



OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

9 August 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 12th July 2005 from a member of the public.

4. The issue for consideration is:-

Email one –

“I would like to express my delight and positive attitude I have to the way Middlesbrough is lead and through the council we can highlight ourselves as a great town yet I am a six-teen year old boy and I was appalled at the fact we have no way to pay to get places on the bus. It seems as if I am bringing up such a small subject with the London bombings and events like that and through this I feel as if I am complaining over nothing, but I really wanted to ask your view on it. I want to get a job, so I can pay my way through society and give back to the country what it has given me but the bus prices are unfair on children/teenagers as ourselves as we don't have benefits or cards that let us

on the bus for half price yet we are expected to pay with the little money we have. People complain about anti-social behaviour and I think it is a poor excuse that some children use the words 'There Is Nothing to Do', this is totally ridiculous, there are a lot of things to do...but how can we get there when the price to get to places like this are so expensive? I agree when I am on a salary I should pay full price because I have the money to do such things but I am sixteen years old, how can I afford such prices for the bus? £3.60 to Redcar? Where am I supposed to get that from? My father cannot afford it...please consider bringing a service where under 18's can access busses at the price of under 16's now, my friends and I have said numerous times to each other if the bus was cheaper, there would be no need for a car. In my solution there would be less traffic hence less pollution and anti-social behaviour would be down as well as we could access the facilities (eg Eston Sports Academy) easily. Thanks for taking the time to read my letter, I really appreciate all the hard work"

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 Economic Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Panel. It is for the Board to consider the importance of this suggestion in light of the Panel work programme.

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