

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 13(c)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

6 JANUARY 2015

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| <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 (ERT) Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. The ERT Scrutiny Panel's investigation of the possible provision of free wi-fi in public areas/Council buildings in Middlesbrough has now been concluded. The panel met on 23 October 2014 to consider a draft final report on the topic. The report was approved for submission to the Executive at the 9 December 2014 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.
3. 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.
4. 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. It was agreed to note the current position and revisit the topic in the future in the context of the Council's emerging Estates Strategy.
5. On 11 December 2014 the ERT Scrutiny Panel began to examine the topic of Middlehaven. The panel heard an overview of the subject area, including the development history of the site, progress made to date and future plans.
6. It was agreed that arrangements would be made for Members to visit Middlehaven prior to the scrutiny panel's next meeting, which is scheduled for 8 January 2015. That meeting will also consider draft terms of reference for the panel's investigation.

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
 - Agenda and papers of the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel meetings held on 23 October and 11 December 2014.

COUNCILLOR PETER SHARROCKS

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

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