COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING –   21 MAY 2010

Statement from: Cllr Martin Hill – Leader and Executive Councillor for Policy, Strategy, Communications, County Farms and Finance

Finance

The Council will receive £7.904m million in Reward Grant for achieving Public Service Agreement performance targets. £3.244m was received in 2008/09 and a further £4.660m in 2009/10. This relates to achievement of vocational awards for young people, improving educational attainment for looked after children, increasing successful treatments for alcohol misuse, increasing take up of pension credit, improving road safety and improving adult skills.

Work is now in hand to close the Council's accounts. The Value for Money Scrutiny Committee and the Executive will review 2009/10 financial performance at their meetings in May and June. The Audit Committee will scrutinize the Council's draft 2009/10 statement of accounts in June prior to their approval by the Council.

The Audit Commission is currently assessing the Use of Resources in 2009/10 including how well the Council manages its finances. Currently the Council is assessed as "performing well." The results of the current assessment will be published in the autumn.

The council have recently completed the tendering of its insurance portfolio which has produced a £200,000 annual premium saving with insurers citing the ongoing risk management work undertaken by the council as the primary reason for the premium reduction.

As part of the council's ongoing commitment to ensure the continuity of its most critical services, in March it undertook a thorough exercise of its Corporate Business Continuity Plan with senior managers which make up the Incident Management Team. The purpose of this exercise was to challenge and test to see whether the Council's Corporate Business Continuity Plan is fit for purpose - the results were positive and helped provide a clear steer on how the plan can be enhanced to make the council's response to any major internal incident or disruption more effective.