

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

7TH FEBRUARY 2012

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Overview & Scrutiny Board of the proposed scrutiny reviews which have been received and are presented for the Boards consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Board considers the appropriateness of commissioning a scrutiny review into the suggested scrutiny topics.

PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPICS

3. To consider undertaking a Scrutiny investigation into the following subjects
:-
4. **Asbestos.** The Board has recently received information on the contractual compliance of the Council and Erimus regarding the Management or Removal of asbestos from those houses which were transferred to Erimus under the stock transfer arrangements. From this emerged the concerns on the 'Health Impact' of Asbestos on residents of Middlesbrough and a request has been received from a Member that this area be examined by the Councils Scrutiny.
5. **Budget.** Raised at previous OSB's has been the severity of "Budget Cuts" directed to Middlesbrough Council. The Board has raised its concerns regarding the depth of these cuts and the impact they are having and will have on the facilities provided to the public. A request has been received from a Member for Scrutiny to consider undertaking a Scrutiny Investigation into the affects these cuts will have on individual services and options which may arise from the Scrutiny.

6. **Shape of the Council in 2015.** Members have been faced with a range of proposals which already have changed service provision. Further financial reductions will again bring forth proposals to change the shape of the Council during the term of this Parliament. In this regard a request has been received from a Member for Scrutiny to look collectively across the Council at the minimum requirement for service delivery which would form a base template for the shape of the Council in 2015.
7. **Boundary Commission.** Middlesbrough Council meets the criteria for a boundary review and has already received an introductory session with the Commissioners. Following the proposals for Hartlepool a request has been received from a Member for Scrutiny to look at the rational behind single and multi Member wards. The request has also suggested that Scrutiny look at the logical shape of wards which best reflects the shape of Middlesbrough as it is today.

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