

Outcome 1 – Our local communities are strong and supportive

What this means:	<p>Individuals and families are self-reliant and take personal responsibility for their quality of life.</p> <p>Communities are cohesive, with a strong sense of neighbourliness. There is genuine civic pride and mutual respect.</p>	
What the Council will focus on:	<p>1. Active, Resilient and Connected Communities where people want to live</p>	<p>2. Communities where you are Safe, and feel Safe</p>
What this will look like:	<p>People work together to help each other, take action and take pride in where they live. We enable and support all of our communities to be independent. We lead by example as a proactive and enforcing Council.</p>	<p>People feel safer in their own homes and in their communities. We work with partners to target a reduction in anti-social behaviour and improve public and road safety.</p>

Key Priorities

Over the past year we have held coproduction events with service users, communities and the voluntary sector to better understand their needs. This is essential to ensure that our communities are safe, strong and supportive and to be able to meet the challenges of having to make large scale savings, whilst still meeting need.

We are working with communities to develop strength based community initiatives and targeted interventions to build social relationships amongst isolated groups. We are also working to encourage social connections between people with similar experiences to provide peer support, helping residents to help themselves.

We are committed to investing in our communities and maximising the full value of our community capital to maximise our shared potential, bringing about greater social, economic and personal benefits for everyone in Cheshire East. By developing our approach to engaging with and supporting community development, we can ensure we maximise potential to help all our communities to become more enterprising and to enable more deprived areas to lift themselves out of dependence and to address the inequalities which impact on their lives.

There needs to be a shift towards more prevention and early intervention which will require services to organise and professionals to behave in very different ways.

Challenges

- There continues to be pressure on the health and care system due to the significant demand on services, high costs to the system and local demographic pressures.
- Addressing the geographical inequalities in life expectancy across the borough, which is significantly higher in our more affluent areas.
- Managing the increase in areas of the borough that fall in the most deprived 20% nationally.

Opportunities

- Create sustainable communities through strengthening our approach to community engagement and communications, including ensuring coproduction is at the centre of all our commissions.
- Empowering people to take greater control over their own lives, to influence personalised services and to take greater responsibility for their health outcomes.
- Making our communities more connected through reshaping our approach to Adult Social Care and Communities work, helping people in communities to become more connected to others, reducing inequalities and improving life chances.
- Developing Connected Neighbourhoods to strengthen local networks and partnerships, which work collaboratively to improve health and wellbeing.
- Engaging local people to be more involved in decision making in their areas.

Proposals to vary the Budget under Outcome 1 (Communities) are focused on these areas:

Changing the way we work <i>Managing services in a way that gets more for less. Investing in modern technology to get better quality outputs, eliminating duplication and streamlining processes.</i>	2019/20 £m*	2020/21 £m*	2021/22 £m*
Withdrawal of temporary reduction in funding for Universal Information and Advice service (Revenue Investment) [1] There was a temporary increase of £30,000 in the grant funding for this service in 2015/16 on the basis that the “loan” would be paid back over the following three years. This growth will restore the budget to its original value from 2019/20. <i>Impact on Benefits Administration Service Budget =</i>			
	+0.010	+0.010	+0.010
*Values represent a +/- variation to the Cheshire East Council approved budget for 2018/19 . Values are not cumulative			