



**AGENDA ITEM: 9 (a)**

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**20 OCTOBER 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 an Executive Director.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Board considers the appropriateness of commissioning a scrutiny review into the suggested scrutiny topic received from an Executive Director.

#### **PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPIC**

3. To consider undertaking an investigation into breaches relating to Blue Badge Scheme.
4. The reasons for this request are as follows:

*“Firstly, I understand that LINKs (Local Involvement Network) have recently produced a report on disabled parking facilities in Middlesbrough, which makes a number of recommendations for improvement. Social Care haven't been involved in the investigation, but have received a copy the report.*

*Secondly, we've had a recent case of alleged misuse of a Blue Badge, which has exposed a need for us to clarify responsibility for dealing with such matters, particularly the respective contributions of Social Care, and Parking Enforcement?*

*Thirdly, the Dept for Transport issued their Blue Badge Reform Programme in July 2009, which states that local authorities will have new or amended powers to reduce misuse of blue badges and prevent their abuse. Although these new measures won't be in place until 2011/12, is there anything we should/could do to prepare ourselves?”*

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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