

## **Policy & Community Portfolio Holder Update**

**Capacity building bid:** The joint Wiltshire capacity building bid, led by the Council has successfully secured £316,000 of funding from the ODPM capacity building fund. This is for a two year programme which will cover member development, equalities and diversity, and performance management in local strategic partnerships. A meeting of the Wiltshire Improvement Partnership was held on the 3 February to start the initial planning including consideration of the programme manager appointment, governance arrangements, and the involvement of members.

**CPA:** Internal audit, starting in Mid February, will be undertaking a review of the Councils progress on its CPA improvement plan and preparations for future CPA. This includes a number of interviews with members and senior officers, reviewing processes and achievements since 2003. The Audit Commission is also currently working on the use of resources and direction of travel statement. These will be published by the end of March 2006.

**Gershon efficiency work:** Joint work across Wiltshire is being progressed to assess the potential of joining up services to make efficiency gains. Ten areas have been short listed for evaluation by the Wiltshire Customer First Partnership. The Council is leading work in two of the areas - building control and pest control. Also, a new Gershon annual efficiency statement (AES) is in preparation. The forward look 2006-07 statement will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting in April. This will need to be submitted to ODPM by 14 April. The backward look statement 2005-06 does not need to be completed until June.

**Municipal Journal Award:** The Council have been nominated for a Municipal Journal Award for Efficiency, whilst we'd rather not be in the position we're in hopefully we can have some recognition for the work we've done.

**Quarter 3 Performance:** Service Managers are now aware of how their departments have performed. I urge Portfolio Holders to discuss the Performance Indicators with Service Managers in the next few weeks so that any interventions can be made