

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 26 July 2011.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Brunton (Chair), Councillors McIntyre, McTigue, Purvis, Sanderson, Saunders, J A Walker and Williams.

**OFFICERS:** J Bennington, C Breheny, E Chicken, P Clark, J Ord and N Sayer.

**\*\* APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cole, Dryden, C Hobson and Mawston,

**\*\* PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Councillor Rooney, Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development.

**\*\* PRESENT AS AN OBSERVER:** T Byng (Chair) Hackney Carriage Association.

**\*\* DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

| Name of Member      | Type of Interest         | Item / Nature of Interest  |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Councillor Saunders | Personal/Non-Prejudicial | Agenda Item 4(b): Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 3 May 2011 – related to current employment. |

**\*\* MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 20 and 28 June 2011 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 usually made for individual Members of the Executive to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board to provide updates on their respective work in terms of their aims, aspirations, objectives, priorities and any emerging issues or pressures. The process was part of the scrutiny arrangements of 'holding the Executive to account' and also provided the opportunity for the Board to identify or highlight any issues of concern or difficulty.

A schedule detailing the proposed attendance for Executive Members to meetings of the Board was outlined at Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

**ORDERED** as follows:-

1. That the schedule detailing the attendance of Executive Members to meetings of the Board be approved.
2. That the additional meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Board as outlined be approved.

### EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Chair welcomed Councillor Rooney, Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development to the meeting who highlighted the current situation and priority areas of work within the portfolio.

The Executive Member confirmed that copies of the Regeneration Delivery Plan were available if required.

Taking into account the overall economic situation the Executive Member indicated that inevitably it was a challenging time given the huge overall savings which the Council had to achieve and particularly difficult for regeneration with a relatively small budget. Although difficult, it was considered important for the Council to continue its efforts in terms of regeneration and try and make progress and maximise any possibilities of attracting external funding.

One of the most important elements of the regeneration of the Town related to housing provision and reference was made to five areas of potential development at Grey Towers, Trimdon Avenue, Ladgate Lane, Hemlington Grange and Rose Cottage all of which had been called in by the Highways Agency in view of the implications on local traffic.

Although the difficult economic climate was acknowledged the Executive Member focused on a number of areas where the Council had achieved significant progress with particular regard to Boho which had been very successful. Reference was also made to MIMA, which was not just a modern art provision but facilitated other activities not necessarily easily identifiable with particular regard to outreach work with schools, colleges and young people. An indication was given of the possibility of it becoming a Trust in the future although it was recognised that this would not be for some time given the current agreement with the Arts Council. Other areas of progress included the development of Cannon Park in an endeavour to facilitate new businesses and Community in a Cube at Middlehaven.

Reference was made to the proposed expansion of Middlesbrough College and recognition that there was a need to examine the current situation with regard to a shortage of engineering skills in the area. The Executive Member referred to ongoing work with employers and Teesside University in an endeavour to address the skills shortage.

The Executive Member reported upon the opening of the STAGES Academy, previously Wellington Street Hostel which had been transformed into a high quality accommodation for homeless men and women. It was noted that owing to a lack of appropriate accommodation in the private sector the hostel was currently oversubscribed.

Reference was made to the importance of a successful submission to the Government for Enterprise Zones at South West Ironmasters and parts of Greater Middlehaven in terms of facilitating businesses. An indication was given of other initiatives being pursued both locally and at a regional/sub regional level with particular regard to tackling current problems around the manufacturing industry.

Confirmation was given of the submission of bids for Housing Market Renewal Funds in respect of Middlehaven, Grove Hill and Grove Hill.

The Board sought clarification on a number of areas. During the ensuing discussion Members recognised the limitations given the significant budget constraints but expressed concerns with regard to delays and an apparent lack of a development brief in respect of Hemlington Grange which was in the Local Development Framework. In response the Executive Member confirmed that he would investigate and report further.

**ORDERED** that the Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development be thanked for the information provided.

## **EXECUTIVE FEEDBACK - APPOINTEESHIPS**

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 Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel's final report on Appointeeships.

The Executive and the Corporate Management Team had considered and supported the Service Responses and noted the response from the Department for Work and Pensions in respect of recommendations (f) and (g) of the final report.

NOTED

## TAXI FACILITIES IN CROSSFELL ROAD BERWICK HILLS

The Chair presented a position statement in respect of the Board's scrutiny investigation into proposed Taxi facilities at Crossfell Road, Berwick Hills.

Members considered the report which outlined the evidence compiled from a range of organisations. It was agreed that such evidence demonstrated that a number of organisations were in opposition to any provision of a Taxi Rank on Crossfell Road mainly on the grounds of practicality and safety.

Specific reference was made to the terms of reference in so far as they related to the taxi provision at the Morrisons Supermarket at Berwick Hills. From the evidence submitted Members agreed that it had been made clear that the Private Hire Company, the Hackney Carriage operators and William Morrison Supermarkets PLC had declared that they were satisfied with current arrangements for taxi provision at Morrisons. As such arrangements were on a private basis and on private land and the retailer concerned considered that the present arrangements worked well the Board did not consider there was any issue for the Council to address.

**ORDERED that** the position statement be adapted into a Final Report and that the reference in respect of Morrisons be included in the report prior to submission to the Executive.

## SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

Further to the meeting of the Board held on 28 June 2011 the Senior Scrutiny Officer submitted a report, which outlined progress by certain scrutiny panels in considering the proposed scrutiny work programme for 2011/2012.

The report summarised the suggested topics for investigation in respect of the following: -

### Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel:

Detailed Scrutiny Investigations:

- (a) 14-19 reform agenda;
- (b) Substance misuse by parents and carers and support for problem families;
- (c) Local Authority procedures for dealing with transient/mobile populations among primary school children.

To receive updates on the following emerging issues:-

- (a) The position regarding free schools and academies – including any Council policy proposals that may need to be developed in this area;
- (b) the operation of the Middlesbrough Safeguarding Children Board;
- (c) The Council's response in respect of the recent consultation exercise on special educational needs;
- (d) The result of the recent OFSTED inspection of safeguarding provision.

The Board was advised that the Panel had also considered the possibility of undertaking a joint scrutiny investigation with the Health Scrutiny Panel in respect of the local provision of forensic paediatric services a topic which had been suggested by the Primary Care Trust.

### Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel:

- (a) Domestic Violence;
- (b) Harassment/Bullying and Hate Crime;

- (c) Police Rescuers (the direct affect of the reduction of the Police budget and Police Officers will have on Middlesbrough);
- (d) Leisure Facilities for an ageing population (Public/Private);
- (e) Leisure Facilities – contribution to tackling obesity.

It was also reported that the Panel had agreed to receive updates in respect of:-

- the Golf Centre;
- Actions and application of regulation of Investigatory Powers Act in Middlesbrough;
- Food Hygiene and the development of the national Scheme by the Food Standards Agency;
- Safer Middlesbrough Partnership as Middlesbrough's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership;
- Issues arising in relation to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill 2010/2011.

Members were advised that since the circulation of the report the Panel had agreed subject to the Board's approval to add the topic of the Coroner's Department to its scrutiny work programme for 2011/2012.

#### Environment Scrutiny Panel:

Main Scrutiny Topics:

- (a) Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme;
- (b) Relationship with statutory undertakers (i.e. the various companies and agencies that had legal rights to carry out highway works);
- (c) North Ormesby Market;
- (d) Pavement repairs;
- (e) Maintenance of natural woodland/highway trees and verges.

It was also reported that the Panel had agreed to receive updates in respect of:-

- Junk jobs charging policy;
- Side waste collection policy;
- Depots review;
- Street cleaning /24 hour economy;
- Recycling;
- Fleet services review;
- Nature's World;
- Energy reduction.

Further to the meeting of the Board held on 28 June 2011 it was confirmed that Stockton and Darlington Borough Councils had agreed to Middlesbrough Council chairing and supporting the Tees Valley Health Scrutiny Joint Committee. It was noted that since the circulation of the report Hartlepool and, Redcar and Cleveland Councils had also agreed to the proposed action

**ORDERED** as follows: -

1. That the Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/2012 in respect of the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel, Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel and the Environment Scrutiny Panel as outlined be approved.

2. That the suggested topic of the Coroners Department be added to the scrutiny work programme of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel for 2011/2012.

### **JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL – MAJOR TRAUMA CENTRE DESIGNATION**

The Scrutiny Support Officer outlined the Panel's findings following consideration of the designation of James Cook University Hospital as a Major Trauma Centre.

As part of the Panel's conclusions it was agreed to write to the North East Strategic Health Authority to congratulate NHS colleagues on the progress in developing services for Major Trauma so far. It had also been agreed that the Panel would seek an assurance that despite the structural reorganisations within the NHS, the impetus of the project would not be lost and appropriate funding would be released to ensure that the Plan was fully implemented by April 2012. In addition it was agreed that it was crucial that North East Ambulance Service staff were appropriately trained to ensure that effective triage could take place and paramedics were well informed as to which hospital was the most appropriate for any particular patient. The Panel agreed that it should seek reassurance that the needs and required capacity of NEAS staff was given adequate consideration in implementing the Major Trauma Plan.

The Panel recommended that the North East Strategic Health Authority, NHS Tees and the emerging Clinical Commissioning Group continues to support the implementation of the trauma strategy and ensures appropriate investment takes place to ensure that the strategy is implemented in its entirety by April 2012.

**ORDERED** that the findings of the Health Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

### **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.

(Councillor McTigue left the meeting after agenda item 10 (d).)

### **CALL IN REQUESTS**

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