

Audit and Governance Committee

Agenda

Date: Thursday 30th September 2021
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe
CW1 2BJ

Please note the face coverings will be required to be worn, unless exempt, by those attending the meeting. The meeting is open to the public but due to the social distancing layout of the meeting room public attendance will be limited.

The importance of undertaking a lateral flow test in advance of attending any committee meeting. Lateral Flow Testing: Towards the end of May, test kits were sent to all Members; the purpose being to ensure that Members had a ready supply of kits to facilitate self-testing prior to formal face to face meetings. Anyone attending is asked to undertake a lateral flow test on the day of any meeting before embarking upon the journey to the venue. Please note that it can take up to 30 minutes for the true result to show on a lateral flow test. If your test shows a positive result, then you must not attend the meeting, and must follow the advice which can be found here:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/coronavirus/testing-for-covid-19.aspx

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 top of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making meetings are audio 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

OFFICIAL

For requests for further information

Contact: Rachel Graves

Tel: 01270 686473

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

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.

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

In accordance with paragraphs 2.24 of the Council's Committee Procedure Rules and Appendix on Public Speaking a total period of 15 minutes is allocated for members of the public to put questions to the committee on any matter relating to this agenda. Each member of the public will be allowed up to two minutes each to speak, and the Chair will have discretion to vary this where they consider it appropriate.

Members of the public wishing to speak are required to provide notice of this at least three clear working days' in advance of the meeting and should include the question with that notice.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2021.

5. **Appointment of Vice Chair**

To appoint a Vice Chair.

6. **External Audit Update Report** (Pages 11 - 26)

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

7. **Covid-19 Update** (Pages 27 - 44)

To consider the Corporate Policy Committee report on the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

8. **Draft Pre-Audit Statement of Accounts 2020/21** (Pages 45 - 62)

To consider the Draft Pre-Audit Statement of Accounts 2020/21.

9. **Draft Annual Governance Statement 2020/21** (Pages 63 - 102)

To consider the Draft Annual Governance Statement 2020/21.

10. **Annual Information Governance Update 2020/21**

To consider the Annual Information Governance Update.

Report to Follow

11. **Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21** (Pages 103 - 130)

To consider the Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21.

12. **Maladministration Decision Notices from Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman - February - July 2021** (Pages 131 - 142)

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

13. **Annual Report of the Monitoring Officer 2020/21** (Pages 143 - 166)

To consider the annual report of the Monitoring Officer.

14. **Annual Risk Management Report 2020/21** (Pages 167 - 190)

To consider the Annual Risk Management Report for 2020/21.

15. **Councillor Code of Conduct**

To receive a verbal update from the Director of Governance and Compliance and the Chair of the Councillor Code of Conduct Working Group on progress on the Code.

16. **Committee Work Plan** (Pages 191 - 204)

To consider the Work Plan and determine any required amendments.

17. **Waivers and Non-adherences** (Pages 205 - 210)

To consider and note the number and reason for the WARNs approved between 1 April 2021 and 31 August 2021.

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

The reports relating to the remaining item on the agenda has been withheld from public circulation and deposit pursuant to Section 100(B)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended 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 item 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

19. **Waivers and Non-adherences**

To note the approved WARNs issued between 1 April 2021 and 31 August 2021.

Membership: Councillors R Bailey, C Bulman, B Evans, A Harewood, M Houston, D Marren, P Redstone, M Sewart and M Simon (Chair)