



## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

31 JANUARY 2006

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2006 from a member of the public.
4. The issue for consideration is:-

#### ***Email one –***

*“I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed demolitions within the Gresham area. The communities proposed for demolition seem to be textbook examples of sustainable neighbourhoods and it would seem like the council should focus regeneration efforts on areas which need them more - like the north Middlesbrough area (old town) which seem to have suffered damage from the last attempt at Comprehensive Regeneration.*”

*It is more appropriate for the council to invest pathfinder money in refurbishment's within the Gresham area and ensure that any areas of substandard environment quality are tackled with small scale redevelopment / demolition. The idea that demolition of an entire area is a tool for regeneration should surely have been discredited by the numerous failed schemes of the past. Perhaps if the council is seeking to increase the diversity of housing stock, combining terraces and imaginative reconstruction within the shells of the existing stock (c.f. "tardis terrace") should be investigated instead. Both of these approaches would keep the community together, retain the heritage of the area and also be more cost-effective. With the government abandoning targets for demolition, it also seems likely funding can be received for such an approach.*

*The present plans have alienated a large amount of your electorate and may result in a major community backlash in the communities you purport to support.*

*I think it is time that the council re-examined its plans, lest, in 10 years to be regretting the short-sighted actions of today. Much in the same way many decisions made in the 1960s have turned out not to be beneficial to the Country."*

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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