

Audit and Governance Committee

Agenda

Date:	Monday, 31st March, 2025
Time:	1.00 pm
Venue:	Capesthorne Room, Macclesfield Town Hall, SK10 1EA

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 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 note any apologies for absence from Members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, other registerable interests, and non-registerable interests in any item on the agenda.

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

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2025.

For requests for further information

Contact: Nikki Bishop, Democratic Services Officer

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E-Mail: nikki.bishop@cheshireeast.gov.uk

4. **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.

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

To receive an update on the committee action log.

6. **Unit 4 Briefing** (Pages 13 - 18)

To provide Audit and Governance committee with an update on a range activities designed to enhance the usability, efficiency, and perception of Unit 4 in Cheshire East Council (CEC) through various initiatives, including governance changes, functionality improvements, performance enhancements, and process reengineering.

7. **Companies Audited Financial Statements, External Audit Findings and Action Plan 2023/2024** (Pages 19 - 104)

To receive a report on the Audit Findings Reports for each Council owned company for the year ending 31 March 2024.

8. **Certification of Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim and Teachers Pensions Return 2023-24** (Pages 105 - 108)

To consider the report on the outcome of the External Auditor's certification process for the 2023/24 Housing Benefit Subsidy claim and the 2023/24 Teachers' Pension End of Year Certificate (EOYC).

9. **Whistleblowing Policy Update**

To receive a verbal update on the revised Whistleblowing Policy.

10. **Internal Audit Plan 2025-26** (Pages 109 - 132)

To consider the report which sets out the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2025/26.

11. **School Catering - Decision of Children and Families Committee** (Pages 133 - 142)

To consider the report which sets out the findings of a review into the school catering decision taken by the Children and Families Committee.

12. **Bi-Annual Update on Information Requests** (Pages 143 - 150)

To consider the report which updates on information requests.

13. **Work Programme** (Pages 151 - 154)

To consider the Work Programme.

Membership: Councillors B Drake, S Adams, M Beanland (Chair), K Edwards (Vice-Chair), A Heler, C Hilliard, G Marshall, P Redstone and J Snowball, Mr R Jones and Mrs J Clark.