



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

24 AUGUST 2004

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL – PROGRESS REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

2. To inform the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of the progress made to date by the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

3. PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

4. Since my last progress report to this Board on 13 July 2004, the Panel have:-
- (a) Agreed the remit of our first Scrutiny investigation into the Authority's Allotment Provision;
 - (b) Received a joint introductory report and presentation from Officers within Environment Services with regard to Authority's Allotment Service Provision;
 - (c) Visited all of the Authority's six Allotment Sites;
 - (d) Considered information on the legal framework together with various national Government initiatives; and
 - (e) Considered the first quarter performance clinic data for Environment and Neighbourhood Services.

5. The Panel's investigation into Allotments has certainly generated a lot of media and public interest over the recent weeks. Articles have been printed in various local newspapers those being the Evening Gazette and the Northern Echo and the Vice Chair was recently involved in a radio interview with BBC Radio Cleveland on this subject too.
6. In my absence, the Vice Chair of this Panel and the Scrutiny Support Officer have also met with the Officer responsible for Allotments on a regular basis to gather further information to assist with our investigation.
7. Over the coming weeks the Panel are to receive evidence from a representative from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd and Allotment holders within Middlesbrough.

8. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

**COUNCILLOR GEOFF COLE
CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.