

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2012

Agenda Item - 11

## CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR A SCRUTINY REVIEW

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform the Overview & Scrutiny Board of a proposed scrutiny review that has been requested from an elected Member

### RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Board considers the appropriateness of commissioning a scrutiny review into the suggested scrutiny topic received from the Member.

### PROPOSED SCRUTINY TOPIC

3. The continued daily problems with the Combi - Boilers in Erimus Homes (since 2003) which appear to focus on the motherboard of the boilers, which is considered, is central to the boiler malfunctions. The worsening inclement weather is placing families, especially those with children and the aged at substantial disadvantage, as they have to endure these conditions without heating or hot water. It also appears that the repair times undertaken by Erimus are not sufficiently responsive which places the families with unnecessary delays.
4. It is understood that some tenants in Erimus properties are frequently breaching the tenancy agreement and that there is negligible enforcement or repercussions. Indeed there is some indication that some tenants breach agreements for their entertainment.
5. The issue of Gardens has arisen in that although written into the tenancy agreement (section 5, 5.12 - 5.13 - 5.14) the gardens are not being maintained and there is little evidence of enforcement. Consequently, I believe it would be beneficial to know how many Erimus tenants have been removed from homes for repeated tenancy breaches since 2003.
6. Members constantly reference the poor condition of our Town, its green-belt our Social Housing, Shopping precincts etc, yet we seem to de - police it all by taking no action, and Erimus is a major contributory factor. Therefore a request that Scrutiny look into the Councils adopted affordable housing strategy.
7. The suggested Scrutiny topic should be considered against the following criteria:-
  - (i) Does the issue affect a group of people living within the Middlesbrough area?

- (ii) Does it relate to a service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence?
- (iii) It should not be an issue which Overview & Scrutiny has considered during the last 12 months.
- (iv) It should not relate to an individual service complaint.
- (v) Nor should it relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure.

8 It is for the Board to consider the importance of this suggestion in light of the work programme.

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