

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM 8(d)

### OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

3 FEBRUARY 2015

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

#### BACKGROUND

2. Since the last report to OSB the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met once, on 12 January 2015.
3. At that meeting the panel received an update in relation to the previous scrutiny topics of Energy Reduction and Energy Reduction and Environmental Awareness of Local Bodies. Reflecting on the recommendations made by the Environment Scrutiny Panel in respect of these topics it is evident that much progress has been by the Council in advancing the issue of Energy Reduction.
4. The panel heard that in terms of investment, bids totalling £840,000 have been submitted to the capital programme for the introduction of renewables. If successful, around £210,000 is earmarked for installing solar panels at the new Middlesbrough Sports Village at Prissick and a further £630,000 is earmarked for the addition of solar panels on other key Council buildings. A further £950,000 of 'invest to save' funding has also been set aside to deliver energy efficiency initiatives (LED lighting, improved ventilation and insulation) at seven buildings across the town including the Bus Station, the Dorman Museum and the Rainbow Centre. With the objective of achieving 20 per cent savings with a maximum payback of 8 years.
5. The panel was also informed there have been numerous changes to the staffing structure in the Council and as a result the energy/water efficiency group no longer meets. However, a number of initiatives have continued to be delivered in an effort to raise employee awareness on this issue. Including the production of an intranet

page on the Council's website, which highlights the Council's energy usage and CO2 footprint, along with the measures staff can take to help reduce the Council's energy costs.

6. The panel's next meeting is scheduled for 2 February 2015. At that meeting the panel is scheduled to receive information on the topic of North Ormesby Market. The meeting will take the format of a roundtable discussion, with a view to updating the panel on the proposed new arrangements, discuss the benefits and risks envisaged and for Members of the panel to speak directly to all key stakeholders.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **COUNCILLOR PETER PURVIS CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**

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