

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 7(d)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

24 SEPTEMBER 2014

<p style="text-align: center;">ENVIRONMENT 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 Environment Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. Since the last report to OSB, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met once, on 8 September 2014.
3. At that meeting the panel received further information in respect of its ongoing examination of 'Maintenance of Open Spaces'. Matters discussed at the meeting included:
 - Agreeing terms of reference for the scrutiny panel's investigation.
 - The possibility of arranging a site visit to open space areas across the borough.
 - The need to consider the involvement/role of Erimus Housing in maintaining the open space areas in its ownership.
4. The scrutiny panel also heard from officers of Stockton and Hartlepool Borough Councils in respect of the impact of recent budget reductions on the maintenance of open spaces in their areas.
5. The panel's next meeting is scheduled for 29 September 2014, when further information will be submitted on the panel's investigation. At the time of writing, it is also hoped that a site visit, or visits, can be arranged for Members in conjunction with that meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCILLOR PETER PURVIS

CHAIR - ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

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