

SCRUTINY CONSULTATION

10/08 - **CPA RECATEGORISATION UPDATE:** The Assistant Chief Executive attended the meeting and gave a verbal update on the CPA Recategorisation process. It was reported that the Audit Commission would be attending to inspect HBC during July 2008 and Members' attention was drawn to a briefing note emailed the week prior to the meeting.

The Assistant Chief Executive outlined preparations for the inspection visit including the production of a self-assessment document that had been submitted to supplement the inspectors' tour of the District. It was reported that as part of the inspection, the inspectors would be seeking to interview Members about various aspects of work, in particular Overview and Scrutiny which was seen as a key inspection issue. Those Members to be interviewed would receive a short briefing beforehand which would highlight the type of questions that would be asked. Members were assured that such a briefing was acceptable to the inspectors, with the Lead Inspection Officer having commented that they expected interviewees to have been briefed but not coached.

Members were informed that the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council and Members of the CPA Working Group would be accompanying the inspectors on the tour of the District, the object of which is to ensure that the inspectors understand what is special and unique about HBC and the way it works. At this stage Councillor Willoughby expressed her dismay at a visit to Knaresborough being omitted from the tour schedule. The Assistant Chief Executive agreed that it was disappointing but just not possible to cover all parts of the District due to the allotted time of only four hours. He explained that a request had been made by HBC for a full day tour but that the inspectors had believed four hours was sufficient. The decision to omit a visit to Knaresborough had been reluctantly arrived at by the Working Group which was made up of Members from all parts of the District.

(6.29 pm - 6.37 pm)