

**Maidstone Borough Council**

**Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Tuesday 5 October 2010**

**Green ICT Policy Discussion Paper**

**Report of:** Performance & Scrutiny Officer

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 6 July 2010, the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered its future work programme and noted that the Head of IT Services was producing a Green IT policy and agreed to add it to its work programme. The relevant extract of the minutes of the meeting is as follows:

*"The Overview and Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that the IT Manager had asked the Committee if it would be interested in being involved in the production of the Green IT policy. The Committee agreed it was an important piece of work and resolved to be involved at the preliminary stages of its production".*

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the Green ICT Policy Discussion Paper and interview the Head of IT Services, Dave Lindsay and the EMS Project Manager, Jennifer Hunt with regard to Green ICT.
- 2.2 Areas of questioning could include but are not limited to:
- Best Practice;
  - Timescales for progressing the Greening Government ICT Strategy;
  - Potential savings in energy costs;
  - Innovative technology; and
  - Is there more that the Council could do in this area?

**3. Green ICT Discussion Policy**

- 3.1 As pressure continues to grow on companies and individuals to act more responsibly with regard to the environment and reduce their environmental impact on the Planet and its natural resources, Government legislation and International Law will continue to tighten.

3.2 Green computing or Green IT is defined as "the study and practice of designing, manufacturing, using, and disposing of computers, servers, and associated subsystems—such as monitors, printers, storage devices, and networking and communications systems—efficiently and effectively with minimal or no impact on the environment".

#### **4. Impact on Corporate Objectives**

4.1 Green IT relates to the Council's priority of Clean and Green and the key objective to 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.