

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

24 AUGUST 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. Since the last update report to OSB the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel has met on two occasions, on 26 July and 9 August 2010.
3. At its meeting on 26 July the panel commenced its first review topic from the 2010/11 work programme, namely, Social Housing.
4. The panel was initially interested in finding out about the progress made since the Council's Stock Transfer of homes to Erimus in November 2004. The Managing Director of Erimus attended the meeting to provide this update along with the Council's Strategic Housing Services Manager.
5. A number of areas were highlighted during the presentation as being worthy of further consideration. A scoping report detailing some possible terms of reference / timetable for the review is being prepared and will be considered by the Panel at its next meeting on 31 August 2010.
6. At its meeting on 26 July 2010 the Panel also revisited the topic of Matchday Parking. Representatives from Middlesbrough Football Club, Cleveland Police and Middlesbrough Council attended the meeting to discuss potential solutions to this issue. A report on this topic will be brought to the Board in due course.

7. At the Panel's last meeting on 9 August Members received an update in respect of a number of previous reviews undertaken by the Panel. Firstly, the Panel heard from the Head of Transport & Design Services and the bus operators in respect of the Panel's review of Public Sector Transport.
8. Reference was made during the discussions to the free concessionary bus travel scheme for the over 60s. It was advised that although there are no restrictions on the scheme locally, nationally the operating hours of the scheme are 9.30am until close. It was advised that a reduction in the hours locally is one option being considered, along with a host of other possibilities, in response to budget constraints.
9. The second update was provided in respect of the Panel's review of Town Centre Parking. The Panel heard that progress has been made in respect of all of the Panel's recommendations, although one option currently being considered as a possible budget saving is the closure of the toilets in Captain Cook Square Car Park, given their close proximity to the bus station public toilets.
10. Finally an update was provided on the Purple Flag Scheme. It is envisaged that the town will be in a position to apply for Purple Flag Status by 2012/13.
11. The next meeting of the panel is scheduled to take place on 31 August 2010 where the panel will consider the terms of reference / draft timetable for its Social Housing review along with its draft report on Match Day Parking.

RECOMMENDATION

12. 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

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