

## **REPORT OF LEISURE REVIEW PANEL**

(Meeting held on 16 October 2001)

### **1. AUDIT COMMISSION INSPECTORS' REPORT - RECREATION CENTRES AND TOURISM REVIEWS (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 33)**

The Panel has considered the outcome of the Audit Commission's inspection of the Best Value Reviews that were undertaken of the recreation centres and the tourism services. These were the first inspections of District Council services that had been subject to Best Value Reviews undertaken by the Commission.

The full report of the Inspectors is available on ForestNet. The Panel considered a summary of the findings which have been incorporated within service improvement plans. These service improvement plans are monitored by the Panel.

Both services were scored two star, likely to improve. The Panel was very pleased to note the ratings afforded both services. The threshold for a three star rating is high. Of all the cultural reviews undertaken nationally, only two have been three star, with neither of these being in the southern region.

The Panel shares the view that the inspection process has proved beneficial. The method of inspection and the approach and attitude of the inspections produced a climate of rigorous analysis while seeking positive actions to improve. The Panel has heard that the reviews were open and constructive. There have been learning points on a number of levels, not least in shaping the processes used in-house and in finding better ways of involving members. New guidance on conducting the reviews is about to be issued.

The inspections have shown that it is as important to plan for the inspection as it is for the other elements of the Best Value Reviews. The Inspectors are on site for only a short period and people and resources need to be made available during this period.

**Councillor J A G Hutchins J P**  
**CHAIRMAN**