

Governance & Constitution Committee

Agenda

Date: Wednesday, 30th September, 2009
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe
CW1 2BJ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests in any item on the agenda

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a total period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the Committee on any matter relevant to the work of the Committee. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers.

Note: In order for officers to undertake any background research it would be helpful if questions were submitted at least one working day before the meeting.

4. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2009.

5. **2008-09 Annual Governance Reports for the former authorities of Cheshire East Borough Council** (Pages 7 - 96)

To receive and comment on the Annual Governance Reports for 2008/09 for the former authorities of Cheshire East Borough Council.

6. **Internal Audit Strategy** (Pages 97 - 104)

To present the Internal Audit Strategy to the Committee.

7. **Internal Audit Plan 2009/10 and Update Report** (Pages 105 - 124)

To update the Governance and Constitution Committee on the full audit plan 2009/10, summarise work during the first five months, highlight any key audit issues arising and describe future working arrangements.

8. **Delegation of Licensing Functions (Expedited Reviews)** (Pages 125 - 128)

To advise the Committee of a delegation of functions in relation to expedited reviews under the Licensing Act 2003 from the full Licensing Committee to the Licensing Sub-Committee and to seek approval for the resulting changes to the Constitution.

9. **Funding Parish Elections** (Pages 129 - 132)

To determine the Council's future policy on the funding of parish elections.

10. **Review of Appointments to Outside Organisations** (Pages 133 - 142)

To consider a progress report on the work of the Task Group (Outside Organisations), and to consider a number of appointments to outside bodies.

11. **Member Development Strategy 2009/2010 and Policy Statement 2009/2010** (Pages 143 - 166)

To approve and adopt the Member Development Strategy and Policy Statement for Cheshire East Council.

12. **Appointment of Member Development Champions** (Pages 167 - 172)

To consider the role description for the position of Member Development Champion and the nominations for the position.

13. **Members' Allowances Scheme 2009/2010** (Pages 173 - 188)

To consider reconvening the Independent Remuneration Panel for the purpose of reviewing the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2009/2010, and considering an additional paper relating to associated allowances.

14. **Local Ward Members' Protocol and the Councillor Call for Action Protocol** (Pages 189 - 202)

To consider a Local Ward Members' Protocol and a Councillor's Call for Action Protocol which will strengthen Member involvement at Ward level through the provision of timely, relevant information on local issues.

15. **Public and Member Questions and Statements at Meetings** (Pages 203 - 212)

To consider the recommendations of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet with regard to public and Member questions and statements at meetings, and consider whether, in light of those recommendations, to make recommendations to Council to amend the relevant provisions of the Constitution.

16. **Cabinet Decision-Making Arrangements** (Pages 213 - 218)

To consider proposed changes to the existing Cabinet Decision-Making arrangements and to make a recommendation to Council in order for changes to be made to the Constitution.