
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) **Pedestrian Heart** – As Members will be aware, we have been monitoring closely the Pedestrian Heart project and, at a special meeting held on the 24th January, 2008, we received an update position on the comparisons between the original budget for the pedestrian heart project and its projected out-turn position. We were also supplied with detailed information in relation to the main areas of variance that had occurred between the original estimates and the reasons for those variances.
 - (b) **Comprehensive Performance Assessment – Draft Self-Assessment** – We have challenged the Council’s draft self-assessment document which has been used to support this Council’s Corporate Assessment as part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) process for 2008.
 - (c) **Draft Sustainable Community Strategy** – We have also forwarded our comments on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy for Darlington as part of the wider consultation exercise being undertaken on that strategy.
 - (d) **Medium-Term Corporate Plan** – At a special meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on the 29th January, 2008, we considered the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2008/12 and the Prudential Indicators and the Treasury Strategy Report 2008/09.
 - (e) **Organisational Development Strategy - ICT Strategy** – In accordance with our monitoring role, we have received a presentation on the progress made with regard to the introduction of the new ICT Strategy which was adopted by Cabinet on the 8th September, 2008. We will continue to monitor the implementation of this Strategy at regular intervals.
 - (f) **Combined Financial and Service Performance Report 3rd 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 85 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.

- (g) **Local Motion Travel Research and Monitoring** – Following a request from a Member of the Scrutiny Committee, we received information on the use of monitoring data to support transport policy decisions, particularly in relation to the Local Motion Project. We felt that it was more appropriate for the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee to look into this and we have requested them to include this on their future work programme. The Resources Scrutiny Committee will be involved in this work if it is felt appropriate.
- (h) **Members’ Training and Development** – In our role as a ‘Members’ Training Group’ we have challenged and monitored the current Members’ Training and Development Programme and considered whether it is still appropriate for Members to be required to attend at least five training sessions in any one calendar year or whether a points based system would be more appropriate. Members will also be aware of a questionnaire which has been circulated in relation to Members training and, as a Scrutiny Committee, we have encouraged Members to complete and return this.
- (i) **CCTV In Bus Shelters** – At the request of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee, we have looked again at the financial implications of installing CCTV cameras in Bus Shelters. Following the presentation of information to the Task and Finish Review Group in respect of this, we have advised the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Committee that we are satisfied with the information received.
- (j) **Project Management** – The task and finish review group established to undertake a review of Project Management within the Authority has continued to meet. At an initial meeting held on the 7th January, 2008, we received a presentation from Officers on the high-level review which is currently being undertaken to ensure that, in future, there is a consistent approach to Project Management, that there was accountability and transparency in all stages of the decision-making process, that risk management arrangements were put in place and that various roles and responsibilities were clearly defined. The Group will continue to meet and the outcome will be reported back to the Resources Scrutiny Committee in due course.

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