

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

5 MAY 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 17 April 2009.
4. At that meeting the scrutiny panel continued its investigation regarding the condition of empty shops and properties. Members heard from a representative of Erimus Housing in relation to that organisation's involvement in this issue. The scrutiny panel heard details of the number of empty properties (residential and commercial) which Erimus holds and how it is addressing issues associated with these.
5. During the course of the discussion the panel referred to the position concerning empty shops which are owned by the Council and requested further information on this area. At the time of writing arrangements are being made to invite appropriate officer representation to the next panel meeting, which is scheduled for 11 May 2009.

COUNCILLOR JEANETTE WALKER
CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

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