

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

8 FEBRUARY 2011

### 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 18 January 2011.
3. At that meeting the Panel continued gathering evidence as part of its review into social housing. The Panel considered the work being undertaken by the Council and its partners to develop social / affordable housing that will meet the needs of an ageing population.
4. The Strategic Housing Services Manager was in attendance at the meeting alongside a representative from the Department of Social Care to discuss the issue, as well as the actions proposed for meeting the current shortfall in provision. The Panel has now completed its evidence gathering in respect of this topic and is in the process of drafting its Final Report, which is due to be considered by the Panel at its meeting.
5. The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for 28 February 2011 and at that meeting Members are due to receive an update from the Mayor in respect of the progress that has been made in relation to the Gresham Project, following the Panel's previous review on the Older Housing Areas.
6. In addition the Head of Area South at the Homes and Communities Agency will be in attendance at the meeting to update the Panel on the implications of the

national cuts in affordable housing funding, as announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Homes and Communities Agency representative has been asked to set out the implications that the 60 per cent cut in funding will have on the development of affordable / social housing in Middlesbrough.

## **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**

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