

AGENDA ITEM: 5

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

30 JULY 2007

SCRUTINY PANELS' WORK PROGRAMMES 2007 – 08 Progress update

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To present to the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) an outline of the individual Scrutiny Panels' progress in relation to identifying their 2007/2008 Work Programmes.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Members of the Board are recommended to receive the detail relating to the Panels' Progress.

BACKGROUND

3. Following the meetings of the 21 June, which were established to provide members with the opportunity to illustrate the subject areas they considered most appropriate for Scrutiny examination, the outcome then formed the basis for the 2007/08 Panel work programmes. That information was presented to this Board at its meeting of 3 July for confirmation.
4. The following paragraphs present the subjects and, where appropriate, an indication of progress to date.

Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel

5. The Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel met on the 3 July in advance of OSB. The meeting discussed the subject areas and determined the order for examination. These are:
 - Teenagers Hanging Around
 - Speed Cameras
 - Respect Agenda
6. The subject of "Teenagers Hanging Around" was brought to the Board's attention through the Audit Commission's Annual Audit and Inspection letter presented to OSB on the 5 June 07. The Panel discussed this at their meeting of 3 July and background information is being currently being sought regarding the depth of public concern and how the information was obtained. The Panel intends to determine the Terms of Reference and lines of enquiry at its meeting of 1 August 2007.

Children and Learning

7. The panel met to consider their work programme on 11 July and identified the following topics for their consideration
 - Extended Schools Programme
 - Sure Start & Early Years Improvement
 - School Attendance
 - Substance Misuse by Parents/Carers
 - Regular Building Schools for the Future Updates
8. The panel will receive a 'Setting the Scene' presentation by the service area at their next meeting on 8 August.

Economic Regeneration and Transport

9. The panel met to consider their work programme on 19 July. The panel discussed the wide range of topics suggested including the priorities identified by OSB.
10. The panel identified the following topics for their work programme
 - Teesside Archives (one off visit and fact finding)
 - Public Transport
 - Promoting Middlesbrough (How the town is branded, strategy for marketing its image and improving people's perceptions etc)
 - Town Centre Parking
 - Park and Ride
 - Local Area Agreement – Economic Vitality (possible one-off for awareness raising)
11. The panel will begin by visiting the Teesside Archives at their meeting in August and will begin the review of Public Transport with a 'Setting the Scene' presentation from the service area in September.

Environment

12. The panel met to consider their work programme on 2 July and identified the following topics for consideration
 - Waste Collection Policies and Strategies
 - Enforcement Strategies
 - Tree Management
13. The service area has been invited to the panel to provide information at their next meeting on waste collection policies.

Social Care and Adult Services

14. The panel met to consider their work programme on 17 July. The panel discussed the wide range of topics suggested including the priorities identified by OSB.
15. The panel identified the following topics for their work programme
 - Street Wardens
 - Major Adaptations and Equipment
 - Improving the Levels of Employment for People with Disabilities
 - Update on the review of the Transition from Children's to Adult Services (one-off meeting)
 - See paragraph 20 for details on joint working with the Health panel.
16. The panel is beginning their review of Street Wardens by receiving a presentation from the service area, following which the panel will establish its terms of reference.

Health

17. The Health Scrutiny Panel held a consultative event in James Cook University Hospital on 18 July 2007, which was followed by a meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel to discuss the outcome of the event and agree its work programme for 2007/8.
18. The Health Scrutiny stand, where people could come and comment on their priorities for health services, was well used by people in the hospital. The topic most identified by people, as a priority was that of Patient Transport to and from James Cook University Hospital. During its meeting, the Health Scrutiny Panel also considered Middlesbrough's Community Health Profile and spoke to the Director of Public Health. It was felt that the biggest single health problem facing Middlesbrough today was that of Coronary Heart Disease.
19. Following deliberations, the Health Scrutiny Panel has resolved to investigate, in depth, the following issues:
 - Life Expectancy in Middlesbrough with a particular focus on Coronary Heart Disease
 - Patient Transport to and from James Cook University Hospital

20. The Panel will also address a number of topics on a single meeting basis by receiving updates and briefings. They include the changes to the Commissioning regime in Middlesbrough and contractual developments in Out of Hours Care in Middlesbrough. The Panel also plans to do some work with the Social Care Panel around a number of issues including Mental Health, integration of health and social care and medication management.
21. The above is in addition to active plans of work in Joint Health Scrutiny Committee arrangements.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

22. No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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