New local plan for Cheshire East

Healthy and safe communities topic paper (draft)
March 2024

Open · Fair · Green

Cheshire East
Council

Front cover images (clockwise from top-left):

- Crewe Market Hall and Municipal Buildings
- Arclid north plant site and lake (image supplied by Bathgate Silica Sand Ltd)
- Jodrell Bank Observatory
- Lamberts Lane Bridge, Congleton
- Tabley Park, Northwich Road, Knutsford

Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 This topic paper provides further statistical information to support the 'Healthy and safe communities' section of the issues paper. For ease of reading, it uses the same headings that are set out in the issues paper for this topic.

1.2 Good physical and mental health and wellbeing go hand in hand with economic growth and prosperity. Whilst access to good quality health services is important, most of the things that make us healthy are unrelated to health care.

1.3 We all need access to suitable housing, education, employment, sufficient income, infrastructure (including green spaces, leisure, and cultural opportunities) and good quality information that helps us to make positive choices in relation to our lifestyles.

1.4 These 'building blocks' of health and wellbeing are connected and complement each other.

2   Open space and recreation

2.1   Good quality green infrastructure is recognised as an important component of urban and rural environments for improving health and wellbeing, air quality, nature recovery and resilience to and mitigation of climate change, along with addressing issues of social inequality and environmental decline.

2.2   In January 2023 Natural England launched the Green Infrastructure Framework[1] (GIF) to help increase the amount of green cover to 40% in urban residential areas. The GIF provides a structure to analyse where greenspace in urban environments is needed most. It aims to support equitable access to greenspace across the country, with an overarching target for everyone being able to reach good quality greenspace in their local area.

2.3   According to the GIF, parks and greenspaces in England deliver an estimated £6.6 billion of health, climate change and environmental benefits every year. But with 80% of people now living in towns and cities, one third of people do not have access to good quality green and blue space within 15 minutes of their home.[1] The government's Environmental Improvement Plan, published in February 2023, includes a commitment that the public should be able to access green space or water, such as woodlands, wetlands, parks and rivers, within a 15-minute walk from their home.

2.4   There are just over 1,900 km of public rights of way in Cheshire East - nearly 1,800 km of public footpaths and around 150 km of public bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic.[2]

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1   https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Home.aspx
2   https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/leisure,_culture_and_tourism/public_rights_of_way/
what_are_public_rights_of_way/what_are_public_rights_of_way.aspx

3   Pollution and contamination

3.1   Cheshire East has 12 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), all of which were declared in response to a breach of the Annual Mean Nitrogen Dioxide Objective[3] because of emissions from road traffic. AQMAs affect 12 wards across Cheshire East. Overall, the results indicate that there has been an improvement in average air quality ratings since the previous monitoring period.[4] However, it is worth noting that the World Health Organization air quality guidelines recommend a level of 10 µg/m^3.[5]

Table 3.1 Average, max and min annual mean nitrogen dioxide at roadside monitoring sites in AQMAs

AQMA	2020 (µg/m^3)	2021 (µg/m^3)	2022 (µg/m^3)
A6 Market Street, Disley	Average: 28.3Max: 34.7Min: 18.3	Average: 31.5Max: 38.1Min: 20.1	Average: 29.6Max: 34.6Min: 18.9
A523 London Road, Macclesfield	Average: 24.0Max: 28.6Min: 19.36	Average: 26.8Max: 31.5Min: 22.6	Average: 24.4Max: 29.1Min: 20.4
A54 Rood Hill, Congleton	Average: 25.8Max: 26.3Min: 25.4	Average: 28.2Max: 29.8Min: 26.6	Average: 26.1Max: 27.5Min: 24.6
A34 Lower Heath, Congleton	Average: 34.4Max: 34.4Min: 34.4	Average: 32.4Max: 32.4Min: 32.4	Average: 29.8Max: 29.8Min: 29.8
A34 West Road, Congleton	Average: 26.7Max: 33.3Min: 20.0	Average: 28.3 Max: 35.5Min: 21.2	Average: 24.1Max: 29.3Min: 18.9
A5022/A534 Sandbach	Average: 22.4Max: 22.8Min: 22.1	Average: 25.3Max: 25.3Min: 25.3	Average: 23.6Max: 23.6Min: 23.6
Hospital Street, Nantwich	Average: 26.7Max: 31.4Min: 22.5	Average: 29.6Max: 34.1Min: 24.5	Average: 28.8Max: 33.5Min: 23.4
Chester Road, Middlewich	Average: 27.8Max: 31.2Min: 24.4	Average: 29.7Max: 33.2Min: 26.2	Average: 29.0Max: 31.7Min: 26.2
Broken Cross, Macclesfield	Average: 20.0Max: 23.4Min: 15.8	Average: 22.1Max: 25.9Min: 16.6	Average: 20.5Max: 23.7Min: 16.0
Hibel Road, Macclesfield	Average: 23.0Max: 32.2Min: 17.3	Average: 26.2Max: 34.6Min: 20.0	Average: 23.0Max: 31.5Min: 16.9
A533 Lewin Street, Middlewich	Average: 26.0Max: 31.1Min: 22.6	Average: 28.6Max: 33.3Min: 25.6	Average: 26.5Max: 31.1Min: 22.8
A537 Chelford Road, Knutsford	Average: 23.5Max: 23.5Min: 23.5	Average: 24.0Max: 24.0Min: 24.0	Average: 23.2Max: 23.2Min: 23.2

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3   Air Quality Objective = 40 µg/m^3
4   CEC Environmental Health Team
5   https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/what-are-the-who-air-quality-guidelines

3.2   The annual health cost to society of the impacts of particulate matter alone in the UK is estimated to be around £16 billion.[6]

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6   Cheshire East Borough Council Air quality Action Plan 2020-2025 https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/environment/air-quality/aqap-final-aug-2021.pdf

4   Safety

4.1   The overall crime trend (for all crime) in Cheshire East shows a decrease in 2022/23.[7] The number of violence, sexual offences, criminal damage, burglary, and public order offences have fallen, with all other offences recording an increase.

4.2   Table 4.1 displays crime trends from Cheshire Constabulary over the last 4 years and compares percentage changes between 2021/22 with 2022/23.

Table 4.1 Number of crimes

Type of crime	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Annual % change
Violence/person	12,457	12,261	13,571	12,432	-8.39
Drug offences	447	621	520	586	12.69
Sexual offences	862	881	1,190	1,171	-1.60
Robbery	180	115	117	144	23.08
Criminal damage and arson	3,247	2,520	2,580	2,347	-9.03
Burglary	1,667	1,386	1,265	1,216	-3.87
Vehicle offences	1,422	739	941	964	2.44
Possession/weapons	114	88	113	217	92.04
Public order	5,040	4,513	4,677	4,028	-13.88
Theft/stolen goods	5,144	3,472	3,648	3,943	8.09
Other offences	586	589	516	637	23.45
Total	31,166	27,185	29,138	27,685	-4.99

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7   Cheshire Constabulary

5 Health and wellbeing inequalities

5.1 The Index of Multiple Deprivation data combines several economic, social, and environmental indicators to assess and identify levels of deprivation in a particular area. These indicators are then combined to provide an overall score identifying the level of deprivation at a Lower layer Super Output Area (LSOA) level.

5.2 According to the most recent (2019) English Indices of Deprivation, 24 of Cheshire East's 234 LSOAs[8] (in Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Macclesfield, Middlewich, and Wilmslow) rank among the most deprived 25% of English LSOAs (up from 23 in 2015) and four of these are among England's most deprived 10% (down from six in 2015).

5.3 109 of the borough's LSOAs are amongst England's least deprived 25% (down from 120 in 2015) and 66 of these are within England's least deprived 10% (up from 63 in 2015).

5.4 The statistics suggest little change (between 2015 and 2019) in the relative deprivation of Cheshire East (compared to other parts of England). However, these statistics do not measure absolute deprivation and it is not possible to draw conclusions from them about how deprivation has changed in absolute terms.

5.5 Table 5.1 lists the 24 most deprived LSOAs in 2019.

Table 5.1 Cheshire East LSOAs that fall within England's most deprived 25%

LSOA code (2011)	Settlement[A]	Percentile[B]
E01018476	Crewe	3.82
E01018462	Crewe	7.54
E01018466	Crewe	7.81
E01018640	Macclesfield	9.14
E01018400	Congleton	10.43
E01018445	Crewe	11.32
E01018459	Crewe	11.94
E01018485	Crewe	12.28
E01018486	Crewe	13.16
E01018645	Macclesfield	13.39
E01018596	Wilmslow	13.87
E01018388	Alsager	14.36
E01018498	Crewe	15.06

8   Data from the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation, MHCLG (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019) and 2015 English Indices of Deprivation, DCLG (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015).

LSOA code (2011)	Settlement[A]	Percentile[B]
E01018463	Crewe	15.82
E01018467	Crewe	16.66
E01018484	Crewe	17.32
E01018477	Crewe	18.26
E01018478	Crewe	19.06
E01018423	Middlewich	20.97
E01018497	Crewe	22.27
E01018631	Macclesfield	23.15
E01018487	Crewe	23.31
E01018461	Crewe	23.47
E01018464	Crewe	24.60

A   The geographical definitions used for each settlement are those set out in Appendix 6 of the Cheshire East 'LDF Background Report: Determining the Settlement Hierarchy', Cheshire East Council, November 2010.

B   These percentiles indicate the proportion of English LSOAs that are more deprived than the LSOA in question. For example, LSOA E01018476 in Crewe has a percentile value of 3.82, which means it is outside England's most deprived 3%, but inside England's most deprived 4%.

5.6   In relation to living environment, according to the 2019 Indices, 37 (15.8%) of Cheshire East's 234 LSOAs were classified as being amongst the 25% most deprived in England (down from 45, or 19.2%, in 2015) and 19 (8.1%) were amongst England's 10% most deprived. 90 (38.5%) of LSOAs were classified as being amongst the 25% least deprived in England and 40 (17.1%) were amongst England's 10% least deprived.[8]

5.7   There is little difference between deprived areas and other parts of Cheshire East in terms of the gender breakdown. In deprived areas (those LSOAs that are among the most deprived 20% for England's Index of Multiple Deprivation), 50.4% of residents were female as of 2020, which is very similar to the Cheshire East average (51.0%).[9]

5.8   23 of Cheshire East's 234 LSOAs rank among the top (most deprived 20%) of English LSOAs for health deprivation and disability. 10 of these are in Crewe, four in Macclesfield, three in Congleton, two in Sandbach and one each in Alsager, Middlewich, Poynton and Wilmslow.[10]

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9   [1] 2019 English Indices of Deprivation, MHCLG, Sept 2019 (https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019). "Deprived areas" defined here as those Lower layer Super Output Areas that are among the most deprived 20% in the 2019 Indices' Index of Multiple Deprivation. [2] ONS mid-year population estimates for small areas (September 2021 release). ONS Crown Copyright.

10   English Indices of Deprivation 2019, MHCLG, September 2019.

5.9   The report accompanying the latest sub-regional fuel poverty data (the 2021 data published in 2023) notes that "Estimates at the sub-regional level should only be used to look at general trends and identify areas of particularly high or low fuel poverty. They should not be used to identify detailed trends over time." Therefore, the commentary that follows does not assess changes over time.

5.10   Based on the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) indicator of fuel poverty,[11]16,400 (9.8%) of Cheshire East's 167,000 households were in fuel poverty in 2018. This is below the proportions for the North West (12.1%) and England (10.3%).[12]

5.11   More recent data are available (up to 2021), but these are based only on the Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE) indicator,[13] for which statistics are available only for 2019 onwards. Based on the LILEE measure, 20,800 (11.6%) of Cheshire East's 178,500 households were in fuel poverty in 2021, which is below the proportions for the North West (14.6%) and England (13.1%).[14]

5.12   The number of people of working age (16-64) who are classified as Equality Act core or work limiting disabled[15]is 44,500 (20.1% of working age residents) as of 2022/23, which is lower than in the North West (27.2%) or UK (24.8%) and is down from 51,200 (23.0%) in 2021/22.[16]

5.13   Life expectancy for both men and women in 2018-20 was higher than the England average, at 80.3 and 83.8 years respectively.[17] However, the inequality in life expectancy at birth for males in Cheshire East is 9.5 years and for females 7.2. This is the difference in life expectancy between LSOAs in the most deprived deciles compared with those in the least deprived.[17]

5.14   21.2% of Reception age children and 32.1% of Year 6 children were overweight or obese in 2022/23. This is similar to the England average for Reception, and lower for year 6. This equates to a 0.1% increase for reception and a 1.6% decrease for year 6 since the previous year.[18]

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11   The LIHC indicator considers a household to be fuel poor if: they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level): and were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the poverty line

12   'Sub-regional Fuel Poverty England 2020 (2018 data)' and 'Fuel Poverty Statistics England' data tables, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) (now the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)), April 2020: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics

13   The LILEE indicator considers a household to be fuel poor if: it is living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G as determined by the most up-to-date Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency Rating (FPEER) Methodology; and its disposable income (income after housing costs (AHC) and energy needs) would be below the poverty line.

14   'Sub-regional Fuel Poverty England 2023 (2021 data)' data tables, DESNZ, April 2023: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-statistics

15   Work limiting disabled includes people who have a long-term disability which affects the kind of work or amount of work they might do (ONS, Nomis https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/forum/posts.aspx?tID=82&fID=2)

16   Annual Population Survey Apr 2021-Mar 2022 and Apr 2022-Mar 2023, ONS, NOMIS. ONS Crown Copyright.

17   Public Health Outcomes Framework. https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/1/gid/1000049/pat/15/ati/502/are/E06000049/iid/90362/age/1/sex/1/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/3/cid/4/tbm/1

18   National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), NHS Digital, https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/national-child-measurement-programme/2022-23-school-year

5.15   An estimated 9.4% of adults smoke (2022), which is significantly better than the England average.[19]

5.16   In 2021/22 62.5% of adults in Cheshire East were classed as overweight or obese. This is similar to the national average of 63.8%.[20]

5.17   During 2021/22, 67.3% of adults were physically active, which is the same as the national average and higher than the regional average.[20]

5.18   Overall, incidence of and mortality from all cancers in Cheshire East is significantly lower than the England average. Incidence of and mortality from lung cancer in Cheshire East is also significantly lower than the England average, though for breast and bowel cancer these rates are similar to England. However, this masks the differences across Cheshire East, with higher incidence and mortality rates for some cancers in more deprived areas.[21]

5.19   In 2021 Cheshire East had lower rates of mortality from cardiovascular and respiratory disease in those aged under 75, when compared with England and the North West.[22]

5.20   The Cheshire East Tartan Rug[23] is a way of understanding how health and wellbeing varies by ward across Cheshire East. It is a tool to look at the health and wellbeing of each ward and compares it to all other wards across England in relation to a variety of different health issues.

5.21   The key findings from the Tartan Rug are:

- Overall, for many residents across Cheshire East, health and wellbeing is similar to or better than the England average, other local authorities across Cheshire and Merseyside, and geographically neighbouring local authorities.
- However, stark health inequalities remain across Cheshire East with some wards in Crewe and Macclesfield experiencing significantly worse health and wellbeing compared to the England average and other areas of Cheshire East.
- The extent of difference is particularly highlighted by selecting Crewe Central, and Macclesfield Gawsworth within the Tartan Rug dashboard[24].
- Also, the Cheshire East average is significantly worse than the England average for:
  - emergency admissions aged 0 to 4 years (2017/18 to 2019/20)
  - admissions for injury aged 0 to 4 years
  - emergency admissions all causes

19   APS Survey 2022. Public Health Outcomes Framework. https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/tobacco-control#page/1/gid/1938132886/pat/15/ati/402/are/E06000049/iid/92443/age/168/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1

20   Sport England Active Lives Survey, Public Health Outcomes Framework. https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/physical-activity#page/1/gid/1938133001/pat/15/ati/402/are/E06000049/iid/93881/age/168/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1

21   Public Health Outcomes Framework. https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/cancer

22   Public Health England, Public Health Outcomes Framework. https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/mortality-profile#page/1/gid/1938133009/pat/6/ati/402/are/E06000049/iid/108/age/163/sex/4/cat/-1/ctp/-1/yrr/1/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/car-do-0

23   https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/pdf/jsna/ward-profile-tartan-rug/tartan-rug-2022.pdf

24   Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. (1 August 2023) https://fingertips.phe.org.uk Crown copyright (2023)

- ○ emergency admissions for hip fractures
  - ○ hospital stays for self harm
  - ○ whilst only very old data exists, during 2006 to 2008 Cheshire East was also significantly worse than the England average for binge drinking alcohol. Furthermore, it continues to be significantly worse than the England average with regards to hospital admissions for alcohol-specific conditions.[25]
- Overall, Crewe Care Community is the only Care Community to experience significantly worse health and wellbeing than the England average.
- Monitoring of changes in the number of indicators that are better or worse than the national average can be achieved through the new Tartan Rug dashboard. However, currently only a one-year comparison is possible (comparing 2022 to 2021). Making longer term comparisons will be feasible in future years. These will be more meaningful and reduce the risk of chance variation.
- Compared to 2021, overall, the health and wellbeing picture has worsened for:
  - ○ Nantwich and Rural
  - ○ Congleton and Holmes Chapel
  - ○ Knutsford.
- Compared to 2021, overall, the health and wellbeing picture has improved for:
  - ○ Chelford, Handforth, Alderley Edge and Wilmslow
  - ○ Bollington, Disley and Poynton.
- Compared to 2021, changes in the health and wellbeing picture were mixed in:
  - ○ Crewe
  - ○ Sandbach, Middlewich, Alsager, Scholar Green and Haslington
  - ○ Macclesfield.

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25   Office for Health Improvement & Disparities. Public Health Profiles. (1 August 2023) https://fingertips.phe.org.uk Crown copyright (2023)