



AGENDA ITEM: 9

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

3 MAY 2005

CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Overview & Scrutiny Board of the proposed Scrutiny reviews that have been requested from members of the public.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Board considers the appropriateness of commissioning a scrutiny review into the suggested scrutiny topic received from a member of the public.

PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPICS

3. The Scrutiny Team received one request by email on the 4th April 2005 from a member of the public.
4. The issue for consideration is:-

Email one

"I would like to propose a scrutiny review on trash/litter removal. If one follows the broken window theory, people who do not have enough civic responsibility to not litter are less likely to obey the law in other areas. Thus, lawbreaking, and evidence of lawbreaking, be it litter or vandalism, will encourage other acts of law breaking unless something is done to demonstrate that it is unacceptable. Therefore, as part of the City's plan to rejuvenate the downtown, it might be a good idea to understand why the litter is only removed at times when no one is around and why it is only done with machines and not by individuals. While the

machine may get the large amounts, I think that the individual pieces may require individuals to pick up the trash.

I therefore propose that the Scrutiny committee investigate the litter removal programme within Middlesbrough City Centre. I think they should ask

- 1. How often is litter removed?*
- 2. What is the standard, benchmark, for litter removal in the area*
- 3. How much is budgeted for litter removal*
- 4. How many, if any, on the spot fines have been issued (have any) for littering in downtown Middlesbrough?*
- 5. How does litter affect people's attitudes towards business and community spirit in Middlesbrough.*

If you have been in downtown Middlesbrough on a Saturday afternoon or a Sunday afternoon you will note that it does not go from zone d to zone a within an hour. If as a taxpayer I am to see crime reduced and people take responsibility, it is imperative that the streets be cleaned before they reach state d."

(Please refer to Appendix A for further information)

5. The suggested Scrutiny topic should be considered against the following criteria: -

- (i) Does the issue affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area;
- (ii) Relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence;
- (iii) Not be an issue which Overview & Scrutiny has considered during the last 12 months;
- (iv) Not relate to an individual service complaint; and
- (v) Not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.

6. The issue falls within the remit of the Environment Scrutiny Panel. It is for the Board to consider the importance of this suggestion in light of the Panel work programme. The service of street cleansing has been the subject of great scrutiny examination and the board may wish to take this into consideration when deliberating their decision.

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