

Audit and Governance Committee

Agenda

Date: Monday, 17th January, 2022
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe
CW1 2BJ

PLEASE NOTE –This meeting is open to the public and anyone attending this meeting will need to wear a face covering upon entering and leaving the venue. It is advised that this only be removed when speaking at the meeting.

The importance of undertaking a lateral flow test in advance of attending any committee meeting. 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 will be uploaded to the Council's website.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

For requests for further information

Contact: Helen Davies

Tel: 01270 686705

E-Mail: helen.davies@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 25 November 2021.

5. **Action Tasks** (Pages 11 - 12)

To review the action tasks that emerged from the meeting on 25 November 2021.

6. **Annual Audit Letter 2020/21 and Certification Report** (Pages 13 - 58)

Summary of the External Audit findings from the 2020/21 audit. The letter will also confirm the final audit fee.

7. **Statement of Accounts 2021/22** (Pages 59 - 64)

To review and approve the Statement of Accounts 2021/22.

8. **Annual Governance Statement - Progress Update** (Pages 65 - 104)

To review and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21.

9. **Hearing Sub Committee Findings**

This item has been deferred until the Audit and Governance Committee Meeting on 10 March 2022.

10. **Upheld Complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman** (Pages 105 - 116)

To consider the Decision Notices issues by the Local Government Ombudsman.

11. **Covid-19 Update** (Pages 117 - 134)

To consider the most recent report on the Council's response to Covid-19 as prepared and presented to the Council's Corporate Policy Committee.

12. **Update on the Local Ward budgets and 'Top Up' service pilot scheme** (Pages 135 - 140)

To note the report and the intention to submit a further report, following a review of the pilot scheme later in 2022 and to identify any specific governance or assurance issues the Committee wish to review.

13. **Work Programme** (Pages 141 - 148)

To consider the Work Programme and determine any required amendments.

a) **Highways Funding**

To receive a verbal update.

b) **Partnerships Governance** (Pages 149 - 154)

To consider the scope and phasing of the review of the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations, to be completed by the end of quarter one of 2022/23.

14. **Contract Procedure Rule Non-Adherences** (Pages 155 - 160)

To consider a report updating the Audit and Governance Committee on the number of cases where, and reasons why, procurement activity has required the use of waivers and/or non-adherences (WARNs). The report covers cases from 1st September 2021 to the 30th November 2021.

15. **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 3 and 5 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

16. **Waivers and Non-Adherences** (Pages 161 - 262)

To note the approved WARNs issued between 1 September 2021- 30 November 2021.

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