
OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken -:
 - (a) **Work Programme** – At our meeting held on 5th September, 2012, we further discussed the Work Programme for the Scrutiny Committee. A number of topics have been requested to be considered by Members and we have agreed a way forward for dealing with these items, most of which will be through the Medium-Term Financial plan process. All Scrutiny Committees have responsibility for community safety and, following a meeting of the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group held on 3rd September, 2012, when this was discussed, it was suggested that we undertake some work to look into the key challenges faced by the responsible authorities with a view to how Committees can help improve performance. Following Cabinet’s decision to agree the new Corporate Plan and supporting performance management framework, all Scrutiny Committees will also, at the beginning of each Municipal Year, receive a presentation on performance management information which will help to inform and structure any future work programmes. As Members will see from the amendments to the work programme and from our reviews that are on-going we will have a very full programme on Scrutiny and we will keep Members informed of the progress.
 - (b) **Wheeled Bin Service** - Following the decision of Cabinet, at its meeting held on 3rd April, 2012, to introduce a wheeled bin service throughout the Borough, we, at the request of the Place Scrutiny Committee, agreed to look at the financial implications of introducing this service. A Task and Finish Review Group was established and met on 10th July, 2012, where Officers gave an overview of the reasons for Cabinet’s decision to introduce a wheeled bin service; a breakdown of the reasons for the increase in costs in comparison to the current black bag system; the anticipated savings in relation to the anticipated reduction in litter following the introduction of wheeled bins; and the procurement process which had also been agreed by Cabinet for the purchase of the bins. Having considered the information given, the Task and Finish Review Group concluded that it understood the impact of introducing wheeled bins on the Medium-Term Financial Plan and our Final Report will be submitted to the Place Scrutiny Committee to inform its deliberations.
 - (c) **Procurement and Contract Management** - The Procurement and Contract Management Task and Finish Review Group is still on-going, and we met on the 4th July, 2012, where Members received a presentation and brief overview from Officers regarding the regulations and framework under which the Council operated, including its own Contract Procedure Rules; the various procurement routes which could be undertaken; the processes involved in compiling tender documentation; and how received tenders were dealt with by individual departments and the Procurement Unit. It was agreed that the Task and Finish Review Group’s work continue and a further meeting will be held and I will keep Members informed of the progress.

Councillor Ian Haszeldine

Chair of Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee