

AGENDA ITEM: 8c

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

6 FEBRUARY 2007

ECONOMIC REGENERATION & TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the progress of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. Since the last update, the panel has held an informal meeting to discuss the conclusions and recommendations of the panel's final report into its review of the West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust. The panel formally approved the report at its meeting on 25 January. The report has been submitted to this meeting of the board for approval.
3. The panel received an update on the Housing Renewal Policy Review that had been subject to call-in in July 2006. The Board will recall that one of the recommendations from that call-in was that the panel received a report, on a six monthly basis, regarding the implementation of the scheme and in particular the effect of any movement of market prices on the viability of the compensation package.
4. The panel learned that negotiations for the acquisition of properties within phase 1a of the clearance area began in September. The Council had made significant progress in acquiring properties, with 148 owners currently in negotiation to sell their properties. Given that the process of acquisitions was at an early stage, only four owner-occupiers have submitted applications to the Council for the Older Housing Relocation Assistance Scheme (OHRAS). It was not yet possible to provide a comprehensive review of how OHRAS was working in practice. However the market data demonstrates that the level of OHRAS remained sufficient to bridge the gap between properties within the Older Housing clearance area and the retained area. The panel agreed that a further update be submitted to the panel in six months time.
5. The panel also received the Economic Development Strategy and the panel had the opportunity to comment on its contents.
6. The panel discussed their future work programme and it was agreed that in the first instance an update on the Worklessness Review be submitted to the panel and a further

update be provided on the Marton Road Traffic Experiment. Then the panel would like an update on their review of the Night Time Economy.

RECOMMENDATION

7. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report.

COUNCILLOR MARTIN BOOTH

CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

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