

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

4 JANUARY 2008

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD UPDATE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To ensure that Members are aware of what took place at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on 20 November 2007 and the Special Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on 22 November 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.

20 November 2007

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	ACTION/COMMENTARY
<p>North East Ambulance Service – Proposals for Ambulance Contact Centres</p>	<p>Representatives from the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) were in attendance to discuss the proposals for ambulance contact centres in the North East of England. The proposals focused on the NEAS having two ambulance contact centres, one in Newcastle and one in Hebburn, South Tyneside. It is proposed that the centre at Ladgate Lane in Middlesbrough will close.</p> <p>Following a series of questions, Members of the OSB arrived at four distinct areas where they have concerns over the proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The NEAS had not sought the views of the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit about its proposals. 2. The proposals will remove employment opportunities from the Tees area. 3. The material benefits to local people and the future patients remain unclear. 4. The Board noted that in the Consultant's report on the topic, it is suggested that for reasons of business continuity, contact centres should not be less than 15 miles apart. The Newcastle/Hebburn model that is proposed would appear to be around 9 miles apart.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	ACTION/COMMENTARY
North East Ambulance Service – Proposals for Ambulance Contact Centres CONT....	<p>The Chair requested that a report be constructed in order to assimilate and distil the views of the Overview & Scrutiny Board on the proposals. Once approved by the Board, it is anticipated that the report will be presented to the Executive.</p>
Executive Member – Children, Families and Learning	<p>Councillor Brenda Thompson conveyed the aims and objectives, which directly relate to her portfolio.</p> <p>The Executive Member also provided the Board with information regarding the significant issues currently being pursued within her area of responsibility, these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils' Attendance and Attainment • Special Educational Needs (SEN) Review • Developing a Youth Council • Monitoring and Managing the Children, Families and Learning budget • Reducing the Number of Children in Care <p>The remaining Executive Members have been scheduled to attend OSB over the course of the municipal year.</p>
2007/2008 2nd Quarter Revenue Budget Outturn	<p>The purpose of the report was to present to the Overview and Scrutiny Board an estimate of the annual Outturn for 2007/2008 based on the second quarter review of revenue expenditure against the current year's Revenue budget.</p>
Scrutiny Review – Implementation of Recommendations	<p>Item deferred until next meeting (18 December 2007)</p>
Scrutiny Panel Progress Reports	<p>Item deferred until next meeting (18 December 2007)</p>
Any Other Business	<p>The Chair ensured the Board was aware of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Special Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting has been scheduled to take place on 22 November 2007. The meeting has been arranged to discuss the relocation of the Post Office from Grange Road into W H Smith. • A Special Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting has been arranged for 29 November 2007 to consider a call in request. The call in will allow the Board to review the decision made by the Executive regarding Erimus Housing - Group Structure Proposals.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE	ACTION/COMMENTARY
Scrutiny into Closure and Transfer of Post Office	<p>The purpose of the report was to present to the Board with an outline of the closure and relocation of Middlesbrough's main Post Office to W H Smith.</p> <p>Representatives from the Post Office, W H Smith and Post Watch were invited to the meeting. At the meeting, the Board received information regarding the basis of the closure/transfer of Middlesbrough's main Post Office. Clarification was sought regarding the effect this will have on the service, the anticipated impact on the local community, what consultation process has been undertaken and how the service is to be provided in the future.</p>

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 20 November 2007.
- (ii) The agenda papers of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting of 22 November 2007.

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