

VOTE NOW!

Please use your vote to have your say!

“insert map”

A Macclesfield Community Governance Review is currently being conducted to consider options for improved community engagement. The best way of deciding what's best for Macclesfield is to consider three key questions:

- will it improve community engagement?;
- Will it deliver better local democracy?;
- Can it delivery local services in a more effective and convenient way?

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

You can also respond in writing to: Registration Service and Business Manager, Democratic Services, Cheshire East Council, Westfields, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 1HZ ; or by email to communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk

To request more information please visit our website on www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/maccgovreview or contact us by :

Email: communitygovernancereview@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 123 5016

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

Please find enclosed a voting paper seeking your views on the future governance of Macclesfield.

It's easy ... just follow these simple steps

Step One: On the enclosed voting paper answer the questions by placing a cross (X) in the box opposite the option you are voting for

Step Two: Put your voting paper into the enclosed prepaid envelope

Step Three: Return the envelope so that it is received by no later than 5pm on Results of the consultation and a draft recommendation will be communicated in the local media and on our website in 2014.

See overleaf for the Options :

What are the options for Macclesfield?

Option 1 - Parishing

You may see the words Parish / Town Council(s) (PTCs) used separately but they mean the same thing). PTCs are the most local form of government and can represent areas ranging from around 100 to 40,000+ people. They are based on an area which reflects community identities and residents are represented by elected local parish councillors. They can deliver services to improve the area (e.g., public toilets, allotments, Christmas lighting, floral arrangements, bus shelters, burial grounds, litter bins, tourism, traffic calming and public transport schemes). The Localism Act 2012 gives greater powers to town and parish councils including the preparation of a neighbourhood development plan which becomes part of the local development plan for the area. Costs would be met by setting a council tax.

A single Parish/ Town Council could be established to cover the whole of the unparished area of Macclesfield or a number of Parish Councils, of smaller geographical area, could be formed. If Parish/ Town council(s) were formed, Cheshire East Council would remain responsible for major services such as social care, highways, education admissions, children's services, environmental protection, planning decisions etc. and Cheshire East Councillors would continue to represent their wards.

If Town / Parish Council(s) were created which covered the the unparished area of Macclesfield, then the existing Charter Trustees (which carry out civic and ceremonial functions and the mayoralty) would be dissolved.

Cost: Costs vary depending on the size of PTCs and services they deliver. The costs to residents for PTCs in Cheshire East range from as low as £5.53 for Aston by Budworth Parish to as high as £95.24 for Nantwich Town Council.

Option 2 - An Enhanced Macclesfield Service Delivery Committee

This option is to continue with current arrangements, which includes working with all the existing organisations such as the Macclesfield Local Area Partnership and Macclesfield Charter Trustees, and to enhance the role of the Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee.

The **Macclesfield Local Area Partnership (LAP)** is one of seven across Cheshire East. It brings together the 17 neighbouring Parish Councils and associated Cheshire East Councillors (including those from the unparished area of Macclesfield) as well as the voluntary, community and private sectors to focus on improving services.

Macclesfield Charter Trustees preserve the historic identity of the town by carrying out ceremonial functions, usually by the Mayor. The Trustees are Cheshire East (Macclesfield wards) councillors. You currently pay £1.55 (Council Tax band D) to Charter Trustees.

The existing Macclesfield Service Delivery Committee was set up by Cheshire East Council (CEC) and is run by 12 Councillors who were elected to serve Macclesfield's town wards. It's role is to consider and advise the Council on the quality, quantity and cost of service provision in Macclesfield. This option proposes that the role of the existing Service Delivery Committee be enhanced to take on the following functions:

- To monitor Services and to make recommendations to Cabinet on the level of service provision
- To provide advice and recommend to Cabinet on issues and needs of Macclesfield
- To be the Council's principal consultee matters and decisions relating to the Parish of Macclesfield *(NB - legal advice being sought on this point)*
- To liaise and cooperate with local organisations to pursue the wellbeing of the unparished area
- To nominate representatives from its membership to serve on local bodies
- To advise and liaise with Cheshire East Council on preparatory measures for the devolution and transfer of assets
- To consider the cost implications of the development and transfer of services to the unparished area.
- To consider and recommend to Cabinet the amount of any special expenses levy to be raised from residents in the unparished area.

Cost: In the future, the cost of some services provided principally for the benefit of Macclesfield Town residents may be met from part of the Council Tax set for Macclesfield residents, (called a Special Expense) rather than through the Cheshire East Council Tax.

(NOTE: An Enhanced Service Delivery Committee would be a committee of Cheshire East Council, rather than being a separate legal entity as is the case for Parish/ Town Councils. This means that it would not have the legal capacity to run and manage assets and services such as Markets, Public Conveniences, allotments etc.) *(NB – Require legal clarification on this point)*