



<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	25 June 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Response to Economic Development Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel (High Streets)
<b>Report by:</b>	Assistant Director, Economy, Planning and Transport Director of Culture, Leisure & Regulatory Services
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Steve Pitt
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>	No

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## 1. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to set out the response of officers to the Economic Development Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel's recommendations, arising from a review into the Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy, focusing on the High Street.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Panel is thanked for its work in undertaking the review.
- 2.2. That Cabinet notes and considers the recommendations together with the officer responses to the recommendations, which are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Economic Development Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel had noted that as the Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy was written pre-Covid, it needed to be reviewed.
- 3.2. At a meeting on 20 July 2023, the Panel decided upon the following topic: *'Scrutiny of our town centres and high streets to establish what may be done to improve them, including dealing with empty properties and consideration of any cultural aspects'*.
- 3.3. This topic was agreed by Scrutiny Management Panel at a meeting on 26 July 2023.



- 3.4. At a meeting on 26 October 2023, the Panel decided to amend the topic to '*Review of the Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy focussing on High Street direction*'. Further meetings, to explore the topic, were held on 29 November, 14 December 2023, 8 January 2024 and 2 February 2024.
- 3.5. The review included receiving evidence in person from:
  - 3.5.1. Nickii Humphreys, Licensing Manager (PCC)
  - 3.5.2. Andrew Phillips, Cascades Centre Manager
  - 3.5.3. Julie Carolan, H & M Manager, Commercial Road
  - 3.5.4. Tim Keeping, Port Solent Manager
  - 3.5.5. Phil Salmon and Les Pink, Phil Salmon Planning Ltd
  - 3.5.6. Louise Whitmore, Love Southsea Market
  - 3.5.7. Christine Taylor, Cumberland House Natural History Museum (PCC)
  - 3.5.8. Grace Scott, Museums Engagement Officer (PCC)
  - 3.5.9. Ross Fairbrother, D Day Story Manager (PCC)
  - 3.5.10. Cathy Hakes, Head of Museums (PCC)
  - 3.5.11. Dave Percival, Libraries & Archives Manager (PCC)
  - 3.5.12. Catherine Ramsay, Business Manager (PCC)
- 3.6. The review included receiving written evidence from:
  - 3.6.1. Alice Masterman, Flude Property Consultants
  - 3.6.2. Katherine Webber (heritage professional).
- 3.7. The Scrutiny Panel's report can be found in full at the following link [Agenda for Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel on Monday, 18th March, 2024, 12.00 pm Portsmouth City Council](#) .

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

The Scrutiny Panel made 9 recommendations in total. The recommendations, together with officer responses, can be found at Appendix 1.

#### **5. Integrated impact assessment**

An IIA will be produced for each specific scheme or policy change arising from the recommendations made, at such time as they are planned for implementation.

#### **6. Legal implications**

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

#### **7. Director of Finance's comments**

Implementation of the various initiatives outlined in the appendices will be subject to available budget provision. Some initiatives may be financed



from existing cash limits (revenue budget). Initiatives requiring capital investment will be subject to a satisfactory capital bid.

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Signed by:  
Stephen Baily,  
Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

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Signed by:  
Ian Maguire,  
Assistant Director, Economy, Planning and Transport.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Panel's recommendations and officer responses.

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by: