

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Audit and Governance Committee

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**Date of meeting:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012  
**Report of:** Corporate Governance Group  
**Title:** Annual Governance Statement (AGS) – 2011/12 Process and Update on 2010/11 Action Plan  
**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Michael Jones (Resources)

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### 1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to:
- recommend a process for the production of the 2011/12 AGS.
  - provide an update on progress against the 2010/11 AGS Action Plan.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee

(1) consider and endorse the process for the production of the 2011/12 AGS; and

(2) note the progress against the 2010/11 AGS Action Plan.

### 3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 **2011/12 Process (Appendix A)** - the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require the Council to produce an AGS and it is good practice to agree the process with Members in advance.
- 3.2 **2010/11 Action Plan (Appendix B)** – the AGS process provides a continuous review of the Authority's governance arrangements to give assurance on effectiveness of processes and/or to address identified weaknesses.

### 4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All wards.

## **5.0 Local Wards Affected**

5.1 Not applicable.

## **6.0 Policy Implications**

6.1 Not applicable.

## **7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Director of Finance and Business Services)**

7.1 No specific financial implications. The production of the AGS is designed to align with the production of the Council's Financial Statements (draft by end June) and will be published alongside the audited accounts (approved by end September).

## **8.0 Legal Implications**

8.1 The production of the AGS is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations and the process outlined is designed to meet this obligation.

## **9.0 Risk Assessment**

9.1 The process and success of Corporate Governance arrangements is part of the Authority's overall approach to managing risk.

## **10.0 Background and Options**

10.1 As previously reported to the 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 and is necessary to meet the statutory requirement set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

## **11.0 Access to information**

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

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