

## REPORT OF ECONOMY AND PLANNING REVIEW PANEL

(Meeting held 19 September)

### 1. PROBITY IN PLANNING – NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – AUDIT 1999/2000 (REPORT G MINUTE 52)

The Panel has received a report on recommendations of the District Auditor contained in his summary report to the Council dated May 2001. All District Councils have been subject to a similar audit in the last two years. It was explained that all Councils need to respond to the high profile ethical standards and governance changes that the Government is driving through following the recent Nolan reports.

The assessment was conducted in late 2000 by examining statistical records, interviews with officers and members and checking planning application files as well as written procedures.

The report put forward a detailed action plan which contained 17 recommendations for improvements. These had been discussed with officers who considered all but one to be acceptable.

The Panel noted the District Auditor's report and in particular the recommendations in the action plan. The report, which contained the Council's responses detailed the actions, made comments where appropriate and defined a lead officer and time scale for implementation.

### 2. WORK PROGRAMME (REPORT J MINUTE 55)

The Panel has reviewed its Work programme for the remainder of the year. Members made a number of adjustments and added some items.

Members expressed concern about the slippage of some items and consequent delays in bringing them to the Panel at the time requested.

The Work programme for the ensuing year is attached Appendix 1, and will be reviewed by the Panel at every meeting.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

***That the Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 to this report be adopted as the basis for the work of the Panel for the year 2001/02.***

**Councillor Mrs P A Wyeth  
CHAIRMAN**

# APPENDIX 1

## ECONOMY AND PLANNING REVIEW PANEL OUTLINE WORK PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER 2001 UPDATE

### 17 OCTOBER 2001

Expenditure Plans  
Limit on heights of town buildings  
Planning Appeals  
Parking Provisions on Development Sites  
PDC Agenda

### 21 NOVEMBER 2001

Targets for determining planning applications  
Car Parks – Best Value – Challenge  
Building Control – Best Value Improvement Plan  
Land Charges – Performance review and preparations for Best Value  
consultation results with specific stakeholders  
Review of Enforcement Practices  
Externalising pilot study for part of DC process  
Development Control Users Guide – updated version  
Landlocked Industries  
Unique NFDC Planning Policies (eg Horticulture)

### 16 JANUARY 2002

Full use of GIS systems  
Budget Estimates 2002/03

### 20 MARCH 2002

(Items yet to be added)

**NB:** Although the above is the list of future items agreed by the Panel on 19 September, inevitably this will be superseded in the near future, as events unfold.