

**COMMENTS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (continued)**

**CHILDREN SCHOOLS & FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -  
21 JANUARY 2004**

**Conclusions:**

The Committee:

1. noted the Children, Schools and Families Proposed Resource Budget 2004/05 – 2007/08 and welcomed the efficiencies that had been achieved,
2. expressed concern at the transitional funding arrangements for school budgets, the perverse incentives in the way it is distributed and the uncertainty about the future, and urged the Executive Member to lobby the Government on this issue, and
3. welcomed the proposals outlined by the Director to shift the focus of work with looked after children into support and preventative work wherever possible.

**RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 22 JANUARY 2004**

**1 CORPORATE SERVICES AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
PROPOSED RESOURCE BUDGET 2004 / 2005 – 2007 / 2008**

It was felt that budgetary provision for Police Community Support Officer Teams should be included within the Community Services Scrutiny Committee's Budget rather than the Corporate Services Budget.

**Conclusions:**

1. The Committee noted the report and;
2. requested that officers consider reporting the budgetary provision for Police Community Support Officers through the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.
3. noted that a significant portion of future savings will come through the SHARP project. There was concern that this aspect of the budget should be carefully monitored to ensure savings are realised.

**COMMENTS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (continued)**

**2 COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSED RESOURCE BUDGET 2004 /  
2005 – 2007 / 2008**

**Conclusions:**

That the Cabinet be advised that :

1. The Committee have explored the options and issues around the balance between borrowing and revenue for financing capital spending.
2. It was recognised that circumstances have changed and the Committee welcomed the Executive Members' intention to review the capital strategy. It was noted that this review should include consideration of revenue contribution to future capital needs.
3. A report on the draft capital strategy to the October 2004 meeting, or earlier meeting if this is possible, was requested.
4. The Committee welcomed the Executive Members' commitment to review the balance between revenue funding and borrowing in the short term.
5. The Committee welcomed the increase in Police Community Support Officers which links directly to the highest concerns raised in public consultation on the budget. They urged careful thought on the principles on which the distribution of officers in the county would be based.
6. The Committee again noted their concern about Children Schools & Families Department overspend.
7. The Committee supported the provision of a central contingency and recognise the distinction between this and reserves.