



AGENDA ITEM: 9 (b)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

23 SEPTEMBER 2008

CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Overview & Scrutiny Board of the proposed Scrutiny review that has been requested from a member of the public.

RECOMMENDATION

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

PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPIC

3. To consider undertaking an investigation into Leisure Classes for Senior Citizens
4. The reasons for this request are as follows:

“ *Why has the reduction been removed for Senior citizens when we want to attend any of the Leisure Classes like Upholstery – Card Making – Computer etc. Many of us who are not able to claim any benefits because we are **just over** the income level will not be attending any courses because of the cost. This is so sad as we the elderly have a need to get out – keep our brain active – and enjoy the company of other people. Indeed advice has always been to do this. It seems that the elderly are now at the bottom of the list for consideration for people’s needs. During the winter months it helps us save on heating if we are able to attend a couple of classes a week. Come on Middlesbrough Council do a bit more for us who are just not able to claim any benefits. This does not mean we are well off. I was delighted to see an Upholstery Class available in September – as I attended one at the Langdale Centre (sadly it folded) a couple of years ago. I would love to attend this class but have to consider the cost.*”

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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