

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Audit and Governance Committee

Date of meeting: 31st January 2013
Report of: Corporate Governance Group
Title: Annual Governance Statement (AGS) – 2012/13 Process and Update on 2011/12 Action Plan
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Peter Raynes (Finance)

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to:
- recommend a process for the production of the 2012/13 AGS.
 - provide an update on progress against the 2011/12 AGS Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee
- (1) consider and endorse the process for the production of the 2012/13 AGS;
and
- (2) note the progress against the 2011/12 AGS Action Plan.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 **2012/13 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 **2011/12 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

- 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 (2011) 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 (2011).
- 10.2 CIPFA/SOLACE have recently published a revised guidance note, "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Guidance Note for English Authorities (2012 Edition)", intended to be used as best practice for authorities in reviewing the effectiveness of their governance arrangements. This will be reviewed and used by the Corporate Governance Group in planning and producing the Annual Governance Statement.

11.0 Access to information

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

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