

## **MATTERS REFERRED BY PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AND/OR SELECT COMMITTEES**

- a) Argyle Road Offices, Accommodation for Outside Organisations  
(Performance & Governance Committee – 18 September 2012 – Minute 83)

Members considered the report of the Property Services Manager.

Resolved: That it be RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that capital reserves are used to provide office accommodation for Moat Housing and Kent County Council on the terms and conditions detailed in the report and to such other conditions as the Council's legal advisors consider necessary to protect the Council's interests.

- b) Annual Treasury Management Report 2011-12  
(Performance & Governance Committee – 18 September 2012 – Minute 93)

The report provided the customary review of investment activity during 2011/12 as required by the Council's Financial Procedure Rules. It outlined the strategy adopted during the year, showed the position of the investment portfolio at the beginning and the end of the year and gave details of how the fund performed in comparison with previous years and against various benchmarks.

Resolved: That the Annual Treasury Management Report for 2011/12 be commended to Cabinet.

- c) Universal Credit Scrutiny Board – Final Report  
(Services Select Committee – 25 September 2012 – Minute 17)

The Group Manager – Financial Services, introduced the report. He advised that both he and the Director of Corporate Resources, Deputy Chief Executive, were extremely grateful for the work that the Members' Working Group had carried out, the clarity it had provided and the action plan that it was putting forward. It placed the Council in a strong position going forward in what could only be described as an uncertain period.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Universal Credit in Depth Scrutiny Board gave a comprehensive presentation outlining the background to Universal Credits, the uncertainties, possible consequences and future role of local councils.

The Chairman thanked them for a comprehensive and excellent report. He recommended that the Committee place a review of the Action Plan, if adopted by Cabinet, on the Work Plan for June 2014.

The Leader of the Council was invited to speak by the Chairman, he congratulated the Board on their excellent work and responded to some issues raised. With regards to making work pay he commented that this was the principle of the Universal Credits, however Council Tax Benefit could negate the desired effect. He advised that the issue of whether TUPE should apply was likely to be pursued in the courts. If Cabinet agreed to adoption of the Strategy, he requested that the Board help him present the Strategy to Dartford Borough Council's Cabinet. In response to questioning from the Chairman he

stated that, if adopted, Cabinet would lead on the issue but welcomed support from the Board.

In preparing for the changes Members discussed and it was suggested that the recommendation to partial involvement be made clearer.

A Member pointed out that more would need to be done to improve rural broadband.

The Director of Corporate Resources, Deputy Chief Executive, was grateful to the Universal Credit Scrutiny Board for all the work they had done. It provided the Council with the ability to potentially manage and plan for uncertainties. It appeared it had also gone some way to reassuring staff who were more confident to stay at the Council for the time being.

Members conveyed their thanks to all staff involved especially the Benefits Team for their continued commitment to the Council.

Resolved: That the adoption of the Strategy, subject to the additions discussed, be RECOMMENDED to Cabinet.