

# Town and Parish Council Conference

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Councillor Rachel Bailey  
**Leader, Cheshire East Council**

Working for a *brighter future*  together

OFFICIAL



# Cheshire East Council Update

**Kath O'Dwyer**  
**Acting Chief Executive**

# Update

- Restructure
  - Corporate Directorate
  - Place Directorate
- Brighter Futures Culture Programme – progress
- Members Enquiry Service

# Successes (1)

## People Services

- New Substance Misuse Service
- Carers Hub
- Ofsted Inspection
- Capital Investment in Schools
- Schools Trading Challenge

# Successes (2)

## Corporate Services

- Budget Consultation / forecasting Balanced Budget Outturn
- 'Time to Change' initiative launched
- Members Liaison Service Pilot
- Ongoing and Positive progress in Brighter Futures Culture Programme
- Registration Service – Best Ceremony Provider Award

# Successes (3)

## Place Services

- Top 10% of all Authorities in England for its Recycling Rate
- Junior Recycling Scheme achieved 'Highly Commended' award
- 11 Improvement Projects completed on CE Parks and Open Spaces
- CE Libraries – #1 in the North West
- Successful Rough Sleeper Initiative Grant



# 2019/20 Budget

- Budget approved by full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019
- Gross revenue expenditure for 2019/20 is £644.7m
- Net revenue expenditure is £281.2m

# Council Taxbase / Precepts

- Approved at full Council on 13<sup>th</sup> December
- Taxbase set at 149,517,54 for 2019/20
- Total number of T&PCs is 114

	2018/19	2019/20
Total T&PC precept levied	£7,362,187	£7,895,749
Highest precept	£836,152	£884,152
Lowest (non zero) precept	£740	£740
Average precept	£65,734	£70,498
Overall increase from previous year	+6.8%	+7.2%



# **Community Governance Review Town and Parish Council Governance Arrangements**

**Brian Reed**  
**Head of Democratic Services and Governance**

# What is a Community Governance Review?

- Cheshire East Council is responsible for town and parish council governance arrangements
- Governance arrangements include:
  - Boundaries
  - Size of membership
  - Grouping of parishes
  - Warding
- The review will consider the views of town and parish councils and other stakeholders

# Why do a CGR now?

- Government guidance says that reviews should take place every 10 - 15 years
- Last reviews were done before Cheshire East was created
- Cheshire East received approaches from some parish councils, stemming from development near to their boundaries
- Not appropriate to conduct ad-hoc reviews
- Cheshire East will conduct an holistic Borough-wide review

# What is the process to begin with?

- It has already started
- Constitution Committee appointed a Sub-Committee to drive-forward the review
- Multi-disciplinary team of officers
- Terms of Reference of the Review have been agreed
- Constitution Committee meeting - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

# Timetable for CGR and key features

- We are in the preparatory stages
- The Constitution Committee has agreed that the main work will commence after 2nd May 2019 elections
- The review will consider:
  - 142 parishes
  - 186 wards
  - Over 1000 councillors
- Hearing the views of all concerned is of key importance

# How can your views be heard?

- The main body of work will not commence until the summer of 2019
- T&P Councils will be formally consulted
- There will be a website, via which views can be posted



# Do we expect sweeping changes?

- No - the Constitution Committee report:
  - Acknowledges that the current arrangements work well
  - States that extensive changes are not considered to be likely
- But some changes may be needed:
  - Local Plan housing allocations
  - A small number of PCs don't meet
  - Some parishes are separated by man-made features
  - Huge range of councillor:elector ratios (e.g. 1:8 > 1: 3700)
  - Precepts vary: £7.49-£108.64 pa
  - “Communities of interest”

# What happens next?

- Officer working group is beginning to work on:
  - How to structure and conduct the review
  - Developing a consultation plan:
    - How best to hear the views of T&PCs
    - Providing facilities for views to be made known
    - Briefings for T&PCs
- Making sure that the review complies with the law/guidance
- Setting up a website
  
- Scheduling the review to follow the elections on 2nd May 2019

**Any Questions?**

# Arrangements for the Local Government Elections

Thursday 2 May 2019

**Kath O'Dwyer**  
**Acting Chief Executive**

# The Elections Senior Team

- Returning Officer
  - Kath O'Dwyer
- Deputy Returning Officer
  - Brian Reed
- Electoral Services Manager
  - Diane Barnard

# The aim of this Briefing

To provide an overview of:

- Scale of Elections 2019
- Election Timetable
- Nominations Process
- Polling Day
- The Count(s)



# 2019 Elections

- 2 May 2019
- Large-scale elections for Cheshire East Council
- All out Borough Elections
- 52 Wards – mix of single or multi-member
- 82 Borough Seats
- All out Town and Parish elections
- 186 different Town and Parish elections
- Over 1000 Town and Parish seats

# Individual Electoral Registration (IER)

- IER introduced in 2014
- Most accurate Electoral Register to date
- Over 300,000 Cheshire East electors

# Election Timetable

- Last day for Publication of Notice of Election  
– Tuesday 26 March 2019
- Actual Publication of Notice of Election  
– Thursday 14 March 2019
- First day for delivery of nomination papers  
– Friday 15 March 2019
- Deadline for delivery of nomination papers  
– 4pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019

# Poll Cards

- Poll cards to every registered elector
- Poll cards will be a combined card to cover Borough and T&PC elections
- Deliveries will commence as soon as possible after Saturday 23 March 2019
- Cards will be delivered by hand or by Royal Mail
- Persons who are registered for a postal vote will receive a pink postal poll card

# Nominations

- 1500 nominations expected!
- Nomination Pack contents:
  - Candidate check list
  - Nomination Paper
  - Consent to Nomination
  - Certificate of authorisation if standing on behalf of a political party
  - Request for a party emblem

# Delivery of Nominations

- Must be delivered by hand to Westfields, Sandbach
- Almost 3 weeks of receipt between 10am and 4pm (by appointment)



# Postal Voting

- Major exercise
- Over 60,000 postal voters
- Significant security measures in place
- Over 50 staff per day involved in opening
- Combined postal ballot pack

# Postal Vote Timetable

- Postal ballot packs will be sent first class
- First main tranche of packs will be released to Royal Mail around Tuesday 16 April 2019
- With further tranches being released on an almost daily basis

# Postal Vote Opening

- Opening sessions will be held daily from 9.30am in the Assembly Room, Macclesfield Town Hall
- Opening sessions will commence Friday 19 April (dependant on numbers received)
- Some opening sessions will be held over the weekend and in the evenings if required
- Ballot papers will be kept face down

# Election Day - Administration

- 288 Polling Stations (may be more depending on contested election combinations)
- Polling Stations open from 7am to 10pm
- 2 Ballot Boxes – where a Town or Parish election is taking place alongside a Borough election

# Ballot Paper Colours

- Borough – White
- Town and Parish – Green

# The Verification and Count

- North of the Borough – Kath O’Dwyer
  - Macclesfield Leisure Centre
- South of the Borough – Brian Reed
  - Crewe Lifestyle Centre



# The Count

- Verification of polls: 10pm Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May
- Verification overnight: 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> May
- Borough Council count-proper:  
1pm Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- Town and Parish Council count-proper:  
1pm Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May

# Election Campaign

- The Returning Officer and the Electoral Commission do not have the power to investigate allegations of offences under electoral law
- The Police investigate allegations of offences under electoral law

# Briefings for Town and Parish Clerks and Candidates

- A letter went to all Town and Parish Clerks with 8 dates for briefing sessions:

Those remaining are:

- 6 March – Westfields, Sandbach – 7pm

# Where Town and Parish Clerks can help

- We are requesting the assistance of Clerks with the hand delivery of the completed nominations to Westfields during the nomination period

**Any Questions?**

# Cheshire East Council Corporate Peer Challenge

4- 7 June 2019



# Background

- Launched in September 2011, more than three quarters of councils have taken part in a LGA Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC)
- Offered to all Councils at no cost every 4-5 years
- The Council is keen to engage in the CPC process and has commissioned a CPC to take place between **4-7 June 2019**.
- Over the last two years, the Council has been on a journey of improvement. Alongside the successful delivery of our core business, there has been a considerable amount of work undertaken to address areas of concern (e.g. governance and behaviours), we recognise there is more to do.
- It is timely for a CPC to provide assurance and feedback on our work to date and to sense check our improvement and transformation plans for the future.

# The process and what to expect

- On site for 4 days, **4 –7 June 2019**
- A team of peers with relevant experience (+ Peer Challenge Manager )
- Will engage with a range of officers, councillors from all groups and partners
- Triangulate what they see and hear
- Will Challenge in confidence and respect
- Will work mainly to the five core principles of all Corporate Peer Challenges

# Key themes

1. Understanding of the local place and priority setting
2. Leadership of place
3. Organisational leadership and governance
4. Financial Planning and viability
5. Capacity to deliver

In addition to this, the team have been asked to provide observations on:

- Learning and Improvement, with a particular focus on the measures that have been taken as a result of the recent investigations
- Brighter Future – Transforming our Council Together.

# Feedback and recommendations

- The CPC will feedback their finding in the afternoon of the 7 June 2019
- We will then start to cascade the feedback week commencing the 10 June 2019
- This is in advance of the draft report which will be sent to the Chief Executive approximately 4 weeks after the visit.
- In the Autumn, Cabinet will receive a formal report of findings and a supporting action plan to deliver any recommendations.

# **New Homes Bonus Community Fund**

**Dan Coyne  
Community Development Manager**

# NHB Background

Cheshire East Council's £2m New Homes Bonus Community Fund is a scheme to assist communities where new housing developments have been built between 2011 and 2017. The scheme will run for 2 years and is designed to achieve positive benefits based on locally-identified needs.

With a minimum of £10,000 the fund will give local councils and the voluntary, community and faith sector an opportunity to apply for projects that can make a lasting difference to communities.



## Total allocations by award group area

- Congleton and surrounding towns and villages £328,973
- Crewe and surrounding villages £170,985
- Knutsford and surrounding villages £61,790
- Macclesfield and surrounding towns and villages £121,739
- Nantwich and surrounding villages £162,006
- Poynton and surrounding villages £67,776
- Wilmslow and surrounding villages £86,731

# Process from priority setting to application form deadline

- All Cheshire East Council elected members were delivered training on the process NHB was to be allocated
- 7 geographical award groups were established, made up of Cheshire East elected members and a representative from the town and parish councils
- The priorities for each of the area's were then agreed by each award group in October 2018
- Applications were welcomed from November 2018, with a deadline set for 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

# Applications received

Area	Number of Applications	Total amount
Congleton and surrounding towns and villages	55	£2,895,034
Crewe and surrounding villages	57	£1,659,434
Knutsford and surrounding villages	13	£249,656
Macclesfield and surrounding towns and villages	41	£1,073,961
Nantwich and surrounding villages	31	£1,045,243
Poynton and surrounding villages	10	£181,799
Wilmslow and surrounding villages	15	£359,278.53
<b>Total amount Requested</b>		<b>£7,464,406</b>

# Process going forward

- January - All applications are currently being assessed by a multi-agency panel
- February - Recommendations will be made to the responsible elected member award groups for consideration
- March - Cabinet member for Finance and Communications to make the final decision
- March/April – Applicants notified of outcome
- April - Successful funding to be released

# Ongoing monitoring of successful applicants and support for non-successful applicants

Following a successful application, to ensure that monies are used in an appropriate manner, monitoring will be required following and during the project.

Dedicated resource will be recruited to contract manage each successful application as part of the ongoing monitoring processes.

Support for non-successful applicants will come from our Community Development Team, Grants Team, Cheshire Community Foundation and the commissioned service CVS who can all assist with supporting the projects and finding other funding sources.

# Questions and Answers

**Kath O'Dwyer**  
**Acting Chief Executive**

**Councillor Rachel Bailey**  
**Leader, Cheshire East Council**



# Next steps and closing remarks

**Councillor Rachel Bailey**  
**Leader, Cheshire East Council**