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**OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last ordinary meeting of Council, the majority of work which we have done has been undertaken by the Budget Monitoring and Efficiency Review Group. That Group continues to meet and some of the issues which we have looked into are income from car parking; Chief Officers salary data and comparisons with similar authorities; the make up of the Council's 2009/10 revenue budget in terms of types of expenditure and analysis of employee costs between departments, corporate communications, the use of consultants and the anticipated net savings over the next ten years of the Darlington and Stockton Partnership. We have also interviewed the Directors of Children's and Community Services on the management of their departmental budgets.
2. At our ordinary meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, we considered, whether in relation to payments for the Pedestrian Heart, the Officers' advice, not to take further action at this time unless further evidence comes to light was sound. Questions were submitted to us by two members of the public and they both attended our meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Following an interesting discussion, we agreed to recommend to Cabinet that no further action should be taken at this time unless the Officers/Legal Section find additional evidence to pursue further legal action. If any additional evidence is found, we have asked that it be brought to the Resources Scrutiny Committee for us to consider and make any recommendations to Cabinet on whether further legal action should be taken and, in making any recommendations, we will also take into account the financial implications of moving forward with legal action based on that evidence.
3. In view of the lengthy debate we had on the Pedestrian Heart item, the rest of the items which were scheduled to be considered at our meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> November were deferred and we will consider them at a later date.

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**