

AGENDA ITEM: 12c

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

28 JULY 2009

ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the progress of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. Since the last update to the Board the panel have met to undertake the review into the first topic on their work programme, Open Plan Estates. The review considered the Council's current Open Plan Policy in the light of a number of planning applications for walls/fences in areas where the open plan policy was in force.
3. The panel examined the history of the open plan policy, the current picture and the enforcement of the open plan principle. The panel concluded that the Council's current open plan policy was important and that the Council should ensure that open plan areas continued to be protected under that policy. The panel agreed that residents needed to be made aware of the policy and that it needed greater enforcement.
4. At the panel's next meeting, Members will be agreeing the final report on Open Plan Estates and Members will also be consulted for their views on the Town Centre Strategy.
5. Also attached at Appendix A are the interim findings of the panel's review into Matchday Parking. The panel embarked on the topic in the last municipal year. After undertaking evidence gathering at 2 meetings, it was agreed that the police and the Civil Enforcement Officers would try and target the areas affected by match day parking for the first few months of the new football season. The panel agreed that they would receive an update on the effect of this in October, with a view to presenting a final report and recommendations after that meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

6. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report.

COUNCILLOR JOHN COLE
CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

Contact Officer:

Elise Williamson, Scrutiny Support Officer, Performance and Policy Directorate

Telephone: 01642 729711(direct line) Email: elise_williamson@middlesbrough.gov.uk

MATCHDAY PARKING

INTERIM FINDINGS

1. The panel found that when there was a match at the Riverside Stadium it often resulted in about 10,000 extra cars coming into the town centre. This inevitably would lead to people taking advantage of parking for free on land around the ground. Existing car parking provision in the town's pay car parks would already be busy due to use by shoppers on a Saturday.
2. The club were keen to attend the meetings to discuss possible solutions the club and wanted to actively engage with residents the Council, the University of Teesside and the Police in order to source possible solutions to improve match day parking for fans and minimise congestion problems across the town. The club considered it to be at the centre of the community and had invested approximately £2 million into the community through its programme of work and provided employment for approximately 900 people. As a major contributor to the social and financial fabric of Teesside the club had a commitment to work alongside its key partners to provide the best possible facilities for fans and the community.
3. The club had undertaken a web survey where a proportionally representative group of supporters was contacted in order to ascertain information on where fans were travelling from in order to get to the Club's home games. In addition to that the club also sourced everyone who bought a season ticket and checked where their home post code.
4. The survey was very useful and the club acknowledged that it was just a sample of a representative group and that they gave a reasonable representation of the travelling patterns of their home fans. Based on the sample, the following assumptions could be made
 - 20,000 travelled to the match by car of which 4,000 travelled alone
 - 8,000-12,000 cars came into the town to bring home fans to games each match day
 - 3,000-5,000 paid to park
 - 5,000-7,000 cars didn't pay
 - 1,800-2,6000 cars parked in the Town Centre and did not pay
5. A number of potential solutions were discussed by the panel including
 - Park and Ride Schemes
 - 100 Extra spaces on site at the Stadium
 - Encouraging Car Sharing
 - Use of the College ground
 - Improved Public Transport
 - Introduction of a Rail Halt
6. It was agreed at the meeting that the Police and the Council would ensure that Neighbourhood Officers and Civil Enforcement Officers would target areas worst affected by matchday parking for the first couple of months of the new season to see it had any effect. However this was not seen as a sustainable solution to the problem and that everybody involved needed to implement a variety of solutions and that people needed to be persuaded by those solutions to adjust their parking habits.