

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

21 OCTOBER 2008

### ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

#### - PROGRESS REPORT

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

#### RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the updated position.

#### BACKGROUND

3. Since the last update report to OSB, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met twice, on 22 September and 10 October 2008.
4. At the 22 September meeting, the panel considered the section of the draft Sustainable Community Strategy ('Securing Environmental Sustainability') which is relevant to its work. Although the panel was also scheduled to continue its ongoing investigation of countryside matters by examining allotments issues, consideration of that issue was deferred to the following meeting so that the appropriate Head of Service could be present.
5. At the 10 October meeting, the scrutiny panel considered the updated position on allotments. Information was submitted on progress made in implementing the scrutiny panel's earlier recommendations and also in implementing the Council's approved Allotments Strategy.
6. The panel also considered information regarding the Council's legal duty in respect of biodiversity. Information was obtained from an officer from the Council's

Countryside Team and from a representative of the Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership, which is responsible for co-ordinating the Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan.

**COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER**

**CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

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