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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) **Combined Financial and Service Performance Report 2nd Quarter 2007/08 –** Information in relation to the Council’s financial and service performance has been considered. It is pleasing to report that, overall, performance against the Community Strategy was solidly on target, with nearly 80 per cent of targets for local and national indicators being met. In addition, we have also considered detailed service performance information, for those service plans for which we have responsibility and we will continue to monitor these at regular intervals.
  - (b) **Pedestrian Heart and Dolphin Centre and Arts Centre -** Updated financial information has been provided on the Pedestrian Heart Project, and the Dolphin Centre and Arts Centre refurbishment projects.
  - (c) **The Borough Collection –** Following a request from Members, we have received information on the outcome of a recent review of the management and conservation of the Borough Art Collection and the future arrangements for the management of the collection and partnership working. We are very interested in the management and conservation of the collection and we will continue to receive information. One of the outcomes from our discussion is that Officers will be looking at suitable venues for the display of the art work within the Borough.
  - (d) **Organisational Development Strategy - ICT Strategy –** Following the adoption, by Cabinet, of the ICT Strategy, we will be undertaking a monitoring role of that Strategy. The Strategy has been developed and aligned to the Darlington Community Strategy and forms an integral part of the Organisational Development Strategy.
  - (e) **Sickness Absence –** Close monitoring of the Council’s sickness absence levels continues and the Council is currently on line to meet its target outturn for 2007/08. Proactive work in managing sickness absence and health care provision continues and a review of the Council’s Sickness Absence Policy will be undertaken in 2008/09.
  - (f) **Departmental Structures and Workforce Information –** Detailed information in relation to departmental structures to third-tier level and details of the number of employees within each department have been supplied. This information is available to all Members on the Council’s Intranet.

- (g) **Draft Sustainable Community Strategy** – We have received a presentation on the Draft Sustainable Community Strategy and a special meeting was held on the 25th January, 2008 to enable full consideration to be given to the document.
- (h) **Project Management** – We have established a task and finish review group to undertake a review of Project Management within the Authority. The work of this review group will complement the work currently being undertaken by Officers and it is hoped that we will have concluded our findings to enable a report on the outcome to be considered at our meeting in February 2008.
- (i) **North East Charter for Elected Member Development** – Members will be aware that, as a Council, we have agreed to make a commitment to the North East Charter for Elected Member Development. An Action Plan outlining the key stages in working towards the Charter is currently being developed and we will monitor progress against that Action Plan on a regular basis. The Standards Committee have also requested that we undertake a review of the current requirement for Members to attend a minimum of five training sessions in any one calendar year and a questionnaire seeking members views on the current system has recently been circulated to all Members.
- (j) **CCTV In Bus Shelters** – At the request of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee, we will be looking again at the financial implications of installing CCTV cameras in Bus Shelters. The Task and Finish Review Group, which originally looked into this, will be reconvened and the outcome will be reported back to our Scrutiny Committee in February 2008.
- (k) **Future of Complaints Handling** – Following a ‘call-in’ of Cabinet’s decision in relation to the future of complaints handling within the Authority, we held a special meeting on the 7th January, 2008. Further detailed information on the proposal to implement a streamlined stage 2 complaints process that would be managed centrally was given and, following consideration of that information, we agreed to advise Cabinet that we support, in principle, the proposed changes, however, we have asked them to look further into alternative funding options.

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**