



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

16 NOVEMBER 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 21 September 2004, the Panel have:-

- (a) Visited both Darlington Borough Council and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council to compare their Allotment service provision; and
- (b) Considered the last quarter's integrated performance and budget clinic report for Environment, the outcome of which I will report verbally at this meeting.

5. In my role of Chair of this Panel, I am pleased to advise that the Panel is nearing to the completion of their first investigation into the Authority's Allotment service provision.
6. The Draft Final Report is currently in the process of being compiled and it is envisaged that the finalised report will be considered by the Panel on 17 November 2004 and the Overview and Scrutiny Board thereafter.

7. As per the agreed Work Programme of this Panel, our next investigation is to review the Green Budget in the context of the Housing Stock Transfer. Given the transfer of the Authority's Housing Stock is envisaged to take place on 15 November 2004, discussions will be held with key officers in the very near future to consider the timing/appropriateness of carrying out this review.

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.