

## **Audit & Governance Committee**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 September 2022
<b>Report Title:</b>	Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2021/22
<b>Report of:</b>	Jane Burns, Executive Director of Corporate Services
<b>Report Reference No:</b>	AG/44/21- 22
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	All

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider the draft version of the Audit and Governance Committee's Annual Report 2021/22 and agree the final version of the report that will go to the next meeting of Council.

### **2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1. Producing an annual report on the work of the Committee ensures compliance with best practice requirements and provides assurance to wider stakeholders on the continuing improvements of the Council's governance arrangements.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. That the Committee considers the draft report for 2021/22 at Appendix A and agrees the final version which will be presented at the next meeting of Council.

### **4. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1. To report in line with the requirements of the Council's Constitution and the Audit and Governance Committee's Terms of Reference, which require a report to full Council on a regular basis.

- 4.2. The report should cover the performance of the Committee in relation to its Terms of Reference, and the effectiveness of the Committee in meeting its purpose.

## **5. Other Options Considered**

- 5.1. Not applicable.

## **6. Background**

- 6.1. CIPFA guidance, *Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018 Edition* states that audit committees should report regularly on their work and at least annually report an assessment of their performance. Aspects to consider include:

- whether the committee has fulfilled its agreed terms of reference
- whether the committee has adopted recommended practice
- whether the development needs of committee members have been assessed and whether committee members are accessing briefing and training opportunities
- whether the committee has assessed its own effectiveness or been the subject of a review and the conclusions and actions from that review
- what impact the committee has on the improvement of governance, risk and control within the authority.

- 6.2. The requirement to submit an annual report is recommended by CIPFA guidance and included within Cheshire East Council's Constitution.

- 6.3. It is acknowledged that CIPFA is due to release the 2022 edition of *Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police* in September 2022. Furthermore, CIPFA has been engaged to undertake an independent review of the effectiveness of the Audit and Governance Committee during 2022/23.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1. Legal**

- 7.1.1. The Council's Constitution gives responsibility to the Audit and Governance Committee for overseeing the Council's roles and responsibilities in respect of Corporate Governance and Audit and specifically for submitting an annual report to Council. Production of the report ensures compliance with this requirement.

## 7.2. Finance

7.2.1. The annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee outlines the assurances received by the Committee on the adequacy of the Council's governance arrangements, including the integrity of financial reporting processes.

## 7.3. Policy

7.3.1. The production of the annual report and its presentation to Council ensures compliance with the CIPFA best practice guidance.

## 7.4. Equality

7.4.1. There are no direct implications for equality.

## 7.5. Human Resources

7.5.1. There are no direct implications for human resources.

## 7.6. Risk Management

7.6.1. The annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee outlines the assurances received by the Committee on various aspects of the Council's governance arrangements, including the adequacy of the risk management framework.

## 7.7. Rural Communities

7.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

## 7.8. Children & Young People/Cared for Children

7.8.1. There are no direct implications for children and young people.

## 7.9. Public Health

7.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

## 7.10. Climate Change

7.10.1. There are no direct implications for climate change

<b>Access to Information</b>	
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<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A: Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2021/22
<b>Background Papers</b>	N/A