

Report of the Assistant Director – Legal & Governance

**Implementation of Recommendations from Economic Health of York  
City Centre Scrutiny Review – Cover Report**

**Summary**

1. This report provides Members with their first update on the implementation of the approved recommendations arising from the scrutiny review into the Economic Health of York City Centre.

**Background**

2. In June 2018 the former Economy and Place Scrutiny Committee welcomed the former Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement to its meeting and also received a presentation from CYC Head of Economic Growth which updated Members on the Economic Strategy. During the meeting Members expressed concerns at the number of empty shops in the city centre, particularly a cluster of empty shops on Coney Street, but accepted that addressing this problem was complicated.
3. It was subsequently agreed it would be useful to undertake a full Committee review of the city centre economy, the immediate problems faced and what measures could be taken to resolve them. In July 2018 the Committee considered a scoping report on the city centre economy and agreed it was a topic worthy of further investigation. Members agreed to undertake a full committee scrutiny review with the remit:

**Remit**

Aim:

To understand the economic health of York city centre and where the Council can influence the city centre economy.

## Objectives:

- i. To examine all the available evidence about York city centre as a retail location and how this has changed in recent years;
  - ii. Consider the factors that influence the city centre economy and what role the Council has to play;
  - iii. Understand the global trends that underpin changes in retail and the city centre environments and how these might affect York;
  - iv. Identify the Council's priorities with regard to the city centre economy.
4. Over a series of meetings the former E&P Scrutiny Committee was guided by CYC's Head of Economic Growth and consulted with representatives from Make It York, York Business Improvement District, Indie York, York Retail Forum and York Food Festival.
  5. The information gathered led to the Committee agreeing the recommendations detailed in Annex 1. These were endorsed by the former Economy and Place Policy Development Committee at its meeting on 29 January 2019 and, with a minor amendment, by the former Executive Member for Economic Development and Community Engagement at a Decision Session in March 2019.

## Consultation

6. There was no consultation involved in the production of this report. The consultations involved in the Economic Health of York City Centre Scrutiny Review are detailed in the final report listed in background papers.

## Options

7. Members may choose to sign off any individual recommendation where implementation has now been completed and can:
  - a. Request further updates and the attendance of the relevant officer at a further meeting to clarify any outstanding recommendations
  - b. Agree no further updates are required.

## **Analysis**

8. There is no analysis in this report.

## **Council Plan**

9. This report is linked to several priorities in the Council Plan 2019-2023 including: Well-Paid Jobs and an Inclusive Economy; A Greener and Cleaner City; Getting Around Sustainability; An Open and Effective Council and Safe Communities and Culture for All.

## **Implications**

10. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, ICT or other implications associated with the recommendation in this report. Implications arising from the scrutiny review are detailed in the Final Report.

## **Risk Management**

11. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with this report. Risks associated with the review recommendations are included in the Final Report.

## **Conclusions**

12. There are no conclusions in this report.

## **Recommendations**

13. Members are asked to note the content of this report and:

- 1) Sign off the review recommendations that have been fully implemented
- 2) Agree whether a further update is required in 6 months' time

Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which are still to be fully implemented.

## Contact Details

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Report Approved  Date 4/11/2019

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

### Background Papers:

Economic Health of York City Centre Scrutiny Review Final Report

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2435&ID=2435&RPID=22433973>

### Annexes

**Annex 1** – Update of implementation of review recommendations.