

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 7(c)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

24 SEPTEMBER 2014

<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 Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel's last meeting (14 August 2014), Members received further information on the panel's ongoing topic of the possible introduction of free wi-fi in Middlesbrough.
3. The panel considered information from Newcastle City Council on progress made in providing free wi-fi in public areas of Newcastle and Gateshead. The following issues were highlighted/discussed at the meeting:
 - Funding obtained by Newcastle/Gateshead for the project.
 - Possible options/alternatives for free public wi-fi provision in Middlesbrough.
 - The different approaches that could be taken in respect of this issue, including progress made by other local authorities.
4. The scrutiny panel agreed that it would be useful to also examine the possibility of providing free wi-fi in Council-owned buildings, such as libraries and the Municipal Golf Centre.
5. Following the discussions outlined above, arrangements have been made to speak to the Council's Corporate Programme Manager at the panel's next meeting. At that meeting, Members will begin to explore the information and communication technology (ICT) issues involved in the issues raised by the panel.
6. The Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel's next meeting will be held on 25 September 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCILLOR PETER SHARROCKS

**CHAIR OF THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION
AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL**

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