

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Audit and Governance Committee

Date of meeting: 25 September 2014
Report of: Corporate Governance Group
Title: Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2013-14
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Peter Raynes

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Committee to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 for signature by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. Once approved, the AGS will accompany the Statement of Accounts and be published on the Council's website.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the Annual Governance Statement.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, the Annual Governance Statement should be approved by the Audit and Governance Committee at the same time as the Statement of Accounts is approved and no later than 30 September.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All wards.

5.0 Local Wards Affected

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Chief Operating Officer)

- 7.1 There are no specific financial implications. The production of the AGS aligns with the production of the Annual Accounts and is published alongside the audited accounts (approved by end of September 2014).

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Head of Legal Services)

- 8.1 The production of the AGS is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.

9.0 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 The Authority is required to prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement to meet the statutory requirement set out in Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. Failure to do so could result in non-compliance with the requirements of the Regulations.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 As previously reported to the Audit and Governance Committee, the Council is required to prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). This requirement was introduced by the revised CIPFA/SOLACE Good Governance Framework (Delivering Good Governance in Local Government) and is necessary to meet the statutory requirement set out in Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 10.2 At the last meeting in June, the Committee considered the draft Annual Governance Statement. The AGS has been amended to take account of Members feedback from that meeting, and also any feedback received in the interim period from Members, Officers and the External Auditors; in particular additional wording on the Better Care Fund and Oftsed.
- 10.3 Once finalised, the AGS will be published on the Council's website, along with the Statement of Accounts, for members of the public, Members, Officers and other stakeholders to view.
- 10.4 The Council's assessment of its governance arrangements for 2013/14 has not identified any significant issues i.e. those issues which may prevent the Council from achieving its vision. A number of issues not considered significant but which do require further attention during 2014/15 have been highlighted in the AGS. Regular updates on progress against these issues will be brought to this Committee during 2014/15.

11.0 Access to information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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