

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

3rd December 2019

AGENDA ITEM 9.4 CEC COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

1 Report

1.1 The following message has been sent to this council by CEC.

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

Cheshire East Borough has 135 town and parish councils, comprising 186 wards. Under legislation, Cheshire East Council is responsible for town and parish council electoral and governance arrangements within its Borough, including but not exclusively:

- *town and parish boundaries*
- *numbers of town and parish councillors*
- *arrangements for town and parish council wards and the grouping of parish Councils*

It is good practice to review community governance arrangements every 10-15 years. Cheshire East Council was created in 2009 and it is therefore timely for it to conduct a full review of town and parish council governance matters.

A number of parish council matters have been raised with Cheshire East Council, which necessitate a Community Governance review. Also other matters have arisen, for example in connection with recent and proposed developments which need to be considered. The borough-wide review will address these things in a coordinated way, so as to ensure consistency of approach.

Cheshire East will conclude the review well before the May 2023 local elections.

As part of the review there will be a pre-consultation survey which will be published on 28 October 2019 and which will conclude on 31 January 2020. As a town or parish Council/Councillor Cheshire East want to give you prior notice of the pre consultation survey. The survey is not a formal consultation. This will take place next year (possibly around May according to current projections), but the survey will be an opportunity for initial views to be expressed which may help to shape the future direction of the Review. A timeline for the full Review is attached for information.

As part of the later formal consultation there will be workshops/events across the Borough with Town and Parish Councils so that those who would wish to feed-into the process can see the formal proposals which the Council will be putting forward.

1.2 Attached is a copy of the report which went to Cheshire East Council's Constitution Committee highlighting the background to the review and its terms of reference.

2 Recommendation

2.1 That members consider the documents and comment accordingly either now or individually direct to CEC.

Jack Steel
Clerk to Parish Council