

AGENDA ITEM: 4

AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL

6TH OCTOBER 2008

Relocation of Fire Emergency Control Room

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To present the purpose of this meeting which is for the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel to explore the issues associated with the relocation of the Fire Emergency Control Room as referenced at the OSB meeting in August.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2 Members of the Panel are recommended to explore the issues associated with this proposed rationalisation of the Fire Emergency Control Room, which affects Middlesbrough and report to the OSB as the Panel considers appropriate.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The Overview and Scrutiny Board were alerted that consideration is being given to the National rationalisation of Fire Emergency Control Rooms and that this may result in a proposal to relocate the control room for the Middlesbrough area. Consequently the Board directed the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel to explore the issues associated with this understanding and report back to the Board as considered appropriate, illustrating the potential impact this may have on Middlesbrough.

SCRUTINY MEETING

- 4 The purpose of the meeting is to confirm or otherwise the intended rationalisation of the Fire Emergency Control Rooms and therefore the Members of Middlesbrough Council who sit on the Fire Authority have been invited to attend this meeting.
- 5 The meeting is exploratory and aims to clarify the following issues.
 - What is the intention and reasoning behind the proposal to relocate the Fire Emergency Control Room, which covers Middlesbrough.
 - What are the potential affects of any changes on Middlesbrough
 - Did the Fire Authority consult on these changes with the local Authorities in the Cleveland Area.
 - What mechanism or process are in place for Middlesbrough Members who sit on the Fire Authority to ensure the Council is appraised of significant changes which may affect their area.
- 6 Once the Panel has undertaken the appropriate enquiries and received the information to satisfy those enquiries. The Panel are advised to determine if this forms the basis for a further meeting. Should this be the case the Panel are requested to identify their lines of enquiry and the direction the Scrutiny will take.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 7 The Panel is advised to determine the date and time of the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel should it be pursuing further the Fire Emergency Control Room relocation.
- 8 Should the Panel consider no further enquiries are required then the Panel will identify the date of its next meeting once OSB has identified the subject being directed to this Panel.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9 No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

COUNCILLOR JANICE BRUNTON

CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

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