

Marbury Update June 2025

As your Borough Councillors, we are proud to continue championing the vibrant communities that make up Marbury Ward. Whether in our villages, woodlands or along our rural roads, there is a deep sense of identity, heritage and mutual support that sets our area apart. This is something we treasure - and something we fight to protect and enhance every day within the Council.



Over the coming months, we remain focused on ensuring rural matters stay high on the Council's agenda. From resisting rushed devolution timelines that don't yet serve our needs, to maintaining pressure on highways officers for timely repairs and sensible investment, we are holding the line for rural Cheshire. We're also active in the debate on housing allocations as part of the National Planning Framework, standing firm on the importance of protecting Green Belt and ensuring development is locally-led and properly supported.

At the same time, there is much to celebrate. The summer programme of Village Fetes and Rose Queen Parades showcases the best of community life, while the Northwich Festival of Arts and events at Marbury Country Park and Anderton Boat Lift bring people together across the ward. We're also supporting ongoing consultations on local planning and services - these are critical moments for residents to shape the future of their communities. And this month, as Corporate Parents, we are shining a light on the work of our Fostering Services across the Borough.

As ever, we're here to help and to listen. Please do share our updates with your residents, and don't hesitate to contact us if there's more we can do to support you.

With best wishes,

Cllrs Lynn Gibbon, Phil Marshall, Norman Wright
[Marbury Ward, Cheshire West & Chester Council](#)

Championing our Children

In October 2023, Full Council unanimously supported the motion 'Challenges for our children – how can we solve the crisis in Children's Social Care?' As a result, councillors committed to taking action to support our children in care and care leavers.

These agreed actions include:

- Encouraging at least one potential foster carer to connect with our fostering team
- Promoting vacancies such as social worker and residential care roles as rewarding career paths in your ward
- Keeping care-experienced young people in mind when supporting opportunities across your communities
- Writing to government to call for a cap on residential placement and agency staff costs
- Advocating for bursary and scholarship access for children in care at local independent schools where appropriate
- Establishing a cross-party task group – now in place and chaired by the Cabinet Member – to drive forward these commitments and champion a 'One Council' approach

The task group met recently, and reviewed performance measures linked to our most recent Ofsted inspection (published August 2024). With improvement work well underway, the group will now help shape the next phase of development as we align with the national strategy [Keeping children safe, helping families thrive \(GOV.UK\)](#).

To support our efforts we hope you can all share the following link into our communities through Parish Websites and Facebook pages – providing advice on Fostering and the benefits to our children and fostering families.

 **Link:** [Cheshire West Fostering – Official Website](#)

Cheshire West and Chester Council offers a range of fostering opportunities through **Foster4**, a regional collaboration across Cheshire. The programme provides training, financial support (weekly allowances, tax exemptions), and a strong network of professional and peer support for foster carers. They are looking for people from all walks of life who can offer safe, stable and nurturing homes - whether short-term, long-term, emergency or respite care.

- **Types of fostering include:**
 - Short-term and long-term fostering
 - Emergency placements
 - Parent and child fostering
 - Foster care for teenagers and children with additional needs
- **Support provided:**
 - 24/7 professional support
 - Ongoing training and development
 - Peer mentoring and fostering forums

- Financial allowances starting from approximately **£350–£500 per week** depending on the child's needs
 - **Eligibility:**
- Applicants must be over 21, have a spare room, and be resident in or near Cheshire West. Full-time work is allowed in some types of fostering.
- **For more information:**
 - Phone: 01925 444100
 - Email: fostering@warrington.gov.uk (regional team)

Devolution – Cheshire & Warrington

More presentations on this, this month and we are still of a mind that 2026 is just too soon. All three authorities involved (Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester and Warrington) need to agree to move forward and this decisions will go to each full Council in July or September. Should that not be approved by all 3 Councils, then the process will stop for the time being.

Further information and Q&A from the members' briefing this month enclosed in the Appendices.

Planning

National Planning Framework – no further update since the last issue

With regards the impact on Marbury, we are currently calculating the potential new housing numbers to be allocated to the Ward and will update once numbers have been confirmed.

Planning Reform Working Paper: Have your say....

Please see the link below which is inviting views on the “Planning Reform Working Paper: Speeding Up Build Out”

[Planning Reform Working Paper: Speeding Up Build Out - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-reform-working-paper-speeding-up-build-out)

Winnington Lime Bed Solar Park – (Appeal)

Planning Appeal: APP/A0665/W/25/3359308

Application Reference: 23/02766/FUL

The hearing date for this is 1st July 2025 10am – The Dumber Winsford – Marbury Councilors' will be attending

Regeneration– no further updates since last month's update

Changes & Charges for Bin Collection / Kerbside Collection

Background

The Council are introducing a charge for replacement waste and recycling containers. This is based on full cost recovery, to ensure that procurement, depreciation, storage, administration and delivery costs are fully recovered. It was proposed/agreed by the Labour Administration at Full Council in February 2024 to charge for replacement waste and recycling containers from 2024/25 onwards.

Separately, the Council offers a chargeable collection service for large items such as white goods and furniture. From 19 May 2025, the charge will also increase from £15 to £25 per item and by £5 to £15 per item for those in receipt of full council tax reduction at the point of paying for an item to be collected.

What is happening

Replacement container charges

The new charging process will apply to residents requesting a replacement waste container because it is damaged, lost or stolen. The charge will also apply to residents in owned or rented accommodation and landlords or property management agents who are responsible for management of communal bin areas.

Councils who have introduced this measure have found that it encourages people to take greater care of bins and containers and store them securely on their own property. The Council delivered new recycling bins to most residents in 2022, and these containers remain the property of the Council. These bins are expected to last for a further eight years on average. Developers have been charged for containers for new build properties for several years and there are no changes to this existing process at this time. However, they will now be liable for the cost of supply and delivery of replacement of containers, including bulk containers (1100, 660L bins for example).

Exemptions to the charge:

- 23L and 7L replacement food waste caddies will remain free of charge, as we encourage more homes to take up food waste recycling.
- This new charge does not apply to new or replacement garden waste containers as residents already pay for the supply of bins through their subscription charge.
- The charge does not apply if the bin is damaged or falls into the waste collection vehicle during the emptying process. Crews will automatically order a free replacement through their in-cab system and leave a postcard for the resident to let them know a new bin has been ordered.

Homes qualifying for additional residual waste capacity because they meet the larger family criteria or have a medical condition that requires a larger or extra bin will be provided with additional containers free of charge on a temporary basis. However, replacements will be subject to charges if lost, damaged or stolen.

Cheshire West Recycling are also introducing a bin repair service where residents will be able to pay for replacement parts to be delivered and fitted to their wheeled bins instead of paying for a full replacement container. This offers a cheaper alternative and is better for the environment as the life of the bin will be extended.

When residents apply for a container, a payment in full will need to be made. Residents in receipt of full council tax reduction (FCTR) at the time of making a request will be able to pay a reduced rate.

A full list of charges is available on the Council's website: [Fees and charges schedule 2025-26](#)

Changes to bulky item collection charges

The Council offers a chargeable collection service for large items such as white goods and furniture. From 19 May 2025, the charge will increase from £15 to £25 per item and by £5 to £15 per item for those in receipt of full council tax reduction at the point of paying for an item to be collected.

The charge for the service has not been reviewed since 2010 and new charges will be in place from May to reflect the inflation increase over the last 15 years. The increase is necessary to ensure full cost recovery of this service. Charges cover collection costs and all associated administration but exclude disposal costs which we are not permitted to charge for.

Historically, residents in receipt of a pension were eligible to a £5 discount meaning they paid £10 per item collected as opposed to the full price of £15. Analysis has shown that around 50% of customers were claiming the discount.

It was not possible to verify the eligibility due to resource constraints. The eligibility criteria for a discount has now been changed to those in receipt of full council tax reduction which is consistent with other services. **The discount has been increased from £5 to £10.**

When it is happening

The charges will be introduced from 19 May 2025. The webpages will be updated on that day. A list of Questions and Answers for the container charges have been developed (See appendix) and will be included on the webpage.

You can view the new webpages from **19 May 2025**.

Highways

You will note by the number of Traffic/Highway notifications this month, that there is a lot of activity now scheduled across Marbury Ward, including a large strip of the A559 from the Stretton boundary to Frandley / Marston Lane, Great Budworth High Street and A49 near Whitley. We have been raising road, flooding and signage issues with officers constantly – this is now having an impact based on both persistence and the fact that it is the optimal times/weather to address repairs.



Increase in Highways Fees & Charges:

We were notified that fees applied to external bodies including Parish Councils / general public are set to increase. You should have already received notification of this via CHALC. This is disappointing as this clearly puts more pressure on your Parish Precepts

Briefing below:

What is happening

Cheshire West and Chester Council, as the Highway Authority undertake a number of roles to ensure minimum disruption and safety for all highway users. These changes support the delivery of the Council Plan's ambition for a stronger future where we all play our part in thriving, caring and sustainable communities.

There are a number of fees and charges that have not been reassessed for several years, and the current charges do not represent the changes to processes, software required and legislation.

A review of the current charging model and a benchmarking exercise highlighted that the current fees do not recover the full cost associated with processing applications and the cost incurred for necessary site visits.

A review has also been undertaken on services that are currently offered as a free service in order to ensure full cost recovery.

When it is happening

The new fees and charges will come into operation immediately. A review of the councils website is currently being undertaken, to provide information and update with the new charges. Information on the changes will be provided to Parish Councils through CHALC.

Details of the new charges are listed below.

Fee Increases					
Fee name	Previous fee £	Proposed fee £	Change £	Change %	Eligible for annual inflation increase
Crane, Mobile Elevators and Oversailing permit or licence application and one week on site	26.50	250.00	223.50	843%	Yes
Crane, Mobile Elevators and Oversailing permit - additional per week on site	26.50	100.00	73.50	277%	Yes
White "H" marking - new marking	102.90	168.00	65.10	63%	Yes
High Hedges	300.00	603.00	303.00	101%	Yes
Scaffolding & Hoarding	69.00	247.00	178.00	258%	Yes
Scaffolding & Hoarding additional per week site	26.50	100.00	73.50	277%	Yes
Tourist Directional Signage	101.70	368.00	266.30	262%	Yes
Vehicular Dropped Crossing applications	87.70	135.00	47.30	54%	Yes
Planting Licence	236.00	258.00	22.00	9%	Yes
Alfresco (Pavement) Licence 4 seats or more	106.00	500.00	394.00	372%	No
Alfresco (Pavement) Licence 4 seats or more renewal	106.00	350.00	244.00	230%	No

New fees		
Fee name	Proposed fee £	Eligible for annual inflation increase
Development Directional Signage	193.00	Yes
White "H" marking - renewal of marking	123.00	Yes
Placing Objects on the Highway	258.00	Yes
Traffic counts attached to street furniture	90.00	Yes
Festive decorations attached to street lighting	495.00	Yes
Festive Lighting attached to Buildings	495.00	Yes
Festive Banners attached to Buildings	258.00	Yes
Festive Banners attached to Buildings Renewal	176.00	Yes

Other Highways Activity

Ongoing statutory works being undertaken (i.e. gas, electric, B.T. and water) on the highway network are all on this [Link](#)

Live roadworks | Cheshire West and Chester Council: [Link](#)

Highways | Cheshire West and Chester Council:
Highways [Link](#)

Surface Dressing

We always have mixed opinions shared on this sort of treatment to our roads, compared to complete resurfacing – but clearing it has got to be a step on from the ongoing patching of roads, that we have seen. We do pass on your feedback regarding many highways decisions that can seem illogical or in the long-term simply not cost-effective.

To be fair, we have a good relationship with Council Officers who do offer practical, honest responses – it is not always the answer we want but open dialogue has meant that more of our priorities are being addressed, and the quality of repairs has improved.

We have also requested some short burst activity, where we have teams at our discretion to target known highways/village issues in the Ward. A short period where we can decide what will genuinely be noticed and appreciated by residents. We are hopeful that this will come to fruition, so will keep you posted.

On **surface dressing** we recently received some information on the merits, which we thought would be useful to share...

What is surface dressing?

Surface dressing is a simple and highly cost-effective method of repairing the road surface, which can prevent much more expensive work being needed later.

The process involves spraying the road with a layer of hot liquid bitumen (known as a binder) and then covering it with loose stone chippings. The dressing is then rolled, which together with the actions of slow moving traffic, embeds the stone chips into the road surface.

Why do it?

It has many advantages: It is very cost effective, seals the road surface to prevent water getting in and causing damage like potholes; and, because it provides a hard wearing surface with good texture, it also has anti skidding properties. This added protection can extend the life of the road surface by up to 10 years.

It's quick! Traffic can be allowed to run on the new surface almost immediately, avoiding lengthy closures and disruption. Also the speed with which it can be laid reduces delays to traffic.

Surface dressing is a weather sensitive process and works can be delayed by both wet, cold and very hot weather. It is usually carried out between the months of May to September as the treated road surfaces then have some time to embed properly before the start of winter.

How is it done?



First a layer of hot liquid bitumen (known as binder) is applied to the road surface



Straightaway loose chipping are put on top of the layer of bitumen. In the works shown here, 10mm chippings were applied first.



Then 6mm loose chipping were put on top – to fill in the gaps – this is called ‘racked’ surface dressing. Techniques used do vary.



The loose chippings are then rolled to embed them into the layer of bitumen to make a strong surface. Vehicles driving on the road will continue this process.

Some roads require an additional second visit to site to seal in the chippings usually approximately two to seven days later than the first visit – this is where the tanker re-applies another layer of bitumen and chippings to seal in the layer. This provides an additional level of longevity.

Things to be aware of:

During the early life of the surface dressing...

- The bitumen used can become soft again during very warm weather.
 - Bitumen and chippings could be picked up on footwear, wheelchairs, pushchairs, pets' paws and carried into houses.
 - The carriageway is safe to drive on following application of the stone chippings, provided speeds remain below 20mph. For your safety and the safety of others, please drive slowly, keep your distance, avoid turning or braking sharply and do not overtake.
 - Our contractors will sweep the road and footpaths to remove loose chippings before the road is opened to traffic again.
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- Contractors then return to remove loose chipping again as follows:
 - 24 hours after the road opens,
 - Then three to four days after,
 - Then again seven days after.

Surface Dressing 2025 programme - This year's programme is now available on the [Council's website](#).

Flytipping

Fly tipping continues to blight lanes and lay-bys in the Ward – please report any incidents you spot via the [Report it App](#) - its not just the cost of clearing it and the visual impact; materials that are dumped can impact the local ecology/wildlife, ditches and water ways, so the faster it is reported and cleared the better.

Just for context, in the last 6 months, these are the stats for just our Ward (Marbury):

Fly Tipping Incidents [33]

Asbestos [1]
Builders Waste [5]
Domestic Waste [12]
General Waste [2]
Private Land [2]
Sofa/Chair/Suite/Furniture [8]
White Goods / Fridge/Cooker etc [3]

Public Consultations:

Cheshire West and Chester Council is actively seeking residents' input on several key consultations. Engaging in these consultations ensures that community voices shape local policies and services.

Below is a summary of current consultations and reasons to participate:

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025–2028

- **Deadline:** 13 July 2025
- **Why comment:** This statutory document assesses whether pharmacy services meet local needs. Your feedback helps ensure equitable access to medicines and health advice, especially in rural or underserved areas.
- **Take part:** [Participate Now – PNA Consultation](#)

Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

- **Deadline:** Ongoing (no fixed deadline)
- **Why comment:** Shape a county-wide plan to restore wildlife habitats and improve biodiversity. Landowners can register sites for potential investment in nature recovery.
- **Take part:** [LNRS Engagement](#)

Local Plan 'Issues and Options' Consultation

- **Status:** Pending approval by Cabinet on 11 June 2025
- **Why comment:** This consultation will shape where housing and employment development occurs over the next 15 years. It includes options that may affect Green Belt land.
- **More info:** [Council News – Local Plan Consultation](#)

Planning Policy Consultations

- **Why comment:** Influence planning policies that affect housing, infrastructure, and land use across the borough.
- **Take part:** [Planning Policy Consultations](#)

Gambling Licensing Principles

- **Why comment:** Help shape the Council's approach to regulating gambling establishments, ensuring community safety and responsible practices.
- **Take part:** [Gambling Licensing Consultation](#)

School Place Expansions

- **Schools involved:**
 - Archers Brook SEMH Residential School
 - Dee Banks School (via satellite site)
 - Dorin Park School and SEN Specialist College (via satellite site)
- **Why comment:** Provide input on proposals to increase capacity for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- **Take part:** [School Place Expansion Consultations](#)

New Northwich Market

- **Why comment:** Share your views on the development of a new market in Northwich, influencing design and facilities to meet community needs.
- **Take part:** [New Northwich Market Consultation](#)

September 2026–27 School Admission Arrangements

- **Why comment:** Review and provide feedback on proposed admission arrangements for the 2026–27 academic year.
- **Take part:** [School Admission Arrangements Consultation](#)

Shotwick Park Engagement

- **Why comment:** Contribute to plans for the development and use of Shotwick Park, ensuring it meets community recreational and environmental needs.
- **Take part:** [Shotwick Park Engagement](#)

For a comprehensive list and to participate in these consultations, please visit the Council's consultation portal: [Cheshire West and Chester Council Consultations](#).

Events

Up and coming events in the Northwich Area

Northwich Festival of Arts

- **When:** Throughout July 2025
- **Where:** Various venues across Northwich
- **What:** A month-long celebration featuring exhibitions, performances, and workshops.
- **More Info:** [Northwich BID](#)



Northwich 10K

- **When:** Sunday, 29 June 2025
- **Where:** Starts at Barons Quay, Northwich
- **What:** A scenic 10K run through Carey and Marbury Parks.
- **More Info:** [RunThrough](#)



Northwich LitFest 2025

- **When:** Late June – Mid-July 2025
- **Where:** Various venues including Davenham Players Theatre and Costa Coffee
- **What:** Literary events featuring authors like Julie Hesmondhalgh and Freya North.
- **More Info:** [Visit Northwich](#)



Live Aid 40 – A Tribute

- **When:** 11–12 July 2025
- **Where:** Verdin Park, Northwich
- **What:** A two-day music festival celebrating the 40th anniversary of Live Aid with tribute acts.
- **More Info:** [Skiddle](#)



Northwich River Festival

- **When:** Saturday, 19 July 2025
- **Where:** Weaver Way, Northwich Town Centre
- **What:** Dragon boat races, duck races, and family-friendly activities.
- **More Info:** [Visit Northwich](#)



80s Themed Painting Party

- **When:** Friday, 25 July 2025
- **Where:** The Grape and Bean, Northwich
- **What:** A creative evening of painting with an 80s twist.
- **More Info:** [Visit Northwich](#)



Victorian Fair – Anderton Boat Lift 150th Anniversary

- **When:** 26–27 July 2025
- **Where:** Anderton Boat Lift and Visitor Centre
- **What:** Celebration with live music, food, and family activities.
- **More Info:** [Visit Northwich](#)

For a comprehensive list of events, visit [Visit Northwich – What's On](#).

Marbury Country Park & Northwich Woodlands

- **Friends of Anderton and Marbury Events**
 - **Dates:** Various events scheduled for June 2025
 - **Location:** Marbury Country Park and Anderton Nature Park
 - **Details:** Guided walks, conservation activities, and family-friendly events organized by the Friends of Anderton and Marbury.
 - **More Info:** [FoAM Events Programme](#)

Also look out for the various **Rose Queen Parades and Village Fetes** held across the Ward over the next few months...

Comberbach Rose Queen & Village Fête

-  **Date:** Saturday, 28 June 2025
-  **Location:** Comberbach Primary School Field
-  **Details:** A traditional village fête featuring the crowning of the Rose Queen, live music, dancing, fairground rides, stalls, and more.
-  **More Info:** [Comberbach Fete 2025 Facebook Event](#)

Little Leigh Rose Queen Crowning

-  **Date:** June 2025 (Exact date to be confirmed)
 -  **Location:** Little Leigh Village
 -  **Details:** Annual event featuring the crowning of the Rose Queen, organized by Little Leigh Primary School and the local community.
 -  **More Info:** [Little Leigh Village Facebook Page](#)
-

Great Budworth Village Fête

- 📅 **Date:** July 2025 (Exact date to be confirmed)
- 📍 **Location:** Great Budworth Village
- 📋 **Details:** Traditional village fête with various stalls, games, and community activities.

Higher Whitley Rose Queen & Village Fête 2025

- 📅 **Date:** Saturday, 14 June 2025
- ⌚ **Time:** Parade begins at 12:00 PM; Fête activities from 1:30 PM to 6:00 PM
- 📍 **Location:** Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington WA4 4EJ
- 🎉 **Details:** This longstanding community event features a parade led by a silver band, followed by the crowning of the Rose Queen. The fête includes traditional games, stalls, live entertainment, and refreshments such as BBQ, cream teas, and a licensed bar.

***Sutton Weaver** are also planning activity in **September 25** – more detail to follow.

Members Budgets 2025-2026 / Space Hive

The **Member Budget Award Scheme** for 2025/26 allocates £5k to all Councillors to support local projects and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life and wellbeing of their communities. Funding is provided to recipients as a discretionary award and is aimed at addressing local priorities for action. (With 3 Ward Councillors in Marbury we have a combined budget of £15k)

Member Budgets Applications are now open – budget allocations are generally agreed on a ‘first come first served basis’...

[*To Note: support for local events can be requested through Member Budgets.](#)

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-and-committees/councillors-allowances/member-budgets>

Cheshire West Crowd (Funding)

The **Cheshire West Crowd** is the Councils partnership with Spacehive to deliver civic crowdfunding. The approach allows communities to play their part through gaining funding to deliver projects that are aligned to the Council's Borough plan.

For Cheshire Crowd The deadline for projects to submit for verification was Wednesday 4th June 2025. [We'll update on evaluation once we know more.](#)

<https://www.spacehive.com/movement/cwc>

Other Funding Opportunities:

Funding Opportunities: [Funding opportunities | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

Youth Opportunities Grant 2025-26 funding

I hope this email finds you well. I would like to make you aware of a funding opportunity that may interest you.

Cheshire West and Chester Council are inviting voluntary and community organisations, charities and other groups focused on providing opportunities for children and young people in our borough to apply for the Youth Opportunities Grant (YOG) 2025-26 funding. The YOG funding is seeking innovative and unique applications that provide a response to emerging needs and priorities set out in local and national strategies, in particular Make Your Mark! as well as providing effective outcomes that supports the Children and Young People Plan to make the best start in life.

Criteria for the grant funding:

- Benefit a group or organisations that supports children and young people to make the best start in life
- Provide targeted support locally and flexibly; based on evidence of need and intelligence
- Works within our ways of working and think family
- Offers and support varied delivery of youth work in Cheshire West
- Supports Children and Young People Plan and All Age Carers Plan
- Supports Youth Senate Challenges and Priorities
- Keep children and young people protected under Cheshire West Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Applicants are invited to submit an application through The Chest: North West Procurement Portal via the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/KSD2d3GDnq>

You will be required to submit monitoring information at the end of your offer if you are successful in your application as well as provide a financial breakdown to the local authority. Projects will be subject to unannounced monitoring by members of the YOG Board which is made up of members of the Youth Senate and Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The window for applications is 01st April 2025 to 30th May 2025. It is anticipated that applications will be considered by the YOG Board week commencing 23rd June 2025.

- **Tackling Food Surplus** [£15 million food surplus fund now open for applications - GOV.UK](#)

- **Healthy Hearts Grants** [Healthy Heart Grants - Heart Research UK](#)

- **Energy Efficiency Funding** [Energy Efficiency Sharematch | Crowdfunder.co.uk](#)

- **Network Rail Community Tree Planting** [Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund - The Tree Council](#)

- [The Stobart Sustainability Fund | Stobart \(eddiestobart.com\)](#)

- **Rural Countryside Fune** (some parts of NW will be eligible for this) [Supporting Rural Communities - The Royal Countryside Fund](#)

- **Grants for Charities or CIO's** - [What We Fund - Bernard Sunley Foundation](#)
- [Grants for historic church interiors and churchyard structures | The Church of England](#)
- [Small Grants | Trusthouse Charitable Foundation](#)
- **Climate Action Fund: Our Shared Future** (tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)
- **Aviva Community Fund** [Aviva Community Fund](#)
- **Veolia Funding** (veoliatrust.org)
- **Biffa Funding** [Home Page - Biffa Award](#)
- **Blue Spark Foundation** – grants for projects supporting children and young people
[Home - Blue Spark Foundation](#)
- **Energy Resilience Fund** – Power to Change

The Energy Resilience Fund is an initiative assisting community businesses in retrofitting their buildings with energy-saving measures. [Energy Resilience Fund - Power to Change](#)

- **Neighbourhood Planning Grant Funding** – Locality. [Home - Locality Neighbourhood Planning](#)

- **Electricals Recycling Fund – Material Focus**

The Electricals Recycling Fund aims to grow existing methods or test new creative and practical ones for recycling small household electricals. If you have a project that would make it easier for the public to repair, reuse or recycle their electricals, you can apply for funding. [Electricals Recycling Fund - Material Focus](#)

- **Village Halls Main Grants**

Grants are available up to £75,000 to support larger improvement projects to rural community buildings in England such as full refits and extensions (this will cover some of the rural areas in the Northwich/Winsford area). [Main grants scheme for village halls - ACRE](#)

London Hearts has launched this scheme with the aim of increasing the number of AEDs to help save lives. “As a charity we understand it is not always possible to install a public access Defibrillator and people’s needs differ particularly in the workplace.”

The fund is moving far quicker than they initially anticipated given the limited funding requirement, so they are allocating on a first come first basis as to avoid any disappointment. Anyone can apply, including the council.

Would you be so kind to circulate with residents in your constituency? Funding of circa £660 per unit is required.

Interested? Apply using the link below! —

<https://londonhearts.org/defib-scheme/>

<https://londonhearts.org/article/lh-launches-new-defibrillator-scheme-to-help-save-lives-across-the-uk/>

Facebook Link to the Scheme to Share -

<https://www.facebook.com/LondonHearts1/posts/pfbid0VtehyLLPq8U3yWF5xuoztJA5r1vrMasnEdNnnYjxRk5kPQukH3XAvZQbkKn9XTWl>

Link

[VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme - Groundwork](#)

Communities Team Web Page: [Communities in action | Cheshire West and Chester Council](#)

If you could direct any enquiries to

NorthwichWinsfordLocality@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk it will help us allocate the appropriate resource.

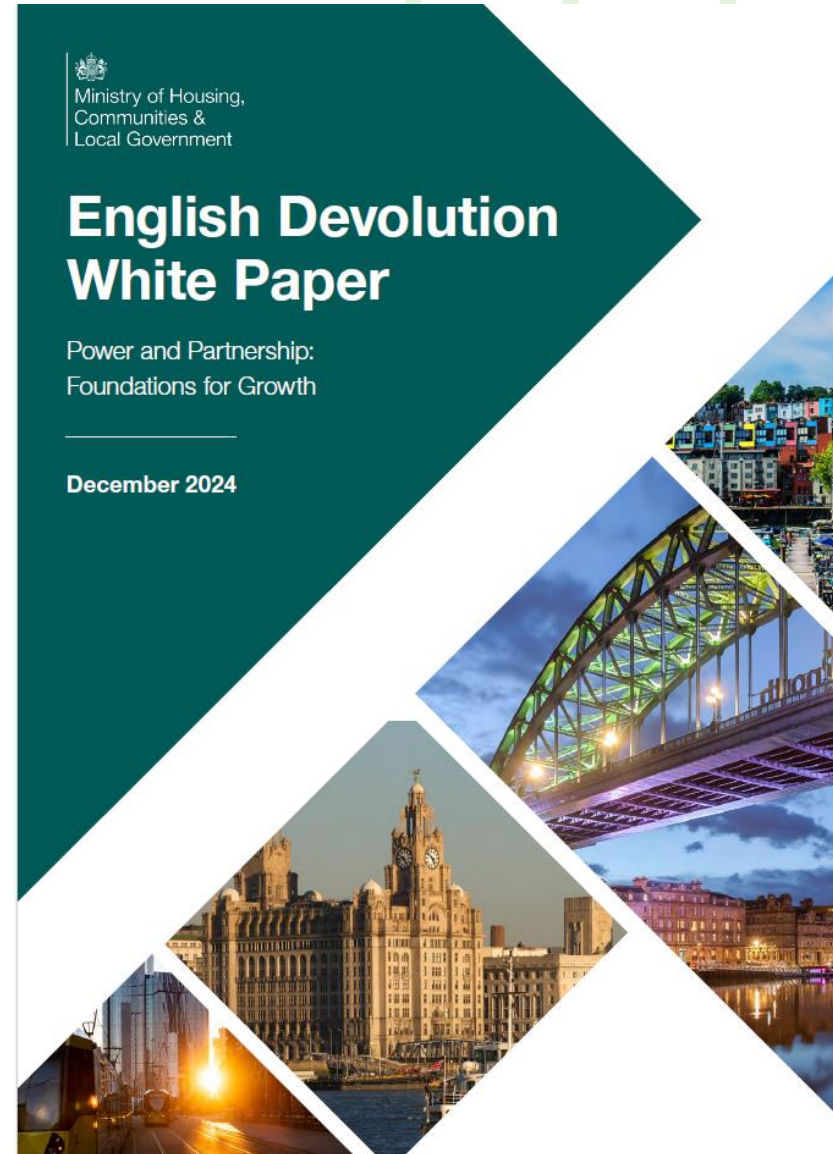


Appendices:

- May 27 2025 - All Member Brief Devolution Presentation
- Devolution Notes All Member Briefing 27 May 2025

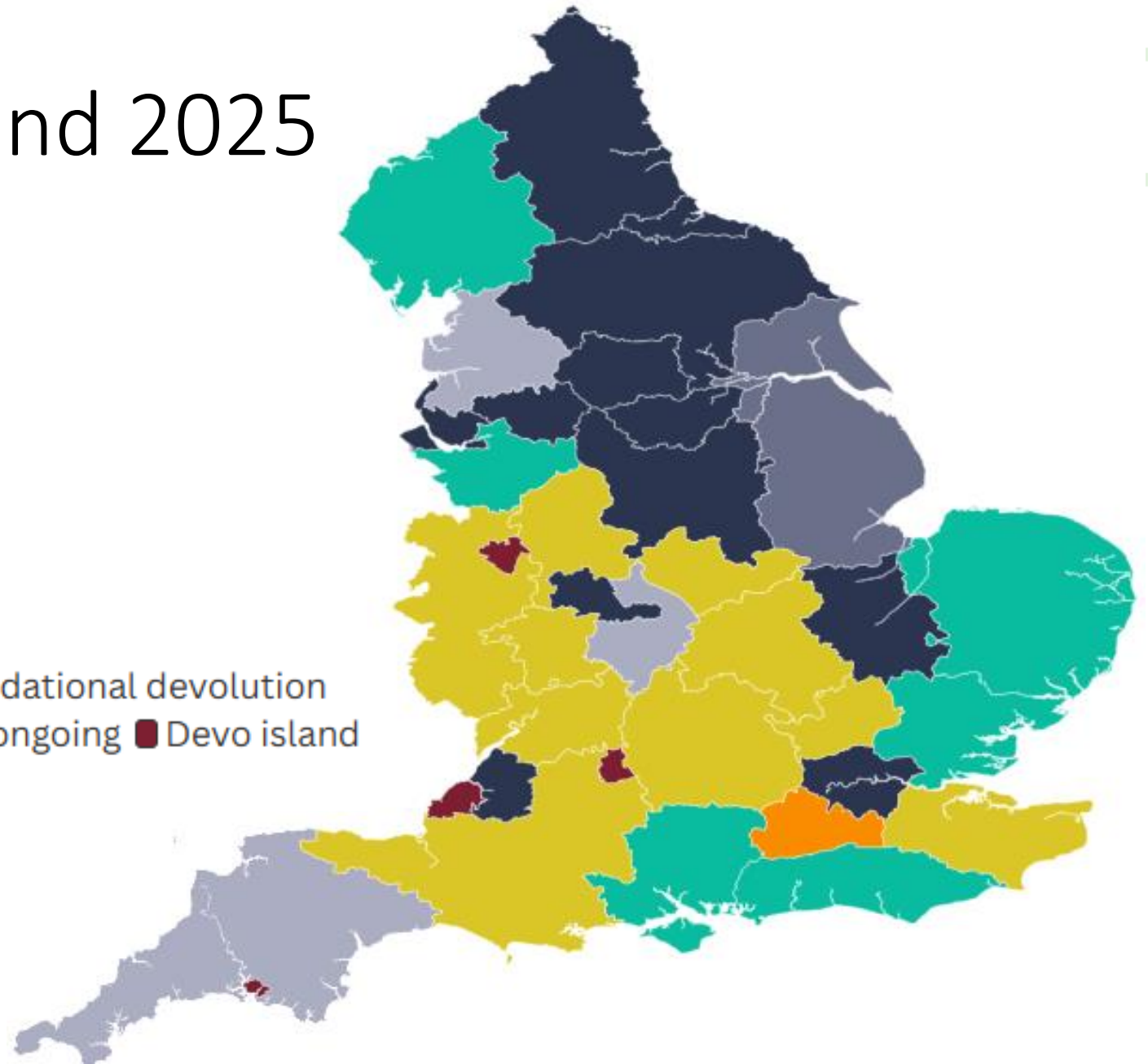
The White Paper

- Devolution across England
- Bringing decisions close to those they affect
- Move from negotiated agreement to a devolution framework
- Premium for a directly elected mayor
- Integrated settlement for Established Mayoral Combined Authorities



Devolution in England 2025

- Strategic authority
- Priority programme
- Foundational devolution
- First mayoral elections May 2025
- Discussions ongoing
- Devo island
- Reorganisation fast track



The Devolution Priority Programme



Cheshire & Warrington have been confirmed on the Priority Programme

Government led public consultation closed on 13 April 2025

Government will decide on whether Cheshire & Warrington meet the 'statutory test'

Key decisions need to be taken by all three local authorities to agree to progress

If all those decisions are a yes:

- capacity funding from Government will support the creation of a shadow authority

- Aim would be for Mayoral Elections in May 2026

Does devolution mean merging authorities?

- **No** – each council will still be a Unitary Authority
- Councillors will have the same functions and responsibilities as they currently have
- The new Combined Authority will focus on regional strategies and policies, and be responsible for setting a Transport Plan for the area
- Individual councils will continue to deliver services for their residents/boroughs

How much will a Mayoral election cost?

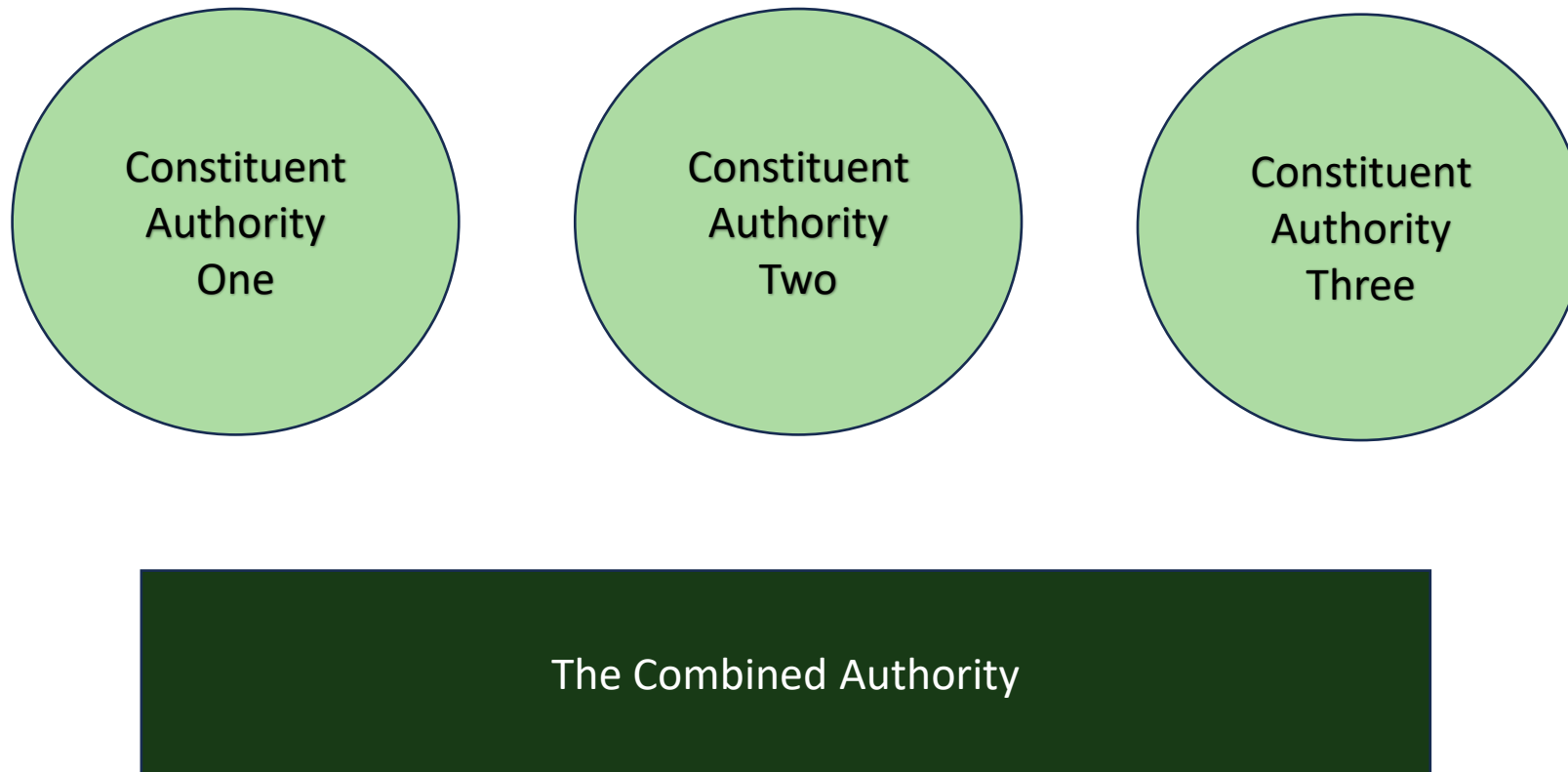
- Estimated cost is £2.5million
- This cost is expected to be funded by the first year of funding received by the new Combined Authority, this will be confirmed by the shadow Combined Authority once set-up
- The three councils are not expected to have to cashflow the cost of the election, as resources will be used from Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington and MHCLG capacity funding if needed.

30 Year Mayoral Investment Funds



Mayoral Combined Authority	Population	30 year Investment fund
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough MCA	0.92m	£20m pa
East Midlands MCA	2.4m	£18m pa
Greater Manchester MCA	2.9m	£30m pa
Liverpool City Region MCA	1.5m	£30m pa
North of Tyne MCA	2m	£20m pa
South Yorkshire MCA	1.4m	£30m pa
Tees Valley MCA	0.7m	£15m pa
West Midlands MCA	2.9m	£36.5m pa
West of England MCA	0.98m	£30m pa
West Yorkshire MCA	2.4m	£38m pa
York & North Yorkshire MCA	0.83m	£18m pa

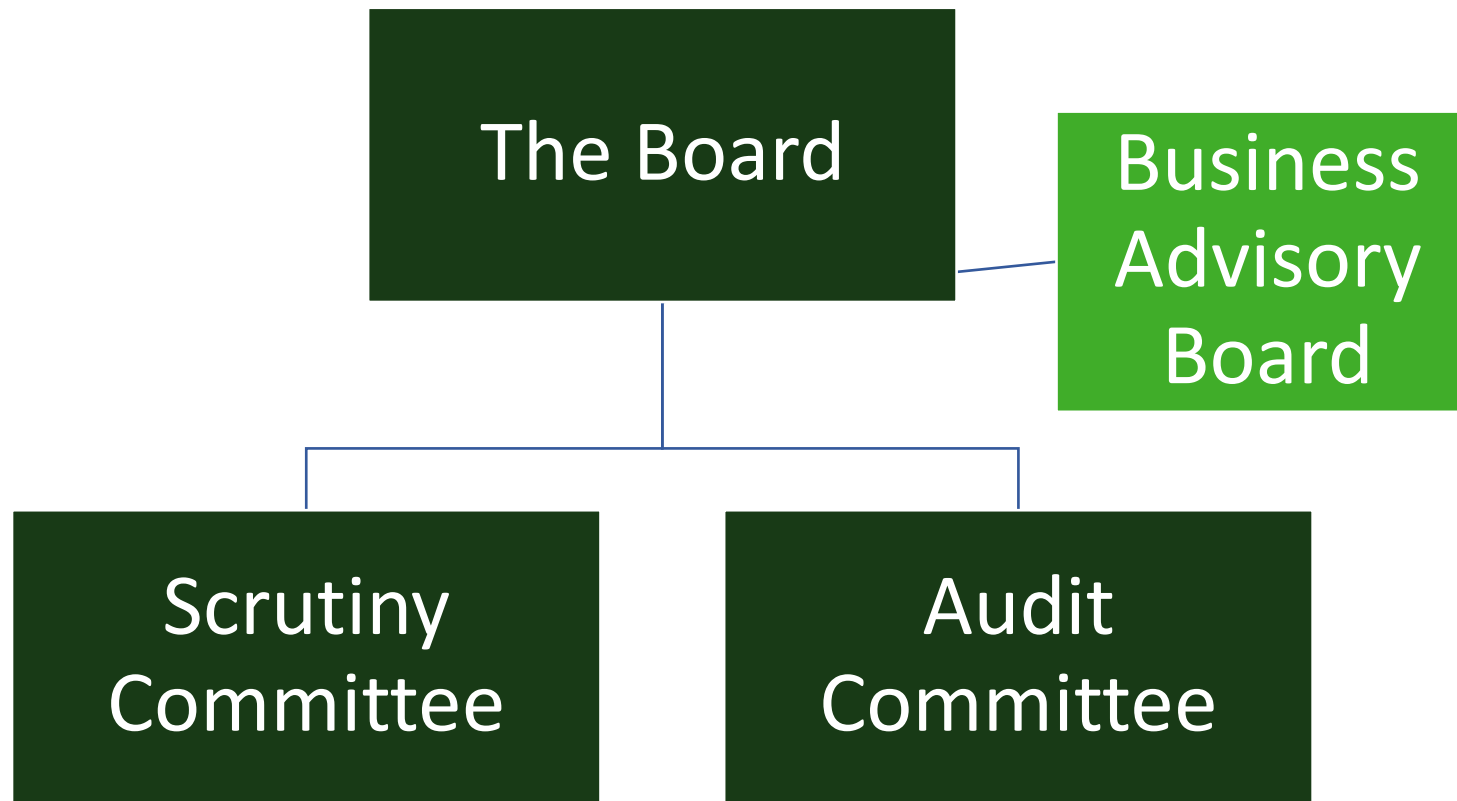
What could a combined authority look like?



Independent Councils led by locally elected Councillors, responsible for setting a balanced budget and delivering services, ranging from social care to public protection, within that budget.

An organisation led by a directly-elected mayor and a board made up of representatives of the constituent authorities. It is a strategic authority focused on economic growth responsibilities and delivers for the whole area it covers in partnership with the constituent authorities and others

What could a combined authority look like?



There are three statutory committees that every CA must have, but most also appoint some form of board made up of local business representatives. Cheshire & Warrington already has a Business Advisory Board

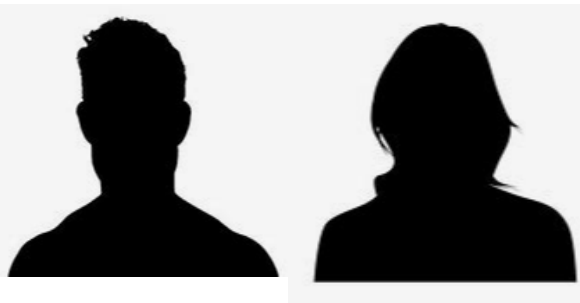
The Board



- Statutory committee
- Government consultation suggest the Board would be made up of the Elected Mayor and two representatives from each constituent council.
- A maximum of six non-constituent (representing an organisation) and associate members (named individuals) can be appointed, most commonly the chair of the business board is included. Within the six, others could include the PCC, Health, and Community and Voluntary Sector representatives



Elected
Mayor



Two representatives
(potentially Leader and Deputy)
from Council A



Two representatives
(potentially Leader and Deputy)
from Council B



Two representatives
(potentially Leader and Deputy)
from Council C



Chair of the
Business Board?



The Board

Key Purpose

- The ultimate decision-making body of the combined authority
- Sets strategy, policy and budget

Alternative Approaches

- Larger CAs may have one rep for each constituent council (GMCA)
- Include additional members for political balance (West Yorkshire CA)
- Include a CVS representative (North East CA)
- Include the PCC as a non-constituent member (Hull & East Yorkshire CA)
- Require specific decisions to be unanimous

Scrutiny Committee



- Statutory committee
- One to three members appointed from each constituent authority, although size can be variable to ensure political balance
- Commonly, chairs cannot be from the same party as the Mayor



Scrutiny Committee



Key Purpose

- Scrutinises the decisions and activity of the Mayor in exercising any Mayoral General Function and makes recommendations on them
- Scrutinises the decisions and activity of the combined authority in exercising any Non-Mayoral Function and makes recommendations on them

Alternative Approaches

- More than one committee can be established (GMCA)
- Some chairs are appointed by the combined authority (North East CA), others by the scrutiny committee (Tees Valley CA)
- Non-voting independent members can be co-opted on (LCR)

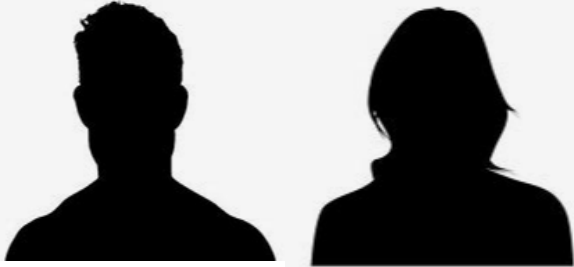
Audit Committee



- Statutory committee
- A number of representatives from each constituent council
- A number of non-voting coopted members



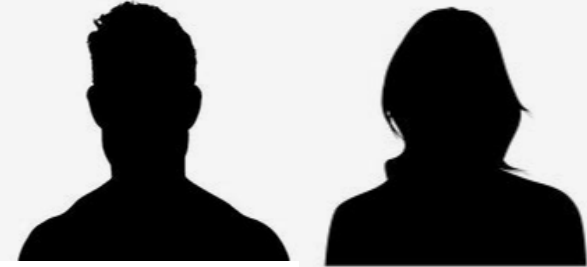
Chair



Two or more representatives
from Council A



Two or more representatives
from Council B



Two or more representatives
from Council C



One or more non-
voting coopted
members

Audit Committee



Key Purpose

- To provide oversight and ensure the integrity of the combined authority's financial reporting and compliance processes

Alternative Approaches

- The size of committees vary
- The Chair can be appointed by the CA (Tees Valley), the committee (LCR) or can be a non-voting coopted member (North East)
- Members can be required to have had recent experience on a constituent council audit committee (Tees Valley)
- Up to five co-opted members may be appointed (GMCA, Tees Valley)

Business Advisory Board



- Locally appointed business leaders from across a range of sectors
- Appointed for a fix term
- Chair is commonly a non-constituent member of the Combined Authority



Business Advisory Board



Key Purpose

- To provide expert advice to the Mayor and the combined authority on the role of various business sectors on the economic performance of the area and on the development of economic strategy and business support

Alternative Approaches

- Variously known as a Business Board (GMCA), Business and Enterprise Board (LCR), or Business Advisory Board (South Yorkshire)

Senior Leadership team



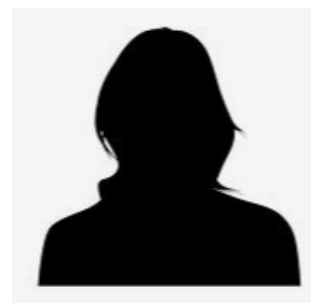
- Four statutory roles are required in all combined authorities (along with other legally required roles such as Senior Information Risk Owner, Data Protection Officer)



Head of Paid Service (normally CEO)



Financial Officer (s.73)



Monitoring Officer



Scrutiny Officer (Often performed as part of broader role)

Workforce



- Staffing delegations and processes will be set out within the constitution including role of The Board and Head of Paid Service
- Responsible for own Pay Policy (and required to publish a statement)
- Can utilise national Local Government terms and conditions and Local Government Pension Scheme
- Will have its own Trade Union recognition agreement
- The size of CA workforces varies considerably dependent on how longstanding the CA is and the services they delivery (eg whether they include a transport provider)
- Initial recruitment to senior positions can be on a fixed term basis
- TUPE will be considered where applicable

Devolution: All Member Briefing
27 May 2025

Would we expect the creation of the combined authority to lead to redundancies in the constituent councils?

No. This will be a new organisation working alongside existing councils and teams. Devolution is about moving funding and powers from Whitehall to Cheshire & Warrington rather than from local councils up to a new combined authority

Where are the running costs of the CA paid from – does it come from that Mayoral Investment Fund?

This is a clarification to the answer provided on the evening – as there will probably be some costs associated with the programme taken from Mayoral Investment Fund. There is additional capacity funding that is paid to combined authorities to fund running costs and a range of other monies. Once a combined authority has been in place for 18 months and has proven that it can deliver it can be given ‘established combined authority status.’ This brings with it the opportunity of an integrated settlement where the funding a combined authority receives is within a single fund with far fewer requirements and controls around spend. Like all investment funds, there will probably be management/administrative costs associated with some CA funds which will support the delivery of its programmes. Further work on financial modelling will be undertaken when the detail of C&W investment is confirmed after the June 2025 Spending Review.

What are the running costs of the CA likely to be?

There are a large number of decisions that need to be made before this will be known (see note about financial modelling above). The number of staff that will be required fundamentally depends on the functions that the combined authority wishes to take on and the way in which it intends to work. Even specific decisions such as where the authority will be based will also affect costs such as rent levels. However, it is not the intention to create a large and costly organisation – but rather to ensure a strategic authority which works in tandem with the 3 councils in C&W.

What assurances do we have that funding will be sufficient to cover the new powers?

Fundamental to this will be the devolution agreement which will be set out between the Government and Cheshire & Warrington. It is worth noting though that not all monies will be received on day one. As an example Adult Skills Funding would not be expected until September 2027.

Will the CA help us to influence national economic policy – around things like national insurance and business rates?

The Mayor will have a seat on the Council of Nations and Regions. This brings together the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and the leaders of devolved administrations - the First Ministers of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and all directly elected mayors. This is a

forum for discussing national policy and a key opportunity to influence national economic policy. The Mayor would also be a member of the Mayoral Council, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, working as the key forum for English Mayors to engage direct with central Government to ensure effective delivery of devolution – and to push for more.

Will the CA help to deliver priorities such as the Winnington Bridge?

The Combined Authority will help to deliver specific local investment to support and promote economic development. In part this will be through direct support from the 30 Year Mayoral Investment Fund, but also through wider powers. This does not guarantee the delivery of any specific project, such as Winnington Bridge. The Combined Authority will need to consider and prioritise projects based on individual business cases.

What are the risks that the CA will choose to spend in one authority area rather than another – could there be a temptation to fund services in Warrington or Cheshire East rather than Cheshire West and Chester as the other two councils are facing greater financial challenges?

One of the primary roles of the CA will be to deliver economic growth – via a range of powers and investment tools. To help focus its work, the CA will work alongside the 3 constituent councils to develop a Growth Plan for C&W, with linked transport, skills and investment plans as well as a spatial development strategy which will link to each council's LDP and other council plans. The Combined Authority will need to develop a clear and consistent process for considering and deciding on investment opportunities and wider projects – all based on these agreed plans for economic growth as well as a Government approved Assurance Framework. The Assurance Framework will be all about transparent, accountable and effective decision making. The CA will include two Councillors from each of the three constituent authorities on its main decision making board, who would be expected to speak up for their areas. Each council will also put forward a number of Councillors to join the combined authority's scrutiny and audit committees to review and challenge processes and decisions. The elected Mayor will also be held democratically accountable for decisions at regular elections.