

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2005

**AD HOC SCRUTINY PANEL  
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 note the progress of the *ad hoc* Scrutiny Panel.

### PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 At its meeting on 7 December the panel received information regarding community engagement from the Middlesbrough Partnership. This addressed the Partnership's responsibilities to engage with local communities. The panel received information on the various agencies the Partnership engages with, and the individual services of the Council which use the Partnership to engage with local communities.
- 4 At its meeting on 6 January the panel considered the public consultation tools used by the Council. The range of tools is extensive, ranging from publicity, public meetings, ward councillor contact, etc, to the Citizens' Panel (Voiceover) and service specific user panels. The panel was noted other consultation

techniques at the Council's disposal to ensure that communities and specific groups / organisations within Middlesbrough are aware of impending actions which may affect them directly.

- 5 The panel's meeting on 2 February 2005 is to consider the Council's Draft Statement of Community Involvement.
- 6 In the future, the panel is to receive evidence from the Voluntary Development Agency, the Community Network and the Council's voluntary sector liaison section. The panel will also be meeting the West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust, and will be investigating in detail the role and effectiveness of community councils.

**COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CARR**

**CHAIR, *AD HOC* SCRUTINY PANEL  
(COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT)**

**February 2005**

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

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