

ITEM 5

AT A MEETING

- of the -

**RESOURCES AND
PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY
AND PERFORMANCE PANEL:
CPA USE OF RESOURCES
WORKING GROUP**

held at the Council House,
Walsall on **17 August 2005** at
6.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Griffiths
Councillor Micklewright
Councillor Rochelle
Councillor Sarohi
Councillor D Shires

SCRUTINY SUPPORT

Helen Dudson, (Service Development & Interim Scrutiny Manager)

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for non-attendance were received.

2. ABSENCE AT PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that Councillors D Shires and Sarohi had not received the calling notice for the meeting on 12 July and this was the reason they had not attended. Helen Dudson confirmed that on occasions such problems had been experienced by the scrutiny team and that the scrutiny team were now following initial calling notices with second letters and in some cases telephone calls.

3. NOMINATION OF LEAD MEMBER

It was agreed that Councillor Rochelle would act as lead member for this working group.

4. OVERVIEW OF CPA FRAMEWORK WITH EMPHASIS ON VALUE FOR MONEY

Councillor Rochelle opened the meeting with some words regarding the role of the Resources and Performance Scrutiny and Performance Panel and the contribution it makes and the quality of officers within financial services who had sustained high scores in CPA terms for the last two years.

Helen Dudson presented an overview of the new CPA framework illustrating how and where the assessment was more difficult particularly in regards to Use of Resources and Value for Money.

During discussion councillors expressed concern regarding the remit of the working group. They recognised the importance of ensuring value for money was being correctly address across all services but as the majority of individual services are scrutinised by other panels were concerned about how they could add value without stepping into the remit of another scrutiny and performance panel.

Helen Dudson informed Councillors that the council had submitted its value for money self assessment on 31 July and that an inspection of value money was due to commence mid September. This would provide the council with a score in December but that the aim remains to continually improve how value for money is addressed and embedded and that this is where the work of the group could really add value. She then facilitated a discussion and examination of the Key Lines of Enquiry for value for money. Councillors agreed that it was important that any guidelines regarding delivering value for money were adequate and being followed. During discussion it was agreed that officers are best placed to suggest how to achieve cost effectiveness and that the working group, in their overview capacity, could examine proposals in a critical manner.

Benchmarking with other authorities was discussed and information regarding the CPA rating of the councils nearest statistical neighbours was viewed. Councillors agreed that benchmarking against other authorities is a key part of any examination of actions being taken to deliver value for money.

Through examination of the key lines of enquiry for value for money and an extract from the draft minutes of the previous Resources and Performance Scrutiny and Performance Panel it was agreed that the group would firstly consider benchmarking arrangements in the council and that a programme of other policies and procedures would be drafted by Helen Dudson for consideration at the next meeting. It was also agreed that Helen Dudson would consider possible meeting dates and in consultation with Councillors a meeting schedule would be set and agreed at the next meeting.

Resolved

- That the CPA Use of Resources (Value for Money) working group will consider corporate policies and procedures that support the delivery of efficiency savings.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7:25 p.m.