

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 8 (c)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

8 JANUARY 2013

<p>ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL - PROGRESS REPORT</p>
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PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. At the time of writing, the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel has met on one occasion since the last update report was presented to OSB, on 6 December 2012.
3. The Panel is continuing its review on the topic of Grove Hill regeneration and at its last meeting the Panel received detailed information on the proposal to develop a linear park as part of the Grove Hill regeneration scheme.
4. Members were advised that initially the Council had received estimated costs to create a linear park in Grove Hill from various consultants that ranged from £2m - £4.8m. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) had planned to fund some of the works but owing to Government cuts / budget constraints that funding was now not forthcoming. As a result the proposals have been revised and the officers expressed the view that a quality green space could be delivered for less than £500k, which included a proportion of the becks works.
5. During the course of the meeting reference was made to a beck improvement scheme in Darlington (near the river Skerne) and a recent housing development scheme in Stockton. Members requested that a site visit be arranged to both sites to see how similar regeneration schemes had been advanced. Given some of the issues experienced at Blue Bell beck i.e. anti-social behaviour / problems with

motorbikes it was requested that a visit to Blue Beck be incorporated into the site visit. The site visit is scheduled to take place in the New Year.

6. In addition to the Panel's review on the Grove Hill regeneration scheme a small working group has been established to look at the issue of the quadrangle, as part of the Town Hall refurbishment scheme. A meeting has been arranged with the relevant officers for the 17th January 2013 to discuss this topic.
7. The Panel's next formal meeting will take place on 24 January 2013, when the Panel will consider the proposals to create a new junction at Eastbourne Road shops, as well as public realm improvements to the existing retail centre.

RECOMMENDATION

8. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the content of the report and the updated position.

COUNCILLOR T HARVEY

CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

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