



**AGENDA ITEM: 12 (a)**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**  
**22 SEPTEMBER 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 Non-Executive Member.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Board considers the appropriateness of commissioning a scrutiny review into the suggested scrutiny topic received from a Non-Executive Member.

**PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPIC**

3. To consider undertaking an investigation into **Pest Control Services**.
4. The reasons for this request are as follows:

*“There is a need to identify how rat infestation is dealt with and who is responsible for the baiting of sewers (with a focus on external agencies in particular Northumbrian Water). Rat infestation is a growing problem and something the Council should take a lead on thus ensuring an efficient and effective service. There is a need to ascertain if there is a growth in the problem of the rat population, who is ultimately responsible and are we increasing or decreasing the specifications to deal with the problem.”*

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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