












**Scrutiny Board (Strategy and Resources)
Recent work areas and outcomes 2014 -16**

Inquiry Area		Outcomes/added value
<i>Fees and Charges</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on the belief that a critical examination of fees and charges may be an effective way to help ease budget pressures and focus spend and subsidy on the highest priorities and therefore help deliver the Council's Best Council Plan. Proposed a number of areas where fees could be levied. Executive Board agreed all recommendations. Officers now charged with examining fees and charges options • Introduced a revised fees strategy which encourages services to look at how any subsidy might be targeted at priority groups in order to achieve specific council policies within the Best Council Plan.
<i>ICT Resourcing</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised the manner in which project work is prioritised and agreed, identified actions to help with recruitment and retention. Recommended that a member group be established as a forum for officers to share the challenges and opportunities facing ICT
<i>Non/off contract</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated the collaborative working between the Systems and Information team, Category Teams within PPU and Business Support Centre, Corporate Finance and the Directorates to reduce non/off-contract spend. • Worked with Procurement to identify efficiency measures to reduce off-contract spend and improve contract planning to address unplanned extensions or waivers of contracts.
<i>Career Families</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the development of career families as a way of making the workforce more agile and flexible, equipped to deliver services.
<i>Commissioning</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed current work to develop a strategic commissioning group, challenged model and financial savings (on going work) Acted as 'critical friend' in the on-going development of an integrated people's commissioning service.
<i>Officer Interests</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resulting in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that certain committees and meetings are appropriate for verbal declarations of interest by officers, (in addition to Planning decision meetings), and agree that this would be subject to Trade Unions consultation; • measures to limit risks where council staff take up employment with 'competitor' organisations; • proposals for communication of officer responsibility for handling confidential information, with an emphasis on release of information to ex council staff.
<i>How We Work'; Customer Access, Better Business management and Changing the Workplace</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resulting in future updates.

Inquiry Area		Outcomes/added value
Contract Procedure Rules		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resulting in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The introduction of a contracts calendar to reduce unnecessary contract extensions; ➤ Further work on off contract spend and waivers.
Translation Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resulting in the introduction of a policy for the use of interpreting and translation services across Leeds City Council with a view of reducing costs.
Contact Centre		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resulting in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ clear recommendations about its future funding; ➤ anticipating service failures and the consequential increase in Contact Centre activity; ➤ the development of better working relationships between Directorates and the Contact Centre.
Agency and Overtime		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resulting in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The introduction of the Challenge Panel and the drive to reduce agency staff; ➤ Re-shaping the People Plan Score Card and how compliance to objectives is scrutinised.