

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

8 FEBRUARY 2005

### ECONOMIC REGENERATION & TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

#### PROGRESS REPORT

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the progress of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel.

#### RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report.

#### PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

3. Since the last update to the Board the panel has approved the final report regarding the review of the Local Transport Plan. The report is currently awaiting the service area's response and it is anticipated that the report will be submitted to the executive on 22 February. The report attracted some reasonably favourable press coverage, focusing on the report's call to reduce car usage and this in turn has led to some fairly hostile emails to the chair of the panel from motorists. On the whole, however, it is pleasing that the report has highlighted some important issues concerning the choices the Council faces in meeting the town's transport needs.
4. The panel has now embarked on the review of the night time economy. The terms of reference for the review have been agreed by the panel and are as follows:
  - (a) Develop an understanding of what is meant by the term night time economy;

- (b) To investigate the factors currently influencing the development of the night time economy;
  - (c) To develop an understanding of the Council's vision for the development of a night time economy;
  - (d) To examine the economic implications of developing that vision;
  - (e) To investigate how the Council can ensure the development of a variety of evening provision to suit the needs of all age groups;
  - (f) To assess if the infrastructure that is in place is robust enough to support the night time economy; and
  - (g) Investigate how the Council will be able to achieve its aims in terms of the development of the night time economy.
5. For purposes of clarity the panel have titled the review 'the night time economy', rather than the 24 hour economy. The night time economy can be defined as two distinct periods, the evening economy, which is the time between 5pm and 8pm and the late night economy, after 8pm.
6. It is also worth noting that whilst the panel recognise that there are a number of cross-cutting implications in developing the night time economy, such as health and law and order issues, for the purposes of this review the panel will be concentrating primarily on the economic perspective.
7. In order to undertake the review the panel will be receiving information and evidence from a wide variety of sources. In the first meeting the panel will consider the Council's vision for the night time economy and the implications of developing that vision. The panel will then hold a debate with relevant officers and stakeholders to investigate the development of a variety of provision and assess the town's infrastructure to ensure it could support the developing night time economy effectively.
8. The panel also intends to commission a survey in order to gauge local opinion on the subject and undertake a site visit to an area where there is a successful night time economy.
9. The panel has also received the draft chapter of the Community Strategy and has had the opportunity to comment on the priorities, aims and content on the sections regarding Economic Vitality and Transport Needs.

**COUNCILLOR MARTIN BOOTH**  
**CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL**