
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) **Comprehensive Performance Assessment** – We have had the opportunity, at a special meeting, to comment on this Council’s Comprehensive Performance Assessment Self Assessment Document prior to its submission to the Audit Commission.
 - (b) **Corporate Governance** – As part of our monitoring role we have again looked at this Council’s Local Code of Corporate Governance. It is pleasing to report the large number of hits on the Council’s Corporate Governance Home page and the 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. Although there are some further actions for improvements, progress has been made in most areas. We have recommended to Cabinet that Project Management and Neighbourhood Renewal templates be included in the Local Code.
 - (c) **Treasury Management Annual Report and Actual Prudential Indicators 2004/05** - We have received a report on the actual Prudential Indicators for 2004/05, in accordance with the requirement of the Prudential Code and noted the Treasury Management Annual Report from 2004/05, as required by the Council’s reporting procedures.
 - (d) **Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring – May 2005** – We have had the opportunity to comment on both of these monitoring reports for the period May 2005.
 - (e) **Revenue and Capital Programme Outturn- 2004/05** – We have also had the opportunity to comment on both of these out-turn reports. The overall revenue budget results for 2004/05 were satisfactory and the Council’s financial position is further improved by the out-turn reports. Total capital spend incurred during 2004/05 was £29,864 million and overall a balanced programme had been achieved with a wide variety of Capital improvements undertaken throughout the Borough during 2004/05.
 - (f) **Work Programme 2005/06** – At the last meeting of our Scrutiny Committee held on 18th August, 2005, we agreed to invite the Director of Development and Environment to our next meeting to discuss various issues within his remit.
 - (g) **Sickness Absence Task and Finish Review** – Our Task and Finish Review Group has met again to look at the current position in relation to sickness absence within the

Authority. It is pleasing to report that the figures for the financial year 2004/05 were very pleasing with the number of working days/shifts lost due to sickness absence per full time equivalent being 9.93, a decrease of 1.26 days compared to the last financial year and under target by 0.54 days.

- (h) Efficiency Review Group** – We have held the first meeting of the Review Group and received a presentation from Officers on what this Council is doing to meet the requirements of the Review and how it will impact on the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process in the future. The Review Group will continue to meet throughout 2005/06 to monitor the progress of planned efficiency gains at regular intervals.
- (i) Community and Voluntary Sector Funding** – We have also held the first meeting of the Review group to look into community and voluntary sector funding and received a presentation from the Officers on the work already undertaken in relation to this and the outcome of that review. The next stage of the review is to look at the compacts and establish formal terms of reference.
- (j) Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan** – Members of the Resources Scrutiny Committee have undertaken a site visit to see some of this Council’s assets as part of its consideration of the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan. Further information about the Council’s assets will be submitted to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

I, as Chair, have also had discussions and meetings with various Officers about the work of the Committee.

Councillor Ian Haszeldine
Chair Resources Scrutiny Committee