

11 October 2012

Members
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Dear Member

Dover District Council Annual Audit Letter 2011/12

I am pleased to submit my Annual Audit Letter which summarises the findings from my 2011/12 audit of Dover District Council.

Financial statements and value for money

On 27 September I presented my Annual Governance Report (AGR) to the Governance Committee outlining the findings of my audit of the Council's 2011/12 financial statements.

The financial statements presented for audit were well prepared. I made a small number of recommendations to improve the quality of future financial statements. The Council has an effective financial planning framework and sound arrangements for financial governance and financial control. It has a good record of delivering its budget and has sustained adequate levels of balances and reserves in 2011/12, despite funding reductions. The Council takes a strategic approach to the prioritisation of resources and achievement of cost reductions through improved efficiency and productivity. It continues to explore suitable opportunities for service efficiencies.

Following the Governance Committee, on 28 September 2012 I:

- issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's 2011/12 financial statements; and
- concluded that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources.

I certified completion of the audit on 5 October 2012 after reviewing the Council's Whole of Government Accounts submission to central government.

Future challenges

The tight financial climate remains a key challenge for the Council over the medium term as it seeks to balance its budgets whilst maintaining service provision and meeting its corporate objectives. Officers and Members demonstrate a good understanding of the significant and rapidly changing financial management challenges and risks facing the organisation and are taking action to secure a stable financial position. The Council has developed detailed savings plans for 2012/13 and is closely monitoring progress on their delivery.

Closing remarks

I have agreed this letter with the Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Housing and Community. This has been another challenging year for all who work in the public sector. I wish to thank the Governance Committee, senior management and the finance team for the positive and constructive approach they have taken to my audit.

Yours sincerely

Darren Wells
District Auditor