

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 8 (b)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

8th January 2013

COMMUNITY SAFETY and LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To inform Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of the progress made to date by the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board approves the actions of the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel since the last update.

PROGRESS OF THE PANEL

- 3 **Leisure Services** – At the panel's last meeting of 21st November the panel received information from the service and Executive Member regarding the progress for exploring conversion to a Leisure Trust. The panel was informed of the potential financial benefits of this action but also how it removes the Council's ability to directly manage some issues. The panel considered that there are some risks associated with this move to leisure.
- 4 Consequently, the panel requested the attendance of a representative of Legal Services. The purpose is to seek clarification on the benefits and risks associated with such a consideration. The panel also addressed the aspects of financial benefit and the liabilities to the Council associated with this move. The panel addressed the principles

of how the contract would be established and how restrictive this may be to the Council

- 5 The panel found that there are a number of complications and restrictions for transferring Leisure services to Trust Status. However, the panel concluded that the issue is far wider than a simple transfer of a facility while recognising that more information is on Leisure is.
- 6 Consequently, the panel has determined that their next meeting should be an awareness and update session on the present leisure provision in Middlesbrough.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7 No background paper was used in the preparation of this report: -

COUNCILLOR FRANCES McINTYRE

**CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND LEISURE
SCRUTINY PANEL**

20th December 2012

Contact: Peter Clark
Senior Scrutiny Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.
Telephone: 01642 729 708 (direct line)