
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) **Medium-Term Financial Plan** - At a special meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 8th February, 2006, we considered a number of issues referred to us by Cabinet in relation to the Revenue and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2006/07 – 2009/10 and the Prudential Indicators and Treasury Strategy Report 2006/07. A number of questions surrounding all those areas were asked of the Officers and detailed responses were given.
 - (b) **Corporate Governance** - As part of the Monitoring role of the Scrutiny Committee, we have considered the progress on the application of the Local Code of Corporate Governance within the Authority. It is pleasing to be able to report that this Council's Auditors, PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC), have recognised the Local Code as a key management tool for strengthening and improving the Council's corporate governance arrangements and the Annual Audit and Inspection letter for 2005, produced jointly by PWC and the Audit Commission have stated that Corporate Governance arrangements within the Authority are strong, systems of risk management are well embedded and internal controls operate effectively. Further information about Corporate Governance is available on the Council's Intranet.
 - (c) **Supported Bus Service Budget and review of the Local Education Authority Funding** – Following a request by a Member of the Resources Scrutiny Committee for further financial information in respect of the supported bus service and the Local Education Authority's funding, Officers attended our meeting and answered Members' questions. Following these responses, no further action in respect of these areas is needed.
 - (d) **Sickness Absence Review Group** – This Group has continued to meet and it is pleasing to report that, in relation to sickness absence, the Council's projected out-turn for the end of the financial year 2005/06 is 9.49 days and within the target set of 9.5 days. The figures are encouraging and show good sustained improvement and we thank the Members of the Task and Finish Review Group and the Head of Human Resource Management and her staff for all their hard efforts in reducing the level of sickness absence within the Authority.
 - (e) **Efficiency Review Group** – This Group, which includes all Members of the Scrutiny Committee, continues to meet and monitor the progress in achieving the savings

required by the Gershon review. The work of this Review Group will continue into the next Municipal Year.

I, as Chair, have continued to have various meetings with Officers and have pursued a number of issues raised with me, by Members of the Scrutiny Committee, and reported the responses back to them accordingly.

Councillor Ian Haszeldine
Chair Resources Scrutiny Committee