
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) **Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan** – We have recommended to Council that the Capital Strategy and the Asset Management Plan be approved. Both of these documents will provide the Council with guidance to follow when capital investment and asset management decisions are being made.
 - (b) **Local Government Finance Distribution Formula – Consultation Paper** – We have responded to the Government’s consultation document on the review of the distribution mechanism for Local Government Finance. The full response is contained in Appendix A to the Cabinet report considered at our meeting on 27th September, 2005, and has been formulated to maximise the available financial resources of the Council.
 - (c) **Audit of Accounts 2004/05** – We have received PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the Council’s external auditors, report on issues raised by the Audit of this Council’s 2004/05 accounts. The issues contained in the Auditors’ report do not affect the Council’s financial standing or materially affect the Statement of Accounts therefore we have noted the report and have agreed not to adjust the accounts.

2. Other areas which might be of interest are :-
 - (a) **Irrecoverable Sundry Debts – Proposed Write-Off** – We have agreed to write-off sundry debtor arrears in respect of invoices with individual values greater than £500, that are considered to be irrecoverable. The total arrears for the financial year 2004/05 are £61,830.35.
 - (b) **Schedule of Transactions** - A number of transactions, provisionally made by the Director of Development and Environment, have been approved.
 - (c) **Town Farm, Sadberge** – We have agreed to dispose of ten square metres of land at Town Farm, Sadberge and to licence a further 18 square metres. We have also regularised ownership on this site.
 - (d) **Commercial Street** – We have negotiated terms in respect of the proposed development of the Council’s land at Commercial and Kendrew Street with Discovery Properties Limited.

- (e) **Skerne Park Extended School Project** – A lease of accommodation has been granted to the Skerne Park Community Enterprise Association for the provision of a neighbourhood nursery at the new Skerne Park School.
- (f) **43 Kielder Drive, 134 Parkside and 77 Geneva Road** – Subject to planning permission being obtained, we have agreed to dispose of the Council’s freehold interest in approximately 128 square metres of land immediately to the south of 43 Kielder Drive, 63.2 square metres of land to the rear of 134 Parkside and 118.5 square metres of land to the south of 77 Geneva Road.
- (g) **Revenue and Capital Out-Turn** – We have received the Capital and Revenue out-turn positions for 2004/05. In relation to the Revenue account, the overall results for 2004/05 are very satisfactory, with the Council’s financial position being further improved by these out-turn results. In relation to the Capital out-turn, a balanced programme has been achieved with a wide variety of capital improvements undertaken throughout the Borough during 2004/05.
- (h) **Revenue Budget Management – Monthly Monitoring Report** – Each Director presented to Cabinet projected expenditure for the year compared with approved budgets.
- (i) **Capital Programme – Monthly Monitoring Report** – We have considered the current position of the spending and resource levels of the Capital Programme.
- (j) **Land at McMullen Road** – We have disposed of an area of land at McMullen Road to S.G. Petch Limited to enable them to provide secure parking.
- (k) **Faverdale East Business Park** – The Council has exchanged contracts with preferred developer, Easter Developments Limited in Gateshead, to bring forward approximately 9 acres of land comprising 175,000 sq ft of industrial premises. The Council will be working together with Easter Developments upon a joint marketing campaign to promote Faverdale East Business Park, co-financed with £20,000 of European Regional Development Funding. The site was brought forward with external funding from the Single Programme (£1.2m) European Regional Development Fund (£529,000) and the Council (£227,000).
- (l) **East Street Car Park** – Works to open up the upper deck of the car park were recently completed and the car park is now being operated by the Car Parks section of Development and Environment.
- (m) **The Grange Baptist Church** – In order to provide day care facilities for the Learning Disability Service we gave authority to enter into a five year lease of accommodation at the Grange Baptist Church in order to maximise the potential of local community based resources.

Councillor Don Bristow
Cabinet Member with Resource Management Portfolio

