

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

26 March 2010

REVIEW OF STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress that has been made in respect of the action plan that was put in place following the review by the Audit Commission of the Council's approach to Strategic Asset Management, and reported to the Committee at its meeting on the 22nd May 2009.

2.0 Description of Decision

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the position in respect of the action plan and the progress that has been made to date.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Committee will recall that at its meeting on the 22nd May 2009 the then Audit Manager, together with a Performance Specialist from the Audit Commission, presented a report into the Council's approach to Strategic Asset Management.
- 3.2 The main conclusions of the report were that the Council was making good progress in developing asset management. The report highlighted that there was a firm corporate basis for asset management, and that there had been some impressive achievements particularly on a partnership basis.
- 3.3 The report went on to say that there was more to be done however and an action plan had been agreed with officers so as to address areas for improvement. The high priority areas were identified as follows;
- An overall assessment of accommodation requirements
 - A strategic review of land acquisition requirements and opportunities

- A comprehensive and robust review of all assets

3.4 Significant progress has been made in respect of these high priority areas. In particular, an overall assessment of accommodation requirements is underway with a view to using office space more efficiently and delivering improved value for money. A land acquisition policy has been agreed by Cabinet and a review of all assets is being undertaken as part of the assessment of accommodation requirements together with individual reviews of the remaining elements of the portfolio.

A copy of the full action plan, and progress to date, is attached to this report.

4.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee;

- Notes the position in respect of the action plan and progress that has been made to date.