

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Audit and Governance Committee

Date of meeting: 27 September 2013
Report of: Corporate Governance Group
Title: Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2012/13
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Peter Raynes

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Committee to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2012/13 for signature by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. Once approved, the AGS will accompany the Statement of Accounts and be published on the Council's website.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the Annual Governance Statement.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, the Annual Governance Statement should be approved by Members meeting as a whole Committee at the same time as the Statement of Accounts is approved, i.e. by 30 September.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All wards.

5.0 Local Wards Affected

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific financial implications. The production of the AGS aligns with the production of the Annual Accounts and is published alongside the audited accounts (approved by end of September 2013).

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The production of the AGS is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.

9.0 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 The Authority is required to prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement to meet the statutory requirement set out in Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. Failure to do so could result in non-compliance with the requirements of the Regulations.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 As previously reported to the Audit and Governance 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 (Delivering Good Governance in Local Government) and is necessary to meet the statutory requirement set out in Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 10.2 At the last meeting in June, the Committee considered the draft Annual Governance Statement. The AGS has been amended to take account of Members comments at that meeting and also any feedback received in the interim period from Members and Officers.
- 10.3 Once finalised, the AGS will be published on the Council's website, along with the Statement of Accounts, for members of the public, Members, Officers and other stakeholders to view.
- 10.4 A workshop for Members that examines the draft AGS and supporting documentation has taken place prior to this Committee meeting.
- 10.5 Regular updates on progress on the AGS Action Plan will be brought to this Committee during 2013/14.

11.0 Access to information

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

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