

AGENDA ITEM: 3

SPECIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

12 JUNE 2006

CALL-IN:

HOUSING RENEWAL POLICY REVIEW

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To allow Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) the opportunity to review a decision made at an Individual Executive Meeting by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture on 19 May 2006, in accordance with the Authority's Call-In Procedure.

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISION – Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture - 19 May 2006

2. At an Individual Executive Meeting, consideration was given by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture to a report titled 'Housing Renewal Policy Review'.
3. At this meeting, the report, detailed at **appendix 1**, set out the following:
 1. The outline principles and proposed changes to the financial assistance packages currently offered through Middlesbrough's Housing Renewal Policy, to tackle unsatisfactory housing conditions in the private sector.
 2. The extension to the current policies whilst there is engagement with stakeholders on the policy principles underpinning the new packages.
 3. Approval to start work on key gateways and frontages in Gresham/Middlehaven, to continue existing programmes and extend activities in new areas in support of the New Vision for Older Housing Strategy.
4. In doing so, the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture ordered the following:
 - a) the extension of the current policies;
 - b) the outlined policy principles for improvement and relocation packages;
 - c) the proposal to undertake facelift activity to property within, Ayresome Street, Princes Road, Portman Street and Woodlands Road;

- d) the principles underpinning the policies and packages will be subject to consultation and a further report to the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture.

CALL-IN PROCEDURE

5. The Call-In Procedure allows Members the opportunity to Call-In a decision for scrutiny by the OSB which was made by:
- i) The Executive;
 - ii) An individual Member of the Executive;
 - iii) A Committee of the Executive;
 - iv) A key decision made by an officer with delegated authority from the Executive;
or
 - v) Under Joint Arrangements.
6. The Call-In Procedure may only be implemented if so requested by any five Members of the Council and upon receipt of any such request by the Proper Officer before the end of the third working day after the making of that decision.
7. Following the Housing Renewal Policy Review report, which was approved by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture on 19 May, six Members supported the request to Call-In such decision, in accordance with the Call-In procedure.
8. Throughout this special meeting of the OSB, Members will have the opportunity to review the decision. Having considered the decision the OSB may, if they feel it appropriate, refer the decision back to the decision-making body for re-consideration, setting out in writing the nature of their concerns.
9. If the decision is referred, then a further Individual Executive Meeting will be held within ten further working days. The Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture can then make a final decision in the light of any recommendations made by OSB.
10. If the recommendations of the OSB are not accepted in full, then the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture should notify the OSB and give reasons for not accepting the recommendations.

REASONS GIVEN FOR THE CALL-IN

11. The reason given to the Authority's Proper Officer which initiated the Call-In Procedure is as follows:
- i) The proposals contained within the report will result in many existing owner-occupiers in Gresham ward being placed in an impossible situation. Through no fault of their own they could find themselves financially worse off.

Housing Renewal Policy Review

12. To assist Members of the OSB to review the decision made by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture in relation to the Housing Renewal Policy

Review report, the following key witnesses will be in attendance during this Special Meeting:

- i) Director of Regeneration – (to present the background to the report presented to the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture at an Individual Executive Meeting held on 19 May 2006);
- ii) The Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture (to present how the decision was reached); and
- iii) The Member who initiated the Call-In request (to present their views and concerns with regard to decision made by the Mayor).

PROPOSED CALL-IN TIMETABLE

13. To ensure the Call-In procedure is adhered to, the following Call-In timetable is as outlined below:

MEETING	DATE/TIME	PURPOSE
Special Meeting - Overview and Scrutiny Board	12 June 10am	To review the decision taken by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture on 19 May, in accordance with the Call-In Procedure.
Individual Executive Meeting	To be confirmed	To re-consider the decision (if required to do so)
Overview and Scrutiny Board	27 June 4.00pm	To notify the OSB of the reasons for not accepting the OSB recommendations (if applicable).

RECOMMENDATION

14. It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board consider the content of this report, to enable the Call-In procedure to be adhered to.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- i) Middlesbrough Council's Constitution / Call-In Procedure; and
- ii) Middlesbrough Council's Scrutiny Handbook 2005/06.

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