

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 7 (d)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

5 JANUARY 2016

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 one occasion on the 17 December 2015.
3. At that meeting, the panel received an update in respect of North Ormesby Market. Ann Bayley, the Chair of North Ormesby Neighbourhood Development Trust (NONDET) was in attendance at the meeting to respond to queries from the panel in respect of the transfer of the management of North Ormesby Market to NONDET.
4. Further information was also received by the panel with regard to its current review on the topic of Bereavement Services. Following a recent visit to Linthorpe Cemetery, Kirkleatham Crematorium - Memorial Gardens and Teesside Crematorium information relating to the 2015/16 fees and charges were provided. Comparative information from Hartlepool Borough Council and Stockton Borough Council were also presented.
5. The panel has requested that an invitation be extended to local Funeral Directors to attend the panel's next meeting on 7 January 2016. The panel considered some questions to ask a funeral director before engaging him / her, as suggested by the Natural Death Society in advance of the next meeting. Information on an initiative launched by Quaker Social Action entitled the 'Down to Earth' project, which helps people to reduce the cost of funerals and apply to the DWP for a Funeral Payment was provided.

RECOMMENDATION

6. 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**

Contact Officer:

Caroline Breheny

Scrutiny Support Officer

Legal & Democratic Services

Telephone: 01642 729752 (direct line)

e-mail: caroline_breheny@middlesbrough.gov.uk