

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

22 SEPTEMBER 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 twice, on 20 August and 7 September 2009.
4. The panel's review of Cleaning Arrangements is ongoing. On 20 August, the panel considered a briefing note from the Head of Streetscene in respect of the key areas to be addressed by the terms of reference. It was agreed that the first area that would be examined in detail was back alley cleansing. Accordingly, arrangements were made for the panel to hear details of the work of the Back Alley Improvement Team ('BAIT Team') at its 7 September meeting.
5. In addition to the above, the Chair and a panel member have visited Hartlepool to speak to relevant officers there regarding back alley issues and how these have been addressed. At an earlier panel meeting, Members also heard information from Stockton Borough Council in respect of back alleys in its area.

6. The purpose of these discussions was to gather relevant information and determine whether any of those local authorities have had areas of success in dealing with major back alley problems. The panel's findings will be incorporated into its final report on this topic, which will be presented to OSB in due course.

COUNCILLOR BOB KERR

CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

Contact Officer: Alan Crawford, Scrutiny Support Officer
Legal & Democratic Services
Telephone: 01642 729 707 (direct line)
e-mail: alan_crawford@middlesbrough.gov.uk