

NEWCASTLE TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM PROJECT

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Portfolio: Regeneration, Planning and Town Centres

Ward(s) affected: Town

Purpose of the Report

To request that a sub group of the Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee is convened to review progress with the public realm project and discuss decisions that will shortly have to be made on delivery of the project.

Recommendation

That the Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee nominate members of a sub group to review progress with the public realm project.

That the sub group meets with officers in October and its findings are subsequently reported to Cabinet in a report on the town centre public realm project.

Reasons

To support delivery of this town centre refurbishment project and reinforce the performance of the market.

1. Background

- 1.1 Delivery of the town centre project public realm project has been considered at previous meetings of Cabinet and Scrutiny where its delivery was approved. The project proposals were also subject to public consultation in November and December 2010. Members will recall that project is to close Hassell Street to through traffic during the day and also to refurbish the street market.
- 1.2 The first phase of the project to introduce a taxi rank at the entrance to Ironmarket is now complete and good progress is being made on phase 2 which is works to Barracks Road and the bus station. The next phase of work will focus within the town centre ring road to deliver the closure of Hassell Street and the refurbishment of the market.

2. Issues

- 2.1 As the next phase of delivery reaches its detailed planning stage a number of project delivery decisions will have to be made. It is therefore necessary to review progress with the project before the final phase begins.
- 2.2 Following a recent meeting with the Portfolio Holder, the Economic Development & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee has been invited to review the project and offer its findings on a number of project delivery decisions.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 That the Economic Development and Enterprise Committee nominate members to form a sub group the Committee to review the public realm project.

3.2 That the views of this sub group are reported to Cabinet in a subsequent report on the town centre public realm project.

4. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

4.1 To ensure a balanced consideration of the issues.

5. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

5.1 The operation of the street market and delivery of the public realm project are within the Borough of Opportunity Corporate Priority.

6. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

6.1 January 2010 to pursue replacement of the market stalls and work with Staffordshire County Council on delivery of the scheme.

6.2 July 2011 to implement the scheme in line with the plans set out in that report.