
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.

Sustainable Community Strategy

2. As all other Scrutiny Committees, we were invited to comment on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), which is elsewhere on this agenda for approval.
3. We were advised that the draft SCS document, which incorporated the Vision on a Page which had previously been approved and which we discussed at our last meeting, set out the context in which the SCS had been prepared; described the three conditions of Building Strong Communities; Spend Every Pound Wisely and Grow the Economy and provided the headlines underpinning each of those outcomes.
4. In commenting on the draft document, we discussed the dependence on other partners and agencies to deliver the outcomes; other plans which were aligned to the SCS and which would contribute to its delivery; 'ownership' of the Strategy and the role of the Darlington Partnership and the need to be realistic about the aspirations in view of the current economic climate and the dependence on others, particularly communities.
5. We did feel it was important that the Strategy reflected the principles of what it was aiming to achieve and the support and assistance required to do that, however, we were happy to support the development of the Strategy and its direction of travel.

Performance Management Framework

6. We received a presentation from the Head of Organisational Planning on the revised Performance Management Framework which was currently being developed and which would measure achievement and performance against the outcomes contained within the approved Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).
7. The revised Performance Management Framework has been developed around the key eight outcomes contained within the SCS and each individual outcome has a number of high level strategic indicators aligned to it which will be used to measure performance and achievement against the Vision and those outcomes. It is proposed that we will consider information at this strategic level on an annual basis to enable us to ensure that progress towards the key outcomes is being

achieved.

8. In addition, there are also a number of low level delivery indicators which are linked to the strategic indicators and performance against these indicators will be available to us on a more frequent basis. These indicators will assess delivery performance on the ground and will enable us to test whether services, which are provided by the Council or its partners, are delivering towards the Vision and outcomes and how much those services cost.

Councillor Ian Haszeldine
Chair Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee