



## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

**15 NOVEMBER 2011**

### **ENVIRONMENT 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 Environment Scrutiny Panel.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the updated position.

#### **BACKGROUND**

3. Since the last update to OSB, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met once, on 27 October 2011.
4. The panel's investigation of footpath repairs is ongoing. To date, information has been considered as follows:
  - The legal position in respect of vehicles crossing footpaths to access in-curtilage parking.
  - A draft discussion document regarding possible action in respect of the above.
  - Details of how repairs are identified, prioritised and scheduled - including the authority's approved programme of repairs and maintenance.
  - Details of how third party claims against the authority are dealt with.

5. Arrangements were also made for panel members to undertake a 'walkabout' to various locations in Middlesbrough to see examples of issues covered by the scrutiny investigation.
6. At the 27October meeting, the panel heard from officers of Stockton and Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council's in respect of:
  - How footpath repairs are identified and prioritised.
  - How the authorities deal with and enforce illegal vehicular pavement crossings.
  - A representative of Erimus Housing was also present at the meeting and explained how the organisation deals with vehicular pavement crossings in respect of its properties.
7. The panel has now completed its evidence gathering on this topic. A draft final report outlining the panel's findings will be considered at its next meeting, on 24 November 2011.

**COUNCILLOR BOB KERR**

**CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

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