



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

24 AUGUST 2004

### ECONOMIC REGENERATION & TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

#### PROGRESS REPORT

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board with an update on the progress of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel.

#### RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report.

#### PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

3. Since the last update the Panel have met to hear a briefing from the Head of Transport and Design on the Local Transport Plan which provided some useful background information for the basis of the review. As a result the Panel were able to establish the aim of the review and the terms of reference. The aim of which is as follows:

*To assess if the Local Transport Plan that is currently under development will ensure that the key strategic transport aims of the Council will be achieved.*

4. Following that meeting the Panel has begun their evidence gathering with a presentation of Road Safety Issues.
5. Future meetings of the Panel have also been arranged for 2 September, 22 September, 14 October, 3 November. The meetings will enable the Panel to receive and gather evidence from various sources including the following:
  - (i) The Mayor will attend a Panel meeting to speak on Middlesbrough's key transport issues.
  - (ii) Assessing congestion and securing better access to jobs and services – the Panel will be hearing evidence from officers within

- Environment and Regeneration and will also be visiting the Council's Traffic Control Centre.
- (iii) With regard to improving access to buses – the Panel will be meeting with representatives from the local bus operators and have developed their questions in advance of the meeting.
  - (iv) In order to gain a national perspective it is hoped that a representative from Government Office North East will attend a Panel meeting.
  - (v) I will also be attending the final Transport debate held by the Mayor on 8 September to hear some of the public's issues with regard to transport in Middlesbrough.
6. The Panel dealt with a number of issues at their meeting on 12 August. The Panel received the latest Performance Clinic information from the Regeneration Service Area. The report outlined a number of issues regarding the progress of performance indicators and the Panel was satisfied with the actions being taken to improve performance.
7. Following the agreement by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 15 June to consider a request from a member of the public to scrutinise the lack of public toilet facilities within libraries a small working team was established. Councillors Williams and Ismail met with the lady concerned to discuss the suggestion in further detail. A response to the question of the provision of public toilets in libraries was received from the Head of Libraries and Information.
8. The Panel debated the issue and whilst the service recognised the request it had to be considered alongside the resource implications. Staff were able to use discretion as to who could use their facilities but this also had to be balanced with concerns over staff safety.
9. It was agreed to accept the report from the Head of Libraries and Information and that it was recommended that the issue should be kept under review by the service area.
10. As one of the plans that forms the Council's Policy Framework, the Public Libraries Position Statement, previously known as the Annual Libraries Plan, was considered by the Panel.
11. In doing so the Panel noted that the statement was a very comprehensive document and agreed that it should be submitted to the Executive and then to Council for approval.

**COUNCILLOR MARTIN BOOTH  
CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY  
PANEL**