

**TO: Resource Scrutiny Committee - 5th November 2002**

**SUBJECT: Building Control Charges - Progress Report**

**FROM: Planning and Engineering**

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise the Scrutiny Committee Members on the progress and operation of the revised scheme and charges for the Building Control fee related function for the financial year of 2002/03.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members may recall that as from the 1st April 1999, responsibility for setting the charges in respect of the Council's statutory fee related function, was devolved from Central Government to Local Authorities. The charges set need to be established to ensure the income over the period of three financial years shall not be less than the cost of the Building Control fee related function.

In addition, guidance from the LGA and DETR, (Deputy Prime Ministers Officer) advise any surplus fee should be modest.

- 2.2 The Executive Committee of 11th March 2002 Minute No. 738, (copy of report attached), requested a report be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee on the progress and operation of the revised scheme and charges for the Building Control fee related function for the current financial year.

- 2.3 A review of the first period of three financial years indicate that the income received for the fee related function was in excess of the cost of service.

A current review of Year 1 of the second period of three financial years, now indicate that our income is on target to meet the cost of expenditure for the Building Control fee related function, i.e. the estimated income for the current financial year for the fee related function is £444,700.00. Currently income for the first six months is £336,900.00, in excess of 50% of the estimated figure for the financial year. In addition, in excess of the current total fee and non-fee expenditure cost to date of £291,000.00.

**3. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK**

- 3.1 The proposals are in accordance with the budgetary requirements of the Building Control Service, to ensure the breakeven between expenditure and income over three year financial period.

**4. OUTCOME REQUIRED**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee notes that the revised set scheme of charges for the financial year 2002/03 are on target to meet the expenditure cost.

- 4.2 That the revised set scheme of charges as from the 1st April 2002 continue until 1st

April 2003, subject to continuous review of the set charges within the current financial year be undertaken as and when required.

4.3 The monitor of the increase of support services on cost continues.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report to the Executive Committee - 11th March 2002 - Devolution of Building Control Charges (revised scheme).

**Areas in District Affected:** All

**Executive Portfolio Area and Holder:** Councillor Tamlin

**Scrutiny Committee(s):** Environment, Planning & Engineering Building Control

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