
OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Since the last ordinary meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken by the Resources Scrutiny Committee :-

- (a) **Work Programme 2010/11** – We have considered the draft work programme for the next Municipal Year and possible review topics. We will continue to be heavily involved in monitoring the Medium Term Financial Plan, both at meetings of the Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Budget Monitoring and Efficiency Review Group. The Work Programme will be continually reviewed and updated throughout the year.
- (b) **Xentrall Shared Services Annual Report** – We have received the second annual report of Xentrall Shared Services, the partnership between Darlington and Stockton Councils to provide ICT, transactional finance and HR and print and design services to both Councils. The Partnership is continuing to deliver the objectives as set out in its original business case and all of the service areas have exceeded their savings targets with the exception of Design and Print. The efficiencies contained within the business case will be realised two years earlier than set out in the original business plan and further savings have also been identified to enable each Council to meet their Medium Term Financial Plan challenges.
- (c) **Review of Mayor’s Ball** – Following a report to a previous meeting of our Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Mayor’s Ball, we have received a further report addressing some of the comments which we made and looking at options available to the Mayor in relation to funding raising activities at the Ball. Following a very interesting discussion, in summary, we all agreed that Officers need to have further discussions on the main purpose of the event.
- (d) **Stressholme Golf Centre – Operational Costs** – In line with the other Council leisure facilities, we have looked at the financial performance of Stressholme Golf Centre, in relation to its golf budget and its catering budget for 2010/11. A number of questions were asked on the golf and catering budget and the Officers advised us of the business review taking place on all the Council’s leisure facilities.
- (e) **Healthier Lives for Children and Young People Living in County Durham and Darlington** – Each Scrutiny Committee is undertaking a piece of work following the publication of the Director of Public Health’s Annual report entitled ‘Healthier Lives for Children and Young People in County Durham and Darlington’ and our Scrutiny Committee have established a task and finish review group to undertake a piece of work in relation to how the Council supports families in difficult financial circumstances. The review will look into the effectiveness of the Council’s delivery of

its Housing and Council Tax Benefits service and whether the Council works effectively with both its internal and external customers to ensure that families are getting their full entitlement within appropriate timescales. We will hopefully be able to promote the service to try and increase awareness of the Housing Benefit System and take up.

- (f) **Revenue Budget Monitoring Update** – Regular reporting on the updated position of the projected revenue outturn for 2009/10 is given to both our ordinary Scrutiny Committee meetings and to our Budget Monitoring and Efficiency Review Group meetings. The latest information which we have received shows revenue reserves at 31st March, 2010, to be £11.962 million, which is an improvement of £402,000 compared with the 2010-14 Medium Term Financial Plan.
2. 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