

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

1 JUNE 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 17 May 2010, where it considered the Panel's draft final report on the Older Housing Areas and an update on the progress made since the Panel's review of the Night Time Economy, as recommended in the recent Love Middlesbrough review.
3. In respect of the draft final report on the Older Housing Areas the Panel provisionally agreed the report, conclusions and recommendations but requested that prior to submitting the report to OSB the PCT be invited to attend a meeting of the Panel. The PCT has been invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the report and specifically the potential to develop some form of joint Council/PCT initiative to help tackle poor housing conditions particularly in the private rented sector given the impact that poor housing can have on health outcomes.
4. The Panel also requested that contact be made with the University of Teesside to gain some insight into the work the University has undertaken with private sector landlords in managing student accommodation across the town. It is anticipated that a representative from the University will also be in attendance at the next meeting and the information provided will be incorporated in the Panel's final report.
5. With regard to the update on the Night Time Economy review the Town Centre Manager attended the meeting and provided a comprehensive update on the work

that has been undertaken in recent years to develop and diversify the town's evening economy. The Panel heard that since 2005 significant progress has been made with more restaurants and a more diverse evening offer provided for visitors. The Town Hall is attracting more and better performances, crime figures are showing improvement and perceptions are changing.

6. It was accepted that there still remains some issues and key challenges to further improve the town centre's catchment, spend and dwell times. A new strategic approach is being developed in partnership with key stakeholders and the Panel heard that the Purple Flag scheme, which is the new "gold standard" that recognises great entertainment and hospitality areas at night will be used as a framework to develop this work. Just as the a Blue Flag is an indicator of a good beach and a Green Flag a good park, a Purple Flag is set to be an indicator of where to go for a good night out.

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

Contact Officer:

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