

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

21 SEPTEMBER 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 one occasion, on 31 August 2010.
3. At that meeting the panel considered a scoping report detailing some possible terms of reference / timetable for review for its first main review topic for 2010/11, namely Social Housing.
4. Members agreed the terms of reference for the review which are as follows:
  - (a) To gain an understanding of how social housing is currently provided in Middlesbrough and to establish the level of demand and availability.
  - (b) To consider how applicants for social housing are prioritised and subsequently allocated vacant properties within Middlesbrough.
  - (c) To assess the impact, welfare and availability of social housing on tenants in Middlesbrough following the stock transfer of homes to Erimus in 2004.
  - (d) To examine the potential impact of the proposed cuts in housing benefit on Middlesbrough tenants coupled with reductions in the funding used to provide homelessness prevention services.

- (e) To consider the work being undertaken by the Council and its partners to increase the supply of affordable housing, with specific regard to meeting the needs of an ageing population.
- 5. The panel will continue with its evidence gathering at their next meeting on 13 September to address the first two terms of reference above. At this meeting Members will receive evidence from the Housing Strategy Team Leader, Urban Policy and Implementation Manager and the Head of Housing at Endeavour Housing Association.
- 6. At its meeting on 13 August 2010 the panel also agreed its final report on Match Day Parking and the report is submitted to today's meeting for approval by the Board.

## **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