

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 12(g)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

16 OCTOBER 2012

AD - HOC 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. The Ad-Hoc Scrutiny panel has recently begun to investigate the issue of 'The Paperless Authority.' To date, the panel has met once and has considered an overview of this topic.
4. Under the paperless system, information is disseminated electronically, resulting in a significant reduction in the amount of paper required. This in turn results not only in reduced purchasing and printing costs but can also reduce the authority's carbon footprint as less energy is used to produce printed papers and, ultimately, less photocopying equipment is required.
5. Instead of receiving printed copies of agendas/meeting papers, groups of Members/appropriate officers will typically use tablets (ie small, hand-held portable electronic devices) to access meeting papers and other documents. Such an approach will usually involve an 'invest to save approach,' where the initial financial outlay involved in purchasing the required equipment is more than recouped in the savings generated over the longer term as a result of introducing the new system.

6. To date, Members have heard from a representative of Mouchel, who is involved in a project in Adult Social Care to reduce paper usage among Social Workers.
7. Next, it is hoped to make arrangements to hear from an authority that has adopted a paperless approach and to further investigate options on how this issue could be progressed.

COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON

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