

Report of the Chairman of the Performance and Governance committee on the meeting held on 8th September 2009

The committee considered the following items:

- The External Audit Report and the 2008/9 Statement of Accounts which it then approved.
- Internal Audit Report – quarter 1.
- The Place Survey 2008/9 results. The Place Survey replaced the Best Value User Satisfaction Survey and was the Council's prime way of collecting 18 National Performance Indicators (NPIs). The Council is required to collect 33 of 198 NIs. The results of the survey confirmed previously expressed general concern over the relevance and usefulness of the survey. Apart from some apparently contradictory results, one matter of note was a low level of awareness by residents of civil protection arrangements in the area.

Some of the questions in a recent survey by the Council's Residents Panel have mirrored the questions in the Place Survey and a further report will be made to the committee in November.

- Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. The report revealed that of the 283 requests in 2008/9 only around 11% came from identified residents, one third came from undisclosed sources and nearly a half from journalists, media, consultants, businesses and parliamentary researchers. The cost in 2008/9 was estimated at around £20,000.
- The Asset Management Plan.
- The disposal of land at Bonney Way, Swanley. Some members were concerned at the apparently low value of the land (which had been based on the District Valuer's valuation) feeling that an opportunity to realise a beneficial value to the Council may have been missed.
- The transfer of several Amenity sites to Parish Councils and others. There was much debate and the officer's recommendations were amended in some respects. However Cabinet did not accept the committee's suggestions.
- Performance Indicators – quarter 1.
- Budget monitoring figures and feedback from the Finance Advisory Group.
- The Budget process.
- The Council's Financial Strategy. This was agreed with amendments for approval by Cabinet and Council.
- The Annual Treasury Management report. The committee was advised that it was now expected that 83% of the Icelandic bank investment would be returned within the next three years.

