

**TO: AUDIT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
 1ST APRIL 2003**

**SUBJECT: WORK PLAN 2002/2003 AND 2003/2004 AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER
 PRIORITY AREAS**

FROM: POLICY SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 (a) To report on the Scrutiny Committee's work during the year and to monitor progress against the Portfolio Holder priority areas.
- (b) To update the committee's work plan for 2003/04.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It has been agreed to consider the Committee's work plan as a Standing Item on each agenda. At recent meetings, particularly on 4th February and 4th March, the Committee considered its work programme for the coming year and agreed that a brief retrospective view of work undertaken during the year and an extension of its work programme be considered. Appendix 1 and 2 summarise this Committee's Scrutiny work during the year 2002/03. Appendix 3 is the 2002/03 work plan and portfolio holder priority matrix. Appendix 4 is a draft schedule of its work for the coming year. It includes standing items and work commissioned by the Committee. It also incorporates a work programme for its recently acquired responsibilities as an Audit Committee. In it, the ICT programme review will be reported to the Executive and the Committee will be able to consider it at that time. The Committee at its 4th March meeting decided in addition to review (from a resources perspective) certain schemes and decisions of the Executive:-

- ◆ St. Mary's Lands
- ◆ Jephson Gardens Outturn
- ◆ Jephson Gardens and Pump Rooms Catering
- ◆ Costs of Marlborough House
- ◆ The Cultural Quarter
- ◆ Court Street Proposals

The Committee is advised that a full report on St. Mary's Lands is scheduled to go to the Executive in May. It is anticipated that this report will meet the Committee's needs. The Court Street report has been called in. The Committee may feel that meeting the call in requirements will also meet the Scrutiny function envisaged when this item was selected for the work programme.

It is proposed that the Jephson Gardens review and the catering review are both scheduled for September 2003. The Marlborough House item has been scheduled for October. The Cultural Quarter project has received all necessary agreements by the Executive and Planning Committees. Ordinarily a review of this project would not arise until, say, a year's experience had been obtained. This would suggest a 2004/05 review.

The Committee decided that the policy review of Discretionary Rate Relief, Grants and Support in Kind would be associated with a wider discussion involving interest groups and the public and that the meeting considering this item should be held away from the Town Hall.

- 2.2 The Executive agreed service plans at its meeting on the 5th March 2002. It is anticipated that revised service plans will be available for the April cycle. The portfolio holder will be present at the meeting to answer questions.

3. OUTCOME REQUIRED

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to update its own work programmes and also to note progress against the portfolio holder's priorities and work programmes. The Committee is asked to note also that progress on implementing actions from Best Value Reviews is included in the Performance Management report.

**Jeremy Jaroszek
Strategic Director (Finance)**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Areas in District Affected: All

**Executive Portfolio Area and Holder: Corporate and Strategic Leadership
Councillor Bob Crowther**

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