

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD**

AGENDA ITEM: 8 (d)

**9 NOVEMBER 2015**

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**PROGRESS REPORT**

**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 two occasions – 8 October and 29 October 2015.
3. At the meeting held on 8 October, a report was presented to provide an update on the Bereavement Service and to highlight some key issues for consideration. The scrutiny panel heard that the Council is currently reviewing its Bereavement Services functions. Members received information in respect of core elements of the service and areas that will be considered as part of the review.
4. On 8 October, the panel also agreed the content of its final report on the topic of 'Education/Enforcement – Environmental Issues' and considered appropriate conclusions and recommendations for inclusion. The final report is elsewhere on the Overview and Scrutiny Board agenda.
5. The final item considered at this meeting was a report of the Assistant Director for Environment, Property and Commercial Services. Members were provided with an update on the recommendations identified at the Environment Scrutiny Panel meeting of 17 February 2015 - in respect of the maintenance of open spaces.
6. At the meeting that was held on 29 October, Mark Fishpool (Director of Middlesbrough Environment City) was in attendance to provide the panel with an introduction and background information on the subject of Middlesbrough Environment City.
7. On 29 October, the scrutiny panel also determined how it wishes to proceed with its investigation of bereavement services. It was agreed that a site visit to the Crematorium and cemeteries will be arranged for Members.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

**COUNCILLOR DENISE ROONEY**

**CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
SCRUTINY PANEL**

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