

**PERFORMANCE RESOURCES AND ASSETS
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2002/03

Introduction

The Council's constitution, introduced in December 2001, provides that each of the scrutiny committees reports once a year to the Scrutiny Board. This is the first annual report of the Performance, Resources and Assets Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee

During the year covered by this report the Membership of the Committee was as follows:

Chair	Councillor Akhtar
Vice Chair	Councillor Siederer
Member	Councillor Banerji
Member	Councillor Flint
Member	Councillor Hoyle
Member	Councillor Worthing

The terms of reference of the Performance, Resources and Assets Scrutiny Committee cover the following:

Executive portfolios	Leader's Deputy Leader's Resources and Assets
Functions	Capital Asset Management Human Resources Property Information Management Financial Strategy Stewardship of Public Funds London Luton Airport Trusts Subscriptions and contributions to outside agencies Pooled Budgets

Mentors

The Scrutiny Board appointed Councillors Franks and Jenkins to oversee the work of the Performance, Resources and Assets scrutiny committee

Panels

Members of Performance, Resources and Assets Scrutiny Committee serve on the Leisure Panel, the Teachers Recruitment and Retention Panel and the Community Cohesion Panel.

The Role of Scrutiny Committees

The role of scrutiny committees is as follows

- To hold the Executive to account
 - By considering Executive decisions which are 'called in'
 - By giving advice to the Executive about matters included in their forward plan
- To monitor and evaluate performance
 - Using performance Indicators
 - And best Value reviews of services
- To examine topics of public interest or concern
- To consider topics referred by the Executive
- To undertake policy development, reviews and revision
- To undertake the role of community champion
 - By reviewing the performance of other public and 'common' services
 - By considering matters affecting the area and/or local people

Work completed

The Committee has met generally every four weeks throughout the last municipal year. The Committee determined its work programme on the basis of the advice tendered by the Scrutiny Board to choose a limited number of topics and to carry out an in depth scrutiny of those topics.

The topics chosen by the committee for 2002-03 were as follows:

In depth scrutiny	Monitoring
Airport concession	Delivering the balanced budget
Asset management	Workforce/recruitment data
Capital programme	Call centre and one stop shop
	Communications - implementation
	Single status – job evaluation

The topics considered by the Committee are set out in the attached appendix.

Best Value Reviews

Councillors Flint, Hoyle and Siederer were appointed by the committee to oversee the best value review of support services.

Performance

The committee, following the advice of the Scrutiny Board, appointed two Members to monitor statistical information about the service delivery performance of services coming within the remit of the committee. The Members appointed to this task were Councillors Banerji and Worthing. There were no performance issues referred to the committee by the two nominated Members.

Work in progress

The committee has undertaken a substantial amount of work examining the impacts on the Town of the Airport. This included spending two meetings consulting the public and considering the implications of the options set out in the Government's consultation on airport capacity in the south east of England. This scrutiny will not be completed until the Government announces its decisions on the various consultation reports relating to airport capacity and transport infrastructure proposals.

The review of Asset Management has commenced but is still in its early stages.

The committee continues to monitor the progress being made by the Council towards achieving a representative workforce.

The committee is also monitoring the progress in implementing single status for the workforce.

Having 'cleared' the best value review of customer Services last year the committee has maintained its interest in the implementation of the main recommendations to set up a call centre and one stop shop.

The committee has fulfilled its responsibilities as the Council's Audit committee.

The review of the overall position for the budget for 2003-04 led to a meeting at which representatives, both officer and Member, from the Combined Fire Authority gave evidence about the basis for the Fire service budget and the requirement for the share to be met by the Council. The outcome of that meeting was a better understanding on both sides of the issues and the pressures and an agreement that an exchange of views and information about the budget prospects for the forthcoming year ought to take place much earlier in the budget process.

Future Work

The Committee is continuing with the two major topics that have been started, namely the Airport and Asset Management and will be considering its future work programme at the first meeting in the new municipal year. Further topics may be added as a result of consultation with partners and stakeholders.

Councillor M. Akhtar

Chair of the Performance, Resources and Assets Scrutiny Committee

3rd April 2003