

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 23 September 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor Brunton (Chair), Councillors C Hobson, J Hobson, Ismail, Khan, McPartland (as substitute for Councillor Dryden), Mawston, Purvis, J A Walker and Williams.

OFFICIALS: J Bennington, G Brown, P Clark, A Crawford, B McGowan, J Ord, K Robinson, N Sayer and E Williamson.

**** PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Councillor Mrs B Thompson, Executive Member for Public Health and Sport.

****APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cole, Cox, Dryden, and Sanderson.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 26 August 2008 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

EXECUTIVE FEEDBACK – TOWN CENTRE PARKING – EXTENDED SCHOOLS

As part of the scrutiny process and in a report of the Executive Office Manager it was reported that the Executive had considered the Board's comments on final reports in relation to the above.

The Executive had considered and supported both the Service and Corporate Management Team responses and had also agreed the proposed Action Plans.

NOTED

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

In a report of the Scrutiny Support Officer the Board was reminded of arrangements for individual Members of the Executive to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and update Members on their respective work in terms of their aims, aspirations, objectives, priorities and any emerging issues. It also provided the opportunity for the Board to identify or highlight any issues of concern.

NOTED AND APPROVED

EXECUTIVE MEMBER – PUBLIC HEALTH AND SPORT

The Chair welcomed Councillor Mrs B Thompson who outlined the work and scope of the new portfolio of the Executive Member for Public Health and Sport responsible for overseeing the Town's public health and sport specifically the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and Joint Public Health Strategy.

The Board was advised of ongoing work in relation to the main service area responsibilities in respect of sports venues, sports development and events, healthy living agenda, Integrated Health Improvement Team, Strategic and Corporate Public Health issues, and cross-cutting Strategic NHS issues.

It was acknowledged that much of the ongoing work was seen as being long term in making a difference to people's lifestyles in Middlesbrough.

As part of the presentation and subsequent discussion specific reference was made to a number of areas of ongoing work including:

- programme of building modernisation including Southlands Centre and work to improve school playing fields to increase further community use;
- joint working arrangements with Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust;
- long term strategies to tackle obesity with particular regard to young people;
- mental health issues surrounding young people which was regarded as one of the main priorities.

ORDERED that the Executive Member for Public Health and Sport be thanked for the information provided.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

The Head of Corporate Performance submitted a report which provided a brief overview of the Council's approach to performance management together with an outline of how national changes had impacted upon local arrangements. An indication was also given of further likely changes to the local framework.

Middlesbrough Council had established a minimum standard approach, which focused on ensuring that the components of good performance management were in place across the Council and all services, without being prescriptive about the precise details. Such an approach sought to recognise the differing circumstances, which applied between services. The report described the key elements of the performance management framework in relation to planning (including setting targets), monitoring and evaluation.

Middlesbrough's framework incorporated both local and national monitoring requirements. Under the national framework, Comprehensive Performance Assessment, Middlesbrough was currently rated by the Audit Commission as an 'Improving Strongly' 4 star council which was the highest score possible, a level which had been attained by only a small number of Councils.

The report outlined the impact of changes to the national framework in relation to the Local Area Agreement and National Indicators.

NOTED

CONSOLIDATED PERFORMANCE CLINIC APRIL TO JUNE 2008

The Head of Corporate Performance submitted a report, which provided an overview of Council performance for the period 1 April to 30 June 2008.

The Board was advised that performance against Planned Actions for the first quarter of 2008/09 was progressing well.

The implementation of the new National Indicator set continued to be a challenge and only a small percentage of indicators had reported data in the first quarter. Further guidance continued to be released from central government on definitions and guidelines.

Middlesbrough's Local Area Agreement included 35 designated targets and 16 statutory targets relating to attainment. A number of local indicators had been included to report on local priorities. For the first quarter 19 targets had been reported eight of which were not on target.

The Council had retained 66 BVPIs to provide ongoing monitoring of information in key areas. Although performance was progressing well for the first quarter there was a need to ensure that performance was monitored carefully to ensure that any problems were identified at an early stage to allow remedial action to be taken so performance was back on track.

NOTED

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY UPDATE

The Head of Corporate Performance presented a report regarding the draft Sustainable Community Strategy which had been the subject of consultation with LSP stakeholders, community representatives and Scrutiny Panels.

The Strategy set out the longer-term vision for the Town including high-level priorities and longer-term targets. The document also referred to the action plans that would work towards the achievement of the targets in the strategy.

Each chapter set out the major issues facing the Town, the priorities arising from such issues, the key targets and planned actions.

The Strategy was being developed as a partnership document and would reflect the contributions of a range of organisations as well as the aspirations of local communities.

NOTED

PARTNERSHIP CLUSTER GROUPS REVIEW

A report of the Corporate Performance Manager was presented regarding the proposed review of the role and remit of Middlesbrough Partnership Cluster Groups and the involvement of Ward Councillors in the Groups.

Such a review had been one of the measures agreed by the Executive following a wide ranging scrutiny investigation in relation to community engagement.

The report outlined a range of proposals arising from the above review in relation to: -

- the aims, role and work of clusters;
- membership issues;
- officer support;
- the way forward.

Members reiterated some of the previous concerns regarding the current arrangements of the Partnership Cluster Groups.

The Board supported the proposed direction to clarify the role and remit of the Partnership Cluster Groups and strengthen the role of Ward Councillors within the groups.

ORDERED that a further report be submitted following completion of the consultation process and outcome of consideration of the final proposals by the Deputy Mayor.

SCRUTINY PANELS – PROGRESS REPORTS

A report of the Chair of each Scrutiny Panel was submitted which outlined progress on current activities.

NOTED

SCRUTINY REVIEWS - REQUESTS – TRANSPORT TO AND FROM JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL – LEISURE SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

It was confirmed that no requests for scrutiny reviews had been received from the Executive and Non Executive Members since the last meeting of the Board.

The Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report, which outlined requests from members of the public in relation to the following: -

- a) lack of direct transport from the Brookfield/Acklam area to and from the James Cook University Hospital;

b) concessions for senior citizens attending leisure classes.

Taking into account the agreed criteria the Board considered the appropriateness of undertaking a scrutiny review into the suggested topics.

ORDERED that the requests be referred to the respective Service Area to respond accordingly.

CALL IN REQUESTS

It was confirmed that no requests had been received to call-in a decision.