



AGENDA ITEM: 10(a)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

12 January 2010

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR A SCRUTINY REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Overview & Scrutiny Board of a proposed scrutiny review that has been requested from a Non-Executive Member.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Board considers the appropriateness of commissioning a scrutiny review into the suggested scrutiny topic received from a Non-Executive Member.

PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPIC

3. To consider undertaking an investigation into the Coroner's set-up.
4. The reasons for this request are as follows:

Following the Corporate Affairs Committee meeting, held on 23 December 2009, there was a round table discussion about the current problems in the Coroner's Department. It was agreed that an investigation should be undertaken to review the Coroner's Department and establish what can be done to improve matters both financially and employee-wise for the benefit of all Middlesbrough and Teesside residents, since Middlesbrough is the lead Council for Coroners throughout Teesside.

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) Does it relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence?
 - (iii) It should not be an issue which Overview & Scrutiny has considered during the last 12 months.
 - (iv) It should not relate to an individual service complaint.
 - (v) Nor should it 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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