

Report of the Chairman of the Performance and Governance committee on the meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009

The committee considered the following items:

- The Annual Inspection Letter – the Council ‘consistently delivered above average improvements in services’ and ‘working from a high base ..... continued to exceed the achievements of other authorities.’ The letter drew attention to two areas – planning and recycling rates (which are not growing as fast as in other authorities).
- Performance monitoring:
  - A review of the committee’s basket of performance indicators.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2008/9 performance. The National planning indicators still showed the Council’s performance in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quartiles.
  - The committee is to review the targets set by officers in September.
- A self-assessment of and the chairman’s annual report on the effectiveness of the committee.
- The annual review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit.
- The annual Internal Audit Report which was approved. Very positive feedback had been received from Dartford Borough Council regarding the delivery of their Audit Plan.
- An internal audit review of the Council’s arrangements for the implementation of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA), Freedom of Information (FOI) and Data Protection Acts (DPA). The first were found to be performing well and the other two adequate.
- A Risk Management update – There were no ‘high risks’ on the net rating of risk. A new source of risk relating to the economic downturn had been added to the Risk Register. New software (Covalent – to replace pbViews) had been purchased incorporating Risk Management as well as Performance Monitoring.
- An update of the Council’s Local Code of Corporate Governance and its Action Plan.
- The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which was agreed.
- The draft Statement of Accounts which was approved as amended.
- An update on investment and the Landesbanki situation. Investment Strategy was revisited and recommendations made to Cabinet. These include removing unrated Building Societies from the lending list and reintroducing within limits lending to nationalised and government majority owned banks.
- Feedback from the Finance Advisory Group.

