

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 27 January 2016

Subject: District Centres Subgroup – Terms of Reference and Work Programme

Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Summary

This report sets out the proposed terms of reference and work programme for the District Centres Subgroup.

Recommendations

The Committee is invited to:

1. Agree the membership of the Subgroup.
 2. Agree the terms of reference for the Subgroup.
 3. Agree the work programme of the Subgroup, which will be reviewed by the group at each of its meetings.
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Wards Affected: All

Contact Officers:

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference
Appendix 2 – Work Programme

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At its meeting on 30 September 2015, the Economy Scrutiny Committee considered a report about the changing role of district centres in Manchester and the potential policy and strategy measures which could be adopted to shape the future of the city's centres. Members agreed that they wanted to see more detailed work and a strategic approach on district centres. They recommended that the Council produce an overarching strategy for district centres and agreed to establish a subgroup to contribute to and review this work.

12. The draft terms of reference and work programme for this Subgroup are attached as appendices 1 and 2.

2.0 Membership

2.1 Members are invited to express an interest in joining the Subgroup.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The Committee is invited to consider the draft Terms of Reference and work programme attached to this report, and make any amendments that they wish.

3.2 The Committee is also invited to agree the membership of the Subgroup.

Title	District Centres Subgroup
Membership	Councillor Bridges (Chair) Additional membership to be agreed at the meeting on 27 January 2015
Lead Executive Members	Councillor Priest/Councillor Leese
Strategic Directors	Eddie Smith, Strategic Director (Strategic Development)
Lead Officers	Eddie Smith, Strategic Director (Strategic Development) Jessica Bowles, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Research James Shuttleworth, Planning and Infrastructure Manager
Contact Officer	Rachel McKeon, Scrutiny Support Officer
Objectives	<p>1. To contribute to and review work taking place to prepare an overarching strategy for District Centres. This will include making recommendations to address any identified gaps.</p> <p>2. To determine how District Centres can best support the Council's growth ambitions. In particular, to assess the most appropriate structure for the network of Manchester's District Centres, taking account of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Geography b. Changing trends and patterns of local consumption and service use c. The role of District Centres in place-making, supporting liveable neighbourhoods and providing a catalyst and location for housing investment. d. The potential scope of Council interventions, taking account of the needs of different centres. Consider where and how the Council should intervene directly and where it should have a more facilitating role. e. The roles of different centres, whether the current network is likely to meet future needs and the centre hierarchy that should be developed as a result of this. f. Consider how infrastructure, in particular public sector infrastructure (including buildings and transport) can contribute to wider aims for District Centres.
Key Lines of Enquiry	<p>1. To clarify the strategic position across the city for District Centres, including, understanding which District Centres are currently covered by specific strategic documents (local action plans or development frameworks).</p> <p>2. To understand where strategies for District Centres have been successful in other cities, in particular where local councils have effectively supported this process. This will be done through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. An analysis of centres in comparator cities, both in the UK and in other countries. b. Engagement with appropriate 'expert witnesses' to gain an understanding of the dynamics driving changes in District

	Centres.
Operation	This subgroup will report its findings to the Economy Scrutiny Committee by submitting minutes to the Committee. The Committee will be asked to endorse any recommendations from the Subgroup.
Access to Information	<p>Meetings of the Subgroup will be open to members of the media and public except where information that is confidential or exempt from publication is being considered.</p> <p>Papers for the Subgroup will be made available to members of the media and public on the Council's website and the main entrance to the Town Hall except where information which is confidential or exempt from publication is being considered.</p>
Schedule of Meetings	To hold a number of substantive meetings (to be determined).
Commissioned	January 2016

**Economy Scrutiny Committee – District Centres Subgroup
Work Programme – January 2016**

Meeting 1 – Date / time and venue to be confirmed				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Overview of Trends Affecting Centres	<p>To clarify the general trends that are most likely to affect the future character of District Centres. Includes consideration of changes in local shopping and consumption (e.g. food and beverage) patterns and a review of the sectors/activities that are likely to perform most successfully within centres.</p> <p>To also consider the challenges and opportunities facing the city that are most relevant for its District Centres. These would include the identification of locations for the development of new housing and affordable business space, and reform in the delivery of public services.</p> <p>Review examples of best practice from other cities, allied with input from a range of independent experts (e.g. Manchester Metropolitan University).</p>	Councillor Leese Councillor Priest	Eddie Smith	
Terms of Reference and Work Programme	To review and agree the Subgroup's terms of reference and work programme, and consider any changes or additions that are necessary.		Rachel McKeon	

Meeting 2 – Date / time and venue to be confirmed				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Understanding the City – evidence from Manchester	<p>To understand the strategic context and evidence on District Centres for Manchester.</p> <p>Consider the relationship between policy on District Centres and wider work on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and Local Plan review. Review the current coverage and impact of District Centre strategies and development frameworks across Manchester.</p> <p>Review evidence about how Manchester is changing (e.g. socio-demographic profile and urban lifestyle trends) and the implications of this for District Centres.</p> <p>Consider how Manchester’s District Centres have changed recently. Where these changes have been most positive, seek to identify the factors behind this. Include assessment of the impact of infrastructure investment in District Centres.</p>	Councillor Leese Councillor Priest	Eddie Smith	Invitations TBC
Terms of Reference and Work Programme	To review and agree the Subgroup’s terms of reference and work programme, and consider any changes or additions that are necessary.		Rachel McKeon	

Meeting 3 – Date / time and venue to be confirmed				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Review and Reflect/Next steps	<p>To review the outcomes of meetings 2 & 3 and agree the most effective policy interventions for District Centres. This assessment is likely to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The policy interventions that are likely to have the most positive impacts. - The role of the public service providers and wider public investment in District Centres. - The geography of the City's District Centre. - The mix of uses that will define successful District Centres. 	Councillor Leese Councillor Priest	Eddie Smith	
Terms of Reference and Work Programme	To review and agree the Subgroup's terms of reference and work programme, and consider any changes or additions that are necessary.		Rachel McKeon	