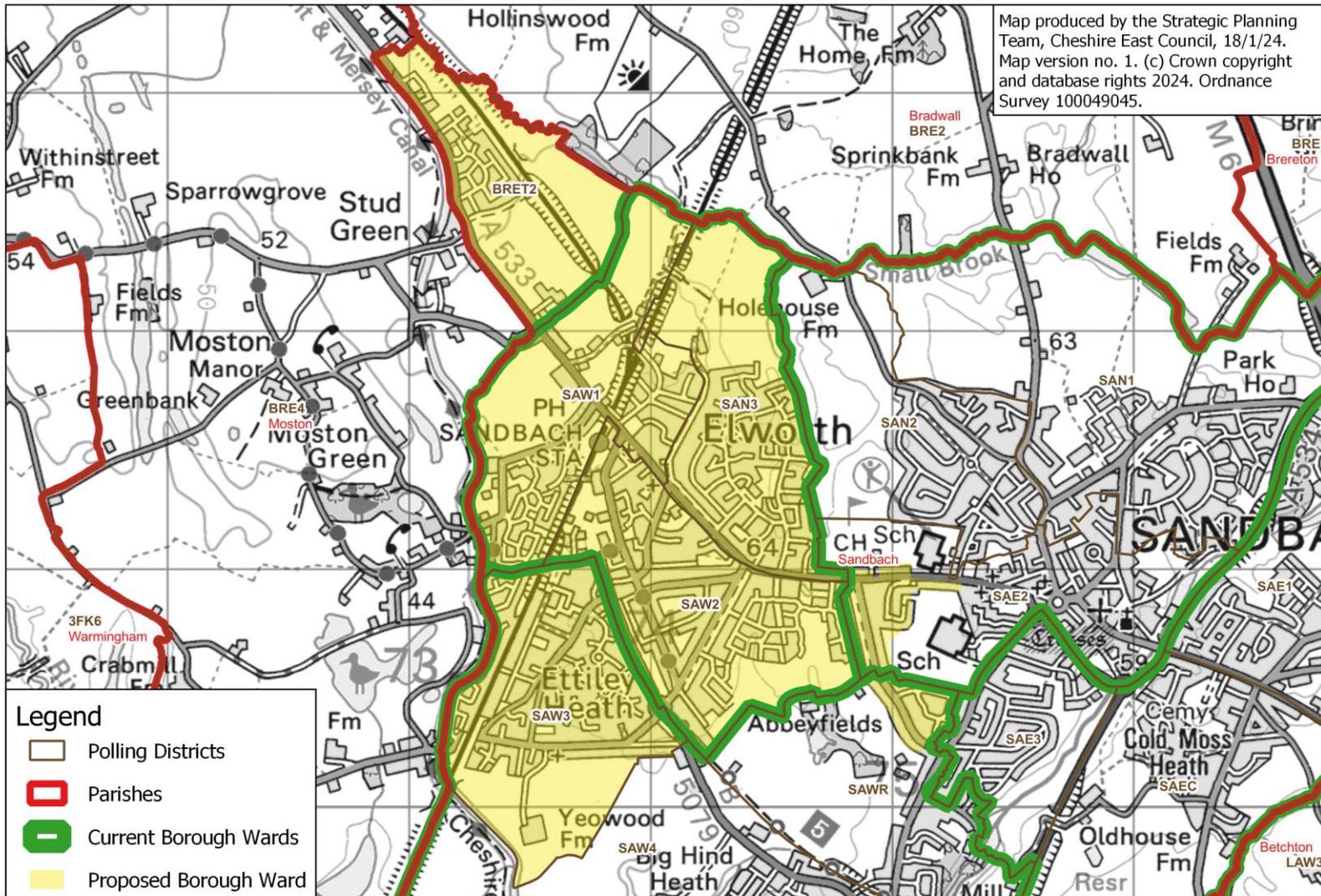
Sandbach East & Central

Proposed Borough Ward: Sandbach East & Central



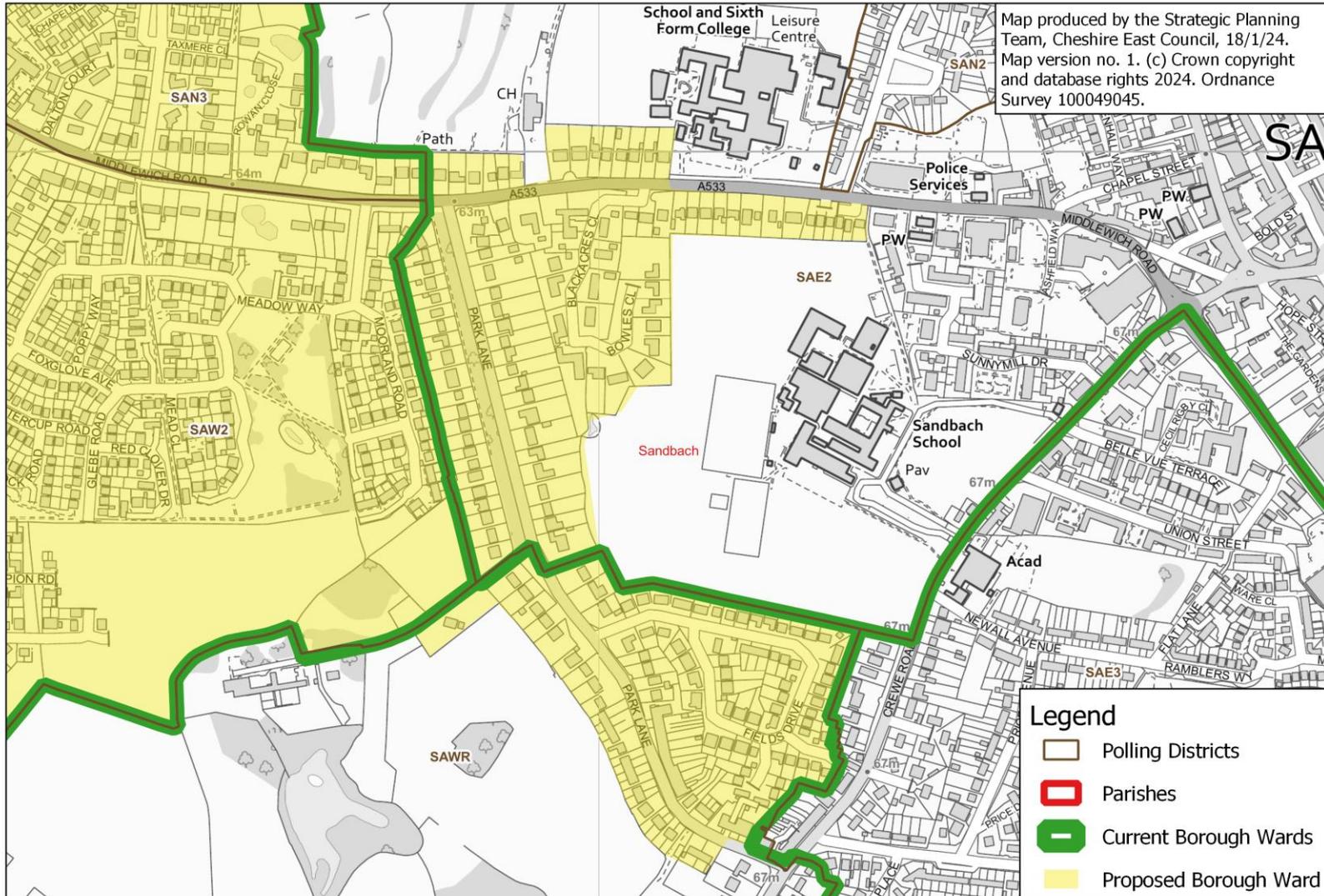
Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath

Proposed Borough Ward: Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath



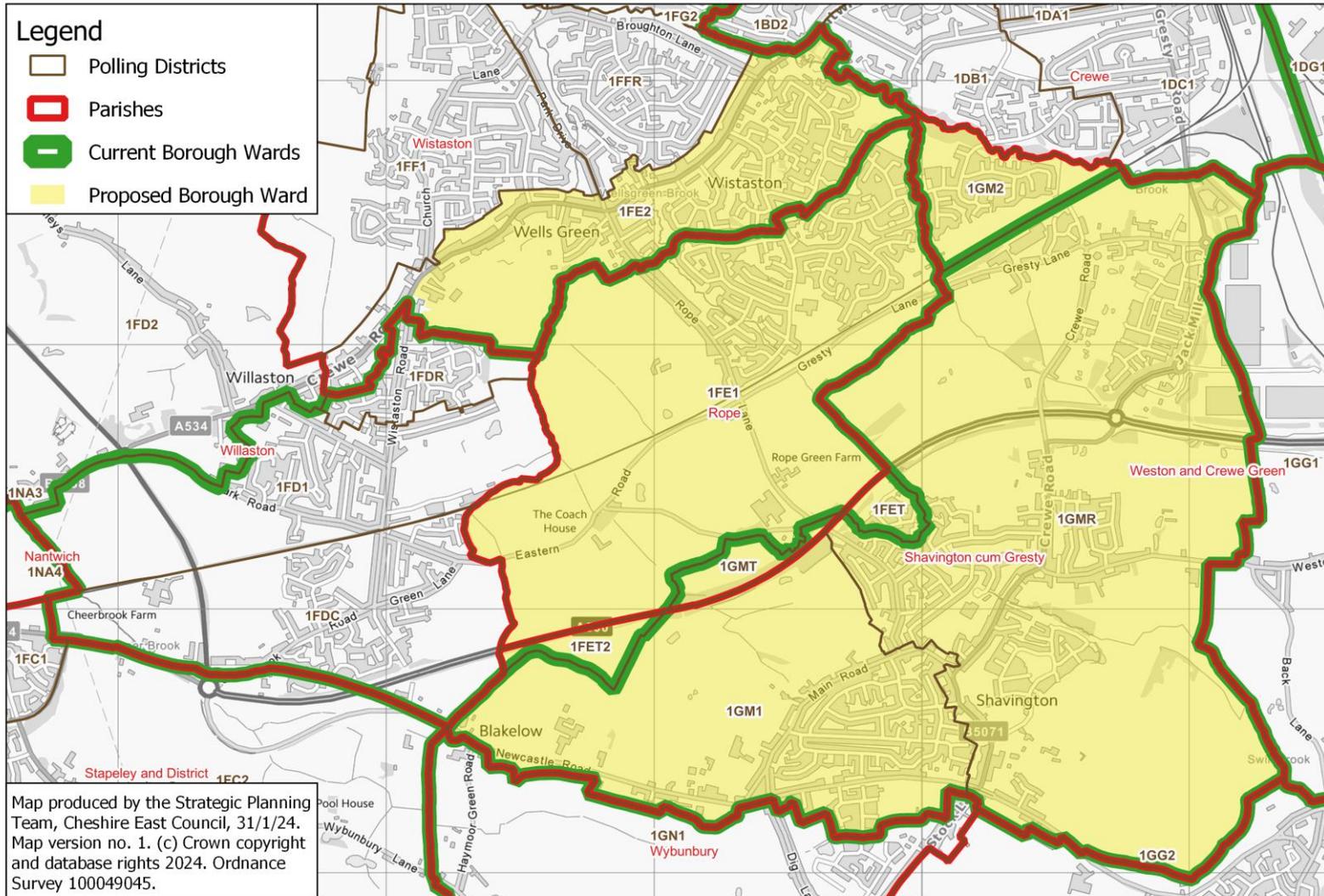
Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath: close-up of Park Lane area

Proposed Borough Ward: Sandbach Elworth & Ettiley Heath - close-up of areas of SAE2 and SAWR to be included



Shavington

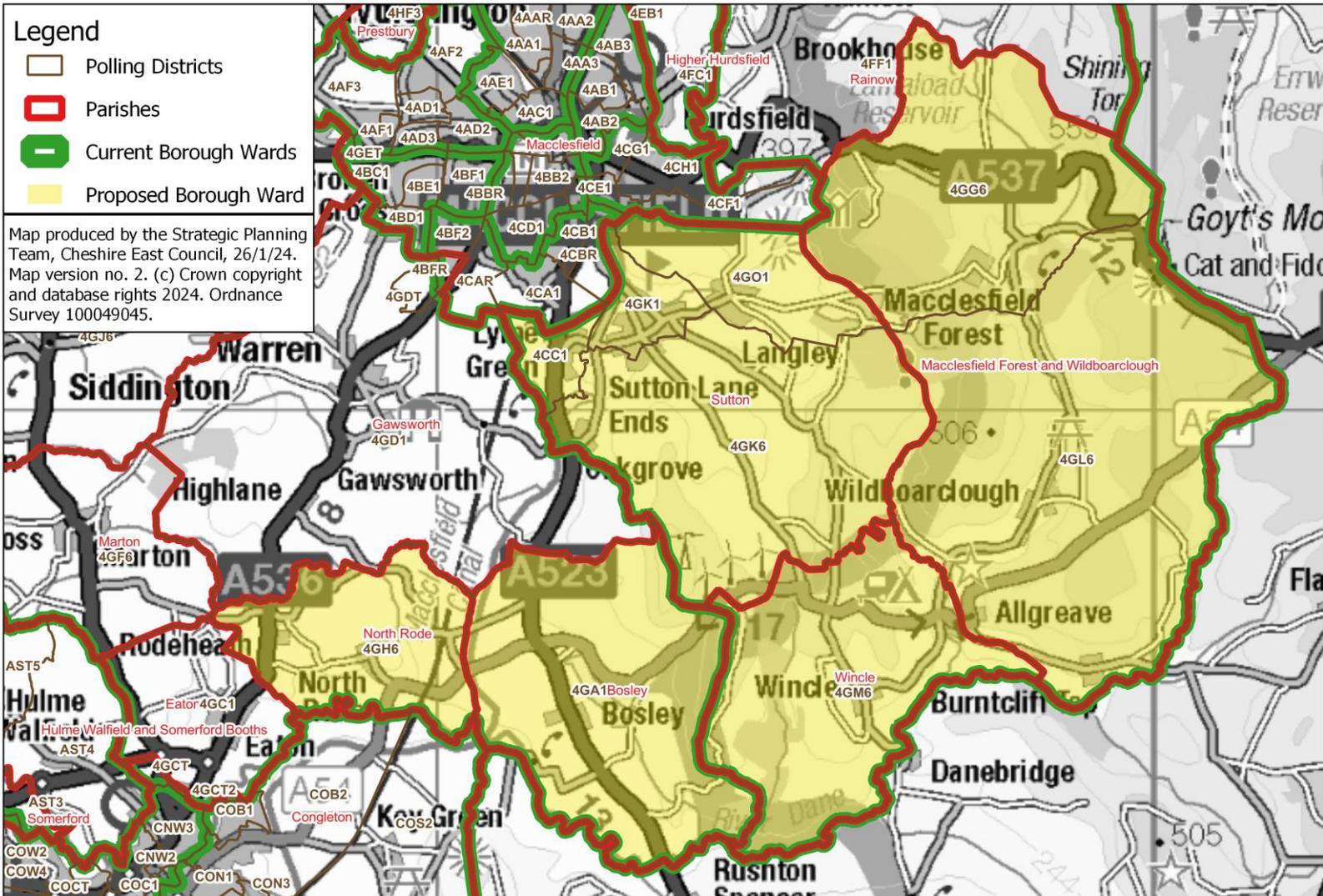
Proposed Borough Ward: Shavington



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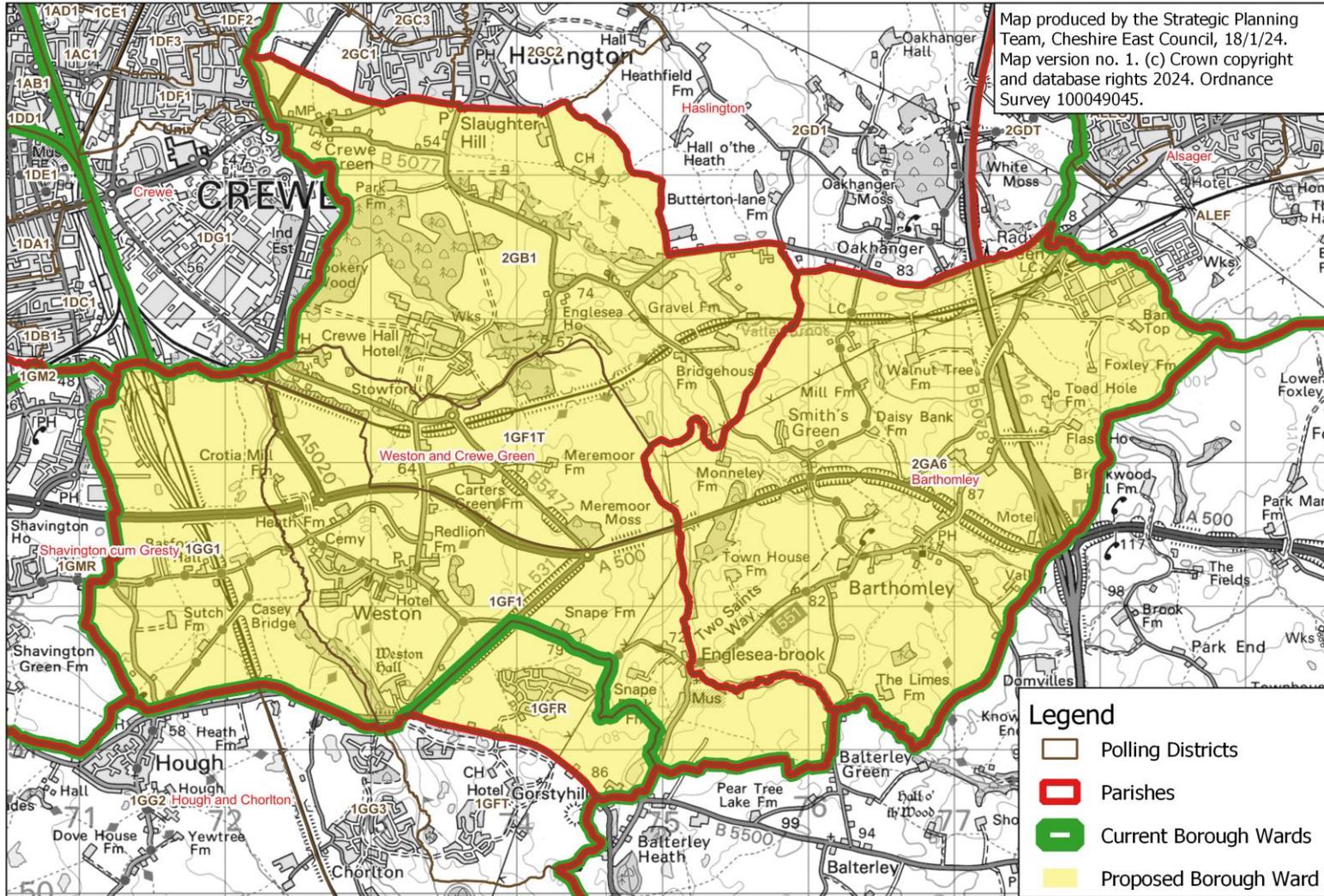
Sutton

Proposed Borough Ward: Sutton



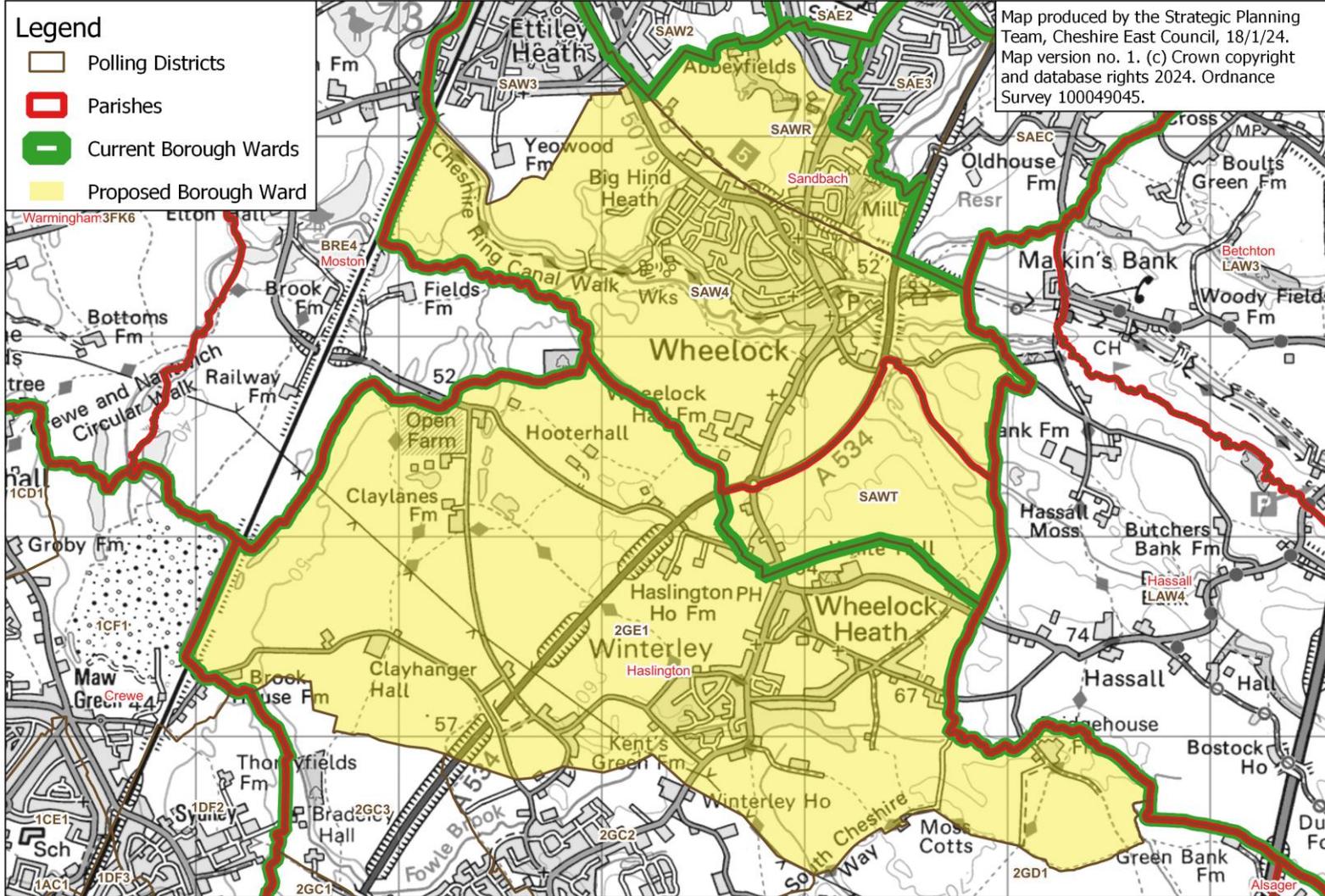
Weston

Proposed Borough Ward: Weston



Wheelock & Winterley

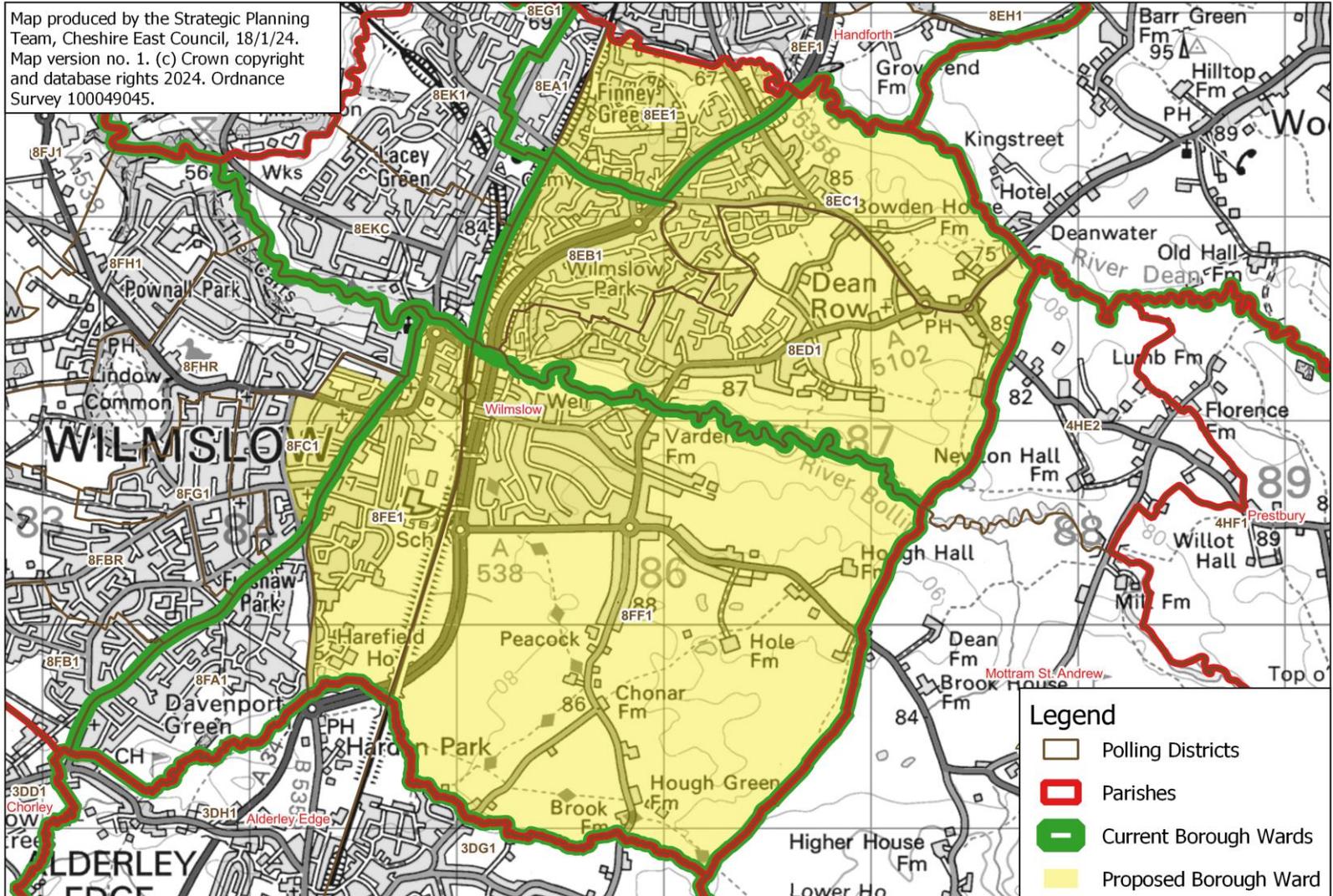
Proposed Borough Ward: Wheelock & Winterley



Wilmslow East

Proposed Borough Ward: Wilmslow East

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Wilmslow East: close-up of town centre area

Proposed Borough Ward: Wilmslow East - close-up of area of 8FC1 to be included

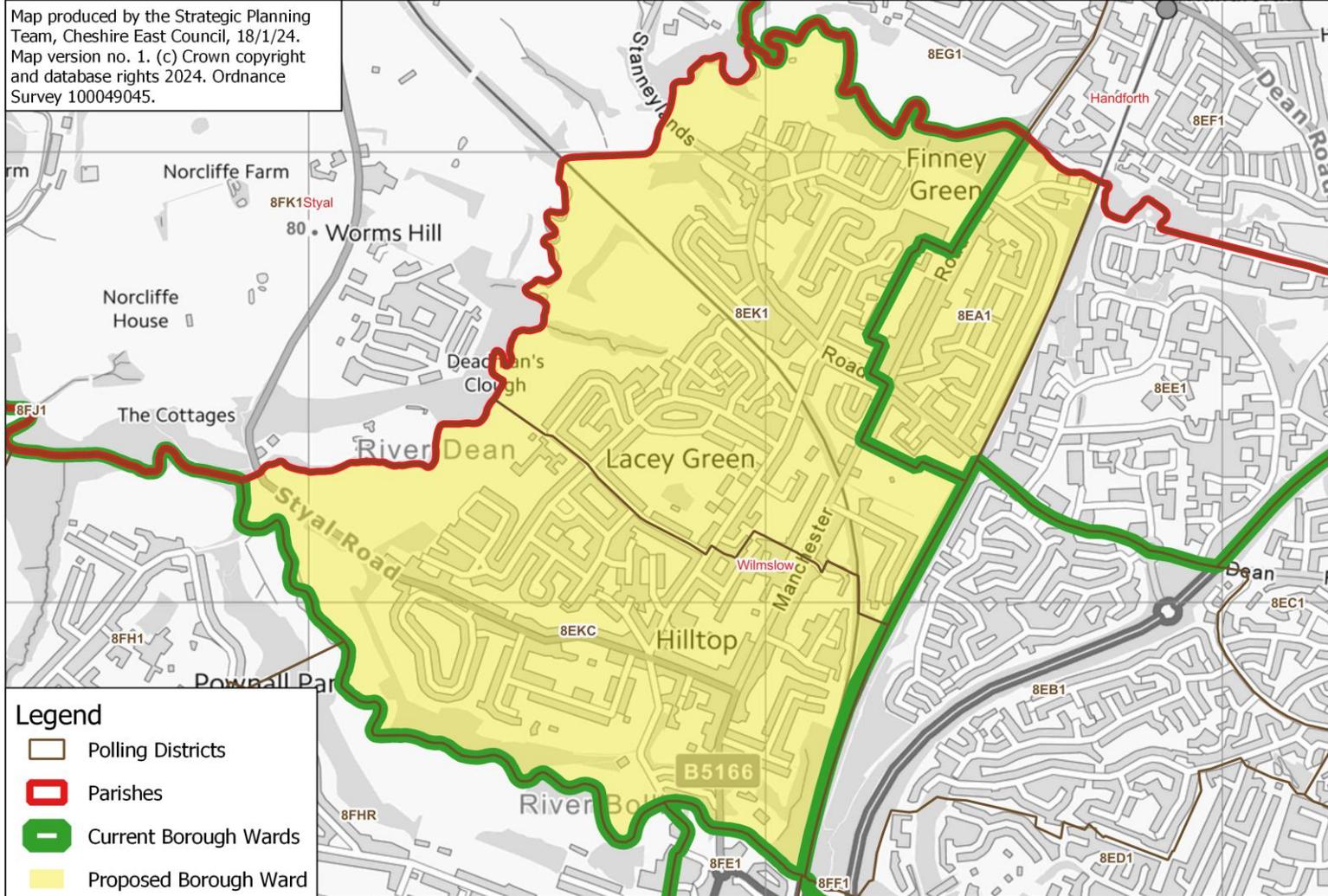
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Wilmslow Lacey Green

Proposed Borough Ward: Wilmslow Lacey Green

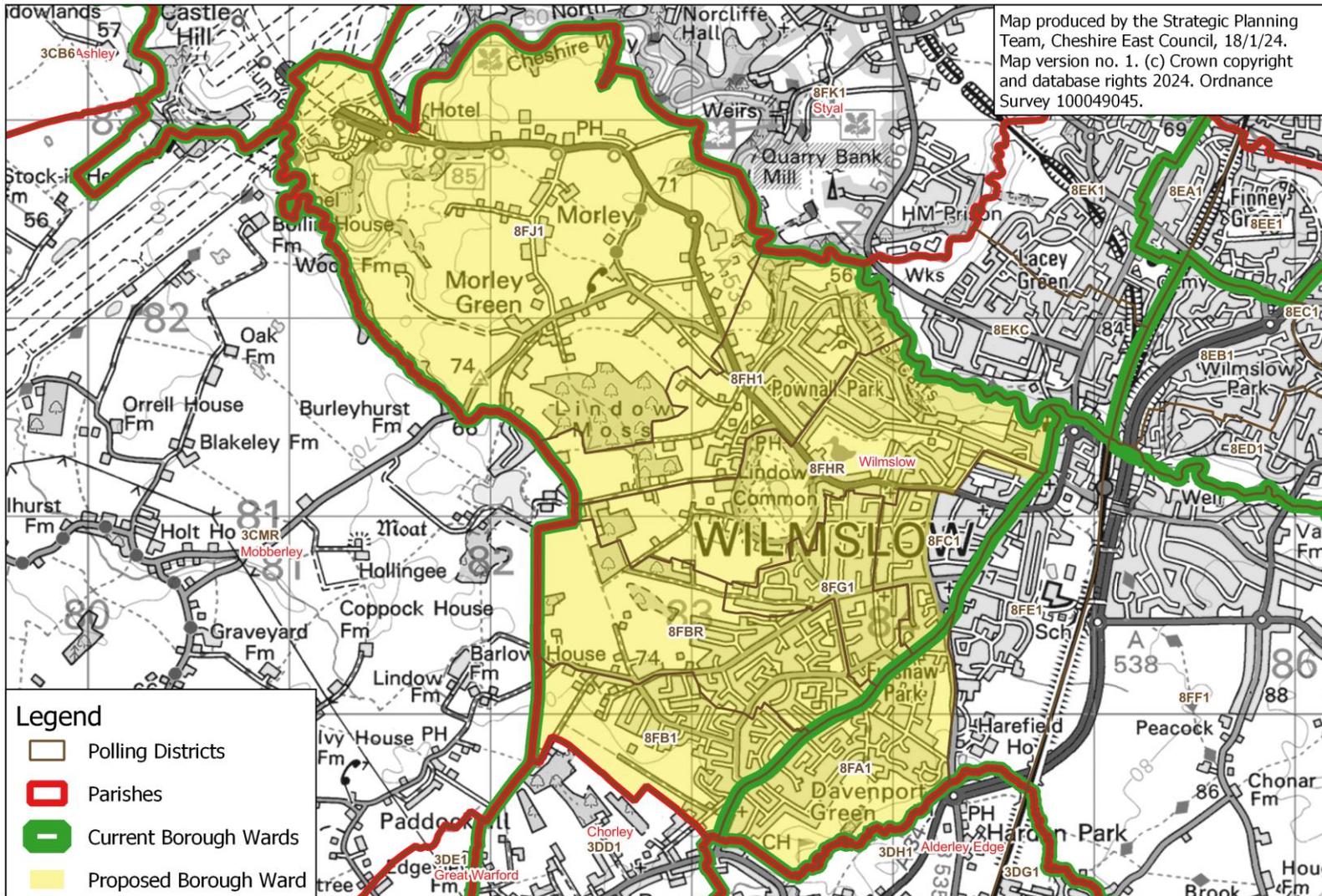
Map produced by the Strategic Planning Team, Cheshire East Council, 18/1/24.
Map version no. 1. (c) Crown copyright and database rights 2024. Ordnance Survey 100049045.



- Legend**
- Polling Districts
 - Parishes
 - Current Borough Wards
 - Proposed Borough Ward

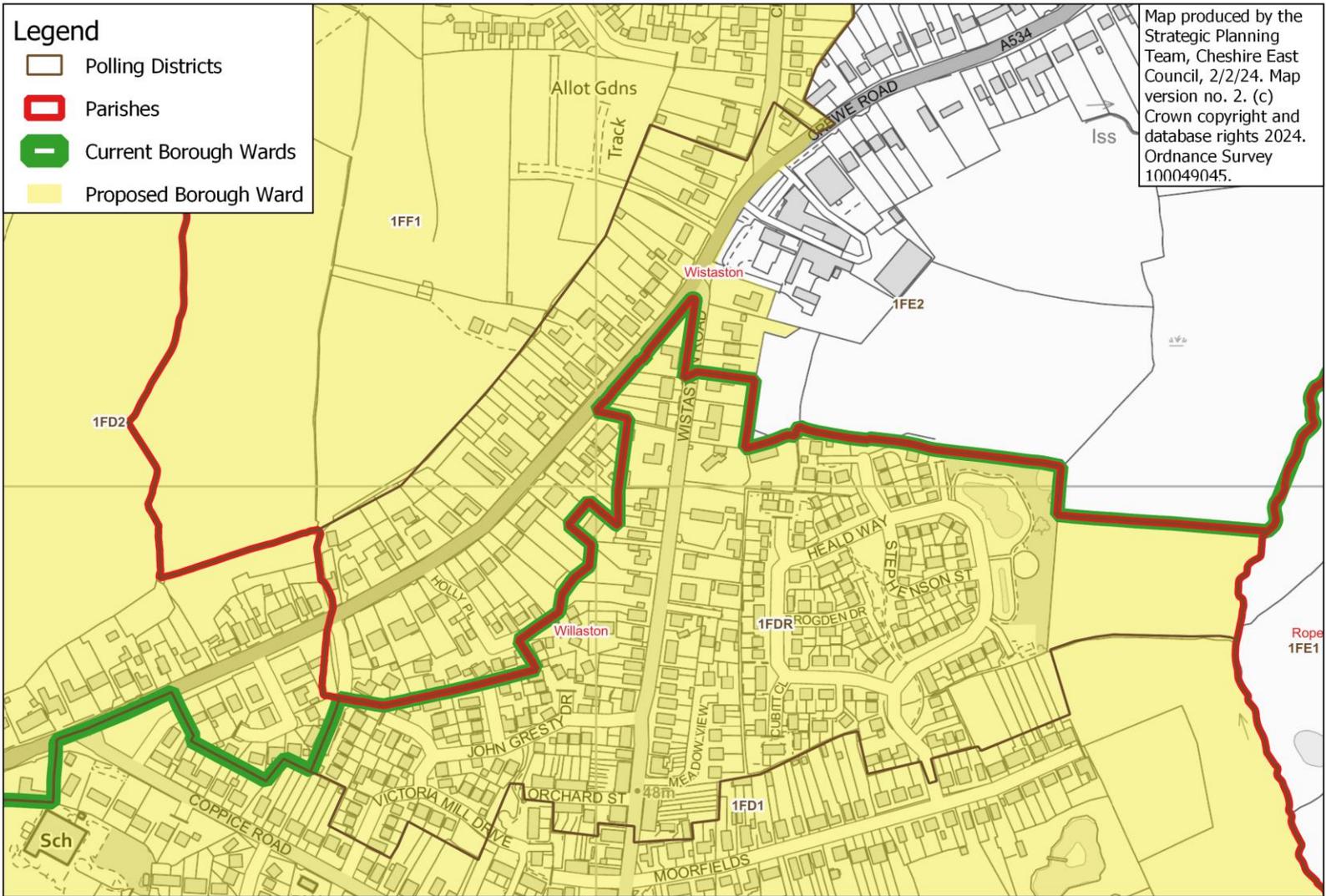
Wilmslow West

Proposed Borough Ward: Wilmslow West



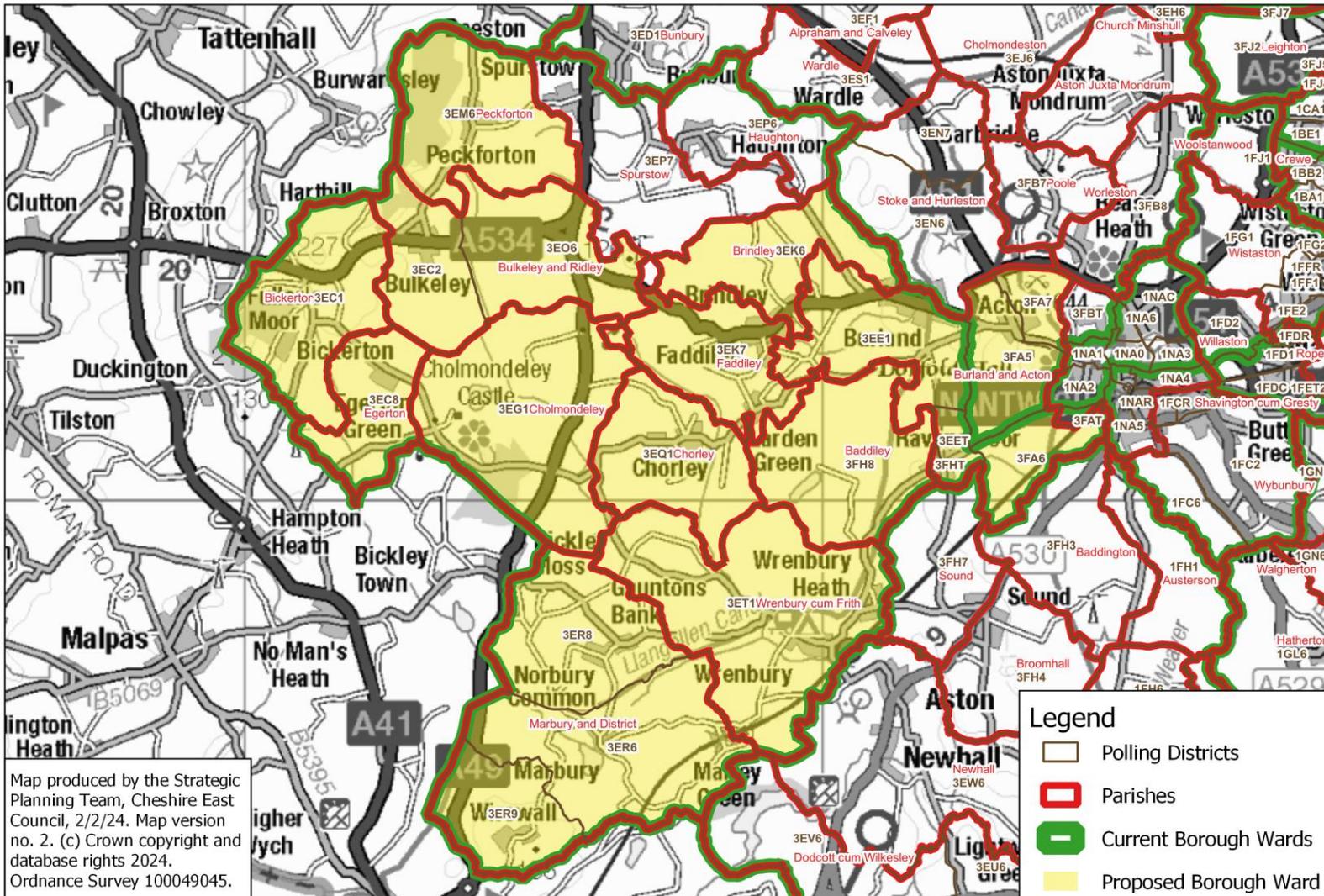
Wistaston: close-up of Wistaston Road area

Proposed Borough Ward: Wistaston - close-up of area of 1FE2 to be included



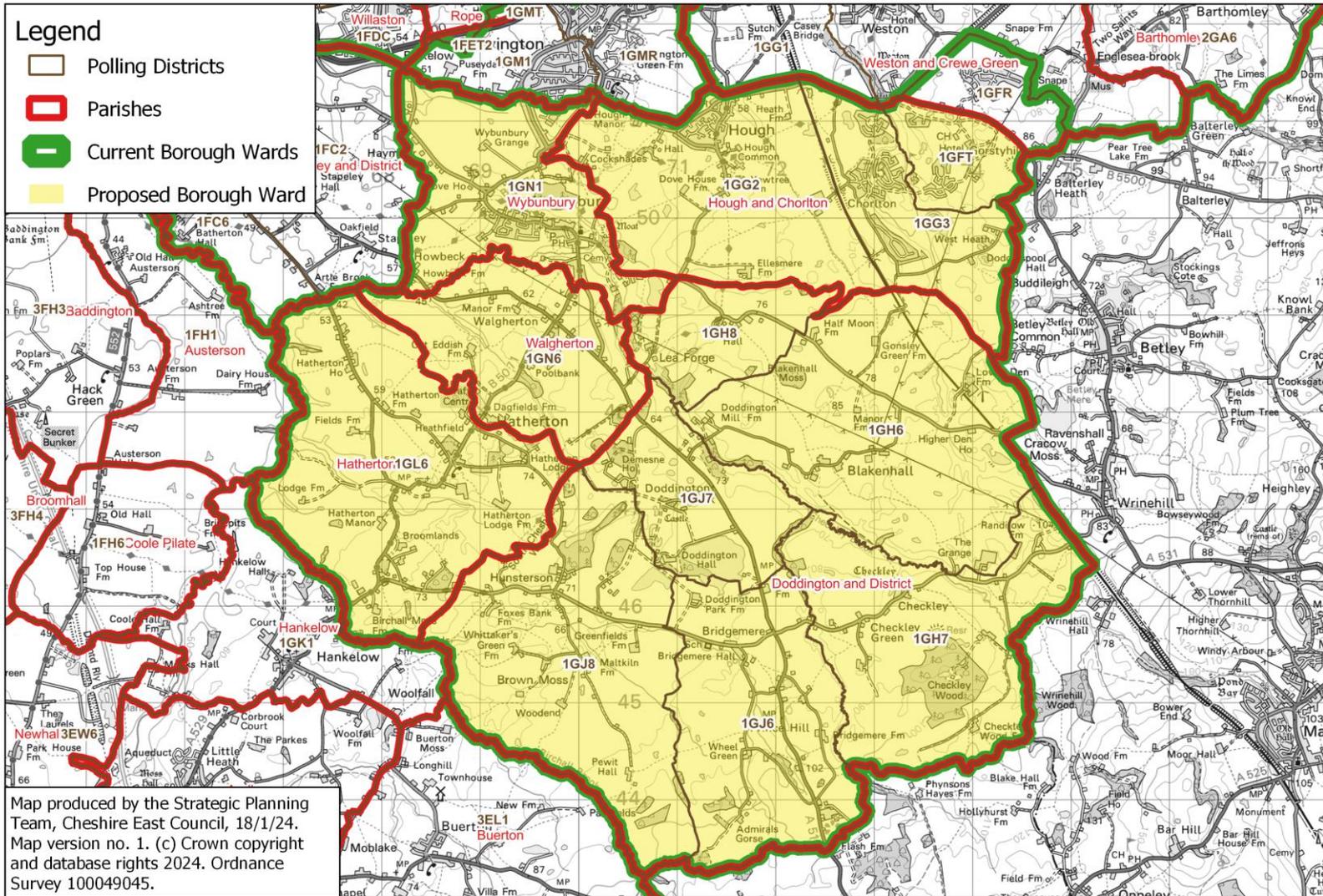
Wrenbury

Proposed Borough Ward: Wrenbury



Wybunbury

Proposed Borough Ward: Wybunbury



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OPEN

Corporate Policy Committee

13 February 2024

Peer Review/Corporate Peer Challenge

Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance

Report Reference No: CP/73/23-24

Wards affected: all Cheshire East Council Wards

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to respond to a Notice of Motion proposed at Full Council on 13 December 2023.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Notice of Motion to Council stated as follows:

“Cheshire East Council should embrace an urgent Peer Review to investigate its in year overspend of £18.7 million.”

- 3 In summary, the Notice of Motion referred to what it described as the benefits of the Local Government Association’s Peer support and proposed that the Council should engage with the Local Government Association with a view to a “Financial Peer Review or Corporate Peer Challenge” (referred-to in this report and recommendations as a “peer review”) being undertaken.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Corporate Policy Committee is recommended to:

1. Authorise the Chief Executive to make arrangements for a local government peer review to take place.
2. Delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council’s political group leaders the finalisation of the scope, terms of reference and timing of the peer review.

Background

- 4 A Notice of Motion was submitted to Council on 13 December which called for an urgent peer review to investigate the Council's in year overspend. The Motion was proposed by Councillor Bailey and seconded by Councillor Chadwick.
- 5 The full text of the Notice of Motion, background information, and links to supporting documentation is set out in the Appendix to this report.
- 6 It was resolved that the Notice of Motion would be referred to the Corporate Policy Committee. The Council meeting was on the 13 December 2023, the papers for first available meeting of Corporate Policy Committee on 18 Jan 2024 were published on or about 10 January 2024. This only provided only 6 working days after the festive period for investigations to be made.
- 7 The Notice of Motion also spanned the festive interregnum and the appointment of the Council's new Chief Executive who commenced his employment with the Council in Jan 2024.
- 8 The Chief Executive took up post 3 Jan 2024. The first practicable meeting for the Committee to consider the Notice of Motion is 13 Feb 2024 (the 1 Feb meeting being extraordinary meeting for the corporate budget review).
- 9 The Chief Executive has considered the Notice of Motion and the benefit of a peer review. The Council has changed significantly both in structure and governance over the last 3 years. Changes have included a committee system, the continuation of the Joint Administration, the separation of social care into separate Adult & Health and Children & Families directorates, the conclusion of historic investigations and public interest reports, Covid working, and the improvements made by the previous Chief Executive in response to the earlier peer reviews.
- 10 The Notice of Motion focused primarily on the budget challenges facing the organisation. The changes in the Council have been much wider than the immediate budget issue. The ability of the Council to meet its fiscal challenges is a product of the whole functioning of the whole Council. It is important to review the functioning of the Council as an effective organisation and the efficacy of the Council in delivering services. The Chief Executive is recommending to the Committee that the principle behind the Notice of Motion is accepted and that a peer review is undertaken. It is further recommended that the review is not limited or restricted to a financial element.
- 11 If the Committee agree a peer review is appropriate, it will be important for the Chief Executive to determine the scope and terms of reference of

the review. The recommendations of this report seek authority for him to do so, in consultation with the Council's political group leaders. The timing and scope may be dependent on capacity and other external factors but is anticipated to be in-year. (2024)

- 12 The outcome of any peer review will assist the new Chief Executive and members in developing the Council approach in terms of culture and economy. It will require engagement and participation from members in the review and actions that arise from it.

Consultation and Engagement

- 13 There are no direct consultation and engagement associated with this report. The Notice of Motion was submitted to full Council so all members would be aware. The Council Leadership Team (CLT) have been consulted and support the proposal. CLT are cognisant that a review requires resources to be made available, so timing is a relevant consideration in terms of existing planned business change, external inspections etc. Delegated powers of the Chief Executive will be exercised in consultation with the Council's political group leaders in respect of timing and scope. All elected members and staff will be briefed on progress.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 14 The recommendations of this report respond to the Notice of Motion, which was referred to the Committee by Council.

Other Options Considered

- 15 Other options considered are summarised in the following table.

- 16 Options appraisal:

Option	Impact	Risk
1) Do nothing	Council referred the Notice of Motion to the Committee, in accordance with Council Procedure Rules. Whilst the Committee could determine that no further action is taken, the Committee must still consider the matter.	That any issues which might arise from the peer review would not be know, with consequential detrimental effect.

(2) For the Committee to resolve a peer review to be undertaken, in line with the recommendations	All such matters as would be determined by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council's political group leaders, would be subject to the review, and relevant recommendations would be made to the Council.	No identified risk
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Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 17 Arrangements with the Local Government Association to undertake the peer review will be subject to appropriate procurement and agreements. Arrangements. The Chief Executive will be authorised to undertake these actions by the Committee and the use of existing delegated powers.
- 18 There are no other direct legal implications. This report is a response to a Notice of Motion and the relevant procedure is set out in Council Procedure Rules.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 19 A Corporate Peer Challenge would be fully subsidised by the Local Government Association. If it is considered at some point that a challenge is required that focusses on driving improvement and improving efficiency in specific areas, there may be a charge to the Council, and if so the cost will need to be covered from an appropriate budget, with the aim of being funded by the efficiency savings identified.

Policy

- 20 Whilst the scope and terms of reference of the peer review are proposed to be finalised by the Chief Executive under delegated powers, it may be that this will relate to the entire Council function. There may, therefore, be policy implications arising from the outcome of the peer review, which will need to be considered in detail at that stage.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

- 21 The outcome of the peer review might highlight equality implications.

Human Resources

22 The outcome of the peer review might highlight Human Resource implications.

Risk Management

23 The outcome of the peer review might highlight risk management implications.

Rural Communities

24 The outcome of the peer review might highlight rural communities implications.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

25 The outcome of the peer review might highlight such implications.

Public Health

26 At this stage, the outcome of the peer review is not known and, therefore, there are currently no direct implications in respect of Public Health:

- a positive, neutral, or negative overall impact on the health and wellbeing of Cheshire East residents
- a greater (positive or negative) impact on some groups compared to others (e.g., rural vs urban; younger vs older; poorer vs more affluent; etc.)

Climate Change

27 Taking into account the recommendations of this report, there are no climate change implications at this stage of the process.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed Brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	The full text of the Notice of Motion, including electronic links to supporting documents, is set out in the Appendix to this report.

Background Papers:	Minutes of the meeting of Council on 13 December 2023
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Appendix

Notice of Motion : Council 13 December 2023 Cheshire East Council should embrace an urgent Peer Review to investigate its in year overspend of £18.7 million

- Proposer Cllr Rachel Bailey
- Seconder Cllr Russell Chadwick

Cheshire East conducted a Corporate Peer Challenge in January 2020. The report, approved by Cabinet in June 2020, clearly evidenced an emerging pattern of budgetary overspend and advised that whilst, 'this reflects challenges which are faced by many organisations, the council should consider their approach towards savings across the organisation, to share ownership and encourage informed approaches to financial risk'.

The benefits of the Local Government Association's Peer support are well known to those councils who embrace it and in view of 'our Council's' recently announced 'in year' overspend of £18.7 million pounds, I propose that this Council immediately engages with the LGA to seek guidance via an urgent Financial Peer Review or Corporate Peer Challenge.

Background/References:

<https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/documents/s76797/Corporate%20Peer%20Challenge%20-%20appendix.pdf>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/council-assurance-and-peer-support/peer-challenges-we-offer/corporate-peer-challenge-4>

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/council-assurance-and-peer-support/peer-challenges-we-offer/finance-peer-challenge-and>

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OPEN

Corporate Policy Committee

13 February 2024

Developing the New Cheshire East Plan

Report of: Rob Polkinghorne, Chief Executive

Report Reference No: CP/67/23-24

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to update on progress made in relation to developing a new strategic plan for Cheshire East, further to the introductory report that was presented in July 2023 and the update report in October 2023.
- 2 A new plan is being developed for several reasons. Firstly, that there are a significant number of new elected members of Cheshire East Council and that the plan needs to reflect post-election priorities. Secondly the context in which we are operating has changed and is one of financial challenge, rising inflation and increasing costs and demands, which means there is a greater need to focus our resources and potentially target services. There are also advancements being made in relation to digital capabilities and artificial intelligence that the council needs to safely and securely take advantage of to drive efficient service delivery.
- 3 However, since the original timescale for the development of the plan was established, there has been increasing risk in relation to achievement of a balanced budget. It is therefore deemed prudent to conclude consultation to inform the medium term financial strategy, and using this plan to refine and confirm the priorities of the refreshed corporate plan.

Executive Summary

- 4 The new Cheshire East Strategic Plan will be a plan to outline the priorities and ambitions of Cheshire East. Consultation and engagement has taken place over the period September – December 2023. This has involved working with communities and stakeholders to understand what we want the Cheshire East of the future to look like, and what are the ingredients that make a good place to live, work and visit. Under these high level ambitions the plan will state priority areas for the long term, and actions that can be delivered in the medium term, by April 2028. What is feasible to be delivered will be dependant on our available resources over that period. This is the area which is currently uncertain due to ongoing financial challenges. It is due to this element that it is recommended to postpone the development of the final version of the plan, so we can ensure that we have a realistic and deliverable strategy. How we will deliver the plan will be informed by the refresh our organisational culture, striving for a high support and high challenge organisation.
- 5 **Appendix 1** is the Community Engagement Report, prepared by our partners PLACeD, who were commissioned to support the public engagement events.
- 6 **Appendix 2** are the headline findings from the “Shaping Our Future” survey which was open to members of the public until 15 December 2023. 1,472 responses were received.
- 7 Due to the resource challenges we face, there is a need to prioritise and to consider targeting areas of service delivery to areas that our evidence shows require them the most. In Phase 1, two key areas were been highlighted as key priorities to be developed: the need to reduce health inequalities and implement the outcomes desired by the recently updated health and wellbeing strategy, and to continue our commitments to achieving net zero for both the council and for Cheshire East.
- 8 One outcome of phase 1 was that there was unanimous agreement to move away from the term “corporate plan “as this can be seen as a barrier to people engaging with the plan. Therefore, the report refers to “Cheshire East Plan” and “Cheshire East Strategic Plan”. It is also recommended that the discussions with partners have recommended that no one organisation can achieve strategic objectives in isolation and therefore the Plan will be a key document for the area of Cheshire East, rather than just a council plan, and will support our role as a community leader and place shaper. The refreshed place will be used to set the ambitions of the council for the borough of Cheshire East, and to influence partners and stakeholders as to our strategic aims.

- 9 The main points arising from the public consultation were in relation to activities for children and young people and their desire for the quality of roads and pavements to be prioritised. Over 60% of respondents agreed that reducing health inequalities should be a key priority of the new plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Corporate Policy Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the outcomes of the public consultation and engagement on the Cheshire East Plan.
2. Agree that the new Cheshire East Plan will be finalised following the approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and awareness of available resources.

Background

- 10 The Cheshire East Council Corporate Plan is the council's overarching strategic document, setting out the vision and priorities for the council. The current plan was approved in February 2021 and covers the period April 2021 to March 2025. By prioritising a clear set of commitments and actions, the Corporate Plan enables residents to hold the council to account for its performance and allows all to see the ambitions for Cheshire East.
- 11 The Plan is the "umbrella" strategy that sits above, and informs, all other strategies and plans. All strategies produced by Cheshire East Council should reference, and support the achievement of, the Corporate Plan. All members of the council workforce should be able to see the "golden thread" of their day-to-day activities contributing to the achievement and success of the plan.
- 12 During July and August 2023, phase 1 was completed. Phase 1 focussed on engaging and gaining feedback internally prior to going out for external consultation and engagement.
- 13 The following groups of internal stakeholders were engaged with during phase 1; elected members through member engagement sessions (two face to face and one via Microsoft Teams), Corporate Leadership Team, Wider Leadership Team, Wider Leadership Community, the Brighter Futures Champions, "In the Know" staff information briefings,

Managers Share and Support sessions, individual internal meetings (where requested), team meetings and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

- 14 A cross council officer group has also been established with an approved terms of reference to coordinate work across the council directorates and ensure that a collaborative “one council” approach is achieved.
- 15 There has been many sources of information and intelligence gathered on priorities, themes and specific projects and initiatives that will be referenced within the plan. There was also discussion around the need for the plan to be realistic and achievable within the current resource constraints. Therefore, it is recommended that the key priorities of the plan are around health and wellbeing and around achievement of net zero targets and sustainability. The Health and Wellbeing strategy that has recently agreed is a key foundation document that informs the plan. The plan is being co-created around six key themes (exact wording to be developed and refined); health and wellbeing, children and young people, net zero and sustainable communities, improving the economy, transport and accessibility and continuous improvement of the council.
- 16 Consultation and engagement activities took place from September to December 2023. These included four public drop in sessions and an online “Shaping Our Future” survey.
- 17 The report on the outcomes of the public engagement workshops is as **Appendix 1**.
- 18 The key findings from the public engagement workshops were as follows:
 - the public had concerns around the quality of roads and pavements
 - residents felt that public transport in the borough was not affordable and frequent enough
 - there is a demand for better quality shopping facilities and more independent and local businesses
 - there was significant interest in car parking and a desire for consistent, affordable parking across the borough
 - residents suggested that there are a lack of groups and activities for children and young people
- 19 **Appendix 2** gives the headlines of the “Shaping Our Future” survey.
- 20 The key headlines from the “Shaping Our Future” survey feedback are:

- 59% of residents were satisfied with their local area
- 64% of respondents agreed that “reducing health inequalities” should be a key theme of the new Cheshire East Plan
- The four themes most supported by residents for inclusion within the refreshed Plan were: Improving connectivity, travel and transport (87%), Improving the way services are delivered (85%), Enhancing our communities and have thriving places (84%) and Improving opportunities for children and young people (81%).

Consultation and Engagement

- 21 Consultation and engagement took place in accordance with the refreshed Consultation and Engagement toolkit agreed by Corporate Policy Committee in 2022.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 22 The recommendations have been made to offer an oversight into the feedback received from the public consultation and engagement exercises, and in light of dynamic position around the councils financial challenges.

Other Options Considered

- 23 An alternative option would be to roll over and continue with the current Corporate Plan. This option was discounted as the operating context of the council is different to the environment and context in 2020/21 when the current plan was produced.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 24 The Cheshire East Plan will be produced in accordance with legislative requirements and will be ultimately subject to approval by Full Council.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 25 The activities within the report can be funded from within existing budgets for resident surveys and consultation. The activities will also support development of proposals to achieve a balanced budget within the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

Policy

- 26 The development of the Cheshire East Plan supports the policy framework cited within the Council’s constitution. It also supports the current Corporate Plan, particularly in relation to the “Open” strategic theme and the priority to “listen, learn and respond to residents”.

<p>An open and enabling organisation</p>	<p>A council which empowers and cares about people</p>	<p>A thriving and sustainable place</p>
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 27 The process to develop the Cheshire East Plan will ensure that it is as accessible and inclusive as possible. This will include consideration of different channels and methods of consultation and engagement. The process will also have due regard to ensuring that diverse communities can support the co creation of the plan. An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed alongside the plan.

Human Resources

- 28 The workforce will be engaged within the development of the new plan using existing staff engagement networks.

Risk Management

- 29 A risk management implication has been identified with regards to consultation activity on MTFs items occurring at the same time as the engagement on the plan. All staff volunteer ambassadors will be briefed on this subject in order to mitigate the risk. Where appropriate, stakeholders will be referred to any statutory consultation proposals.

Rural Communities

- 30 The process will ensure that it is accessible to those living in rural communities to ensure their views are taken into account in developing the plan.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 31 Children and Young Peoples groups, and their representatives will be included as stakeholders in the co creation of the new plan.

Public Health

- 32 The process of developing the new Plan will ensure that public health priorities are supported and reflected in the plan. The plan will have due regard to the Marmot principles and the priority to reduce health inequalities across Cheshire East.

Climate Change

- 33 The new Cheshire East plan will be developed to reflect local priorities, including continuing the message that Cheshire East Council has the most ambitious net zero target in the country. The plan will support achievement of net zero for the council and for the Borough.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Michael Moore Head of Communications
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Placed Report Appendix 2 – Headline “Shaping Our Future” survey results
Background Papers:	Corporate Policy Committee report reference: CP/14/23-24

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Cheshire East Council Plan Community Engagement Report

Prepared by PLACED
December 2023





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Introduction	5
Engagement Overview	6
Findings from the Pop-up Events	7
Conclusion	29
Recommendations	30

Report Summary

Cheshire East Council is in the process of creating a new plan for the borough that will shape its direction and priorities for the next few years. PLACED (Place Education CIC) was commissioned to deliver a series of community engagement events to inform the development of this new plan for Cheshire East.

As part of this commission, engagement was undertaken to explore local people's priorities and encourage reflections on the identity of Cheshire East as a large borough with significant diversity and socio-economic division. Engagement consisted of public 'pop-up' events in Crewe and Macclesfield, two of the borough's larger towns. These in-person events would complement Cheshire East Council's own engagement, including their online survey ('Shaping Our Future Survey 2023').

Response to PLACED's community engagement was largely positive with local people keen to see their priorities, needs, and interests represented in the new plan for the borough. Some residents did express some apathy and 'engagement fatigue' having participated in many past consultations. However, residents were, to a great extent, happy to share their views and participate in engagement activities.

The following report provides an overview of the community engagement activities that were delivered by PLACED for the

new Cheshire East plan. It outlines the key findings drawn from both the qualitative and quantitative data that was gathered.

The key findings of the community engagement delivered include:

Roads and Pavements: The condition and quality of roads and pavements in Cheshire East was flagged at all the engagement events, but particularly in Macclesfield. Potholes were frequently mentioned as were issues affecting wheelchair accessibility such as pedestrian pathways with uneven paving and cars parking on pavements.

Public Transport: Many residents felt that public transport in the borough was not affordable and frequent enough. High fares and bus route cuts in Crewe and Macclesfield were frequently raised as an issue affecting people's day-to-day experiences living and working in the borough as well as when travelling into town centres.

Shopping Facilities: As the quantitative data gathered revealed, there was a great demand for better-quality shopping facilities in Crewe and Macclesfield town centres. Residents said that their town centres have many coffee shops, eateries, and pubs, but very little quality shopping facilities. Along with this, there was interest in seeing a greater mix of shops, more independent and local businesses, and empty retail units filled to revive commerce and foot traffic.

Car Parking: There was significant interest in more affordable car parking provision in Crewe and Macclesfield town centres. Many residents said they wished to see more affordable and allocated car parking, particularly for business owners and people with disabilities. Several residents we spoke to complained about there being free parking in wealthier areas of Cheshire East, whilst in areas of greater socio-economic deprivation, residents are required to pay for parking.

Youth Groups and Activities: During all of the engagement events, residents highlighted the lack of groups and activities for children and young people, with most showing greatest concern for teenagers. Some people suggested that if local teenagers had more groups or activities to engage them, they would be less likely to get involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. It was also recommended that efforts should be made to reach young people who are outside of conventional educational environments.



Introduction

Cheshire East Council is in the process of creating a new plan for the borough, which will shape its direction and priorities for the next few years. Including the voices of communities in the development of the plan is crucial. The new plan will help to ensure that the day-to-day work of the council and its partners is focused on local priorities. By having a robust plan, the council can ensure that it has the funding and resources in place to deliver the services that people need. The plan will be launched in March 2024 and will cover the period April 2024 – March 2028.

Cheshire East Council commissioned PLACED (Place Education CIC) to deliver community engagement activities for their new plan. During November 2023, PLACED delivered a series of ‘pop up’ community engagement events in Crewe and Macclesfield, two large towns in Cheshire East. These free public events aimed to engage people

in the development of the new plan for Cheshire East, helping to ensure that its priorities align with those of local people. The community engagement delivered by PLACED aimed to explore local people’s priorities, interests, and needs and encouraged reflections on the identity of Cheshire East as a large borough with significant diversity and socio-economic division.

Cheshire East Council have delivered their own engagement activity during this period, including internal engagement with staff. The council have delivered some online engagement (‘Shaping Our Future Survey 2023’) in order to obtain further responses to inform their new plan for Cheshire East. PLACED’s community engagement work during November 2023 aimed to supplement and compliment all of this coinciding consultation and community engagement work of the council.



Engagement Overview

With support from volunteers from Cheshire East Council, PLACED delivered a series of community engagement events in Crewe and Macclesfield, two large towns in Cheshire East.

Crewe Market Hall:

- Wednesday 15th November, 11.30am – 3.30pm (40 attendees)
- Thursday 16th November, 3.30pm – 7pm (39 attendees)

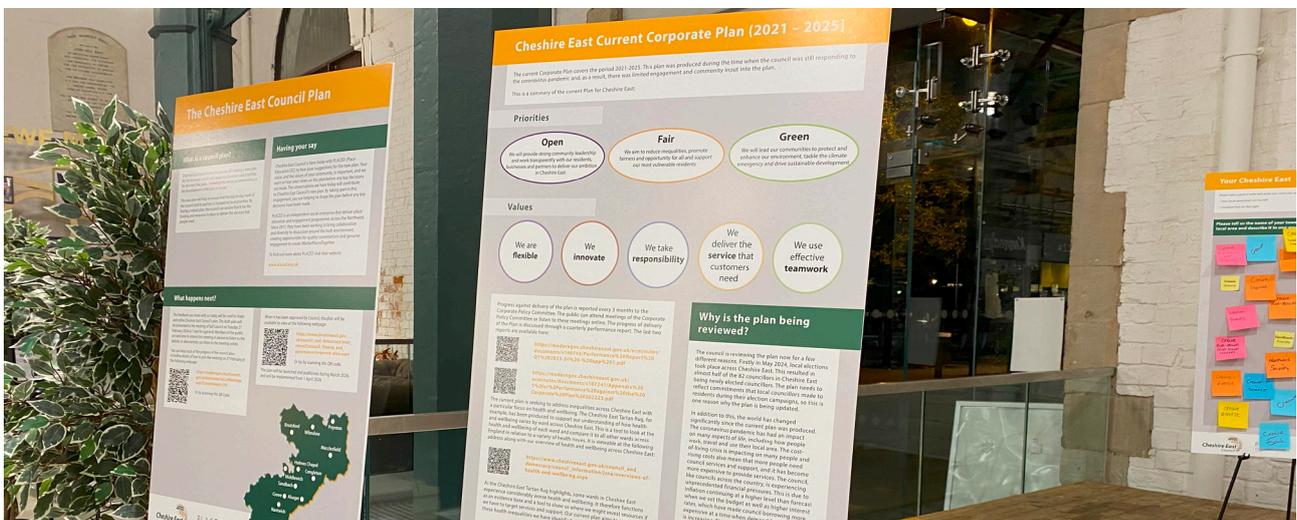
Macclesfield Grosvenor Shopping Centre:

- Wednesday 22nd November, 11.30am – 3.30pm (74 attendees)
- Thursday 23rd November, 2pm – 5.30pm (48 attendees)

All of these engagement events were promoted online through PLACED and Cheshire East Council social media

channels. In total, we engaged with approximately 200 residents and stakeholders. The people who attended our events at Crewe Market Hall and the Grosvenor Shopping Centre in Macclesfield included residents, people from nearby towns, town and parish council officers and staff, local business owners, community groups, and landlords.

Attendees at our events were predominantly residents of Crewe and Macclesfield, but some came from the areas and towns of Nantwich, Alsager, Weston, Sutton, Tytherington, Disley, Wildboarclough, Prestbury, and Bollington. The majority of those we spoke to, however, were Macclesfield residents. Of the members of the public, we have spoken to older people, young people and children, families, people with disabilities, and people from a range of socio-economic backgrounds.



Findings from the Pop-up Events

The following is a summary of the findings from our 'pop-up' community engagement events held in Crewe and Macclesfield during November 2023.

In the following engagement activity, we explored how residents and local stakeholders would characterise or define Cheshire East. It was flagged in our project initiation meeting with Cheshire East Council that, as a sizable borough with a great deal of socio-economic division, Cheshire East is generally felt to lack a unified identity.

We firstly asked participants to **1) tell us the name of their town and describe it in one word.** We then asked them to **2) describe Cheshire East in one word.** On average, participants found it is easier to describe their hometown than Cheshire East. However, participants did provide us with some valuable insight into how Cheshire East could be characterised as a unified borough.

On the following pages, we have presented the data we gathered for this activity in word clouds in which the size of each word indicates its frequency. The data collected at Crewe and Macclesfield has been differentiated and is demarcated by titles.

Question 1: Tell us the name of your town and describe it in one word

a) Crewe



Above: Responses from Crewe: 'Tell us the name of your town and describe it in one word'

At Crewe Market Hall, we spoke to residents from Crewe, Weston, Alsager, and Nantwich. When we asked residents to describe their hometown, we received mixed responses.

Some words participants used highlighted the friendly and hardworking nature of residents and the racial and cultural diversity that exists in the Cheshire East towns listed above.

Some responses were slightly more critical raising the demand for regeneration. Town centres were described as being run-down and deprived. Resident apathy and socio-economic inequality were also mentioned, with contrasting opinions between residents from Crewe and Nantwich in particular.

Question 2: Describe Cheshire East in one word

a) Crewe



Above: Response from Crewe: 'Describe Cheshire East in one word'

Participants suggested Cheshire East is divided, with the North of the borough being recognised as wealthier. Adjectives such as 'posh', 'inequality', and 'divided' support this claim.

The word 'polycentric' referred to Cheshire East being made up of various town centres.

Being a fairly new local authority, participants described Cheshire East as a place with 'potential', due to its assets including the countryside, active travel infrastructure, and diverse population.

b) Macclesfield



Above: Response from Macclesfield: 'Describe Cheshire East in one word'

In Macclesfield, participants showed less consensus when describing Cheshire East. Whilst some people described the countryside as 'beautiful' and 'green', others claimed the borough was 'large' and 'empty' due to its large rural landmass.

It is recognised that some participants misunderstood this activity, describing Cheshire East as a local authority rather than as an area. Comments here were more critical. Residents shared their frustration of not seeing visible outcomes from past consultations and the council's previous plan.

Question 3: How would you like Cheshire East to feel?

Shifting towards a focus on sense of place and more emotive responses, we asked residents three questions to explore how they would like Cheshire East to feel in the future.

Below summarises our key findings from this activity.

Residents and local stakeholders want Cheshire East to feel:

- More connected (both public and digital infrastructure),
- Friendly, inclusive and more community oriented,
- Happy and positive,
- Family-friendly,
- Responsive to homelessness,
- Like somewhere that has thriving town centres with many shops,
- Listened to by local authorities.

They would like to see more:

- Public and community transport,
- Shops, particularly small independents,
- Community events,
- Places to meet family and friends,
- Long-term solutions,
- Greater presence of police officers,

- Social housing,
- Better promotion of community events and activities (not just online),
- Consultation involving active listening that results in visible outcomes.

And less:

- Services that are only available in certain areas (e.g. Crewe and Macclesfield),
- Anti-social behaviour,
- Businesses and shops closing down in town centres,
- Bars and pubs,
- Short-term and ‘blue-sky thinking’,
- Following trends.



Question 4: What should be the key priorities for Cheshire East?

In this engagement activity, we asked residents what they think should be the key priorities for Cheshire East.

Some participants firstly expressed reluctance to vote for some priorities as they believed the council would not have the ability to implement changes in these areas. This engagement activity highlighted that many residents are unaware of what Cheshire East Council has the ability to change. It flagged a lack of knowledge and understanding of what the council does as well as its responsibilities. We explained that all of the priorities listed in this activity were things that Cheshire East Council could impact and change.

Overall Findings

Below is the quantitative data we received for this activity across all four events in Crewe and Macclesfield.

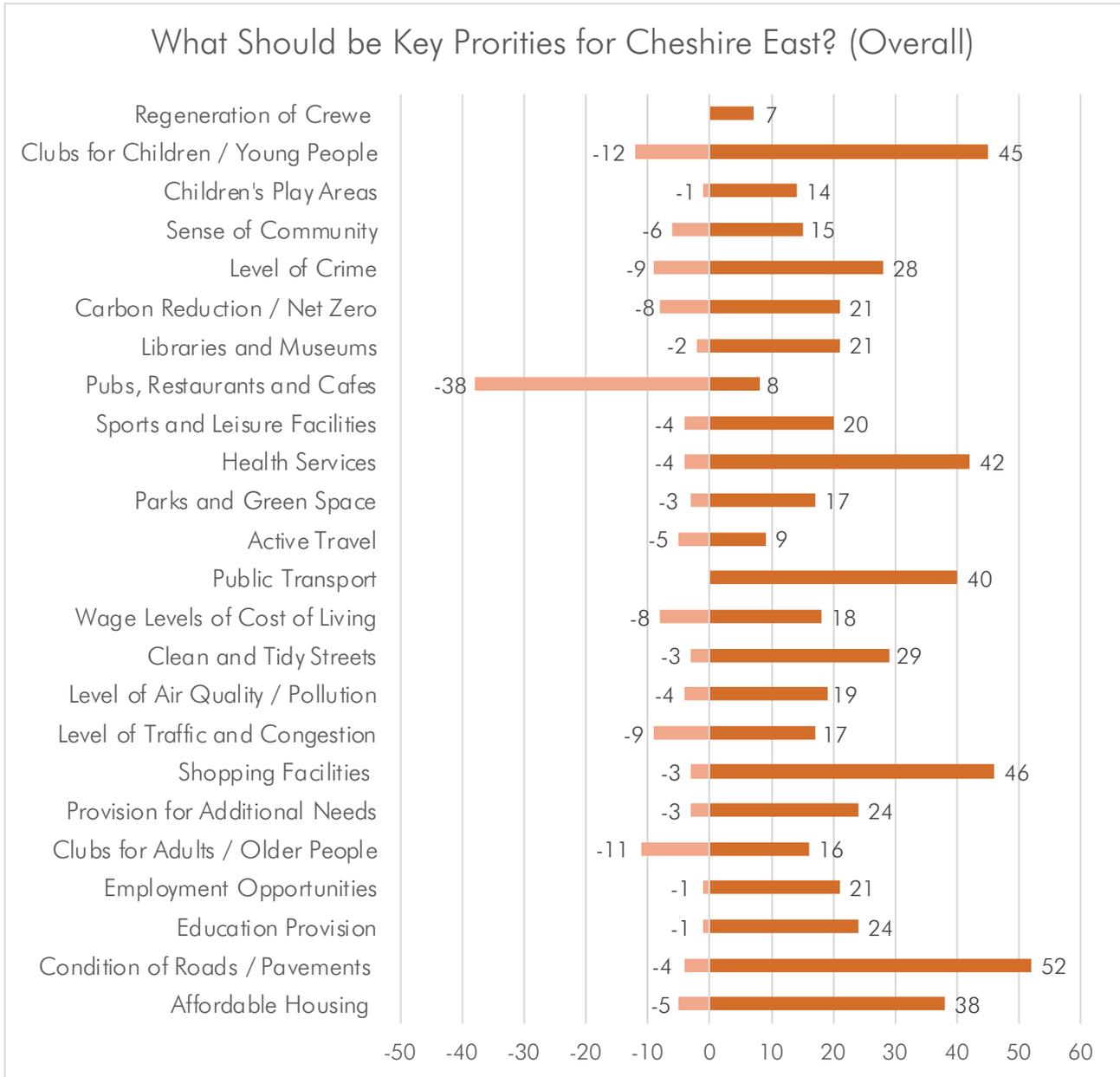
The most popular priority overall was 'Condition of Roads/Pavements' (52 votes) and this was followed by 'Shopping Facilities' (46 votes) and 'Health Services' (42 votes).

The ideas that received the most downvotes and were therefore suggested to be less of a priority were 'Pubs, Restaurants and Cafes' (38 downvotes) and 'Clubs for Adults/Older People' (11 downvotes).

[Please see graph on following page]



Above: Images of highest scoring priorities.



'Condition of Roads/Pavements' was the top priority overall with many residents mentioning potholes and uneven surfaces being an issue for both pedestrians and road users.

'Pubs, Restaurants and Cafes' received the most downvotes. In both, Crewe and Macclesfield people said that

there is already a lot of food and beverage facilities. However, participants highlighted that smaller neighbouring areas and towns do not have as many pubs and eateries.

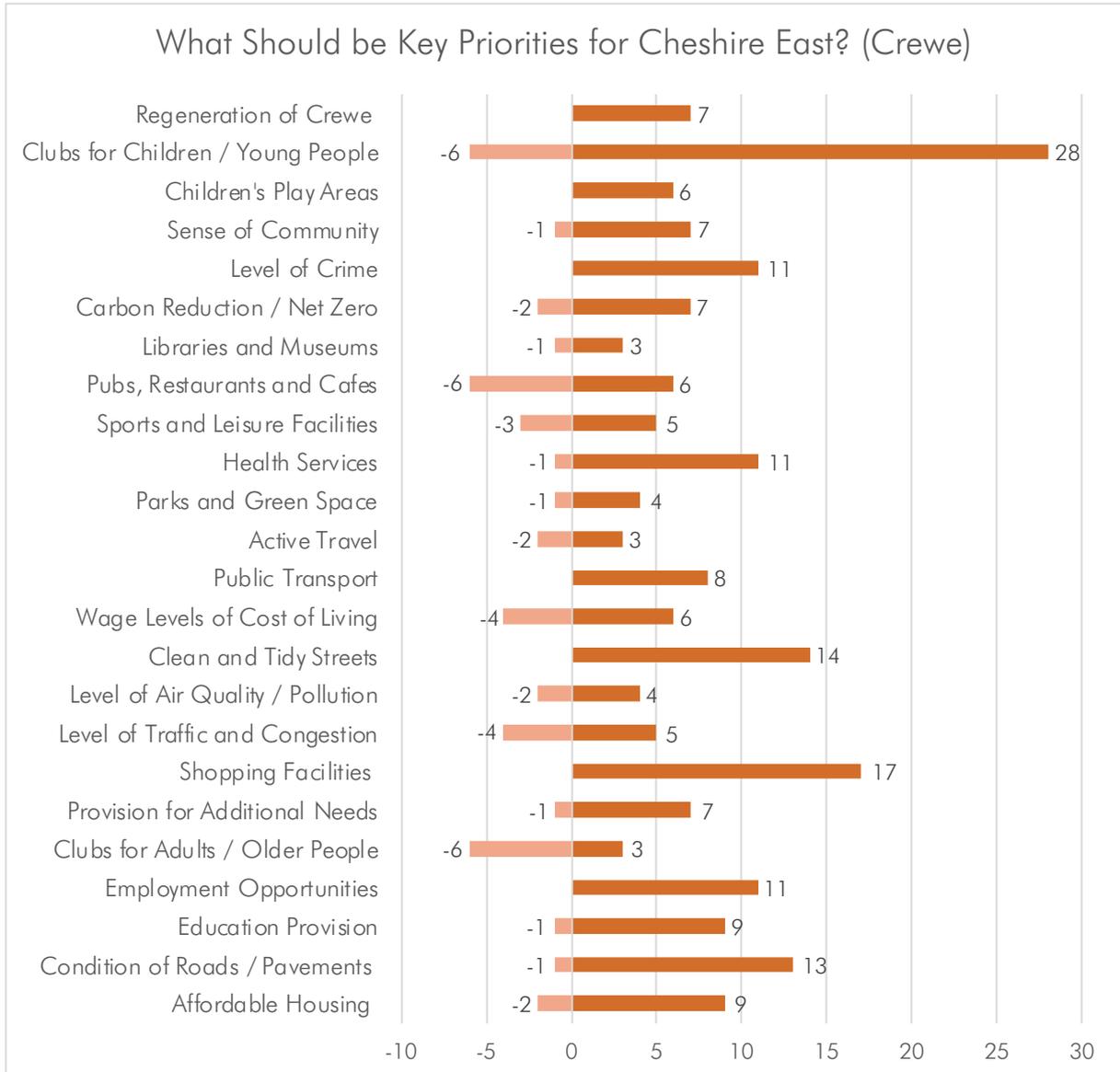
Crewe and Macclesfield residents wished to see a greater variety of shops rather than food and beverage facilities.

Crewe

Below is the quantitative data we received for this activity at the pop-up events delivered at Crewe Market Hall.

The most popular priority in Crewe was ‘Clubs for Children/Young People’ (28 votes) and this was followed by ‘Shopping Facilities’ (17 votes) and ‘Clean and Tidy Streets’ (14 votes).

The ideas that received the most downvotes and were therefore suggested to be less of a priority were ‘Pubs, Restaurants and cafes’ and ‘Clubs for Adults/Older People’ which both received 6 downvotes and far less upvotes than the other priorities we had presented.



At our pop-up event in Crewe, one resident added in their own priority ('Regeneration of Crewe'), and this received several votes from other activity participants (7 votes). In accordance with the other data we gathered, this highlighted how some Crewe residents feel that their town centre is rundown and deprived, hence the need for regeneration.

'Clean and Tidy Streets' was discussed by various business owners, with one stating they felt the poor appearance of the public realm impacted their footfall. They specifically complained about the street lighting being outdated and unkept, stating they had reported this in the past but are disappointed with the lack of response and change.

Although it was recognised that there is an aging population in the area, 'Clubs for Adults/Older People' received the most downvotes along with 'Pubs, Restaurants and Cafes' as residents felt there is already enough clubs and activities for older people in Crewe.

Macclesfield

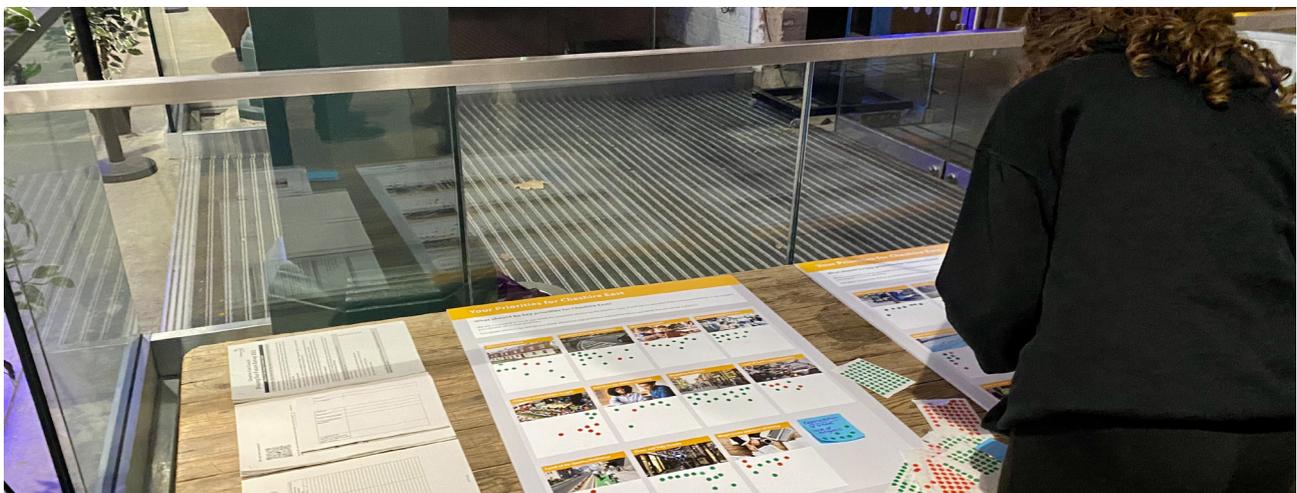
Next is the quantitative data we received for this activity at the pop-up events delivered at the Grosvenor Shopping Centre in Macclesfield.

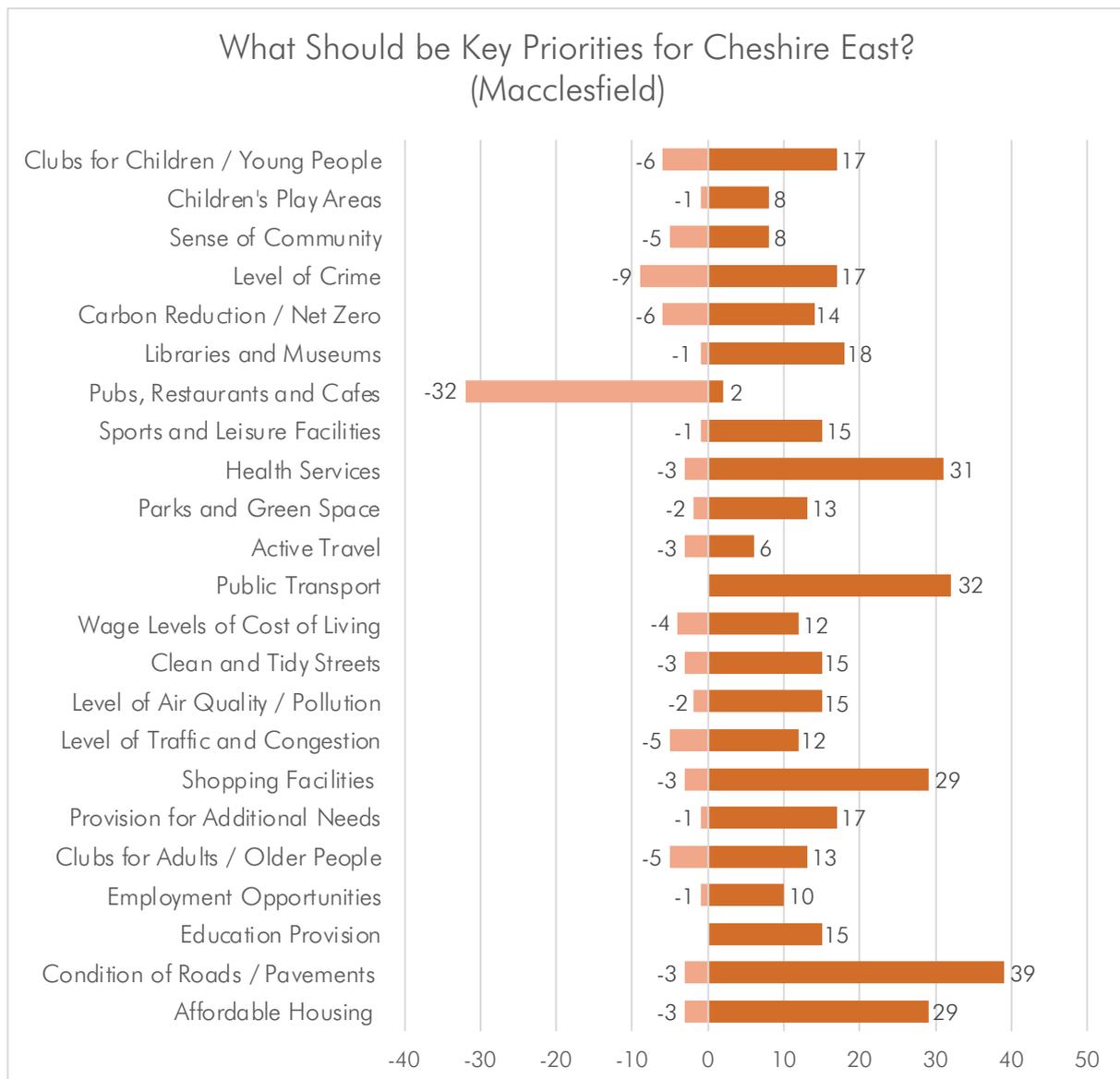
The most popular priority in Macclesfield was 'Condition of Roads/Pavements' (39 votes), followed by 'Public Transport' (32 votes) and 'Health Services' (31 votes).

The ideas that received the most downvotes and suggested to be less of a priority were 'Pubs, Restaurants and Cafes' (32 downvotes) and 'Level of Crime' (9 downvotes).

[Please see graph on following page]

At our pop-up events in Macclesfield, 'Condition of Roads/Pavements' was the most significant priority, with many residents stating poor road surfaces and potholes had resulted in their cars becoming damaged overtime.





Poor surfaces on pedestrian pathways was also raised, with some residents highlighting that this often creates issues for wheelchair users.

The priority Macclesfield residents felt needed the least attention in the new plan was felt to be ‘Pubs, Restaurants and Cafes’, the same as Crewe. Residents said there is already enough pubs, restaurants and cafes and that they

would like to see less of these things in favour of more shopping facilities.

‘Level of Crime’ received the second most amount of downvotes. Whilst some people felt that crime was not an issue for Macclesfield, one person who works within the town centre highlighted issues surrounding drug-use.

Question 5: What are key challenges for Cheshire East, and what could possible solutions look like?

In this engagement activity, we asked residents and local stakeholders what they think are the key challenges for Cheshire East and what possible solutions might look like.

We presented participants with several themes to consider:

- **Children and Young People,**
- **Economy and Growth,**
- **Environment and Communities,**
- **Health and Wellbeing,**
- **Highways and Transport,**
- **Service Improvement,**
- **Other.**

Participants were asked to think of key challenges relating to these themes. We then asked participants to write these challenges down on one of the thematic postcards and to suggest possible solutions.

The following summarises the key findings from this activity.

Children and Young People

Problems

- Lack of constructive out-of-school activities and clubs where teenagers can develop interests and express themselves.
- Teenagers getting involved in anti-social behaviour and petty crime. Along with this, young people also show a lack of respect towards their environment and public spaces, leaving litter and rubbish.
- Lack of activities and youth clubs and available activities are costly.
- Poor education provision for children with disabilities as they sometimes do not have fluency in speech, and many families are currently paying to send their children to SEN schools outside of their town or local area.

Solutions

- Proper policy presence with more youth clubs, community activities, sports teams, and social spaces for young people to access where they can develop interests and channel their energies.
- More funded facilities and clubs for young people and children that educate them on different topics such as the impact of anti-social behaviour and the importance and value of looking after where they live.
- Further provision for SEN within the local area and frequent health worker visits to check on growth of children.

Economy and Growth

Problems

- There is an aging population, but it is the younger people in the area who arguably need more support. Young people need more careers support and are getting involved in anti-social behaviour and petty crime.
- Town centres are rundown with many empty retail units.
- Insufficient parking for businesses and disabled people, particularly those who work in and visit the town centre and Crewe Market Hall.
- Town centres are rundown and deprived in Cheshire East because of empty shops, high rent, poor variety of shops, low foot traffic, unfinished development and regeneration projects, and shopping facilities outside of town centres (i.e. out of town retail parks).
- Not enough jobs available for different age groups.
- Not using beautiful countryside and history as a resource to promote the area. These are underappreciated and underpromoted assets.

Solutions

- More diverse jobs and career pathways.
- Improving the appearance of empty shops to make them look attractive or using them for 'meanwhile' uses such as art and exhibition spaces.
- Free and allocated car parking especially for business owners and disabled driver.
- Lower car parking charges in town centres, particularly for business owners and disabled people.
- More investment, development and regeneration in town centres.
- More affordable rents for commercial properties. Reducing taxes and reviewing vacant buildings could make town centres livelier.
- Improved connections between town centres and out-of-town retail parks. In tandem with this, better quality shopping facilities in town centres.
- More employment opportunities and high paid jobs for all ages.
- Using Cheshire East's history, heritage and historical landmarks to attract visitors and encourage greater foot traffic to town centres e.g. Macclesfield Silk Museum.

Environment and Communities

Problems

- Potholes and uneven road surfaces which get flooded and cause damage to cars.
- Poor pavement conditions cause accessibility issues for wheelchair users.
- There is a lack of an active nighttime environment in town centres, especially on weekdays. Many businesses close by 5pm making town centres less active and busy at night.
- Some roads and streets are not well lit which make them dangerous to drive through.
- Lack of regeneration, particularly of town centres.
- There are growing concerns in the community over environmental damage from projects encroaching on precious greenbelt like Dane Moss.
- Biodiversity loss and air/noise pollution, particularly in Disley.
- New administrative fees collecting green bins anger citizens as recycling gets mandated nationwide without sufficient local infrastructure.
- Poor online access to planning applications.
- Not having enough litter bins, especially in and around industrial areas/business parks.

Solutions

- Develop an active nighttime environment in town centres, particularly on weekdays and Sundays and stable community spaces.
- Significant improvements to road surfaces and pavements.
- Solar powered streetlamps to keep the roads well lit.
- Residents want council to revisit outdated planning for Dane Moss as they feel this contradicts sustainability initiatives now centred on net-zero carbon reductions.
- Community recommend banning plastic grass lawns to nurture neighbourhood biodiversity.
- Transparency in decision-making process.
- Fix traffic lights in areas like Highlane, Windlehurst Road as this will help reduce congestion, improve air quality and reduce pollution.
- Recycling collection should be free and more litter bins.

Health and Wellbeing

Problems

- Lack of mental health services.
- Difficulties with making doctor appointments and long waits with drug addicts at Accident and Emergency.
- Not enough activities for young people.
- Lack of affordable sports and leisure facilities for people of all ages.
- Many services are mostly located in Crewe and Macclesfield and are therefore inaccessible to some residents.
- Due to poor public transport provision and car dependency for daily commutes, people are less active.

Solutions

- Prioritise funding related to healthcare provision and mental health services.
- Accident and Emergency should separate regular patients and those with drug addictions.
- Introduce new clubs and services for young people.
- More affordable sports and leisure facilities and memberships.
- More services outside of Crewe and Macclesfield.
- More council promotion of active travel (cycling or walking).



Highways and Transport

Problems

- Unexpected bus cancellations and poor public transport links to and from different towns.
- Bus fares are expensive, services have been lost in some areas, and there is a lack of regular bus services, especially after 5pm.
- Road planning tends to prioritise cars over cycling infrastructure and cycling lanes, limited options for active travel.
- High parking fees across Crewe and Macclesfield. Several residents we spoke to complained about there being free parking in wealthier areas of Cheshire East, whilst in areas of greater socio-economic deprivation, residents are required to pay.
- Parking on pavements reduces pedestrian footway space.
- Footways often lack adequate lighting at night, have overgrown vegetation, and become slippery from leaves, creating hazardous conditions.
- Potholes and very poor road surfaces compound issues with high traffic congestion and broken cross junctions.

Solutions

- Improved public transport links to retail parks, town centres, and train stations and displaying delays/cancel notices of buses.
- Lower parking costs in town centres and provide more free parking in economically deprived areas.
- Lower speed limits around town centres.
- Promotion of active travel.
- Enhanced traffic flow from promised bypass projects and coordinated signals.
- Improved road surface and prompt pothole repairs, minimising temporary patchwork, increased municipal budgets prioritising congestion reduction and integrated mobility options.
- Emphasis on regular public transport, especially in the evening.
- Parking charges should be standardised and similar across different towns/areas.
- Pedestrian pathways with improved lighting and street signs accommodating diverse needs, especially at Bishopton Drive to Pavilion Way in Macclesfield.
- Speed enforcement penalties and reviewed school transport fees against long-term costs of neglect and forced car dependency.

Service Improvement

Problems

- Very rundown town centres with no diversity in shops, and people do not know what services are available.
- Poor lighting and pavements in town centres.
- In town centres, there is no regular waste collection, mostly restaurants and cafes (as opposed to shops), no public toilets, and a loss of community gathering spaces like 'Knit and Natter Club'.
- Service reductions like decreased library hours and access.
- New fees for previously free green bin disposal raising illegal dumping concerns/fly tipping.
- Insufficient mental health resources and bed-blocking from lack of affordable social care were raised.
- Inadequate infrastructure to support approved housing developments frustrate residents.

Solutions

- Upgrade the town centre by bringing different businesses and shopping facilities with notice boards informing about the different services available.
- Make town centres more welcoming by upgrading lighting and pavements.
- Town centres need public toilets and litter bins need to be emptied more often (better waste management).
- Invest in affordable social care and mental health services.
- In town centres, there needs to be more shops as opposed to restaurants and cafes. Also, shops should be more diverse and there needs to be affordable rents for local and independent business owners.
- Maintain library services and offer better access to them, along with using grants to provide flexible co-working spaces.
- The cost of bin collection should be lowered, or it should be included in the council tax. Also, there should be someone designated to enforce the collection of green bins.

Other (Additional Comments)

- Poor disabled access in some buildings, restricting people's access to the services that are located there.
- Emergency housing and greater support for people who are homeless.
- More adult education and training opportunities are needed.

Question 6: What are the key ingredients of a good place to live?

With an aim to explore placemaking themes and resident aspirations for Cheshire East, we asked people what they think are the key ingredients of a good place to live?

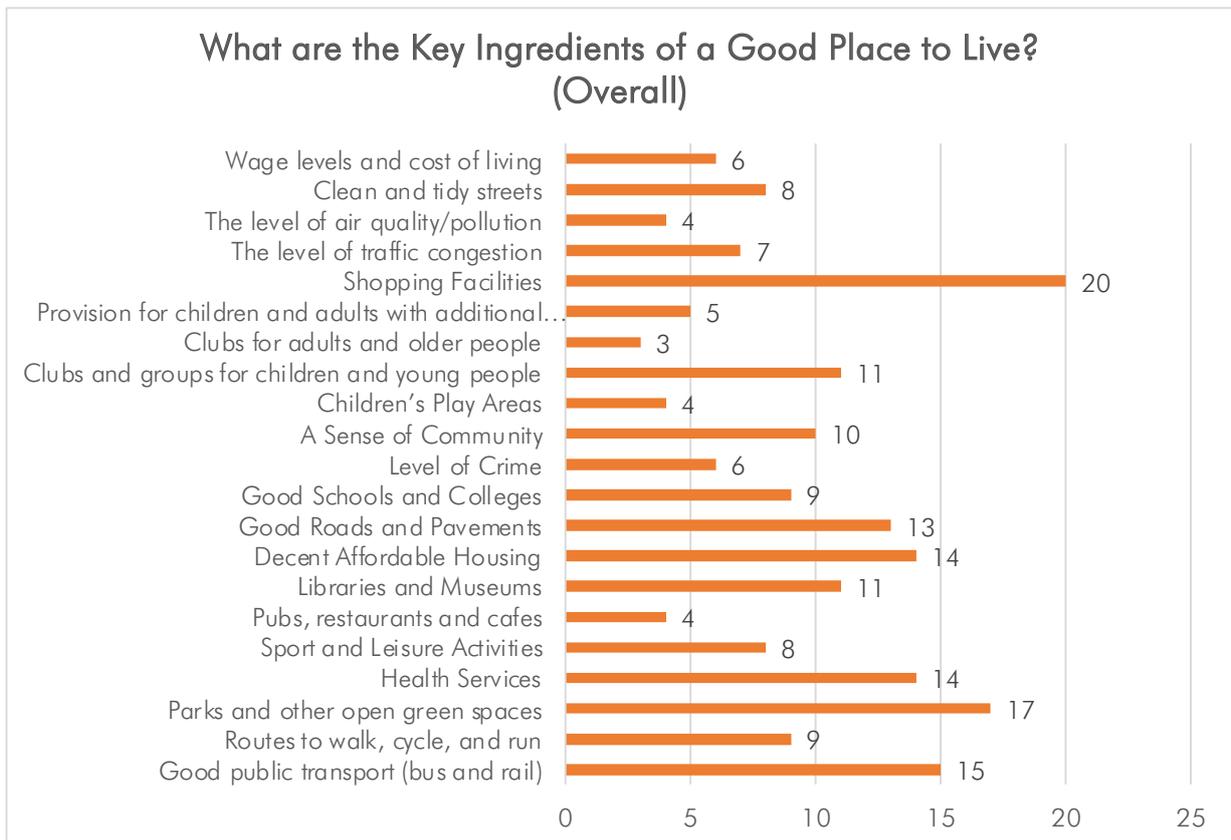
Unlike our activity exploring resident priorities for Cheshire East, this activity was less place-specific, allowing participants to think with a more aspirational mindset.

Overall Findings

Below is the quantitative data we received for this activity, across all four events in Crewe and Macclesfield.

Overall, the most popular idea was ‘Shopping Facilities’ (20 votes), followed by ‘Parks and other open green spaces’ (17 votes) and ‘Good Public Transport (Bus and Rail)’ (15 votes).

The idea that received the least number of votes was ‘Clubs for adults and older people’ (3 votes), followed by ‘The level of air quality/pollution’, ‘Children’s Play Areas’ and ‘Pubs, restaurants and Cafes’ which all received only 4 votes.



Crewe

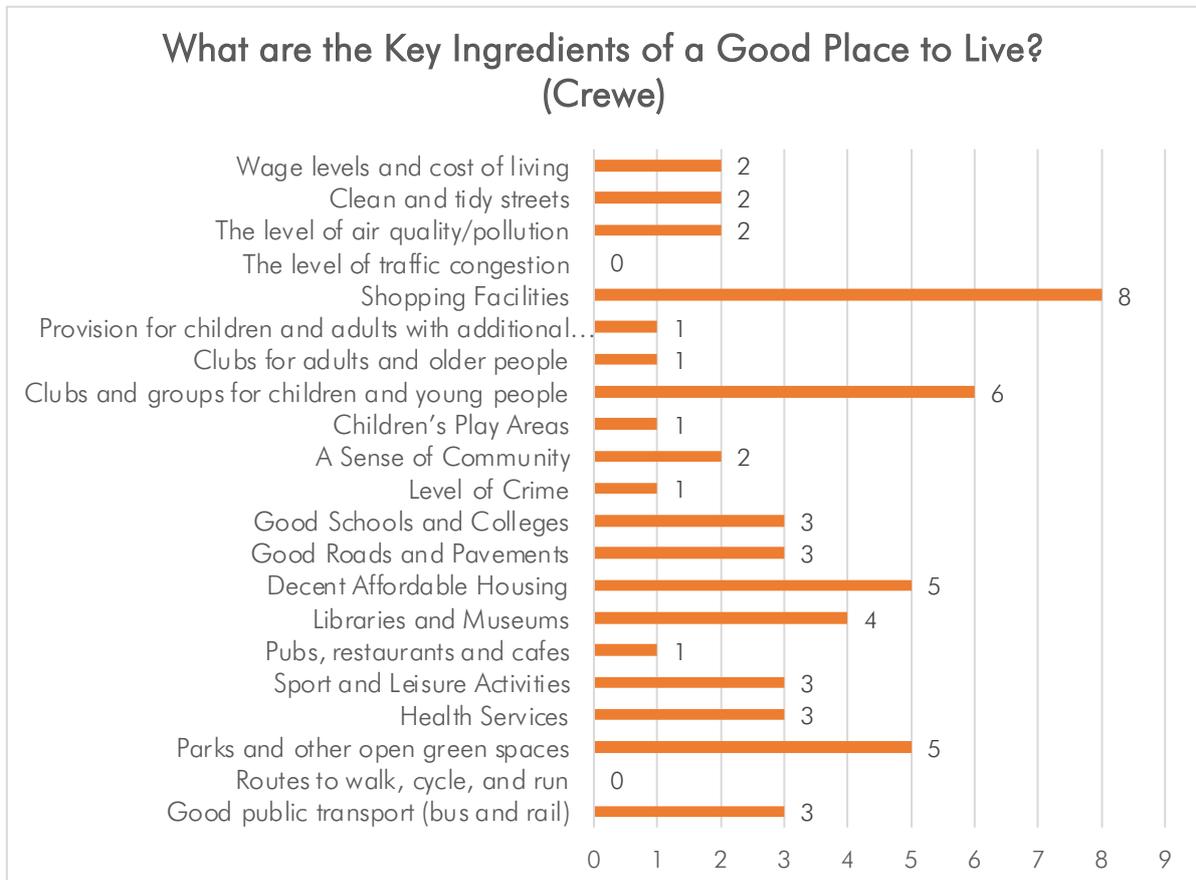
Below is the quantitative data we received for this activity at the pop-up events delivered at Crewe Market Hall.

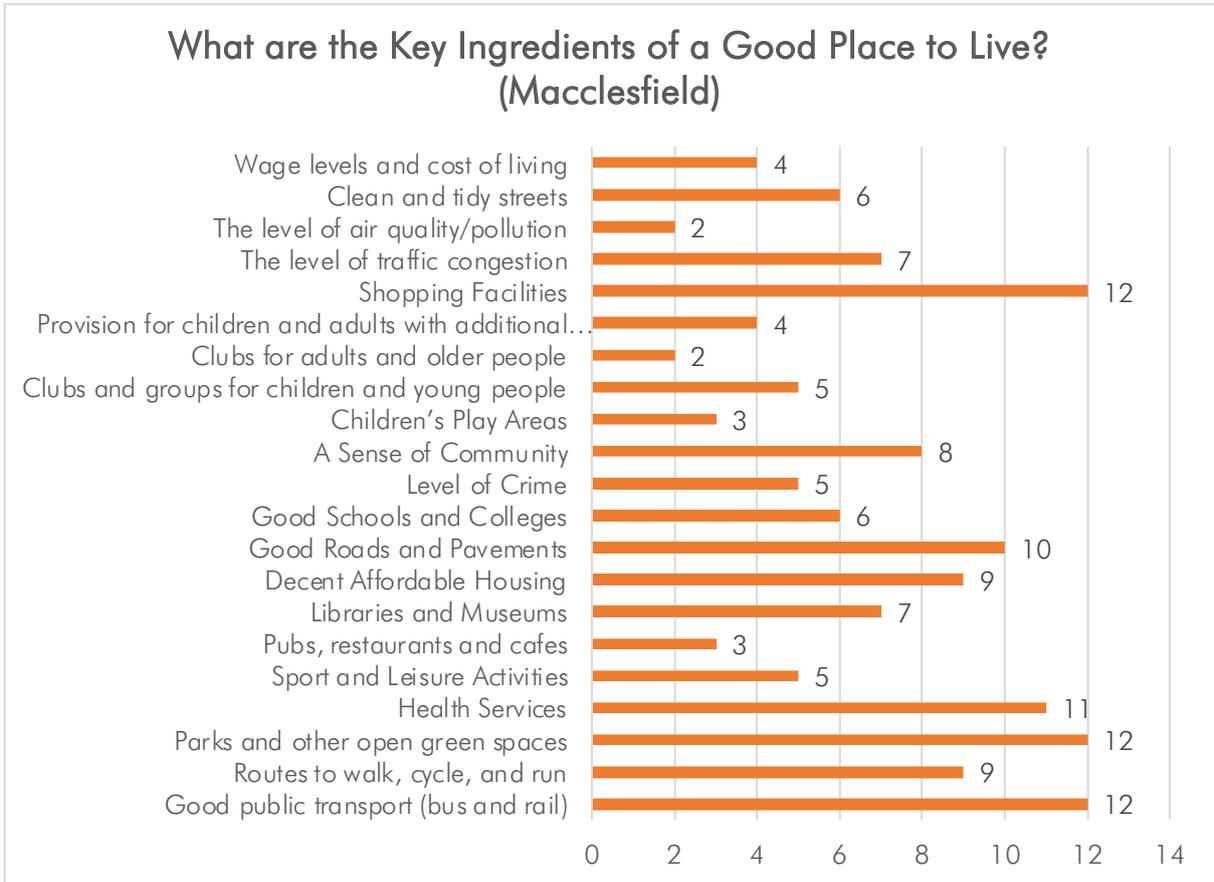
The most popular ideas were ‘Shopping Facilities’ (8 votes), followed by ‘Clubs and Groups for Children and Young People’ (6 votes).

The ideas that received least votes were ‘The level of traffic congestion’ and ‘Routes to walk, cycle, and run’ which both recieved no votes.



Above: Images of highest scoring ‘ingredients’





Macclesfield

Above is the quantitative data we received for this activity at the pop-up events delivered at the Grosvenor Shopping Centre in Macclesfield.

The most popular ideas were 'Shopping Facilities', 'Parks and other green spaces' and 'Good public transport' which all recieved 12 votes.

The ideas that received least votes were 'The level of air quality/pollution' and 'Clubs for adults and older people' which both recieved 2 votes.



Question 7: What should Cheshire East look like in the Future?

Our concluding engagement activities were a series of questions regarding the future of Cheshire East. These questions, which are listed below, explored how residents felt about community building, and getting involved with improving their town or local area.

We also enquired here into resident aspirations for Cheshire East and what local people and stakeholders thought could be potential opportunities.

The data collected at Crewe and Macclesfield has been differentiated and is demarcated by titles.

We asked the following questions:

a) Are you interested in ways you can get involved in improving your town and/or local area?

b) How could the community of Cheshire East work better together?

c) What should Cheshire East look/feel like in the next five years?

d) What do you think are the opportunities for Cheshire East?

a) Are you interested in ways you can get involved in improving your town and/or local area?

Some residents said that they would be interested in getting involved in improving their town or local area and shared their details with staff from the Communities team at Cheshire East Council who were present at all engagement events. Particularly in Crewe, we met residents who were happy to get involved in where they live by contributing various skills and talents – amongst those mentioned were holistic therapy and youth work.

Another participant highlighted the lack of support for arts and craft activities, specifically for adults with learning disabilities and autism. Despite showing both interest and concern for this activity, this resident did not wish to volunteer their time for this; however, they seemed keen to get involved with similar paid work.

It is recognised that this question did receive a low level of engagement and response. However, we did speak to many residents who said they were already involved in various schemes and volunteering activities with the likes of local schools, community events (e.g. Barnaby Festival), adopting tree schemes, and litter picking events.

b) How could the community of Cheshire East work better together?

Crewe

- **Unified Community:** The community thinks they can work better together by focusing on what they have in common, promoting inclusivity, and having civic pride. Several residents suggested that more in-person community groups and activities could prevent people from spending too much time in online spaces where conflicts can often arise.
- **Existing Groups and Organisations:** Some people said that there is already a sense of community in the town. Therefore, it was recommended that existing community groups and organisations, who are already doing effective and valuable work, need to connect with each other and collaborate more.
- **Community Art:** Residents could create community art together such as murals on walls and bridges and public art installations.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime:** Young people need to be educated about the negative impacts of anti-social behaviour, crime and drug abuse, both inside and outside of educational institutions.
- **Cleaner Streets:** People need to be encouraged to use litter bins more frequently to keep areas clean, tidy, and well maintained.

Macclesfield

- **Active Listening:** Residents suggested Cheshire East Council could more actively listen to their problems, clearly sharing what has been done to respond to these (i.e. ‘you said, we did...’). They said that consultation needs to be improved and lead to visible outcomes and changes.
- **Sharing Experiences:** Macclesfield residents recommended sharing successes and achievements in the community as well as sharing experiences of what works well.
- **Existing Work in the Community:** One participant suggested focusing on supporting the already existing work in the community that is successful. Other residents agreed that efforts need to be made to support already existing community initiatives and schemes such as ‘Saving Dane Moss’.
- **Community Gathering:** Ensuring that existing community groups like ‘Knit and Natter Club’ are protected and remain in spaces like local libraries.

c) What should Cheshire East look/feel like in the next five years?

Crewe

- **Vibrant:** Residents want to see busy and thriving town centres that attract more private investment and visitors. Improved public realm was also suggested here.

- **Green:** More green spaces with eco-friendly and sustainable design.
 - **Accessible and Clean Pathways:** Clean streets with litter bins, and accessible pedestrian pathways for mobility scooters. Pavements that are free from parked cars.
 - **Employment:** Many residents said that they wanted to see more employment opportunities in Cheshire East in the future. They also said they would like to see public funding and private investment for new infrastructure to support the creation of more jobs. Further, there was demand to see a greater mix of job opportunities in Crewe Town Centre for young people as those that currently exist are mostly just retail jobs.
 - **Safe Spaces:** More safe spaces for women and girls in town centres, particularly public squares as well as more spaces for young women to get support. Better lighting is needed in some areas to make them feel safer to walk through at night.
 - **Public Transport:** Improved local transport and services (bus and rail).
 - **Education:** More educational opportunities for children.
 - **Creative Spaces:** Cheshire East should have more art spaces and galleries.
 - **Affordable Rents:** More affordable rents in town centres to encourage more small and independent businesses.
- Macclesfield**
- **Car Parking:** Many resident and business owners said that they would like to see more affordable parking charges in Macclesfield Town Centres. One participant suggested that these charges could be used to fund active travel.
 - **Nighttime Environment:** Enhanced nighttime environment in town centres with better leisure and entertainment offer and more businesses open until later hours. A more active nighttime environment could support greater safety.
 - **Regeneration of Town Centres:** Regeneration of Macclesfield Town Centre with a better mix of retail and independent shops, not just places to eat and drink.
 - **Affordable Rents:** More affordable rents in town centres to encourage more small and independent businesses. There are many empty units in Macclesfield Town Centre and resident suggested more affordable rents could help counter this issue.
 - **Road and Pathways:** Cleaner and tidier public realm with more accessible and level pavements. Less potholes and better-quality road surfaces.
 - **Additional Comments:** More affordable housing, well-paid jobs, and educational provision for young people with additional needs. Several Macclesfield residents stressed that they would like to see the priorities of the new council plan delivered.

d) What do you think are the opportunities for Cheshire East?

Crewe

- **Regeneration:** Regeneration of Crewe Town Centre with more investment and future planning focusing on its maintenance. Alongside building developments, improved public realm and attractive outdoor spaces to attract more visitors. Some residents also suggested repurposing the former Marks and Spencers' building into a 'meanwhile' creative space or independent retail.
- **Diversity of Shops:** Encouraging more local/independent businesses and international food stores in Crewe Town Centre.
- **Arts Spaces:** Some residents in Crewe suggested that there could be more arts and cultural spaces to promote local artists and provide economic support to creative groups.
- **Services:** Schemes like 'rent a shelf' should be available for small businesses and library services for older people.
- **Public Transport Links:** Several residents said they would like to see improved public transport links between Crewe Town Centre and the retail park at Mill Street/Vernon Way. More people are visiting the better-quality shops in the retail park, so better connections could increase foot traffic in the town centre.
- **Communication:** Residents expect improved communication on how council tax has been spent.

- **History and Heritage:** Cheshire East towns have a lot of heritage and history that could be used to promote tourism as well as build upon its sense of identity.

Macclesfield

- **Communication:** Residents said they think there is opportunity for the council to clearly communicate to residents what happens next after this consultation, showing how the information collected has been used and put into action.
- **Town Centre:** More events and retail units with affordable rents to promote Macclesfield Town Centre e.g. the market on last Sunday of every month.
- **Promoting Assets:** Many residents suggested promoting Cheshire East's assets to encourage tourism e.g. countryside and heritage/history attractions.
- **Public Transport:** Improved public transport (bus and rail) for people to commute to town centre.
- **Education and Training:** More education and training opportunities for both young people and adults including more provision for young people with additional needs/SEN.
- **Additional Comments:** Celebrating what makes each Cheshire East town unique/distinctive, having the greenest council in the UK, and technology hubs.

Conclusion

In closing, the residents and local stakeholders who attended our events said they would like to see Cheshire East become a more connected borough where all feel welcome. Residents seek a greater sense of togetherness in Cheshire East – a borough that many feel has much socio-economic division. They wish to see a borough where local governance and services reflect the values of local people, responding to their needs, concerns and priorities.

During all the engagement events delivered, it was clear that Cheshire East residents want to see more shopping facilities in their local town centres, including a greater mix of retail outlets and independent businesses. Further, many residents wish to see town centres regenerated and empty retail units filled to revive commerce and foot traffic. There is also a great desire amongst residents to see improved public transport (bus and trains) that connects different areas of towns as well as more affordable car parking in town centres.

Another clear takeaway was that the quality of roads and pavements needs improving and this appeared to be a demonstrable priority for the majority of the residents we spoke to. Also mentioned was affordable housing development, educational provision for young people with additional needs, youth groups and activities, community events, and public consultation resulting in long-term solutions and visible

outcomes. It was suggested that with greater focus in these key areas that foster connected, community-centred places, Cheshire East can feel more unified. At the same time, people said that they wanted to see less food and beverage offer in the town centre (in favour of more shops), anti-social disturbances, services available in only specific areas, and the loss of services like buses and libraries.

Overall, the response to the engagement delivered was positive with productive and constructive discussion. Some residents expressed some apathy and ‘engagement fatigue’ having participated in many past consultations. However, the majority of residents encountered at events were happy to share their views and participate in order to help shape Cheshire East’s new plan.



Recommendations

- We are aware that Cheshire East Council are delivering their own engagement for their new plan. However, to ensure that the plan is as representative as possible of resident priorities, we would recommend that the council aims to engage residents in areas and towns that our work was unable to reach due to unavoidable funding, scope and time limitations.
- As the community engagement outlined in this report only pertains to Crewe and Macclesfield, we believe further engagement would be beneficial, especially engagement involving residents of smaller towns and rural areas whose voices tend to be lesser heard.
- We would recommend more in-person engagement as there are many residents without online access. In-person events allow for a more relational and interactive approach, therefore resulting in a higher quality of communication and trust building.
- We believe that residents and local stakeholders would appreciate updates on the development and progress of the new plan. As highlighted in this report, residents mentioned wanting to see visible outcomes following consultation. We would recommend that Cheshire East residents are kept informed and updated so they can see how their contributions have genuinely helped to shape the new plan.



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Appendix 2

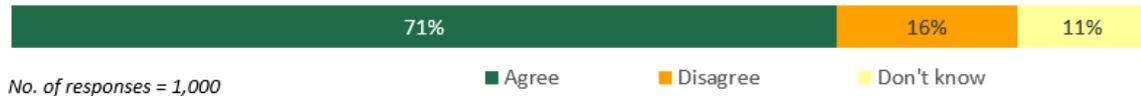
Headline results of “Shaping Our Future” Survey

1,472 people responded to the survey by the deadline of 15 December 2023.

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your local area as a place to live or work?



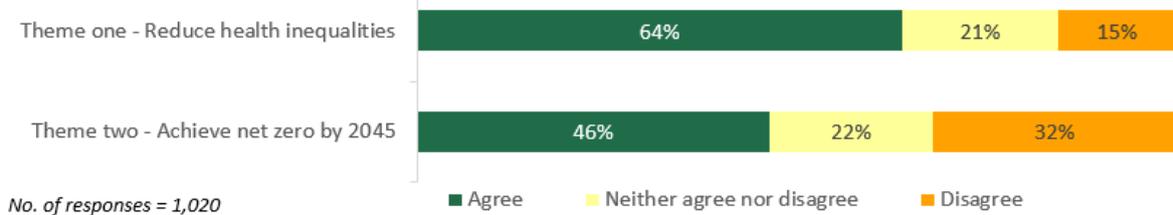
Do you agree or disagree that your local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together?



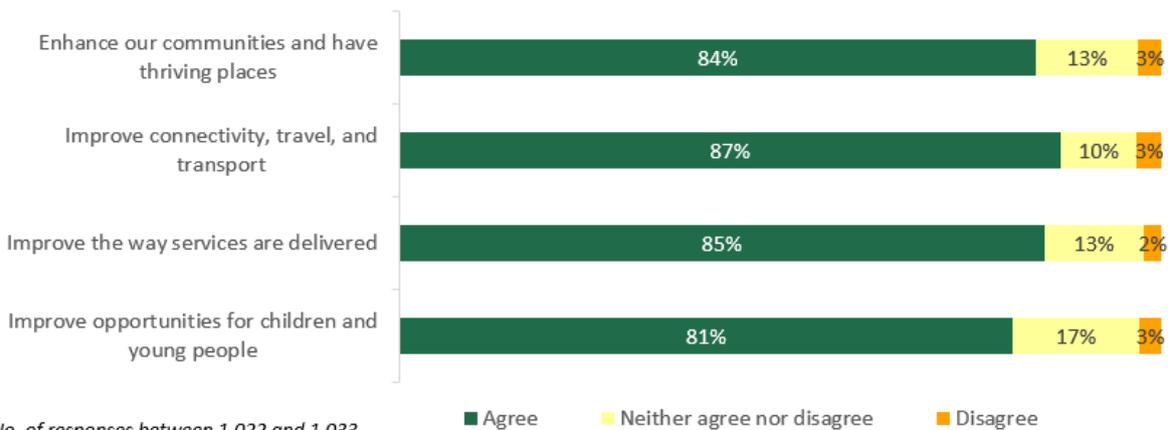
How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside in your local area after dark?



How strongly do you agree or disagree that these themes should underpin our overall plan, and all of our secondary strategies and plans over the next four years?

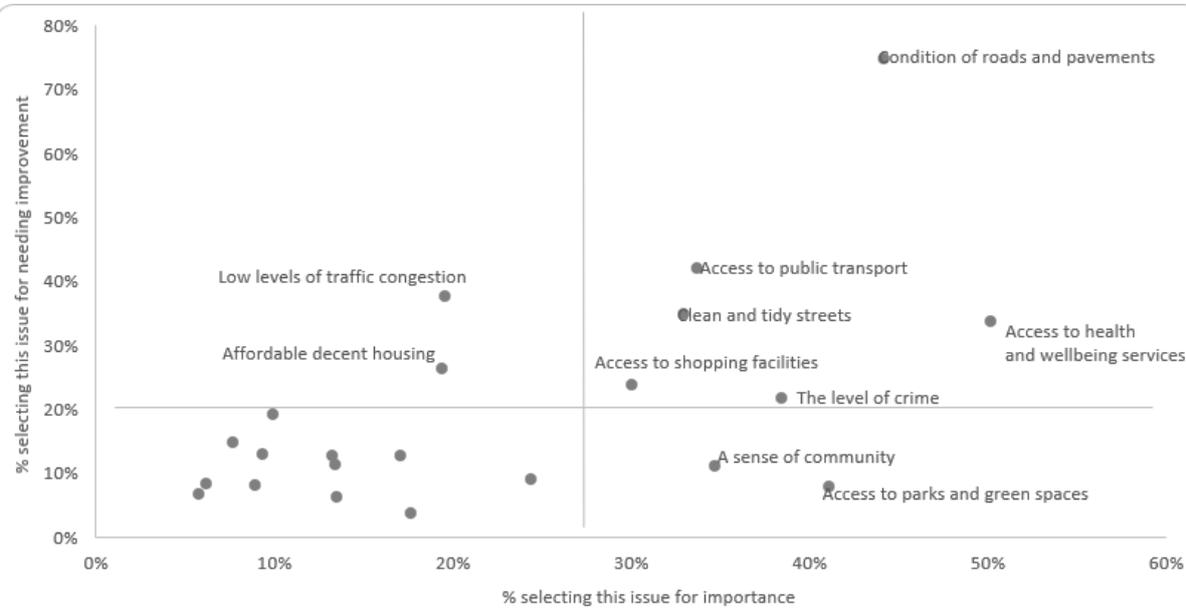


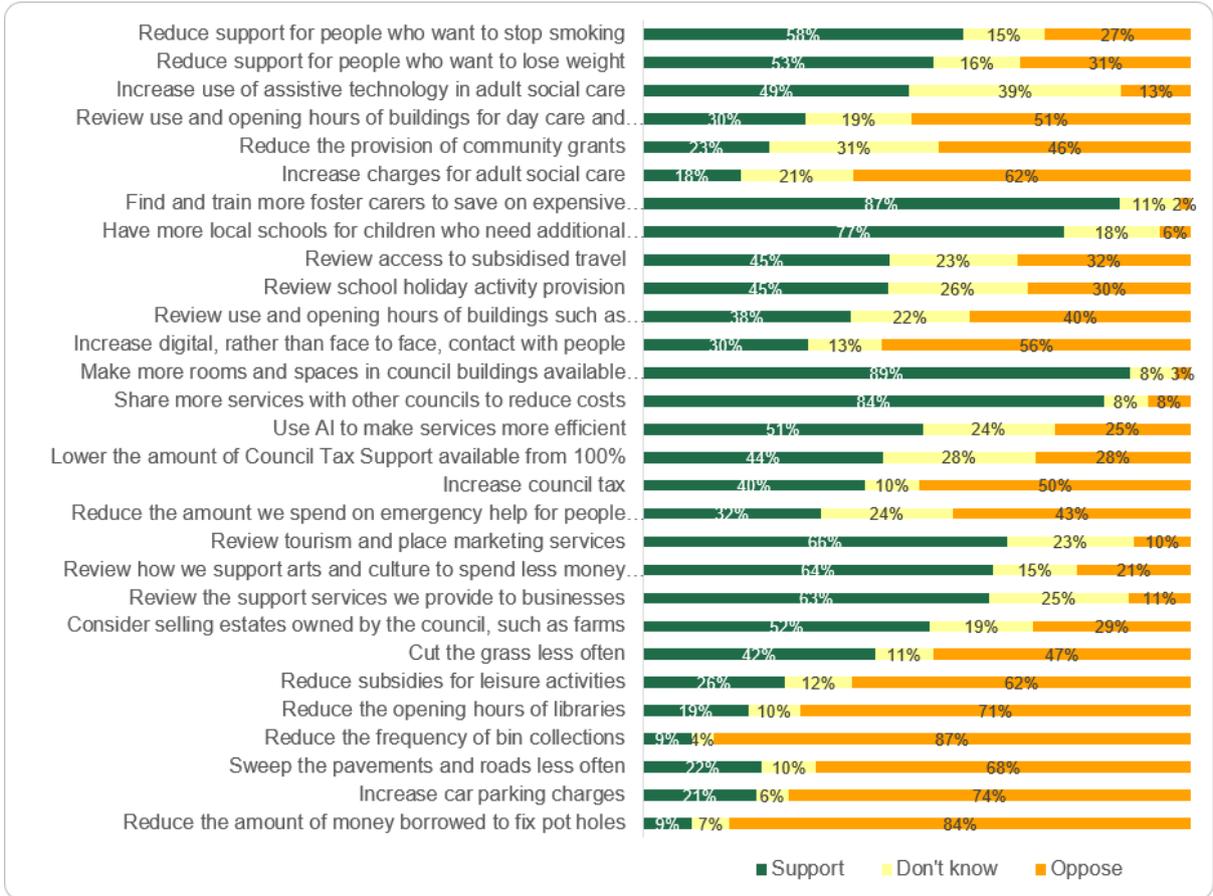
How strongly do you agree or disagree that these themes should feature in our overall Plan, and some of our secondary strategies and plans over the next four years?



No. of responses between 1,022 and 1,033

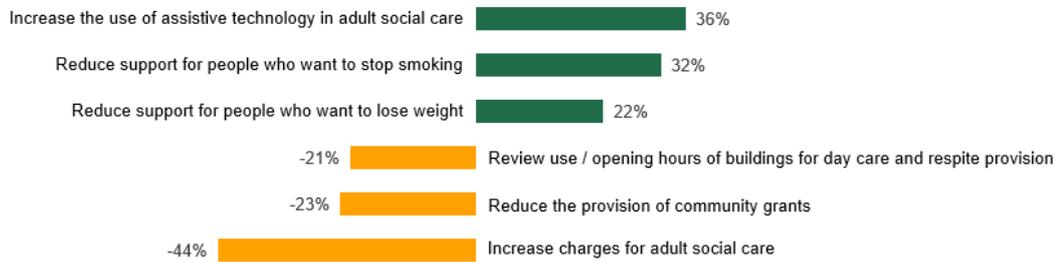
■ Agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Disagree



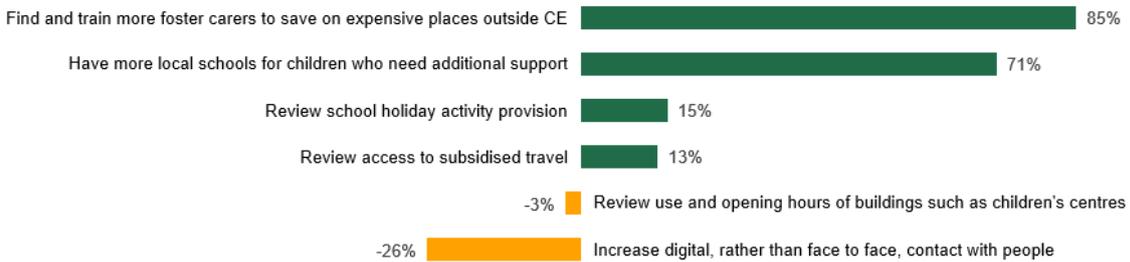


Shaping Our Future Survey 2023 - Net support / opposition scores for each of the 29 Budget Challenge suggestions put forward, by Committee

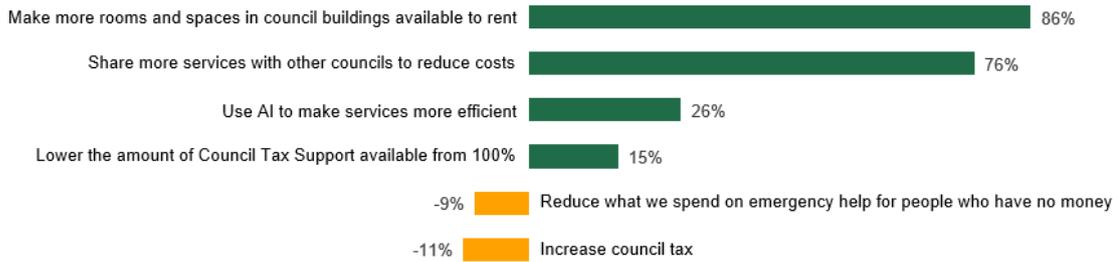
Adults & Health Committee Suggestions



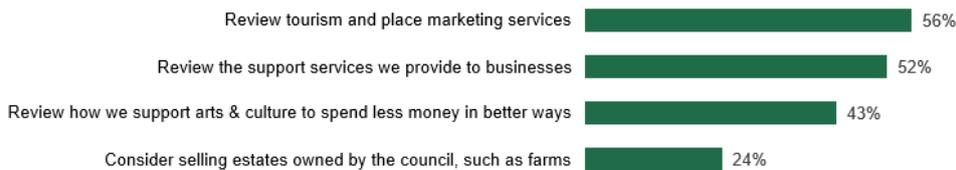
Children & Families Committee Suggestions



Corporate Services Committee Suggestions



Economy & Growth Committee Suggestions



Environment & Communities Committee Suggestions



Highways & Transport Committee Suggestions



Number of responses between 436 and 692

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OPEN.

Corporate Policy Committee

13 February 2024

Transfer of Local Enterprise Partnership Functions to Local Authority Control

Report of: Peter Skates, Acting Executive Director Place

Report Reference No: CP/64/23-24

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions become the responsibility of Local Authorities from 1st April 2024.
- 1.2 Those functions are currently provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (referred to as LEPCo in this report) and this report sets out proposals for how they could be transferred to the Council.
- 1.3 This report supports our corporate priorities of; An open and enabling organisation – *Look at opportunities to bring more income into the Borough* and A thriving and sustainable place – *thriving urban and rural economies with opportunities for all.*

Executive Summary

- 2.1. This report sets out the changes needed to implement the requirements of Government guidance on Local Enterprise Partnership functions. An options appraisal was undertaken to determine the optimum way of delivering the functions and this report sets out its conclusion and the suggested way forward.
- 2.2. It advises that the Council should increase its shareholding in the LEPCo and that it should be a company which is controlled by the three Councils across Cheshire and Warrington i.e. Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington Borough Councils.
- 2.3. To ensure that the changed company structure is able to be effective and has the correct governance arrangements, a number of structural changes and agreements should be put in place between the parties.

- 2.4. A new Joint Committee should be formed between the Councils with a new Board appointed alongside the creation of a new Business Advisory Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Corporate Policy Committee recommend that Council:

1. Agree the retention of the partnership approach between Warrington Borough Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire East Council in respect of sub-regional functions.
2. Agree that Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (including Marketing Cheshire) functions should continue to be delivered by a Company jointly owned by all three Councils, based on the business case set out in Appendix A.
3. Agree to set up a Joint Committee (JC) by 1 April 2024 with Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix B.
4. Agree that a Cheshire and Warrington Business Advisory Board be created to ensure a continued influential business voice in sub-regional economic strategy and priorities following the end of the Cheshire and Warrington LEP Board. Terms of Reference be agreed by the Joint Committee.
5. That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Growth, in conjunction with the Council's Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, to effect non-material changes to the proposed changes to the Articles of Association of C&W LEP as referenced in Appendix C of this report.
6. Recommend to the Joint Committee that they then make changes to the Articles of Association and that the name of Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership be changed to Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (ECW).
7. Agree the findings of the due diligence report undertaken and set out in Appendix D, including finances, risks and liabilities that the Council will incur in respect of LEPCo.
8. Recommend to the Joint Committee that when established, one officer from Cheshire East Council, with appropriate corporate skills and experience is appointed as a Director of LEPCo. That the officer is identified through consultation with the Council's Monitoring Officer, Place Director and Section 151 Officer.

9. Agree to enter into a Service Agreement with Cheshire West and Chester Council, Warrington Council and LEPCo on the terms set out in Appendix E, and to delegate final approval of the terms of the Service Agreement to the Director of Governance and Compliance in consultation with the Place Director and S151 Officer.
10. Recommend the Business Plan of the LEPCo to the Joint Committee as set out at Appendix F.
11. Agree that Cheshire East Council should continue to be the Accountable Body for the purposes of funding, and that the Director of Governance and Compliance be authorised to make any necessary changes to the Collaboration Agreement.
12. Agree that the Council's Monitoring Officer be given the authority to make any consequential changes to the Council Constitution to give effect to these recommendations.

Background

3.1 The Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership has supported economic growth across the sub-region since 2011. Over that period it invested almost £250 million into the sub-region, facilitating the Northgate development in Chester, the Congleton Link Road and the Omega development in Warrington; created one of the most successful Enterprise Zones in the country and UK's largest and best invested bioscience campus; helped position Cheshire & Warrington to become the first place in the world to have a decarbonised industrial cluster; and established the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission to advise on how Cheshire and Warrington could become the healthiest most sustainable, inclusive and growing place in the Country.

3.2 In August 2023 the UK Government confirmed that the functions currently carried out by LEPs would become the responsibility of Local Authorities by April 2024. Those functions are set out more fully in Appendix A, but in summary are;

*a. Embedding a strong, independent, and **diverse local business voice** into local democratic institutions.*

*b. Carrying out **strategic economic planning** in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates their area's economic priorities and sectoral strengths.*

*c. Continuing to **deliver a number of functions [programmes]** on behalf of government departments, shaped by the local business voice where relevant.*

*d. Where appropriate, **helping to broker and support new or deeper devolution deals**, where requested by local partners.*

3.3 The Guidance provides that how those functions should be implemented would be decided locally. However, it sets out that wherever possible local authorities should work together to deliver LEP functions within a 'Functional Economic Area'. A Functional Economic Area is defined as 'the area over which the local economy and its key markets operate' and it requires a population of 500,000+.

3.4 Cheshire East Council has historically delivered these functions through the Cheshire and Warrington LEP, which is set up as a company limited by guarantee. Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington Councils together with the Chair and Vice-Chair (two business sector persons) each have 20% ownership.

3.5 During Summer 2023, officers considered a number of options for the Councils to deliver LEP functions. These options were evaluated against the backdrop of the importance of delivering Council-led sub-regional economic development and growth as well as ensuring Member oversight and control.

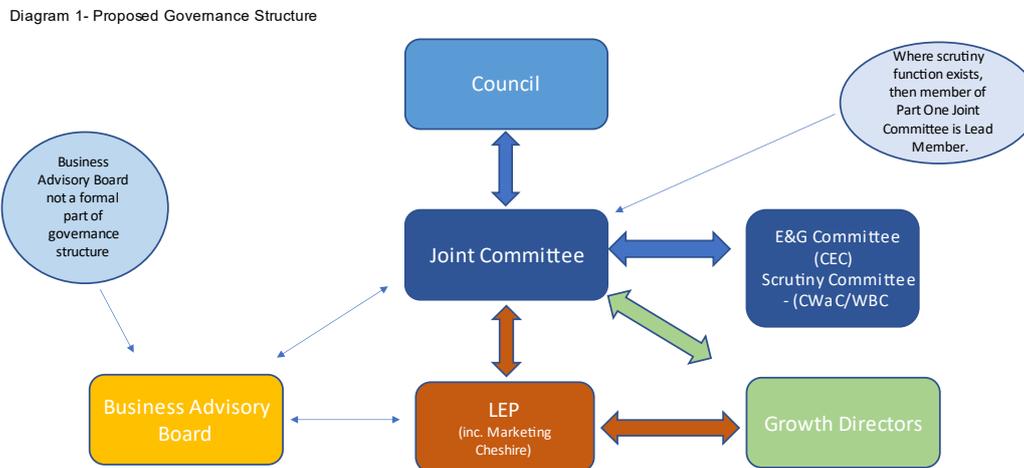
Business Case and Options Appraisal

4.1 The LEP commissioned an external consultant to consider options for the future. Following detailed analysis as set out in the Business Case and Options Appraisal set out in Appendix A, the preferred operating model for Cheshire and Warrington is to transfer full ownership and control of the LEP to the three Cheshire and Warrington Councils i.e. each Local Authority will increase their existing ownership of the Cheshire and Warrington LEP from 20% to c.33% per Council. The business case also includes detail on Marketing Cheshire, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Cheshire and Warrington LEP.

Governance

5.1 To support the jointly owned company structure, officers are recommending a Joint Committee comprised of two members from all three Councils. This will provide joint Council oversight and control of sub-regional economic development work and act as a 'shareholder committee'. The Joint Committee would be a formal committee of the Councils and align to the current governance structure as follows:

Diagram 1: Proposed governance structure



OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE Legal

5.2 The Joint Committee is split into Part One and Part Two business, as set out in the proposed Terms of Reference at Appendix B. For Part One business, one elected Member on the Joint Committee will be responsible for exercising the functions of the shareholder for Cheshire East Council. For Part Two, all three members on the Committee will provide strategic leadership for sub-regional economic growth. This includes acting as the strategic body across economic growth priorities for Cheshire and Warrington, providing a coherent single position on the major economic strategic issues for the sub-region.

5.3 Members of the Committee will be supported by the existing Cheshire and Warrington Growth Directors Group, comprising senior officers from the three Councils and led by the three Council's Growth Directors. This group will act as the operational "client" for LEPCo, ensuring that it delivers the sub-regional priorities agreed by the Joint Committee. Scrutiny oversight will be undertaken through existing Council scrutiny arrangements for Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington Borough Councils, and through the Economy and Growth Committee for Cheshire East Council, as set out in Diagram 1 above.

5.4 It is proposed to create a Business Advisory Board to support the governance structure. The Terms of Reference could be agreed by the Joint Committee and aligned to guidance as set out by Government. To maintain the current practice of excellent business engagement and influence in the sub-regional economic agenda for Cheshire and Warrington, the Chair of the Business Advisory Board could be a non-voting member of the Joint Committee, following a model already adopted in a number of other areas including Liverpool, Manchester and in West and North Yorkshire.

5.5 Scrutiny of the functions would be undertaken by the Economy & Growth Committee, as this is within its terms of reference i.e. the LEPCo will become a local authority controlled company, and not an external body. Finance Sub-Committee may wish to consider what, if any, role they would want to have in providing oversight and will be responsible for appointment to the Joint Committee.

5.6 The current board of C&W LEP comprises the Leaders of the three Councils (or their nominees) and two business persons as Chair and Vice Chair, and eight other business representatives. It is proposed that all current directors will resign by 31st March 2024. In the new structure, the Councils themselves would retain more control over the company through changes to the Articles, as proposed at Appendix C, and the Councils will exercise that control through the Joint Committee. A new board will need to be appointed to the LEPCo and this could be comprised of officers, including the Chief Executive and Finance Director of LEPCo who have the relevant expertise. It is also recommended that appropriate officers from each Council are appointed to the Board of LEPCo.

5.7 It should be noted that the existing arrangement of the LEP as the sole shareholder of Marketing Cheshire will remain in place – albeit that the LEP will be wholly council-owned. The current board of Marketing Cheshire comprises one councillor from each Council, the Chief Executive and Finance Director from the LEPCo and seven business representatives. No changes are proposed to the Board at this time.

Due Diligence

6.1 As members will note from the due diligence note at Appendix D, the LEPCo is set up as a company limited by guarantee. This structure has ‘Members’ as opposed to ‘Shareholders’ and the three Members will be the Councils. The Council already owns a 20% share of LEPCo, and as its share will increase to 33%, we have considered whether the Council will be taking on additional liabilities/risks as a result. As this is a company limited by guarantee, then the Councils’ liabilities to the LEPCo are limited to £1, and the Members of the LEPCo would have to choose whether to e.g. find additional funding for the company in the event of financial failure. Similarly, as it is a company limited by guarantee there is no distribution of any dividend.

Accountable Body

7.1 The S151 Officer for Cheshire East Council is the Accountable Officer for the Cheshire and Warrington LEP and has to provide an Annual Assurance Statement to Government as part of that role. For the year 2022/23 the assurance framework for the Cheshire and Warrington LEP was found to be ‘satisfactory’. Those matters which were raised were classed as ‘minor’ and will

be completed or no longer be applicable as a result of the restructure of the LEPCo.

7.2 Cheshire East Council entered into a Collaboration Agreement with the LEPCo for the provision of accountable body services. To allow for continuity, we are proposing that this arrangement continue for 2024/25 but the Collaboration Agreement will need updating to allow for the structural changes to the LEPCo.

Service Agreement

8.1 To ensure that the LEPCo and the Councils are clear on expectations and outcomes, we propose that a Service Agreement be put in place between all parties on the terms set out at Appendix E. To allow for negotiation and flexibility between the parties, authority should be delegated to officers to finalise the terms and conditions.

Business Plan for the LEPCo

9.1 The LEPCo will report to the local authorities of Cheshire and Warrington, with the primary goal of supporting the realisation of the agreed sub-regional vision: *"to be the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive, and growing economy in the UK."*

9.2 Objectives are concentrated at the sub-regional level, complementing the efforts of each individual authority in the following areas:

1. Strategic Economic Planning:

- Completing and publishing the Cheshire and Warrington Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Plan.
- Updating and publishing new strategic transport and skills plans for Cheshire and Warrington.
- Putting in place a new programme co-ordination and oversight body to ensure the successful delivery of the world's first net zero industrial cluster .
- Supporting elected leaders to put in place a Fair Employment Charter for Cheshire and Warrington.

2. Economic Insight and Delivery:

- Provide high-quality, forward-thinking evidence and insight to support the work undertaken by the LAs and LEPCo to make Cheshire and Warrington the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing place in the country
- Development and promotion of the Cheshire Science Corridor as a key national innovation hub.
- Ensure that people have the skills they need to realise the opportunities available to them in Cheshire and Warrington and

that businesses are able to access the people they need including by funding 640 training places for shortage occupations.

- Working with regional partners to ensure that the £260 million available in Life Sciences and Evergreen investment funds supports the development of the Cheshire and Warrington economy as effectively as possible. Support all 84 secondary schools to deliver first class careers education for their students.

3. Marketing Cheshire:

- As the Visit England designated Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) for Cheshire and Warrington, lead on marketing Cheshire and Warrington as a great place to visit, live, work, invest and study.
- Develop and publish a Destination Management Plan alongside the Strategic and Inclusive Economic Plan.
- Support the creation of a Tourist Business Improvement District (TBID) in the Chester area
- Further strengthen the delivery of visitor information in Cheshire and Warrington but implementing the recommendations of the sub-region's review of visitor information.
- Offering excellent sub-regional communications and PR services.

9.3. A draft Business Plan for 2024/5 is attached at Appendix F. Within the draft Plan are detailed activities for the year and a headline budget (including anticipated budget for 2025/26). This confirms both Teckal compliance and a balanced budget.

9.4 Rural Economy and Rural Communities will remain a focus LEPCo to ensure consistency of approach, and the promotion of key rural issues that need support at local, regional and government level.

9.5 The UK Government's commitment to engaging with economic functional areas is outlined in the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) and subsequent guidance associated with Local Enterprise Partnership transition arrangements in England. By focusing on these functional areas, which represent key sectors and industries, the government aims to optimise regional strengths and capitalise on unique economic potential. Through targeted engagement at scale, policymakers can tailor policies and interventions to address specific challenges and opportunities within each functional area, thereby promoting innovation, productivity, and job creation. This approach of intervention at economic functional areas is a policy shared across the main political parties – with recent Labour Party communications also highlighting the approach, for example, within the 2023 'Renewing our Democracy and Rebuilding our Economy' Commission Report.

Consultation and Engagement

10.1 The proposals set out in this report have not been subject to consultation. There is no requirement to undertake any statutory consultation in relation to the matters contained within this report.

Reasons for Recommendations

11.1 The Options Appraisal is contained in the Business Case set out at Appendix A. The recommended option of increasing the shareholding in the current LEPCo provides an outcome which Officers consider to be the most cost efficient, with the least risk and most speed for the Council.

11.2 The proposed governance solutions offer a shared model for the Councils to continue to deliver effective sub-regional economic development. They provide a formal, democratic-led governance structure in accordance with government guidance as well as clarity on roles and responsibilities.

11.3 Maintaining a strong business voice to support sub-regional priorities is also a local and national priority, and the creation of a Business Advisory Board will support this by ensuring that there is representation by local businesses.

Other Options Considered

12. The options appraisal contained in Appendix A sets out in full the other options considered and reasons for discounting them.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

13.1. The legal implications are set out in this report and its appendices, including the summary of due diligence undertaken. Members should note the need for the LEPCo to ensure Teckal compliance, as it will be delivering services direct for the Council without these being tendered. More information on this area is set out in Appendix A, but the use of a Service Agreement and the level of control which the Councils have over the Board will help to support the LEPCo with Teckal compliance. Care will need to be taken to ensure that it does not breach the 20% threshold for services which are being delivered to third parties and this should be monitored by the Board.

13.2. It will be necessary for the Council to ensure that the relationship between the Councils as owners of the LEPCo is clearly set out and documented, through changes to the Articles. This will ensure that the Councils have adequate control over the company and its Board of Directors. This will need

to be agreed by the first meeting of the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee terms of reference provide that all three Councils need to agree certain matters, for example loans or guarantees to be taken out by the LEPCo, or borrowing or raising any money.

13.3. A Joint Committee will need to be set up and serviced, in accordance with the terms of reference set out in Appendix B. The Councils are enabled to set up Joint Committees under Part VI of the Local Government Act 1972 and Part I Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. Local Authorities are permitted to have non-voting members on their committees, and this will allow for the Chair of the proposed Business Advisory Board to sit on the Joint Committee.

13.4. The proposed Business Advisory Board will not be set up as a committee of the Councils and will not form part of our constitutional arrangements. It will however need to be serviced, with appropriate arrangements made for a lead officer, with a forward plan for both to ensure that the work is both manageable and meaningful.

13.5. A range of Service Level Agreements will also be needed to ensure that LEPCo receives, and pays for, any services it receives from the Councils. This will also help to avoid issues with Teckal compliance as set out in the Business Case.

13.6 The Constitution may also need to be changed to ensure that committee terms of reference and the scheme of delegation are still suitable, given the additional functions which the Council is taking on.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

14.1. Cheshire East Council is the Accountable Body for the LEP. The recommendations include that Cheshire East should continue to act in an accountable body role under the new structures; consequently this will ensure continuity of financial oversight and assurance, with regard to management of the pre-existing funding streams and associated programmes, as well as for the new arrangements reflecting the more direct role of the local authorities.

14.2 Members will be aware that the existing arrangements include the Enterprise Zones, a long-term initiative whereby the LEP retains business rates from those zones, for reinvestment in economic development activities and projects; and that the local authorities have each provided a £10m loan facility to 'pump-prime' particular projects (with the loans being repayable from future retained business rates generated).

14.3 By far the majority of funding for the LEP comes from Government, either in the form of 'core'-type funding (for LEP management and administration) or for specific programmes of activity. Only a relatively small proportion of funding comes from the local authorities as annual 'subscriptions'; though in addition

any interest earned on grant monies held by Cheshire East is also passed on to the LEP.

14.4 At the end of December 2023 the Government informed local authorities that it would provide core funding of £240,000 in 2024/25 towards the cost of functions undertaken by LEPs until March 2025. This funding will be paid to Cheshire East as the Accountable Body for these functions in Cheshire and Warrington. This is a reduction of £10,000 on the core funding provided to the LEP in 2023/24. Any Government funding beyond 2024/25 will be subject to future Spending Review decisions.

14.5 It should be noted that the Government revenue support of £240,000 is a relatively small part of the 'LEP' company model's total expected income in 2024/25 of £8.845 million, which is made up of: funding from the Departments for Education, Business and Trade and Energy Security and Net Zero to deliver specified programmes; retained business rates via the Enterprise Zones; grants for 'interest on balances' held by Cheshire East as accountable body; and some £30,000 each from the three Councils as 'local authority subscriptions'.

14.6 It should also be noted that with regard to Marketing Cheshire, the funding model is based on around 35% traded services, and that income via trading is a requirement of Local Visitor Economic Partnerships status.

14.7 A draft operating budget for the new Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington company for 2024/25 is shown below. It is worthy of note that this budget does not require any more funding from local authority revenue budgets than is currently provided (the 'LA Grants' line reflects both local authority subscriptions and the passing on of core Government grant funding).

ECW FIRST DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25 – LEP AND MARKETING CHESHIRE

	LEP	MC	TOTAL
INCOME			
LA Grants	£ 333k	£ 282k	£ 615k
Government Programme Grants	£ 4335k	£ 170k	£4505k
Commercial Income	£ 0k	£ 425k	£ 425k
Enterprise Zone	£ 2500k	£ 200k	£2700k
Interest on balances with bank and Cheshire East	£ 600k	£ 0k	£ 600k
TOTAL INCOME	£ 7768k	£ 1077k	£8845k
EXPENDITURE			
LEP and MC Running Costs	£ 2501k	£ 1098k	£3599k
EZ Loan Repayments	£ 1427k	£ 0k	£1427k
Programme Expenditure	£ 3459k	£ 0k	£3459k
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£7387k	£ 1098k	£8485k
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	£ 381k	(£ 21k)	£ 360k

14.8 2024/25 will be a transitional year, with a reduced level of Government core funding support. In preparing the business plans and budgets for future years, the new local authority company will need to manage and plan for its activities within budget envelopes created by available funding streams and its use of reserves, as core and project-based funding from Government continues to reduce.

14.9 Further details on the finances of the existing LEP can be found in the annual accounts published on their website:

<https://cheshireandwarrington.com/how-we-work/transparency/finance-and-funding/>

14.10 There is no cost to the Council with regard to increasing its shareholding. With regard to accounting for new local authority-owned company, we will need to determine the extent to which the accounts are consolidated and/ or disclosed in the statutory accounts for Cheshire East (and of Cheshire West & Chester and Warrington Councils) for the 2024/25 year onwards.

Policy

<p>An open and enabling organisation <i>Ensure there is transparency in our decision making</i></p>	<p>A thriving and sustainable place <i>A great place for people to live, work and visit</i> <i>Thriving urban and rural economies</i></p>
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Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

15. There are no direct equality implications as a result of this report. The services are currently provided by LEPCo – it is proportion of company ownership which is changing.

15.2 In respect of the functions which are transferring to the Council, it will need to ensure that in delivering the functions it undertakes any necessary EIA for the future or ensures that this is undertaken by LEPCo and that LEPCo comply with all equalities duties.

Human Resources

16.1 The staff will remain the responsibility of LEPCo and will continue to be employed on their existing terms and conditions. However, some harmonisation of HR policies with the Council(s) over time might be helpful, and it will be important to manage any reputational risk around staffing.

16.2 The LEPCo may be considered to be a local authority ‘associated company’ for purposes of equal pay legislation. As part of the due diligence,

work has been undertaken to ensure that there are no equal pay issues which may arise as a result of the increase in shareholding. *Equal pay issues are currently being checked by each Council as C&W LEP Directors are predominantly male.*

Risk Management

17.1. The Council is increasing its shareholding from 20% to 33%, and already has some share of responsibility for the risks of the C&W LEP, which are set out in this report and appendices.

17.2. There is a risk of disputes with the other Councils over the future direction of the company, or that one Council will want to withdraw from the arrangements. These risks can be mitigated by ensuring that they are covered within the Articles and providing that any Council who wishes to withdraw has to indemnify the others against subsequent losses and give one year's notice.

17.3. There is a risk that the company will lose its Teckal compliant status due to trading by Marketing Cheshire. This can be mitigated by close monitoring of their finances. The agreements which we are proposing to put in place, and the changes to the Articles to provide greater control to the Councils, will help to ensure Teckal compliance over the 'control' limb of the Teckal test.

17.4. There is a reputational risk with Council staff over the pay and staffing levels in LEPCo – even if there are not equal pay/discrimination issues. C&W LEP staff earn significantly more than Council staff, although that they do not receive an LGPS pension, and they could be considered to have a greater staff number in their area compared to the Councils.

17.5. There is a risk that the Board of Marketing Cheshire (currently made up of a business owners and councillors) and the shareholders will not agree on the future direction of the business. This can be mitigated by changing the Board of Marketing Cheshire for the future, or collapsing it into the LEPCo, but this is not without reputational risk and will need to be managed sensitively.

17.6. There is a risk that the Chair and Vice Chair of the C&W LEP and other board members do not resign. This could lead to reputational risk as the Councils would have to remove the Chair and Vice-Chair, to access their share of the LEPCo. They would also have to remove the Board to ensure control.

17.7. There is a risk that the representatives on the Business Advisory Board do not feel that they are making a valid contribution or their views are not being considered. This can be mitigated by ensuring a proper appointment process and induction, being clear about the role and responsibilities.

17.8. There is a risk of Government funding and programmes ceasing, but this risk would be in place without the Councils' increasing their share in the LEPCo.

17.9. There is a risk that the Councils do not appropriately manage the LEPCo and leave themselves exposed to financial risks. Whilst in law the Councils' liability is limited to £1, there would be significant reputational risk if the Councils failed to meet the debts of the LEPCo. However this proposal is increasing the level of shareholding and so the Council already has some exposure to this risk. The governance arrangements should provide greater control and focus to help mitigate the risk.

17.10 A risk register is included in the Business Case at Appendix F.

Rural Communities

It is important that the Rural Economy and Rural Communities remain a focus sub regionally to ensure consistency of approach, and the promotion of key rural issues that need support at local, regional and government level. The new LEPCo structure will continue to focus on the opportunities to support Rural Communities, supported by the Joint Shareholder Committee and the local authorities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

There are no direct implications for children and young people as a result of this report.

Public Health

There are no direct public health implications but decision making by the Joint Committee and the Board should have regard to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Climate Change

There are no direct climate change implications as a result of this report.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Deborah Upton, Legal Services Deborah.upton@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix A: Business Case and Options Appraisal Appendix B: Joint Committee Terms of Reference Appendix C: Proposed changes to the Articles of Association Appendix D: Due diligence report Appendix E: Heads of Terms – service agreement Appendix F: Business Plan
Background Papers:	Government Guidance dated August 2023 and December 2023

Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (C&W LEP)

Transition to a Council-owned Company Model: Business Case

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DRAFT

A. INTRODUCTION

A1. In March 2023, and subsequently via letter and guidance from Minister Davison in August 2023¹, the Government confirmed its decision to cease core funding for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and, where appropriate, to integrate and transfer functions to local authorities from April 2024.

A2. Following a detailed options analysis, due diligence and informal discussion with Council Lead Members, Chief Executives and Senior Officers from Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington Borough Councils – as well as private sector C&WLEP and Marketing Cheshire representatives - the option of a Council-owned company model is recommended as the preferred approach for LEP transition. This has also been discussed in detail with Government officials.

A3. It was agreed that a business case should be developed as part of a wider suite of documents to ensure Members have detailed background information to support final decision-making for the future of LEP functions.

A4. This business case takes account of both the existing Cheshire and Warrington LEP Company and Marketing Cheshire (a wholly owned subsidiary of the C&W LEP).

B. BACKGROUND

B1. In August 2023 the UK Government confirmed that LEP functions would become the responsibility of Local Authorities by April 2024. How those functions should be implemented would be decided locally. However, Government guidance set out that wherever possible local authorities should work together to deliver LEP functions within functional economic areas with a minimum population of 500,000².

B2. The Guidance also states that if authorities wish to continue using the LEP as a vehicle to deliver these core functions, or if they wish in due course to pursue integration of a LEP, they are free to do so – the nature and status of such arrangements is a decision for each local authority. However, any future contracting that is not in place before 1 April 2024 would be subject to normal commercial procedures i.e. tendering, unless a Teckal exemption (*see below*) is in place.

B3. In relation to the **transfer of functions**, the following are detailed as the primary functions of LEPs ‘as funded by government’:

*a. Embedding a strong, independent, and **diverse local business voice** into local democratic institutions.*

*b. Carrying out **strategic economic planning** in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates their area’s economic priorities and sectoral strengths.*

¹ The full guidance can be found [here](#).

² None of the three Cheshire and Warrington Councils meet this threshold individually.

- c. Continuing to **deliver a number of functions [programmes]** on behalf of government departments, shaped by the local business voice where relevant.*
- d. Where appropriate, **helping to broker and support new or deeper devolution deals**, where requested by local partners.*

B4. Councils across Cheshire and Warrington have historically delivered these functions through the C&W LEP, which is set up as a company limited by guarantee in which Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington Councils each have a 20% share, with two business sector shareholders (being the Chair and Vice Chair of the LEP) having 20% each.

B5. Since August 2023, officers, in consultation with lead Members, Government Officials and private sector representatives, have been working through a number of options for LEP transition, as well as aligned due diligence and further detail on legal, financial and governance implications. This business case should be read in conjunction with the wider suite of documents contained as appendices as part of the February 2024 LEP Transition Council Report.

B6. Officers consider that the preferred option is to retain the current company model with amended shareholding so that it is wholly owned equally across the three Councils of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington. This would use the existing C&W LEP Company structure, which is limited by guarantee and wholly owns its subsidiary, Marketing Cheshire. Articles of Association would be changed to increase the Councils collective ownership from 60% to 100%, using a Teckal exemption³ and changing the name to Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (EC&W) – whilst maintaining the Marketing Cheshire name and brand.

B7. A Joint Committee, comprised of Elected Members from each Council, would maintain direction and oversight of the company as well as provide strategic sub-regional leadership. A new board of directors would be established, replacing the role of the current LEP Board – but only insofar as company legal requirements need to be upheld. A Business Advisory Board would be created to maintain a business voice across sub-regional economic matters following the dissolution of the current LEP Board.

C. CASE FOR CHANGE

C1. The UK Government's commitment to engaging with sub-regional economic functional areas is outlined in the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) and subsequent guidance associated with Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) transition arrangements in England. By focusing on these functional areas (with populations of 500,000 or more), which represent key sectors and industries, the government aims to optimise regional strengths and capitalise on unique economic potential. Through targeted engagement at scale, policymakers can tailor policies and interventions to address specific challenges and opportunities within each functional

³ A Teckal exemption means that Councils must control the company and its activities in the same way as they do their own departments – with at least 80% of the work of the company being for the controlling Councils. This allows Councils to pass work directly to their company without having to tender it. This is explained further in Appendix A.

area, thereby promoting innovation, productivity, and job creation. This approach of intervention at economic functional areas is a policy shared across the main political parties – with recent Labour Party communications also highlighting the approach, for example, within the 2023 ‘Renewing our Democracy and Rebuilding our Economy’ Commission Report.

C2. To support the assessment of LEP transition options for Cheshire and Warrington, the case for change has been based on the following shared values and principles as discussed during background consultation. These include:

- ⇒ Supports sub-regional working to achieve the best economic outcomes for Cheshire and Warrington
- ⇒ Achieved at pace
- ⇒ Minimises complexity and achieves a simplified solution
- ⇒ Minimises transition cost (to Councils)
- ⇒ Maximises capacity and resources – achieving further economies of scale and maximising efficiencies – as well as retaining staff knowledge and expertise.
- ⇒ Minimises liabilities (to Councils)
- ⇒ Maximises Council-led control/accountability

C3. A due diligence analysis including the impacts legal, financial, commercial, operations and HR issues is also set out to help inform Members and to support the overall outcomes evaluation.

C4. It should also be noted that HMG LEP Transition Guidance sets out that decisions, where appropriate, on the transfer of assets should be agreed by the LEP, its Accountable Body, and respective local authorities **by March 2024**, though the practical integration and transfer process may stretch beyond that date. There are a number of procurement complications from 1st April 2024 that put additional emphasis on the need for pace.

D. OVERVIEW OF SERVICES

D1. As noted above, **core functions** that are viewed as the primary functions of LEPs ‘as funded by government’ include:

- a. *Embedding a strong, independent, and **diverse local business voice** into local democratic institutions.*
- b. *Carry out **strategic economic planning** in partnership with local leaders that clearly articulates their area’s economic priorities and sectoral strengths.*
- c. ***Delivering a number of functions [programmes]** on behalf of government departments, shaped by the local business voice where relevant.*

D2. In terms of Cheshire and Warrington and priority functions, the primary goal of the Council-owned company would be to support the realisation of the agreed sub-regional vision developed alongside the Cheshire and Warrington Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission (2020): “to be the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive, and growing economy in the UK.”

D3. Objectives of Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (EC&W) would be concentrated at the sub-regional level, complementing the efforts of each individual authority in the following areas:

A. Strategic Economic Planning:

- Completing and publishing the Cheshire and Warrington Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Plan.
- Updating and publishing new strategic transport and skills plans for Cheshire and Warrington.
- Putting in place a new programme co-ordination and oversight body to ensure the successful delivery of the world's first net zero industrial cluster .
- Supporting elected leaders to put in place a Fair Employment Charter for Cheshire and Warrington.

B. Economic Insight and Delivery:

- Provide high-quality, forward-thinking evidence and insight to support the work undertaken by the LAs and ECW to make Cheshire and Warrington the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing place in the country
- Development and promotion of the Cheshire Science Corridor as a key national innovation hub.
- Ensure that people have the skills they need to realise the opportunities available to them in Cheshire and Warrington and that businesses are able to access the people they need including by funding 640 training places for shortage occupations.
- Working with regional partners to ensure that the £260 million available in Life Sciences and Evergreen investment funds supports the development of the Cheshire and Warrington economy as effectively as possible. Support all 84 secondary schools to deliver first class careers education for their students.

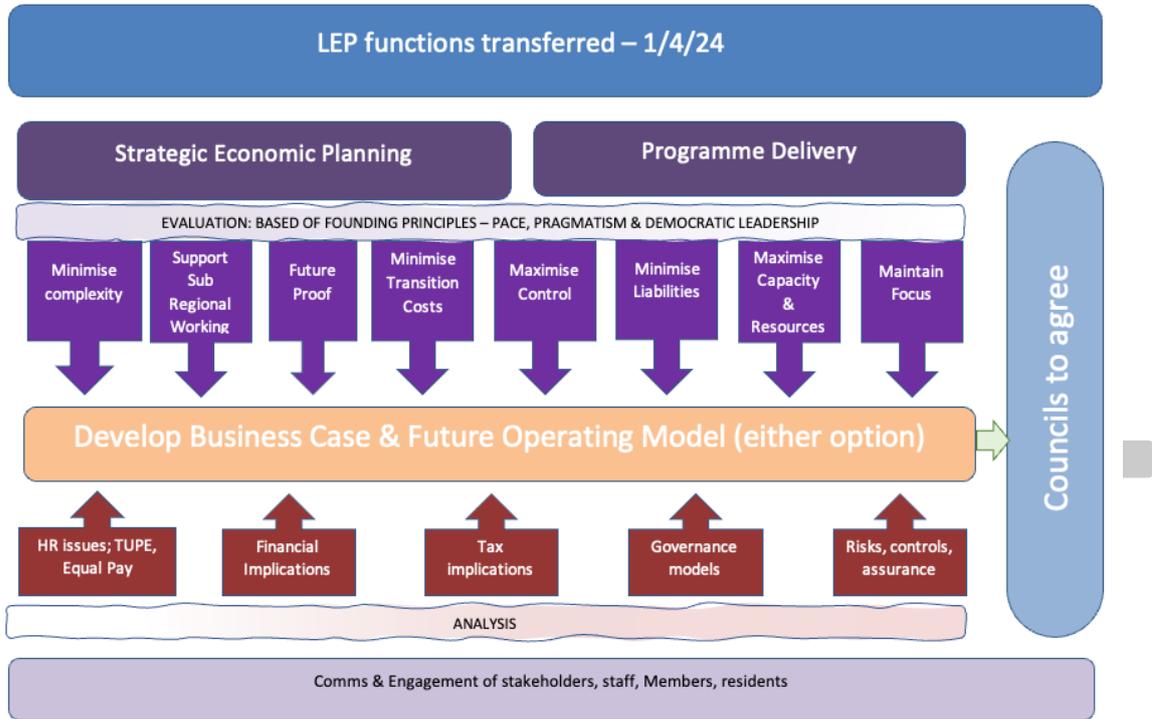
C. Marketing Cheshire:

- As the Visit England designated Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) for Cheshire and Warrington, lead on marketing Cheshire and Warrington as a great place to visit, live, work, invest and study.
- Develop and publish a Destination Management Plan alongside the Strategic and Inclusive Economic Plan.
- Support the creation of a Tourist Business Improvement District (TBID) in the Chester area
- Further strengthen the delivery of visitor information in Cheshire and Warrington but implementing the recommendations of the sub-region's review of visitor information.
- Offering excellent sub-regional communications and PR services.

D4. A suggested annual business plan accompanies this business case. If report recommendations are agreed, the Joint Committee will be asked to agree the business plan at its first meeting.

E. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

E1. To ensure a consistent approach to analysis, a detailed options appraisal was conducted in early Autumn 2023. This overarching analysis can be summarised in the following diagram:



OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE Legal

E2. Summary of options analysis (benefits/risks) across main models considered:

Delivery Model	Benefits	Risks
Status Quo (Limited Company model with 60:40 split in shares – Class A (Councils) and B (Private Sector Directors))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure already in place • Capacity/Team in place • Recognised ‘brand’ with national profile • Is an option in HMG guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be required to tender for all new activity (and potential re-tendering for existing). This is likely to be a complex and expensive/ time consuming arrangement from April 2024 • Significant changes to funding model – with cost implications. • Not achieving the transfer of functions to Local Authorities

Delivery Model	Benefits	Risks
<p>Winddown LEP with no agreed forward strategy/next steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unclear what benefits arise from this course of action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counter to HMG LEP Transition guidance Significant changes to 'dismantle' existing contracts and work – high cost implications. Contingent risks and liabilities will be transferred direct to Councils. Government (and opposition) policy heavily 'geared' to sub-regional opportunities, including investment. Likely to lead to future disadvantages for Council investment prospects
<p>Hosted Shared Sub-Regional Service. I.e. All LEP functions hosted by one Council but working towards sub-regional activities agreed by a Joint Committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model of shared service is well known to local authorities (Joint Committee to be established to oversee) Avoids need to change Articles of current LEP company and set up shareholder/client/director processes. Sub-regional functions would sit within a shared service model – therefore eliminating commercial risks associated with (Teckal) company. Transferred (TUPE) staff will transfer existing T's and C's. Councils have more experience working collectively through a shared service model than a joint-Teckal (and/or joint trading company). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will need to wind down LEP co. Staff would need to TUPE to host local authority with negative cost and time implications. The transfer process is potentially lengthy therefore creating hiatus in programme delivery and increasing risk of losing staff to undertake the programme delivery. Potentially greater up-front set-up costs to complete all transfers An equal inter authority agreement to share financial liabilities across the 3 Councils would need to be agreed. Various contingent liabilities with financial impacts transferred to host Council (albeit indemnified by 3 x Council agreement) Tax implications of asset transfer

Delivery Model	Benefits	Risks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liabilities shared equally across Councils via Inter Authority Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May need a trading company in place for Marketing Cheshire (with subsequent legal process for shareholder, director, client) or trading function within shared service. Risk of losing LVEP status if not trading.
<p>Council-owned Company</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to be faster in the short term to integrate the LEP into a local authority controlled (Teckal) company • Maintains current capacity/resource and sub-regional approach. • No TUPE impacts • Liabilities across the Councils will be 'ring-fenced' within the limited company although in practical terms the Council will have to consider liabilities. • Joint (Shareholder) Committee gives control to local authorities across all reserved matters • Company Board of Directors appointed by Councils give direct accountability over operation of company. • Joint Committee holds Board to account. • Marketing Cheshire can remain within the controlled company structure • Joint Committee provides strategic direction and agrees business plan (and single sub-regional voice). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential risk to local authorities from having a controlled company within their accounts • Contingent state aid/subsidy control risks • More complex governance structure than current – conflicts of interest need to be managed, new governance structure to be created • Services can only be provided through Teckal exemption and so new operating model will be needed to meet control tests

Delivery Model	Benefits	Risks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Client function and Councils appointed Board of Directors will ensure business plan is delivered 	

F. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

F1. In consideration of the Council-owned company model options analysis, a number of legal considerations were undertaken.

F2. Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables two or more local authorities to set up a Joint Committee (JC) to discharge their functions jointly. These arrangements must comply with the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2000. JCs may be decision-making or advisory. The Councils Agree the terms of reference of the JC. JCs have no legal status, cannot impose financial obligations on their constituent authorities and have no powers to levy council tax. JCs are not a separate legal entity therefore they cannot own assets, have liabilities, raise taxes, enter into contracts or employ staff.

F3. Section 95 of the Local Government Act 2003 enables local authorities to provide on a commercial basis, anything that is related to a function of the authority. The powers under the Act enable Local Authorities to trade with private bodies and persons for profit (i.e. charges fixed at more than the cost recovery) through a company. Surpluses on commercial operations under the section 95 trading power would be available to individual authorities. This legislation has been further strengthened by the Localism Act 2011, which expands Local Authority's trading activities to areas not related to their existing functions and removes geographical boundaries so trading can take place for a variety of service provisions and anywhere in the UK through a company. A local authority has statutory powers to form companies jointly with other local authorities under Section 73 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

F4. Normally, the provision of services over certain values from a company to a local authority is subject to the public procurement regime set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. There is an exception to this rule that means, in certain circumstances, a contract let by a local authority to a company it owns will not be deemed to be a contract for the purposes of the public procurement regime. This exception is known as the "Teckal" exemption and was established by a European legal case but is now set out in section 12 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

F5. In order for the Councils to be able to pass the work direct to a company model without tendering it, the **Teckal exemption** will have to be met. This will be broadly the same test under the new Procurement Act 2022 (when enacted) but it should be noted that there may be changes once finalised. It sets out:

- (a) The Councils must control the company and its activities in the same way they do their own departments
- (b) The company must predominantly undertake work for its controlling councils (an 80% test currently in the Procurement Bill 2022).

F6. Using the Teckal exemption will mean that a new operating model will need to be considered to ensure that it meets the 'control' test under Teckal. This will also give the opportunity of economies of scale.

F7. Pursuing a **non-Teckal** company structure would have significant procurement issues and would subject the company to the same commercial pressures and market risk as any other private sector entity competing in that market (if it is indeed in a 'market'). So the commercial relationship between the Councils and the company will be key if the Councils are seeking to establish a company for which they could use an exemption for its Council-led activities.

F8. The articles of the company can provide that it is used as a **joint Teckal-compliant** company, thereby enabling the Councils (x3 - via the Joint Committee) to make direct decisions to deliver functions, thereby saving time and cost compared with running a procurement exercise.

F9. Headline issues to note include:

- As a Teckal-compliant entity, it is essentially the same as one of the Councils' own departments
- Teckal will enable **Marketing Cheshire** impacts to be managed. As a subsidiary of the Council-owned company, Marketing Cheshire would fall within the overall Teckal turnover limits. It will, however, be necessary to monitor the turnover of the companies as a group structure, i.e. including Marketing Cheshire, to ensure that at least 80% of its income is derived from work via the Councils.
- The basic Teckal test covers the following:
 - Control – Council (x3) control which is similar to that which it exercises over its own departments. "Control" will be established where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - (a) it exercises a decisive influence over both strategic objectives and significant decisions of the controlled legal entity, or
 - (b) the control is exercised by another legal entity which is itself controlled in the same way by the contracting authority.
 - Essential activities - more than 80% of the activities of the controlled legal entity are carried out in the performance of tasks entrusted to it by the controlling authority (Joint Committee) or by other legal persons/entities controlled by that authority. In this context, "activities" refers to the average total turnover or an appropriate alternative activity-based measure such as costs incurred by the relevant legal entity with respect to services, supplies and works for the 3 preceding years.

- Where there is more than one controlling contracting authority in a Teckal vehicle, this is referred to as "**joint Teckal**" and the control and essential activities tests are modified slightly:
 - Control - the contracting authorities exercise jointly a control over that legal entity which is similar to that which they exercise over their own departments. "*Joint control over that legal entity*" will be established where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - the decision-making bodies of the controlled legal entity are composed of representatives of all participating authorities (although individual representatives may represent several or all of the participating authorities);
 - those authorities are able to jointly exert decisive influence over the strategic objectives and significant decisions of the controlled legal entity; and
 - the controlled legal entity does not pursue any interests which are contrary to those of the controlling authorities.
 - Essential activities - more than 80% of the activities of that legal entity are carried out in the performance of tasks entrusted to it by the controlling authorities or by other legal entities controlled by the same contracting authorities.

G. Corporate Structure and Governance

G1. To ensure liabilities remain limited, the current **Company Limited by Guarantee** (CLG) structure would remain in place.

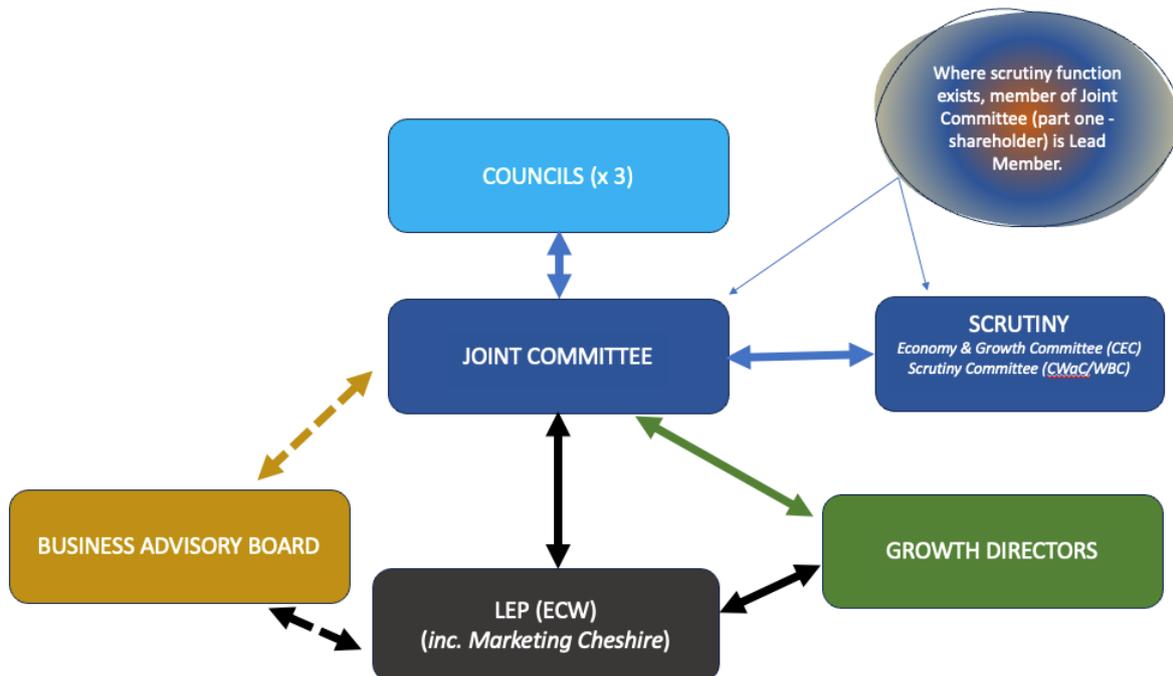
- There is a lower administrative burden for maintaining a CLG
- A CLG is a very well established structure that is used for not-for-profit entities, that also has flexibility to convert, if circumstances change in the future
- A CLG is a separate legal entity and enables the potential for ring-fencing of liabilities. On paper, the "limited by guarantees" structure limits the Councils liabilities. However, there is a question as to the extent to which the Councils would realistically allow a company to fail without meeting their liabilities. This would carry significant reputational risk. Consideration would be needed with regard to what interventions the Councils would make should the company(s) make significant losses.
- Within a Teckal-compliant company structure, owned by the three Councils equally as shareholders, Marketing Cheshire would remain as a subsidiary of the 'group' and should fall within the overall Teckal turnover limits (*which is currently the case*). It will, however, be necessary to monitor the turnover of the company (group) to ensure that at least 80% of its income is derived from the Councils.
- There is the potential to run a full trading company as a subsidiary of the group should issues over turnover make Teckal exemptions unviable.

G2. The company's governance framework will need to be designed and implemented to ensure compliance with the "control" limb of the Teckal test and various measures will need to be put in place to ensure accountability e.g. performance indicators.

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G3. To support the jointly owned company structure, a Joint Committee comprised of all three Councils could be put in place. This would provide joint Council oversight and control of sub-regional economic development work and the work of council-owned company (with a recommended name of **Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington**). The Joint Committee would be a formal committee of the Councils and align to the current governance structure as follows:



G4. The Joint Committee sets the strategic direction and would need to:

- sign off a periodic business plan – this may be an annual plan or a multi-year plan updated on a rolling basis; and
- exercise control over key decisions through the requirement for unanimous approval of certain "reserved matters".
- the Joint Committee will have the right to appoint, remove and replace board directors – and will hold the company board to account.

G5. Members of the Committee would be supported by a Management Group, comprising senior officers from the three Councils and led by the three Council's Growth Directors. This group would act as the operational "client" for the council-owned company, ensuring, via a service agreement that it delivers the sub-regional priorities agreed by the Joint Committee.

G6. The Scrutiny function can be undertaken by the Councils, through the Member on the Joint Committee being the lead accountable member.

G7. Following the formal end of the current C&W LEP Board a Business Advisory Board would be created. To maintain the current practice of excellent business engagement and influence in the sub-regional economic agenda for Cheshire and Warrington, it is proposed that the Chair of the Business Advisory Board would sit as a non-voting member of the Committee.

G8. Whilst the Joint Committee would have matters reserved to it i.e. that only the shareholders can agree, there also needs to be a board of directors to comply with company regulations. The purpose of this board would only be to deal with essential legal elements of a company board. Overall direction of the council-owned company will be led by the Joint Committee supported by senior Officers of the three Councils owners. As a consequence of that, it is proposed that Council Officers, with corporate experience and expertise, will sit on the company board.

G9. An accountable body for the company will need to be in place – Cheshire East Council are the current accountable body and are prepared to remain in that role.

H. Analysis

H1. The following section highlights the findings of the detailed options analysis conducted in Autumn 2023, focusing on the implications of the preferred company model option for both C&W LEP and Marketing Cheshire. The elements of this analysis that could be primary areas of risk to the Councils are detailed further in the accompanying due diligence report, in particular legal, financial, commercial and HR risks.

H2. C&W LEP to Council owned company model:

Analysis	Advantages	Disadvantages
<i>Legal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some contracts may not need to be novated (some may, as functions have transferred) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration may be needed to support future devolution – including TUPE/contract novation to a combined authority if established. Company structure may have more administrative burden (operating model tbc)
<i>Financial</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountable body function will still be in place (Cheshire East Council) to assure across appropriate spend 'Reverse Teckal' back office recharge facility may prove more cost effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insolvency risk remains (low) Teckal financial limits will need to be monitored (note MC within group 20%). (Note changes to Procurement Act currently going through Parliament may impact). Future EZ loan repayments reliant on future business rates growth VAT treatment tbc.
<i>Commercial</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely to be faster in the short term to integrate the LEP into a local authority controlled (Teckal) company Resolves the Marketing Cheshire impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential risk to local authorities from having a controlled company within their accounts Contingent state aid/subsidy control risks

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Analysis	Advantages	Disadvantages
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Teckal structure will need to be monitored to ensure Marketing Cheshire within Teckal limits.
<i>HR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No TUPE impacts at this stage. Employment contracts continue with the existing company and the liabilities associated with the contracts would need to be settled by the company. <i>(Figures for the LEP and MC on Payments in Lieu of Notice and Redundancy have been provided separately).</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councils may be exposed to equal pay claims, although analysis conducted highlights this as a low risk.
<i>Governance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint (Shareholder) Committee gives control to local authorities across all reserved matters Company Board of Directors appointed by Councils give direct accountability over operation of company. Marketing Cheshire can remain within the controlled company structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More complex governance structure than current – conflicts of interest need to be managed, NED board to be set up etc. Performance indicators need to be set up and managed, control measures to be put in place to comply with Teckal.
<i>Strategic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Committee provides strategic direction and agrees business plan (and single sub-regional voice). Client function and Councils appointed Board of Directors will ensure business plan is delivered 	
<i>Operational</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less disruptive model in short to medium term enables focus on operational delivery Company will work to an agreed business plan and PIs and be subject to agreed performance measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services can only be provided through Teckal exemption and so new operating model will be needed to meet control tests
<i>Risk management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liabilities across the Councils will be 'ring-fenced' within the limited company although in practical terms the Council will have to consider liabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full risk register across all impacts (via due diligence) is still to be completed. <i>(*NB: Post due diligence there are no significant/critical issues to report – these are outlined in section J)</i>

Analysis	Advantages	Disadvantages
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of company failure.
<i>Accountability/ transparency</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint-Teckal compliance will require additional Councils' control – i.e. the company will need to operate primarily as a shared Council (sub-regional) department Joint Committee holds Board to account. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountable body for Teckal company will need to be agreed
<i>Programme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes could continue to deliver seamlessly – noting that the JC and Board may want to change emphasis or direction where appropriate. As due diligence is not yet complete, there may be opportunities related to programme delivery that provide additional benefits under this model. (*NB: Post due diligence there are no significant issues to report) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As due diligence is not yet complete, there may be issues related to programme delivery that could prove problematic, particularly under a Teckal relationship. (*NB: Post due diligence there are no significant issues to report)

H3. Marketing Cheshire to Council owned company model:

Analysis	Advantages	Disadvantages
<i>Legal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited changes to Articles MC remains within the controlled company structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will need to monitor Teckal exemption limit for trading activities (NB: will lose LVEP status if no trading).
<i>Financial</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will need to monitor turnover figures to ensure Teckal compliance (current figures fall comfortably within limits as part of 'Group structure'). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires minimum trading income of £300k p.a.
<i>Commercial</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to maintain trading status (and retain LVEP). Board will retain commercial oversight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential risk to local authorities from having a controlled company within their accounts
<i>HR</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains current staff expertise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councils may be exposed to equal pay claims although analysis conducted highlights this as a low risk.
<i>Governance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains consistency and oversight on corporate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship with MC Board and new governance to be confirmed.

Analysis	Advantages	Disadvantages
	governance with an aligned company board (to EC&W). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains content expertise with an external advisory board. 	
<i>Strategic</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Committee ensures single voice for sub-regional strategy Maintains an advisory function for sector experts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for disconnect between commercial and corporate imperatives and strategic direction.
<i>Operational</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lose LVEP status if MC not trading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New operating model will be needed to meet control tests (Teckal)
<i>Risk management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full risk register across all transfer impacts (via due diligence) is still to be completed. (<i>*NB: Post due diligence there are no significant/critical issues to report – these are outlined in section J)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full risk register across all transfer impacts (via due diligence) is still to be completed. (<i>*NB: Post due diligence there are no significant/critical issues to report – these are outlined in section J)</i>
<i>Accountability/transparency</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Committee acts a shareholder and controlling committee. Maintains relationship to Advisory Board. 	
<i>Programme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited impacts to programme (BAU in the main) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will need to maintain focus on commercial income limits (Teckal). Note – as subsidiary well within limits).

I. FINANCIAL CASE

11. At the end of December 2023 the Government informed LAs that it would provide core funding of £240,000 in 2024/5 towards the cost of functions undertaken by LEPs until March 2025. This funding will be paid to Cheshire East as the Accountable Body for these functions in Cheshire and Warrington. This is a reduction of £10k on the core funding provided to the LEP in 2023/4. Funding beyond this point will be subject to future Spending Review decisions.

12. It should be noted that the HMG revenue support of £240k is a relatively small part of the council-owned company model's total expected income in 2024/5 of £8.605 million, which is made up of funding from the Departments for Education, Business and Trade and Energy Security and Net Zero to deliver specified programmes, retained business rates, interest on capital balances grants from Cheshire and Warrington Councils to Marketing Cheshire and £30k each from the three Councils. It should also be noted that the Marketing Cheshire

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funding model is based on around 35% traded services. Income via trading is a requirement of LVEP⁴ status.

- ⇒ The current funding model of the LEP (and Marketing Cheshire as its subsidiary) could effectively transfer to Teckal company arrangements - although the Councils would have to consider how to find the shortfall from the withdrawal of Government funding .
- ⇒ If current suppliers are not transferred, to comply with Teckal, any back office support should be recharged at cost (reverse Teckal implications)
- ⇒ Financial implications of any equal pay claims would have to be carefully evaluated and the risks assessed.
- ⇒ There may be further funding model considerations at a point in the future when new devolution structures might be agreed.

13. A revised budget will form a key part of the Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington business plan for Members approval. However, in summary, and for the purposes of the considerations behind this business case, the following examines budget implications for a Council-owned company model based on the 2022-23 budget for both the C&WLEP and Marketing Cheshire (as a wholly owned subsidiary of the C&WLEP):

	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
1	General Grant from Government	<p>Sub-regional economic intelligence, policy development and creation of supporting plans and corporate governance.</p> <p>Activity covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Plan • Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission 	£250	<p>Letter from department inviting application for funding.</p> <p>Until 2022-23, it was a condition to receive the grant that local match funding of a minimum of 50% of the grant (i.e., £125k) was obtained. For 2023-24, that condition was</p>	<p>Broadly, continues “as is”. Board and or officers likely to have delegated authority from shareholders (tbc).</p>

⁴ Marketing Cheshire is the Destination Management Organisation (DMO) for Cheshire and Warrington (C&W) and in 2023 became one of the first Local Visitor Economic Partnerships (LVEPs) in the UK in 2023 within the Visit England programme.

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing C&W as world's first Net Zero Hub Strategic Transport Developing proposals for tax incentive zones (e.g. Freeports, Investment Zones) Developing proposals for investment subsidies (e.g. to retain major employers) Housing Pathfinders Support on priorities for sub-region and devolution. Fair Employment Charter Digital Connectivity Workforce, Labour market analysis and Skills 		removed (but it had been planned for and agreed by LA)	
2	Local Authority Subscriptions	<p>Sub-regional economic intelligence, policy development and creation of supporting plans</p> <p>Activity covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Plan 	£94 (3 x £31)	Agreed with LA as part of annual budget setting process	Business plan agreed by Joint Committee.

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission • Establishing C&W as world's first Net Zero Hub • Strategic Transport • Developing proposals for tax incentive zones (e.g. Freeports, Investment Zones) • Developing proposals for investment subsidies (e.g. to retain major employers) • Housing Pathfinders • Support on priorities for sub-region and devolution. • Fair Employment Charter • Digital Connectivity • Workforce, Labour market analysis and Skills 			
3	Retained Business Rates Local Authority Match	<p>Sub-regional economic intelligence, policy development and creation of supporting plans</p> <p>Activity covers:</p>	£94	Agreed with LA as part of annual budget setting process	Functions agreed by shareholder joint committee and budget recommended to Councils.

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Plan • Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission • Establishing C&W as world's first Net Zero Hub • Strategic Transport • Developing proposals for tax incentive zones (e.g. Freeports, Investment Zones) • Developing proposals for investment subsidies (e.g. to retain major employers) • Housing Pathfinders • Support on priorities for sub-region and devolution. • Fair Employment Charter • Digital Connectivity • Workforce, Labour market analysis and Skills 			
4	Management fees charged to administer investment programmes.	Programme Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring reports on Local Growth 	£0	Fee is an agreed sum with government department. The capital sums	Broadly, continues "as is".

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
		<p>Fund investments (bi-annual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring reports on Local Growth Fund Skills projects. • Monitoring reports on Getting Building Fund projects. 		are granted by the LA (CEC) to the recipient	
5	Management fees charged to administer skills bootcamps programmes.	<p>Programme Management of grant programme entering its' third year in 2024-25. Total grant allocation ca. £3M over three rounds of funding. Currently involves more than 20 bootcamps being delivered by 15 training providers, each covered by a separate grant contract.</p>	£155	<p>Fee is an agreed sum with DfE. DfE pays to CEC for the CWLEP. The training grant sums are granted by the LA (CEC) to the recipient.</p>	Broadly, continues "as is".
6	Grant for Digital Skills Partnership	<p>Programme Management</p> <p>Funding stops in 2022-23, but it is a requirement to develop a "legacy" plan beyond August 2023. DfE may therefore seek progress reports.</p>	£55	Grant Agreement which runs over two financial years (Sept to Aug)	Broadly, continues "as is".

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CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT #6 17/01/24

	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
7	Grant for Skills Advisory Panel	<p>Programme Management</p> <p>Funding stops in 2022-23, but it is a requirement to develop a “legacy” plan beyond August 2023. DfE may therefore seek progress reports.</p>	£55	Grant Agreement which runs over two financial years (Sept to Aug)	Broadly, continues “as is”.
8	Grant for the Growth Hub	<p>Growth Hub</p> <p>Activities cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of business support on a range of business issues; start up; access to finance, grant funding, export, recruitment etc. • Signposting of enquiries to advisors • Gathering business intelligence; confidence levels, data on business activities. 	£231 - £260	Grant Agreement	Broadly, continues “as is”.
9	Grant for Inward Investment	Inward Investment	£68	Grant Agreement	Broadly, continues “as is”.

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
10	Careers and Enterprise Company Grant. These grants include capacity funding, careers hub fund, teachers engagement fund.	Programme Management Activities cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with 85+ schools in C&W to enhance careers information offer, join up schools with prospective employers. 	£300	Grant Agreement which runs over two financial years (Sept to Aug).	Broadly, continues "as is".
11	Pledge (ESF Grant administered by DWP)	Programme Management	£60	Delivery partner on a programme led by Changing Young Lives (YouthFed). Finishes November 2023.	Broadly, continues "as is".
12	Pledge (NHS Contribution)	Programme Management	£67	Correspondence between LEP and NHS and that the pledge will use all the funding provided to deliver outcomes specified by NHS.	Broadly, continues "as is".
13	Grant for North West Net Zero capacity	Programme Management	£65	Grant Agreement between Liverpool City Region and the LEP	Broadly, continues "as is".
14	Grant for North West	Project Funds	£50	Grant Agreement between	Broadly, continues "as is".

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
	Net Zero projects			Liverpool City Region and the LEP	
15	Grant UKRI (for Net Zero)	Programme Management	£100	Grant Agreement	Broadly, continues "as is".
16	Supplementary Revenue Grants (arising from interest earned by CEC on balances held by them)	<p>Programme Management, Sub-regional economic intelligence, policy development and creation of supporting plans and corporate governance</p> <p>Activity covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Plan • Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission • Establishing C&W as world's first Net Zero Hub • Strategic Transport • Developing proposals for tax incentive zones (e.g. Freeports, Investment Zones) • Developing proposals for investment subsidies (e.g. to retain major employers) • Housing Pathfinders 	£400	Collaboration Agreement between Cheshire East and LEP dated 15.6.2022	Broadly, continues "as is".

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support on priorities for sub-region and devolution. • Fair Employment Charter • Digital Connectivity • Workforce, Labour market analysis and Skills 			
17	Retained Business Rates to fund the EZ Science Corridor Programme	<p>Programme Management of the Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone</p> <p>Activities cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of potential investment projects • Estimation of “funding gap” • Liaison with other funders of developments • Negotiation of Grant terms • Independent due diligence of construction costs and assessment of future business rates income 	£300	Agreed with LA as part of annual budget setting process.	Broadly, continues “as is”.

	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of preparation of legal agreements – grant agreements, performance agreements, intercreditor agreements etc • Securing authorisation from board and credit committee • Drawing project loan • Compliance checking claims from developers • Authorising payment of grant claims • Monitoring performance of outputs. <p>Grant agreements in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glasshouse • Blocks 22-24 • Helix • Aviator • Newport Rhino • Quadrant phase 2 • Vortex <p>Approx value £15.5M</p>			

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BUSINESS CASE LEP TRANSITION

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
		Growth Corridor Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Pathfinders • Regeneration schemes • HS2 opportunities • Organising C&W presence at UKREiFF 			
18	Retained Business Rates to fund the LEP's loan repayments	Investment in Enterprise Zone Projects	£1,200	Each project loan and the associated repayment schedule are agreed by the LA Credit Committee. The total value required for loan instalments is agreed with LA as part of annual budget setting process.	Broadly, continues "as is".
19	Retained Business Rates to fund specific projects	Sub-regional economic development (e.g. business case fund, place marketing)	£200	Agreed with LA as part of annual budget setting process.	Broadly, continues "as is".
20	Retained Business Rates to fund policy development	Sub-regional economic intelligence, policy development and creation of supporting plans	£470	Agreed with LA as part of annual budget setting process.	Broadly, continues "as is".
21	Income from realisations within the	Investment in two Life Science Funds and	£216	The fund governing documentation	Broadly, continues "as is".

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
	investment funds	<p>monitoring of the funds</p> <p>Investor, as a partner, and oversight, as member of the Investment Advisory Panel, of Life Sciences Fund 1 and Life Sciences Fund 2. (Value £50M)</p> <p>Including setting the strategic objectives and investment operating guidelines for the funds, procuring fund managers, negotiation of legal documents pertaining to the funds, monitoring performance of the fund managers, securing relevant approvals, managing LEP contributions to the funds during the investment and follow on periods, managing funds returned from the fund.</p>			
22	Income relating to NP11	<p>Activity covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the Chair with briefings, policy material etc Recruitment and 	£500	The LEP provides a contracting function for NP11 which is not a legal entity in its' own right.	Broadly, continues "as is".

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company
		employment contracts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement and contracting of various services 			
23	Partner Contributions towards specific operating activities E.g. Jobs Portal, some consulting contracts		£50	LEP is the contracting body for a service but agrees contributions toward it from other partners.	Broadly, continues "as is".
24	Overhead recovery from Programmes	Corporate Functions e.g. Finance, IT, HR, Procurement, Office Services	£200	Internal financial policy that programmes contribute towards the costs of services they require to function.	Broadly, continues "as is".

14. Marketing Cheshire

	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual Nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company model
1	Local Authority Grant (CWaC)	Promote the visitor economy	£86	5 year grant contract – renewed Oct 2022	Can remain a subsidiary of NewCo and continue to

BUSINESS CASE LEP TRANSITION

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual Nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company model
					operate broadly as is.
2	Local Authority Grant (CEC)	Promote the visitor economy	£55	SLA	Broadly, continues "as is".
3	Local Authority Grant (WBC)	Promote the visitor economy	£17k	SLA	Broadly, continues "as is".
4	Visit England Grant (Heritage Action Zone)	Promote the visitor economy	£15k	Grant agreement	Broadly, continues "as is".
5	Local Authority Grant (CWaC)	Support of Visitor Information Centre	£72	5 year grant contract – renewed Oct 2022	Broadly, continues "as is".
6	Commercial Retail	VIC Merchandise	£150	Retail transactions	Broadly, continues "as is".
7	Commercial – Ticket Commission	VIC Merchandise	£10	Agreements with attractions and transport providers	Broadly, continues "as is".
8	Commercial – Partnership Membership Subscriptions	Visitor Economy Services Press Engagement to promote area and attractions.	£70	Annual subscriptions	Broadly, continues "as is".
9	Commercial – Events, Guides etc	Commercial Services Tourism Awards	£110	Ad-hoc contracts	Broadly, continues "as is".
10	"SLA" LEP	Marketing, PR, Website Management, LEP Events	£135	Informal agreement that MC provides certain functions to the LEP.	Broadly, continues "as is".

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	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual Nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company model
11	Retained Business Rates - Sub-regional projects	Place Marketing	£200	Informal agreement that MC provides certain functions to the LEP.	Broadly, continues "as is".
12	Destination Chester – contributions	A "partnership" to promote the Chester visitor economy	£50-£100	Contributors include CWaC, Tourism for Wales, Arriva Trains	Broadly, continues "as is".
13	Corporate Services	Activity covers: All aspects of finance, payroll, banking pensions management, insurance, audit, company secretarial, HR policy and operations, IT and mobile communications provision including cyber security, GDPR, procurement and commercial, legal support, office accommodation and facilities management.		Jointly contracted with the LEP for accounting software, HR, IT.	Broadly, continues "as is".
14	Capacity and Solvency	Continuing to exist			Integration with the LEP has allowed MC to perform contracts which, without the financial backing of

	Income Source	Functions	2022-23 Value (£000)	Contractual Nature relating to income source	Potential implications for Council-owned company model
					the LEP, it could not finance (e.g. Welcome Back Fund) or when during Covid, as a stand-alone entity it would likely have become insolvent.

J. RISK (Note detail also contained within due diligence report)

RISK	MITIGATION	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT
Potential risk to local authorities from having a controlled company within their accounts.	Maintain as a company limited by guarantee under Teckal arrangements. Note Councils already have 20% share (which is increasing to 33%)		
Risk of disputes with the other shareholder Councils over the future direction of the Council-owned company or that one Council will want to withdraw from the Council-owned company.	These risks can be mitigated by ensuring that they are covered within the shareholder agreement/Articles and providing that any Council who wishes to withdraw has to indemnify the others against subsequent losses and give one year's notice.		
There is a risk that Council-owned company will lose its Teckal compliant status as a result of trading by Marketing Cheshire.	This can be mitigated by close monitoring of their finances. (Overseen by Accountable Body).		
As a Council-owned company there may be an issue of equal pay as it could potentially be	The C&W LEP have provided a list of their current establishment and the Councils have considered this against their own establishment to		

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RISK	MITIGATION	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT
considered an 'associated company'.	ascertain whether there are any potential equal pay issues. CEC/WBC/CWAC have/have no equal pay risks from the staffing at the C&W LEP but this should be kept under review.		
There is a risk that the Board of Marketing Cheshire (currently made up of a number of business owners and councillors) and the shareholders will not agree on the future direction of the business	This can be partly mitigated by ensuring the Councils work as closely as possible with the Board to identify approaches that reflect both the views of Board members and the Councils as owners of the business		
There is a risk that the representatives on the Business Advisory Board do not feel that they are making a valid contribution or their views are not being considered	This can be mitigated by ensuring a proper appointment process and induction, being clear about the role and responsibilities.		
There is a risk of Government funding and programmes drying up	This risk would be in place without the increased shareholding. The C&W LEP has developed a number of programmes (including 'evergreen investment') which will support in-going activity for local economic growth.		
Contingent liabilities/risks to the Councils.	The C&W LEP have provided a copy of their risk register, which discloses that their highest risks relate to the current uncertainty in the transition to local authority ownership. These risks will be mitigated if the Councils' shareholding is increased. Due diligence has not highlighted any other major risks in this area.		
There is a risk that the Councils do not appropriately manage the Council-owned company and leave themselves exposed to financial risks.	Creating a Council-owned company is increasing the level of existing shareholding – therefore Councils already have some exposure to this. Proposed governance arrangements		

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RISK	MITIGATION	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT
	should provide greater control and focus		

		Impact →				
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Significant	Severe
Likelihood ↑	Very Likely	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	High	High
	Likely	Low	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	High
	Possible	Low	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	Med Hi
	Unlikely	Low	Low Med	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi
	Very Unlikely	Low	Low	Low Med	Medium	Medium

DRAFT

JOINT COMMITTEE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council and Warrington Council have established an Executive Joint Committee known as the Cheshire and Warrington Joint Committee (“the Committee”) for the purpose of discharging the functions mentioned in Annex A. The Councils are enabled to set up Joint Committees under Part VI of the Local Government Act 1972 and Part I Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.
2. Each Council is entitled to appoint one voting member in respect of the business to be carried out in Part One of Appendix A (Subscriber Members), and one further voting member in respect of the business to be carried out in Part Two of Appendix A (Joint Committee Members). In the event of a voting member of the Committee ceasing to be a member of the Council which appointed him/her, the Council shall forthwith appoint another voting member in his/her place. Only a voting member is entitled to be elected as Chair or Vice-Chair of the Committee.
3. Each Council may appoint members as substitute for the members appointed under (i) above to attend meetings of the Committee in the absence for any reason of the members appointed under (i) above, in accordance with their own constitutional requirements. The substitute members shall be treated in all respects if they were appointed under (i) above.
4. The Chair of the Business Advisory Board (‘BAB’) shall be an ex officio member of the Committee and may speak at meetings of the Committee but not vote. The Chair of the Business Advisory Board may present reports to the Committee from the BAB.
5. The Committee shall maintain a two-year rolling Chair and Vice-Chair from among the Subscriber Members. The Chair will rotate every two years in the following order CWaC (until May 2025), CEC (until May 2027) WBC (until May 2029) and shall continue in that rotation. The Vice-Chair shall be from CEC (until May 2025) and to shall rotate in the same order as the chairmanship every two years.
6. Three voting members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the business set out in Part One of Appendix A. Four voting members shall constitute a quorum for the business set out in Part Two of Appendix A. Except as otherwise provided by statute, all questions shall be decided by a majority of

Appendix B: LEP Transition

the votes of the voting members present, the Chair having the casting vote in addition to his/her vote as a member of the Committee.

7. The Committee shall meet as agreed at its AGM and at least three times each year. However, a meeting of the Committee may be convened at any time by the Committee Clerk in consultation with the Chair. A meeting of the Committee must also be convened by the Chair within 28 days of the receipt of a requisition of any two Subscriber Members of the Committee addressed to the Committee Clerk. **The Chair of the Board may request a meeting of the Committee by notice in writing addressed to the Committee Clerk, but may not requisition one.** All requisitions shall be in writing and no business other than that specified in the requisition shall be transacted at such a meeting.
8. **The Committee shall adopt the standing orders of Cheshire East Council** but it may agree to vary these and from time to time make such standing orders for the carrying on of the business of the Committee as the Committee shall deem necessary and or desirable.
9. For the avoidance of doubt and subject to there being no changes to the law on this issue, where a Council is operating executive arrangements pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000 (and any regulations made under it), it will be a matter for the Executive of the Council to appoint any voting member, or substitute member of the Committee as long as that member is a member of the appointing Councils Cabinet. Where a Council is operating committee system arrangements pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000, it will be a matter for the Council to appoint any voting member and substitute member to the Joint Committee.
10. The Committee shall from time to time appoint such sub-committees to consider and deal with any of the functions of the Committee as may be thought desirable.
11. The Committee Clerk and such other officers as may be deemed necessary for the due conduct of the business of the Committee shall be provided **by Cheshire East Council** and the costs of this shall be met by the Council-owned company (*Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington – NB: name subject to Member approval*).
12. **The first meeting of the Committee shall be held at Cheshire East Council and the venue shall then rotate between the Councils in alphabetical order, unless otherwise directed by the Committee.**

Appendix B: LEP Transition

13. As and when required by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or other Committee or an Audit Committee of any of the Councils, the Subscriber Member for the Council whose Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Committee or Audit Committee has instigated an investigation shall take the lead responsibility for accounting for the activities of the Committee to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Committee or Audit Committee and shall attend such meetings of those committees of its Council as necessary, and no other member of the Committee shall be required to attend.
14. The Committee Clerk shall:
 - a. Be responsible for preparing the agenda and submitting reports prepared by either the Councils or other bodies to the Committee and minutes of the Committee.
 - b. Be responsible for making arrangements for publishing in accordance with Access to Information requirements all meetings, agenda, agenda items and minutes as appropriate.
15. The relevant Standing Orders for the Committee are those of Cheshire East Council.
16. In the event that an urgent decision is needed for the discharge of any of the functions of this Committee, other than those functions which by law can be discharged only by the Councils or a specific Committee, then the Growth Director of each Council is entitled to act on behalf of the Committee. A decision will be urgent where any delay would seriously prejudice the legal or financial position of the Councils or the interests of residents. This delegation is subject to the conditions that any urgent action:-
 - (a) should be reported to the Committee
 - (b) shall take the advice of the Monitoring Officer and S151 officer of each Council
 - (c) shall be exercised in consultation with the three Subscriber members of the Committee
 - (d) shall be exercised within each Councils own financial and other constitutional requirements

Appendix A – Terms of Reference

Part One - Shareholder Functions of the Committee

1. To approve the business plan and budget of LEPCo/Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (ECW)¹ and any required variations
2. Ensuring that LEPCo/ ECW deliver against their business plan and budget, holding them to account for such delivery and directing the LEPCO/ECW Board to take remedial action where necessary;
3. To appoint directors to the LEPCo/ECW Board
4. To approve any capital expenditure to be made in excess of £100k unless agreed under the business plan
5. To approve the entering into of any lease or licence for the occupation of land or premises
6. To approve the appointment of members of LEPCo/ECW management team
7. To approve the entering into of any contract in excess of £100k unless agreed under the Business Plan
8. To approve the entering into or giving of any loan, guarantee, surety or indemnity by LEPCo/ECW other than the giving of grant by LEPCo/ECW as part of its business plan
9. To approve the opening or closing of any bank account by the Company
10. To approve any changes to the Articles of Association of the Company
11. To approve any staffing or other material policy changes or new policies to be implemented

Part Two - Other Functions of the Committee

1. To receive reports from the Business Advisory Board, any Sub Committee of the Joint Committee and the Growth Directors (management) Group.
2. Any time review and agree proposed changes to the Functions of the Committee and seek approval of the same from the three Councils.
3. To agree and approve any proposed governance and or reporting structure that the Committee sees fit.
4. To act as a strategic body; setting and reviewing objectives for strategic economic development across Cheshire and Warrington, including;

¹ Name subject to Member approval

Appendix B: LEP Transition

- a. Providing a coherent single position on major strategic issues;
- b. agreeing major economic priorities across Cheshire and Warrington;
- c. consider recommendations made by any Sub Committee, the Business Advisory Board or Growth Directors (management) Group;
- d. agreeing Lead and/or Accountable Body status for LEPCo/ECW and any projects undertaken;
- e. influence and align government investment in order to boost economic growth across Cheshire & Warrington;
- f. have regard to the duty to cooperate and the Joint Committee's overall function as set out above;
- g. to ensure alignment between decision making on areas of policy such as land use, transportation, economic development and wider regeneration;
- h. co-ordinate and align decision making on transport across Cheshire and Warrington ensuring that business views are taken on board and that the Councils' adopted plans are reflected in strategic priorities;
- i. deciding on capital expenditure programmes which are delivered across Cheshire & Warrington and ensuring policy and programmes are delivered effectively through LEPCo/ECW

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PROPOSED CHANGES TO ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION ENTERPRISE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON¹

Article to be changed	Current Position	Proposed Change
Membership (Art.28)	Membership of Company is 1 Member from each Local Authority (Class A Members) + Chair & Vice Chair of Board (Class B Members). This equates to 20% membership for each Council.	There will be no Class B Members. There will be one Member from each local Council. This equates to 33.3% membership for each Council.
Termination (Art.29)	A Member may resign on 7 days notice.	If any Council wishes to resign from the Company then they shall give not less than 12 months' notice to the remaining Councils. They shall indemnify the remaining Councils any actual or anticipated loss, liability, damage, claim or expense which would be incurred by the remaining Councils. Any Council wishing to resign from the Company is not entitled to any distribution of the profits/reserves in the Company.
Powers (Art.50)	Power to amalgamate with any company having similar objects	Not to form any subsidiary or amalgamate/merge subsidiaries or participate in any partnership or joint venture without consent of the Councils
	Powers reference the Local Enterprise Partnership	Remove all references to Local Enterprise Partnership as this will not longer exist as a function recognised by Government
Directors (Art.4)	Currently a maximum of 20 Directors allowed, Class A (Local Authority) and Class B (other)	Directors to be appointed by the Councils, being the CEO and Finance Director of the Company and one officer from each local authority
Directors Remuneration (Art.23)	Board Directors are currently remunerated	Local authority officers will not receive remuneration for carrying out this role as it will form part of their duties.

¹ Name subject to Member approval

Appendix C: LEP Transition

Article to be changed	Current Position	Proposed Change
Chair & Deputy Chair of the Board (Art.25)	Currently are Class B Members	Officers of the Company will not be eligible to hold these positions
Chief Executive (Art.26)	Currently appointed by the Board	All senior management positions to be agreed by the Joint Committee
Secretary (Art.27)	Currently appointed by the Board	Appointed by the Joint Committee
Members Reserve Power (Art.7)	Members have the right to ask the Board to take or refrain from an action	Members to reserve the powers as set out below:

Powers reserved to the Councils and exercised through the Joint Committee:-

- (a) Approve the business plan and budget and consider whether to agree any variations
- (b) Approve projects which do not form part of the business plan
- (c) Chair to rotate every two years in the following order CWaC (until May 2025), CEC (until May 2027) WBC (until May 2029) and to continue in that rotation
- (d) Nominate the Vice-Chair from CEC (until May 2025) and to then rotate in the same order as the chairmanship every two years.
- (e) Set the level and request that the Councils fund the contributions (the amount to ensure that the Company has sufficient funds to meet its running costs)
- (f) Appoint the Secretary
- (g) Ensure that the Company deliver against their business plan and budget, holding them to account for such delivery and directing the Board to take remedial action where necessary
- (h) Appoint and/or remove directors to the Board
- (i) Approve any capital expenditure to be made in excess of £100,000 outside of the business plan
- (j) Approve the entering into of any lease or licence for the occupation of land or premises
- (k) Approve the employment of any person earning in excess of £100,000 p.a. and the use of any contractors for projects
- (l) Approve the entering into of any contract in excess of £100,000 outside of the business plan
- (m) Approve the entering into or giving of any loan, guarantee, surety or indemnity by ECW
- (n) Agree any policy or procedure for the operation and management of the Company
- (o) Approve the opening or closing of any bank account by the Company
- (p) Approve any changes to the Articles of Association
- (q) Meet at least once in every three calendar months or at such lesser or greater frequency as the Members shall in their discretion decide.

DUE DILIGENCE

This appendix sets out the current company structure, liabilities and risks as provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (C&W LEP). The Council already has a 20% shareholding (membership) of the Cheshire and Warrington LEP and is proposing to take an additional 13% (and re-name the company Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington).

This due diligence therefore is based on the increase in shareholding and not as a new venture for the Council.

1. Company Structure

- 1.1 The C&W LEP is a company limited by guarantee, not having share capital, incorporated in England and Wales. It therefore has 'Members' and not 'Shareholders'.
- 1.2 Members of a company limited by guarantee do not make any contribution to the company's capital so long as the company remains a going concern. As the purpose of C&W LEP is to provide services to its Members and not to make a profit, then this is considered to be a suitable vehicle.
- 1.3 The C&W LEP has a subsidiary company, CWTB (trading as Marketing Cheshire), whose purpose is to promote commerce and marketing within the Councils' area. There are currently 12 Directors and the only Member is C&W LEP. CWTB is also set up as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

2. Memorandum & Articles of C&W LEP

- 2.1 The following are the main provisions of the Articles of Association of C&W LEP

(a) **Objects (Art.3) & Powers (Art.50).** The objects for which the Company is established are the promotion and furtherance of:

- the economic, cultural and social well-being of,
- investment and growth in, and
- economic development and regeneration and employment in, the Councils' area

The C&W LEP has a wide range of powers including; to raise and lend money, purchase or lease property, sponsor various activities, amalgamate with others and provide indemnities.

- 2.2 **Powers of Directors (Art. 6-9).** The Board has the power to make all decisions in relation to running the C&W LEP, unless the Members resolve that the Company shall take, or refrain from, a specific action. Therefore the current powers of the C&W LEP Board are very wide.
- 2.3 **Members (Art.29).** The 'Members' of the C&W LEP are the three Councils i.e. Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Warrington, and not individual councillors. There are also 2 non-local authority Members, who are the Chair

Appendix D: LEP Transition

& Vice-Chair of the Board. Each Member has a 20% share of the C&W LEP. Members may resign on 7 days' notice.

- 2.4 **Directors (Art. 4-5).** The Directors of the Company are divided into Class A & Class B Directors. Class A Directors are the Council Leaders or their nominees. Class B Directors are appointed by the Board. There can be up to 20 Directors in total (Class A & B) and Class B Directors are appointed for a three-year term.
- 2.5 **Quorum (Art. 14).** The quorum for a Board meeting is 50% of the Board members present, and there must be at least 4 Class B Directors (i.e. non-local authority) to form the quorum.
- 2.6 **Directors Remuneration (Art. 23).** Directors can be remunerated. The Company currently has 13 Directors and 2, the Chair and Deputy Chair, are remunerated at £26k and £10k p.a. respectively.
- 2.7 **Chair/Vice-Chair (Art. 25).** The Chair and Vice Chair are appointed from the Class B (i.e. non-local authority) Directors. They are then automatically Members of the company by virtue of this position.

3. Memorandum & Articles of CWTB

The following are the main provisions of the Articles of CWTB, a wholly owned subsidiary of C&W LEP:-

3.1 Objects (Art. 6)

The objects for which the Company is established shall be the promotion of commerce and:

- i. to encourage, stimulate, support and advise on and manage the development of the administrative areas of Cheshire and Warrington in order to maximise the social and economic benefits;
- ii. in co-operation with sub-regional organisations, local authorities, commercial members and other bodies to formulate, develop, maintain and update regularly a coordinated strategic marketing plan for the sub-region and an action or destination management Plan for the Sub-region;
- iii. to carry on any other business of any description which may be advantageously carried on in connection with or ancillary to the above objects of the Company;

3.2 Powers of Directors (Art. 46)

The Board has the power to make all decisions in relation to running the CWTB, unless the Member resolves that the Company shall take, or refrain from, a specific action. Therefore the current powers of the CWTB Board are very wide and include the power to borrow money.

3.3 Member (Art. 11-14)

The sole Member of the CWTB is the C&W LEP.

Appendix D: LEP Transition

3.4 Directors (Art. 38-45)

There are up to 20 Directors, with one from each Council. No more than 4 Directors can be from the public sector (i.e. one from each Council plus the Chair). There are currently 12 Directors. Directors may be appointed by the Board but with the prior approval of C&W LEP as the sole Member. Appointments are for a three year term with the possibility of a further three year extension.

4. Contracts**Operational Contracts:**

The C&W LEP have provided a list of their contractual obligations which extend beyond 1 April 2024. Only two contracts continue beyond this date:-

- i. Insurance expiring November 2024
- ii. Project Management Software expiring 1 July 2025
- iii. There are no outstanding invoices or disputes on either contract and they are low value i.e. approx. £15k or less.

Investment Contracts:

The C&W LEP is a partner in two Life Sciences Funds. The funds invest in start-up Life Sciences businesses. Life Sciences Fund 1 was established in 2016 and is expected to run until 2031. No further investment contributions are required to this fund. Life Sciences Fund 2 was established in 2022 and is expected to run until 2037. C&W LEP is committed to investing £5 million in this fund and £3.75 million remains outstanding. This commitment is expected to be funded from the returns of Life Sciences 1 or, if returns have not been received in time, temporarily from the C&W LEP administered Growing Places Fund.

C&W LEP has also entered into grant agreements with developers to facilitate the construction of commercial properties within the Enterprise Zone. The grants have been funded by C&W LEP borrowing from the respective Local Authority depending on the location of the development (see section 8). C&W LEP will repay the borrowing from the resulting “pool” of additional retained business rates. Repayment of individual project loans may take until 2039. The grant agreements place conditions on the developers which protect the expected business rate income until the loans are repaid.

5. Staffing

As a local authority-controlled company, there may be an issue of equal pay as C&W LEP could potentially be considered an ‘associated company’. Equal pay means that someone must not be paid less compared to someone who is of the opposite gender when they are doing equal work for the same or an “associated” employer. Therefore, even if C&W LEP is deemed an associated company and pays a higher rate of pay for a similar job role to the Councils,

Appendix D: LEP Transition

that won't give rise to an equal pay claim unless the reason for the difference in pay is linked to sex.

For a successful equal pay claim, a Council employee would have to be working in the same work or work that has been graded the same. They would then need to show that the disparity in pay disproportionately affects female or male employees. The C&W LEP have provided a list of their current establishment and the Councils have considered this against their own establishment to ascertain whether there are any potential equal pay issues. CEC/WBC/CWAC have no equal pay risks from the staffing at the C&W LEP but this should be kept under review.

The C&W LEP have different terms and conditions to the Councils. They have advised that there are no outstanding disciplinary issues or claims from staff.

6. Subsidy Control

A subsidy is where a public body provides support to an organisation that gives them an economic advantage, meaning equivalent support could not have been obtained on commercial terms. A function of the C&W LEP is to provide grants to external organisations. Grant agreements therefore place responsibility on recipients to seek a subsidy control opinion, to only use the funds for the purposes awarded, and to indemnify the LEP should there be a requirement for the subsidy to be repaid. However there is a risk that an organisation would be unable to repay any subsidy given to them, and the C&W LEP would be responsible for repayment. C&W LEP also takes independent legal advice on subsidy control prior to making grants.

7. Risks disclosed by C&W LEP

The C&W LEP have provided a copy of their risk register, which discloses that their highest risks relate to the current uncertainty in the transition to local authority ownership. These risks will be mitigated if the Councils' shareholding is increased.

8. Loans from the Councils

Each of the Councils provided the C&W LEP with a £10 million loan facility. Individual project loans are drawn under this facility and there are currently six separate project loans with a total outstanding principal value of ca. £10 million. They make repayments on this loan through the retention of the business rates in the Enterprise Zone. There is a risk that if the collection rate goes down, then the loan repayments will not be met. However, this risk already exists and is regardless of the amount of the Councils shareholding. The C&W LEP mitigates this risk by carrying a significant reserve of retained business rates (£1.5-2 million)

9. C&W Development Limited Partnership/C&W DF (GP) Limited

The Council also has a Limited Liability Partnership with C&W LEP, for the management of EDRF fundings totalling £20M. As part of the necessary arrangements to manage the funds and investments, a Limited Partnership (Cheshire and Warrington Development Limited Partnership) was established. A limited company (Cheshire and Warrington DF (GP) Limited); owned by the Council; was set up as the general partner. The Council is the sole shareholder in the Limited Company and is the 'limited partner' in the Partnership. The Council received external legal advice from Addleshaws in 2020 regarding the governance arrangements, and this advice has yet to be implemented. The current directors of the CEC limited company (as opposed to the limited partnership) are the Growth Director from Warrington Council and the CEO of the LEP, and CEC has not yet taken up its representation.

10. Accountable Body

A number of funding streams which the LEP has received have required the money to be held and assurance given by an 'accountable body'. This function has been provided by Cheshire East Council for many years and most recently is covered by an Agreement with C&W LEP dated 15 June 2022, by which CEC takes on the role of accountable body for some of the C&W LEP funding streams and takes responsibility for the following:-

- i. Ensuring that the decisions and activities of the C&W LEP in relation to devolved funding conform with legal requirements with regard to equalities, social value, environment, subsidy control, public procurement etc;
- ii. Ensuring (through the Council's s151 Officer) that the funds are used appropriately and in accordance with the conditions placed on the grant. It is acknowledged that the revenue derived from funds includes management fees and interest, paid over as fee income. The use of those funds is approved as part of the LEP's annual budget setting process;
- iii. Ensuring that the Assurance Framework, as approved, is being adhered to;
- iv. Maintaining the official record of decisions relating to devolved funding;
- v. Ensuring that there are arrangements for local audit of funding allocated by C&W LEP at least equivalent to those in place for local authority spend.

On the understanding that Cheshire East Council will remain the accountable body, this Agreement should be reviewed and amended if necessary post 1 April 2024 to ensure it reflects the new governance arrangements.

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DRAFT Heads of Terms

Service Agreement between Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (ECW) ¹

and

Cheshire East Council

Cheshire West and Chester Council

Warrington Borough Council

1. Business Plan and Finances

1.1 ECW to prepare and submit an annual business plan and any request for financial support to the Joint Committee for approval no later than **January** in each year.

1.2 ECW will provide the services in the business plan within the agreed budget and will report on its performance, budget and risk to the Joint Committee on a quarterly basis.

1.3 ECW will attend monthly meetings of the Growth Directors Group (GDG) to advise on progress against the business plan and other areas as decided by the GDG.

2. Staff

2.1 Any staff will be employed on **the standard terms and conditions of the Company**. Any changes to terms and conditions must be approved by the Joint Committee **in accordance with its terms of reference**.

2.2 Any formal disciplinary action take by the Company which may lead to a dismissal of a member of ECW staff should be supported by **xx Council**.

2.3 **ECW will consult the GDG on any changes to their staffing structure. The GDG may refer the matter to the Joint Committee if they feel it would have a material impact on the performance of ECW.**

3. Policies and Procedures

3.1 To consult the GDG or Joint Committee (as relevant) prior to adopting any policy or procedure for the operation and management of ECW

3.2 The Joint Committee may require that the Company adopts certain policies or procedures in its operation.

¹ On the basis that this name is approved by Members

Appendix E: LEP Transition

4. Council Services

4.1 Annual accounts will be supplied by ECW to the Councils **by 30 May** or as soon as is reasonably practicable in each calendar year.

4.2 The S151 Officer of each Shareholder Council shall have access at all reasonable times and with due notice to the financial records of ECW, and any appropriate authorised staff or third-party organisations for the purposes of carrying out an audit.

4.3 The Shareholder Councils may provide support services to ECW and the relevant Council and **ECW will enter into a separate service level agreement for these services, and the Company will reimburse the relevant Council for any services provided.**

4.4 An annual programme of internal audits will be agreed by the Joint Committee, and those audits will be undertaken by **one of the Councils on behalf of all three**, and reported to the Joint Committee and each Council's Audit Committee (if appropriate). The costs of those internal audits will be recharged to ECW.

4.5 Cheshire East Council will provide the secretariat services for the Joint Committee

5. Other

5.1 ECW will maintain adequate insurance in respect of public liability, employers liability and indemnity insurance.

5.2 The liability of the Councils in respect of the Company is limited to £1. In the event that the Councils agree to meet all losses, claims, expenses, actions, demands and liabilities which cannot be met by ECW, the shall be shared by the Subscriber Councils in equal proportions.

6. Disputes

6.1 Internal Dispute – officers to try and resolve in first instance at the lowest operational level. If no resolution, then escalated to GDG and then to CExs, and in default of agreement, to the Joint Committee.

HIGH LEVEL DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN FOR ENTERPRISE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON

2024/25

Draft as at 16th January 2024: NB: Name subject Member approval. Also note that around half on Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington's (ECW) income derives from Government funded programmes. The LEP/ECW is not usually informed of the funding that will be provided for those programmes until close to the start of the financial year to which they apply. Where this is the case funding and targets for 2024/5 have been set at 2023/4 levels.

ENTERPRISE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON: ROLE

- Reporting to the Cheshire and Warrington local authorities the role of Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (ECW) is to support Cheshire and Warrington's elected members to make C&W the healthiest, most sustainable inclusive and growing place in the country by
 - providing strategic economic planning;
 - delivery of key government programmes; and
 - ensuring that a strong, independent business voice is reflected in the advice ECW provides to elected members.
- ECW is also responsible for promoting Cheshire and Warrington as a great place to visit, live, work, invest and study through Marketing Cheshire, which is an integral part of ECW and is designated by Visit England as the sub-region's Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP).

ENTERPRISE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON: KEY OBJECTIVES 2024/5

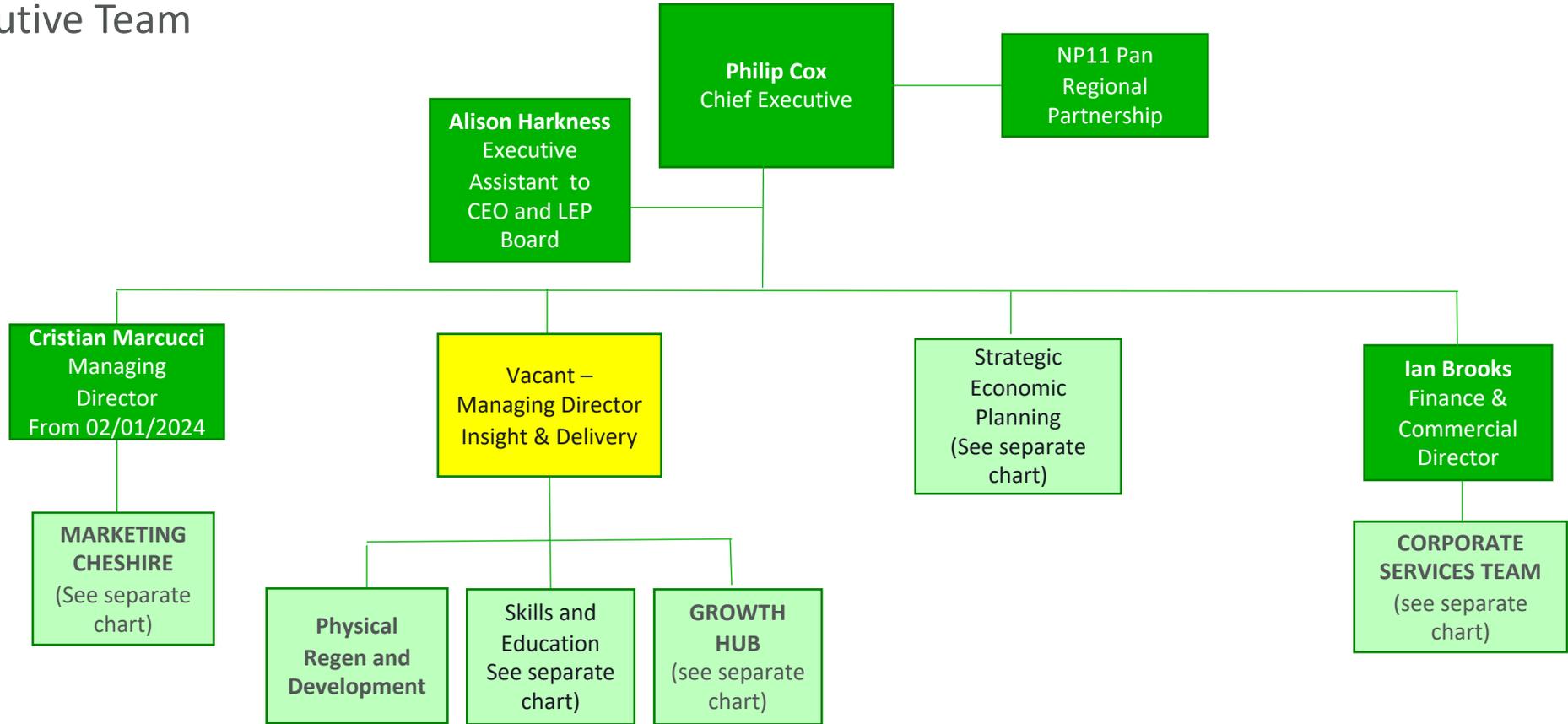
In 2024/5 ECW will:

- Produce a Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Plan (SIEP) through to 2045;
- Produce a strategic transport and a workforce and skills plan;
- Support elected members to launch a Fair Employment Charter for C&W;
- Lead the establishment of an industry body that will co-ordinate and facilitate the delivery of the £30 billion industrial cluster decarbonisation programme. The body will also lead a programme of community engagement and communication about the programme;
- Support elected members to deliver their vision for C&W, including through exploring how these might be supported by future devolution to C&W;
- 640 Skills Bootcamp training places for shortage occupations;
- Working closely with Youth Fed, support all secondary schools in C&W to work with employers to help every young person find their best next step;
- As part of the Growth Hub network, provide all businesses across C&W with access to advice and support via a free, impartial, 'single point of contact'
- Ensure that C&W's £260 million suite of investment programmes is invested to support the delivery of leaders' key objectives for the C&W economy;
- Deliver the recommendations of Marketing Cheshire's review of visitor information services;
- Support the creation of a Tourism BID for Chester;
- As the body responsible for the funding provided by Government, lead the establishment of a Pan Regional Partnership for the North

ENTERPRISE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON: STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

- ECW will deliver its objectives through three divisions:
 - Strategic Economic Planning
 - Economic Insight and Delivery
 - Marketing Cheshire
- These teams are supported by a Finance and Corporate Services division that provides finance, HR, accommodation and business support to ECW.
- ECW has 36.5 full time equivalent staff and an operational budget of £3.6 million. It is responsible for £3.5 million pa of programme funding; manages (with partners) a suite of investment funds of £260 million; and is responsible for managing, on behalf of the sub-region, income from the Cheshire Science Corridor Enterprise Zone expected to total £60 million over its remaining lifetime.

Executive Team



ECW FIRST DRAFT BUDGET 2024/5 – 2025/6 (including Marketing Cheshire)

	2024/5	2025/6	
INCOME			
LA Grants	£ 615k	£ 375k	incl. in 2024/25 £240k from Central Government
Government Programme Grants	£ 4505k	£ 4505k	incl. Bootcamps £2.459M, NP11 £1M
Commercial Income	£ 425k	£ 425k	
Enterprise Zone	£ 2700k	£ 3800k	
Interest on balances with bank and Cheshire East	£ 600k	£ 500k	
TOTAL INCOME	£ 8845k	£ 9605k	
EXPENDITURE			
LEP and MC Running Costs	£ 3599k	£ 3599k	
EZ Loan Repayments	£ 1427k	£ 1427k	
Programme Expenditure	£ 3459k	£ 3459k	incl. Bootcamps £2.459M, NP11 £1M
Sub-Regional Programmes	£ 440k	£ 750k	e.g. Transport Strategy, Fair Employment Charter
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£8925k	£ 9235k	
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(£ 80k)	£ 370k	

ECW FIRST DRAFT BUDGET 2024/5 – LEP AND MARKETING CHESHIRE

	LEP	MC	TOTAL	
INCOME				
LA Grants	£ 313k	£ 282k	£ 615k	incl. £240k Central Government
Government Programme Grants	£ 4335k	£ 170k	£4505k	
Commercial Income	£ 0k	£ 425k	£ 425k	
Enterprise Zone	£ 2500k	£ 200k	£2700k	
Interest on balances with bank and Cheshire East	£ 600k	£ 0k	£ 600k	
TOTAL INCOME	£ 7768k	£ 1077k	£8845k	
EXPENDITURE				
LEP and MC Running Costs	£ 2501k	£ 1098k	£3599k	
EZ Loan Repayments	£ 1427k	£ 0k	£1427k	
Programme Expenditure	£ 3459k	£ 0k	£3459k	
Sub-Regional Programmes	£ 440k	£ 0k	£ 440k	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£7827k	£ 1098k	£8925k	
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(£ 59k)	(£ 21k)	(£ 80k)	

ECW FIRST DRAFT BUDGET 2024/5 – LEP AND MC “DEPARTMENTAL” ANALYSIS

LEP/MC Budget 2024-25 - Departmental Analysis						
	LEP & MC GROUP SUMMARY					
	Strategic Economic Planning incl. NWNZ	Insight & Delivery incl. EZ, GH, DiT, SBC, Pledge	MC	Corporate Services incl. Fund Management	Total (ex NP11)	Total (incl.NP11)
Income / Funding						
Total Income	1,095,815	5,056,340	1,076,400	666,595	7,895,150	8,845,150
Expenditure						
Programme Development	90,000	68,000	406,500	-	564,500	1,324,500
Strategy Projects	440,000	300,000	-	-	740,000	740,000
Commissioned Activities	530,000	368,000	406,500	-	1,304,500	2,064,500
Staff and related costs	451,775	1,079,443	563,063	364,075	2,458,356	2,647,756
Operating costs	157,500	49,818	109,500	156,600	473,418	474,018
Governance and overhead	-	82,000	18,500	120,300	220,800	220,800
Total Expenses	1,139,275	1,579,261	1,097,563	640,975	4,457,074	5,407,074
Loan Instalments	-	1,427,000	-	-	1,427,000	1,427,000
Grant Payments	-	2,091,000	-	-	2,091,000	2,091,000
Financial Expenses	-	3,518,000	-	-	3,518,000	3,518,000
Surplus / (Deficit)	(43,460)	(40,921)	(21,163)	25,620	(79,924)	(79,924)

ECW BALANCE SHEET : 1 APRIL 2024

Long Term Assets

EZ Rights to future business rates (2024-41)	£ 60000k
Growing Places Fund	£ 10223k
Life Sciences Funds	£ 13250k

Short Term (Cash & Near Cash) Assets

EZ Fund	£ 1500k
Net Operating Assets (working capital)	£ 748k
TOTAL	£ 85721k

Liabilities

EZ Loans (2024-41)	£ 12800k
GPF Loan (to fund LSF 2)	£ 4700k
TOTAL	£ 17500k

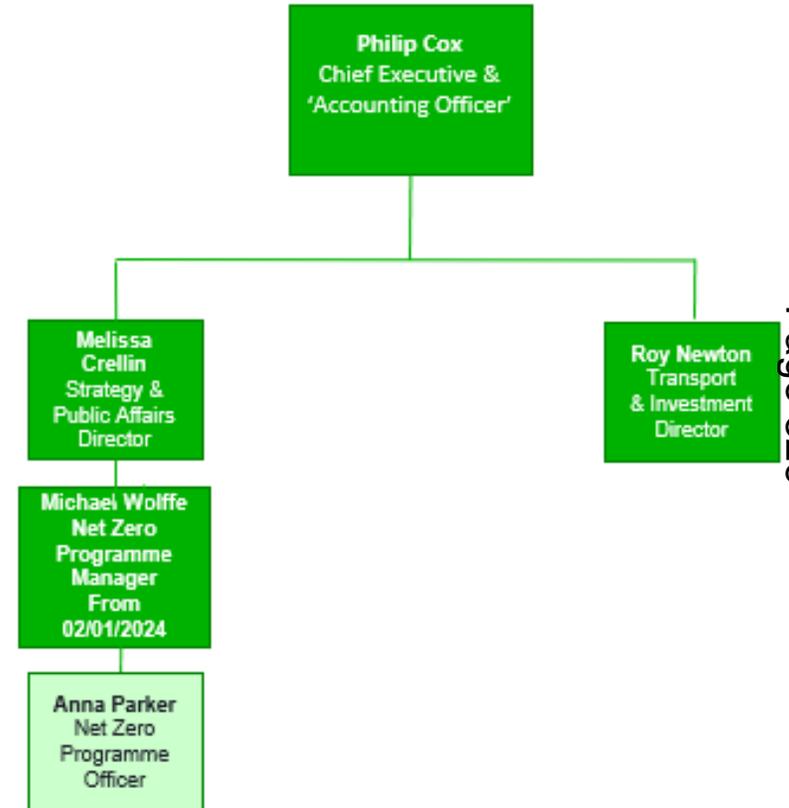
NB: ECW also shares responsibility with Manchester and Lancashire for oversight and deployment of the £210 million Evergreen Suite of funds. These do not appear on ECW's balance sheet.

**ENTERPRISE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON:
DIVISIONAL BREAKDOWN**

Strategic Economic Planning

Provides sub-regional economic planning resource for C&W

- Completion and publication of C&W Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Plan (SIEP)
- Putting in place a new programme co-ordination and oversight body to ensure the delivery in C&W of world’s first Net Zero industrial cluster
- Ongoing delivery of the recommendations of the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission (SIGC)
- Providing support and drawing advice from the Business Advisory on strategic economic and transport issues
- Completion, implementation and ongoing management of C&W’s Fair Employment Charter
- Provide sub-regional input and co-ordination of C&W’s response to the cancellation of HS2 and the introduction of the Network North programme
- Updating C&W’s strategic transport plan to reflect the SIEP
- Ensure that the sub-region is maximising its influence with inter alia National Highways, DfT, and the rail industry;
- Advice to LAs on development of any plans for devolution in C&W



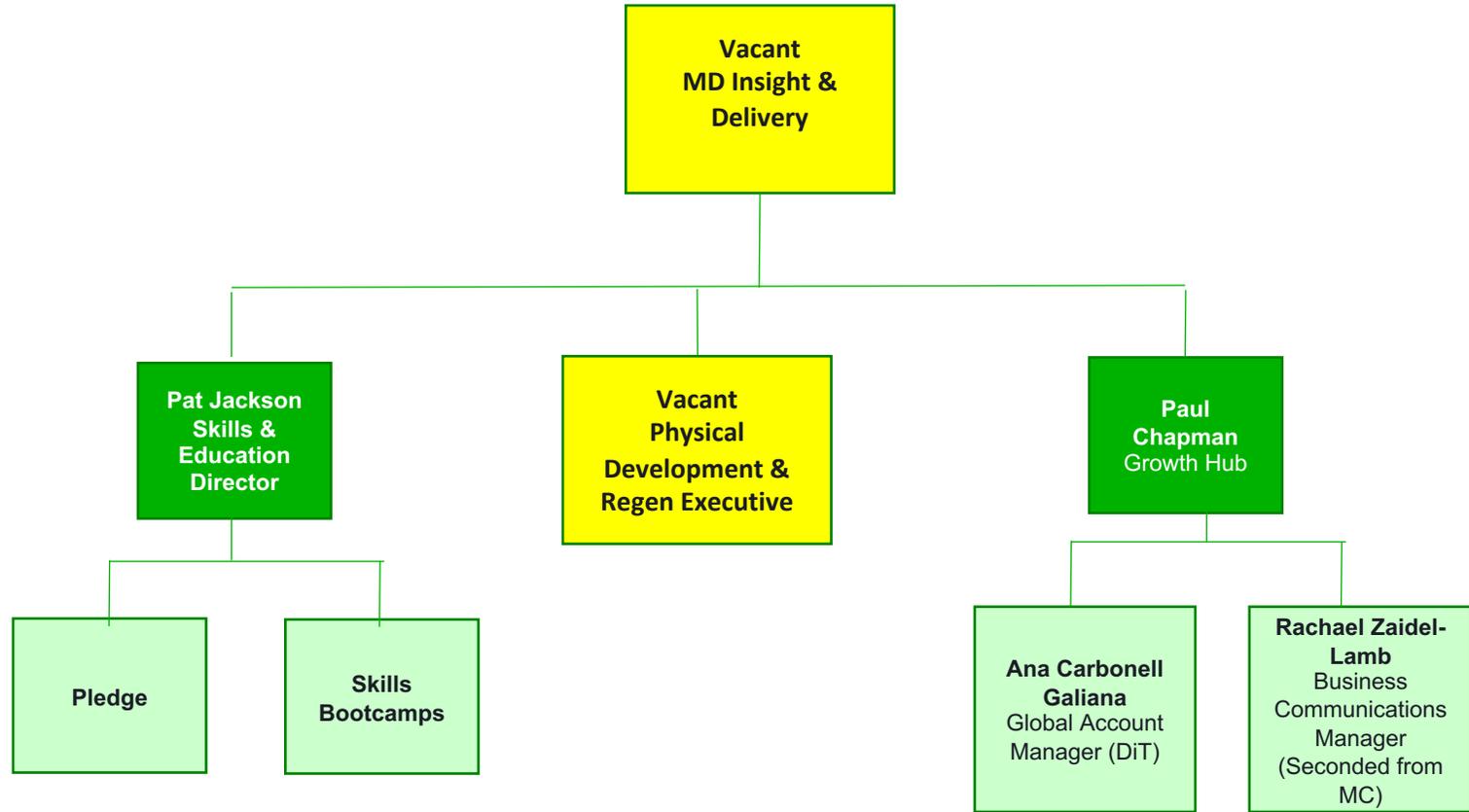
Economic Insight and Delivery

Provision of insight and intelligence about the C&W economy and the delivery of ECW's Government funded programmes

- Provide elected members with comprehensive timely support and advice to enable them to provide well informed direction to the land Property, Employment and Skills and Business Support programmes.
- Support the LAs and elected members in the development of any sub-regional devolution propositions and the sub-region's transition to more sub-regional working.
- Lead engagement with C&W's Business Advisory Board, providing support to its members to enable them to provide strong independent advice to LA leaders.
- Delivery of C&W's Careers and Skills Bootcamp programmes, delivering 640 training places in shortage occupations and supporting all 84 state funded secondary schools to achieve an average of five Gatsby benchmarks with no school achieving less than three.
- Investment and ongoing management of the EZ programme, in particular retained business rate income of £60 million over the period to 2024 – 2041, using the associated £30 million loan facility to promote further development at all EZ locations.
- In conjunction with other LA/CA and private sector partners, lead on policy and investment of C&W's £260 million of investment funds.
- Development and promotion of C&W as a key hub for innovation through active management and promotion of the Cheshire Science Corridor.
- Provision of advice and support to leaders and LAs on land and property aspects of LA and sub-regional economic development plans, potentially including the development of proposals for Investment Zones in C&W.
- Leadership and delivery of sub-region's input into UKREiif.
- Provision of policy support for C&W's Housing Board.
- Through the C&W Growth Hub, provide direct support to SMEs and account manage foreign owned firms located in C&W.
- Develop and strengthen the sub-region's economic insight and intelligence, ensuring that plans for the development and promotion of C&W (including by Marketing Cheshire) are informed by the best available insight and intelligence, drawn from National Statistics through to local intelligence gathered from the Business Advisory Board and direct engagement with businesses in C&W.

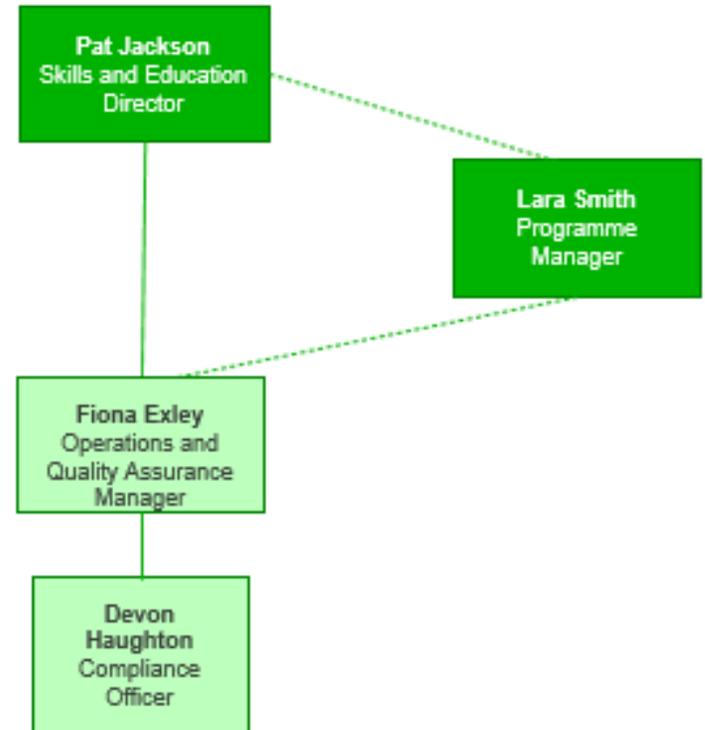


Economic Insight & Delivery Team



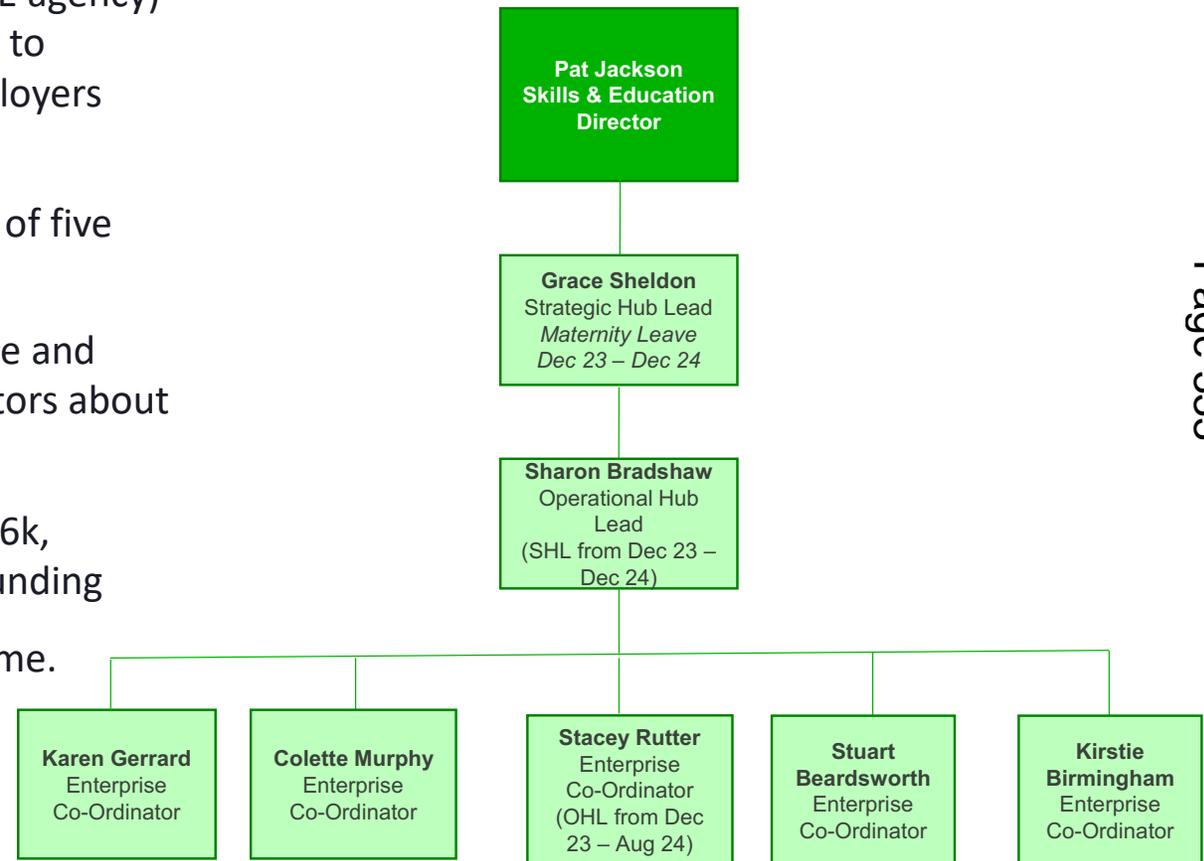
Skills Bootcamps

- Delivery of DfE's Skills Bootcamp Programme in C&W;
- Provide grants for 640 adult training places in shortage occupations through ca. 20 training providers, ensuring that at least [x%] of trainees obtain a new role that uses the skills gained from the courses;
- Ensure the Bootcamp programme is informed by strong intelligence on the key skills shortages in C&W;
- Grant from DfE in 2024/5 expected to be £2.459 million;
- Funding covers costs of 3 FTE, two member of staff employed full time on programme, two others spend part of their time on programme.



Careers Pledge

- Grant from Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) (a DfE agency) to meet the costs of providing Enterprise Co-ordinators to improve careers education by bringing schools and employers together;
- Ensure all 84 secondary schools in C&W achieve average of five Gatsby Benchmarks and a minimum of three;
- Amplify technical and vocational routes for young people and develop innovative Teacher Encounters to upskill educators about employer needs and inform curriculum;
- Total budget for academic year (Sept – Aug) 2023/4 £406k, comprising £365k CEC grant and £41k required match funding
- 6.9 FTE working in conjunction with Youth Fed programme.



Physical Development and Regeneration

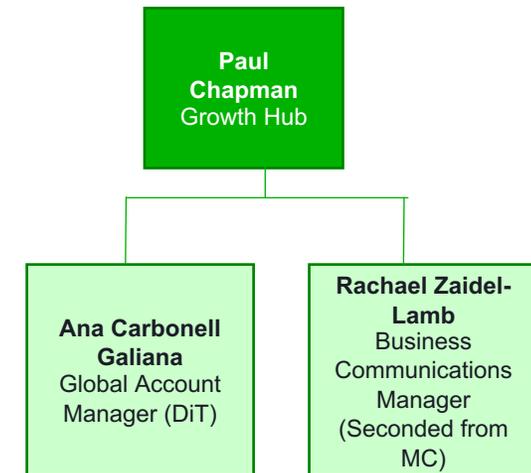
Being delivered by Cushman & Wakefield pending appointment of replacement for postholder that left in December 2023

- Investment and ongoing management of the EZ programme including retained business rate income of £60 million over the period to 2024 – 2041, deploying the £30 million EZ loan facility to promote and facilitate further development within the Zone;
- Provide support to private sector to realise prospective further development across all site within the EZ;
- In conjunction with other LA/CA and private sector partners, lead on policy and investment of C&Ws £260 million of investment funds;
- Development and promotion of C&W as a key hub for innovation through active management and promotion of Cheshire Science Corridor;
- Provision of advice and support to LA members and officers on land and property aspects of LA and sub-regional economic development plans, potentially including the development of proposals for Investment Zones in C&W;
- Leadership and delivery of sub-region's input into UKREiiF.



Growth Hub

- Deployment of £329k grant from DBT to provide key account management services for foreign owned firms to encourage them to invest in C&W and to provide support and advice to SMEs across C&W;
- Provide DBT with intelligence on new and emerging economic opportunities or shocks and a monthly report highlighting new or emerging information on local economic conditions, local business needs and concerns;
- Promote and encourage simplification and coordination of the local business support ecosystem, to provide clarity for local businesses and partner, bringing together organisations involved in the provision of business support from across the public, private and third sectors;
- 3 FTE

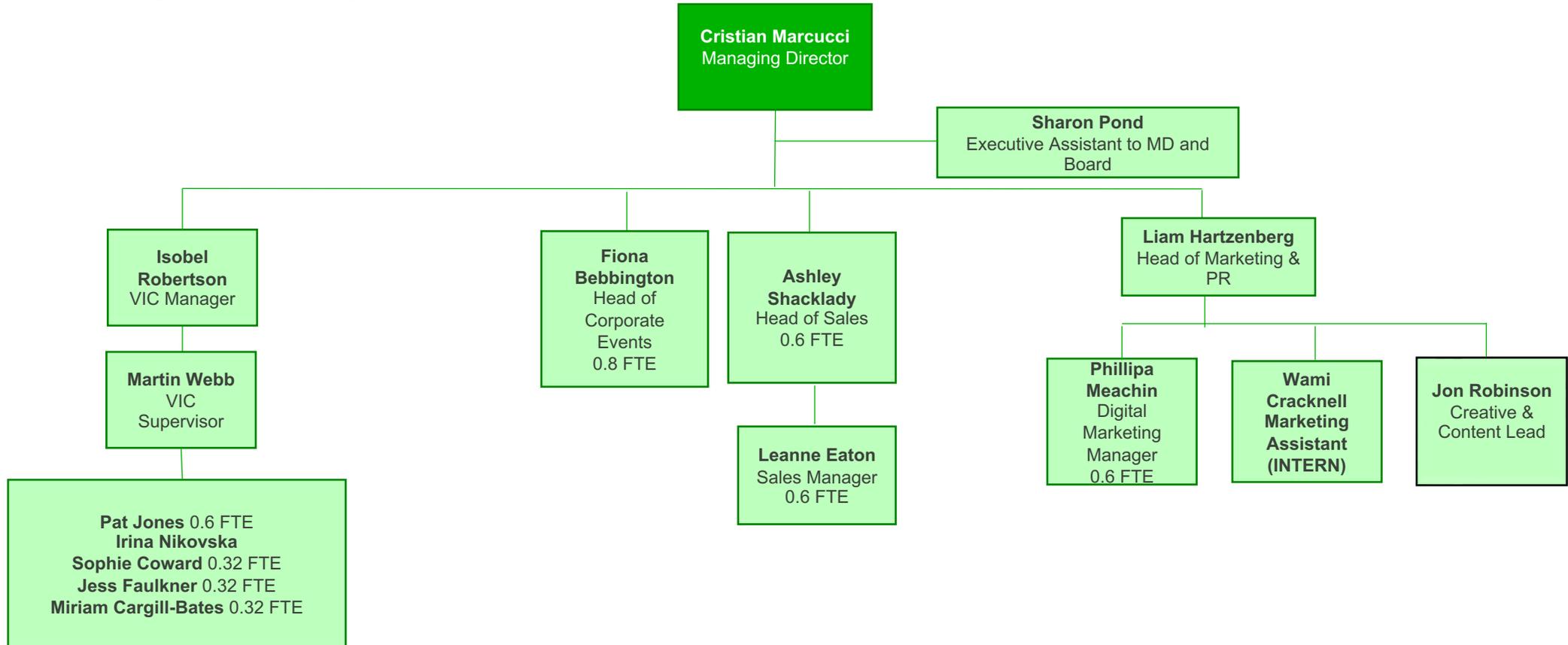


Marketing Cheshire

Provides Visitor and Place Marketing for C&W, the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in Chester plus LEP PR and Comms;

- Inspiring visitors, residents and businesses to visit, live, work and invest in C&W;
- Support the delivery of a Business Improvement District for the accommodation sector in Chester;
- Implement the conclusions of the review of Visitor Information;
- Publish a Destination Management Plan for C&W;
- Working closely with the Insight and Delivery team, ensure that C&W has a strong presence at UKREiiF;
- Promote the Cheshire Science Corridor as a great place to locate science based businesses;
- 11 FTE (of whom 4.5 FTE in VIC)

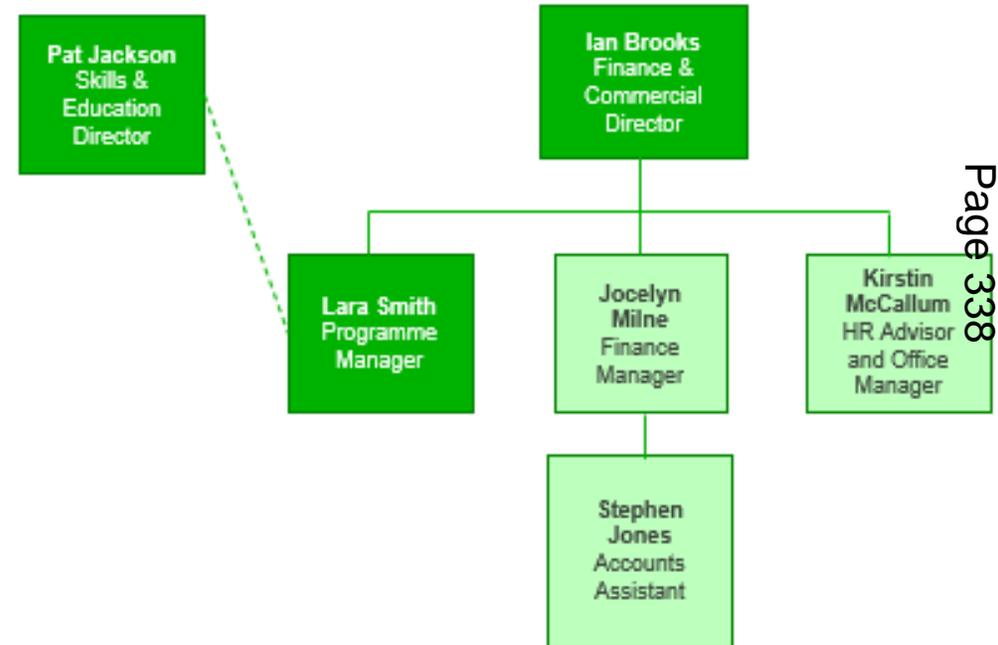
Marketing Cheshire Organisation Chart



Finance and Corporate Services

Provides ECW's finance, IT, HR and other corporate services

- Provides Finance, Company and Board Secretarial, HR, Procurement, accommodation and IT services to LEP/ECW/MC.
- Programme Management oversight of ECW's programme
- Administration of ECW's legal obligation to monitor ERDF (C&W UDF) until 2030. Also responsible for C&W's ongoing obligation to monitor LGF and GBF until 2026.
- Provision of financial expertise and administration to support C&W's investment fund portfolio (including the Evergreen suite, Life Science Fund and Growing Places Fund)
- 4.4 FTE



NP11

- C&W LEP acts as the Accountable Body for NP11 group of Northern LEPs which will become the Pan-Regional Partnership (PRP) for the North. NP11 staff are legally employed by C&W and NP11 contracts are issued in the LEP’s name;
- Launch of new PRP at Convention of the North in February 2024 to “Grow the North’s Global Footprint”;
- £1 million grant from DLUHC in 2024/5 of which £50k retained by ECW to cover cost of services provided to NP11 / PRP



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OPEN

Corporate Policy Committee

13 February 2024

Targeted Review of Members' Allowances

Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance

Report Reference No: CP/69/23-24

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of Report

- 1 To consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of a targeted review of Members' Allowances (Appendix 1), in the context of the budget consultations on the Council's financial position.
- 2 To consider changing the way in which the uplift mechanism is applied to the Scheme of Members' Allowances.
- 3 To consider whether an uplift to allowances should be implemented for 2023/2024.

Executive Summary

- 4 In August 2023, the Independent Remuneration Panel ('the Panel') was asked to undertake a short, focused review of Members' Allowances, covering three specific issues: the allowances paid to the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council respectively; the allowances paid to the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the six Service Committees (and the Finance Sub Committee); and a reconsideration of the case for allocating Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) to Opposition Spokespersons on these committees.
- 5 This report reviews the Panel's recommendations, within the context of the budget consultations on the Council's financial position.

- 6 The current uplift mechanism for Cheshire East's Scheme of Members' Allowances is the NJC officer pay award. This means that the annual pay award agreed for officers (if applicable), is also applied to Members' Allowances. This arrangement is in place until 2026.
- 7 The report proposes that where the annual NJC officer pay award is for a flat rate/percentage increase to salaries/other allowances respectively, the percentage increase applicable to other allowances would be regarded as the uplift in respect of Cheshire East's Scheme of Members' Allowances.
- 8 The report also considers whether the pay award for 2023/2024 should be implemented, in light of budget consultations on the Council's financial position.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the recommendations of the Panel in light of budget consultations, Corporate Policy Committee is invited to recommend to Council that:

- 1 a) Constitution Working Group reviews the job descriptions for the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Service Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs and Opposition Spokespersons.
 - b) The Working Group's recommendations in respect of these job descriptions to be submitted to the Independent Remuneration Panel.
 - c) The Independent Remuneration Panel consider and review these job descriptions and report back to Constitution Working Group; the Working Group to consider if the job descriptions should be referred onwards.
 - d) A full review of all member allowances by the new Independent Remuneration Panel be carried out after the actions set out in a) to c) have been completed.
 - e) The allowances scheme be amended, to allow for two special responsibility allowances to be claimed by any one Councillor.
2. That, where the annual NJC officer pay award is for a flat rate and percentage increase to salaries and other allowances respectively, the percentage increase applicable to other allowances will be regarded as that year's uplift in respect of Cheshire East's Scheme of Members' Allowances.

3. That no uplift to the Scheme of Members' Allowances be implemented in 2023/2024.

Background

8.1 Focused Review of Member Allowances: Outcome July 2023

8.1.1 On 19 July 2023, Council considered the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, following a targeted review of allowances. Council resolved that (Minute 26 refers):

1. Civic payments should remain at their current levels (Mayor £14,000 and Deputy Mayor £5,600)
2. From 2023, civic payments should be subjected to the same uprating which may be applied to members' allowances
3. Special responsibility allowance (SRA) for the Chair of scrutiny committee should remain at £7,650
4. In respect of the Parental Leave Policy for Councillors, basic allowance should continue to be paid to an elected Member during any period of parental leave
5. In respect of the draft Parental Leave Policy for Councillors, special responsibility allowance payable to the elected Member during any period of parental leave should be discontinued and transferred to the Councillor who is undertaking the special responsibility in question
6. Basic allowance should be increased by a flat rate of £500 and applied retrospectively for 2022-2023
7. Special responsibility allowances (to include Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Scrutiny Chair) should be increased by 4.04% and applied retrospectively for 2022-2023

8. A full review of the Members' Scheme of Allowances should be undertaken by the new Independent Remuneration Panel, following its appointment by Council on 16 October 2023.

8.1.2 Action points 1 through 7 have been implemented; action point 8 is discussed in paragraph 8.2.3 of this report. The appointment of a new Independent Remuneration Panel will be the subject of a separate report.

8.2 Review of Member Allowances

8.2.1 In August 2023, the outgoing Panel was asked to undertake a second focused review of Members' Allowances, covering three specific issues: 1) the allowances paid to the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council respectively; 2) the allowances paid to the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the six Service Committees (and the Finance Sub Committee); and 3) reconsideration of the case for allocating special responsibility allowances (SRAs) to opposition spokespersons on these committees.

8.2.2 The review looked at both the responsibilities associated with the roles, as well as the allowances paid to them. Whilst being mindful of the Council's budget, the Panel was not aware of the Council's emerging financial position when it was conducting its review and, as a result the Panel's recommendations set out in its report (Appendix 1) are not reflective of the budgetary savings that are now being proposed. Therefore, the report needs to be considered within the context of the budget consultations on the Council's current financial position.

8.2.3 This is particularly relevant in respect of the full review referred to in paragraph 8.1.1(8). The purpose of a full review is to benchmark the Cheshire East scheme against other authorities to ensure that it remains relevant and fit for purpose. This requires extensive research to be carried out and is time/labour intensive. It would be difficult to justify any review at this juncture, given that the Council is seeking to reduce its administrative burden.

8.3 Panel Recommendations relating to Job Descriptions

8.3.1 In view of the above, Council may wish to consider whether to refresh job descriptions for the Leader/Deputy Leader, Service Chairs/Vice Chairs and Opposition Spokespersons. It is proposed that the Constitution Working Group be asked to review job descriptions for the above, for submission to the Independent Remuneration Panel; in turn the Panel to consider and review these job descriptions and report back to Constitution Working Group; the Working Group to consider if the job descriptions should be referred onwards. As any changes would need to be considered in the context of the Panel's next review, it is proposed that the review takes place as soon as possible after this piece of work has been concluded.

8.4 Panel recommendation in respect of the payment of more than one special responsibility allowance

8.4.1. In its report to Council dated February 2023, the Panel informed Cheshire East that Members had requested a review of the current restrictions on Councillors claiming no more than one special responsibility allowance. The Panel has considered this request as part of the August 2023 targeted review, and has recommended that the allowances scheme be amended, to allow any member to claim up to a maximum of two special responsibility allowances if they so wish. This reflects the same recommendation made by the Panel in 2016. The Panel's rationale is set out in paragraph 5.1 of the attached report.

8.4.2 The members' allowances budget provides sufficient funding for each special responsibility allowance. Unallocated special responsibility allowances have been allocated to offset other member support.

Criterion for Uprating Allowances

9.1 Application of current uprating (aka uplift) arrangements

9.1.1 With effect from 1 April 2022, the criterion which applies in respect of the annual uprating of the Cheshire East Scheme of Members' Allowances is the national NJC officer pay award. In practice, this means that when an annual pay award is agreed for officers, the same award is automatically applied to Cheshire East's Scheme of Members' Allowances. For example, if the officer pay award was for a 2% increase, the Members' Scheme of Allowances would also be uplifted by 2%.

- 9.1.2 This choice of criterion has been adopted by many authorities; at Cheshire East the arrangement is in place for four years (i.e., until 31 March 2026), when it is due to be reviewed by the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 9.1.3 In 2022 and again in 2023, the NJC officer pay award has changed from being a percentage increase to salaries/other allowances to a flat-rate increase to salaries (in respect of Members' Allowances this would equate to the increase on basic), and a percentage increase for other allowances (in respect of Members' Allowances this would be special responsibility allowances, subsistence etc.).
- 9.1.4 This has presented local authorities with a challenge; applying the flat-rate pay award for officer salaries to basic allowance would be disproportionate and would cost significantly more than applying a percentage increase (as illustrated in paragraph 9.2.3), but not to do so would be a departure from the agreed criterion.
- 9.1.5 The Panel made reference to this in its 2022 report, stating that "*whilst the flat-rate did not equate with members allowances per se, it was viable to interpret the percentage increase as being 'in line with the officers pay award', thus retaining the link between the award and the scheme*".
- 9.1.6 As the Panel's reasoning was accepted by Council, it is suggested that the uprating arrangements should be amended so that, in the event of the NJC annual pay award taking the form of a flat-rate increase to salaries and a percentage increase to other allowances, it would be the percentage increase applicable to other allowances which would be regarded as the uplift, to be applied to basic and the other allowances set out in the scheme.

9.2 **Pay award for 2023/2024**

- 9.2.1 On 19 July 2023, Council considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, which included the Panel's recommendations in regard to the 2022/2023 pay award. In respect of basic and special responsibility allowances, Council resolved that (Minute 26 refers)
- i) Basic allowance should be increased by a flat rate of £500 (from £12,351 to £12,851) and applied retrospectively for 2022-2023.

- ii) Special responsibility allowances (to include Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Scrutiny Chair) should be increased by 4.04% and applied retrospectively for 2022-2023.

9.2.2 The NJC officer pay award for 2023/2024 was not agreed until November 2023, but is again for a flat-rate increase of £1,925 to officer salaries (which would apply to Members' basic allowance) with a 3.88% uplift to other allowances.

9.2.3 Cheshire East Council is facing unprecedented financial challenges to its budget and the budget consultation includes a proposal to freeze Members' Allowances. Members will need to decide what, if any, uplift is applied for 2023/2024.

	Current	New	Increase
If a flat rate increase of £1,925 was applied to basic	£12,851	£14,776	£157,850
If a percentage increase of 3.88% was applied to basic (as set out in para 9.1.5)	£12,851	£13,349	£40,836
Indicative 3.88% increase to special responsibility allowance for a committee chair was applied	£12,485	£12,969	£3,388

Consultation and engagement

10.1 The Panel met at Westfields on 20 September 2023 when interviews were carried out with the Council Leader and Deputy Leader, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of two of the Service Committees and with the Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group. Comments were invited from Chairs and Vice Chairs of the other service committees, an opportunity to which three further Members responded.

10.2 Elected members, officers and the public have all been consulted on the budget.

Reasons for Recommendations

11 Before Council can consider making any changes to its Scheme of Members' Allowances, it must have regard to the recommendations of its Independent Remuneration Panel.

Other Options Considered

12 The actions set out in the report are necessary to fulfil the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

13 The actions set out in the report are necessary to fulfil the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

14 The Council may accept, amend or reject the recommendations of the Panel. However, any increase or additions to allowance(s) will result in a permanent increase to the allowances budget.

15 The allowances base budget currently provides for the payment of i) a basic allowance payable to 82 members; and ii) the list of special responsibility allowances set out in the scheme. Funding for other forms of member support or the addition of a new SRA is only possible due to a surplus on the budget, the principal contributor being the current SRA rule, which permits only the highest SRA to be paid where a member is entitled to more than one. Currently, nine posts are unpaid which has created a surplus of £58,877. If the SRA restriction was removed, further changes to the scheme would not be possible, unless an increase was made to the base budget.

16 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023 2027, line 57- reduce cost of Democracy: consider freeze on Member allowances.

Policy

- 17 Open and enabling organisation: By fulfilling the requirements of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2002 ensures that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision making.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 18 No equality and diversity implications have been identified.

Human Resources

- 19 No human resource implications have been identified.

Risk Management

- 20 No risk management implications have been identified.

Rural Communities

- 21 No rural communities' implications have been identified.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 22 In the context of the recommendations of this report, no direct implications for children and young people/cared for children have been identified.

Public Health

- 23 No public health implications have been identified.

Climate Change

- 24 No climate change implications have been identified.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services and Governance brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel: November 2023
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (legislation.gov.uk) b) Independent Remuneration Panel: Targeted Review of Allowances Report February 2023. Councillors Expenses and Allowances (cheshireeast.gov.uk) c) Direct feedback from Elected Members and comments submitted to the IRP mailbox.

OPEN**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL****Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel****November 2023****Focussed Review of Members' Allowances****1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 In August 2023, The Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) was asked by the Council to undertake a focussed review of members' allowances, covering three specific issues: the allowances paid to the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council respectively; the allowances paid to the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the six Service Committees (and the Finance Sub Committee); and a reconsideration of the case for allocating special responsibility allowances (SRAs) to opposition spokespersons on these committees.
- 1.2 The reason for this request was the fact that the Council, between 2019 and 2023 and again since the elections in May 2023, has been operating a 'joint administration' involving the Labour and Independent groups. In 2021, a committee system of decision making was introduced to replace the 'leader and cabinet' model which had previously been in operation. The philosophy behind the 'joint administration' involved a strong emphasis on a joint approach to both the council leadership and the operation of the service committees, in which the leadership roles at both Council and committee level were shared in a way which was untypical of traditional approaches to these divisions of responsibility. For example, the Chairs and Vice Chairs of committees are shared equally (rather than proportionately); if a committee is chaired by a Labour councillor, then the vice chair will be held by an independent member and vice-versa.
- 1.3 The Chair of the Panel was briefed by senior officers of the Council at a virtual meeting on 28th August 2023. The Panel, which comprises Chair, Steve Leach (Emeritus Professor of Local Government, De Montfort University), Mandy Ramsden (former local government officer and local resident) and Jacquie Grinham (former CEO of Cheshire East North Citizens Advice) met at Westfields on September 20th when interviews were carried out with the Council Leader and Deputy Leader, the chairs and vice chairs of two of the service committees and with the Deputy Leader of the Conservative group. Comments were invited from chairs and vice chairs of the other service committees, an opportunity to which three further members responded. The Panel is grateful to the councillors involved for their time and for the excellent support it received from Brian Reed, Diane Moulson and Katie Small.

1.4 It was acknowledged that any impact resulting from the Panel's recommendations on the overall level of member allowances should involve at the most a marginal increase. It should also be recognised that the selective nature of this review means that relativities with existing allowances in other spheres (such as the regulatory committees) may change. The Panel endeavoured to take such relativities into account but, because of the limited nature of its brief, was not in a position to make recommendations for changes outside the three topics on which the review was focussed. It should be emphasised that the analysis and recommendations set out in this report apply specifically to a joint administration operating a committee system of decision-making. If either or both of these conditions ceased to apply (i.e., a majority party; a cabinet and leader model) a fundamental review of members' allowances would be required.

2.0 The Leader and Deputy Leader

2.1 It is in relation to council leadership that the commitment to the principles of a joint administration were most apparent. The Council Leader and the Deputy, whom we saw together, provided clear evidence of their commitment to genuine joint working at leadership level and provided several examples of how they had put this principle into operation. Weekly briefings from the Chief Executive are attended jointly. Negotiations with Ministers and ministerial visits typically involve both Leader and Deputy, a practice which is rare in majority-controlled councils and indeed with many councils operating as a coalition. On the recent Devolution initiative, in joint meetings with neighbouring authorities the same practice operates, one suspects to the surprise of the other leaders attending. There is a functional division of responsibility involved; the Deputy Leader chairs the Highways and Transportation Committee and would typically attend meetings with other agencies on his own, which seems a sensible use of time resources. The Leader chairs the Corporate Policy Committee in similar fashion. There is little evidence of overlap and duplication, but on any meeting of major significance for the Council, both Leader and Deputy would normally be involved.

2.2 The Panel received a good deal of positive response about the way the joint administration was working, from officers and members of the two Parties concerned alike. If it were legally possible, the adoption of a formal co-leadership model would be compatible with the principles adopted. The Panel's understanding is that local authorities are legally required to appoint an individual designated Leader. But that does not preclude a council operating an informal model of shared leadership, which appeared to the Panel to be the case in Cheshire East.

2.3 Because of the requirement to designate a formal individual leader and the specific responsibilities attached to that role, the Panel felt that a redistribution of the total SRA allocated to the Leader and Deputy Leader positions in a way which resulted in the equalisation of the two SRAs would not be appropriate.

But given the level of commitment to joint leadership, it would be logical to reflect this commitment (and the sharing of responsibilities which it involves) by moving in this direction. It was difficult for the Panel to make a precise judgement as to the most appropriate balance of SRAs without updated job descriptions or more detailed evidence of how the Leader and Deputy spent their time, which was not feasible within the time constraints of the review. Its 'best estimate' was that if 10% of the Leader's SRA (£2,952) were re-allocated to the Deputy Leader's SRA, that would be a reasonable reflection of the commitment to the philosophy of shared leadership, whilst recognising the specific formal responsibilities which the council leadership role entailed. This adjustment would result in the Leader's SRA reducing to £26,565 and the Deputy Leader's increasing to £20,772. The implementation of this recommendation would send a clear message to the public, partner organisations and central government about the seriousness of the administration's commitment to shared leadership and joint working.

- 2.4 There would be value, in the Panel's view, in the development of a statement of the roles and responsibilities of the Leader and Deputy Leader respectively, based on current practice. A statement of roles and responsibilities is considered to be more appropriate than detailed job descriptions, not least because it could be drawn up more quickly. However, the current mode of operation is felt to be well-established enough for the Panel's recommendation in 2.3 above to be implemented prior to completion of this process.

3.0 Committee Chairs and Vice-chairs.

- 3.1 Although the principles of joint working and shared responsibilities were apparent from the interviews carried out by the Panel and the responses it received, there was some variation in the extent to which these principles had been applied at Committee level. It was rare to find examples of the way in which the Leader and Deputy Leader had thought through the implications of these principles among Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs. In some cases, newly elected councillors, serving as Vice-Chair, acknowledged that they currently lacked the experience to become involved in shared leadership at this level. In other cases, it was clear that the Vice-Chair was content to adopt a more traditional interpretation of this role and recognised the greater experience of the Chair involved. Currently there are responsibilities which cannot be shared, for example the regular joint briefings Committee Chairs receive from the Chief Executive and other officers on matters of corporate significance, which Vice-Chairs do not attend.
- 3.2 These perceptions and practices may change over time as less experienced Vice-Chairs 'learn on the job'. But at this point in time, the Panel's view was that it would be premature to change the balance of SRAs between Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Service Committees. There might be justification in doing so in some cases, for example in relation to Committees chaired by the

Council Leader or Deputy Leader, but not comprehensively and the measure should not be introduced in piecemeal fashion. However, the Panel, aware of the Council's commitment to joint working and shared leadership at all levels, would wish to encourage the Council to take steps to embed these principles at committee level which, if effective, could well justify reassessment of the appropriate balance of SRAs between Chairs and Vice-Chairs within the next few months. As with the positions of Leader and Deputy Leader, the Panel considered that statements of the roles and responsibilities of Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs or the service committees should be drawn up as quickly as feasible. There appeared to the Panel to be a real momentum in the move to a genuinely shared administration, which should be sustained. In this case, it may be helpful, once the role specifications have been agreed, for tailored training and development sessions for the relevant members to be organised.

4.0 Scrutiny Leads on the Service Committees. (Opposition or Lead Spokespersons allowances)

- 4.1 In the Panel's 2021 and (selective) 2022 reports, the payment of SRAs to what it termed 'Opposition spokespersons' on the seven service committees (including Finance Sub) was recommended. The justification for this recommendation was as follows: the Conservative opposition was (and still is) the largest party on the Council. On democratic principles and to ensure that the administration is held to account for its decisions, it is important that it is enabled to play a responsible scrutiny role. This cannot be achieved solely by allocating the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to the opposition (as has happened); much of the business of this Committee is focused on external partner organisations, notably in the fields of health and crime and disorder.
- 4.2 It has been rightly recognised that, under a committee system, scrutiny of service issues will be expected to take place within the committees themselves. Although in principle scrutiny can be exercised by any committee member, the reality, given the need for and expectation of group support among members of the joint administration partners, is that scrutiny, particular on major issues, is likely to be led by the Opposition. It is for these reasons that other councils which have introduced a committee system of decision making, such as Nottinghamshire and Brighton and Hove, have introduced SRAs for opposition spokesperson roles (see the members allowances reports for these two authorities for further details and justifications).
- 4.3 One argument that was presented to the Panel was that SRAs would normally be attached to positions in which a degree of formal responsibility was involved (such as the chair of a Planning Committee) and that opposition spokespersons on service committees did not meet this criterion. But this argument is premised on a limited interpretation of the concept of responsibility. Scrutiny in any form cannot involve direct responsibility for decision making; it can only seek to influence and persuade by force of

argument those who do have responsibility for decisions. Yet all local authorities allocate SRAs to scrutiny positions. Indeed, when considering formal responsibilities in a committee system, neither the chair nor the vice-chair has formal responsibility for decisions; it is the committee as a collectivity which has the responsibility. However, no-one is suggesting that the demanding jobs of Chair and Vice-Chair of committees should not be acknowledged in the allocation of substantial SRAs, broadly equivalent (in total) to those previously allocated to Portfolio Holders. Indeed, we were told by more than one respondent that the job of Committee Chair was more demanding and certainly more time-consuming than that of Portfolio Holder.

- 4.4 The Panel's preference would be for these positions to be retitled '**Lead Spokespersons**', rather than 'Opposition Spokespersons'. Although the Panel is clear that they should be filled by opposition members, the emphasis should be on scrutiny, rather than opposition per se. The allocation of SRAs to these roles was supported by the Conservative Opposition and although views among the administration parties about the desirability of this measure were more mixed, we were told of committees where the opposition member playing this role was regularly consulted by the Chair, a process which was found to be helpful in the avoidance of misunderstandings about agenda items and the efficient dispatch of committee business.
- 4.5 For reasons set out in the 2021 report the Panel recommended that the SRA allocated to the Lead Spokesperson role should be £4,200. However, as this role is a new and untried and tested initiative in Cheshire East, the Panel considers it appropriate that, prior to recommending a specific figure, a statement of roles and responsibilities should first be drawn up by the Council. This process, which should be completed as quickly as feasible, should include consultation with all the political groups: the committee chairs of today may one day be the lead spokespersons of tomorrow and vice versa. The Panel would be happy to make a specific recommendation once this process has been completed. However, it is clear from the interview evidence that the figure should be less than that agreed for vice-chairs.
- 4.6 The current situation is that opposition members can request a briefing from the relevant chief officer on any agenda item coming before a Committee. There are likely to be occasions when Lead Spokespersons want to request additional information, to enable them to make a judgement as to whether or not it is appropriate to challenge a proposed decision. In these circumstances, we believe such requests should be channelled to Democratic Services, where there is already a dedicated scrutiny support capacity, and where they should be responded to, unless the time implications of doing so are unrealistic. In this event, the matter should be referred to the Monitoring Officer for resolution.
- 4.7 In the event that SRAs for Lead Spokespersons are introduced, the net effect is likely to be a relatively small increase in the members' allowances budget.

5.0 Limit on the number of SRAs allowed to be claimed per member

- 5.1 At present several SRAs are currently unclaimed as a result of the provision that any member can only claim one SRA. It should, however, be noted that the Panel, in its 2016 report, recommended that this provision should be changed to permit two SRAs to be claimed by any one councillor, a view which the current Panel supports and reiterated in its Targeted Review in February this year. We suggest that this restriction be removed and any member be permitted to claim up to two SRAs.

6.0 Summary of recommendations

The Panel recommend that:

6.1 Leader and Deputy Leader's SRA

- (a) 10% of the Leader's SRA (£2,952) be re-allocated to the Deputy Leader's SRA resulting in the Leader's SRA reducing to £26,565 and the Deputy Leader's increasing to £20,772.
- (b) A statement of roles and responsibilities for these two positions, based on existing practice, be drawn up, but not as a pre-requisite for the implementation of recommendation 6.1(a)

6.2 Service Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs SRA

- (a) No change be made to the balance of SRAs between the Chairs and Vice Chairs, until a statement of roles and responsibilities for these positions has been agreed by the Council, a process which should be carried out as soon as feasible.
- (b) Once such a statement has been agreed then the Panel should be asked to make a recommendation as to the SRAs to be allocated to these positions
- (b) It may then be helpful to establish tailored training and development sessions for the members involved.

6.3 Scrutiny Leads on Service Committees

- (a) Lead Spokesperson on Service Committees should be introduced. The positions should be filled by opposition members.
- (b) A statement of the roles and responsibilities attached to such positions should be drawn up as soon as feasible. All parties represented on the Council should be consulted in this process.
- (c) The Panel should then be asked to make a recommendation as to the SRA to be allocated to these positions
- (d) In the event of Lead Spokespersons wanting to request additional information to enable them to make a judgement as to whether or not it is appropriate to challenge a proposed decision, such requests should be channelled to Democratic Services, unless the time implications of

doing so are unrealistic. In this event, the matter should be referred to the Monitoring Officer for resolution.

6.4 Limit on the number of SRAs any member may claim

- (a) The Allowances Scheme be amended to allow any member to claim up to a maximum of two SRAs if they so wish.

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OPEN

Corporate Policy Committee

13 February 2024

Calendar of Meetings 2024-2025

Report of: David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance

Report Reference No: CP/63/23-24

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report seeks agreement of the Committee in respect of a draft calendar of meetings for the Council for the municipal year 2024/25 and a draft calendar of dates for the period June to October 2025. Full Council will then be asked to formally approve the calendar at the Council meeting on 27 February 2024.

Executive Summary

- 2 In accordance the Local Government Act 1972, the Council is required to give public notice of its meetings. The calendar of meetings assists in fulfilling this legal obligation and provides certainty for Council members.
- 3 Having an approved and published calendar of meetings enables effective business planning and decision-making procedures.
- 4 At its meeting held on [13 December 2023](#), in relation to item 9: Review of the Committee System and Medium-Term Financial Strategy Saving, Full Council resolved that:
 - 4 *the functions of the Scrutiny Committee, Audit and Governance Committee and any other committee, sub-committee, panel or working group are reviewed to consider opportunities for streamlining and efficacy of delivery. The outcome of the review is presented to an all-member briefing in February 2024. Please see full resolution of Council [Minute Council 13 Dec 2023](#)*

- 5 Upon conclusion of the review of the committee structure, the calendar of meetings will be amended if this is required. In the meantime, in order to give as much certainty as possible to Members, officers and the public, it is appropriate to approve the calendar of meetings, based upon the existing committee structure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the draft calendar of meetings for Cheshire East Council for the municipal year 2024/25 be recommended to Council for approval, subject to delegated powers being granted to the Director of Governance and Compliance, in consultation with committee chairs and vice chairs, to make any changes to the calendar of meetings which might arise from the review of the committee structure.

Background

- 6 As set out in its Constitution (Chapter 3 – Part 1 para 1.1) the Council is required to decide when its meetings will take place. These are set out in a calendar of meetings. The calendar of meetings is intended only to deal with formal decision-making meetings and, therefore, does not provide details of other meetings involving Members.
- 7 Full Council must approve the calendar.
- 8 Following the Corporate Policy Committee held on [23 March 2023](#), the Constitution Working Group has undertaken a Survey to seek Members' opinion on the appetite for twilight / early evening meetings (4pm or 6pm), alongside meetings held during normal working hours. 71% of all Councillors that completed the survey would prefer committee meetings to start in the daytime at 10am or 2pm, with 24% of Councillors expressing a preference for committee meetings to start from 6pm onwards. Bearing in mind that committee chairs can agree changes to the start times of meetings if required, The Working Group concluded that the timing of meetings should remain unchanged.
- 9 Further consultation with the administration has requested consideration is given to each service committee having one twilight meeting. This would require 7 meetings to be moved to a 4-6pm start time.
- 10 Furthermore, there would be financial implications if twilight or evening meetings were to be introduced. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 required a budget saving of £135,000 in relation to the cost of democracy. Following the decision of council to reverse the earlier

decision to reduce the number of planning committees this saving has not been met. The exact cost of twilight or evening meetings will be dependent on how the building is used, length of meeting and the number of necessary staff. The additional costs will comprise an hourly business support staffing charge of £25.21 per hour for all meetings held after 7pm at Westfields, Municipal Buildings, Crewe and Delamere House, Crewe and after 5pm at Macclesfield Town Hall. Any staff grade 8 and under in attendance at meetings would be entitled to claim overtime and there are also facilities costs associated with keeping the buildings open for longer.

- 11 Due to the potential costs for twilight/evening meetings and the clear policy decision to reduce the cost of democracy officers are not able to recommend the introduction of evening meetings. However, Council may consider trialling a twilight meeting during the forthcoming Municipal Year, in order to establish whether this might be a favourable option for Members and members of the public in the future.
- 12 The scheduling of meetings has taken into account the Council's business planning/performance reporting cycle, together with a range of additional issues arising from the implementation of the committee system and learning from its operation since May 2021.
- 13 Where possible August has been retained for recess, except for planning committee meetings.
- 14 A draft calendar for the period June to October 2024 was approved at the Council meeting on 24 May 2023. This approach provided Members, officers and members of the public with some degree of certainty for the period from the end of the Municipal Year through to the winter, and appears to have been well received. It is therefore proposed that the same approach will be adopted for the next Municipal Year. Due to clashes of meetings, the following changes are proposed:
 - Audit and Governance Committee on Thu 25 July 2024 is moved to Mon 29 July 2024 and the meeting on Thu 26 September 2024 is moved to Mon 30 September 2024. This is to avoid having two committee meetings on the same day.
 - Corporate Policy Committee moves from Thu 4 July 2024 to Thu 11 July 2024 to avoid a clash with the LGA Annual Conference.
- 15 The dates for the Strategic Planning Board, Northern Planning Committee and Southern Planning Committee have been scheduled to meet on a Wednesday in accordance with scheduling timeframe agreed by Council on 13 December 2023:

- Strategic Planning Board – meet bi-monthly.
- Northern Planning Committee and Southern Planning Committee: to meet around every 6 weeks.

Site visits to take place on the Friday before the meeting in question.

- 16 Meetings of full Council have been scheduled to be held on a Wednesday on the following dates - 15 May 2024, 17 July 2024, 16 October 2024, 11 December 2024 and 26 February 2025, with the start time of 11 am.
- 17 The meetings of service committees have been scheduled to take place on the same day of the week where possible. If there is a specific need for additional or fewer meetings, this can be dealt with under existing arrangements.
- 18 The Audit and Governance Committee and Licensing Committee have been scheduled to meet five times each year. Provisions exist for additional meetings to be called if needed.
- 19 The scheduling of meetings of the Scrutiny Committee has been approached on a quarterly basis, as is currently the case. It is acknowledged however that there may be the need to arrange ad-hoc meetings, when required to deal with bespoke external scrutiny matters e.g., external proposals by health providers, using the general powers of the Committee Chair. The quarterly scheduling will provide for annual reporting, with flexibility around the dates of meetings, to suit business needs.
- 20 A draft calendar of dates for the period May to October 2025 is also included to help with diary planning.
- 21 The Committee is asked to refer the calendar to Council for approval.

Consultation and Engagement

- 22 The calendar has been shared with the Group Leaders, Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees and senior officers.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 23 The Council is required to give public notice of its meetings in order to fulfil its legal obligations under the Access to Information Rules set out in the Constitution and to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 1972. The calendar will assist the Council in meeting these requirements and will provide certainty for Members.

24 Other Options Considered

Option	Impact	Risk
Do nothing	The authority would be unable to plan the decision making function of the council in an effective manner	Decisions not being made in a timely manner. The business needs of the council not been met

Implications and Comments*Monitoring Officer/Legal*

- 25 In accordance the Local Government Act 1972 and the Access to Information Rules in the Constitution, the Council is required to give public notice of its meetings, and a calendar of meetings assists in fulfilling this legal obligation.
- 26 Members of the public have a legal right to attend to participate in and observe council meetings, e.g., make representations in respect of planning applications, asking questions at meetings, and presenting appeals.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 27 There are financial implications in relation to introducing twilight and evening meetings, as outlined in paragraphs 10 and 11.
- 28 The Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 requires a budget saving of £135,000 in relation to the cost of democracy. This saving target has not been reached.
- 29 Evenings or twilight meetings create additional budgetary burdens. There would be an hourly business support staffing charge of £25.21 per hour for all meetings held after 7pm at Westfields, Municipal Buildings, Crewe and Delamere House, Crewe and after 5pm at Macclesfield Town Hall. Any staff grade 8 and under in attendance at meetings would be entitled to claim overtime and there are also facilities costs associated with keeping the buildings open for longer.

Policy

30

An open and enabling organisation

Ensure that there is transparency in all aspects of council decision-making

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

31 There are no direct implications for equality.

Human Resources

32 There are no direct implications for human resources.

Risk Management

33 A published calendar of meetings enables effective business planning and decision-making procedures.

Rural Communities

34 There are no direct implications for rural communities.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

35 There are no direct implications for children and young people.

Public Health

36 There are no direct implications for Public Health.

Climate Change

37 There are no implications for climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services and Governance brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Calendar of Meetings for Municipal Year 2024/25
Background Papers:	None

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Calendar of Meetings 2024-2025

COMMITTEE	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT
Council (11 am)	15		17			16		11		26			14		16			15
Corporate Policy (10.00 am)		13				3	28			6	20			12				2
Economy and Growth (2 pm)		4			10		12		14		11			3			9	
Highways and Transport (10.00 am)		20			19		21		23			3		19			18	
Environment and Communities (10.00 am)		6	25		26		14		30		27			5	24		25	
Children and Families (2 pm)		3			16		11		13	10		7		2			15	
Adults and Health (10.00 am)		24			23		18		20		24			23			22	
Finance Sub Committee (10 am or 2 pm)		11 (Tue 2 pm)			12 (Thu 10 am)		7 (Thu 10 am)		9 (Thu 10 am)		10 (Mon 10 am)			10 (Tue 2 pm)			11 (Thu 10 am)	
Scrutiny Committee (10.00 am)		27			5			12			13			26			4	
Audit and Governance Committee (10.00 am)	30 (Thu)		29 (Mon)		30 (Mon)			5 (Thu)			6 (Thu)		29 (Thu)		28 (Mon)		29 (Mon)	
General Appeals Sub Committee (10 am)		18	4	20	9	8	5	10	7	4	4	8		17	3	19	8	7
Licensing Committee (2 pm)		10			2		4		6		3			9			1	
General Licensing Sub Committee (10 am)		17	15		17	10	25		27	24		14		16	14		16	9
Strategic Planning Board (10 am)	29		24		18		20		29		26		28		23		17	
Southern Planning Committee (10 am)		5	31		11	23		4		5		2		4	30		10	22
Northern Planning Committee (10 am)		26		21		2	13		15		5	23		25		20		1
Health and Wellbeing Board (2 pm)			2		24		19		21		18				1		23	
Local Authority School Governor Nomination Sub Committee (2 pm)			16				26				25				15			
Cared for Children and Care Leaver Committee (2 pm)		18			3			3			4			17			2	
Shared Services Joint Committee (10 am)		28					22											

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CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

Report Reference	Corporate Policy Committee	Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Consultation	Equality Impact Assessment	Part of Budget and Policy Framework	Corporate Plan Priority	Exempt Item
CP/53/22-23	21/03/2024	Annual Review of Committee Decisions	To report on the decisions made by Service Committees during 2021/22 and 2022/23.	Acting Head of Business Change	No	No	No	Open	No
CP/31/23-24	21/03/2024	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - annual report	To update on EDI in line with our statutory duty to report annually	Acting Head of Business Change	No	No	No	Open; Fair; Green	No
CP/40/23-24	21/03/2024	Performance Report - Quarter 3 of 2324	To report on performance against the Corporate Plan. To include H&S accident and incident statistics.	Acting Head of Business Change	No	No	No	Open; Fair; Green	No
CP/41/23-24	21/03/2024	Strategic Risk Register Assurance Report Q3 2023/24	This report provides an update on the activity of the Council's Strategic Risk Register for Quarter 3 2023/24	Head of Audit and Risk	No	No	No	Open	No
CP/74/23-24	21/03/2024	Council nominations to the Board of Peak and Plains Housing Trust	To review the request by Peaks and Plains Housing Trust to remove the nomination right for Cheshire East Council to make Member nominations to their Board.	Head of Housing	No	No	No	Green	No
CP/75/23-24	21/03/2024	Review of Committee Structure	Following the resolution of Full Council on 13 December 2023, to give consideration to a report on proposed changes	Director of Governance and Compliance	No	No	Yes	Open	No

CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

			to the committee structure.						
CP/76/23-24	21/03/2024	Cheshire East Approach to Transformation	Report to set out the approach to be taken to making the necessary transformational changes Cheshire East to give effect to the delivery of the new corporate plan and supporting budget change	Director of Governance and Compliance	No	Yes	Yes	Open	No

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Finance Sub-Committee**
held on Thursday, 11th January, 2024 in the Committee Suite 1, 2 & 3,
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor N Mannion (Chair)
Councillor M Gorman (Vice-Chair)

Councillors J Clowes, B Drake, R Kain, C O'Leary, F Wilson and A Harrison
(for Cllr Brown)

OFFICERS

Alex Thompson, Director of Finance and Customer Services
David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance
Paul Mountford, Democratic Services
Julie Gregory, Legal Team Manager - Place/Corporate
Lianne Halliday, Head of Procurement

ALSO PRESENT

Councillors R Bailey and K Edwards
Kevin Melling, Managing Director of Ansa

APOLOGIES

Councillor D Brown

37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

38 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2023 be approved
as a correct record.

With the consent of the Chair, Councillor K Edwards spoke in relation to
Minute 33, and welcomed the Sub-Committee's support on the financial
aspects of S106.

39 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION

There were no public speakers.

40 **THIRD FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023/24**

The Sub-Committee considered a report on the third review of the Cheshire East Council forecast outturn for the financial year 2023/24.

Officers advised that recommendations 5 and 6 of the report had been included in error and had been withdrawn. The recommendations would be added to the financial review reports to the Children and Families and Environment and Communities Service Committees.

The Director of Finance and Customer Services advised that the forecast overspend of £18.7m in 2023/24 had now been reduced to £13m. General Reserves stood at just over £14m. Officers would continue to seek to reduce further the projected overspend.

With the Chair's consent, Councillor R Bailey spoke as a visiting member, and referred to the Notice of Motion submitted to December Council calling for an LGA Corporate Peer Challenge review of the Council's forecast overspend. The Director of Governance and Compliance advised that the Notice of Motion had been referred to the Corporate Policy Committee and a report would be included on the agenda for the Committee's meeting on 13th February.

In response to members' questions and comments, officers advised as follows:

- The Council was still in discussion with the Government about the possibility of recovering £8.6m of expenditure incurred in preparation for the now cancelled HS2 Phase 2. The figure was still being treated as capital and was not part of the projected overspend.
- If the Council were unable to reduce the projected overspend to zero by the end of the financial year, reserves would have to be used.
- If the general reserves were reduced to nil, earmarked reserves would have to be utilised instead, regardless of their prior purpose. Additional savings would have to be made to restore reserves to an adequate level.
- The details of what would be included in the terms of reference of a peer review, how long it would take and at what cost, would be included in the report to the Corporate Policy Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Sub-Committee

1. notes the factors leading to a forecast adverse Net Revenue financial pressure of £13.0m against a revised budget of £353.1m (3.7%);
2. notes the forecast and further mitigations needing to be identified, aimed at bringing spending back in-line with budget;

3. notes the in-year forecast Capital Spending of £171.1m against an approved MTFs budget of £214.7m, due to slippage that has been re-profiled into future years;
4. notes the contents of Annex 1 and each of the appendices and note that any financial mitigation decisions requiring approval will be made in line with relevant delegations; and
5. as recommended by the Economy and Growth Committee on the 12th September 2023, unanimously approves a virement of £6.8m from the North Cheshire Garden Village project to create a separate project for the S106 Development obligations that is required by the Local Planning Authority to fund the initial infrastructure works on the site (as detailed in Appendix 7 Finance Sub-Committee, Section 5 Capital Strategy, Table 5.)

41 CHESHIRE PENSION FUND BRIEFING

The Sub-Committee considered a report which summarised the key points in the items presented to the Cheshire Pension Fund Committee on 1st December 2023.

Councillor Gorman, who was a member of the Cheshire Pension Fund Committee, referred again to the need for some of the Fund to be invested in local businesses. A report on the matter was to be submitted to the CPF Committee in February; he asked that a report be brought back to the Finance Sub-Committee.

Whilst sympathetic in principle, members stressed the need for the Fund to act in the best interests of its pensioners. Officers added that the Fund had a responsibility to avoid any investments which posed a risk to its members.

Officers undertook to discuss with the Chair whether to bring a report on the matter back to the Sub-Committee at a future meeting or to arrange an informal briefing for members.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

42 WORK PROGRAMME

The Sub-Committee considered its work programme for 2023-24.

Officers advised that an additional meeting of the Sub-Committee had been arranged for 31st January to discuss the MTFs.

Councillor Gorman advised that the Environment and Communities Committee had set up a member working group to oversee the delivery of

the recommended actions arising from the S106 audit. He suggested that the Finance Sub-Committee should also monitor the process.

Members were mindful that the Sub-Committee had a specific role in ensuring that the S106 monies were used. It was proposed that a report be added to the work programme for the Sub-Committee's meeting in June 2024.

RESOLVED

That subject to the addition of a report on S106 to the Sub-Committee's meeting in June, the work programme be noted.

43 PROCUREMENT PIPELINE

The Sub-Committee considered a report which provided an update on the pipeline of procurement activity, the contracts awarded this fiscal year, and the number of cases where, and reasons why, procurement activity had required the use of waivers.

The detailed waivers referred to in the report would be considered in Part 2 of the meeting.

A meeting of the Procurement Working Group had been held on 5th January 2024. Councillor M Gorman, as spokesperson for the Group, reported that the Group had focussed on risk and value for money, and had looked particularly at procurement over the last 12 months. The Group had asked for a further meeting to consider the boundary between statutory and non-statutory procurement, and the ability for the Council to operate a break clause, where appropriate, in contracts as a way of achieving savings. Councillor Clowes, who also attended the Group meeting, added that members had also asked to consider contracts that 'go wrong' to ensure that the processes for dealing with them were robust.

Councillor Clowes asked for further information on two items in Appendix 2 to the report, items C1600 and C1602, which related to insurance policies. The Head of Procurement undertook to provide a written response to all members of the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the Sub-Committee

1. approves the 3 pipeline projects in Appendix 1, column H of the report as business as usual;
2. notes the reason for 1 waiver approved between 1st September 2023 and 31st December 2023 (5 in total in 2023/24);
3. notes the contracts awarded since April 2023, Appendix 2;

4. notes the change to the public procurement legislation (paragraph 17 of the report), Public Contract Regulations 2023 and Provider Selection Regime; and
5. notes the feedback from the Procurement Working Group.

44 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the final item on the agenda pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

45 PROCUREMENT PIPELINE

The Sub-Committee considered details of the waiver referred to in the Procurement Pipeline report.

RESOLVED

That the details of the waiver referred to in the Procurement Pipeline report be noted.

46 ANSA COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY

The Sub-Committee considered a report on a commercial opportunity for Ansa Environmental Services Ltd.

Mr Kevin Melling, Managing Director of Ansa, attended for this item.

RESOLVED (unanimously)

That consideration of the proposal be deferred to a date to be determined by officers in consultation with the Chair or Vice-Chair.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 12.12 pm

Councillor N Mannion (Chair)

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