

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

15 DECEMBER 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 OSB, the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel has met twice, on 23 November and 7 December 2009.
3. At the meeting on 23 November 2009, the Mayor outlined the updated position in relation in the Gresham area and confirmed that work was underway with the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) to develop revised proposals for the area. The Mayor confirmed that it was no longer possible to deliver the vision for Gresham, as approved by the Executive in 2005, and it was more than likely that between 750-900 homes would be demolished compared with the 1500 originally proposed.
4. The Panel was informed that the HCA and appointed consultants were currently undertaking a review of the Gresham project and the results of which were expected in late February. The Mayor confirmed that he would attend the Panel to provide a further update once the outcome of the review was known.
5. At the Panel's next meeting on 7 December 2009 the Panel considered issues concerning private landlords and the Council's powers, resources and action taken

in respect of the Private Rented Sector (PRS), as part of its investigation of the Older Housing Areas.

6. The Panel received evidence from the Principal Environmental Health Officer and Acting Housing Assistance Team Leader, who provided the Panel with an overview of the powers available to the Council to deal with housing condition and management standards within the PRS. Detailed information on Selective Licensing and the positive impact this had had in Gresham/ Middlehaven was also provided.

RECOMMENDATION

7. 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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