

Dear Council Clerk,

Community Governance Review of Town and Parish Council Governance

I wrote to you on 6th May 2022 to confirm the decision of my Council, on 27th April 2022, to approve all of the Community Governance Review recommendations, which can be seen via the link below.

[Agenda for Community Governance Review Sub-Committee on Monday, 4th April, 2022, 2.00 pm | Cheshire East Council](#)

You will therefore be aware that your Council is affected by governance changes, which will be implemented with effect from April 2023.

I attach a summary spreadsheet which, at a glance, provides an overview of the changes affecting Councils. Of course, you will wish to read, in full, the commentary and recommendations which relate to your Council, which can be accessed via the above link, but I hope that you find the summary spreadsheet information, to be useful.

You will see that the spreadsheet comprises a list of the councils affected by major changes (external boundary changes or mergers) and those affected by internal (seating/ warding) changes only.

Please column 2, where:

- The councils in the pale blue shaded rows are those affected by only internal change (to seat numbers or warding).
- The councils in the other shaded rows are those affected by a merger, boundary changes, or both these things. (Yellow rows = affected by merger AND external boundary change. Grey rows = affected by merger, but no external boundary change. Pale orange/ salmon rows = affected by external boundary change, but no merger.)

I do hope that, if you have not already done so, you will now brief your members upon the changes.

Here is an extract from my letter to you of 6th May, from which you will see the arrangements which have been made with the Cheshire Association of Local Councils, to provide support to all affected Councils (not just those which are Association members):

“8.2 It is clear that our ongoing engagement with town and parish councils will be of key importance as part of the process which will lead to the changes, arising from the review, taking effect in 2023. Whilst, from a purely legal perspective, the responsibility for dealing with such matters rests with the town and parish councils themselves, some degree of support to our town and parish council partners should be provided by this Council.”

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“8.3 Throughout the CGR process, there has been significant collaboration between the officers of this Council, and the Cheshire Association of Local Councils (ChALC). ChALC has already provided valuable inputs in respect of the process followed so far and has been a partner in facilitating important engagement with town and parish council members and officers.

“8.4 Further work will take place, in partnership with ChALC, to ensure clear communication with our town and parish council partners. Initial discussions have taken place with ChALC which are expected to lead to ChALC providing comprehensive support to all affected town and parish councils (not just those which are members of ChALC). In this way, the expertise and practical experience of ChALC can be drawn-upon, for the benefit of all town and parish councils within the Borough”.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to work together with ChALC in the provision of support for Councils, as set out in the above paragraph extracts from the report.

I have already met with the Chief Officer of ChALC, Jackie Weaver, on a number of occasions, to discuss how this support might be provided over the coming months, and I am very encouraged with the outcome of those meetings.

I will provide information in due course about further engagement with affected Councils, but I would encourage you to get in touch with ChALC in order to discuss any issues upon which you may wish to be advised.

Best wishes,

Brian Reed | Head of Democratic Services and Governance

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