

By: David Cockburn, Executive Director, Strategy, Economic Development & ICT

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 30 June 2009

Subject: ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER

Classification: Unrestricted

SUMMARY

This report attaches a copy of the Audit Commission's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Introduction

1.1 This report attaches a copy of the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter issued by the Audit Commission.

2. Status of the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter

2.1 The Annual Audit and Inspection Letter provides an overall summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the authority. It draws on the most recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), the findings and conclusions from the audit of the council for 2007/08 and from any inspections undertaken since the last Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.

2.2 The Annual Audit and Inspection Letter has been prepared by the Audit Commission's CAA Lead for Kent, Claire Bryce-Smith. Her representatives will attend this meeting to present the report and answer any questions.

2.3 It is addressed to Members as it is the responsibility of the council to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for the conduct of its business and that it safeguards and properly accounts for public money. It was presented to Cabinet in April.

2.4 The Annual Audit and Inspection Letter provides an overall summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the council using performance indicators covering the financial year 2007/08 and the Direction of Travel which includes service improvements up to December 2008.

3. Publication

3.1 The Audit Commission is required to publish KCC's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter on its website. KCC has done the same on its website and circulated it to all Members of the County Council on 31 March.

3.2 The report is very positive and your attention is drawn to page 3 of the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter which sets out the key messages and to paragraph 15 on page 6 which is a direct quote from the Direction of Travel statement.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to NOTE the report.

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