

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

25 AUGUST 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 work of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. Since the last update to the Board the panel has finalised its report on Open Plan Estates. The panel's 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 position and 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. The final report was agreed by the scrutiny panel and will be submitted to OSB in September 2009.
4. At its last meeting the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel was also consulted for its views on the current Town Centre Strategy. This draft document outlines the ambition for the future of the town centre within the context of the wider Tees Valley City Region. It seeks to build upon the positive assets of the town centre as well as addressing identified weaknesses. Wide consultation is being undertaken in respect of specific proposals.

5. The scrutiny panel made a number of comments on the draft strategy and these will be taken into account in finalising the document.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

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