
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) **Audit Services' Annual Report 2004/05** – We have received the Audit Services' Annual report for 2004/05 in accordance with Audit Services' role and terms of reference. It is pleasing to report that, in terms of performance, the position is again extremely positive with all targets and objectives for the year being met. The section also gained the maximum score of 4 from External Audit using the Audit Commission's methodology set out in 'Comprehensive Performance Assessment Indicators – Auditor's Judgements'.
 - (b) **Proposed Write-off of Irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax** – To enable the Council's accounts to be maintained in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, we have agreed to write-off non-domestic rate (NDR) arrears of £100,234.07 and Council Tax arrears of £36,162.52. All recovery procedures were implemented and further action will be taken if and when future contacts are made. The Council has a good record of Council Tax and NDR collection, generally achieving approximately 99% collection, which compares favourably with similar authorities. In 2004-05, £30M of Council Tax and £25M of NDR was collected.
 - (c) **Capital Programme 2005/06 – Implementing Electronic Government** – We have released funding, awarded to this Council for producing a suitable Implementing E-Government 2004 Statement, to enable this Council to deliver the priority services as identified by the government.

2. Another area which might be of interest is :-
 - (a) **Schedule of Transactions** - A number of transactions, provisionally made by the Director of Development and Environment, have been approved:
 - (b) **Faverdale Phase 2 – Argos Distribution Warehouse** – Practical completion of the 740,000 ft² warehouse took place on 8 July and transfer of ownership of the site to Argos was scheduled for 18 July. The project was delivered on time and all parties involved have worked extremely hard to ensure the success of this prestigious development for Darlington.

Councillor Don Bristow
Cabinet Member with Resource Management Portfolio

