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**OVERVIEW OF EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

**Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2013/14 – Quarter 3**

2. We have looked at the Quarter 3 Revenue Budget Monitoring report which was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2014. The Quarter 3 projections show an improved outturn position for 2013/14 and the projected General Reserves Fund reserves position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 is £17.473 million, a £4.505 million improvement on planned balances in the original 2013-17 Medium-Term Financial Plan. Of this, £1.628 million relates to the 2012/13 surplus carried forward and £1.918 million from early year rebalancing. Departmental projections indicate an underspend of £2.443 million compared with the Medium-Term Financial Plan and we were advised of the main reasons for those variances.
3. We had a discussion at our meeting on the operation by the Council of predictive budget management processes and whether the prediction position could be more accurate when reporting to Members, the use of trends and statistical information by Managers when making their budget projections which could change over the period of the plan; the evolving process of budget management and the importance of the role of our Scrutiny Committee in regularly monitoring the budget position.

**Sustainable Community Strategy**

4. Members will be aware that a proposed vision has been approved which will be used as a basis for a revised Darlington Sustainable Community Strategy. It is important, in view of the Council's current financial position and the significant changes to the national economic situation, to review and refresh the existing Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) to ensure that the Council and its partners continue to be focussed on key outcomes to achieve the overall vision.
5. A number of objectives have been identified as key to the continued delivery of the Vision and, at a special meeting held on 13 March 2014, we considered how we could contribute to the revised SCS by identifying, as a Scrutiny Committee, what our priorities and vision were under those objectives.
6. It is important that performance is measured against the key objectives and priorities and we have been advised of a revised performance development framework process which is currently being developed which, it is anticipated will assist us in developing our future work programming.

**Councillor Ian Haszeldine**  
**Chair Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee**