

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**5 APRIL 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 two occasions, on 28 February and 28 March 2011.
3. At its meeting on 28 February the Panel received a report from the Mayor in respect of the progress that has been made in relation to the Gresham Project. The Panel heard that the Council has to date acquired 385 out of the 820 properties in Phases 1 and 2 and that the Council remains committed to demolishing 820 properties as part of the Gresham regeneration scheme.
4. The Panel was informed that following the Government's decision to abolish the Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Fund and Single Investment Pot (SIP) the Government has encouraged local authorities to submit bids to the Regional Growth Fund to support the progress of HMR schemes. A bid for £8m in respect of Gresham has been submitted via the Local Enterprise Partnership, although the outcome will not be known until April 2011. It was noted that the Homes and Community Agency (HCA) has also recently agreed to provide the Council with £2.2 million to finish Phase 1 of the scheme.
5. The Head of Area South at the (HCA) was also in attendance at the meeting, as part of the Panel's review on Social Housing, to provide an update on the potential implications of the national cuts in affordable housing funding on the future

development of social housing. The information provided by the HCA has since been incorporated into the Panel's draft final report on this topic.

6. Finally at its meeting on 28 February the Panel considered its draft final report, conclusions and recommendations on the topic of social housing. The Panel's report is submitted to today's meeting for approval by the Board.
7. At the Panel's meeting on 28 March Members had the opportunity to consider aspects of the proposed Corporate Performance Management Framework 2011/12, which relate directly to the Panel's remit. The Panel also considered information relating to the introduction of 20mph speed limits in residential areas of the town over the coming years.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

8. 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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