

## **Current Issues**

1. We were given a clean audit opinion for our 2003/04 accounts on 19/10/04, a month prior to our target date. Our financial management has led to a higher level of performance which we anticipate will be recognised in an increased Comprehensive Performance Assessment score for 'Use of Resources'. Much of our improved performance this year has been attributable to better cross council working and the newly introduced SAP system, but most of the credit must go to David O'Loan and his team in corporate finance, as well as officers throughout the council.
2. I was delighted to attend our first staff awards ceremony last week. The entire event was a celebration of the excellent work which staff do within the borough, and was a welcome opportunity for us to both acknowledge this work, and say thanks. We hope to build on this success next year.
3. Waltham Forest Working Together (our Local Strategic Partnership) launched a hotline card last month. The card aims to give residents in the borough contact details of key services – including the Council, the Police, Whipps Cross Hospital and the Primary Care Trust. The card was attached to the Council's magazine wfm and distributed to every household in the borough. We're also going to launch a key contacts page on the website.

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## Meetings Attended between 20/07/04 and 09/09/04:

### External Meetings and Events:

- Corporate Assessment Inspection week
- ALG Leaders Committee
- Chaired Olympics Leaders Meetings
- London Governance Committee Meetings
- Key-note speech at the Access Awareness Day
- Opening of Acasia Park
- Meeting with Government Office for London regarding Housing
- Friends of Henry Reynolds Garden
- Hornbeam Open Evening
- Neil Gerrard MP
- Walthamstow Master Planning Steering Group

Internal Council Business Meetings and Events:

- Weekly business management meetings with the Chief Executive
- Communications Meetings
- Improvement Plan Meetings
- Regular Meetings with the Central Government lead official
- Top Team Briefings
- North Chingford Community Council
- Whitehall School Healthy Eating Day
- Welcome Reception for Community Safety
- Leytonstone School – take your Councillor to school day
- Landlords Forum
- Staff Awards Ceremony
- Meeting regarding the proposed city academy

**Councillor Clyde Loakes**

Leader of the Council

Date submitted: 11/11/04