

AGENDA ITEM:

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

9TH AUGUST 2005

OUTCOME OF CALL-IN:

**BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN
INNER MIDDLESBROUGH**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To report the outcome of the special meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) held on 3rd August 2005 which reviewed the key decision made by the Executive Board on 20th July 2005, in accordance with the authority's call-in procedure.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 As members will recall, the call-in procedure was recently instigated, following a decision undertaken by the Executive Board. The decision was based upon a report titled " Building Sustainable Communities in Inner Middlesbrough – The Way Forward". In doing so the Executive ordered that the vision presented to the Executive be the basis of a strategy for the future of Middlesbrough's older Housing Areas and that it be used as the foundation for bidding for funding from the ODPM and other sources
- 3 Subsequently a special meeting of the OSB was held on 3rd August 2005 to allow the Board to review the decision taken.

OBSERVATIONS

- 4 Having reviewed the decision, the Board wish to make the following observations on this issue:-
- (a) In the opinion of the Board, housing in the area identified within the report does not meet the Housing Standard the Council would wish to see for its residents. Consequently, the report provides the opportunity to improve this living environment.
 - (b) The consultation process undertaken was limited, which in this case was due to the very tight time scale provided by the Government to submit a bid for funding. The Board considers the mechanism should be reviewed to ensure greater engagement with communities.
 - (c) That should the Council secure the funding sought, direct engagement with the individual families where their homes are to be demolished should be undertaken to provide appropriate advice on the options available.
 - (d) That once the details of implementation are available, these should be presented to the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel.

CONCLUSION

- 5 The OSB concluded that on this occasion, while the above observations should be noted and responded to accordingly, the Board would not require the Executive Board to re-consider the decision taken on 20th July 2005.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6 The Board's key recommendations to the Executive are as outlined below:-
- (a) That the observations outlined in paragraph 4(a) is noted;
 - (b) that, the mechanisms for consultation and community engagement be reviewed; and
 - (c) that in the event of the bid being accepted and the project going ahead, the Council should ensure engagement with individual families where their homes are to be demolished be undertaken.
 - (d) That the details of implementation should be presented to the Economic Regeneration and Scrutiny Panel.

COUNCILLOR TERRY WARD

VICE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: -

- (a) Report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer entitled 'Call-In: Building Sustainable Communities in Inner Middlesbrough to the Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 3rd August 2005.
- (b) Report of the Executive member for Economic regeneration and Director of Regeneration presented to the Executive Board on 20th July 2005.