

Report of: Chair of Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

| Meeting of | Date | Ward(s) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Joint Board Executive | 5 September 2017 28 September 2017 | All |
| Delete as appropriate | | Non-exempt |

Subject: Regeneration of Retail Areas Scrutiny Review - Recommendations of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report requests that Executive receive the recommendations of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee following the completion of its review of the Regeneration of Retail Areas. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 In June 2016 the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee commenced a review of regeneration of retail areas. The overall aim of the review was to encourage the regeneration of retail areas by making Islington more attractive for customers and potential businesses and to maximise future income under the recent business rate changes. The objectives of the review included looking at the areas in need of regeneration and how the council decides where to allocate attention; considering upcoming opportunities for regeneration; looking at areas currently utilised and considering tools available to the council when regenerating an area and how these could be

used more effectively. The final report of the Committee was agreed in July 2017 and is appended.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The proposals in the report need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

4.2 Legal Implications

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

4.3 Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications at this stage. Any environmental implications will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Committee has had regard to any equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses during the course of the review. Details of any such implications are set out in the appended report. A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Executive is only asked to receive the report at this stage. The impact on residents will need to be fully considered as part of the Executive Member response to the review, at which point a Resident Impact Assessment will be completed if required.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee recognises the importance of the Council in supporting local businesses as this would result in the vitality of the local economy, important not only to residents but visitors to Islington. The Committee agrees that residents especially young people share in the economic development and regeneration particularly through employment opportunities. It was recognised that all measures in revitalising and keeping the markets alive, providing local jobs for local people and meeting environmental sustainable objectives should be encouraged. One particular area for improvement is in relation to parking requirements in town centres to support day to day operation of local businesses. The Committee has made 15 recommendations in response to the evidence received. It is hoped that the Committee's recommendations will assist the council in providing a more attractive environment for customers and for potential businesses to maximise future income especially in light of the recent business rate changes.
- 5.2 In carrying out the review, the Committee met with officers, Service Trading Standards, the Archway Traders Association and Angel's Business Improvement Bid (BID) to gain a balanced view. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations

Appendices:

- Regeneration of Retail Areas – Report of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Background papers:

- None.

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