

**KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S GROUP**

**Overview & Scrutiny Management Board
4th April 2006**

**Report Number C/11/06
Use of Resources Scrutiny**

Report by Councillor J Combe – Chairman of the scrutiny team

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of progress on the Use of Resources scrutiny task group.

2.0 Financial, Staffing, Legal & Risk Implications

- 2.1 There are no staffing, financial, risk or legal implications arising out of this report.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 Councillors Jenny Combe, Paula Winchcombe and Nigel Carter were appointed to this task group and have met with officers of the council as previously reported.
- 3.2 By way of background the recently adopted medium term financial strategy, performance information and a paper on the resource and funding implications of good performance on our statutory indicators have been considered. Interviews have also taken place with the Director of Resources, Human Resources Manager, Chairman of Resources and Chairman of Budget Reduction Sub-Committee.
- 3.3 As previously reported issues currently affecting the council in terms of its long term expenditure and also wider issues such as the Wiltshire Customer First Programme pushed the scope of the review beyond the existing task group. The task group further identified some issues for which work is either in place and/or ongoing. For example it was noted that the Corporate Strategy was being reviewed as were its links with the medium term financial strategy.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 Whilst the task group were satisfied that the council has arrangements in place to deal with the use of resources it identified a number of areas where current procedures could be strengthened and/or further investigated. These included:-

- The need to investigate and review the structure of the council, given the reduced level of resources.
- The need to look at alternative arrangements such as outsourcing.
- The need to use Overview & Scrutiny more in the development of the council's strategies, particularly the Corporate Strategy and to develop how that might happen.

3.4 As previously reported the task group had already identified that the work going on not just within Kennet but across the county considerably broadened the scope of the task group and it was felt that a larger task group should be appointed to take the work forward.

Recommendations

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT; the Board

- i) Appoints a new task group in 2006/07 to review the following:-
 - ii) To develop the role of the scrutiny in respect of article 8.5 of the constitution in respect of involvement in the development of the council's strategies and in particular to act as consultee for the review of the corporate strategy.

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