
OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last ordinary meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work the Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-
 - (a) **Corporate Services Departmental Service Plan** – We have considered and commented on the Corporate Services Departmental Plan for 2005/06. The vision of the Plan is ‘To establish the Department as a market leader to respond to the challenges of the next five years’ and Paul Wildsmith attended our meeting to outline the initiatives and proposals to achieve this.
 - (b) **Corporate and Best Value Performance Plan 2005/06** – We have also had the opportunity to input into the development of the Corporate and Best Value Performance Plan for 2005/06. As you will be aware we are required to publish a Best Value Performance plan by the 30th June each year and work on this year’s document is now well advanced and comments we have made in previous years have again been incorporated. The Committee will, once drafting of the 2005/06 document is complete, be considering the document at a special meeting.
 - (c) **Work Programme 200/06** – The work programme for the Scrutiny Committee for the next Municipal Year has been agreed and our major reviews for 2005/06 will be Gershon and Community and Voluntary Sector funding. We will obviously also be heavily involved in considering and monitoring the Council’s financial plans as part of our work programme.
 - (d) **Girobanking Review** – As Members will be aware, in 2001, the Council agreed to introduce Girobanking for the payment of local taxation, housing rents and other appropriate services. As it has been a number of years since its introduction, we felt it was appropriate to review its effectiveness and, to do this, we established a task and finish review group. As part of the review, we included a survey in the Town Crier to ascertain how Darlington residents pay their rent and Council Tax. The response to the survey was very good and showed that overall, residents are happy with the service they receive from the Council for either of the five different payment methods available to them. All those who completed the survey were given the opportunity to be entered into a free prize draw and I presented the winners with their prizes at a presentation held at the Town Hall. The contract for the service is due for renewal and a full tendering process will be undertaken.

I, as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, have also had various discussions with Officers on matters within the remit of the resources Scrutiny Committee and have questioned a number of items on the Forward Plan.

Councillor Ian Haszeldine
Chair Resources Scrutiny Committee