

NEWSLETTER

Cheshire East Residents Hub



Issue 7 - October 2025

Headlines:

At the full council extraordinary meeting held on 17th September, councillors back the proposed devolution proposals



[**READ THEIR UPDATE HERE!**](#)

This Month:

In Focus - With the government seeking to abolish the committee system in favour of a Leader and Cabinet form of governance we explain the difference between the two.



In the Spotlight - We explain the many disadvantages of the Cabinet and Leader system expected to be in place in May 2026



EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER 2025



[Click here for CHESHIRE RANGER EVENTS](#)

In Focus!

DID YOU KNOW?



The UK government is legislating to abolish the Committee system of local council governance in England, making the Leader and Cabinet model the standard for all councils!

What does this mean?

In a cabinet system, a small group of councillors, the "Cabinet," led by the council leader, makes significant decisions on behalf of the full council, rather than a large number of different committees.

Leader and cabinet model (most popular)

The full council elects a leader who, in turn, appoints and chairs the cabinet. Each cabinet member has a specific area of responsibility – for example regeneration, children and young people, housing or finance.

The cabinet meets regularly (normally weekly or fortnightly) so decisions are made quickly. The cabinet may also be called the executive.

Cheshire East Council currently operate a Committee system:

Committee system (less popular)

The council establishes a number of committees, each with a specific area of responsibility.

The political groups appoint elected members to the committees. More councillors are actively involved in decision-making, but it can take longer to reach decisions.

Councils not operating a committee system must establish overview and scrutiny arrangements through which non-cabinet councillors can scrutinise decisions.

You can find more information [here](#) in the Local Government Governance Explained document

In the Spotlight!



At the Full Council Extraordinary meeting held on 17th September councillors voted in favour of changing from a Committee system to a Cabinet and Leader form of governance, likely to come into effect in May 2026!

Considerations

While some advantages exist, such as streamlined decision-making, clear leadership and accountability and strong executive function, the system's effectiveness depends on the competence of the leader and cabinet, as well as checks and balances (e.g. scrutiny committees) to prevent over-centralisation. Critics argue it can sideline non-cabinet councillors or reduce public input compared to more participatory systems.

What Are The Disadvantages?

Disadvantages of a local cabinet governance structure include a democratic deficit, a lack of transparency, ineffective scrutiny, and a concentration of power. This model, where a small group of executive members makes most decisions, can **WEAKEN** the role of other elected councillors and hinder public accountability!

Overview of Disadvantages:

- **Marginilisation of non-executive members**
- **Weakened full council**
- **One-party dominance**
- **Opaque decision-making**
- **Limited Public Consultation**
- **Erosion of public trust**
- **Weak oversight powers**
- **Scrutiny disregarded**
- **Aggressive executive behaviour**
- **Overbearing leadership**
- **Poor decisions based on personal interest**
- **Officer manipulation.**

The absence of public engagement and the lack of media communication regarding this vital potential shift in the governance framework before it was addressed in the Full council meeting, alongside the aforementioned drawbacks, seem to signify a **SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES!**

A MORE IN-DEPTH BREAKDOWN OF THE DISADVANTAGES CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)



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COUNCIL WATCH

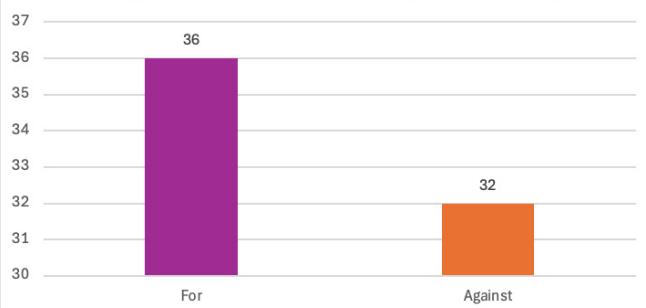
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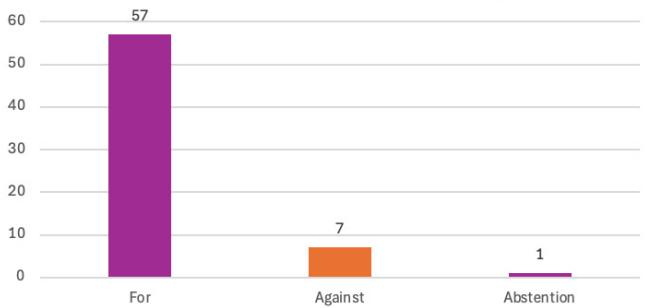
CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT!

The Extraordinary Council meeting held on 17th September was probably the most important meeting of the year! There were only 2 points on the agenda and the councillors voted as follows;

Voting for or against the proposed Devolution Programme and Combined Mayoral Authority



Voting for or against the move to a Leader and Cabinet form of decision-making



The following councillors DID NOT attend the meeting:

Councillor	Ward
Sue Adams	Disley
Rachel Bailey	Audlem
John Bird	Middlewich
Martin Edwards	Crewe East
Emma Gilman	Macclesfield – Tytherington
Kate Hague	High Legh
Marilyn Houston	Crewe West
Thelma Jackson	Prestbury
Arthur Moran	Nantwich North & West
Mike Muldoon	Sandbach Town
James Pratt	Crewe St Barnabas
Laura Smith	Crewe South
Rob Vernon	Broken Cross & Upton
Liz Wardlaw	Odd Rode

If your local councillor is named above, you may wish to email them to ascertain their reason for not attending. You can find their contact details [here](#).



HAVE YOUR SAY!

IF YOU HAVE ANY UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO SHARE ON PAGE 1 OF THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL US WITH THE DETAILS AT admin@cherhub.co.uk

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS



Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) Engagement 2025



Closes Friday 17th October

Look out for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Consultation which, according to the agenda pack of the Economy and Growth Committee meeting held on 9th September should be running from 6th October to 22nd December.



CONTACT DETAILS FOR YOUR LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT:

CONGLETON CONSTITUENCY

Sarah Russell
sarah.russell.mp@parliament.uk

CREWE AND NANTWICH CONSTITUENCY

Connor Naismith
connor.naismith.mp@parliament.uk

CHESHIRE SOUTH AND EDDISBURY CONSTITUENCY

Aphra Brandreth
aphra.brandreth.mp@parliament.uk

MACCLESFIELD CONSTITUENCY

Tim Roca
tim.roca.mp@parliament.uk

TATTON CONSTITUENCY

Esther McVey
esther.mcvey.mp@parliament.uk

MID CHESHIRE CONSTITUENCY

Andrew Cooper
andrew.cooper.mp@parliament.uk