



**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD
16 NOVEMBER 2004**

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD – PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To inform members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of progress made to date.

PROGRESS ON THE WORK PROGRAMME

- 2 The following issues have been dealt with by the Overview and Scrutiny Board:
 - the Budget Principles
 - the Corporate Consultation Strategy
 - Central Services – Integrated Performance and Budget Clinic;
 - Audit Commission Inspection of 'Access to Services'.
- 3 The Executive Board has considered and supported OSB reports on budget principles, the consultation strategy, and the provision of toilet facilities in libraries.
- 4 The *ad hoc* panel on community engagement has met and established a work programme which it hopes to complete by February or March 2005.
- 5 The report of the Executive Member for Education on the review of primary education provision in East Middlesbrough was not submitted to the scrutiny process for comment prior to going to the Executive. However, the chair of the Children and Learning Panel and myself were able to make some general comment on the report to the Executive. It will be considered in detail by the panel as part of the consultation programme in the next few months.

GENERAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ISSUES

- 6 Two training sessions have been held recently on project management and on questioning skills / how to rationalise evidence. Both sessions were well attended by scrutiny members.
- 7 I have continued my regular meetings with the Scrutiny Support Team to discuss issues relating to the overview and scrutiny function.
- 8 Following a successful first meeting, another meeting with scrutiny chairs to discuss key issues is to be held on Thursday 18 November 2004, at 4.00 pm in the Stainsby Room.
- 9 In my formal role as chair of OSB, since the last meeting I have agreed that the following reports to the Executive Board could be treated as “urgent” reports:
 - Housing Stock Transfer – financial changes
 - Empire Theatre – option to purchase
 - Erimus Housing – Centre North East – liabilities cover.They were, therefore, not available for scrutiny under the call-in procedure.
- 10 The OSB report on permanently excluded pupils will feature in a “File on Four” programme on city academies on Radio 4 shortly. Both the Executive member for education and I have made contributions to the programme.
- 11 Members may wish to know that the Labour Group executive has submitted three scrutiny reports for the Labour Party’s best practice awards, in the “involving stakeholders in scrutiny” category. They are the reports on Gleneagles resource centre, the Key Stage 2/3 transition, and dental health.

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CARR
CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD
November 2004