

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

19th OCTOBER 2010

OUTCOME OF CALL-IN:

**DigitalCity Business Plan
Digital City and MIMA Foreign Travel
&
Dog Control Order**

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 15th September which addressed two reports and the decisions made on the DigitalCity Business Plan and DigitalCity and MIMA Foreign Travel on 24th August 2010. The second OSB held on 17th September 2010 to address the decision taken on 31st August 2010 regarding the Albert park Dog Control Order 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 scheduled meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 24th August 2010, This report presents the formal feedback to the Board regarding both meetings.

DIGITALCITY BUSINESS PLAN

DIGITALCITY BUSINESS & MIMA FOREIGN TRAVEL

- 3 The Call-In procedure was recently instigated, following a decision undertaken at the Executive Member meeting on 24th August 2010. The decision was based upon a report titled "DigitalCity Business Plan and a report titled DigitalCity Business and mima Foreign Travel Proposals. In doing so the Executive ordered that
 1. That the activities of the 2010/11 – 2011/12 Business Plan, as set out in paragraph 13 of the report be endorsed and its delivery be approved;
 2. That the Executive Member delegates the Director of Regeneration to undertake the necessary procedures to enable the full implementation of the DCB 2010/11 – 2011/12 Business Plan;
 3. That the contribution of £100,000 of Local Authority Business Growth Incentive resources towards delivery of the DCB 2010/11 – 2011/12 Business Plan be approved; and,
 4. That further work required to address the identified issues around foreign travel, commercial activity and future independence be noted.
- 4 Subsequently a special meeting of the OSB was held on 15th September 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 the reasoning behind the decision and the desire to promote Middlesbrough and attract business and culture to the area. The Board appreciated that such actions were not Council funded and were potentially more necessary in a time of recession and when the Council is faced with budgetary restraint.

CONCLUSION

- 6 The OSB concluded that on this occasion, the Board would not require the Executive to re-consider the decision taken on 24th August 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.

ALBERT PARK DOG CONTROL ORDER

- 8 The Call-In procedure was again instigated, following a decision undertaken by the Mayor regarding the Albert Park Dog Control Order on 31st August 2010. The decision was based upon a report titled "Albert Park Dog Control Order Review". In doing so the Mayor ordered that
- 1 That there be a sustained and relentless campaign to deal with the criminal element who frequent this park and allow their fighting dogs and other types to roam the park whilst their owners invariably consume alcohol in the alcohol free zone. Their behaviour will not be tolerated at all.
 - 2 A dog owners' code of practice will be drawn up, which will not be mandatory but advisory.
 - 3 That the zone where dogs are allowed off leads should remain and be extended to cover much of the northern area, beginning approximately 100 metres within the park from the entrance near to the lake. A new area being proposed should extend from the east to the west for the whole length and will
 - 4 Between the times of 08:30am and 10:30am each Saturday all dogs will be kept on leads in all parts of the park so that no interference from dogs off leads affect the 5k run.
- 9 Subsequently a special meeting of the OSB was held on 17th September 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 Mayor was to determine the future of Dog Control in Albert Park and to achieve a realistic compromise for Dog Walkers and Runners who both use the park as a recreational facility.
 - During the process of questioning the decision and the reason for the Call In the Board found that the concerns related to additional issues associated with the park and that there was agreement on the core decision undertaken by the Mayor.

CONCLUSION

- 11 The OSB concluded that, as there was agreement on the core decision taken by the Mayor on 31st August the Board could not pursue the issue further. The Board advised the Member leading the Call In to convey the additional issues to the Mayor who would give them consideration.

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: DigitalCity Business Plan and DigitalCity and MIMA Foreign Travel Proposals to the Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 15th September 2010.
 - (b) Reports of the Director of Regeneration presented to the Individual Executive on 24th August 2010.
 - (c) Report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer entitled 'Call-In: Albert Park Dog Control Order. to the Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 17th September 2010.
 - (d) Report of the Director of Environment to the Mayor on 31st August 2010.