**ABOUT CREWE**

**The Town**

Crewe is the largest town in south Cheshire, with a population of approximately 55,000, living in some 22,500 households. The historic railway town itself, began to develop after the iconic railway station was opened in 1837, although the station did not actually transfer into the town, from the adjacent parish (Crewe Green) until 1936.

There are more young people, and fewer older people in Crewe than would be typical for Cheshire East or England as a whole. In 2011, there were 10,699 residents under the age of 16, (20% of population compared with 18% in Cheshire East and 19% in England). Only 14% of Crewe’s population (7,634) were over 65, compared to 19% in Cheshire East and 16% in England.

Despite the town’s many strengths, Crewe has the highest levels of deprivation in Cheshire East. Average household income ranges from £19,499 to £24,200 compared to a Cheshire East average of £32,600 (2010). Unemployment levels are higher than the average for Cheshire East and qualification levels are generally poor (3.1% of working age adults claimed Job Seekers Allowance in 2014 compared to 1.5% Cheshire East and 2.4% England). In addition, 12.9% of working age residents were on key work-related benefits, compared to 7.3% in Cheshire East and 10.6% in England. There were fewer owner occupiers in Crewe than the average for Cheshire East or England and more households rent from social landlords (19.2%) or private landlords (19.5%) than is average for England (17.3% social and 16.8% private). The proportion of households in Crewe with no car (31%) is almost twice that of the rest of Cheshire East (16%).

The town has a large park, [Queen's Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen%27s_Park%2C_Crewe) (laid out by engineer [Francis Webb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Webb_%28engineer%29)), the land for which was donated by the [London and North Western Railway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_and_North_Western_Railway). During [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) the strategic presence of the railways and Rolls-Royce engineering works (turned over to producing aircraft engines) made Crewe a target for enemy air raids.

The railways still play a part in local industry at [Crewe Works](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crewe_Works), which carries out train maintenance and inspection. It has been owned by [Bombardier Transportation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombardier_Transportation) since 2001. At its height, the site employed over 20,000 people, but there are now less than 1,000. Much of the site once occupied by the works has been sold and is now occupied by a supermarket, leisure park, and a large new health centre.

There is still an [electric locomotive maintenance depot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crewe_Electric_TMD) to the north of the railway station, operated by [DB Schenker Rail](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DB_Schenker_Rail_%28UK%29). The [diesel locomotive maintenance depot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crewe_Diesel_TMD) has recently reopened as a maintenance facility for a private steam company and has undergone major structural repairs. The [Bentley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bentley) car factory is on Pyms Lane to the west of town. As of early 2010, there are about 3,500 working at the site. The factory used to produce [Rolls-Royce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rolls-Royce_Motors) cars, until the licence for the brand transferred from Bentley's owners [Volkswagen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volkswagen) to rival [BMW](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BMW) in 2003.

There is a [BAE Systems Global Combat Systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BAE_Systems_Global_Combat_Systems) [factory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ROF_Radway_Green) in the village of [Radway Green](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radway_Green) near [Alsager](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alsager), producing [small arms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Small_arms) ammunition for the British armed forces.

**The Town Council**

Crewe Town Council is known as a “local council” and is the tier of government closest to the people. It was established in April 2013 following a referendum. The Council took over from the Charter Trustees who had been responsible for civic functions in Crewe since Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council was absorbed into Cheshire East Borough Council in 2009. The historic railway town had been at the centre of local government from 1889 until the formation of Cheshire East BC. Until 1974 as a municipal borough council and afterwards as the headquarters of Crewe and Nantwich BC. The Town Council is uniquely placed to build a close relationship with residents, businesses and voluntary sector, to represent and lead the local community and provide services which are needed and desired in the town.

The Town Council delivers a number of services to residents and, on behalf of residents, which include the **Crewe Ranger**, a rapid clean-up response and Streetscene Officers to help reduce problems related waste management. The Council owns 11 Allotments Sites operated through Allotment Associations, funds an extensive floral display throughout the town centre and is responsible for managing a number of activities in the town centre and coordinating activities with business. The Town issue permits for the use of the Municipal/Memorial and Market Squares.

The Council runs an increasing number of events including TrAction Crewe in July and Lumen Crewe’s night of lights. The Council also works with other parties who deliver other events in Crewe. The Council also organises the annual Remembrance Sunday Service each year in November. The Council also makes a financial contribution each year to help Cheshire East and the Police deter and react to crime in the area,

Crewe Town Council comprises 20 elected Councillors, who represent six different wards in the town: West, St. Barnabus, South, North, East and Central. Council elections take place in May every 4 years, when a new council is elected. The most recent ordinary election was held in May 2019. The terms of office of councillors is four years from an ordinary election. Councillors have to agree to follow a code of conduct to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties which includes the declaration of interests in matters considered by council.

All councillors meet together as the full council approximately every two months. The annual Town Council is held in May. with ordinary meetings every second month. It is at full council that members decide the Council’s overall policies, set the budget each year and deal directly with the more major issues. Each year at the annual meeting Councillors elect a Town Mayor, who also holds the statutory position of Chairman, and a Deputy Mayor. The Leader of Council is also the Chairman of Finance and Governance Committee.

The Council has a number of committees, which deal with the more detailed items of business. [**Finance &**](http://www.biggleswadetowncouncil.gov.uk/Biggleswade-TC/UserFiles/Files/Finance%20General%20Purpose.pdf) **Governance Committee;** Community Plan Committee; Operational & Improvement Committee; and Marketing & Events Committee meet approximately every two months and

Planning Committee which meets every 4 weeks. Personnel Committee; Appeals Committee; Audit Sub-Committee meet when business dictates.

The Town Council has a staff establishment of Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk (Acting Town Clerk), Community Engagement Officer (& Interim RFO), Marketing and Events Officer, Town Centre Projects Officer, Temporary Events Officer, Temporary Administrator, 2 Street Scene Officers and 2 Rangers.

Further information about how the Town Council operates and makes decisions is available on our website www.crewetowncouncil.gov.uk.