



**AGENDA ITEM: 11 (a)**

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**16 DECEMBER 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 Open Spaces in Middlesbrough
4. The reasons for this request are as follows:

*"In my opinion the continued loss of open spaces to housing has gone beyond the 'tipping point'. While I accept Councils have, in most cases, no option but to approve these developments, I feel the consequences are just not being recognised. Open spaces are just as important as buildings but in the current dash for development, this is being forgotten. It is essential that what little remains are protected and ways and means are found to redress the balance.*

*The original town was spoilt by infilling and what is happening now will harm everyone's quality of life. It is clear some people have realised what is going on but it may be too late to take effective action if the current situation is allowed to continue much longer."*

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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