

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Emergency Council Meeting</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November - 6.00 pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Chief Officer</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Cheshire East Council - Community Governance Review Consultation</b>		

**BACKGROUND DETAIL**

Cheshire East Council 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.”

A pre-consultation survey was launched on 28 October 2019, which invited anyone interested in the review to provide a response. Following the pre-consultation survey, draft recommendations have now been developed and they would like to hear our views on those recommendations. These can be accessed through the following links

The first link below show the proposed changes to the boundaries and wards (maps 8A and 8B)

[http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s84153/DraftRecs\\_Maps\\_Slides\\_PublicationVersion.pdf](http://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s84153/DraftRecs_Maps_Slides_PublicationVersion.pdf)

The second link provides more specific details which can be found on pages 104 -107

<https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s84154/Draft%20Proposals%20-%20Final%20Publication%20Version%20March%202021%20with%2020321%20amends%20V2.pdf>

- Further information is available within the [Constitution Committee minutes - 6th April, 2021](#)


Responses are to be made by the **28 November 2021**.

**SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED**

- The Congleton area currently has 2 wards
- 21,763 electors (2018)
- 20 Councillors

it is proposed that the Congleton area will be expanded to includes parts of the following Parishes - Eaton, Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths, Marton, North Rode and Somerford should be transferred which will result in there being

- 5 Wards
- 26,566 electors (2025)
- 22 Councillors

<p><b>Financial implications</b></p>	<p>Should the proposal go ahead there will be an increase in the number of properties that would pay a precept to Congleton Town Council thus increasing the Town Councils income which would not be insignificant. It is worth noting that there maybe current commitments within the parishes that may / will need to be honoured by the Town Council. Changes to boundary signage would be required, but there is no clarity on the responsibility for this.</p> <p>There should not be an immediate impact on our Streetscape service as Ansa are currently contracted to maintain the surrounding parish councils, however that could be reviewed between Cheshire East Council, Ansa and ourselves.</p>
<p><b>Environmental</b></p>	<p>A potential increase in revenue could help to support environmental improvements within a new boundary with a potential focus on larger projects or taking on additional services.</p>
<p><b>Equality</b></p>	<p>The Town Council has a recently approved Equality and Inclusion policy.</p>
<p><b>DECISION REQUESTED</b></p>	<p>To agree the Councils responses to the Community Governance Review Consultation. (Click on the PDF)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p>chesh_ire-east-com munity-governance-</p>

## 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 responding to this survey:

*Please tick one box only*

- As an individual (e.g. local resident) **[Select & then go to question 3]**
- On behalf of a town/parish council
- As an elected Cheshire East ward councillor
- On behalf of a local business
- On behalf of a group, organisation or club
- Other (please write in below)

### 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

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

Male  Female  Prefer not to say  Prefer to self-describe (please write in)

8. What age group do you belong to? Please tick one box only

16 - 24  25 - 34  35 - 44  45 - 54  55 - 64  65 - 74  75 - 84  85 and over  Prefer not to say

9. What is your ethnic origin? Please tick one box only

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

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  No  Prefer not to say

11. Which of the following best describes your religious belief/ faith?

Please tick one box only

Buddhist  Christian  Hindu  Jewish  Muslim  Sikh  None  Prefer not to say

Any other religion: (please write in)

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

