
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.

Work Programme

2. We have reviewed our work programme and have a number of pieces of work which are on-going. We would like to take forward the piece of work which has been on our work programme for a while in relation to the Community Role of Councillors and discussions will now take place on how and when we can undertake this piece of work.
3. We will, as will all Scrutiny Committees, be looking over the next few months, at the budget proposals included within the Medium -Term Financial Plan 2014/15 to 2019/20. It is envisaged that a number of special meetings will be arranged to consider those areas under the remit of our Scrutiny Committee and to formulate a response on behalf of Scrutiny to Cabinet.

Local Taxation Reliefs

4. Following questions raised at our last meeting, we received an overview of the benefits, exemptions, discounts and reliefs available to households liable for Council Tax and businesses liable for National Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates).
5. The administration of local taxation reliefs is complex and having the Officers present at the meeting to answer our questions has assisted us to understand the various benefits, exemptions, discounts and reliefs which are available and we would like to thank the Head of Revenues and Benefits for attending our meeting.

Statement of Accounts 2012/13

6. At the request of a Member of the Scrutiny Committee, we asked Officers to attend our meeting to assist us to gain a better understanding of certain sections of the Council's approved Statement of Accounts 2012/13.
7. The Council has a statutory requirement to prepare a Statement of Accounts which is audited by the Council's external auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers and which were subsequently approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting held on 30th September, 2013.

8. Following discussion on a number of areas within the Accounts, we were happy with the explanations we were given and we felt that having the opportunity to scrutinise the Accounts was a worthwhile and beneficial piece of work.

Councillor Ian Haszeldine
Chair Efficiency and Resources Scrutiny Committee