

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 4

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

9 JANUARY 2015

<h3>MAYOR'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL</h3>

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide information on the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) meeting that has been arranged to examine the Elected Mayor's strategic priorities and direction of travel.

FURTHER INFORMATION

2. At its meeting on 21 October 2014, Middlesbrough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board heard the Mayor outline his strategic priorities and his perspective on the Council's future direction of travel. As a result, OSB agreed to arrange a special meeting to examine these issues in detail.
3. As these issues impact not just on the Council but on the town as a whole, OSB agreed to involve Council partners and local stakeholders and to seek their views. After hearing from the Mayor, who will outline his strategic priorities and the reasoning behind them, the meeting will take the form of a round-table discussion, involving invited stakeholders and the Middlesbrough Councillors who make up the Overview and Scrutiny Board. Stakeholders will be invited to comment on the issues raised by the Mayor, insofar as they affect them/their organisation, and to ask questions.
4. The Mayor's strategic priorities were sent out to partners/stakeholders with the letter of invitation for the meeting. A further copy is attached at **Appendix 1**.
5. In view of the number of parties likely to be present, and in order to give everyone an opportunity to contribute to the meeting/discussion, it is likely that the meeting will last up to two hours. It is therefore proposed to arrange a further meeting of OSB in the near future. That meeting, which will involve OSB Members only, will provide an opportunity for the Board to reach a consensus view on the Mayor's strategic priorities and the Council's future direction of travel. Based on its findings, OSB will then make recommendations for consideration by the Council's Executive.

RECOMMENDATION

6. It is RECOMMENDED that, after hearing from the Elected Mayor and Council partners/stakeholders in respect of the Mayor's strategic priorities, the Overview and Scrutiny Board determines how it wishes to proceed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
 - Agenda and papers of the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 21 October 2014.

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