

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 9 (b)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

5th February 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** – This background has been conveyed to the Overview and Scrutiny Board previously but is being reiterated for completeness, as it was the previous meeting of the panel and to place the present position into context. At the panel's 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. The purpose of this was to ensure the panel has a comprehensive understanding of the Leisure provision in Middlesbrough, the costs associated with that provision and also how this harmonises or not with the private sector provision in Middlesbrough.
- 7 The meeting to address this issue was the 16th January. However as the meeting was not quorate the subject is to be addressed by the panel on the 11th February when the information requested will be presented.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

COUNCILLOR FRANCES McINTYRE

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

28th January 2013

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