

PRESENTATION BY CABINET MEMBER (RESOURCES)

Report By: Cabinet Member (Resources)

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

1. To outline the key elements of the Resource portfolio, progress to date and the challenges for the future.

Financial Implications

2. Not applicable.

Background

3. DIRECTORATE ORGANISATION & MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 The Directorate consists of approximately 230 staff divided into four key areas of activity:

- a. Asset Management & Property Services (AMPS).
- b. Audit Services (AS).
- c. Benefit & Exchequer Services (BES).
- d. Financial Services (FS).

- 3.2 The Resources directorate management team (RMT) consists of the following members of staff:

- a. Director (David Powell).
- b. Head of Asset Management & Property Services (Malcolm MacAskill).
- c. Audit Services Manager (Tony Ford).
- d. Head of Benefit & Exchequer Services (Mike Toney).
- e. Acting Head of Financial Services (Heather Foster).

- 3.3 Currently the Resources management team (RMT) meets twice a month although there is a wide ranging review underway looking at the way we work. Whilst meetings scheduled for the beginning of the month support the delivery of the corporate Team Talk briefing RMT also covers other key issues with particular emphasis on:

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Mr David Powell, Director of Resources on (01432) 383518

- a. Progress achieving key priorities.
 - b. Sharing key messages from Joint Management Team
 - c. Monitoring of directorate performance including budgets.
 - d. Review of the directorate risk register.
- 3.4 The Director keeps the Cabinet Member (Resources) briefed on key issues on a weekly basis. Quarterly joint meetings with the Chief Executive, Leader, Cabinet Members, Deputy Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive are held to review individual and shared priorities and also discuss progress.
- 3.5 Performance to date against the directorate and service plans for 2009/10 is as expected at the end of the first quarter.

4. SERVICE PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 Performance against the directorate's key priorities for 2008/09 is outlined in the appendix. The appendix also covers the key priorities for 2009/10.
- 4.2 The directorate and service priorities supports the following theme in the council's Corporate Plan.

CORPORATE PLAN 2008 – 2011	
THEME	Organisational improvement and greater efficiency
PRIORITY	Better services, quality of life and improved value for money

- 4.3 The directorate has established three key priorities in support of the Corporate Plan theme and priority as follows:
- a. Better Outcomes
 - b. Better Services.
 - c. Delivering Value for Money.
 - d. Improving Customer Experience
- 4.4 These priorities form the basis of the 2009/10 business plans for each of the four services.
- 4.5 The directorate and four service plans for Resources have all been approved by the Policy & Performance team as compliant with the corporate standard.
- 4.6 The directorate and service plans have been used to establish and agree personal objectives for the year for staff in the directorate. Individual priorities are therefore linked to Corporate Plan priorities for 2008 – 2011.
- 4.7 Since July 2008 there has been a consistent performance management reporting system for the directorate. The current checklist system helps track progress at

team, service and directorate level. The system is now under review to ensure it dovetails with the new corporate approach to performance management that is more exception based rather than being based on the collection of significant amounts of data.

5. KEY PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The key priorities for the year relate to directorate and service priorities are set out in agreed plans for 2009/10. The key elements of the priorities are as follows:
- a. Continue to improve financial management across the Council, both in terms of financial support provided and financial management skills of managers, with particular emphasis on the Children & Young People's directorate.
 - b. Ensure all directorates have a robust budget management plan for 2008/09 in place.
 - c. Resolve staffing and capacity issues in AMPS team in order to be able to support corporate priorities for capital and regeneration projects.
 - d. Deliver a revised accommodation strategy to rationalise the Council and PCT estate by the end of 2009.
 - e. Support the delivery of the outcome of the work on Shared Services.
 - f. Focus on the new inspection regimes for the benefit service.
 - g. Deliver a 2009 Use of Resources action plan following the outcome of the new assessment.
 - h. Work with the Policy & Performance team to develop a consistent approach to measuring value for money (VfM) across all services. This will include a comprehensive VfM strategy.

6. FUTURE SCRUTINY

- 6.1 The key issues within the Resources portfolio that will warrant scrutiny by the Strategic Monitoring Committee are as follows:
- a. Accommodation strategy.
 - b. Financial strategy.
 - c. Emerging strategies such as one for benefits and community transfer of assets

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Resources Directorate continues to direct all its efforts into supporting corporate priorities through effective management of resources.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

APPENDICES

Performance in 2008/09 and Challenges for 2009 and Beyond