

# Cheshire East Council

## Cheshire East Community Governance Review - Part Two

### Introduction

#### **Purpose of this survey**

We are conducting a review of town and parish council governance arrangements across the Cheshire East Borough.

The overarching purpose of the review is in accordance with the 'Department of Communities and Local Government and Local Government Boundary Commission for England guidance on Community Governance Reviews' [LGBCE Guidance] to "ensure that community governance arrangements continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government."

Cheshire East has 186 town and parish council wards in 135 town and parish councils covering the whole borough. Cheshire East Council is responsible for electoral and governance arrangements within the borough including:

- Town and parish boundaries
- Numbers of town and parish councillors; and
- Arrangements for wards and the meetings of groups of parish councils

It is good practice to review community governance every 10-15 years. Cheshire East Council was created in 2009 and has yet to hold a full review of town and parish council governance.

A pre-consultation survey was launched on 28 October 2019, which invited anyone interested in the review to provide a response. The survey was "live" for 14 weeks.

Following the pre-consultation survey, draft recommendations have now been developed and as part of a formal 12-week consultation, we would like to hear your views on those recommendations.

#### **Recommendations Overview**

The Community Governance Review Draft Recommendations report comprises a series of graduated proposals, beginning with parishes where no changes are being proposed, to parishes where there are proposals to alter the current electoral arrangements, to small parishes where mergers to form new parishes are being proposed, and finally to more significant area or boundary changes – largely adjoining the Borough's urban parishes – which have a consequential or knock-on effect for the surrounding parishes.

This consultation stage provides electors and other interested persons or bodies with an opportunity to make the case for alternative proposals to those now recommended by the Council. Where the Council recommends a change, an alternative proposal could be for a different form or degree of change to the one recommended by the Council, or it could be for no change at all.

Responses to this consultation should have regard to the need to ensure that each parish:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the different communities in the area. The Council considers that this is a 'community of identity' test, which is especially applicable to the new developments that presently traverse parish boundaries.
- Is effective and convenient. The Council considers that this is a 'viability' test, and the Council is anxious to ensure that parishes are viable and have sufficient resources to enable them to actively and effectively promote the well-being of their residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner.
- Takes into account any other arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area that reinforce the 'community of identity' test.

For a small number of parish councils, council tax precepts could possibly change as a consequence of the outcome of the community governance review. The precept is a tax that parish councils charge local electors to meet their budget requirements. The charge is usually divided between every household according to what council tax property band the property is in.

### **Submitting your comments**

This consultation is open to all those aged 16 and over.

Please submit your response by **28 November 2021**.

Once the consultation closes we will analyse all responses, produce a summary report of them, and publish this online on the Cheshire East Council webpages.

### **Your confidentiality is assured**

Any personal information you supply will be used in line with the latest data protection legislation. To find out more on how we use your information see our privacy policy at: [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/privacy)

## Section 1

### 1. Which of the following best describes how you are you responding to this survey:

*Please tick one box only*

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| As an individual (e.g. local resident) [ <b>Select &amp; then go to question 3</b> ] | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| On behalf of a town/parish council   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| As an elected Cheshire East ward councillor  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| On behalf of a local business  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| On behalf of a group, organisation or club   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please write in below)  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### 2. If applicable, please give the name and postcode of the town/ parish council, group, organisation, club or business you are responding on behalf of: *Please write in below*

Name of town/parish, group, organisation, club or business:

Your position:

Postcode:

### 3. Please write in the town council /parish you are submitting a response for:

*Please write in **one** only. If you would like to answer for more than one town council /parish then you will need to fill in a separate form. Have a look at the map for reference if need be.*

## Section 2: Recommendation

Depending on the area you are responding for, one of the following recommendations will have been made:

- No change
- Electoral arrangement or internal changes only (to Councillor numbers or warding arrangement)
- Mergers of multiple parishes to form new parishes (no boundary changes)
- Potential boundary change

Please refer to the Community Governance Review Draft Recommendations report for further details on the specific recommendation in relation to the area you are responding for. If the recommendation for your area is a potential boundary change, please also refer to the Draft Recommendations report's maps appendix for more details about this potential change.

## Section 3: Your Views – Overall

Cheshire East Council has to ensure that parish governance arrangements\* are:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and:
- Effective and convenient (this relates to the ability of parishes to provide services for its residents).

\* Parish governance arrangements include town and parish boundaries, the number of town and parish councillors and arrangements for wards and the meetings of groups of parish councils.

### 4. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the recommended governance arrangements as proposed by Cheshire East for the area you are answering for would...? Please tick one box only in each row

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure / Don't know
...reflect local identities and interests?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide an effective and convenient local government?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 5. How strongly do you agree or disagree overall with the recommendation as proposed by Cheshire East for the area you are answering for? Please tick one box only

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure / Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you disagree (either strongly or tend to) please explain your reasons, detailing any supporting evidence, you may have in the box provided. Please feel free to attach any relevant maps or other documents to explain your answer if required.

**If you have any alternative suggestions to what is proposed for the area you are answering for please detail them below:**

**In your answer, please provide details of how your suggested proposal would ensure the parish council reflects local identities and interests whilst also providing an effective and convenient local government.**

## **Section 4: Your Views – Name and Style of New Parish**

Please answer the following questions if the recommendation for the area you are responding for...

- ...is merger of multiple parishes to form new parishes (no boundary changes)
- ...or, is subject to a merger due to the knock-on effects of a potential boundary review (residual parishes).

If the recommendation for your area is different to this, please go to **'Section 5'**

**If the recommended merger goes ahead, the new parish area will require a name.**

**If you would like to propose a suitable name for the new parish area, please state its current name and your suggestion for a new name below:**

Current Name:

Suggested Name:

**The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.**

**Please detail your preference and the reasons for this below:**

## Section 5: Your Views – Names of New Parish Wards

Please answer the following questions if the recommendation for the area you are responding for involves...

- ...merging or splitting existing parish wards or parishes, to create new parish wards; or
- ...some other significant redrawing of existing parish ward boundaries.

If the recommendation for your area is different to this, please go to '**Section 6**'

**If the recommended changes go ahead, the new parish wards will require names.**

**If you would like to propose suitable names for the new parish wards, please add your suggestions for new names below:**

Suggested names:

Please explain the reasons for your suggested names:

## Section 6: Your Views – Any other comments

**If there are any other general comments you wish to make that relate to this Community Governance Review, but which you have been unable to include in your responses to the previous questions, please enter these below:**

## Section 7: About you

Cheshire East Council is committed to the principle that all our customers have the right to equality and fairness in the way they are treated and in the services that they receive. It would help us to check that we are providing services fairly if you would answer the questions below. Information you give will be used to see if there are any differences in views for different groups of people, and to check if services are being delivered in a fair and accessible way. The information in this section will be used for no other purpose.

**You do not need to answer any of the following questions if you do not wish to, and you will not be affected in any way if you choose not to answer any, or some, of the questions.**

**6. What is your home postcode? We ask this so we can be sure we have obtained a range of views from across the borough** *Please write in below*

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**7. What is your gender identity?** *Please tick one box only*

Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer to self-describe (please write in) <input type="checkbox"/>
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**8. What age group do you belong to?** *Please tick one box only*

16 - 24 <input type="checkbox"/>	25 - 34 <input type="checkbox"/>	35 - 44 <input type="checkbox"/>	45 - 54 <input type="checkbox"/>	55 - 64 <input type="checkbox"/>	65 - 74 <input type="checkbox"/>	75 - 84 <input type="checkbox"/>	85 and over <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
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**9. What is your ethnic origin?** *Please tick one box only*

White British / English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / Irish <input type="checkbox"/>	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British <input type="checkbox"/>
Any other White background <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean / African / Asian <input type="checkbox"/>	Any other ethnic group (please write in below) <input type="checkbox"/>
Asian / Asian British <input type="checkbox"/>	

**10. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? This includes problems related to old age** *Please tick one box only*

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
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**11. Which of the following best describes your religious belief/ faith?**

*Please tick one box only*

Buddhist <input type="checkbox"/>	Christian <input type="checkbox"/>	Hindu <input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish <input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim <input type="checkbox"/>	Sikh <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say <input type="checkbox"/>
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Any other religion: (please write in)

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Thank you for completing this survey. If you require a copy in **larger print** or in an alternative language, please contact the council's customer services on 0300 123 55 00.

**Please return paper copies of the survey to:** Ref: Community Governance Review, Research and Consultation, Cheshire East Council, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, CW11 1HZ