

# MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM 13(d)

### OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

28 APRIL 2015

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ENVIRONMENT 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 on three occasions on 23 February, 16 March and 13 April.
3. At the meeting on 23 February the panel received an update on the topic of Household Waste Management. The panel was informed that in terms of recycling the Council's performance at the end of Quarter 3 stands at 36.4 per cent. This represents a significant improvement when compared to Middlesbrough's previous recycling rate of approximately 20 per cent.
4. With regard to the panel's recommendation that an examination of the possibility of moving to weekly collections of recycling and fortnightly collections of refuse be undertaken. The panel was advised that collection frequencies cannot be adjusted, as the Council has a five year agreement with Government to retain weekly refuse collections until 2017.
5. At its meeting on 16 March the panel received a written submission from the Chair of NONDET in respect of the organisation's proposals for managing the market, its views on the support received from the Council and how NONDET view the quality of the market in its present form. Following receipt of the evidence presented the transfer of the management of North Ormesby Market to NONDET was endorsed by the panel and quarterly updates on the progress of the transfer have been requested.

6. On 13 April 2015 the panel received its annual update on the Council's flood risk management arrangements. The panel was informed that sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) will now be delivered through changes to the current planning, as opposed to SuDs approval bodies. The local authority will consider SUDs as part of a planning application from 6 April 2015. The Lead Local Flood Authority has also been appointed as a statutory consultee on all major planning applications from 15 April 2015.
7. The panel was also informed that the Environment Agency has launched a new fluvial Flood Warning Service for the Middlesbrough Becks, which is available to 1600 properties at risk of flooding from the Middle Beck, Ormesby Beck, Marton West Beck, Spencer Beck and Newham Beck. This is the first flood warning that the Environment Agency has been able to issue specifically for the Middlesbrough Becks.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

8. 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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