

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 9(c)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

5 MARCH 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. The Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel continues with its investigation into the Grove Hill regeneration scheme and has met on one occasion since the last update report was provided.
3. At the panel's meeting on 14 February 2013 the panel received a presentation from the Managing Director of Erimus Housing on Erimus' role and involvement in the regeneration project. The panel was advised that a considerable amount of work has been undertaken in Grove Hill in recent years and that in establishing a Joint Venture agreement with the Council, which has generated a £5.4 million investment fund to take the project forward, a highly innovative approach has been taken.
4. It was also advised that an additional £12 million is currently being invested in delivering 120 new affordable homes in Grove Hill, via grants secured from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and Erimus' own investment programme. These homes need to be delivered by 2015 and will comprise 20 homes for affordable rent at Castle Gardens, 44 homes, bungalows and apartments for rent on the former Marton Grove School site and a further 56 homes on various sites in the Bishopton Road area.
5. Reference was made to the role and involvement of the private sector in regenerating Grove Hill and it was acknowledged that in the current market climate private sector developers remain extremely cautious. In a recent 'soft market' testing exercise the response rate from developers for the site was relatively poor. Attracting a private sector developer to help realise the vision for Grove Hill, as detailed in the Council's masterplan for the area, remains a challenge.

6. In addition to the above further information was also provided on the proposals to create a new junction at Eastbourne Road shops and why it is felt that the replacement of the current roundabout by a T-junction will act as an improved gateway into the 'new' Grove Hill.
7. Following the information received it was agreed that the panel has now received sufficient evidence to consider a draft final report on this topic. The draft final report will be considered by the panel at its next meeting on 7 March 2013.

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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