



**AGENDA ITEM 12(d)**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**13 JANUARY 2009**

**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 once, on 15 December 2008.
4. At that meeting, the panel continued to gather information in respect of its ongoing investigation of countryside matters. Further information was considered in relation to the Council's tree management arrangements, including the current position in respect of:
  - The Council's legal responsibilities for highway trees, trees adjacent to the highway and those in open spaces and parks, cemeteries and woodland.
  - Inspection regimes relating to the above.
  - Plans to map/calculate the Borough's tree cover.
  - Planning issues - including tree preservation orders, conservation areas and policies relating to right to light /satellite dishes, high hedges and development sites.

5. The scrutiny panel's next meeting is scheduled for 5 January 2009, when the draft final report on Countryside Matters will be considered. Subject to the panel approving the report, it will be submitted to this Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting. Accordingly the report has been included on the current agenda (marked "to follow"). The position will be updated once the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met.

**COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER**

**CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

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