

## **Portfolio Holder Priority Statement Councillor Sherreard, Cabinet Member for Environment**

### Introduction

I am looking forward to the challenges of being a Cabinet Member, particularly in light of being responsible for such important service areas for the Council. I recognise the value of overview and scrutiny having previously been a scrutiny chairmen and I look forward to the results of the scrutiny review on using the Sustainable Communities Act to address air quality through low emission zones. In 2010-11, I will be reviewing those services we directly provide to ensure they provide the best value for money for residents. I will be concentrating on increasing park and ride take up and other measures to reduce congestion in our town centre. I will be overseeing the implementation of the air quality action plan and maintaining the annual 3% reduction in carbon emissions from council operations. One of my key areas of focus will be encouraging residents to reduce their waste and I will be considering the waste and recycling service. The Council has successfully applied to be a part of the Carbon Trust's Carbon Reduction Plan. This is good opportunity for the Council to lead the way in Carbon reduction, not just for Maidstone, but across Kent and I look forward to Scrutiny making a contribution to the plan.

### Areas of Responsibility

- Highways
- Parking
- Public Transport
- Waste Collection
- Cleansing
- Environmental Health
- Climate Change and Sustainability
- Public Conveniences

### Portfolio Priorities for 2010-11

- Reduce traffic congestion and support economic growth through the development of a sustainable transport strategy
- Maintain a clean and pleasant environment for people who live in and visit the borough
- Reduce carbon emissions across the borough and improve air quality
- Reduce the Council's carbon footprint and improve the use of other natural resources, whilst ensuring the Council is planning to adapt to climate change
- Reduce the amount of waste produced by local people and increase the proportion of waste reused or recycled