

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## *Committee Report*

**Public**

**Date of Meeting:**

**26 September 2002**

**Title: PROGRAMME OF BEST VALUE REVIEWS 2002/2003**

**Report of: Town Clerk & Chief Executive**

**Report reference: TC 196/02**

**Summary:** This report sets out those Best Value reviews which are scheduled to be undertaken during 2002/2003 for Members' information. Members are asked to consider the scheduled programme and, if content, assign each one to a relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee to manage.

**Recommendations:** It is recommended that Members: -

1. Agree the schedule and assign each review to an appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to manage;
2. Decide whether the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or individual Committees will conduct the rescoping of the Regeneration and Strategic Housing reviews.

1.

### 2. Introduction

Based on discussions with Management and Members when our 5-year programme of reviews was amended to become more thematic, the following reviews were chosen to be undertaken in 2002/2003: -

- o A Strategic Approach to Housing
- o Democratic Engagement (previously titled Community Engagement)
- o Planning (incorporating all sections of the Department)

Regeneration was reviewed in 2001/2002, but due to problems with that review, it will be revisited during this financial year.

A brief description of the issues surrounding each of these reviews is presented below: -

## **2. Neighbourhood Renewal**

This is phase II of the regeneration best value review, refocused to take account of the priority which emerged from the phase I work - to tackle area-based deprivation. There is currently a large-scale information gathering exercise underway to ensure that when the review comes to be re-scoped, Members have important background information on which to base their decisions. The Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been managing this review to date and, as a result, this Committee will need to decide who will be responsible for the revised scoping exercise.

Catherine Elliot is the review team leader.

## **3. A Strategic Approach to Housing**

The Management Committee's recommendation to cancel this review and deal with improvement issues outside the Best Value framework was rejected by the Executive.

This review was scoped some time ago, though there was not a lot of information therein for members to give clear direction. A revised scoping paper will, therefore, need to return to Committee at the next available meeting. Since the initial scoping, Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been dealing with this report and Management Committee members should again decide on which Committee is more appropriate to undertake the re-scoping exercise.

Kamla Pattni is the review team leader.

## **4. Democratic Engagement**

David Taylor has been appointed as joint lead for this review, but another joint review team leader has yet to be confirmed (no one Officer has offered to take the individual lead on this review). As a result, this review has not yet started. The objectives for this review were described in the Best Value Performance Plan 2001/2 as: -

"To increase citizen engagement in both shaping council services and in the democratic process and to improve the lines of communication between the Council and local people.

[To] consider consultation and feedback, involving customers in service decisions, increasing partnership working, an updated consultation strategy for the authority and methods of improving electoral turnout"

These objectives will need to be reconsidered and either confirmed or amended at the scoping session.

## **5. Planning**

Christopher Hardman is the team leader for this review. He is currently collating background papers and summarising the key current issues for the Planning unit as a whole (Local Plans and Conservation, Development Control and Building Control) in order to generate a scoping paper.

**Contact Officer:** Karen Hook

**Ext:** 7015