

Audit and Governance Committee

Agenda

Date: Thursday 11th March 2021

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Meeting

How to Watch the Meeting

For anybody wishing to view the meeting live please click in the link below:

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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.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making meetings are recorded and the recordings are uploaded to the Council's website

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 disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

OFFICIAL

For requests for further information

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E-Mail: rachel.graves@cheshireeast.gov.uk with any apologies

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

In accordance with paragraph 2.32 of the Committee Procedural Rules and Appendix 7 to the Rules 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 body in question.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman or person presiding will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers. Members of the public are not required to give notice to use this facility.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question or make a statement at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2021 as a correct record.

5. **Annual Audit Letter 2019/20** (Pages 13 - 30)

To consider the Annual Audit Letter 2019/20.

6. **Certification of Claims and Returns 2019/20** (Pages 31 - 34)

To consider the key findings that have been identified during the certification process for the 2019/20 Housing Benefit Subsidy claim and the Teachers' Pension End of Year Certificate.

7. **External Audit Update Report** (Pages 35 - 50)

To consider the update report on the work of the External Auditor.

8. **Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 - Progress Update** (Pages 51 - 72)

To consider the progress with the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.

9. **Audit and Governance Committee Composition and Structure** (Pages 73 - 84)

To consider the recommendations of the Working Group.

10. **Covid-19 - Update on Response and Recovery** (Pages 85 - 108)

To consider the Cabinet report on the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

11. **Member Code of Conduct: Standards Report** (Pages 109 - 112)

To consider the report on the number and status of Member Code of Conduct complaints received in relation to Cheshire East Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors within our Borough.

12. **Strategic Risk Register - Q3 Update** (Pages 113 - 136)

To consider the Quarter 3 review of the Strategic Risk Register.

13. **Internal Audit Plan 2021/22** (Pages 137 - 158)

To consider and approve the Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22.

14. **Maladministration Decision Notices from Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman November 2020 - January 2021** (Pages 159 - 170)

To consider the Decision Notices issued by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman when their investigations have found maladministration causing injustice to complaints.

15. **Committee Work Plan** (Pages 171 - 184)

To consider the Work Plan and determine any required amendments.

16. **Waivers and Non-Adherences** (Pages 185 - 190)

To consider and note the number and reason for the WARNs approved between 1 October 2020 and 31 January 2021.

17. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The reports relating to the remaining items on the agenda have been withheld from public circulation and deposit pursuant to Section 100(B)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the matters may be determined with the press and public excluded.

The Committee may decide that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 100(A)4 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and public interest would not be served in publishing the information.

PART 2 - MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

18. Waivers and Non-Adherences

To note the approved WARNs issued between 1 October 2020 and 31 January 2021.

Membership: Councillors R Bailey (Vice-Chairman), C Bulman, D Edwardes, B Evans, R Fletcher (Chairman), A Harewood, M Houston, A Kolker, M Sewart and M Simon
Independent Co-opted Members: Mr P Gardener