

Agenda Item 15b

AGENDA ITEM 15 (b) - SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

After last line inset:

The council further notes the Go Shop, Go Eat, Go Safe, Go Local campaign that was launched to help shops and hospitality businesses to re-open last summer, the work of the officer team and Hive volunteers who put themselves out on the streets to assist with queuing and helping people to feel safe.

Council also wishes to thank the Business Support Team who have worked tirelessly to support thousands of local businesses, offering a real human response to each individual situation and being a friend to our business community at a crucial time.

Council also acknowledges that the Business Helpline, the first to be set up in the region, was key to ensuring that local businesses could easily access this support.

Council wishes to express its thanks to Shaping Portsmouth and Portsmouth Creates for all their efforts over the last year to champion our local businesses.

Shaping's mentoring and support through the council's Crowdfunder Scheme helped over 20 local businesses to survive the pandemic and in partnership with Portsmouth Creates, secured 20 micro-commissions to support local artists through the We Believe arts trail. The We Create market at the former Debenhams store helped over 200 local makers and creators to have a safe and vibrant place to trade when they had lost out on so many of their usual opportunities through the pandemic. The queues around the block were testimony to the demand for locally produced products, proving that the sentiments at the heart of this motion most definitely ring true here in our great city of Portsmouth.

Proposed by (Name) Councillor Steve Pitt

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

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