

**To: All Members of the County Council
All Chief Officers**

**From: COUNTY SECRETARY'S
DEPARTMENT**

Ask for: Julia Harries

Ext: 25563

**RESOURCES, PROSPERITY, PARTNERSHIP AND CONSULTATION SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2003
MINUTES**

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

D Clayton, G M Cook, I H Laidlaw-Dickson, F J Escott, P V Goggins, B N W Hammond,
R Mays (Chairman), A M R Searing, W A Storey (Vice-Chairman), S Quilty

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

D A Ashley (Community Information and Development), D Beatty (Resources), R J M Ellis (Leader),
G D Game (Protection and Registration), M H T Janes (Regeneration, the Region and Europe),
D B Lloyd (Best Value), J M Pitman (Adult Care Services), I E M Tarry (Environment)

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

B N W Hammond had replaced H M Saunders for this meeting only.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31 October 2002 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman, subject to the word 'qualified' in 1.2 being changed to 'quantified'.

PUBLIC PETITIONS

None

QUESTIONS

None

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS**1 SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT**

[Officer contact: Adrian Service, Committee Administrator
Tel: 01992 555564]

1.1 As agreed at the recent Chairman/Vice-Chairman/Spokesman scrutiny training, the Committee received a report detailing action taken on scrutiny issues since the last meeting on 31 October 2002.

1.2 A request was made that future Scrutiny Update reports should include progress on all scrutiny items.

1.3 **Conclusions:**

- The Committee agreed the definition of 'disadvantage' to be used for BVPP purposes as set out in the report.
- The Committee noted the report.

2 SCRUTINY OF LEARNING POINTS ARISING OUT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA) CORPORATE ASSESSMENT

[Officer contact: Clare Kaye, Assistant Chief Executive
Tel: 01992 555300]

2.1 The Committee considered a report on the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Corporate Assessment.

2.2 **Conclusions:**

- The Committee recommended to other Scrutiny Committees that they may wish to consider scrutinising the following issues arising from the report, and agreed to add 48, 73/80 and 77 to their work programme:

10 – public transport objectives – Environment Scrutiny Committee

26 – plans to reduce congestion – Environment Scrutiny Committee

48 – back-office support systems – Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Scrutiny Committee

Adrian Service
Clare Kaye

Charlie Watson
John Wood
Clare Kaye
Nicola Hayden

Charlie Watson
John Wood
Clare Kaye
Nicola Hayden

Andrew
Robertson
Clare Kaye
Adrian Service

54 – education key indicators – Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee	Ray Shostak Julian Edwards Julia Harries Anne Fisher
55 – CSC access to social care – Adult Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	Caroline Tapster Clare Kaye Peter Hull
59 – effectiveness of the CSC for more specialist, personal and complicated transactions - Adult Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	Caroline Tapster Clare Kaye Peter Hull
71 – risk management assessments – being undertaken by Audit Committee	Ron Coxall
73 and 80 – implementing change - Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Scrutiny Committee	Alan Warner Clare Kaye Adrian Service
77 – responsiveness to customers - Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Scrutiny Committee	Alan Warner Clare Kaye Adrian Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers were congratulated on the excellent report for the County in the CPA. 	
<p>3 SCRUTINY OF 2002/03 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN PROMISE: TO GIVE THE PUBLIC VALUE FOR MONEY BY GETTING MORE COST EFFICIENT EVERY YEAR</p>	
<p>[Officer contact: Andrew Nightingale, Assistant Finance Director Tel: 01992 555331]</p>	
<p>3.1 The Committee considered a report on the Promise: “To give the public value for money by getting more cost efficient every year.”</p>	

3.2 **Conclusions:**

- 1) The Committee expressed concern at the shift over recent years from cashable to non-cashable savings.
- 2) The Committee welcomed the planned efficiencies programme and encouraged the Executive Member to take it forward, and:
 - ensure that there was a member overview of this programme
 - report the planned programme to the next meeting of the Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Scrutiny Committee on 20 March 2003; also the efficiencies plan for next year.
 - ensure there was a clear definition of efficiency which addressed the better use of resources, not incidental savings and ensured that efficiencies were not simply increasing staff workload.

Andrew
Nightingale
Chris Sweeney
Clare Kaye
Adrian Service

4 TRAFFIC LIGHT MONITOR

[Officer contact: Geoff Brown, Change Consultant
Tel: 01992 555370]

- 4.1 The Committee received a report giving the latest data for the promises monitor, giving the estimated end of year position based on the results available from the first half of 2002/03.

4.2 **Conclusions:**

- The Committee agreed to change the colour scheme to swap white and yellow [amber], as set out below:

Key:

Expected to under perform against target by at least 5%	Red
Expected to under perform against target by up to 5%	Amber
Expected to meet or exceed target	Green
Data incomplete/missing or being explored further	White

- There was general concern about target setting and the need to encourage continued efforts to ensure targets are achievable as well as stretching.
- The following targets were recommended for scrutiny to Scrutiny Committees:

Local L075, number of affordable homes built – Environment Scrutiny Committee

Geoff Brown
Anne Fisher

Charlie Watson
John Wood
Clare Kaye
Nicola Hayden

Local L252, looked after children and permanent exclusions, **Local 225**, educational achievement of children from minority ethnic groups, **Local L266** and **Local L253**, achievement at GCSE – Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee

Ray Shostak
Julian Edwards
Anne Fisher
Julia Harries

BVPI 016, number of HCC employees with disabilities – Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Scrutiny Committee

Alan Warner
Geoff Brown
Anne Fisher
Clare Kaye
Adrian Service

- The Committee supported the development of a headline presentation of indicators showing overall performance by promise against:

- target
- year on year
- comparative cohort

Alan Warner
Geoff Brown
Anne Fisher
Clare Kaye
Adrian Service

This report would be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

5 COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET MONITOR

[Officer contact: Andrew Nightingale, Assistant Finance Director
Tel: 01992 555331]

- 5.1 The Committee noted a report detailing the projected revenue and capital outturn position as at 31 October 2002.

6 CORPORATE SERVICES PROPOSED RESOURCE BUDGET 2003/04 – 2006/07

[Officer contact: Alison Cannur, Senior Accountant
Tel: 01992 555457]

- 6.1 The Committee considered a report detailing the proposals made by Cabinet on 19 December 2002 for the revenue budget and capital programme for Corporate Services.
- 6.2 The Committee noted that on page 4 of Appendix 1 (2) (i) Adult Care Services, it should read ‘nursing’ not ‘nursery’. The last paragraph on page 5 should read ‘year ending 31 March 2004’ not 2003.

6.3 Conclusion:

The Committee requested a more detailed report on the Rural Mobile Neighbourhood Warden Teams to come to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee, including wider coverage across the County.

Philip Winter
Clare Kaye
Adrian Service

Response to Cabinet:

- 1) The Committee welcomed all of the proposals for all the schemes for additional spending.
- 2) Concerning the Rural Mobile Neighbourhood Warden Teams, the Committee were supportive of this scheme but expressed their concern that it be developed in detail before implementation.

David Roberts

7 COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSED RESOURCE BUDGET 2003/04

[Officer contact: Chris Sweeney, Finance Director
Tel: 01992 555304]

- 7.1 The Committee considered a report detailing the proposals made by Cabinet on 19 December 2002 for the revenue budget and capital programme for the County Council.

7.2 Conclusion:

The Committee noted the uncertainty of the overall budget position.

7.3 Response to Cabinet:

David Roberts

- 1) The Committee asked the Cabinet to reconsider the contingency sum in the light of various grants and possible underspend.
- 2) The Committee asked the Cabinet to note its comments from the earlier discussion [item 3] urging rigorous pursuit of cashable efficiency savings.

8 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2003/04

[Officer contact: Adrian Service, Committee Administrator
Tel: 01992 555564]

- 8.1 The Committee considered a report detailing items for possible scrutiny by the Committee.

Conclusions:

- 1) The Committee agreed with the work programme and timetable as set out in the report.
- 2) It was agreed that a report on the efficiencies programme and next year's efficiency plan come to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee in March.

Andrew
Nightingale
Chris Sweeney
Clare Kaye
Adrian Service

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| 3) | It was agreed that there should be a report on the Education Traded Services Best Value Review to a future meeting on the Scrutiny Committee. | Clare Kaye
Adrian Service |
| 4) | Future meetings would look at: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the decreasing proportion of HCC staff with disabilities• back-office support systems• implementing change and becoming a learning organisation• responsiveness to customers• the neighbourhood warden scheme | Clare Kaye
Adrian Service |
| 4) | An additional item was requested by Paul Goggins on the services of the Money Advice Unit, given the District Councils' decision to cut their Citizen Advice Bureaux services. | Clare Kaye
Adrian Service |
| 5) | Ian Laidlaw-Dickson asked for a review of the new structure of the County Council, in particular public participation through petitions, questions to Cabinet; this report also to look at using the web site more fully and the possibility of web casting meetings. | Clare Kaye
Adrian Service |
| 6) | The Committee agreed that the three Group Spokesmen should meet with Clare Kaye outside of the meeting to discuss the order and timescale for these items. | Clare Kaye
Adrian Service |

Andrew Laycock
County Secretary