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**OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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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 will be aware, we have for quite a period of time, continued to monitor the levels of sickness absence within the Authority. The most recent figures we received, showed a target out-turn for sickness absence for 2007/08 of 9.69 days with the year-end projection, as at the end of July being 10.23 days, which is 0.54 days above target. We will continue our regular six-monthly monitoring of sickness absence within the Authority as a Scrutiny Committee, however the Vice-Chair and myself also now receive the sickness absence figures on a monthly-basis and, if the level of sickness absence goes 10 per cent over target, we will look into this as a matter of urgency.
  - (b) **Climate Change** – Following the request from the former Environment Scrutiny Committee for individual Scrutiny Committees to undertake a piece of work within their individual remits to inform the Action Plan on Climate Change for the Darlington and Tees Valley Climate Change Strategies, we have received presentations on energy efficiency in Procurement and work/considerations being given to the inclusion of eco-design in relation to new-build development on Council- owned sites. The findings from the work we have undertaken will be reported to a special meeting of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee at a special meeting on the 6th December, 2007.
  - (c) **Work Programme 2007/08** – Our Work Programme is subject to constant review and we have recently undertaken a piece of work to improve the linkages with the work we are undertaking and the Council's Corporate Objectives.
  - (d) **Capital Process Review – Initial Proposals** – We have given consideration to the high-level proposals for a new capital project management process for the Authority. In view of the work to be undertaken in relation to this, we have agreed to establish a Task and Finish Review Group to undertake this work.
  - (e) **Service Planning 2007/08** – We have considered the departmental service plans for which we have responsibility. Further work will be undertaken to monitor performance against targets.

- (f) Review of Allotment Service** – Following the review we undertook into the future of the Council’s allotments in 2002, we have received an update report on the progress made since that review. One of the key elements of the Action Plan was for the Council to work with allotment holders to build capacity to take on self-managed sites, and it is pleasing to report that there are now six self-managed sites within the Borough which were working well. Two sites are also being developed due to the closure of the Hundens Lane Allotment site at Lascelles Park and Arnold Road and discussions are taking place with Groundwork, to establish an Allotments Strategy to take the new and emerging agenda for allotments into the future.
- (g) The Borough Collection** – Following a request from a Member of the Scrutiny Committee, we have been advised of a recent review undertaken into the management and conservation of the Borough Art Collection and proposals for the future arrangements for the management of the collection and partnership working. We will be undertaking some further investigations into this at our next meeting.
- (h) North-East Charter for Elected Member Development** – Following the decision by Council to sign up to the North East Charter for Elected Member Development, we have considered the possible establishment of a Member Training Group to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate Member development strategies. It has been subsequently agreed that this function will be undertaken by the Resources Scrutiny Committee and this will be included on our work programme.
- (i) CCTV in Bus Shelters** – At the request of the former Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, we have investigated the financial implications surrounding the delay in installing CCTV cameras in bus shelters following the receipt of funding from the Rural Bus Challenge Fund. Following a detailed investigation, we were satisfied that the financial aspects in relation to the grant and financial implications of installing the cameras has been met and managed and we advised the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee accordingly.

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**