
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) **Work Programme 2006/07 – (1) Procurement Review Group** - Work is continuing to be undertaken by the Procurement Review Group. Some Members of the Group have visited authorities who have received Beacon Status for delivering quality services through Procurement and these visits have proved extremely worthwhile and beneficial. A report on the outcome of the findings will be considered at our next meeting on 14th December, 2006.

(2) Community and Voluntary Sector Funding - The work we were doing in relation to Community and Voluntary Sector funding was suspended pending the outcome of a review being undertaken by Officers. It is envisaged that the Officers' report will be submitted to Cabinet at its meeting scheduled for 5th December, 2006, and the Resources Scrutiny Committee will be considering it, prior to its submission to Cabinet, if appropriate.
 - (b) **Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan** – In preparation for the Council's next Comprehensive Performance Assessment, we have received a presentation from the Assistant Chief Executive on the Community Strategy and the Best Value Performance Plan. Further work will be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee on how the Scrutiny process will be included in that assessment.
 - (c) **Chief Executive's Office – Half-yearly Performance 2006/07** – Progress on half-yearly performance of the Chief Executive's Office Service Plan for 2006/07 has been monitored and it is pleasing to report that the Chief Executive's Office generally shows good performance at the six-monthly reporting stage. The Officers have advised that, for those areas where performance is below target, corrective action will be taken to ensure achievement by the end of the financial year.
 - (d) **Pedestrian Heart** – Following the decision by Council at its meeting held on 28th September, 2006, requesting the Resources Scrutiny Committee to look into the Pedestrian Heart project to date and to give an oversight to a review of future capital project management, we have established a Review Group, comprising all Members of the Scrutiny Committee, to investigate the issues as directed and have agreed terms of reference for the first stage of that Review.

- (e) **Corporate Services Service Plan 2006/07** – We have monitored progress, to date, in respect of the Corporate Services Department’s performance targets. The Department is making good progress in respect of its own service objectives and priorities for improvement and is making a positive contribution to the aims and objectives of the Corporate Plan.
- (f) **Capital Programme and Revenue Budget Monitoring – July 06** – We have monitored and raised questions on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme monthly monitoring reports for July 2006.
- (g) **Efficiency Review Group** – We had a very interesting and informative meeting of the Efficiency Review Group, where we received information on how the efficiency gains, both planned and projected in 2006/07, were being used. The total value of the efficiency gains projected to be achieved in 2006/07 are £1.818 million, which comprise cashable gains identified as part of the 2006/07 revenue budget, gains identified since the budget setting process and non-cashable gains. We also considered how the resources have been allocated into either the corporate pot or departmentally to offset other unforeseen budget pressures or for specific initiatives or developments.

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