

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Lisa Hyde (Executive Director)	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> N/A	
Wards Affected	All	25 th June 2019	
Title	Kettering Town Centre Task and Finish Group – Progress Update		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Committee with a progress update in relation to the work of the Kettering Town Centre Task and Finish Group.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 6th February 2019 the Research and Development Committee agreed to convene a Town Centre Task and Finish Group arising from a discussion on the Town Centre Delivery Plan 2018-2025.
- 2.2 Membership of the group was agreed as being Cllrs Currall, Davies, Marks, Scrimshaw and Titcombe.
- 2.3 Draft Terms of Reference were presented to the Kettering Town Centre Task and Finish Group for consideration at its first meeting on 21st March 2019, together with a discussion paper to agree the next steps for the group. These Terms of Reference were approved by the R&D Committee at its meeting on 16th April 2019.
- 2.4 Since its first meeting, the Task and Finish Group have held a Town Centre Walkabout on Saturday 23rd March and a further four meetings to receive evidence from a variety of internal departments in relation to:
- Town Centre Planning Policy Framework
 - Community Safety & Enforcement
 - Purple Flag
 - Rough Sleeping
 - Economic Development and Regeneration
 - Business Rates
 - Markets
 - Art Gallery and Museum
 - Events
 - Parking
 - Street Scene, Grounds Maintenance and Waste & Recycling
- 2.5 Across meetings held on 20th and 29th May the group devised questions to gather evidence from external stakeholders who had agreed to attend meetings with the group on 17th and 24th June. In addition a questionnaire had been

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created to allow for stakeholders who could not attend to provide their views. A copy of the questions and questionnaire are attached as **Appendix 1**.

2.6 External stakeholders that had committed to attending meetings with the group included:

- Kettering Town Centre Partnership
- Brightkidz
- Kettering Civic Society
- The Yards
- Pubwatch
- Friends of Museum and Art Gallery
- Kettering Town Centre Partnership
- Kettering Old Grammar School Foundation
- St Peter and St Pauls Church
- Fuller Church
- Berrys

2.7 Members also requested an online survey be created to allow for members of the public to submit their views

2.8 In addition to the evidence gathering process, members of the Task and Finish Group had agreed a fact-finding visit to Bedford to understand the challenges and opportunities of another comparable town centre.

2.9 The Group aimed to bring a final report with its recommendations to the Research and Development Committee in October. This would allow any recommendations made by the Committee to be taken to Council in December.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

3.1 The Task and Finish Group will consult with a number of town centre groups, organisations, businesses and the public as outlined in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.7.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The terms of reference for the group support delivery of Corporate Priority A3 in relation to the Kettering Town Centre Delivery Plan, which is to *“implement the Delivery Plan to ensure continued investment is maintained in Kettering town centre to improve the area for residents, businesses, visitors and shoppers”*.

5. USE OF RESOURCES

5.1 Any costs associated with the implementation of the terms of reference will be contained within existing budgets.

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6. RECOMMENDATION

That the progress update for the Kettering Town Centre Task and Finish Group be noted.

Background Papers:

Title of Document:

Date:

Contact Officer:

Previous Reports/Minutes:

Ref:

Date: