

Agenda item 10(b)(iii)

PORTFOLIO:

CORPORATE RESOURCES

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
JACQUELYNE GEDDES**

KEY DECISIONS

All key decisions are as in the Minutes of Executive Decisions

NON KEY DECISIONS

None made.

CUSTOMER CONTACT BEST VALUE REVIEW

The final report of this Best Value Review will go to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny on 5 September 2002, together with all the financial information and the outcome of the site visits to Newcastle City Council and Derwentside District Council on Wednesday 28 August 2002. The visits were a very useful opportunity for members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee together with officers and members of the Executive to view the customer contact facilities used by both Councils, and the chance to talk to officers who were involved in the setting up of those facilities.

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

DISABLED ACCESS

It was agreed at the Community Overview & Scrutiny on Thursday 29 August 2002 that I would work with the relevant officers to ensure that the authority meets the requirement of the Disability Discrimination Act, and to try to meet the targets set in relation to the Best Value Performance Indicators. However it was noted that some of these targets could never be met due to the nature of some of the leisure buildings, and that we should contact the auditors to see how the targets were set for these premises. The work is ongoing and should be complete in time for the 2004 deadline.

SICKNESS ABSENCE/ILL HEALTH

Overview & Scrutiny scrutinised these performance indicators and subsequently the Head of Personnel will present a draft Action Plan for the Council to improve performance at the next meeting on 5 September 2002.

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

NORTH WESTERN LOCAL AUTHORITIES EMPLOYERS ORGANISATION

The Annual Meeting and Conference took place on Monday 22 July 2002 at Bolton Town Hall. As the Chairman of the Regional Overview Committee I presented a report on the work of the Committee over the past year. Further information and copies of the slides can be obtained from Ian Dixon who will place them in the members' bookcase.

During the meeting I was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the NWEO and the Regional Overview Committee. I attended the first meeting of the Executive Committee in Manchester on Friday 23 August 2002.

PAY NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Following a day of industrial action by the Trade Unions on 17 July, and a further day planned for 14 August, a series of conciliation meetings took place with ACAS, which culminated in the following proposals.

That with effect from 1 April 2002 the following increases should apply:

1. 3% increase or a minimum of £5 per hour from 1 April 2002.
2. 1% increase from 1 October 2002 with an additional 1% increase for those on spine points 4 and 6 both calculated with reference to pay rates effective on 31 March 2002.
3. 3.5% increase from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 with an additional 1% increase for those on spine points 4 and 5

Both sides have now embarked on a period of consultation during which time the trade unions have suspended plans for industrial action (including the 14 August date) The consultation process for the Employers' side will end on 16 September 2002, whilst the trade unions will end on 20 September 2002.

On 13 August 2002 I attended a meeting in Manchester when the national negotiators outlined the background to the negotiations and the ACAS proposals. The purpose of the meeting was to enable authorities to obtain information in order to consider response locally to the consultation.