

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

RESOURCES

Report of
Chairman:

**COUNCILLOR
REG WATSON**

The Panel's first meeting of the new Council year was held on 14th June 2012 and the following issues were discussed.

General Fund Outturn

We were pleased to see that the outturn position of the General Fund Revenue Budget showed an underspend of £261,459. Key issues included a transfer of £250,000 to the transformation reserve to part fund redundancy costs and £70,000 to establish a cremator reserve.

The recession continues to cause significant income shortfalls in bereavement services, development and building control, parking, the lanes, plus higher fuel prices. This looks to continue for at least the next twelve months. The panel noted that the redundancy reserve is on our Corporate Risk Register which will be monitored by the Panel throughout the year.

We await a written response from officers with regard to the Enterprise Centre shortfall.

The Panel requested an update on the funding that Tullie House had been able to source in addition to public funds.

The Panel endorsed a members view that a 'grow our own' staffing policy was the best way forward for the Council. I hope that the Panel will be involved in the development of that policy.

Capital Programme

Includes:

- Sheepmount
- Use of the Conservation Fund to make safe the Central Plaza Building. We hope to have the money returned in time.

The Panel expressed concern regarding the overspend on the Roman Frontier Project. We await a further report.

Treasury Management Outturn

The Panel expressed concern with the economic outlook and asked the Executive to reconsider the Asset Management Plan to ensure the best possible return on investments.

The Panel asked to be included in the Audit Committee training to assist them in fully understanding treasury management.

Provisional Outturn Position

We were pleased to note that Council Tax Collections again exceeded the projections of 98.5%, a surplus of £58,513.

Members Allowances Outturn

An underspend of £14,232 was noted.

Corporate Performance Plan – End of Year Report

Plan noted.

It was agreed that the Scrutiny Chairs Group should give consideration to content and layout of the future performance reports and the Council's Service Standards.

Organisational Development Plan

Members supported the talent management programme and felt every opportunity should be given to staff to enable them to progress within the Council if they choose.

Members were assured that the reduction in the workforce would not reduce the opportunity to train.

Sickness Absence

The Panel agreed that the Trade Union representatives be invited to attend the Panel to give their opinion and feedback.

Concern was expressed regarding return to work interviews with only 80% completion rate reported.

Sickness absence will continue to be monitored by the Panel throughout this Civic Year.

Councillor Reg Watson

Chairman

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17.07.2012