REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE SUB-COMMITTEE

1 October 2018

Present: Councillors Bell (Chairman), Carr (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Anslow, Graves and Maguire.

Also present: Mr A Piper (Assistant Director/Committee Manager), Ms J Thomas (Director), Mrs V Phillipson (Principal Property and Projects Manager), Ms A Arden-Barnatt (Project Coordinator) and Mr S Whiteley (Committee Administrator).

(Councillor Scarborough attended as an observer. Mr A Howard attended to speak on items 3 and 5.)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Skittrall and Ekins.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council’s code of conduct and the council’s constitution, the following declarations were made:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Minute no.</th>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anslow</td>
<td>Min. 4 – Wellingborough Town Centre – High Level Review</td>
<td>Personal – Involved in a charity shop in town centre and a member of All Hallow’s Church in town centre</td>
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3. TOWN CENTRE SUB-COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

The chairman welcomed all present to the inaugural meeting of the town centre sub-committee and welcomed Mr A Howard to speak.

Mr Howard addressed the committee and explained how effective he felt this sub-committee could be for development in the town centre. He also suggested that the committee could benefit from external organisations to the council who had a vested interest in the town centre could be invited to future meetings.

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to approve the terms of reference, as appended to the report, for the sub-committee.
The report detailed that the sub-committee would meet on three occasions each year with the two additional dates of 11 December 2018 and 11 February 2019 being approved.

Members considered the existence of the committee and the similarity to previous working parties. Members agreed that the committee system worked well and allowed for different members to have their say on matters affecting the town centre.

**RESOLVED** that the terms of reference, as appended to the report, be approved.

4. **WELLINGBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE – HIGH LEVEL REVIEW**

The annexed circulated report of the director was received in relation to the Wellingborough town centre high level review produced by consultants Pick Everard and appended to the report.

Officers explained the key issues that needed to be addressed and the proposed projects which had been suggested to help resolve such issues and improve the environment. A workshop had been run by the consultants on 30 July 2018 involving officers and members when the issues, ideas and proposals discussed during that workshop had been reflected in the review.

Members discussed the content of the review and debated the flow of traffic and transport links throughout the town centre both for vehicles and for pedestrians. They also discussed the challenges to the traditional ‘High Street’ and ways that the offering could change, along with different opportunities to draw people into, or to better advertise the offering of, the town centre.

**RESOLVED** that:

(i) approval be given to the Wellingborough town centre high level review, as appended to the report;
(ii) it be recommended to the development committee that approval be given to the Wellingborough town centre high level review.

5. **WELLINGBOROUGH TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS**

The chairman welcomed Mr A Howard to speak.

Mr Howard addressed the members and outlined his concerns around ensuring that the committee had adequate information and resources in order to make informed decisions on the eight projects put forward in the report.

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to seek approval to the projects to be progressed, as detailed in the high level review, to improve Wellingborough town centre.

The report detailed the following projects to progress:
- High Street parking;
- Mosaic repairs and projection;
- Multi-storey car park;
- Connections into the town centre;
- Town centre car parking study benefits and opportunities;
- Council owned assets;
- Rental improvements – shop fronts;
- Open space study.

Each of these projects was further detailed within the report.

Members discussed the content of the report, agreeing that the projects listed formed part of a living document which was subject to change as projects developed and the requirements of the town centre changed.

A discussion ensued around the importance of the various projects, identifying the challenges with developing the connections between parts of the town centre to others, car parking and how vacant retail lots could be best utilised by the community.

RESOLVED that the town centre projects identified in section 5 of the report be progressed.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 4:55pm.