

**Governance
Democracy and Elections Team**

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The Occupier

Dear Sir or Madam

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF INCE

Have your say on whether the existing area of Ince Parish should be extended

Cheshire West and Chester Council is currently undertaking a Community Governance Review, looking at the way local decisions are made on local issues in your community.

Why are we undertaking this review?

Cheshire West and Chester Council has received a request from Ince Parish Council to review and extend the boundary of Ince parish to incorporate Ince Marshes, which is currently in the unparished area of Ellesmere Port.

A map showing the current boundary of Ince parish and a map showing the boundary extension proposed by Ince Parish Council can be viewed on the Council's website at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitygovernance

Why am I receiving this letter?

This letter is being sent to residents of the existing Ince parish and other stakeholders who may be affected by the proposals to extend Ince parish. You are being consulted for your views at the first stage of the Community Governance Review.

What is a Community Governance Review?

Community governance is the way in which local communities are represented and governed at a local level. The aim of a Community Governance Review is to consider any improvements to community engagement and representation, ensure a

stronger local voice, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

A Community Governance Review will not change any village name, its identity or Cheshire West and Chester ward boundaries. The issues it considers include:

- how local areas are governed, managed or run;
- whether to alter the boundary of an existing parish;
- what changes, if any, should be made to the electoral arrangements that apply to an existing Parish Council.

Cheshire West and Chester Council has the authority to change any existing parish boundaries and in making its decision, it must take account of public views and comments. The Council must ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the communities in the area under review and is effective and convenient. Any changes would come into effect from 1 April 2019.

What is a Parish Council?

Ince parish is currently locally governed by Ince Parish Council.

Parish Councils are the most local tier of local government in England with specific powers and budgets for which they are democratically accountable. They have a wide range of powers to provide services to meet local needs, including managing community centres, liaising with the Police, maintenance of public open spaces and children's play area equipment and environmental projects such as landscaping. They are notified by Cheshire West and Chester Council of planning applications and consulted on local traffic management and highways issues within the parish. Parish Councils meet the cost of providing services by raising a precept from their residents each year which is collected as part of the Council Tax bill.

What could any changes mean?

If the Ince parish boundary was to be redrawn to include Ince Marshes, there would be no increase in the number of properties liable to pay a precept as there are no electors residing in the area of Ince Marshes. However, Ince Parish Council would be notified by Cheshire West and Chester Council of any planning applications within the extended parish, including Ince Marshes.

If you would like to know more about the work of Ince Parish Council, please contact Pauline English, Parish Clerk, on 0151 339 1405 or Email: engy02@ntlworld.com

Have your say

This is your chance to have your say and let us know your views on how your local community is currently represented and whether you would like to see any changes.

Following this consultation, responses will be analysed and draft recommendations will be produced. A second consultation will then take place on the draft recommendations. The closing date for giving your views in this first consultation is **Friday 8 June 2018**.

There are various ways you can have your say:

- Complete the on-line questionnaire by visiting the Council's website at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitygovernance
- Email your views to: democraticservices@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Telephone 01244 972283 and request a paper copy of the questionnaire.

All information regarding the Community Governance Review process can be viewed on the Council's website at:

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/communitygovernance

The review is being conducted in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Council must have regard to Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

If you have any questions or queries relating to the Community Governance Review, or if you would like a paper copy of any of the documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Andrea Thwaite
Democracy Programme Manager