

---

**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) **Procurement** – The Resources Scrutiny Committee have undertaken some work in relation to the development of procurement within the Authority. Some Members of the Scrutiny Committee have visited a number of authorities awarded Beacon status for delivering Quality Services through Procurement in 2006/07 to seek information and establish areas of best practice. The information which the Members obtained from these visits has been extremely helpful and I would like to place on record my thanks to those Members who undertook these visits. Cabinet approved the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and an implementation plan for the development of Procurement within the Authority is now being undertaken by Officers and this will be presented to the Resources Scrutiny Committee and to Cabinet in due course.
  - (b) **South Park Pavilion** - Members may recall that when the Council granted planning permission for the development of land at Geneva Road/Geneva Lane, the developers of the site, Wimpeys, were required, under a Section 106 Agreement, to make a financial contribution to the Council to secure the provision of a new pavilion at South Park and sports facilities in other open locations within the Borough. We have now agreed to release this funding, together with funding from the 2006/07 Capital Programme from the reconfiguration of the Learning Disability Service, to enable the Council to build a sports pavilion with additional facilities, that will be utilised by local sports teams and adults with learning difficulties to enable them to engage in positive activity, particularly around arts and crafts and to enable them to be involved in the park itself. The Youth Service will also be providing a ‘drop in’ facility within the building for Youth Workers to engage with young people who hang around in the Park.
  - (c) **Commercial Street – Compulsory Purchase Order** – Subject to the necessary legal requirements being met and the costs of any action being funded by the developer, we have agreed, in principle, that, if necessary, we will use the compulsory purchase powers we have to achieve the Commercial Street development. If it is necessary to use these Powers, we will be considering the legal and financial implications and the specific land interests involved further. In addition, we have also agreed to the developer establishing a Limited Partnership company to carry out the development of Commercial Street and given approval to the inclusion of an additional small area of Council-owned land into the Development Agreement.
  - (d) **Local Public Service Agreement – Final Report** – We have received information on the Council’s achievements against targets, as agreed as part of the Local Public Service Agreement (LSPA) for Darlington. The LSPA is a three-year Agreement

between the Local Authority, its partners and Central Government, with a view to improving performance across key national and local priority areas by stretching current published targets, with a performance reward grant being paid for each stretched target achieved. Against these targets, it is pleasing to report that Darlington has achieved 65.8 per cent of the available award grant.

- (e) **Darlington and Stockton Partnership** – Members will be aware that since 2005, Officers have been working on the Darlington and Stockton Partnership and we have now received further information on the detailed design work which is being undertaken to look into the potential for joint working between the two authorities. It is anticipated that gross efficiencies, to be shared between both Councils, of £7.16 million over 10 years will be achieved and to demonstrate our on-going commitment for the proposals, we have given our approval to the signing of a Statement of Intent to deliver the Partnership.
- (f) **Combined Financial and Service Performance** - We have received a report combining financial and service performance for the Council for the period April to December 2006, and it is pleasing to report that, overall the Council is on target for service performance and efficiency gains. In relation to the financial performance, the budget is projected to be overspent by £0.012 million and further work is being done by the Officers to reduce this overspend.

2. Other areas which might be of interest are :-

- (a) **Risk Management Strategy** – The Council’s Risk Management Strategy has been refreshed and updated.
- (b) **Capital Programme - Quarterly Monitoring Report – December 2006** – We have considered the current position of the spending and resource levels of the Capital Programme.
- (c) **Scargill Court, Lascelles Park** – Authority has been given to negotiate with the two holders of the current long leases on the Scargill Court parade of shops and the adjacent Lascelles Park Public House, to facilitate a scheme for the re-development of the land.
- (d) **Schedule of Transactions** - A number of transactions, provisionally made by the Director of Development and Environment, have been approved.

**Councillor Don Bristow**  
**Cabinet Member with Resource Management Portfolio**