

PORTFOLIO:

**POLICY, PERFORMANCE
&, FINANCE**

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
FIRTH**

1. During the period 1 July to 26 August 2003, as Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Performance and Finance, I have attended the following:

01.07.03	Management Conference
01-04.07.03	LGA Annual Conference, Harrogate
07.07.03	Executive Meeting
09.07.03	Local Strategic Partnership
	Asset Review
	Stanwix Rural Parish Council
10-11.07.03	North West Regional Assembly, Accrington
11.07.03	Finance Meeting
14.07.03	Joint Management Team
	Officer's Briefing – Strategic & Performance Services
	Strategic Financial Planning Group
15.07.03	City Council
22.08.03	Development Advisory Group
26.08.03	Overview & Scrutiny – Regional Government Workshop

2. **Performance Management**

The Council's performance management framework has been, in the past, relatively weak. In recent months, there has been a significant amount of work undertaken, resulting in a revised and strengthened performance management system.

Work undertaken has included: -

- Workshops with staff from each Business Unit to discuss key strengths and areas for improvement. The results of these workshops fed into Unit business plans
- Revised Business Plans for each Unit, focusing on improvement and on moving the organisation further towards achieving organisational objectives
- An ongoing wide-scale audit of the Authority's performance indicators to ensure their relevance and measurability and to improve and systemise data collection. This will enable information on performance to reach decision-makers more quickly
- A new quarterly monitoring system for Business Units, focusing on both qualitative and quantitative issues, to CMT and Overview and Scrutiny. This will begin in September 2003.

3. Comprehensive Performance Assessment

Our CPA result is expected in October. Once published, we will be required to work closely with our District Auditor in developing an action plan to tackle identified weaknesses. Based on feedback received when the inspectors were still on site, some elements of the action plan are being developed.

4. Regional Government

A submission to the Boundary Committee on a proposed Carlisle/Eden model of unitary local government has been developed. Preparation is beginning for the next stage.

5. Risk Management & Procurement

Due to the long-term illness of the relevant officer, work in these areas is behind schedule.