



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

24 AUGUST 2004

Annual Report 2003/04

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the approval from members of the Overview & Scrutiny Board to print the draft Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report, attached as appendix A.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 It is the first annual report that the Overview & Scrutiny function has compiled. Its purpose is to highlight the progress and achievements that the Overview & Scrutiny function has achieved during the municipal year of 2003/04.
- 2.2 The high standard of investigations undertaken within each of the Panels and that of the Overview & Scrutiny Board is detailed. The document portrays that the Scrutiny function has become embedded within the political process and that Non-Executive Councillors are provided opportunity to ensure that local people receive high quality services in regard to: -
- Reviewing the effectiveness of existing policies & services;
 - Recommending future policies and service improvements; and
 - Holding the Executive to account.
- 2.3 The Annual Report will aid outside bodies and officers across the authority to acknowledge the value that the Scrutiny function can provide to their service. Furthermore the arrangements of the Overview & Scrutiny function for 2004/05 is detailed, to provide an outline of the potential investigations that may be undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Board and the Panels.

3. ANNUAL REPORT DISTRIBUTION

3.1 It is proposed that in the initial instance the Annual Report is distributed to the following: -

- All Executive Directors,
- Heads of service,
- The Mayor,
- All Councillors,
- Co-opted Members of Scrutiny Panels
- Council Reception Points
- Scrutiny at Middlesbrough Website

- Health Partners i.e. Strategic Health Authority, PCT
- Middlesbrough Town Centre Company
- Libraries
- External Organisations involved with the reviews
- Centre for Public Scrutiny

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 It is recommended that the Overview & Scrutiny Board approves the draft Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report and agree upon the distribution of the document.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 No background papers were used to form this report.

Cllr Michael Carr
Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Board