
OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work under my Efficiency and Resources Portfolio :-

- (a) **Risk Management Strategy** – The Council’s Risk Management Strategy has been updated to make reference to the Sustainable Community Strategy One Darlington Perfectly Placed and to reflect the Council’s new planning methodology, Outcome Based Accountability and the Council’s future business model.

The Council’s Risk Management Strategy outlines how the Council is taking on its responsibility to manage risks using a structured and focused approach to integrate and embed risk management into the culture of the Organisation and the delivery of the Strategy has received positive scores in recent years for risk management under the Use of Resources auditor scored judgements.

- (b) **Capital Programme Monitoring Third Quarter 2009/10** – We have considered the current position of the Capital Programme. The current projected outturn of the 2009/10 Capital Programme is £167.5 million against an approved programme of £167.2 million. The programme has delivered a wide range of improvements to the Council’s assets and more critically to Council services. Refurbishment of council homes, improved learning environments in schools, better traffic flows and opportunities for sustainable travel had all be delivered during 2009/10.
- (c) **Revenue Budget Monitoring 2009/10 – Quarter 3** - We have considered the current position of the revenue budget. The report to Cabinet on 2nd February, 2010, recorded a projected improvement of £942.000 compared with the approved Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2009/13. A refund of VAT projected to be £3.142 million has made a further significant improvement to projected reserves at 31st March, 2010. Management action will continue to deliver improvements in efficiency both in the current year and long term.
- (d) **Architectural and Highways Consultancy – Appointment of Consultants for Framework Partnerships** – The Council’s current framework agreement for various elements of technical support has expired and we have agreed a number of consultants to be included in the new consultancy framework for highways and architecture.

I have chaired meetings of the Human Resource Panel and continued to have briefing meetings with Lead Officers in the Corporate Services Department.

Councillor Chris McEwan
Cabinet Member with Efficiency and Resources Portfolio