
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) **Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy – Progress Report** – Progress, since April 2005 on the delivery of the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy has been monitored. As you are aware the purpose of the Strategy is to reverse the spiral of decline in the eleven priority Wards in Darlington and, overall, good progress has been made in taking forward the Action Plan.
 - (b) **Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monthly Monitoring** – We have monitored and raised questions on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme monthly monitoring reports for September 2005. In considering the Capital Programme report we discussed the need for schemes, undertaken under the programme to be project managed well, and it is our intention to review a project, perhaps the Kajima project, once the Education Village is completed, to ascertain what lessons, if any, can be learnt for the future.
 - (c) **Efficiency Review Group** – A meeting of the Efficiency Review Group was held on 18th January, 2006, and further information about the progress made by this Group will be reported to the next meeting of Council.
 - (d) **Sickness Absence** – As Members will be aware, the Resources Scrutiny Committee closely monitors sickness absence levels within the Authority and a meeting of the Review Group to consider the most recent statistics will be held on 6th February, 2006.
 - (e) **Prudential Borrowing** – We have also considered the Prudential Indicators and the Treasury Management Half- yearly report.

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