

Tarporley & Tattenhall & District Parish Councils
Cheshire & Warrington Combined Authority Joint Working Group
Tuesday 1st September 2026

Present:

Tarporley Parish Council –Gill Clough, Nigel Taylor.

Other Tarporley representatives - Rob Dancy, CW&C Cllr Charles Hardy (Tarporley)

Tattenhall & District Parish Council & Other – Richard Carden, Carol Dzelzainis.

Other Tattenhall representatives - Neil Ashridge, CW&C Cllr Mike Jones.

Appointment of Chairman

It was agreed Cllr Richard Carden be appointed chairman of the working group.

Scope & Aims of Working Group

A discussion took place regarding the scope and aims of the working group which included the following points:

The importance of promoting the opening of the new railway station at Beeston and the towpath project to provide an accessible walking and cycling route from Chester to Beeston were both highlighted as key projects which need to be supported by the new authority.

Concern was voiced that the existing Liverpool and Manchester combined authorities are very different in makeup than the new Cheshire and Warrington Combined Authority (CWCA) due to the presence of a higher amount of rural areas including Tarporley and Tattenhall. Unlike the Liverpool and Manchester Authorities with its advance manufacturing, professional and financial servicing sectors CWCA has a large rural and agricultural sector which is relied upon for employment and is particularly dominant in Cheshire East.

It was noted the rural economy has diversified and is made up on many micro industries including hospitality and that these are just as important as those found in Chester including Chester Zoo.

It was agreed it is important to understand how CWCA will support and fund the rural areas.

The importance of the big estates was highlighted, Bolesworth, Grosvenor and Cholmondeley.

It was agreed that by villages/parishes working together they will have a much bigger voice.

It was reported that agriculture GVA¹ is 3% but represents 20-30% of employment.

It was discussed that it was not known what impact the continued development of large numbers of new homes will have on the rural economy.

¹ Gross Value Added - measures the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry, or sector, representing the net contribution to the economy after subtracting intermediate consumption.

Cllr Hardy reported that he has attended a number of meetings for the CWCA where the focus has been on reducing poverty and reinvigorating the economies of Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port and Warrington. There have also been discussions around improving public transport however there is a clear misunderstanding of the state of rural transport and how it can be improved.

It was discussed that it is important to identify and promote flagship projects in the rural area so that they don't get overlooked for investment.

It was recognised that the CWCA is a huge unknown and it is not yet clear what authority the mayor will have.

Next steps:

- Clerk to contact CW&C Key Service Centres to see if they are interested in joining the working group.
- Request in person meetings with 2 announced mayoral candidates.
- Request meeting with CEO to speak on the role of the authority and the powers of the office of the mayor and how these will support the rural area.
It was discussed that it is important to understand what powers the authority will have.
- Ask Rob Dancy if he is happy to identify a list of priorities for the group to consider including the following which can be circulated to the group for further comment:
 - Lack of public transport.
 - Support for young people 16-24 who are not in education or training (NEET).
 - Development in rural areas.
 - Peak Cluster.
 - Importance of the rural economy which includes a farm shop with a £12m turnover, Oulton Park, a paper recycling company with a £22m turnover.
- Request meeting with the MP to understand her position.

All were thanked for attending the meeting.

Ann Wright
03/09/2026.