



AGENDA ITEM: 3

SPECIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

11th JUNE 2006

CALL-IN:

REVIEW OF SOUTHLANDS CENTRE COMMUNAL WORKSHOPS

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 Member meeting on 20th May 2008, in accordance with the Authority's Call-In Procedure.

EXECUTIVE DECISION — 20th May 2008

2. At an Individual Executive Member meeting, consideration was given to a report relating to the Review of Southlands Centre Communal Workshops.
3. At this meeting, the report, detailed at **appendix 1**, sets out the following:
 1. That approval be sought to withdraw the communal workshop facility within the Southlands Centre, to enable usage of the space to be better aligned with Economic Development objectives, and to improve financial efficiency.
 2. The report presented to the Executive Member, illustrated that while the enterprise centre units and the leisure facilities within Southlands Centre are all meeting KPI targets, the communal workshops are not well used and are not making any contribution to income.
 3. Consultation had taken place, however, information arising from the consultation has not changed the conclusion that this facility is not

sufficiently used for economic purposes, i.e. for local residents to access training, employment or self-employment, to justify the continued cost to Economic Development.

4. In financial terms, the closure of the communal workshops would create a financial efficiency. Further efficiency would be gained from re-letting the space, with a cost for refurbishment. The total financial benefit from the closure of the communal workshops and the re-letting of the space would therefore be substantial.
5. In doing so, the Executive ordered the following:

ORDERED

- 1) That the closure of the Southlands Centre communal workshops which would lead to the financial efficiencies indicated be approved.
- 2) That discussions with UCA and SEIP will continue to bring their proposals forward. Should these plans be viable then the former workshop space could be made available for educational usage; and community usage will be secured if possible. Should these plans not be viable then the former workshop space will be let for business usage.

CALL-IN PROCEDURE

4. 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.
5. 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 fifth working day after the making of that decision.
6. Following the Review of Southlands Centre Communal Workshops report, which was approved by the Executive Member on 20th May 2008, five Members supported the request to Call-In such decision, in accordance with the Call-In procedure.
7. 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.

8. If the decision is referred, then a further Executive Meeting will be held within ten further working days. The Executive can then make a final decision in the light of any recommendations made by OSB.
9. If the recommendations of the OSB are not accepted in full, then the Executive should notify the OSB and give reasons for not accepting the recommendations.

REASONS GIVEN FOR THE CALL-IN

10. The reason given to the Authority's Proper Officer which initiated the Call-In Procedure is as follows:

Executive Member for Regeneration report – Review of Southlands Centre Communal Workshops

That the Executive Member was not provided with options when presented with the report on the communal workshops. Options, including closure of the garage and woodwork units and retention of the metalwork room would ensure the public could continue having use of the facilities while also releasing units for business use and improve the financial efficiencies.

Review of Southlands Centre Communal Workshops

11. To assist Members of the OSB to review the decision made by the Executive Member in relation to the Review of Southlands Centre Communal Workshops. The following key witnesses will be in attendance during this Special Meeting:
 - i) Executive 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 20th May 2008);
 - 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 the decision made by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture).

PROPOSED CALL- IN TIMETABLE

12. 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	11 th June 3.00 AM	To review the decisions taken by the Executive on 20 th May 2008, 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	1 st July 2008 4.30pm	To notify the OSB of the outcome of the Call In

RECOMMENDATION

13. 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

15. 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 2007.

Contact Officers:

Peter Clark –Senior Scrutiny Officer, Performance & Policy Directorate
Telephone: 01642 729708 (direct line)