

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM 8(c)

### OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

11 NOVEMBER 2014

<p><b>ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL - PROGRESS REPORT</b></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 (ERT) Scrutiny Panel.

#### BACKGROUND

2. The scrutiny panel's investigation of the possible provision of free wi-fi in public areas/Council buildings in Middlesbrough is ongoing. Since the last update to OSB, the ERT Scrutiny Panel has met once, on 23 October 2014.
3. At the above meeting, the scrutiny panel heard details of free Council wi-fi provision in local authority buildings in the other Teesside Boroughs. Details of a Digital Inclusion Group that has been established by a local social housing provider were also submitted.
4. Arrangements had also been made for a representative of the Thirteen housing group to attend the meeting to further explore the issue of digital inclusion. However, this is to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances.
5. In addition to the above, on 23 October 2014, the scrutiny panel also considered an overview of the topic of disposal of non-strategic assets. This subject was included as a Change Programme-related topic. This followed a suggestion from the Overview and Scrutiny Board that each of the Council's scrutiny panels should examine topics from the authority's Change programme as part of agreed work programmes for 2014-15.
6. The panel heard details of the process that has been used to dispose of non-strategic assets (defined as land and property that the Council does not use for service delivery purposes). Information was also provided on progress made to date.

7. The Economic Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Panel agreed to note the current position and revisit the topic in the future in the context of the Council's emerging Estates Strategy.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
  - Agenda and papers of the Economic Regeneration and Transport (ERT) Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 23 October 2014.

**COUNCILLOR PETER SHARROCKS**

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

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