

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 27 May 2014.

PRESENT: Councillors N J Walker (Chair), Dryden, C Hobson, Mawston, P Purvis, Sanderson, M Thompson and J A Walker.

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Councillors Kerr and Taylor.

OFFICERS: J Bennington, G Brown and A Crawford.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were submitted on behalf of Councillors McIntyre and P Sharrocks.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item/Nature of Interest
Councillor N J Walker	Non-Pecuniary	Agenda Item 6-Household Waste Management -involvement in service response as Executive Member for Environment at that time.

1 **WELCOME - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

The Chair welcomed all present to the first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board in the 2014/2015 Municipal Year 2014/2015.

NOTED

2 **VICE-CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - APPOINTMENT**

The Chair sought nominations for Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.

ORDERED that Councillor Mawston be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year.

3 **MINUTES - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 29 APRIL 2014**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 29 April 2014 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

4 **DOG FOULING - UPDATE REPORT**

Councillor Kerr, Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Panel at the time of the investigation presented a report which outlined additional recommendations of the Panel following a previous review on the topic of dog fouling. A copy of the subsequent departmental Action Plan agreed by the Executive at its meeting held on 16 July 2013 was provided at Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

The Panel had noted an increased number of complaints regarding dog fouling received by the Council's Streetscene Services. Most recently the Panel had been advised of temporary signs used by Stockton Council examples of which were provided in Appendix 2 of the report submitted.

Stockton Council had advised that the use of such signs together with other targeted enforcement action had resulted in mainly positive outcome with good feedback from both non dog owners and responsible dog owners. It was noted, that in particular, such an approach had succeeded in getting the message across to the public in highlighting the authority's efforts in tackling the problem.

Given Middlesbrough Council's current budgetary position it was considered unlikely that a resource intensive campaign on dog fouling could be implemented in Middlesbrough although the use of temporary warning signs on lampposts, in particular, was regarded as a relatively low-cost and effective way of taking action on dog fouling in hot spot areas across the borough.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel:-

(i) That Middlesbrough Council adopts the use of temporary signs and footpath stencils in persistent problem areas of dog fouling.

(ii) That Community Councils are informed of the approach to be taken and requested to contribute towards the purchase costs of the warning signs for use in their area.

Whilst the Board was supportive of the Panel's recommendations a Member suggested that careful attention should be given to the wording of the temporary signs emphasising the need to use 'plain English'.

On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked Councillor Kerr for the presentation of the report and hard work undertaken as Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

ORDERED that the recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

5 **EXECUTIVE FEEDBACK - HOUSEHOLD WASTE MANAGEMENT - DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY SOCIAL CARE**

As part of the scrutiny process the Board considered a report of the Executive Office Manager which confirmed that the Executive had considered two Final Reports of the Environment Scrutiny Panel in respect of Middlesbrough Environment City and Bereavement Services.

The Executive had considered and supported the Service Responses as outlined in Appendices A and B of the report submitted.

NOTED

6 **BUSINESS AND JOB CREATION**

Councillor Taylor, Vice-Chair of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel presented a report which outlined the findings, conclusions and recommendations following a scrutiny investigation of the topic of business and job creation, including the role of the local enterprise partnership.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on the evidence received:-

(i) That the Executive notes the comprehensive level of support that is available to new and existing businesses in Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley, together with the opportunities for further growth presented by the establishment of the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Enterprise Zone and Tees Valley City Deal.

2. That the Council's Integrated Youth Support Service takes action as follows:-

(a) To ensure that all Middlesbrough secondary schools, academies and colleges are aware of the need to be mindful of the requirements of employers and gear appropriate training and careers advice towards ensuring that young people are equipped with the skills and knowledge to make them employment-ready.

(b) To explore the possibility of widening the annual Choices careers advice event to include employers who are seeking apprentices or trainees.

(c) To encourage schools to ensure that careers information is provided to students before they choose their options for GCSE study.

3. That the Council takes action to review the position in terms of the employment of apprentices, in particular to:

- (a) Introduce a formal Council policy on apprenticeships.
- (b) Increase the number of apprentices across all Council departments and service areas.
- (c) Ensure that opportunities are also made available for older apprentices.
- (d) Consider how apprenticeship opportunities can be promoted/made available to young people in care.
- (e) Promote the benefits of developing apprenticeship opportunities among partner organisations, including major local employers such as the National Health Service, as well as private sector employers.

4. That the Council liaises with training organisations, colleges and learning providers, other local authorities and the business sector to develop a more co-ordinated approach to supporting young people into employment across the Tees Valley.

5. That a progress report on the multi-agency approach that is being taken to address issues of youth unemployment is submitted to the scrutiny panel in approximately 12 months' time.

In seeking clarification as to the extent of evidence sought from other organisations it was suggested that recommendation 4 above be widened to include bodies such as the NHS, Housing Associations, Mouchel, third sector and any other partners.

Specific reference was made to a review undertaken by the Children and Learning Scrutiny Panel which had included consideration of evidence from housing associations and larger employers in terms of apprenticeships. Members supported the need for a more co-ordinated approach on what could be offered and how to support young people.

ORDERED as follows:-

1. That the findings and recommendations of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.
2. That as part of the Panel's consideration of progress on the multi-agency approach in 12 months' time information be sought on the approaches adopted and lessons learnt by other organisations such as those identified above.

7

GRESHAM REGENERATION UPDATE REPORT

Councillor Taylor, Vice-Chair of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel at the time presented a report which outlined the findings, conclusions and recommendations following the panel's consideration of an update concerning the Gresham regeneration proposals.

Whilst the Panel had noted the updated position it had been agreed that the Executive should be made aware of the issues raised and requested to consider the following additional recommendations:-

(i) That work is undertaken to ascertain whether development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Gresham could be beneficial, in particular whether this could assist in strengthening the content of the Local Development Framework. If it is determined that this would be beneficial, local residents should be assisted by the Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.

(ii) That, whether or not a Neighbourhood Plan for Gresham comes to fruition and following removal of Phase 2b from the development proposals a Master Plan is prepared by Middlesbrough Council to encourage and facilitate development of the area shown within the defined site boundary.

ORDERED that the findings and recommendations of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

8 **CONTINUING HEALTHCARE PROVISION - TO ENSURE THE HEALTH ECONOMY FUNDS HEALTH NEEDS**

The Chair of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel outlined the panel's findings, conclusions and recommendations following a scrutiny investigation of the topic of Continuing Healthcare (CHC) Provision - To Ensure the Health Economy Funds Health Needs.

The Board considered the following recommendations of the Panel based on the evidence submitted and conclusions reached:-

(a) That NECS provides the South Tees Health Scrutiny Joint Committee with up-to-date/current statistical information and data pertaining to NHS CHC rates. That statistics for 2013/2014 be reported in the first instance and thereafter on a quarterly basis, providing the committee with an ability to monitor rates.

(b) That NECS monitors the number of individuals who have an initial assessment and records outcomes, in addition to how many are referred for a full assessment.

(c) That the inter-agency group develops a joint protocol for all health and social care professionals to assist in ensuring national guidelines and policy, in relation to NHS CHC, is implemented correctly and to ensure consistent approaches across the Tees Valley.

(d) That NECS:

(i) Reviews the training package to include local case studies, examples of good practice and potential problems/issues that may be encountered.

(ii) Regularly reviews the training package to ensure it is up-to-date and appropriate for different health professionals and social care professionals.

(iii) Undertakes further work to actively encourage health and social care professionals to complete the training.

(e) That NHS CHC training and completion of the e-learning programme is made mandatory for all of Middlesbrough's Adult Social Workers.

(f) That NECS develops and manages a NHS CHC advice and support service. The service must offer specialist knowledge and must be adequately resourced to answer general enquires, in addition to providing the necessary support throughout the process.

(g) That the CCG and NECS undertake a review of how information is disseminated to the public and implement actions to raise awareness of the availability of NHS CHC and the support available. The scrutiny panel proposes that:

- Detailed NHS CHC information is made available on the CCG, NECS and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust websites.
- Leaflets are designed, distributed to, and displayed in local GP surgeries, health centres, hospitals and care homes. The leaflet should also be circulated to leading care associations, organisations and charities.
- Public information pertaining to NHS CHC provides details of the complaints procedures, appeals process, deadlines for making NHS CHC claims and contact details for advice and support.

(h) That the Council website and documentation be updated to include information on the availability of NHS CHC and the support available.

(i) That a form be established, specifically for those in receipt of NHS CHC, whereby patients, families and carers can provide feedback and their views/opinions on the NHS CHC process to assist in establishing best practice and improving current working practices.

(j) That, in six months' time, the CCG and NECS submits an update/progress report, on the implementation of the proposed recommendations, to the scrutiny panel.

ORDERED that the findings and recommendations of the Social Care and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel be endorsed and referred to the Executive.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - CALL IN - POTENTIAL SCRUTINY TOPICS

The Chair referred to a potential date within the required timeframe for a meeting of the Board to consider a Call-In which had been received with regard to a decision by the Executive Sub-Committee for Property at a meeting held on 19 May 2014 regarding the future use of Netherfields Community Centre.

In terms of the overall scrutiny process the Chair indicated her intention to meet with each Scrutiny Chair and Vice-Chair with a view to discussing current and possible future arrangements and how she can support in her role as Chair of the Board.

The Chair referred to a potential scrutiny topic of investigation by the Board in relation to car parking enforcement on private land.

In order to allow the opportunity of each Scrutiny Panel to meet and discuss potential scrutiny topics of investigation prior to the Board's consideration of the overall 2014/2015 Scrutiny Work Programme it was suggested that the next meeting of the Board be held on 1 July and not 24 June as previously agreed.

ORDERED as follows:-

1. That the information provided be noted.
2. That further information be provided at the next meeting of the Board regarding a potential scrutiny topic of investigation in respect of car parking enforcement on private land.
3. That the next meeting of the Board be held on 1 July 2014 at 4.00 p.m.