

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

6 September 2010

Report of the Director of Finance

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 ABOLITION OF THE AUDIT COMMISSION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 As Members will be aware, on 13 August it was announced that the Audit Commission will be abolished in 2012.

1.1.2 We are still awaiting more detailed information about how the work will be carried out in the future, but it is understood that the new regime will see the National Audit Office take on a greater role in defining the framework for local public service auditing with the actual work undertaken by the private sector. Local authorities will tender for their own contracts.

1.2 Letter from Audit Commission

1.2.1 Attached at **[Annex 1]** is a copy letter received from Gareth Davies, Managing Director Local Government & Community Safety, at the Commission on 20 August.

1.2.2 Members will note from the letter that there is no immediate change to the audit arrangements for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council.

1.2.3 Our District Auditor, Andy Mack, will be at the meeting on 6 September to take any questions Members may have.

1.2.4 In a recent e-mail to the Chief Executive and I, Mr Mack gives his assurance that he, Trevor Greenlee (Audit Manager) and the audit team will remain focused on the delivery of our audit for as long as they continue to be in the role. In the difficult circumstances Mr Mack and his colleagues face, I am sure Members will appreciate the professionalism shown.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 Legislation will be required to facilitate the abolition of the Audit Commission as proposed by the Communities Secretary, Mr Pickles.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 The implications of the change in audit arrangements will be seen in due course

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 No issues to report at this stage.

Background papers:

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Nil

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance