

Report of the Chairman of the Performance and Governance Committee on the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010

The committee welcomed Andy Mack the District Auditor and Richard Smith the Audit Manager, newly appointed by the Audit Commission, as the Council's external auditors. Mr. Mack stated he aimed to take a "no surprise" approach, with a focus on customer service and not act as an imposition. Mr. Mack said he or Mr Smith intended to attend all Performance and Governance Committee meetings but that they clashed with meetings at Tunbridge Wells. There was discussion on the future of the Audit Commission.

The committee also welcomed Steve Brooks, Head of Finance & Human Resources at Dartford Borough Council to the meeting.

The committee then considered the following items:

- **Performance Management:** The second quarter report was noted.
- **Surveillance Policy** – The report of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner was considered and noted. The Commissioner had referred to the Council having a well-structured policy and dedicated officers and was particularly complimentary about the Legal Services Manager. A revised Surveillance Policy was approved for adoption by the Council.
- The second quarter **Internal Audit Progress Report** was noted.
- **Proposals to facilitate efficient working within Shared Services.** With a few amendments these policies and strategies were recommended to Cabinet.
- An update report on **Strategic Risk Management** was noted.
- A **Budget Monitoring** report and update was noted.
- **Financial Strategy 2010-21:** The strategy with suggested changes was recommended to Cabinet and Council.
- **Treasury Management** – An update was noted.
- **Investment Strategy 2011/12:** Issues regarding the basis for limits on investments were clarified and the strategy with suggested changes was recommended to Cabinet and Council.

At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February, in addition to Q3 Performance, Q3 Internal Audit Progress and further Budget monitoring, the committee will have considered:

- the annual Audit Plan,
- the disposal of Minibuses,
- Customer Complaints 2010/11,
- Monitoring Officer's Annual Report,
- Asset Management Plan update, and
- Joint Benefit Fraud Prosecution Policy.