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**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** Economy Scrutiny Committee – 23 May 2018  
**Subject:** Re-establishment of the District Centres Subgroup  
**Report of:** Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

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**Summary**

This report provides the Committee with the 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 2018-2019. The Committee is invited to:

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

## **1.0 Background**

- 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.
- 1.2 The remit of the Subgroup was approved by the Committee in January 2016 and the Subgroup was subsequently re-established for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 municipal years.
- 1.3 At the Subgroup's February 2017 meeting, Members recommended that officers, under the guidance of the Deputy Leader and in partnership with the Institute of Place Management, progress the work on district centres, taking into the account the Subgroup's views and that the Subgroup then be re-established towards the end of 2017 to review the work that had taken place.
- 1.4 The Subgroup was subsequently re-established in October 2017, with revised Terms of Reference to better reflect the emerging focus of the Subgroup and the programme of work agreed with the Institute of Place Management.
- 1.5 It is proposed to re-establish the Subgroup for the 2018-2019 municipal year so that the Subgroup can continue to monitor and contribute to the ongoing work on district centres, which is being carried out in partnership with the Institute of Place Management.

## **2.0 Conclusion**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to agree or amend the terms of reference as set out in the report at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Committee is asked to agree or amend the work programme as set out in the report at Appendix 2.
- 2.3 The Committee is also asked to agree the membership of the Subgroup.

## Appendix 1 – Proposed Terms of Reference

<b>Title</b>	District Centres Subgroup
<b>Membership 2017-2018</b>	Councillors Appleby, Hacking, Hughes, Madeleine Monaghan, H Priest and Shilton Godwin (Chair)
<b>Membership 2018-2019</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Lead Executive Members</b>	Councillor Priest/Councillor Leese
<b>Strategic Directors</b>	Eddie Smith, Strategic Director, Development
<b>Lead Officers</b>	Eddie Smith, Strategic Director, Development Richard Elliott, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Research Angela Harrington, Head of Work and Skills James Shuttleworth, Planning and Infrastructure Manager
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Rachel McKeon, Scrutiny Support Officer
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To develop a vision and strategy for the management of a network of centres that is forward-looking, allowing vital and viable centres to emerge, develop, improve and transform, and to manage change so that centre provision reflects demand over the next 20 years. To map underserved communities – areas of the city where people do not currently have access to functional centres and to develop a methodology for forecasting the future demand and location of new centres</li> <li>2. To develop guidance, describing how centres of various sizes can emerge, develop and improve/transform</li> <li>3. To improve performance and build place management capacity in 4 existing centres (Chorlton, Northenden, Harpurhey and Gorton)</li> <li>4. To establish activity (footfall) as a key performance indicator for planning and management. To scrutinise footfall analysis of 10 centres (Chorlton, Northenden, Harpurhey, Gorton, Victoria Avenue, Rusholme, Cheetham Hill, Levenshulme, Fallowfield, Withington)</li> <li>5. Recommend 4 policy pilots to test out more transformative approaches to centre development and improvement. What can Manchester City Council do to most effectively enhance a centre’s performance?</li> </ol>
<b>Key Lines of Enquiry</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To apply learnings from the Institute of Place Management’s High Street UK 2020 project, identifying key actions that Councils can lead to support centres.</li> </ol>

	<p>2. To analyse current centre performance to ensure that policy can take account of specific centre characteristics.</p> <p>3. To review development, growth and investment proposals across the city to inform future priorities for centre policy.</p> <p>4. To map the Council policies which impact on district centres.</p>
<b>Operation</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Access to Information</b>	<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>
<b>Schedule of Meetings</b>	<p>To be confirmed</p>
<b>Commissioned</b>	<p>January 2016</p>

**Economy Scrutiny Committee – District Centres Subgroup  
Work Programme – May 2018**

<b>July/August 2018 – Date TBC</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Executive Member</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Pilot Project – Update and Policy Approaches	To receive an update on the four place management pilots, including recommendations. To consider work to develop the policy approaches in the four centres selected for the pilot project.	Councillor Leese Councillor Priest	Eddie Smith/James Shuttleworth/Institute of Place Management	
Under-served Communities	To consider the issue of under-served communities, taking into account new housing development across the city.	Councillor Leese Councillor Priest	Eddie Smith/James Shuttleworth/Institute of Place Management	
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	

<b>December 2018 – Date TBC</b>				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Lead Executive Member</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Review/Reflect	To consider the outputs from the work with the Institute of Place Management.	Councillor Leese Councillor Priest	Eddie Smith/James Shuttleworth/Institute of Place Management	
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	

	To consider whether the meetings held have been sufficient to meet the objectives of the Subgroup, or whether further meetings are necessary.			
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