

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

21 FEBRUARY 2006

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To ensure that Members are aware of what took place at the Special Overview and Scrutiny Board Meeting on 9 January and the Overview and Scrutiny Board Meeting on 31 January.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAST OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

2. At the previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the following matters were discussed and considered necessary to feed back to the Panel.

9 January

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	ACTION/COMMENTARY
JNC Recruitment and Retention – Call in	The decision to increase the salaries of the Corporate Directors was called-in. It was ordered that the decisions taken at the Individual Executive Decisions-Making Meeting Held on 15 December 2005 be referred back to the Mayor (19 January) for reconsideration on the basis that the decision had been taken too hastily.

31 January

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	ACTION/COMMENTARY
JNC Recruitment and Retention. Outcome of Call-In – Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 9 January 2006.	The information contained within the report was noted.
JNC Recruitment and Retention.	The Mayor considered that there had been

<p>Outcome of Individual Executive Decision-Making Meeting by the Mayor.</p>	<p>extensive research and consultation undertaken to support the report's recommendations. The Mayor therefore upheld his original decision.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Carr commented that on future occasions Members should to be more explicit in explaining why they are calling-in a decision. Reasons need to be more specific and transparent. Members should also request evidence of research and external consultation.</p>
<p>Acute Hospital Services Review.</p>	<p>The report considered by the Executive recommended that the Council should seek reassurances, which ensure that the quality of care for patients in Middlesbrough was not compromised. It was also recommended that the transfer of the gastro-intestinal cancer services and the endo-luminal vascular services to the University Hospital of North Tees should not result in a resource deficit.</p> <p>It was agreed at the Executive that the Mayor would respond to the SHA, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Health. The Mayor will express his serious concerns over the implications of the proposals.</p>
<p>Executive Feedback – Emergency Admissions into James Cook University Hospital.</p>	<p>The Executive had considered and supported both the Service Response and the response of the Corporate Management Team and had also agreed the proposed Action Plan.</p>
<p>Executive's Forward Work Programme.</p>	<p>The information contained within the report was noted.</p> <p>Cllr Mike Carr commented that it would be beneficial, in light of the current housing issues, if the Board received information on both the Housing Regeneration Strategy and the Middlesbrough Urban Renaissance Strategy.</p>
<p>Worklessness – Final Report of the Economic Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Panel.</p>	<p>Cllr Linda Wilson made an enquiry into whether Members have the chance to comment on the action plans produced by service areas. It was explained that Chairs have the opportunity to comment at the Executive meeting when the report is presented.</p> <p>A suggested amendment was made to recommendation 1, the Board agreed that it would be beneficial to mention that in working with partner organisations, consideration should be given to rationalise the number of job creation agencies in order to develop a more co-ordinated approach.</p>
<p>Worklessness – Final Report of the</p>	<p>The Board approved the report and it's</p>

Economic Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Panel CONT....	recommendations, the report will now be submitted to the Executive.
Progress Against Corporate Improvement Plans	<p>The report updated Scrutiny on the progress that the Council has made in implementing improvement plans.</p> <p>There has been a reduction in absence from work due to sickness from 15.2 days per FTE in 2003/2004 to 11.8 days per FTE in 2004/05, this is a big improvement and is the result of more robust management procedures.</p> <p>The outstanding actions in the Corporate Assessment Improvement Plan are all contained within the revised People Strategy.</p> <p>The likely timescale for completion of the risk manual is April 2006.</p>
Consideration of Requests for Scrutiny Reviews from a Non Executive Member <i>- The role and functions of Community Centres within Middlesbrough</i>	The Board suggested that the Economic Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Panel consider the request when determining their work programme for the next municipal year.
Consideration of Requests for Scrutiny Reviews from a Member of the Public <i>- Opposition to the proposed demolitions within the Gresham area.</i>	The Board is scheduled to receive information on the Housing Regeneration Strategy and the Middlesbrough Urban Renaissance Strategy before March 2006. Once this information has been received, the Board will direct the request to the Economic Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Panel for consideration when determining their work programme for the next municipal year.
Scrutiny Panel Progress Reports	A report of the Chair of each Scrutiny Panel was submitted outlining the progress on current activities.

**COUNCILLOR E. DRYDEN
CHAIR OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: -

- (i) The agenda papers of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting of 9 January 2006.
- (ii) The agenda papers of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting of 31 January 2006.

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