

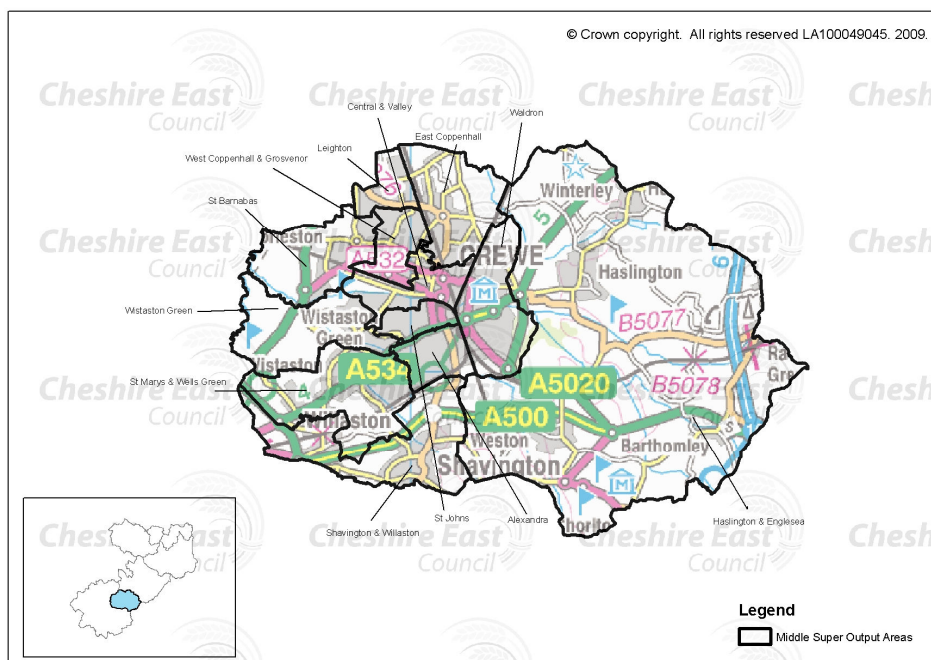
EXISTING CREWE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Community engagement was at the heart of the business case for Local Government Re-organisation, seeking to ensure that services delivered by the new councils are tailored to reflect local circumstances and need.
- 1.2 In order to engage with communities at a local level 7 Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) were established across Cheshire East . They bring together a wide range of people from the statutory, private, voluntary, faith and community sectors. By working together, they focus collective effort on what really matters, delivering improved outcomes for local people and places. Their role is to improve services, ensure people influence decision making and to actively engage and empower communities.

2.0 Local Area Partnerships

- 2.1 Area Assemblies are held in each LAP area, to engage the wider community and local partners and to feed into the Area Plans which focus on local issues that cannot be tackled by one organisation on its own, bringing together all those with an ability to make a difference.
- 2.2 The LAP working groups are making significant progress on a wide range of projects and are the council's main way of engaging people locally. They involve interested people and local enthusiasts who are working together to make a difference in our town and neighbourhoods.
- 2.3 The LAPs are working with neighbourhood and community groups in their area, to engage with local people and address very local issues.
- 2.4 Crewe LAP brings together people who have an interest and responsibility for delivering improvements in the area. It is an action group, working together to make a difference. It holds regular meetings with partners through its Area Management Group (AMG), to discuss issues and progress on the Area Plan. The LAP tackles issues through Working Groups and currently Crewe has 6 groups in place. Crewe LAP has also agreed its work programme/action plan based on evidence and issues identified by the community. It also actioning a number of projects within the All Change For Crewe programme as well as ensuring the communities views are included in the town's Place shaping consultation taking place 2011.



5. Community Groups

- 5.1 There are a wide range of voluntary and community groups within the Crewe area. Some of these are issue based and there are a number of neighbourhood based community led groups such as Valley Community Action Project, Crewe West Community Group, and Gresty Community Group. These neighbourhood partnerships are addressing a range of issues within their neighbourhood.
- 5.2 The purpose of community engagement work is to build the capacity of our communities to lead partnership working in their area. Therefore the Crewe LAP is committed to supporting both existing and new community led partnerships. These partnerships are important to the work of the LAP, as they will help to inform the Area Plan.

6. Community Activities

- 6.1 There is a wide range of community activities in Crewe, delivered through both the Crewe LAP and local community groups. These include: Environmental improvement projects improving open spaces, Green Crew environmental wardens scheme for the 8 – 16 years, Awareness events, e.g. health issues, residents speed watch, smart water security marking eg Safer Cloughton Avenue, alley gate champions, youth activity clubs and community newsletters. Crewe LAP is supporting a number of Community garden schemes.
- 6.2 Recent activity includes support to the community in re opening the Marshfield Community Centre which has been renamed by the community, The Georges Community Centre. Cheshire East Council has commissioned Big Society

Works a social enterprise company to develop a business plan which will sustain the centre and meet the needs of the community. The business plan will focus on income generation. A steering group of local people will become a community board which will have the ability to take over running of the centre in 2012.

7. Local Area Partnership

Operational Model

