

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

12TH FEBRUARY 2008

CONSIDERATION FOR REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Overview & Scrutiny Board of a proposed scrutiny review which has been requested by a Member.

RECOMMENDATION

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

PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPIC

3. To consider undertaking an investigation into the implications of the Council's failure to secure Erimus Housing's grounds maintenance contract.
4. The principal reason for this request is to ensure that the existing standard of grounds maintenance on Erimus estates is continued. There is concern that the specification for the grounds maintenance works may not require works to be undertaken to the same high standard as currently exists. As it is envisaged that some Council-owned land on Erimus estates will still be maintained by the local authority, this could lead to a two-tier regime of different standards of maintenance.
5. In addition, the Member understands that assurances were sought earlier (ie during the process of transferring the former Council housing stock to Erimus) that existing standards of ground maintenance would be continued.
6. 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) Does it 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.

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

Contact Officer:

Alan Crawford - Scrutiny Support Officer

Telephone: 01642 729707 (direct line)

e mail: alan_crawford@middlesbrough.gov.uk