
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) **Procurement** – Our work in relation to Procurement is still on-going and for the next part of our review, we are going to visit some authorities awarded Beacon Status for Delivering Quality Services through Procurement in 2006/07 to obtain some information on best practice.
 - (b) **Sickness Absence Statistics** – Members will recall that, over the last few years, we, as a Scrutiny Committee, have done a lot of work in relation to sickness absence within the Council. We are continuing to monitor this area and it is pleasing to report that the number of days/shifts lost due to sickness absence per full time equivalent for the financial year 2005/06 was 9.69 days, which represents a continued trend of decrease in sickness absence and a reduction of 13.5 per cent since 2003/04. The decrease in trend is due to a proactive management of sickness absence and the work undertaken by the Head of Human Resource Management and her staff and Managers within the Council.
 - (c) **ICT Strategy** – We have monitored the progress against the Council’s ICT Strategy, and received information on the current financial year’s ICT Project Plans and the monitoring and reporting processes in place. The presentation we received was very informative and advised us of a major review of the ICT Strategy which is currently being undertaken to reflect the changes in the Council’s Project Management approach; technology changes; the Government’s Transformational Government Strategy; organisational restructures and partnership opportunities.
 - (d) **Revenue and Capital Programme Out-turn 2005/06** – Further monitoring has been undertaken in relation to the Revenue Out-turn and the Capital Programme Out-turn for 2005/06. The overall financial results for 2005/06 are satisfactory, with corporate reserves being £0.010 million better than the agreed Medium-term Financial Plan and departmental reserves being £0.364 better than the Medium-Term Financial Plan. In relation to the Capital Programme, overall, a balanced programme has been achieved with a wide variety of capital improvements undertaken during 2005/06.
 - (e) **Treasury Management Annual Report and Actual Prudential Indicators 2005/06** – We have received the Council’s Treasury Management Annual Report and Actual Prudential Indicators for 2005/06.

- (f) **Efficiency Review Group** – This is another of our on-going Reviews, and we are continuing to monitor the projected efficiency gains.
- (g) **Community and Voluntary Sector Funding Review Group** – We have undertaken some work in relation to community and voluntary sector funding over the past year. However, as an Officer Group has now been established to look into this, we have agreed to suspend our work pending the outcome of that review. The Review Group will meet again once the final report of the Officers Group has been prepared.
- (h) **Waste Management** – A special Joint meeting of the Resources and the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee has been held to consider the most appropriate way to develop the Council’s Waste Management service to achieve an affordable solution to the increasing costs of waste treatment and disposal and to improve our position within the national performance framework for waste management. Following a presentation by the Assistant Director of Public Protection, we have agreed to support the proposed procurement of a new contract for the 11-year period from 2009 until 2020, subject to the termination of the existing contract.
- (i) **Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan** – As in previous years we have considered and advised Cabinet that we support the Council’s Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan. Members have also visited some of this Council’s assets and we will, as part of our work programme, be receiving further information from Officers on all the Council’s assets at a future meeting.

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