

Title of Report:	Resource Management Select Committee
Report to be considered by:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
Date of Meeting:	9 June 2011

Purpose of Report: To provide an update on the work of the Select Committee and propose recommendations for forwarding to the Executive.

Recommended Action: To note the information and give approval to the draft recommendations proposed for the Executive.

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Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Committee met for the last time on 15 March 2011 and the draft minutes are attached at Appendix A. A summary of the main discussions held are as follows:

Establishment Report

- 1.2 The response to the Committee's request for Establishment Reports to contain a year end projection for both Council and joint/externally funded posts was discussed. This stated the reasons why this request could not be complied with. However, Members remained of the view that this would benefit the report and a mechanism of doing so should be explored that would involve Heads of Service providing the necessary data to Human Resources. The Commission is therefore asked to approve the following recommendation:

- (1) The Head of Human Resources should establish a mechanism whereby Heads of Service provide the relevant data to Human Resources to enable a forecast to be added to future Establishment Reports for both Council and joint/externally funded posts.

Car Park Budgets

- 1.3 A lengthy debate was held on this issue covering areas including parking availability in Newbury Town Centre, the income generated by ticket sales and enforcement activity of Civil Enforcement Officers, and future income targets.
- 1.4 It was resolved that the Head of Highways and Transport would provide some further information on these and other points in an effort to conduct further analysis and identify any parking trends.

Connectivity and Usage of the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG)

- 1.5 The Committee considered a report outlining the options and costs for connecting all the Council's systems to the LLPG as the source of address information within the authority. As well as detailing the benefits of this approach, the report made clear the cost implications of doing so. The current practice was to avoid the cost of making a system compliant by conducting this when a system was due to be replaced. Members did point out that initial investment could bring longer term savings with less time being spent on manual input/updates.
- 1.6 Members were in support of making a recommendation to the Executive for a project plan to be produced, with the intention of enabling all the Council's systems to be compliant with the LLPG. This would need to include an estimate of the potential costs with reference made to long term cost benefits. The Commission is therefore asked to approve the following recommendation:
- (1) The GIS Projects Analyst should formulate a project plan with the intention of enabling all the Council's systems to be compliant with the LLPG.

Value for Money

- 1.7 An update was provided on the Value for Money (VfM) position of the Council's services and the work of the VfM Group. The mechanism used for assessing VfM is well established and is based on the annual report of the Audit Commission which benchmarks the Council against all other unitary authorities. Information from specific CIPFA benchmarking clubs is also used.
- 1.8 If a service is found to be above average cost at minimum it will be discussed by the VfM Group and potentially added to the work programme. Work is currently in progress for Adult Social Care. The majority of the Council's services are found to be average cost or below.

Financial Performance Report (Month 10)

- 1.9 The month 10 budget position of the Council was noted. An underspend of £537k was predicted which was a £144k increase on the previous month's forecast position.
- 1.10 Discussions related to the benefit felt from the capitalisation of highways expenditure which amounted to a net revenue benefit of approximately £1.4m and the underspend reported for the Chief Executive Directorate.

2. Work Programme

- 2.1 The four remaining items from the Select Committee's work programme are detailed within Appendix A of item 12 of this agenda. These are potential items for the newly formed Resource Management Working Group.

Appendices

None