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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

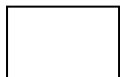
### Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010

### Subject: Inquiry into the EASEL Regeneration Programme – Draft Interim Report

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#### Electoral Wards Affected: All



Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In February 2009, the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) received a request for a Scrutiny inquiry to be undertaken into the EASEL regeneration programme following concerns that there had been delays in progress with the programme and that people living in the EASEL area were not being kept informed of what was happening.
- 1.2 Terms of reference for this Inquiry were agreed in March 2009 with the understanding that this inquiry would continue into the 2009/10 municipal year.
- 1.3 However, during the course of the Board's Inquiry, it became evident that the current economic climate had forced the Council to review the overall direction of the programme as investment funding for speculative developments in the EASEL area proves very difficult to attract and sustain in the foreseeable future. Consequently, the timing and scope of the neighbourhood planning exercise and resultant community consultation remains under review.
- 1.4 Whilst the Scrutiny Board plans to continue with its inquiry and monitor progress with the EASEL programme through to the neighbourhood planning stage, it was considered appropriate to produce an interim report setting out the Board's findings and recommendations at this stage.
- 1.5 The Board's draft interim report is attached for Members' consideration.

- 1.6 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 14.3 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report is finalised".
- 1.7 Any advice received will be reported at the Board's meeting for consideration, before the Board finalises its report.
- 1.8 Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations within three months.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Board is asked to agree its interim inquiry report on the EASEL Regeneration Programme.

### Background Papers

None