
OVERVIEW OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under my Resource Management Portfolio :-
 - (a) **Sickness Absence Review Group Final Report** – Cabinet have considered the recommendations of the Resources Scrutiny Committee in relation to the levels of sickness absence within the Authority. We have been reassured by the Director of Corporate Services that the management of sickness is seen as a key corporate priority and that Managers are held accountable for this as part of the Performance Development Review. The management practices are continuing to be refined and improved upon to address the situation and Officers are currently refocusing our occupational health services to deliver maximum impact in reducing sickness absence levels.
 - (b) **Corporate Equalities Plan and Review Document** – We have endorsed the Corporate Equalities Plan and Review document and forwarded it to Council for approval. It is necessary to approve this document in order to obtain Level 2 of the Equality Standard for Local Government.
 - (c) **Audit Services – Annual Plan 2004/05 and Amended Terms of Reference** – In accordance with the Council’s Corporate Governance arrangements, we have also approved the Audit Services’ Audit Plan for 2004/05 and agreed to the amended terms of reference.
 - (d) **Implementing Electronic Government** – We have agreed to release £350,000 of capital funds awarded to the Council for the successfully producing a suitable Implementing Electronic Government 2003 (IEG3) Statement. The funds will be used to complete the website project, the implementation of the Access to Services Best Value Review and the achievement of the Government’s priority services.
 - (e) **Work Placements for Pupils** – The Work Experience Co-ordinator of Durham Business and Learning Partnership has been authorised to contract with employers on behalf of this Council , in relation to work experience placements for pupils at Darlington Schools.

2. Other areas which might be of interest are :-
 - (a) **Revenue Budget Management – Monthly Monitoring Report** – Each Director presented to Cabinet projected expenditure for the year compared with approved

budgets.

- (b) **Capital Programme – Monthly Monitoring Report** – We have considered the current position of the spending and resource levels of the 2002/03 Capital Programme. The Capital Programme is on target with no significant variances.
- (c) **Discretionary Rate Relief** – We have granted discretionary rate relief to a charitable and non-profit making organisation in respect of its premises at the 2nd floor Offices, No. 1 Houndgate.
- (d) **Financial Assistance 2004/05** – A number of charitable and non-profit making organisations and individuals have been successful if receiving financial assistance.
- (e) **Schedule of Transactions** - A number of transactions, provisionally made by the Director of Development and Environment, have been approved.
- (f) **Land at Banks Road, McMullen Road Trading Estate** – Following a request from the tenant and to achieve a capital receipt for the Council, we have agreed to dispose of the Council's freehold interest in land at Banks Road to City Centre Training (Northern) Limited.
- (g) **Contracts Undertaken for External Clients in 2003/04** - Details have been supplied on work undertaken for external clients by the Department of Community Services during 2002/03.
- (h) **Chief Executive – Performance Appraisal** – We have received the Appraisal Sub-Group's recommendations in relation to the Chief Executive's performance appraisal. The appraisal has been satisfactorily undertaken and there are no issues which need to be discussed in more detail.
- (i) **Land Adjacent to Burdon Hall Lodge** – We have agreed to a request from Burdon Hall Residents Limited to purchase approximately 760 square metre of highway land adjacent to Burdon Hall Lodge to enable them to realign their entrance and improve security.

Councillor Don Bristow
Cabinet Member with Resource Management Portfolio