

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 4

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

3 MARCH 2015

<h3>ATTENDANCE OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AT THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD</h3>
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#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide information in respect of the scheduled attendance of Members of the Executive at the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is **RECOMMENDED** as follows:
  1. That Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board are appraised of the work of the Executive Member for Children's Social Care, Councillor J Sharrocks.
  2. That Board Members question the Executive Member in respect of her portfolio and any issues which arise at the meeting.

#### BACKGROUND

3. Arrangements are in place in the Council to ensure that potential issues for consideration via the scrutiny process (i.e. by the Overview and Scrutiny Board or the relevant scrutiny panel) are highlighted and brought forward as necessary.
4. Overview and Scrutiny also has a responsibility of "holding the Executive to account." This can happen in a number of different ways and at different stages in the decision-making process. In terms of decision making, this can be:
  - Before decisions are made - such as by examining policy options or considering issues included in the Council's forward work programme.
  - Immediately after decisions are made, but prior to their implementation, through the call-in process; and

- After decisions are implemented, through monitoring and evaluation of their effects.
5. Overview and Scrutiny can be involved in holding the Executive to account as a whole, by using the methods outlined in the preceding paragraph, or on an individual basis. The OSB's role in this area has been strengthened in recent years, with arrangements having been made for individual Members of the Executive to attend OSB.
  6. This has given OSB Members the opportunity to hear directly from each Executive Member on matters such as their aims and aspirations, progress made, objectives and priorities and also any emerging issues or pressure areas relating to their portfolio. The process has also presented an opportunity for OSB to highlight and question any issues of concern or difficulty (for example in respect of service areas where targets have not been reached or where objectives have not been achieved) and to question what action will be taken to address such issues.
  7. Arrangements have been made for Councillor J Sharrocks, Executive Member for Children's Social Care, to attend the current meeting of the Board.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8. There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

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