
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) **Draft Procurement Strategy** – We have recommended to Council that it adopts the revised Procurement Strategy, to ensure that the Council meets the milestones of the National Procurement Strategy and the IEG3 Directive.
 - (b) **Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan** – We have also recommended that the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan be adopted by Council.
 - (c) **Audit of Accounts – 2003/04** – We have considered the issues raised by the Council’s Auditors (PriceWaterhouseCoopers) during the audit of the Council’s 2003/04 accounts. The issues raised do not affect the Council’s financial standing and do not materially affect the Statement of Accounts that has been previously approved by Council on 22nd July, 2004.
 - (d) **Revenue and Capital Medium-Term Financial Plans, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2005/06 – timetable** – In order to comply with statutory and local requirements and established good practice, we have agreed the timetable for the Revenue and Capital Medium Term Financial Plans 2005/06 to 2008/09, the Revenue Budget, Council Tax and Housing Revenue Account 2005/06.
 - (e) **Local Authorities Business Rates Growth Incentives** – We have also issued a response to the Government in respect of its second round of consultation on Local Authorities Business Rates Growth Incentives. The stated objectives of the proposed scheme are worthy of support and the proposals that are the subject of the current consultation have been developed largely in line with this Council’s preferences that were included in the response to the first round of consultation.
 - (f) **Commercial Street Site** – In accordance with the Council’s Town Centre Development Strategy, we have agreed to market Council-owned land at Commercial Street and Kendrew Street, to obtain expressions of interest from developers wishing to progress a shopping centre development. If necessary, the Council will also use its compulsory purchase powers to develop the site in accordance with the Strategy.

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** – In accordance with existing policy we have granted discretionary rate relief to a number of charitable and non-profit making organisations.
- (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 adjacent to 33 Church Row, Hurworth** – We have granted the right of access across Council-owned land at Church Row, Hurworth to the adjacent land owner to enable a private dwelling to be constructed in the garden of their grounds.
- (g) **Land at Back Greenwell Street** – Following a request, an area of Council-owned land at the back of Greenwell Street has been disposed of.
- (h) **Land at Banks Road** – We have disposed of the Council’s freehold interest in approximately 250 square metres of land off Banks Road, McMullen Road Trading Estate.
- (i) **Faverdale Phase 2** – The disposal to Argos Limited of 20 ha (48 acres) or thereabouts at Faverdale East Business Park Phase 2 was exchanged on 16 September and construction work is now well underway. Completion anticipated for early summer 2005.

Councillor Don Bristow
Cabinet Member with Resource Management Portfolio