
OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last ordinary meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work the Resources Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-
 - (a) **Work Programme** – We are continuing to monitor our work programme. We will be undertaking a review of the Darlington and Stockton Partnership shortly and holding another Joint meeting with Members of Stockton Borough Council. Other areas of work which we will be undertaking are a ‘shopping basket’ exercise into various services undertaken by the Call Centre, a review of the North Road Primary School sustainable build, and an update position statement on the Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor Project. Our Task and Finish Review Group is still continuing to meet to review project management arrangements within the Council.
 - (b) **Closure of Post Officers within Darlington** – We have had a ‘call-in’ in relation to Cabinet’s decision in relation to the closure of Post Offices within Darlington. We considered the reasons for the call-in together with the Officers responses to the areas of concern and, following this, we agreed to support Cabinet’s decision not to subsidise those Post Offices being closed by Post Officers Limited.
 - (c) **Financial Management** – Following a training session which was held for all Members of the Council in relation to General Finance and an Understanding of Darlington Borough Council finances, we have received further detailed training on this, specifically in relation to the Council’s budget, Council Tax and Treasury Management. The presentation was extremely useful to assist us in scrutinising the Council’s budget and prompted some interested debate from Members.

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