
**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 25 May 2016
Subject: Re-establishment of the District Centres Subgroup
Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Summary:

This report provides the Committee with the current terms of reference for the District Centres Subgroup which the Committee is asked to agree. The report also includes the current work programme for the Subgroup.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to re-establish the District Centres Subgroup for the municipal year 2016-17. 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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Contact Officers:

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

None

Appendices

1. District Centres Subgroup Terms of Reference
2. District Centres Subgroup work programme

Title	District Centres Subgroup
Membership 2015/2016	Councillors Amesbury, Bridges (Chair), Farrell, Hacking, Karney, Richards, Shilton Godwin, Siddiqi and Simcock
Membership 2016/2017	Membership to be confirmed
Lead Executive Members	Councillor Priest/Councillor Leese
Strategic Directors	Eddie Smith, Strategic Director (Strategic Development)
Lead Officers	Eddie Smith, Strategic Director (Strategic Development) Richard Elliott, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Research Angela Harrington, Head of Work and Skills 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. The role of tourism within some district centres and the support the Council could give district centres in promoting their offer. g. The impact of Rent To Own companies such as Bright House and what action could be taken. h. Inward investment into the district centres. i. The benefits to local businesses of gaining the Fair Tax Mark and how this could be promoted. j. Consider how infrastructure, in particular public sector infrastructure (including buildings and transport) can contribute to wider aims for District Centres.
Key Lines of Enquiry	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>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> <p>a. An analysis of centres in comparator cities, both in the UK and in other countries.</p> <p>b. Engagement with appropriate 'expert witnesses' to gain an understanding of the dynamics driving changes in District Centres.</p>
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 meetings during the municipal year – Dates to be confirmed.
Commissioned	January 2016

**Economy Scrutiny Committee – District Centres Subgroup
Work Programme – 25 May 2016**

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> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information on the current location of District Centres • data analysis of the characteristics and impact of the District Centres 	Councillor Leese Councillor Priest	Eddie Smith James Shuttleworth Courtney Brightwell	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> information on the demographics of the areas they serve consideration of how the Council wants the centres to develop in future the current District Centres strategy information on the work undertaken by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) on the Greater Manchester Town Centre Project. 			
Development of Chorlton and Wythenshawe District Centres	To consider the proposed frameworks for Chorlton and Wythenshawe District Centres	Councillor Leese Councillor S Murphy Councillor Priest	Eddie Smith	TBC
Terms of Reference and Work Programme	<p>To review and agree the Subgroup's terms of reference and work programme, and consider any changes or additions that are necessary.</p> <p>To agree the external guests to be invited to the next meeting.</p>		Rachel McKeon	

Meeting 3 – Date / time and venue to be confirmed				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Evidence from external witnesses	To invite a range of external guests to share their knowledge and experience.	Councillor Leese Councillor Priest	Eddie Smith	Invitations TBC

<p>Review and Reflect/Next steps</p>	<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 Centres. - The mix of uses that will define successful District Centres. To include consideration of the impact of a high density of takeaways, betting shops and Rent To Own Shops on areas and what action could be taken to influence the types of shops within a centre. 	<p>Councillor Leese Councillor Priest</p>	<p>Eddie Smith</p>	
<p>Terms of Reference and Work Programme</p>	<p>To review and agree the Subgroup's terms of reference and work programme, and consider any changes or additions that are necessary.</p> <p><i>To consider whether the three substantive meetings that the Subgroup has had have been sufficient to meet the objectives of the Subgroup, or whether further meetings are necessary.</i></p>		<p>Rachel McKeon</p>	