



**AGENDA ITEM: 11 (a)**

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**28 July 2009**

### **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 the emerging plans for Centre Square East.
4. The reasons for this request are as follows:

*“The decision to develop this area to produce more empty office spaces goes against several of Mayor Mallon's key reduction policies, and must undergo suitable scrutiny.*

*It will increase both:*

*Stress-related illnesses,*

*by depriving town centre workers of a green space to relax in during their breaks*

*and*

*Road traffic accidents,*

*by ensuring that additional people come to work in the centre of the town.*

*Furthermore, it destroys one of the few attractive features of the town.*

*I believe this decision must be brought before the scrutiny panel as it is also against the interests of users of this area in the town who signed the petition to save it."*

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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