

# TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

## MINUTES - FULL COUNCIL

Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells

6.30pm on Wednesday **25 April 2007**

### PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Weeden) (in the Chair)

Councillors Bannister, Miss Barber-Hughes, Barrington-King, Bothwell, Bullock, Bulman, Mrs Cobbold, Crawford, Cunningham, Davies, Fairrie, Dr Hall, Horwood, Howell, Jukes, Mrs Lewis, Marriott, Mayall, Mrs Mayhew, Mills, Neve, Noakes, Mrs North, Ooi, Ms Palmer, Patterson, Mrs Paulson-Ellis, Poile, Ransley, Rusbridge, Scholes, Mrs Slade, Mrs Thomas, Tompsett, Wakefield, Waldock, Ward, Williams, Woodward and Wratten.

### IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive, Ms S Wheeler

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Ekins-Daukes, Gillmore, Jolley, Lockhart, Price, Simmons and Smith.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER

FC71 / 06 Paul Chambers, the Council's Relationship Manager at the Audit Commission, attended the meeting and provided members with a summary of the key issues set out in the Commission's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.

A copy of the Audit Commission's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter (070425/FC001), together with a covering report and recommendations from the Head of Financial and Property Services (Sean Clark), had been circulated to members of the Council in advance of the meeting.

Mr Chambers drew attention to two key messages, namely:

(a) that progress had been made against some of the Council's priorities **but the overall rate of improvement had not kept pace with other districts;**

(b) that good progress was being made in improving the Council's financial management procedures.

In terms of recommended action, members noted that the Council should:

(i) continue to strengthen its performance management system, to ensure a consistency of approach throughout services;

(ii) ensure sufficient resources were deployed to deliver the internal audit plan and provide the necessary assurances for the Council's Statement of Internal Control.

**RESOLVED** – That the key messages from the Audit and Inspection Letter, along with an action plan and progress to date, be referred to the newly-established Audit Committee for consideration and subsequently to the Cabinet with their recommendations.

## Local view

Choose authority  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council reports and data  
Inspection reports  
Corporate Assessment Report

Local government >  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

## Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Comprehensive performance assessment **Weak**

CPA is about helping local councils improve services for their communities. The Commission assesses the performance of councils and the services that they provide for local people. Our assessment helps councils to focus on improvement. The assessment comprises evidence from other external review bodies plus the Commission's judgements.

The way that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is run and the delivery of services has been assessed as **weak** (on the scale excellent/good/fair/weak/poor).

## More information on the assessment

[More details](#) about how the authority is run and individual service performance.

## Latest reports for this council

30 Mar 2006

Inspection reports  
[Progress assessment report](#) -  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

The Council is making only limited progress in addressing the weaknesses identified in its Comprehensive Performance Assessment in 2004, but with encouraging recent signs. Performance is generally improving, though with much work in progress. The ...

9 Feb 2006

Inspection reports  
[Affordable housing](#) -  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is delivering fair affordable housing services. Its planning system is contributing to the delivery of affordable homes and a range of activities are having a positive impact on the prevention of homelessness. ...  
Fair Service | Uncertain prospects for improvement

## External Links:

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council  
[Tunbridge Wells Borough Council annual audit letter 2004/05](#)



Annual audit letter  
275 Kb\*  
41 secs



Annual audit letter  
320 Kb\*  
47 secs

## Other district and borough councils in the County of Kent:

Ashford Borough Council  
Canterbury City Council  
Dartford Borough Council  
Dover District Council  
Gravesham Borough Council  
Maidstone Borough Council  
Sevenoaks District Council  
Shepway District Council  
Swale Borough Council  
Thanet District Council  
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

## See your Area Profile:

The Area Profiles website includes data to help understand the quality of life and public services in a local area.  
[Find out more about this area](#)

## Local Audit Commission contacts:

[Auditors' directory](#)  
Find the appointed auditor for this authority

[Relationship Managers](#)  
Find the relationship manager for this authority.

23 June 2005  
Inspection reports  
[Progress assessment report](#) -  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has begun to tackle a demanding agenda in response to the 2004 CPA report. It is better placed than it was eight months ago, but the council has only made limited progress. It is however implementing radical ...

6 Oct 2003  
Performance plans  
[BVPP: Tunbridge Wells Borough Council](#) -  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

14 Mar 2003  
Inspection reports  
[Development Control Service](#) -  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Overall there are more positive elements to the Service than negative ones. However, whilst the speed of making decisions is getting better it is still not meeting Government targets. Planning costs for the Service compare poorly with others. The ...  
Fair Service | Uncertain prospects for improvement

10 Jun 2002  
Inspection reports  
[Leisure Services](#) -  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Fair Service | Promising prospects for improvement

19 Dec 2000  
Inspection reports  
[Waste Management and Street Cleansing](#) -  
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Good Service | Poor prospects for improvement

=====  
2006  
**30 Mar 2006 – Inspection report – Progress assessment report**  
<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/aal/data2006/108600.pdf>

2004  
**22 July 2004 – Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)**  
July 2004 Inspection report  
<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/Products/CPA-DISTRICT-REPORT/07F476A9-2959-4043-A8D6-9715968EC003/TunbridgeWellsBCPA22July04rep.pdf>

2000-2006  
**Tunbridge Wells Borough Council – CPA – Inspection reports**  
<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk>