

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

20 OCTOBER 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 once, on 6 October 2009.
4. The panel's review of Cleaning Arrangements is ongoing. At the above meeting, the panel considered information on the following aspects of this topic:
 - Council depot arrangements
 - The Erimus Grounds Maintenance Contract, which is undertaken by Vale Contracts
5. In addition to the above, arrangements were made for the Chair/panel members to visit Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council to speak to officers and the relevant Cabinet Member regarding back alley issues and how these have been addressed. Members have previously considered information from Hartlepool and

Stockton Borough Councils on this aspect of its investigations. 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.

6. The panel's findings on the matters outlined above will be incorporated into its final report on this topic, which will be presented to OSB in due course.
7. At the 6 October meeting, the Environment Scrutiny Panel also considered a request from a Council Member to examine the issues surrounding flooding/Council sandbags policy. It was agreed that an investigation of this topic would be undertaken and a report on the matter has been requested for the next scheduled panel meeting.

COUNCILLOR BOB KERR

CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

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