

**LegCo Panel on Commerce and Industry**  
**LegCo Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting**

**Operating expenditure for programme implementation**

Members asked for information on, in respect of the policy portfolio of the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (SCIT), how the efficiency savings for 2003-04 and 2004-05 to 2006-07 will be achieved, how such savings will be spread out among the various programmes, and how the planning and implementation of existing and new or improved services relating to the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau will be affected.

2. Government aims to achieve a balanced Operating Account by 2006-07 and we are expected to deliver the target efficiency savings in the coming years according to schedule. Like other Directors of Bureaux, SCIT is considering how resources could be redeployed within his operating expenditure envelope so that, notwithstanding the efficiency savings, the Bureau's services will continue to meet the priority needs of the community. We are looking at various possibilities under the "3Rs and 1M" concept : Re-prioritisation, Re-organisation, and Re-engineering; and better use of the Market in the delivery of our services. We aim to cope with the on-going and future work demand by –

- (a) simplifying organization structure and streamlining procedures;
- (b) integrating inter-related or overlapping functions at both the policy and implementation levels; and
- (c) reviewing the demand for services and work priorities.

We will be able to deliver the required savings of 1.8% in 2003/04 through the above measures. We do not envisage that such measures would affect the quality and scope of services we provide to any significant extent, or give rise to significant changes in any of our policy

areas. The efficiency savings exercise would also not affect our impetus to undertake the priority tasks that SCIT has outlined to the two Legislative Council Panels on 17 September and 3 October 2002 respectively. We would consult the relevant Panel again if we foresee any significant issues.

3. The Administration is at the early stage of preparing for next year's budget and has just started the next important stage of work. The Financial Secretary will be consulting Members of the Legislative Council, relevant organisations and the public on the 2003-04 Budget. An updated timetable on the Budget process prepared by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Treasury) is at Annex.

Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau  
November 2002

## 2003-04 Budget

## Timetable of Consultation/Processes

Target Date	Event
25 Oct 2002	FS to issue information pack to LegCo Members as background information for consultations on the 2003-04 Budget and brief LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs on fiscal deficits and the budgeting of Government expenditure for years from 2003-04 to 2006-07
November 2002	FS to consult LegCo Members on their proposals for both expenditure and revenue for the 2003-04 Budget
8 Nov 2002	Briefing of Finance Committee Members on budget process
December 2002/ January 2003	Bureaux to finalise their estimates submissions for the 2003-04 Estimates taking into account views received from consultations.
January 2003	Treasury Branch to finalise Estimates on Expenditure (including Controlling Officer's Report, Subhead Estimates, Details of Expenditure by Subheads and Capital Account Commitments) in consultation with bureaux
February 2003	Final proof and printing of Estimates of Expenditure and Revenue
5 Mar 2003	<b>Budget Day:</b> FS to deliver Budget Speech at LegCo – 1st Budget Sitting
6 Mar 2003	FS/SFST to brief Finance Committee Members on the Budget.
24-28 Mar 2003	Special Finance Committee Meetings to examine draft Estimates of Expenditure
2-3 Apr 2003	2nd Budget sitting – LegCo Members to debate on Budget Speech
9 Apr 2003	3rd Budget sitting – LegCo Members to vote on the Appropriation Bill  FS to deliver Concluding Speech
30 Apr 2003	SFST to introduce Revenue Bills, if required

**Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Treasury)**  
**October 2002**