

AGENDA ITEM 11(d)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

7 APRIL 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 twice, on 6 and 30 March 2009.
4. At the 6 March meeting, the scrutiny panel approved the terms of reference for its scrutiny investigation of the condition of empty shops and properties. At the time of writing, the scrutiny panel's 30 March 2009 meeting has not yet taken place. An update on that meeting - which is scheduled to consider the outcome of the panel's 2002 recommendations on small shopping precincts - will be presented at the OSB meeting.
5. The 6 March meeting also considered an update from the Environmental Protection Manager in respect of the out of hours stray dog service.

6. Possible funding issues associated with the transfer of responsibilities to the Council (from the police) for the out of hours stray dogs service were highlighted in the panel's 2007/08 review of environmental enforcement. The updated position is that the Government has provided some funding to local authorities in respect of the increased responsibilities. Likely costs to the Council have also been identified and the position will continue to be monitored.

COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER

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