
OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under my Resources Portfolio:
 - (a) **Contract Procedure Rules** - The Council's contract procedure rules have not been revised since the new political management arrangements were adopted in 2000. Since then, there have been significant changes within local government procurement and much good work to review this area has been carried out by Resources Scrutiny Committee. The rules considered by Cabinet have been revised to achieve the following objectives: to enhance value for money in procurement; to become more proactive in procurement; and to enhance members' role in procurement. This report was considered at Special Council on 28th February.
 - (b) **Corporate Information Governance Policy** – To enhance the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements, Cabinet approved a Corporate Information Governance Policy. Information governance covers all components of information management and the policy establishes a framework to address the requirements that the law, ethics and policy place upon information management and processing and will ensure the systematic adoption of information management principles which are at the core of the Council's operations and service delivery. A cross-departmental Corporate Information Governance Group will implement the Policy and its outputs and a progress report will be submitted to the Audit Committee on a six-monthly basis.
 - (c) **Capital Programme Monitoring Report – December 2007** - We have considered the current position of the spending and resource levels of the Capital Programme.
 - (d) **Prudential Indicators And Treasury Management Strategy Report 2008/09** - This report set out the proposed capital expenditure, borrowing and investment activity for 2008/09 to 2010/11. The report contained Prudential Indicators that relate to capital expenditure and borrowing. Other statistics relating to treasury management were also included. This report was considered at Special Council on 28th February
 - (e) **Darlington and Stockton Partnership** - Excellent progress is being made to deliver this project. The planned "go live" date is 1st May, 2008. All recruitment to the partnership has now taken place and other key milestones are being hit to ensure the "go live" date is achieved.
 - (f) **Risk Management** - Darlington Borough Council has been shortlisted within two categories of the StrategicRISK European Risk Management Awards 2008.

The StrategicRISK European Risk Management Awards are open to both private and

public sector organisations and Darlington is one of only seven Local Authorities who have been shortlisted within the 14 different risk categories. The shortlistings are for :-

Best Loss Control Strategy	For developing our successful corporate approach to managing property risk within the Authority. We have been shortlisted with AZ Electronic Materials and Nestle
Best Risk Communication of the Year	For the pro-active work undertaken within the 'Let's Get Cracking' Initiative. Shortlisted with Essex County Council.

The results of the awards will be announced in April. In 2007, the Council's approach to Risk Management led to three other awards as set out below :-

Local Government Chronicle Finance Awards - Finalists

ALARM Awards - Highly Commended

StrategicRISK European Risk Management Awards - Highly Commended

2. I have attended the following meetings in respect of my Resource Management Portfolio:
- (a) Various briefings with Directors and Assistant Directors
 - (b) Various Tender Panels and Tender Openings
 - (c) Community Grants – 15th February
 - (d) Darlington and Stockton Partnership Panel – 26th March

Councillor Stephen Harker
Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio