

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

16 MARCH 2007

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 27 February 2007 and the Overview and Scrutiny Board Meeting on 6 March 2007.

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.

27 February

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	ACTION/COMMENTARY
Revenue Budget 2007/2008	<p>The report provided the Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update in respect of the 2007/2008 Local Government Finance Settlement and the Proposed Revenue Budget for 2007/2008.</p> <p>The chair of the board indicated that Members had been concerned that similar budget pressures, with Children, Families and Learning, had been reported over a number of years. Clarification was sought regarding the budget pressures outlined within the report. The board acknowledged that the required actions would be taken to address the issue.</p> <p>The OSB considered and noted the contents of the report.</p>

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	ACTION/COMMENTARY
<p>Community Engagement</p>	<p>As the Overview and Scrutiny Board will recall, the Executive, following consideration of a report produced by the Community Engagement Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel, approved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the Community Council Cluster arrangements with a view to increasing their effectiveness and the level of councillor and community engagement; • To consider further other mechanisms for supporting and encouraging non-Executive councillors to discharge their champion role; • To carry forward those approved actions contained within the agreed action plan; and • A further report being produced on the outcomes of (i) and (ii) <p>The purpose of the report was to update members on the work that has so far been taken to progress the decisions and to submit a number of proposals in order for further work to be undertaken.</p> <p>Members of the OSB will be requested to volunteer to discuss, in more detail, the implications and content of the report. A meeting will be arranged prior to the next OSB meeting to accommodate the discussion. The board will receive feedback from this meeting on the 3 April 2007.</p> <p>The information contained within the report was noted.</p>
<p>2006/2007 3rd Quarters Revenue Budget Outturn</p>	<p>The purpose of the report was to present the board with an estimate of the annual outturn for 2006/2007, based on the third quarters review of revenue expenditure against the current years Revenue Budget.</p> <p>The chair expressed concern regarding the budget pressure associated with vulnerable children. The board was informed that the service area has set out an action plan to mitigate the net total service budgetary pressures.</p> <p>The information contained within the report was noted.</p>

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	ACTION/COMMENTARY
<p>2006/2007 3rd Quarters Capital Budget Outturn</p>	<p>In order to allow for further clarification and ensure an accurate representation of the 3rd Quarters Capital Budget Outturn, the chair agreed that the report of the Director of Resources be withdrawn from the agenda for this meeting.</p>
<p>Middlesbrough Council Strategic Plan 2007/08 Update, Proposed Content and Timetable.</p>	<p>The purpose of the report is to inform scrutiny and to seek comment on the proposal to produce and print an annual update to the three-year Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The board considered and approved the contents of the report.</p>
<p>Improving Behaviour and Supporting Pupils at Risk of Exclusion – Final Report of the Children & Learning Scrutiny Panel</p>	<p>The aims of the scrutiny review were to investigate the issues around behaviour improvement in schools and also in relation to the support, which is made available to pupils who are at risk of exclusion. This included the examination of existing Council responsibilities and national policies and guidance. Information was also obtained directly from schools and teaching staff.</p> <p>The board approved the report and its recommendations, the report will now be submitted to the Executive.</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Policing – Final Report of the Community Safety & Leisure Scrutiny Panel</p>	<p>The aim of the scrutiny was essentially to assess the progress for introducing Neighbourhood Policing into Middlesbrough and to advise on issues, which the panel considered, would improve its operation.</p> <p>The board requested and were in agreement that a small number of minor amendments should be made regarding the wording of the report.</p> <p>Ian Parker attended the meeting and assured the board that, with regards to future reviews, a robust procedure will be implemented to ensure that the required input from Community Protection will be received.</p> <p>Subject to the additional amendments being made, the report was agreed and will now be submitted to the Executive Office to await the service's response.</p>

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	ACTION/COMMENTARY
<p>Becks and Beck Valleys – Final Report of the Environment Scrutiny Panel</p>	<p>The aims of the scrutiny review were to investigate issues around Middlesbrough’s becks and beck valleys, given their importance in drainage and flood prevention. This included examination of existing council responsibilities and policy and hearing information from other bodies and agencies that have involvement in this issue.</p> <p>The board agreed that an additional recommendation be included in the report to the effect that the Environment Agency should involve the scrutiny panel in drawing up the specification for any tender for future becks maintenance works.</p> <p>Following inclusion of the additional recommendation, the board approved the report and its recommendations, the report will now be submitted to the Executive.</p>
<p>Healthcare Associated Infections – Final report of the Health Scrutiny Panel</p>	<p>The aim of the scrutiny review was to attempt to ascertain the local position over rates of healthcare associated infection and what is being done to address the matter.</p> <p>The report was agreed and will now be submitted to the Executive Office to await the service’s response.</p>
<p>Choose & Book – Final Report of the Health Scrutiny Panel</p>	<p>The aim of the scrutiny review was to consider, in detail, Choose and Book’s implications for the NHS and particularly the impact it could have on Middlesbrough residents and their access to the services they require.</p> <p>The board approved the report and its recommendations, the report will now be submitted to the Executive.</p>
<p>Respite and Palliative Care Services for Children with Life Limiting Illnesses – Final report of the Middlesbrough and Eston Health Scrutiny Joint Committee</p>	<p>The purpose of the scrutiny investigation was to review the services currently available for this cohort of children and the relationships between local authorities, NHS agencies and the Voluntary and Community Sector.</p> <p>The report was agreed and will now be submitted to the Executive Office to await the service’s response.</p>

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	ACTION/COMMENTARY
Scrutiny Review – Implementation of Recommendations	The information contained within the report was noted.
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 27 February 2007.
- (ii) The agenda papers of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting of 6 March 2007.

Contact Officer:

Jon Ord
Scrutiny Support Officer, Performance and Policy Directorate
Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)
Email: jon_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk