

77/05 - 2005/2006 QUARTER 3 CORPORATE ACTION PLAN (CAP) ACTIONS:

The Performance Officer submitted a written report intended to update the Commission on progress made in Quarter 3 (October to December of 2005/06) on the CAP actions. The Performance Officer then distinguished between the purpose of this report in comparison to the last set out at Minute 76/05 above and referred to those Council actions set out in the appendices to the written report. The Chair referred to corporate objective 3.1 in terms of tackling anti-social behaviour, and a 2005/06 target output to increase efficiency of problem-solving working. The Chair queried the way in which that would be achieved and how increased efficiency would be measured in that respect. Councillor Goss referred to Appendix 2 to the written report in relation to affordable housing and queried the lack of target outputs and planning actions in relation to the development of affordable housing within the District. The Chair invited Members of the Commission to consider whether they wished to speak to the Rural Enabling Officer in relation to this particular aspect of affordable housing. Councillor Alton referred to the current council policy for the allocation of Council houses, and queried the weight given in terms of the Council waiting list, to people with connections to local villages. It was suggested that perhaps the Commission could be provided with sufficient detail to enable a review of the way allocations are made for rural areas together with possible variations in Council policy which could be attributed to part share schemes between the Council and other Housing Associations which would require a departure from Council policy as a result.

Councillor Chapman referred to the work of the District Cultural Partnership and its re-establishment as an independent organisation. It was anticipated that the re-establishment of the partnership in this way would enable it to obtain Government funding to pursue its objectives. It was apparent that Members of the Commission knew little or nothing about this particular aspect of the Cultural Partnership and therefore it was agreed that further information would be requested in that regard.

Councillor Hoult referred to the proposed amalgamation of Harrogate, Craven and Richmond Crime Reduction partnership (CDRP's) and the concern that safer communities partnerships would lose touch with those representatives of police and other safer communities partners working at grass roots level. It was noted that this issue was separate from the Police boundary reforms. Councillor Hoult queried whether it was possible to obtain further information on this proposed amalgamation of CDRP's and the need to ensure that local input remained intact. The Scrutiny Officer advised that work regarding this issue was at a very preliminary stage but information could be requested from the Head of Public Protection at the appropriate time.

Councillor Goss queried when a final decision would be taken regarding the Police boundaries merger, and Councillor Hoult responded, advising that the Home Secretary would make an announcement to local authorities on 1 March 2006 about the solution preferred by the Home Office, following which there would be a short consultation period of around three weeks, following which a decision would be made. The consensus of opinion suggested that the boundaries would not merge until 2008 due to the limited opportunities for debate within the Parliamentary diary, however, it was also

noted that one particular local authority had threatened judicial review in this regard and if progressed could delay the introduction of any changes beyond 2008.

(5.50 pm – 6.10 pm)