

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**9 FEBRUARY 2010**

### **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. The Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel last met on 5 January 2010, where it received further evidence in respect of its current review of the Older Housing Areas.
3. At that meeting the panel held a discussion with the Director of Tees Valley Living (TVL) on the joint work undertaken to deliver the Housing Market Renewal (HMR) programme within Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley.
4. Information on the achievements of the HMR programme to date, how the grant funding has been allocated and the implications of the current economic climate on the proposed HMR programme for the Tees Valley were provided.
5. The Panel heard that the role of TVL was to establish the business case for HMR and make a submission to the Government on behalf of the Tees Valley authorities. TVL directed its HMR resources into four key areas, namely, Central Middlesbrough, Central Hartlepool, Greater Eston and Central Stockton. The individual authorities were responsible for determining their priorities and where the money allocated would be spent.

6. In respect of funding allocations the Panel was informed that Middlesbrough had received 29 per cent of the total HMR funding and 36 per cent of the Single Housing Investment Pot funding (SHIP) for the Tees Valley. This was the largest proportion of all TVL authorities, as it was acknowledged that Middlesbrough had the greatest level of need.
7. In terms of annual build rates the Panel heard that the Tees Valley target was set at 2,670 new homes per annum until 2017. However, the actual outturn figure for annual build rate in year 1 of the programme (2008/9) was likely to be less than 1000. The slow down in the housing market and house building industry continued to present a number of challenges to the HMR programme. TVL was working with Councils, developers and RSL partners to identify ways to retain a mix of housing to achieve more sustainable communities.
8. At the Panel's next meeting, which is scheduled for 4 February 2010 the Panel will be focussing on the impact of regional policies on permitted house building within Middlesbrough.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

9. 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**

**Contact Officer:**

Caroline Breheny, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Legal & Democratic Services  
Telephone: 01642 729711(direct line)  
e-mail: caroline\_barnfather@middlesbrough.gov.uk