

Corporate Scrutiny Management Committee 15 July 2013

Report of the Assistant Director: Governance & ICT

Night Time Economy – Briefing On Key Issues for Potential Review

Summary

1. This report presents a briefing paper on the key issues Members may wish to consider for developing the ‘night time economy’ as a potential theme for review taking into account the responsibilities of the whole scrutiny function.

Background

2. At its meeting on 24 June 2013, this Committee considered and expressed interest in developing a theme around the night time economy worthy of ‘corporate review’, in terms of its connection to a number of the Council’s current key priorities in its Council Plan 2011-2015.
3. Annex A to this report draws out a range of issues in relation to this objective and highlights some key areas for Members to ‘scrutinise’ and scope further if they wish to do so.

Consultation

4. Relevant officers have been consulted on the preparation of Annex A and the issues raised are a collaborative response to the burgeoning agenda of the issues surrounding the ‘night time economy’ in York.
5. The Chair of this Committee plans to discuss the new initiative of developing a core theme across all scrutiny at a meeting of all Chairs/Vice-Chairs on 11 July, with a view to embedding wide engagement across scrutiny for this approach. Developing the ‘night time economy’ in York would be the first of these approaches. One other such potential theme is mental health services, proposed by Councillors Douglas and Wiseman.

Adopting a Focus

6. In the event of this Committee now wishing to formally take this theme forward, initially Members would need to agree their primary focus and approach. The following areas are suggested by officers as being appropriate for 'scrutiny' in the attached briefing report (Annex A):
 - To develop a vision of what the evening and night time economy in York should look like in five years time.
 - To investigate opportunities to co-ordinate the effective development of the night time economy, to ensure that York's residents, businesses and visitors get maximum value from York's night time economy.
 - To examine the potential for encouraging businesses which are not reliant upon the sale of alcohol as their main attraction
 - To examine ways of reducing the fear of crime
 - To examine ways of enhancing access to and from the City centre at night time

Members may wish to consider the above suggestions together with any others which arise at the meeting.

Carrying out the Work

7. The approach proposed by the Committee to undertake this work is a new, innovative way of working across all of scrutiny. The aim is to engage scrutiny, as a whole, in positively developing and improving the Council's approach to a night time economy in York. On the face of it managing that approach presents some challenges in managing the involvement of 5 Scrutiny Committees over varying timelines and, of course, managing the participation of relevant officers and partners.
8. Members might wish to consider how best to organise the work if they now wish to formally proceed with this theme. It is suggested that the most practical and least time consuming way to effect this would be to establish an Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Committee comprising

Members from each of the main Scrutiny Committees. Advice will be given at the meeting on proportionality rules applying to this option, should Members wish to adopt this suggestion.

9. Alternatively, this Committee could agree some key areas to invite other relevant Committees to review and report back to CSMC upon. This would, of course, need to be discussed with relevant Chairs/Vice Chairs at the forthcoming meeting on 11 July. Potentially, this would mean that officers would effectively be required to report to and attend many more tiers of meetings than the approach suggested in paragraph 8 and that, in turn, could delay progress with the actual work.

Options

10. Members can choose to proceed formally with some collective scrutiny of the night time economy along the lines suggested in paragraph 6 above or based around other suggestions.
11. This Committee also has the option to choose how to conduct this review. Some options are set out for consideration in paragraphs 7 to 9 above.

Council Plan 2011-2015

12. The theme of this potential scrutiny work would contribute actively to the following priorities identified by the Council in its Plan for 2011-15:
 - Create jobs and grow the economy;
 - Build strong communities;
 - Get York moving; and
 - Protect the environment

Implications

13. There are no known resource or other implications associated with the recommendations in this report. If Members proceed to scrutinise this theme, then, clearly, the associated implications with the work would need to be drawn out as the scrutiny proceeded.

Risk Management

14. In compliance with the Council's Risk Management Strategy there are no risks associated with the contents of this report.

Recommendations

15. Members are asked to consider;
- (a) whether they wish to adopt a themed scrutiny on the 'night time economy in York';
 - (b) identifying a key focus and primary objectives; and
 - (c) what approach would be appropriate

Reason: In order to ensure effective scrutiny of key Council priorities.

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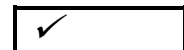
Report
Approved



Date 05/07/2013

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A – briefing note on 'night time economy in York'.