

**Report of the  
Corporate Resources  
O & S Committee  
Chairman  
Cllr B. O. Earp**

Since my last report, two very important O & S Committee Meetings have taken place. The first held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008, considered the draft Budget proposals and was attended by the entire Executive.

Concern was expressed with regard to the :-

- i) Possible relocation of the Tourist Information Centre to offset costs.
- ii) Probability of lack of insurance for the Brampton Live event.
- iii) Charging for the Shopwatch/Pubwatch Scheme.
- iv) Recruitment management and how it will be handled to avoid affecting services and staff morale.

The meeting then scrutinised the Corporate Risk Management and the Pay and Workforce Strategy Job Evaluation Appeals. A presentation followed introducing Members to the new style Local Area Agreement for 2008 -2011. Members were of the opinion that they should be involved in governance issues coupled with the monitoring and scrutiny of targets.

The 2007 Employee Survey Report had a good overall response rate, with 88% rating the Council as a good or fairly good employer.

Carlisle Local Asset Vehicle Feasibility Study was referred to the Corporate Resources O & S Committee for comments and their views on the way forward. O & S had not played an active part in the proceedings to date. However, Members were keen to ensure that an element was incorporated to enable good, clear scrutiny with regard to the matter of governance.

The Director of Development Services gave a verbal report on the Joint Property Review.

Members welcomed the Corporate Complaints and Customer Feedback Policy with its definition of a Corporate Complaint, and, that the Customer Services Section was to be the main provider of the services detailed.

The Audit Commission had made a series of recommendations to be implemented to improve the Council's overall assessment concerning the Council's Use of Resources (UOR) Assessment 2007/08. In particular regarding the financial reporting of KLOE's which had been assessed as inadequate.

It was resolved that financial training for Members of the Corporate Resources O & S Committee be instigated at the commencement of the Municipal Year.

The second meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 scrutinised the Carlisle Renaissance Delivery Mechanism. Attended by all the Members bar one of the Task and Finish Group which was set up by the Economy and Enterprise Group of the Carlisle Partnership. Also in attendance were the Leader and Deputy Leader of the City Council. A lively debate ensued between Members of the O & S Committee and Members of the Task and Finish Group and well as the Council's Officers who were present.

Major concerns pinpointed: -

- i) Insufficient Member involvement in the setting up of the Delivery Mechanism with regard to governance.
- ii) A requirement for an increase in membership by elected Members from both District and County Councils on the Carlisle Renaissance Board.
- iii) Satisfactory Scrutiny arrangements to be incorporated, not only in the action plan, but in the monitoring and the development of the scheme.

In conclusion it was decided that a visit to an Authority that had used a similar vehicle would be advantageous.

**Cllr B. O. Earp**  
**Chairman**  
**18<sup>th</sup> February 2008**