

What happens now?

At present Cheshire East Council provides a wide range of local services, from planning and pest control to street lighting and leisure. The Council continually strives to provide services as cost-effectively as possible. The Council is made up of 82 elected councillors who make decisions on how to provide these local services on behalf of local people within the 52 wards that make up Cheshire East. Decisions are made by full Council, the Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members and Committees.

Community Governance Review

Cheshire East Council has committed to a programme of devolving services and assets to local groups and Parish Councils that will be able to run those services more effectively. As Macclesfield does not have a Parish/Town Council, this community governance review offers an opportunity to look at all the options available for Macclesfield. Although Parish/Town Councils are widely seen as the most local form of government there are other options which should also be considered.

What area does the Review cover?

The review covers the unparished area of Macclesfield which affects you if you live in the Borough Wards of Broken Cross and Upton; Macclesfield Central; Macclesfield East; Macclesfield Hurdsfield; Macclesfield South; Macclesfield Tytherington; Macclesfield West and Ivy.

What arrangements exist now?

At the moment, Macclesfield has Charter Trustees, a Local Service Delivery Committee and a Local Area Partnership. (these are explained further overleaf).

How can I know what is best for Macclesfield?

One of the best ways 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?

What will it cost?

Whatever is decided, there will be a cost, as there is now. Currently, as Macclesfield residents, you contribute to the cost of delivery of local services through your Cheshire East Council Tax.

Whatever is decided, Cheshire East Council will remain responsible for major services such as social care, highways, education admissions, children's services, environmental protection, planning decisions etc. Cheshire East Councillors will continue to represent individuals and groups in their wards.

We are consulting local people over the next few months (see local media and Cheshire East website) and will take account of any views and opinions that we receive. Please check the Cheshire East website and local notice boards for details.

What are the options for Macclesfield?

As part of undertaking a Community Governance Review the Council should have regard to different forms of community governance which could be out in place. The earlier stage of consultation with the public and stakeholders in July 2013 provided an opportunity for people to express their support for No Change, Parish / Town Council(s), Community Forums, Community Development Trusts, Neighbourhood Management, Residents and Tenants Associations and community Associations.

Based upon the feedback received to date, the Council has decided to undertake the next stage of consultation based upon two options, which are: 1) Parishing for Macclesfield; and 2) An Enhanced Macclesfield Service Delivery Committee. Both options are explained below.

1. **Parishing for Macclesfield** (you may see the words Parish / Town Council(s) used separately but they mean the same thing)

Parish/Town councils (PTCs) are the most local form of government and can represent areas ranging from around 100 people (e.g., Barthomley which is a small local Parish Council of 180 people) to up to approx 40,000 people (for example the newly formed Crewe Town Council which has 36,500 electors). The general rule is that PTCs are based on an area which reflects community identity and interests. The community interests of the residents of the parish are represented by elected local councillors. Parish/Town councils(s) represent your local community's interests to Cheshire East Council on things like planning applications and highways; they can choose to deliver services that can improve the local 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 as they offer democratic representation and accountability, the ability to influence decision making by other bodies and the ability to deliver existing services or provide additional services. These include the preparation of a neighbourhood development plan or order which when completed becomes part of the local development plan for the area and has to be used as a basis for making decisions on planning applications. 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 (39,750 electors) or a number of Parish Councils, of smaller geographical area, could be formed. If smaller parish councils were formed, it is suggested that 7 of these could be created, based upon the existing Borough ward boundaries, i.e. BrokenCross and Upton (6764 electors); Macclesfield Central (6655 electors); Macclesfield East (3534 electors); Macclesfield Hurdsfield (3470 electors); Macclesfield South (5880 electors); Macclesfield Tytherington (7107 electors) and Macclesfield West and Ivy (6340 electors).

If Parish/ Town council(s) were formed, Cheshire East Council would still exist and would remain responsible for major services such as social care, highways, education admissions, children's services, environmental protection, planning decisions etc. Cheshire East Councillors would continue to represent individuals and groups in their wards and influence officers' actions with the support and advice of the Town/ Parish councillors. The formation of a Town or Parish Council(s) would not replicate the former arrangements in place (prior to 2009) of a Macclesfield Borough Council.

If Town / Parish Council(s) were created which covered the whole of the unparished area of Macclesfield, then the Charter Trustees (explained below) would be dissolved. The Local Service Delivery Committee would also cease to exist.

Some examples of local parish councils are indicated below

Parish /	Town	Number of	Example of some of the services provided	Parish Council Tax
Council		Electors		(per band D
				Property)
Bollington Council	Town	6,113	Running of Bollington Civic Hall, and during 2013 consideration being given to running of the Town Hall and the Bollington Recreation Ground. Improvements to footpaths and rights of way. Provision of grants to local organisations. Funding provided to support one PCSO for the Town. Support for and organisation of numerous community and civic events including Christmas lights, annual carol service, mayor making ceremony and regular litter picks. Investment has been made in the Coronation Gardens and land has been acquired by the Town Council for allotments at Harrop Road.	£55.00
Congleton Council	Town	21,580	Management of Congleton Town Hall and Allotments. Management of Congleton Paddling Pool and the accountable body for the Congleton Market Town Initiative. Provision of grants to local organisations. Organisation and support of various community events such as home coming parades, music and food festivals and carnival. Provision of notice boards, road signs and street furniture. Tourism including Tourist Information kiosk. Community safety, crime prevention measures	£66.56

		and traffic calming. Shopmobility, public toilets and play areas. Maintenance of closed churchyard and clock tower and war memorial. Budget for Highways / Roads.	
Wilmslow Town Council	?	To support and encourage community initiatives. To support the economic vibrancy of the town Review and comment on planning applications within the Parish Liaise with relevant authorities regarding infrastructure /policing/community issues to represent your views and get the best advantage for the local area Engage with all interested parties regarding current and future shape of life in the local area	£21.47

The main differences between a Single Town/ Parish Council and 7 smaller parish Councils are set out below:

Single Town/ Parish Council	7 x smaller Parish Councils
39,750 electors	Ranging from 3,470 electors to 7107 electors
Area would be warded – and you would vote for	You would vote for parish councillors for all the
parish cllrs to be elected for your ward	seats
The number of Parish Cllrs elected for the	Could potentially operate with a smaller number
recently established Crewe Town Council was 20.	of Councillors for each parish council. Each
There are currently 12 Borough ward Cllrs for the	parish council is required to have 5 parish cllrs as
Macclesfield area. A decision would need to be	a mimimum. This would be 35 Cllrs minimum in
made as to how many parish cllrs should be	total to cover the whole of Macclesfield
elected.	
May benefit from ecomomies of scale e.g. ability	Can develop an in depth knowledge of the
to run services for a larger area; possibly a	needs of the area. May be easier to secure a
stronger voice to make representations etc.	sahred vision for continual improvement for a
	small specific area.
	Each area would be stand alone – perhaps
	eliminating competition for projects, and
	enabling a clear focus on each area for a
	more easily identified need.
	·
A larger precept would be raised – but the Parish	A smaller precept would be raised – but the

Council would be able to deliver a wider range of	ability to run services etc would be reduced.
services for a larger area.	

Cost: Costs vary depending on the size of PTCs and services they deliver. The costs to residents for PTCs in Cheshire East range £5.53 for Aston by Budworth Parish to £95.24 for Nantwich Town Council. The newly created Crewe Town Council, for example, will meet its costs by setting a council tax of £28.96; but there will no longer be a Charter Trustee charge nor a Special Expense charge introduced.

2. An enhanced Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee

The second 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. What this means is explained below.

An Enhanced Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee

The existing Service Delivery Committee was set up by Cheshire East Council (CEC) as Macclesfield currently has no Parish/Town Council(s). It is run by 12 Cheshire East Councillors who were elected to serve Macclesfield's town wards. The Committee doesn't currently represent the interests of the local community on things such as planning applications and highways matters. It has been set up in its current form 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 investigate and 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 consultee matters and decisions relating to the Parish of Macclesfield
- To liase 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 liase 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.
- Traffic management issues
- To encourage provision of leisure facilities
- To deal with local grant aid applications

- To formulate schemes to utilise developer contributions under section 106 of the Town and country Planning Act
- To approve street names serving new developments
- To consult local people to formulate a response to consultation exercises about strategic issues
- To investigate and make recommendations to cabinet in relation to local car parks, markets, community centres, allotments, visitor centres and toilets
- To receive presentations on key strategic initiatives; and to invite representatives from relevant organisations to provide updates on current performance / initiatives and to answer questions by the committee or members of the public.

Cost: In the future, the cost of some services provided principally for the benefit of Macclesfield Town residents may be met from an additional tax, as part of the Council Tax set for Macclesfield residents, (called a Special Expense) rather than through the Cheshire East Council Tax. The cost of running the Enhanced Service Delivery Committee would be included in the costs that make up the special expense levy for Macclesfield residents. This would be approximately x£.

(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 no assets can be transferred to this Committee.

Macclesfield Charter Trustees

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. In the capacity of Trustee they do not represent the interests of the local people to Cheshire East Council on issues such as planning or highways and they do not have the power to deliver local services. They can raise money to cover the costs of their ceremonial functions (eg Remembrance Day).

Cost: You currently pay £1.55 (Council Tax band D) to Charter Trustees.

If one or more parish councils were created in Macclesfield, which covered the whole of the Charter Trustee area, then the Charter Trustees would be dissolved and its duties transferred. The costs would be covered by setting a council tax. A parish Council can resolve to designate itself as a Town Council; which then entitles the Chairman of that Council to have the title of Mayor.

What is the distinction between a Town / Parish Council(s) and An Enhanced Service Delivery Committee?

Single Parish / Town Council covering the whole area	An Enhanced Service Delivery Committee
Separate Legal Entity	A Committee of Cheshire East Council

Extensive statutory Powers to Act	Some executive powers could be delegated to the Committee by the Cabinet
Would take over Mayoralty functions	The Charter Trustees would continue to deal with the Mayoralty functions
Elections would be held every 4 years to elect cllrs to serve on the Parish Council	The Committee would consist of the 12 Borough Councillors elected to serve the Macclesfield Wards
Requirement to appoint a Chief Operating Officer (e.g. a Parish Clerk); and a Responsible Financial Officer (which can be the same person)	No officers appointed
Assets / services can be delegated by Cheshire East Council which could then be run/ managed by the Council	Assets cannot be transferred; but some functions could be managed and monitored.
Can employ staff	Cannot employ staff
Statutory power to be a consultee (e.g.for planning applications)	No statutory power to be a consultee – but likely that a discretionary power would be given by Cheshire East Council
Power to raise an annual precept to meet the costs of running the Town / Parish Council	No power to raise a precept
A community Governance Review is required to be conducted and public consultation carried out in order to proceed with establishing new Town / parish councils	The Council could decide to enhance the terms of reference of its existing Macclesfield Local Service Delivery Committee at any time. It does not require a Community Governacne Review to effect this change.

If you would like more information please visit the Macclesfield Community Governance Review website on www.cheshireeast.gov.uk or email us at communitygovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk

We would like to know your views on what arrangements would work best for you to secure improved community engagement, better local democracy and delivery of services in the most efficient and convenient way.

Please send your views in writing to:

Registration Service and Business Manager Democratic Services Cheshire East Council Westfields Sandbach Cheshire CW11 1HZ or by email to: communitygovernance@cheshireast.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF LEGAL POWERS AND DUTIES

This is a list of powers and functions for parish councils which are covered by Acts of Parliament. The services which parish councils provide vary considerably and this is reflected in the amount of council tax they charge for the delivery of services.

Function	Powers and Duties
Allotments	Powers to provide allotments. Duty to provide allotment gardens if
	demand unsatisfied and if reasonable to do so
Borrowing Money	Power for councils to borrow money for their statutory functions or
	for the prudent management of their financial affairs
Baths and Washhouses	Power to provide public baths and washhouses
Burial Grounds, cemeteries and	Power to acquire and maintain
crematoria	Power to provide
	Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials
	Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries
Bus Shelters	Power to provide and maintain shelters
Byelaws	Power to make bylaws in regard to pleasure grounds
	Cycle Parks
	Baths and Washhouses
	Open spaces and burial grounds
	Mortuaries and post-mortem rooms
Charities	Duties in respect of parochial charities
	Power to act as charity trustees
Clocks	Power to provide public clocks
Closed churchyards	Powers to maintain
Commons and common pastures	Powers in relation to inclosure, regulation and management and
	providing common pasture
Function	Powers and Duties
Conference facilities	Power to provide and encourage the use of facilities
Community Centres	Power to provide and equip buildings for the use of clubs having
	athletics, social or educational objectives
	Power to acquire, provide and furnish community buildings
Crime Prevention	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures
Drainage	Power to deal with ponds and ditches
Entertainment and the Arts	Provision of entertainment and support of the arts
Environment	Power to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti and offenses
	under dog control orders
Gifts	Power to accept
Highways	Power to repair and maintain public footpaths and bridleways
	Power to light roads and public places
	Provision of litter bins
	Power to provide parking places for vehicles , bicycles and motor
	cycles
	Power to enter into agreement as to dedication and widening
	Power to provide roadside seats and shelters and omnibus shelters

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	Consent of parish council required for ending maintenance of
	highway at public expense, or for stopping up or diversion of highway
	Power to complain to district council as to protection of rights of way
	and roadside wastes
	Power to provide certain traffic signs and other notices
	Power to plant trees etc. and to maintain roadside verges
Honorary titles	Power to admit to be honorary freemen of the council's area persons
	of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the authority,
	rendered eminent services to that place or area
Investments	Power to participate in schemes of collective investment
Function	Powers and Duties
Land	Power to acquire by agreement, to appropriate, to dispose of
Litter	Provision of receptacles
Lotteries	Power to promote
Markets	Power to establish or acquire by agreement markets within their area
	and provide a market place and market buildings
Mortuaries and Post mortem rooms	Power to provide mortuaries and post mortem rooms
Newsletters	Power to provide information relating to matters affecting local
	government
Nuisances	Power to deal with offensive ditches
Open Spaces	Power to acquire land for public recreation and maintain
	Power to acquire and maintain land for open spaces
Parish property and documents	Power to direct as to their custody
	Duty to deposit certain published works in specific deposit libraries
Public Buildings and village halls	Power to acquire and provide buildings for public meetings and
	assemblies
Public conveniences	Power to provide
Recreation	Power to acquire land for or to provide recreation grounds, public
	walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces and to manage and control
	them
	Power to provide a large range of recreational facilities
	Provision of boating pools
Town and Country Planning	Right to be notified of planning applications if right has been
	requested
Tourism	Power to contribute to organisations encouraging tourism
Traffic Calming	Powers to contribute financially to traffic calming schemes
Transport	Powers to spend money on community transport schemes
War Memorials	Power to maintain, repairs, protect and adapt war memorials
Function	Powers and Duties
Water Supply	Power to utilise well, spring or stream and to provide facilities for
	obtaining water from them
Websites	Power for Councils to have their own websites
Well-being	Power for (eligible) parish councils to do anything they believe is
	likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic and
	/or social and/or environmental well-being of their area

APPENDIX 2

EXAMPLES OF TOWN COUNCILS IN CHESHIRE EAST

TOWN COUNCIL	NUMBER OF	EVANDLES OF SEDVICES BROWING	DADICH COLINICII
TOWN COUNCIL		EXAMPLES OF SERVICES PROVIDED	PARISH COUNCIL
	ELECTORS	(NB - THIS IS ILLUSTRATIVE AND NOT AN	TAX (PER BAND D
Ales es a Terrin	0005	EXHAUSTIVE LIST)	PROPERTY)
Alsager Town Council	9605	Runs facilities including Alsager Civic Centre,	£64.48
Council		Crewe Road Toilets, Alsager Market and Allotment sites.	
		Provision of grants to local organisations	
		totalling £28,000.	
		Play facilities at Wood Park and Northholme	
		Gardens. Support of community events such as "the big	
		switch on"; Christmas market; annual carnival	
		and summer concerts.	
		The Town Council also owns and manages the	
		Alsager Institute which provides a valuable and well used community building .	
		Funding is provided to support two PCSOs for	
		the Town .	
		the fown.	
Bollington Town	6,113	Running of Bollington Civic Hall, and during	£55.00
Council	0,113	2013 consideration being given to running of	255.00
Council		the Town Hall and the Bollington Recreation	
		Ground.	
		Improvements to footpaths and rights of way.	
		Provision of grants to local organisations.	
		Funding provided to support one PCSO for the	
		Town.	
		Support for and organisation of numerous	
		community and civic events including Christmas	
		lights, annual carol service, mayor making	
		ceremony and regular litter picks. Investment	
		has been made in the Coronation Gardens and	
		land has been acquired by the Town Council for	
		allotments at Harrop Road.	
Congleton Town	21,580	Management of Congleton Town Hall and	£66.56
Council		Allotments.	
		Management of Congleton Paddling Pool and	
		the accountable body for the Congleton Market	
		Town Initiative.	
		Provision of grants to local organisations.	
		Organisation and support of various community	
		events such as home coming parades, music	
		and food festivals and carnival.	
		Provision of notice boards, road signs and street	
		furniture.	

		Tourism including Tourist Information kiosk. Community safety, crime prevention measures and traffic calming. Shopmobility, public toilets and play areas. Maintenance of closed churchyard and clock tower and war memorial. Budget for Highways / Roads.	
Crewe Town Council	36,000	Council established in April 2013. Allotments and public conveniences to transfer to the town council to manage in 2013. The Town Council will determine other services it wishes to provide in due course.	£28.96
Knutsford Town Council	10,579	draft	£27.35
Middlewich Town Council	10,701	draft	£66.34
Nantwich Town Council	11,453	Management of Nantwich Civic Hall, Market, and Public Toilets. Planting of hanging baskets and planters. Shop Mobility. Tourism. Town Centre Management. Street Entertainment. Christmas Lights. Financing Town Events. Allotments. Provision of grants to local organisations. Millenium Clock. CCTV. Organisation and support of various community events such as home coming parades, music and food festivals, carnival annual carol service, mayor making ceremony and regular litter picks. Provision of notice boards, road signs and street furniture.	£95.24
Poynton Town Council	11,863	Promotion of Poynton Civic Hall as a community hub (already home to CAB, U3A, You and Yours counselling service, AA, St John Ambulance etc) Provision and maintenance of two play areas Maintenance of two extensive rural paths – Prince's and Lady's Inclines Operations and Events Manager (responsible for coordinating the day to	£53.06

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		day maintenance of the village and	
		promoting local business)	
		Handyman services around the village,	
		including litter picking, scrub clearance,	
		maintenance of signs etc	
		Part funding of 5 PCSOs (to maintain a	
		visible presence in the village, liaise	
		with local schools and deter anti-social	
		behaviour)	
		Arrange for regular crime updates to be	
		given to the Town Council by the	
		Inspector from the Macclesfield	
		Policing team	
		Provide sponsorship for large scale	
		social events such as the Summerfest,	
		the Christmas Fest etc	
		the emistings rest etc	
		Provide Christmas trees at two	
		locations and decorative lights in main	
		retail area	
		Organise the annual Civic Sunday and	
		Remembrance Day	
		Provide the services of a Youth	
		Coordinator and an Adult Health and	
		Wellbeing Coordinator	
		Run a weekly café for those residents	
		who may be socially isolated	
		wild may be socially isolated	
		Provide a Home Services Scheme, to	
		link residents with trusted local	
		contractors.	
Sandbach Town	14,684	Town Hall (Letting and Direct Event	£56.82
Council		Management)	
		Indoor Market	
		Outdoor Modest	
		Outdoor Market	
		Public Toilets	
		I WAILC TOHELS	
		Car Parking	

		Artisan (Crosses) Market	
		Farmers' Market	
		Councillor Surgery	
		Newsletter	
		Hanging Baskets and Planters	
		Christmas Trees	
		Town Centre Management	
		Community Events and Activities (Children's Fun Days, National Town Crier Competitions and Musical Concerts) Applications for funding from local	
		organisations	
Wilmslow Town Council	3	To support and encourage community initiatives.	£21.47
		To support the economic vibrancy of the town	
		Review and comment on planning applications within the Parish	
		Liaise with relevant authorities regarding infrastructure /policing/community issues to represent your views and get the best advantage for the local area	
		Engage with all interested parties regarding current and future shape of life in the local area	