

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Audit and Governance Committee

Date of meeting: 10 December 2015
Report of: Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee
Title: Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2014/15
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Peter Groves

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Committee to consider the draft 2014/15 Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee and agree the final version of the report that will go to Council on 17 December 2015.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the draft Annual Report 2014/15, as attached (Appendix A) and agree the final version that will go to Council in December 2015.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To report in accordance with the Council's Constitution. The Audit and Governance Committee's Terms of Reference include:
- To report to full Council on a regular basis on the committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference and the effectiveness of the committee in meeting its purpose.
 - To report to those charged with governance on the committee's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks; financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external functions.

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 Chief Operating Officer)

7.1 None.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Head of Legal Services)

8.1 None.

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 There is a requirement within the Council's Constitution for the Audit and Governance Committee to submit an annual report to Council. Failure to submit the record would be a breach of the Constitution.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 Current CIPFA guidance, *Audit Committees, Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police* (2013) states that audit committees should report regularly on their work and at least annually report an assessment of their performance. Aspects to consider include:

- whether the committee has fulfilled its agreed terms of reference
- whether the committee has adopted recommended practice
- whether the development needs of committee members have been assessed and whether committee members are accessing briefing and training opportunities
- whether the committee has assessed its own effectiveness or been the subject of a review and the conclusions and actions from that review
- what impact the committee has on the improvement of governance, risk and control within the authority.

10.2 The requirement to submit an annual report is included within Cheshire East Council's Constitution.

11.0 Access to information

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

Name: Councillor Lesley Smetham

Designation: Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee

Tel No: 01625 426173

Email: lesley.smetham@cheshireeast.gov.uk