
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) **Third-Sector Strategy** – In accordance with our Work Programme, we have continued to monitor the implementation of the Third Sector Strategy Action Plan. Members will recall that the Strategy was agreed jointly between the Council and eVOLution (formerly the CVS) and it is pleasing to report that good progress is being made against the Action Plan.
 - (b) **Xentrall Shared Services** – As Members will be aware, Xentrall Shared Services went live on 1st May, 2008, and we have received an update from the Partnership Manager on the progress made since implementation with the milestones achieved. There have been a number of performance issues with the finance service since implementation, however, we have been assured that these PI's are now moving in the right direction.
 - (c) **Corporate Health and Safety Report** – We have reviewed performance on health and safety within the Authority and again, it is pleasing to report that there has been a continued downward trend of reportable accidents with a further reduction over the last financial year predicted, based on the first six months performance and that the Authority has, again, remained free from action by the Health and Safety Executive. The Health and Safety Unit are continuing to work closely with individual schools and departmental management teams on initiatives to progress a continuous improvement approach to health and safety management.
 - (d) **Workforce Information** – Information has been supplied on the Council's workforce data as requested by our Scrutiny Committee. At the end of September 2008, the number of staff on the payroll was 5037, which included all school employees and those on casual and temporary contracts. Detailed information was also given on the gender, disability, ethnic minority and age profile, turnover of staff.
 - (e) **Admin Review** – An update report has been submitted on the progress with the implementation of the admin review within the Authority. Following the implementation of the changes to the PA and secretarial support, cashable savings of £213,604 have been achieved and it is envisaged that additional savings will be made following changes to the postal service once that part of the review has been implemented.

- (f) **2007/08 – Cumulative Efficiency Gains and 2008/09 Forecast** – We have considered the progress of the efficiency gains made by the Council up to the end of 2007/08 and the projected efficiency gains for 2008/09. Efficiency gains of £6.563 million were achieved from 2005-06 to 2007/08, which was £1.196 million above the Department for Communities and Local Government’s (DCLG) cumulative target and the 2008/09 projected efficiency gains submitted to the DCLG in October 2008, in accordance with requirements totalled £3.335 million.
- (g) **Project Management Task and Finish Review** – We are continuing to review project management within the Authority. We have again looked at the current position of all construction projects for which Community Services Department are the delivery department and we have requested similar information for all on-going projects within the Authority which we will consider at our next meeting.

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