

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

24 January 2011

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 AUDIT COMMISSION ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the receipt of the Annual Audit Letter.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Audit Commission is an independent body responsible for ensuring that public money is spent economically, efficiently and effectively, to achieve high-quality local services for the public. They work to ensure that public services are good value for money and that public money is properly spent.

1.1.2 Attached is the Annual Audit Letter. The Letter is the prime means through which the results of audit and performance assessment work are communicated to Members, the public and other stakeholders.

1.2 Annual Audit Letter

1.2.1 The Letter [**Annex 1**] summarises the findings following the audit of the 2009/10 financial statements and the assessment of the arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

1.2.2 In coming to his conclusions, the District Auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the Statement of Accounts and commented on the high standards of the statement and working papers and in value for money the District Auditor commented that the Council has continued to perform strongly across all the areas which he has reviewed, demonstrating excellent financial management, robust governance arrangements and good use of its resources.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 The Audit Letter fulfils the requirement to communicate the results of audit activity to Members, the public and other stakeholders.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 None.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 The work of the District Auditor and staff for the Audit Commission gives an independent and informed opinion of the Council's performance and financial management and is an important component of the Council's accountability to its residents and council taxpayers. The judgements contained in the Letter demonstrate that the Council continues to perform in a manner that befits its status as a high performing Council.

Background papers:

contact: David Hughes

Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive