

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

15 DECEMBER 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 19 November 2009.
4. The scrutiny panel has now concluded its review of Cleansing Arrangements. At the above meeting, the panel considered information on the two outstanding aspects of the topic as follows:
  - *To consider specifications/standards for grounds maintenance (including weed control), street cleaning and back alley cleansing and determine whether these require amendment.*
  - *To assess what the Council is doing to educate and change behaviour in relation to littering, fly tipping and general environmental cleanliness.*

5. The scrutiny panel heard that the Environment department is generally moving away from rigid specifications to a more output-based, flexible approach. This reflects changing demands on services.
6. In terms of environmental education, there are a number of initiatives which are ongoing. These cover the very broad range of service areas across the Environment function.
7. The panel's detailed findings on the topic of cleansing arrangements will be included in its draft final report, which will be submitted to the next OSB meeting.

**COUNCILLOR BOB KERR**

**CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

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