

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Audit and Governance Committee

Date of meeting: 28th March 2013
Report of: Head of Performance, Customer Services and Capacity
Title: Update on Programme and Project Management and other Compliance Issues
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Barry Moran

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on programme and project management and other compliance issues.
- 1.2 There have been two previous action plan/progress reports to this Committee on this topic, following the findings of an internal audit review. In accordance with the Committee's request at its January 2013 meeting, this report provides an update on further action taken in response to those issues previously reported.
- 1.3 The Council is committed to an open and transparent way of working and has put significant emphasis on improving systems as a result of the review. This report provides an update from the last meeting and highlights those actions now implemented, those in progress and on target for completion shortly and also the current and upcoming forms of assurance work in those areas (see Appendix 1).

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee note
 - (1) that all agreed actions have now been implemented or are in progress and on target to be implemented in the coming weeks; and
 - (2) that the new arrangements described will now fall under the Council's normal governance and performance monitoring and reporting frameworks.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To provide assurance that all the planned actions to improve the Council's working practices have been put in place or will be so shortly.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All wards.

5.0 Local Ward Affected

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 Staffing resources are constantly being reviewed in these areas. To date, required resources have been achieved within budget, although some realignment has taken place in order to achieve prompt implementation.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 Implementation of the planned actions is required to mitigate risks around non achievement of outcomes, financial control and reputational risk.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 The internal audit review which was reported to Members in June 2012 raised a number of findings around programme and project management and other compliance issues. There have since been two action plan and progress reports to this Committee relating to improved working practices as highlighted by the review.

10.2 It was agreed at the January 2013 Committee meeting that a further report be presented to this meeting, as an update on the programme and project management and other compliance Issues which were still in the process of being completed.

10.3 In future, the new arrangements described in this report will be covered by the Council's normal performance monitoring and reporting framework. Assurance on the robustness of the relevant systems and processes forms part of the overall governance framework of the Council, the effectiveness of which is reviewed as part of the Annual Governance Statement process.

11.0 Access to Information

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

Name: Vivienne Quayle

Designation: Head of Performance, Customer Services and Capacity

Tel No: 01270 685859