
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) **Sickness Absence** – As Members might be aware, the Resources Scrutiny Committee closely monitors the Authority’s sickness absence statistics. At our meeting held on 22nd June, 2007, we received the figures for the period April 2006 to March 2007 and it is disappointing to report that they show an increase of 1.06 days compared to the previous financial year. As part of our work during 2007/08, we will be ensuring that Directors and Senior Managers are adhering to the Sickness Absence Policies and Procedures and that pro-active work on both the management of sickness cases and health care promotion continues.
 - (b) **Darlington and Stockton Partnership** – A Joint Review Group, comprising myself and Councillors Johnson, Richmond and Walker, together with four Members from Stockton Borough Council, has been established to look into the proposed partnership for joint working between the two Councils. The Review will commence in July 2006 and it is envisaged that the findings will be reported to Cabinet later in the year.
 - (c) **CCTV in Bus Shelters** – Following a request by the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, we have agreed to establish a Task and Finish Review to consider the financial aspects and implications following the delay in installing CCTV in bus shelters.
 - (d) **Work Programme 2007/08** – In addition to the three issues referred to above, we have also included a number of other issues which we would like to scrutinise during the next Municipal Year to our work programme and we will be continuing to monitor the progress on previous areas of work we have reviewed. The work programme for the next Municipal Year is varied and further reviews and task and finish reviews will be established as, and when, required.
 - (e) **Girobanking Review** – Regular progress reports have been submitted to our meetings following the review we undertook in relation to Girobanking. The contract for Girobanking was awarded to the Alliance and Leicester in 2005 and all Payzone outlets have now been included in the scheme and can be used in addition to Post Officers. It is also hoped that paperless direct debit will be introduced during this financial year.
 - (f) **Dolphin Centre and Arts Centre and Pedestrian Heart – Financial Update** - Following a request by a Member of the Scrutiny Committee we received information

from Officers in relation to the financial position of the Dolphin Centre, the Arts Centre and the Pedestrian Heart capital schemes. A special meeting of our Scrutiny Committee to consider the financial out-turn of these schemes will be held following the physical and financial completion of these projects.

- (g) Capital Programme and Revenue Out-turn 2006/07** – Over the last financial year, we have regularly monitored the Capital and Revenue Medium-Term Financial Plans, and, at our meeting held on 22nd June, 2007, we received the out-turn reports for the previous financial year. The Council has undertaken a wide variety of capital improvements throughout the Borough during 2006/07, with a total capital spend of £41.203 million. The revenue results for 2006/07 show a further improvement in the Council's financial position.

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