

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

14th DECEMBER 2004

AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL Re COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To inform Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of the progress made to date by the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel examining Community Engagement

RECOMMENDATION

- 2 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the actions of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel resulting from its meetings of 17th November 2004 and its intended meeting scheduled for 7th December.

PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

3. The Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel met on the 17th November and received information regarding the Statutory Requirements for undertaking public consultation and engagement. This illustrated the range of requirements placed on the Council for consultation. The Panel was specifically interested in the present position and the requirements applied from the late 1990's.
4. The Panel were also appraised of other consultation requirements and the range of practices undertaken by the Council to ensure that the

communities and specific groups / organisations are aware of actions which may affect them directly.

5. The Panel also received the Mayor of Middlesbrough and invited him to his views on the methods of consultation used and the extent to which these exercises were taken into account when developing Council Policy and the general decision making progress.
6. The Mayor provided a very comprehensive response addressing his activities as Mayor for engaging with communities and external organisations. He also outlined how surveys etc impacted on the decision making process with reference to the formation of Area Clusters which were acknowledged that these were very much in their infancy.
7. The panels next meeting is scheduled for the 7th December where it is to receive information on the Middlesbrough Partnership (Local Strategic Partnership –LSP) The Panel intends to explore the depth of the Partnership in relation to community engagement and the contribution the Council

COUNCILLOR MIKE CARR

CHAIR OF THE AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL (COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background paper was used in the preparation of this report: -

1ST December 2004

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