

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 9 (c)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

29 MARCH 2016

<p>ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL - PROGRESS REPORT</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 Economic Regeneration and Transport (ERT) Scrutiny Panel.

BACKGROUND

2. The ERT Scrutiny Panel's last meeting was held on 9 March 2016. At that meeting, the panel considered an update on a scrutiny topic from the 2015/16 Work Programme on local bus services.
3. In October 2015, the scrutiny panel considered a report on this topic. That report highlighted that, with effect from April 2016, Middlesbrough Council will no longer subsidise the cost of any local bus services. As a result, the panel asked that arrangements be made to speak to local bus operators and representatives of Arriva and Stagecoach attended the 9 March meeting.
4. Members heard from the bus operators on a number of issues, including:
 - Concessionary fares.
 - Commercial considerations concerning routes.
 - The continuation of non-subsidised routes.
 - The good working relationship with Middlesbrough Council and how operators and the local authority can work together on areas of mutual interest and benefit.
5. The scrutiny panel agreed to note the current position.
6. In addition, the meeting also heard an update on the Economic Regeneration and Transport (ERT) Scrutiny Panel's 2014 investigation of Business and Job Creation. Information was submitted on the recommendations made by the scrutiny panel and progress made in implementing these.

7. The panel was informed that work is still ongoing; a multi-agency Youth Employment Group has been established to identify best practice around employer engagement; options and funding routes are being explored in terms of promoting apprenticeship opportunities in the Council; and the impact of the scrutiny panel's recommendations to date.

RECOMMENDATION

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
 - Agenda and meeting papers - Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel - 9 March 2016.

COUNCILLOR NAWEED HUSSAIN

CHAIR - ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY PANEL

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