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# NOTICE OF MEETING

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

**THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 6.00 PM**

**CONFERENCE ROOM A - CIVIC OFFICES FLOOR 2**

Telephone enquiries to Joanne Wildsmith CCDS Tel: 9283 4057

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## **Membership:**

Councillor Julie Swan (Chair)

Councillor Simon Boshier

Councillor Ben Dowling

Councillor Hannah Hockaday

Councillor Lee Hunt

Councillor Matthew Winnington (Vice-Chair)

## **Standing Deputies**

Councillor Alicia Denny

Councillor David Fuller

Councillor Phil Smith

Councillor Lynne Stagg

Councillor Alistair Thompson

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(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

## **A G E N D A**

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Declarations of Members' Interests**
- 3 Minutes of Previous Meeting - 26 June 2014 (Pages 1 - 4)**

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the previous EDCL Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 26 June 2014 be approved as a correct record to be signed by the Chair.

**4 Community Ownership Unit Portsmouth (COUP) Update (Pages 5 - 6)**

An update report by James Sandy, Community Engagement Manager is attached.

**5 New Review Topic - Revitalising local high streets and secondary shopping areas in the city (Pages 7 - 8)**

The draft scoping document for 'Revitalising local high streets and secondary shopping areas in the city' is attached for discussion.

The City Development Manager Claire Upton-Brown will be attending to speak about the planning considerations for this review.

Members of the public are now permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting or records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.
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# Agenda Item 3

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday, 26 June 2014 at 6.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

### **Present**

Councillor Julie Swan (in the Chair)

Councillors Simon Boshier  
Ben Dowling  
Matthew Winnington

#### **16. Apologies for absence & Introductions (AI 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hannah Hockaday and Councillor Lee Hunt.

#### **17. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)**

There were no declaration of members' interests.

#### **18. Election of Vice-Chair (AI 3)**

It was proposed by Councillor Julie Swan and seconded by Councillor Simon Boshier that Councillor Matthew Winnington be appointed vice-chair of the panel and this was agreed.

**RESOLVED that Councillor Matthew Winnington be elected vice-chair of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel.**

#### **19. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 1 April 2014 (AI 4)**

It was reported under this item that the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure report on pathways into work for young people would not be on the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 10 July but that it was being postponed to a meeting in September. This was to enable the response report to provide further information and clarification and also to enable the new members of the scrutiny panel to see both the signed-off report and the response report.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 1 April 2014 be confirmed and signed by the chair as a correct record.**

#### **20. Discussion of Future Topics for the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure (EDCL) Scrutiny Panel (AI 5)**

The panel was advised that the Scrutiny Management Panel were due to meet on 4 July 2014 to allocate and prioritise review topics for this scrutiny panel. The topics being considered for review had been this panel's second and third proposals from last year. The chair of the panel, Councillor Julie Swan invited Matt Birch, Sports Officer and Andrea Wright to provide background information to the panel on improving sport and physical activity participation in the city. Mr Birch said that currently officers are working on a sports development strategy and this was expected to be completed by autumn 2014. A strategy on physical activity would follow at a later date. He said that a consultation event had already been held by the University of Portsmouth to feed into the strategy.

During discussion the following matters were clarified:

- It was confirmed that schools had been involved in the consultation and Mr Birch agreed to advise the panel who had attended the consultation.
- Megan Barnard confirmed that the Health & Wellbeing Board will focus on the issue of physical activity and will link across key partnerships.

Following further discussion the panel felt that as the sports strategy was not yet available, a review of this topic may be more effective if it were carried out after the sports strategy had been written and this was agreed.

The chair of the panel next invited Mr Barry Walker to provide an overview of the issues involved in revitalising local high streets and secondary shopping areas in the city. Mr Walker said that he acts as a go-between between businesses and the city council. His work primarily is to deal with the larger shopping areas but he would also provide help, when asked for, to local centres. He advised that revitalising local high streets and secondary shopping areas in the city was not city council led and that he would not be writing a strategy on that subject.

Councillor Winnington explained that the reason this topic was put forward was as a result of several applications to convert shops into houses in a number of different shopping centres. He said that should this happen, there was a likelihood that such development would kill local shopping centres. He said that one of the aims of the review would be to encourage local people who wished to retain local shopping centres to set up groups to represent those interested in maintaining local shopping centres. He said that scrutiny panels could make a difference by making recommendations to Cabinet to enable a focus to be given to local groups.

Councillor Simon Boshier said that although Barry Walker had said that the city council would help local shopping centres when asked, the real issue was how to revitalise them. He said that involving neighbourhood forums could perhaps be utilised as a way to promote and retain local shopping centres. He said that seeing empty shops did not create a good impression and tended to blight the surrounding area.

Councillor Dowling agreed that this review would be useful and suggested that this topic should be the panel's priority.

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During further discussion, Mr Barry Walker said that it would not be possible to write one strategy for all the various shopping centres but that in his experience if a number of small businesses who were committed to a cause worked together, they were often successful in their aims. He said that from the city council's point of view, there are issues about where to target limited resources. For example if resources were targeted at small local centres, this may be to the detriment of the main shopping centres.

Councillor Simon Boshier said that in his view there was a need for some kind of overarching strategy in relation to secondary shopping areas and that engaging with neighbourhood forums and ward councillors may well prove to be an effective way forward. He said that something was needed to draw in local shopkeepers and communities to local shopping areas in order to ensure their survival. He felt that a scrutiny review on this topic would be useful.

The panel agreed their prioritised suggestions of suitable review topics for consideration by the Scrutiny Management Panel.

**RESOLVED that the suggested review topics be put forward to Scrutiny Management Panel for agreement in the following order:**

- 1. A review into revitalising local high streets and secondary shopping areas in the city and**
- 2. A review into improving sport and physical activity participation in the city.**

## **21. Frequency, timing and format of EDCL Scrutiny Panel meetings (AI 6)**

Following discussion the panel decided to hold regular meetings on Thursdays at 6.00 pm but that where appropriate sub-groups of the panel would meet with witnesses at different times and provide written evidence to the panel's next meeting for inclusion in the review. It was agreed that once the Scrutiny Management Panel had confirmed its agreement to the first scrutiny topic put forward, work would be done on the scoping document outside a formal meeting so that it could be brought to the next formal meeting which was likely to be in September.

The meeting concluded at 6.45 pm.

Councillor Julie Swan

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Chair

# Agenda Item 4

## Community Ownership Unit Portsmouth (COUP)

### Update Report September 2014

#### COUP Network Sessions

Title	Speaker	Date	Attendees Registered	Actual Attendees
<b>Who's in the House?</b> (COUP #3)	Baroness D'Souza, Lord Speaker House Of Lords	Friday 14th February 2014	34	29
<b>Own it? But, who is going to do it all?</b> (COUP #4)	Giles Piercy- Director, Locality Matters & Chair, White City Enterprise (WCE)	Tuesday 11th March 2014	19	16

#### On-line activity

Platform	Activity
<a href="http://portsmouthlocal.blogspot.co.uk">portsmouthlocal.blogspot.co.uk</a>	35 views of blog post and info (COUP #3)
Slideshare	232 views of presentation (COUP #4) 68 views of blog post

#### Events costs:

COUP 3	Costs
Venue	Provided in kind by Guildhall Trust
Catering	£100
Staffing	£25 to cover bar
Speaker: Baroness D'Souza, Lord Speaker	No fee
Total	£125
COUP 4	Costs
Venue	Provided in kind by Guildhall Trust
Staffing	£25 to cover bar
Speaker: Giles Piercy, Locality Matters	No fee
Total	£25

#### Officer time & resources on other related projects

#### **Fratton Big Local- Community Assets Workshops**

Supporting a series of focused workshops with the Fratton Big Local (FBL) Partnership and external consultants to explore aspirations and needs in relation to

FBL Community Profile. Asset review and 'hub' models explored in relation to PCC's 'shaping the future' and changing services context.

### **We Big Local (Wecock Farm) Board Recruitment Support**

Advice and support to Wecock project, including engagement events and governance via board candidate recruitment and interviewing.

### **Hilsea Lido Community Benefit Review**

Working cross service to support a community benefit review following a request from the Cabinet Portfolio in April 2014. Our input has focused mainly on membership, governance and engagement activities of the Trust.

### **Portsmouth Shed Project**

Supporting the set up of a community focused group to build, own and create a shared social space for activities. Our role has been to help establish, link to wider networks and ensure fit with broader health & inclusion work.

### **Community development workers network**

Established a regular internal networking meeting of staff working in community development, engagement and user involvement. This has been to assess how we can better support ownership projects, share best practice and encourage joint working.

### **Love Your Street (Cities of Service/Portsmouth Together)**

Leading on a neighbourhood focused initiative to generate community projects owned by local community champions and inspire volunteer led solutions to identified problems.

### **Follow ups & requests**

We have received to two enquires in relation to potential support for community ownership of assets projects by community groups:

1. The Brewery House, Hambrook Street
2. South Parade Pier, Seafront

**James Sandy**

**Communities engagement**

**September 2014**

# Agenda Item 5

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE & LEISURE SCRUTINY PANEL

### SCOPING DOCUMENT

**Proposed title:**

#### **REVITALISING LOCAL HIGH STREETS AND SECONDARY SHOPPING AREAS IN THE CITY**

##### **1. Background**

The panel intend this review to look at the capacity of the different local retail centres within the city to attract and retain customers.  
(The major retail centres will not form part of this review.)

##### **2. Objectives of the Inquiry**

- To understand the different characteristics of the local retail centres and the planning policy, licensing and other restrictions to development
- To consider the success of promotional activities, grant opportunities and initiatives in generating and retaining customers
- To review the sustainability of these centres within communities with a diversity of retail, leisure and health uses

##### **3. Written or verbal evidence to be heard from witnesses from the following:**

- Planning & Transport - to include carbon reduction and accessibility issues
- Health & Community Safety - to include the night-time economy
- Regeneration - those promoting the retail centres' activities

(Further witnesses are listed in Section 5)

##### **4. Possible issues and questions to be addressed**

- Planning implications and how vacant units are dealt with in the retail centres.
- Consideration of the role of the evening and late night economy in revitalising local centres; providing activities for a wide range of people which are not purely focused on young people and alcohol driven.

- Integration of health improvement services (such as Healthy Living Pharmacies) and leisure facilities (such as the mobile library service)
- How to increase footfall, dwelling time and loyalty in the local retail areas to ensure there is better use by the local catchment.

## 5. Methodology and work plan

### **Written and documentary evidence**

It is also proposed that the panel seeks briefing information from council officers and documentary evidence from a number of organisations to inform the review.

### **Witness statements**

The panel may seek evidence from witnesses at formal meetings.

### **Witnesses to include:**

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce  
 The Small Business Association  
 Portsmouth Business Crime Reduction Partnership  
 Association of Town Centre Management  
 Association of Market Towns  
 The police and community wardens  
 Market traders and local shopkeepers  
 Penny Mordaunt MP, High Streets Minister

### **Site visit opportunities:**

- Chair to attend the DCLG conference in London on 18 September 'The Future of UK High Streets: Driving Local Growth and Regeneration'
- Community days
- Visit an example of a successful local market elsewhere

## 6. Background documents

The following documents have been circulated to members of the panel:

- High Street Performance and Evolution (University of Southampton, July 2104)