

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

24th AUGUST 2010

OUTCOME OF CALL-IN:

**Environment Creche Review
&
Site 44 (Longridge)**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To report the outcomes of the two special meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB). One held on the 28th July to address the decision made on the Environment Crèche Review and the second held on 2nd August 2010 to address the decision taken regarding Site 44 (Longridge) in accordance with the authority's Call-In procedure.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 As members will recall there have been two Call In requests which the Board has addressed since the last scheduled meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 27th July 2010, This report presents the formal feedback to the Board regarding both meetings.

ENVIRONMENT CRECHE REVIEW

- 3 The Call-In procedure was recently instigated, following a decision undertaken at the Executive Member meeting on 6th July 2010. The decision was based upon a report titled "Environment Crèche Review". In doing so the Executive ordered that

- Option 2 be approved and crèche provision at all venues ceases from July.

The reasons given for this were

1. A £25,000 budget saving relating a review of crèche provision in parks and leisure was accepted as part of the corporate budget savings exercise for 2010/11.
 2. Existing crèche space could be redeveloped to provide income generating physical activity opportunities.
 3. There are other childcare venues available.
- 4 Subsequently a special meeting of the OSB was held on 28th July 2010 to allow the Board to review the decision taken.

OBSERVATIONS

- 5 Having reviewed the decision, the Board wish to make the following observations on this issue:-
- That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recognises that the Executive decision to close the crèche provisions in Middlesbrough was not an easy decision to take. However, with budget pressures facing the council, the potential savings and the provision of alternative facilities meant the decision needed to be taken.

CONCLUSION

- 6 The OSB concluded that on this occasion, the Board would not require the Executive to re-consider the decision taken on 6th July 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7 The Special OSB recommendation to the Executive was that the decision referred to in this report was not referred back for reconsideration.

SITE 44 (Longridge)

- 8 The Call-In procedure was again instigated, following a decision undertaken by the Executive Sub Committee for Property meeting on 12th July 2010. The decision was based upon a report titled "Site 44 (Longridge). In doing so the Executive ordered that

- Site 44 be sold to Bidder D, on the terms that they have offered as part of their mandatory (upfront payment) option;
- If awarded, the scheme be tracked to see if there is any subsequent overage receipts.

The reason given for this was

1. In order to secure a capital receipt from the sale of the surplus land, which will be reinvested back into the Council's capital programme.

9 Subsequently a special meeting of the OSB was held on 2nd August 2010 to allow the Board to review the decision taken.

OBSERVATIONS

10 Having reviewed the decision, the Board wish to make the following observations on this issue:-

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Board recognises that the decision of the Executive Sub Committee for property was in accord with the decision taken years previously to dispose of the land. The approval to release to a selected bidder would secure a capital receipt, which will assist the Councils Capital programme.

CONCLUSION

11 The OSB concluded that on this occasion, the Board would not require the Executive Sub Committee to re-consider the decision taken on 12th July 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

12 The Special OSB recommendation to the Executive was that the decision referred to in this report was not referred back for reconsideration.

COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON

CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 13 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: -
- (a) Report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer entitled 'Call-In: Environment Creche Review. to the Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 28th July 2010.
 - (b) Report of the Director of Environment presented to the Individual Executive on 6th July 2010.
 - (c) Report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer entitled 'Call-In: Site 44 (Longridge). to the Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 2nd August 2010.
 - (d) Report of the Director of Resources and Director of Regeneration to Executive Sub Committee for Property on 12th July 2010.