

 <b>Finance &amp; Audit Scrutiny Committee - 13 April 2010</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b>  <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;"><b>5</b></div>
<b>Title</b>	Use of Resources	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Mike Snow	
<b>Service Area</b>	Finance	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	N/A	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	Executive 10 December 2009	
<b>Background Papers</b>		

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>		
With regard to officer approval all reports <i>must</i> be approved by the report author's relevant Deputy Chief Executive, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
<b>Officer Approval</b>		<b>Name</b>
Deputy Chief Executive	29/03/10	Andrew Jones
Chief Executive		Chris Elliott
CMT		
Section 151 Officer	29/03/10	Mike Snow
Legal		
Finance	29/03/10	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)		Andrew Mobbs
<b>Consultation Undertaken</b>		
Please insert details of any consultation undertaken with regard to this report.		
<b>Final Decision?</b>	Yes/No	
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Following consideration by the Executive on the report on Use of Resources in December 2009, it was agreed that the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee should monitor progress on the Use of Resources Action Plan. This report provides an update to the Action Plan.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee note the on-going progress on the Use of Resources Action Plan, and a further report is brought to the July meeting.

## **3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Council received a score of "2" in its 2008/09 Use of Resources assessment. The assessment did suggest areas where improvements could be made. The Use of Resources Action Plan is to assist with monitoring these improvements.

## **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed.

## **5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 All the issues within the Use of Resources Action plan should be carried out within existing budgets.
- 5.2 The Council needs to ensure that it does make the best "use of its resources" in all ways. This will assist it to be able to provide quality services during the difficult times forecast ahead with regard to its overall level of finances.

## **6. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 6.1 By managing the Council's resources properly this will support the Council in achieving its corporate objectives.

## **7. BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 The Use of Resources assessment is very broad, covering most aspects of the Council's business. This includes areas such as managing its finances, governance arrangements, internal control, risk, and procurement. Most of the Council's policies and strategies contribute directly or indirectly to the issues considered as part of the Use of Resources assessment, with it being extremely comprehensive. As previously acknowledged, the changes brought in since the 2008/09 assessment have made it a much harder test, with the emphasis on outcomes rather than being a "tick box" exercise.
- 7.2 Key Line of Enquiry (KLOE) 3 is concerned with managing resources. There are three aspects to this, with the Council being assessed on one of these each year. For 2008/09 it was assessed on KLOE 3.3 – Workforce Planning. For 2009/10 it is being assessed on 3.1 - Use of Natural Resources. This is not included within this Action Plan, and has been subject to separate reports to

the Executive. For 2010/11 it is expected that district councils will be assessed on KLOE 3.2 – Management of Assets.

- 7.3 The Action Plan (Appendix 1) highlights recent and planned actions which will contribute to the Use of Resources Assessment. This Action Plan is also supplemented with individual strategies and action plans for such things as Risk, Procurement and Fraud where there are more details of the work being undertaken.
- 7.4 The Audit Commission has undertaken much of the assessment work already for the 2009/10, mostly during February. The updated Action Plan will be provided to them. For KLOE 1.3 – Financial Reporting, their assessment here is primarily based on the work in auditing the 2009/10 Accounts which is due to be undertaken in August/September. With feedback on the last assessment not being received until towards the end of 2009/10, it has not been possible to get all improvements suggested in place during the year ahead of the 2009/10 assessment.
- 7.5 Initial feedback from the assessment work to date is due to be provided in May. By providing feedback much earlier this year (last year details were not provided until October/November), it will be possible to update the action plan to address issues raised, with a view to ensuring improvements are made during 2010/11.