

AGENDA ITEM: 9 a

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2008

### CONSIDERATION FOR REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Overview & Scrutiny Board of the proposed Scrutiny review which has been requested by the Davison Trust.

#### RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Board considers the appropriateness of commissioning a Scrutiny review into the suggested scrutiny topic received from the Davison Trust.

#### PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPIC

3. To consider undertaking an investigation into Play Scheme Provision within Middlesbrough.
4. The Reasons for this request are as follows:

The Trust Fund is there for the benefit of Middlesbrough children with Special Needs. One of the regular sources of applications is for children's play schemes during school holidays. The Trust is principally there to provide funding in circumstances where there is no other mainstream funding available where appropriate to that particular need.

The issue of provision of play scheme places for children with complex needs and who cannot be integrated within a mainstream but inclusive facility, is becoming an increasingly regular item of discussion. Our concern is that such a service ought properly to come within MBC's play strategy.

As I understand it, the Local Authority does have a play strategy and applications are made to the "Big Fund" formerly the "Big Lottery".

Obviously our concern is that children with special and complex needs should receive fair and appropriate consideration within such a play strategy.

Consequently, I would request that a Scrutiny examination be undertaken which examines Play Scheme provision relating to the aforementioned issues.

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. It is for the Board to consider the importance of this suggestion in light of the work programme.

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