

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 19 October 2010.

PRESENT: Councillor Brunton (Chair), Councillors Dryden, Ismail, Khan, Mawston, Sanderson, J A Walker and Williams.

OFFICERS: J Bennington, P Clark, M Robinson, N Sayer and S Wright.

**** PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Councillor Rostron, Executive Member for Community Protection.
Councillor G Rogers, Member of Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel.
M Brydon, Capital Investment Manager, NHS Tees PCTs.

**** APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cole, C Hobson, J Hobson, Kerr and Purvis.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 15, 17 and 21 September 2010 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

In a report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer the Board was reminded of arrangements for individual Members of the Executive to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and update Members on their respective work in terms of their aims, aspirations, objectives, priorities and any emerging issues. The process was part of the arrangements of 'holding the Executive to account' and also provided the opportunity for the Board to identify or highlight any issues of concern.

NOTED

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY PROTECTION

The Chair welcomed Councillor Rostron, Executive Member for Community Protection to the meeting who highlighted some of the current priority areas of work, which included the following:

- (a) improved co-ordination between Street Wardens with other teams such as the Neighbourhood Safety Teams;
- (b) significant work being undertaken with regard to co-ordinating money advice service to ensure its effectiveness and raising awareness in the community and schools;
- (c) aspects of weights and measures under Trading Standards;
- (d) progress in terms of environmental protection issues such as the work being carried out by the Back Alley Improvement Team (BAIT);
- (e) Dog Control Orders with particular regard to a recent review of the Albert Park Dog Control Order;
- (f) examining ways of improving North Ormesby Market;
- (g) Bereavement Services Forum – construction of a mausoleum in partnership with the Italian community and stone memorials for stillborn babies;

- (h) selective licensing scheme;
- (i) complexities around licensing;
- (j) significant work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Safety Team;
- (k) confirmation of approval for a grant to provide four new plots at the Metz Bridge Gypsies and Travellers site;
- (l) like other areas of the Council concern was expressed at the potential impact of the Government's Spending Review.

With reference to (e) above the Executive Member for Community Protection commented on the overall Call-In procedure which had been invoked in respect of this item. Whilst acknowledging the right to Call-In a decision in accordance with the prevailing legislation reference was made to the opportunities for Members to seek clarification, ask for further information and attend Executive meetings. Concerns were expressed that in this particular case it became apparent that the originator to the Call-In the decision had agreed with the core decisions taken at the Individual Executive Decision Making meeting and that were other, potentially less costly, ways of seeking clarification on the additional issues raised in respect of Albert Park.

Members referred to positive comments, which had been received from constituents regarding the provision of stone memorials, referred to in (g) above.

In discussing the functions of street wardens and the public's perception of their responsibilities it was suggested that there was a need to raise awareness to their respective role. In commenting on environmental protection matters it was noted that there difficulties in recruiting staff and shortage of environmental protection officers. Members indicated that there might be scope for street wardens to take on a role in this respect but also referred to other important roles of engaging with the community and challenges in this regard.

Whilst Members acknowledged the work undertaken by the Community Safety Teams it was suggested that it would be helpful if the respective Ward Councillors received feedback on complaints together with residents concerned.

A Member referred to the Council's Food Hygiene Star Rating awards and indicated that there was considered to be certain confusion amongst the public in that there was a belief that they related to the standard of cooking rather than hygiene.

Reference was made to the role of the Licensing Committee and a suggestion made for an opportunity for such Members to have an earlier involvement in the consideration of proposed changes to the licensing policies with particular regard to taxi licensing.

The Executive Member for Community Protection confirmed her intention to consider the matters raised.

ORDERED that the Executive Member for Community Protection be thanked for the information provided.

WHITE PAPER EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE LIBERATING THE NHS IMPLICATIONS

Further to the meeting of the Board held on 21 September 2010 the Scrutiny Support Officer submitted a report the purpose of which was to introduce representation from NHS Middlesbrough to discuss certain wider implications of the White Paper Equity and Excellence – Liberating the NHS.

The Chair welcomed Malcolm Brydon, Capital Assets Manager, NHS Tees who gave a brief outline of the various assets held by the PCT some of which were owned, or were on a long lease or involved PFI developments. Following the abolition of PCTs in 2013 such assets would be vested in the successor NHS body, still to be determined. Members pointed out that the Local Authority was also a successor body in so far as it related to the proposed public health role.

In terms of safeguarding property assets reference was made to legal requirements and duty of care by PCTs. It was confirmed that the main reasons for the dispersal of property assets would be if they were surplus to requirements or not fit for purpose. An indication was given of a rigorous process which was followed in accordance with PCT guidelines before disposing of any asset, which would include writing to the health and social care community to ascertain any interest in acquiring any premises. Examples were given whereby a site had been sold and the proceeds reinvested into local health services. It was confirmed that the Estates Strategy of the PCT was a public reference document.

ORDERED as follows: -

1. That Malcolm Brydon be thanked for the information provided.
2. That following the proposed restructuring of Primary Care Trusts an update report be provided in early 2011.

EXECUTIVE FEEDBACK – OLDER HOUSING AREAS

As part of the scrutiny process and in a report of the Executive Office Manager it was reported that the Executive had considered the findings of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel's Final Report on Older Housing Areas.

The Executive and the Corporate Management Team had considered and supported the Service Responses.

NOTED

EXECUTIVE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

As part of the Board's remit in terms of holding the Executive to account a report of the Executive Office Manager was submitted which identified the forthcoming issues to be considered by the Executive as outlined in Appendix A of the report submitted.

NOTED

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG CARERS - FINAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN AND LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

The Chair of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel's findings, conclusions and recommendations following its scrutiny examination of support for young carers in Middlesbrough

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on the submitted evidence: -

- (i) That the issues surrounding young carers should be further highlighted and publicised in schools, both by The Junction Young Carers Project and by Middlesbrough's Children, Families and Learning Department. In order to identify young carers as early as possible and assist in tracking progress and closing the attainment gap, the results of the scrutiny panel's investigation should be highlighted and schools encouraged to make use of resources such as The Princess Royal Trust's 'Resource Pack for Schools,' which has been developed as best practice to help schools to identify and support young carers and their families more effectively.
- (ii) That, in order to maximise support to young carers and make best possible use of available resources, measures are put in place to strengthen liaison and links between Children, Families and Learning, Adult Social Care and The Junction Project. In the first instance, and in accordance with recommended best practice, a named lead officer, with responsibility for young carers, should be identified in each of the Council service areas.
- (iii) That urgent consideration is given to the uncertain funding position surrounding The Junction's Young Carers Project after March 2011. This should include how the

authority can ensure that its obligations towards young carers can continue to be fulfilled, for example by assisting the Junction in bidding for grant funding, such as from the Government's forthcoming Youth in Focus programme, or by considering how Carers' Grant funding received from Adult Social Care is allocated.

- (iv) That the feasibility of incorporating some element of support for young carers at the My Place development in Middlesbrough is explored - for example by promoting its use among young carers as a social facility, by advertising support services available, or by training staff in assisting or identifying new young carers so that appropriate referrals can be made.
- (v) That the possible use of Fleet Services transport and/or Ayresome Community Transport, by The Junction's Young Carer's Project is explored and incorporated in Children, Families and Learning's forthcoming review of home to school transport. Other possible sources of transport provision should also be explored, such as funding from minor grant schemes.
- (vi) That NHS Middlesbrough is contacted with a view to ensuring that it continues to be involved in the issue of supporting young carers, particularly given the earlier indication that this was an area that was likely to benefit from additional resources in future.

The Board was advised that since the circulation of the Final report the Social Care Department had published the results of a consultation exercise with young carers, which had been undertaken as part of the refreshing of the National Carers' Strategy.

Members sought clarification on a number of areas and specifically referred to the additional information provided at the meeting and suggested that it should be incorporated into the Final Report.

ORDERED that the findings and recommendations of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive subject to the additional recommendation:

' That the results of Social Care's consultation exercise with young carers, undertaken as part of the department's work on refreshing the National Carers' Strategy, are taken into account as part of the process and where appropriate, used to assist in future service planning. '

PEST CONTROL SERVICE – FINAL REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

A Final Report of the Environment Scrutiny Panel relating to its scrutiny review of the Pest Control Service had been circulated.

ORDERED that in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Panel consideration of the Final Report relating to Pest Control Services be deferred to the meeting of the Board to be held 19 October 2010.

MATCHDAY PARKING – FINAL REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

Councillor G Rogers, Member of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel outlined the Panel's findings, conclusions and recommendations following its scrutiny review of Match Day Parking.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on the submitted evidence: -

- a) That work to highlight the alternative modes of transport for home supporters attending the Riverside be continued particularly in relation to the promotion of the car sharing scheme and available public sector transport provision.

- b) That a long-term solution be developed in anticipation of the potential for the Football Club to return to the Premiership, specifically in relation to the development of a park and ride scheme to the west of the town centre from where the majority of home supporters travel by car.
- c) That on the basis of the results of the 2009/10 season occasional matchday parking surveys be continued during the 2010/11 season to monitor any changes in parking habits and to identify any specific traffic management or road safety problems that may arise.

ORDERED that the findings and recommendations of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

CALL IN – OUTCOME – DIGITALCITY BUSINESS PLAN – DIGITALCITY AND MIMA FOREIGN TRAVEL – DOG CONTROL ORDER

In a report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer reference was made to the outcome of the meetings of the Board held on 15 and 17 September 2010 in accordance with the Authority's Call-In procedure.

The report set out the following observations of the Board as follows: -

Digitalcity Business Plan – Digitalcity and mima Foreign Travel– meeting of the Board held on 15 September 2010: -

'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. '

Albert Park Dog Control Order – 17 September 2010: -

' 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 recreation 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.'

In both cases the Board had agreed that the decisions made should be not referred back for reconsideration.

NOTED

SCRUTINY REVIEWS - CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS

It was confirmed that no requests for scrutiny reviews had been received from the Executive, Executive Members, Non- Executive Members and members of the public since the last meeting of the Board.

NOTED

SCRUTINY PANELS – PROGRESS REPORTS

A report of the Chair of each Scrutiny Panel was submitted which outlined progress on current activities.

NOTED

CALL IN REQUESTS

It was confirmed that no requests had been received to call-in a decision.