

Report of Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Executive	17 October 2019	All

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**SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY –
REGENERATION OF RETAIL AREAS – EXECUTIVE MEMBER’S
RESPONSE**

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Executive received a report from the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the regeneration of retail areas in Islington in 2017. The report provided 15 recommendations to strengthen the borough’s town centres and shopping streets.
- 1.2 Since these recommendations were issued, there has been a complete re-structure of the relevant services leading to the creation of a new Inclusive Economy Service. Work has been progressing on ‘small business-friendly’ initiatives such as the implementation of the Affordable Workspace strategy, the commissioning of a first-ever borough wide micro/small business survey, promotion and development of the borough’s street markets and the re-framing of our town centre management approach.

All of this activity complements and builds upon the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and will inform the development of the Council’s forthcoming Inclusive Economy Strategy. This report draws upon this emerging programme and informs the Executive’s response to the recommendations set out by the Scrutiny Committee.

- 1.3 This report sets out how the Council intends to deliver a fairer Islington by contributing towards the following specific corporate priorities:
- Jobs and money – improving places in the borough to support the resilience and success of local businesses and their role in delivering an inclusive economy by

providing direct support to local businesses and traders on practical issues such as business rates, as well as helping residents get the skills they need and reducing levels of long-term unemployment;

- Place and environment – by ensuring that Islington’s town centres are welcoming and attractive, with inclusive, thriving and resilient retail and leisure offers. This includes working on air quality, cleansing issues and public realm improvements that ensure safety and accessibility; and,
- Well run Council – combining funding streams and objectives wherever possible to deliver projects that tackle multiple Council priorities, and helping to attract further funding to town centres to improve local attractiveness and continue to make a difference despite reduced resources.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the Executive Member’s response to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations on regeneration of retail areas.

3. Background

- 3.1 In June 2016 the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee started to review the progress of regeneration of retail areas in Islington.

- 3.2 The overall aim of the review was: *“to encourage the regeneration of retail areas by making Islington more attractive to customers and potential businesses and to maximise future income under the recent business rate changes.”*

- 3.3 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.

- 3.4 The Council is preparing its Inclusive Economy Strategy, with the aim of presenting the strategy in late 2019. It will cover many of the themes addressed in the Scrutiny Report and will show the progress that has been made and next steps for the years ahead. To support the development and subsequent implementation of the strategy, a new Inclusive Economy Service was formed in early 2018.

- 3.5 Consultation on the Inclusive Economy Strategy will take place over the coming months with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee integrated into the development of the associated action plan.

4.0 Responses

This section of the report sets out the Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs responses to the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.

4.1 Recommendation 1

Build strong partnerships with local employers and business forums to meet the aims of the Employment Commission and move towards a fairer Islington, in particular by encouraging local employers to undertake corporate social responsibility by creating employment and training opportunities for young people in Islington.

4.2 **Response**

The Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs has commissioned the Council's first ever micro and small business survey commencing in April 2019. This will help the Council to understand the challenges of doing business in Islington. This will inform the creation of a small business support programme which will strengthen small businesses so that they will be in a better position to create jobs for local people and 'give back' through responsible and inclusive business practices. The Inclusive Economy Service also promotes responsible business practice through its work with the local Chamber of Commerce the Federation of Small Business, partnerships with Heart of the City and through the management of three Town Centre Management Groups. In addition, the Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs has established relationships with anchor institutions/major employers such as the local universities, LinkedIn, NatWest and RBS to drive the Council's local youth employment agenda and leverage businesses to the further benefit of residents.

- 4.3 A Skills Strategy is in development in order to influence local skills provision to enable residents to access good quality work. The iWork service works closely with local employer fora and business clusters such as Urban Partners, the Kings Cross business partnership, and the BIG Alliance, to promote the principles of an inclusive and fair economy as expressed in the Employment Commission. This sets out the commitment to work with local employers on supporting the next generation through work experience, delivering career activities in schools, offering apprenticeships, and by supporting good local employment through working practices such as London Living Wage, offering flexible hours, running healthy workplaces and disability confident employment. Last year the Council and its partners supported 167 local residents into apprenticeships, supported 391 young residents aged 18-25 into local employment and supported 1,352 residents to access local jobs. 60 people were placed into work with Council contractors, of which 23 were apprenticeships and the Council was shortlisted for an award with London Councils for 'Best work with supply chains and/ or small businesses to create new apprenticeships'.
- 4.4 In 2018/19, 30 local businesses committed their support to the Council's 100 hours World of Work initiative, which bridges the gap between education and industry to prepare young people for their future careers. Over 6,500 pupil experiences were created through employer led career related activities in schools including careers talks, workplace visits and employability days. Work is ongoing to sign up more businesses for 2019/20.
- 4.5 The Council is currently working to establish Islington as London's first Living Wage Place, and is convening a place-based Action Group to promote the benefits of paying the London Living Wage. This group includes representatives of small and medium businesses in the borough, and a plan will be collaboratively shaped with this group to achieve accreditation by the end of 2019.
- 4.6 'Aspire' events run by iWork are designed to support employability and careers awareness amongst local young people looking for employment, apprenticeship and training opportunities, whilst addressing preconceptions and concerns employers may have about offering opportunities to this client group. Between March 2018-March 2019, five Aspire events were held at a variety of settings – local Youth Hubs, Big Sky Studios, Sobell Centre and 5 local youth and community organisations, attracting up to 200 young people aged 15-25. The events have been sector specific and focussed on specific cohorts i.e. care leavers, school aged/at risk of becoming NEET/ NEET 16-18yr olds. Working in partnership

with the Aspire network, internal and external agencies has been key in helping to promote and direct young people to events. 43 young people aged 16-25 have progressed into employment, education and training. Young people have progressed into roles such as Junior Engineer, Apprentice Plumber, Construction Worker, Studio Assistants, Pharmacy Assistant Apprentice, Childcare Apprentice, Project Control Apprentice.

4.7 **Recommendation 2**

That a programme of activities supporting local businesses be developed to deal with the local impact of increased business rates, including the fair allocation of funds as part of the discretionary relief scheme.

4.8 **Response**

A local discretionary relief scheme was introduced (known as Revaluation Relief) by the Council and £1m was awarded to qualifying businesses affected by the 2017 Government revaluation in April 2019. Over £8m has been awarded in Revaluation Relief since April 2017. The relief and the amount received is in proportion to the increase in business rates following the Revaluation i.e. the higher the increase the more relief qualifying businesses would receive.

4.9 In addition, the Business Rates and Inclusive Economy teams have offered support in the form of advice and workshops in areas such as Fonthill Road and Holloway Road for businesses struggling with their business rates and have subsequently been successful in a number of appeals. For example, The Lexington as a local small business was supported into appeal, leading to a rates reduction of nearly £70,000.

4.10 In October 2018, a new campaign was launched by the Islington Chamber of Commerce, Town Centre Management groups and other local businesses which the Council supported. It set out a series of 'asks', calling for the Government to increase the threshold for Small Business Rates Relief from £12,000 to £20,000 for Inner London. This would mean an estimated 850 of Islington's smallest businesses would save around £4,000 a year. The petition also sought to make business taxes fairer by making sure multi-national online businesses pay a fair share, and for a fundamental review of business rates to create a fairer system. Some of these campaign objectives were met in last year's Budget announcement – but the campaign is ongoing and there will be further work on supporting small businesses in this area.

4.11 **Recommendation 3**

Review and amend its procurement policies to secure social value, including benefits for local businesses, in particular SMEs.

4.12 **Response**

This is a central part of the Council's 'community wealth building' approach to ensure that the benefits of local growth are invested in local areas, and that people and local institutions can work together on an agenda of shared benefit. Current work led by the Procurement Service has a clear overarching corporate procurement strategy which dedicates one of the four themes to supporting the local economy, specifically in relation to benefits for local SMEs. Social Value is the additional benefit to a community from a commissioning or procurement process – over and above the direct purchase of goods, services and outcomes.

- 4.13 The Procurement Service encourages smaller business to link with large organisations with whom they can sub-contract when they would be too small to bid for or unable to deliver a main contract. This is done through transparently publishing lists of all contracts on the Council's website with an aggregate annual value of £5,000 or more to ensure organisations can see who the prime contractors are with whom they can build alliances, where they may be too small to contract directly. In addition, the Procurement Service encourages commissioners to have networking events and 'meet the buyer' days.
- 4.14 The Council's ambition is now to take social value to another level. The Council has made social value a central outcome of the network of its affordable workspaces. In a highly innovative and ambitious approach to the commissioning of operators, the Council has implemented a new framework which ascribes an 80% weighting to social value. Over the coming years, this innovation will deliver considerable social and economic benefit for small and micro businesses, as well as local residents.
- 4.15 The high-quality office spaces will be managed on the Council's behalf by a variety of carefully selected affordable workspace providers drawn from the co-operative, social enterprise and charity sectors. In a UK first, social value will be embedded in these contracts, with space given to providers at a peppercorn rent (free) in return for them offering workspace for below market rate and – crucially – creating long-term benefits for local people and businesses. This will deliver a range of education, training and employment opportunities for people including the long-term unemployed, mothers returning to work and young people without any qualifications, and it will target recruitment in areas of high unemployment. It also includes working with local schools and colleges, as well as support for local business clusters, and to encourage increased local business-to-business supply chains.
- 4.16 The Council is also securing more affordable workspaces by purchasing long leases on commercial premises, which will then be given to affordable workspace providers for free in return for social value outcomes that help local residents into good jobs and training. With the support of £1m match funding from the mayor of London's Good Growth fund, the Council has just purchased leases on the first two premises on Fonthill Road, Finsbury Park. Notably, a new operator has been appointed for the garment production/fashion workspace, who will operate a retail unit and plans to work with the wider Fashion Village cluster to improve its overall sustainability.
- 4.17 Led by the Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs, and the Executive Member for Finance, Performance & Community Safety, a high level Social Value Taskforce is embedding social value corporately across the Council. The taskforce is devising an overarching framework that will ensure that the Council uses its economic agency to the benefit of residents, and local small businesses whilst improving quality of life in the borough.
- 4.18 The taskforce is involved in a number of important activities to progress this vision including:
- Identifying social value best practice from elsewhere which can be adapted for Islington.
 - Developing training, guidance and other resources for commissioners on how social value can be embedded in their contracts
 - Setting up processes and instruments to measure social value so that targets can be set to increase it year on year

- Engaging with 'anchors', institutions and organisations rooted in the borough, in order to collaborate on increasing social value in their business practice.
- Testing opportunities to increase the weighting given to social value in goods and service contracts, so that it is considered more equally with cost and quality.
- Developing local supplier networks to increase local business trading to keep the money circulating and benefiting our local economies for longer.

4.19 The taskforce will deliver its final framework and action plan to the Executive later this year, integrated into the forthcoming corporate Procurement Strategy and revised guidance.

4.20 ***Recommendation 4***

Undertake activities to promote street markets and increase public awareness.

4.21 **Response**

In 2018 the Inclusive Economy Service appointed a Markets Development Officer to support markets to adapt and face the challenges of a changing street trading environment. The aim of this work is to promote Islington's markets, improve footfall and trader numbers and also ensure that the markets are both financially sustainable and inclusive of their local communities by offering opportunities for self-employment, access to affordable goods and services and freely accessible social participation.

4.22 Throughout 2018-19 a series of demonstration projects were delivered across Islington's markets (primarily at Chapel Market), in collaboration with Public Protection's Street Trading team and other market stakeholders. These include 'pop-up' events such as an international market, a free plant potting delivered through a local charitable organisation and ongoing busking each weekend to better animate the space.

4.23 The intelligence gathered from these projects has identified areas in which our markets are in need of the most support, informing the development of an action plan for the current financial year. The projects in this plan focus primarily on Chapel Market, which is experiencing significant challenges and offers the greatest potential return from investment, in terms of local economic growth and improved social value. The key areas identified within the business for development are: marketing and promotion; market trader training and recruitment; pursuit of funding opportunities; community engagement; improvements to the public realm and market infrastructure; and public events.

4.24 The officer has enhanced the presence of Islington's markets by establishing a [social media presence](#), in particular generating profile for the Market Trader of the Year competition and Love Your Local Market 2019 national campaign. Additionally, a project is currently underway to produce a new brand identity for Chapel Market in consultation with local stakeholders. A trader recruitment campaign has also been launched to recruit new vendors to the market, which will also be complemented by a trader training course, in collaboration with Islington's Adult Community Learning team.

4.25 Infrastructure development plans are currently underway to improve the public realm at Chapel Market. A new market pitch layout has been successfully developed and consulted on with market stakeholders and will be implemented over the summer. This will be complemented by an experimental Traffic Management Order, prohibiting traffic from entering the market during operating hours – making the market a safer, more pleasant shopping environment.

- 4.26 Further funding to support and further the development of Chapel Market's public realm is being actively sought. We intend to make a bid to the GLA's Good Growth Fund, which is due to reopen in September 2019.
- 4.27 **Recommendation 5**
Facilitate workshops and seminars for SMEs and aspiring business owners.
- 4.28 **Response**
The Inclusive Economy Service regularly organises workshops on a wide range of topics of value to SME businesses, including most recently on business rates and Preparing for Exit from the European Union. This is done by leveraging our partnership network and activating the corporate social responsibility of anchor institutions.
- 4.29 A micro and small business survey has been commissioned and commenced in April 2019 to help the Council understand the challenges of doing business in Islington. The results will be available in Autumn 2019. The survey results will inform the creation of a micro and small business support programme of workshops, seminars, mentoring and other opportunities designed to strengthen the resilience of our micro and small businesses.
- 4.30 The Council's Affordable Workspace Programme has embedded support for small business and economic clusters as a key priority. This is manifested in two main ways:
- Intervening in the market to provide genuinely affordable workspace to aspiring business owners;
 - Requesting social value in lieu of rent from organisations commissioned to run our affordable workspaces, allowing them sufficient operating cost margins to deliver free, high quality business cluster support to existing SMEs and aspiring business owners.
- 4.31 The appointed operators for the Council's affordable workspaces will be required to facilitate a number of workshops for small and micro businesses every year. These will be targeted on the needs of local economic clusters – in the first instance, fashion and tech – and enable increased networking between small business owners. The Affordable Workspace Programme will as a result provide a comprehensive offer of high quality business support right across the borough.
- 4.32 In addition, the Council is seeking additional funding under the Business Rates Retention Programme 'Strategic Investment Pot' to deliver an innovative programme. This would support young people and local residents through a journey to start-up their own tech-based companies.
- 4.33 **Recommendation 6**
The Council's Street Market's Strategy to be updated to ensure that it supports local businesses.
- 4.34 **Response**
The Inclusive Economy Strategy will include an Inclusive Markets strategy as street markets are integral to the Council's community wealth building approach – providing places that are local, affordable and social places.

4.35 Actions for this strategy will include skills training programmes as well as supporting incubator projects for new street market traders. This will increase the sustainability of Islington's local markets, and enhance the inclusive impact of the street markets by creating opportunities for residents to start trading. A number of demonstration projects – such as the busking project and International Market at Chapel Market – have already been delivered to improve footfall in the markets. These types of activities will be increased over the coming months.

4.36 **Recommendation 7**

During the review of the Local Plan, consideration should be given to suggestions on supporting local shops, town centres and SMEs, and as part of the Local Plan review, if required, to amend the boundaries of Islington's town centres.

4.37 **Response**

The Local Plan review is progressing and consultation on the Proposed Submission draft plan is planned to start in September 2019. The draft plan includes updated policies which seek to safeguard local shops and promote town centres as retail and leisure destinations. The draft plan requires development to provide a range of business space, including space which is suitable for SMEs. Specifically, it will support the retail function of the four town centres of Angel, Nag's Head, Archway and Finsbury Park with a more focused retail core termed the 'primary shopping area'. Outside this retail core a more flexible approach to a change of use from shops to, for example a restaurant, are promoted to reflect the wider dynamics of the retail economy. Up-to-date retail surveys have informed these policy changes.

4.38 **Recommendation 8**

Consider designating at least one area of Islington as a 'Cultural Quarter' as part of the Local Plan review process ensuring that this designation supports the Council's wider economic development priorities.

4.39 **Response**

As above, the Local Plan review is progressing. The draft plan designates three 'Cultural Quarters' in the Angel Town Centre, Archway Town Centre and part of the Clerkenwell and Farringdon area. These areas are specific locations where cultural uses are promoted and protected. The draft plan also introduces 'the agent of change' principle – which ensures that the impacts on the future operation of existing uses such as night-time economy uses is fully considered where a potentially sensitive use – e.g. residential development – is proposed to be introduced nearby. In addition, the draft plan proposes that pubs are provided stronger protection against conversion, based on social value, heritage and/or contribution to night time economy. The draft plan also sets out a stronger protection against development of new hotels focusing on allocated sites or intensification of existing hotels. The Council will respond to the challenges and opportunities associated with future developments of cultural quarters to ensure that they are places for everyone, offering unique mixes of shops, services, cultural activities, and in Town Centres, economic uses, alongside employment opportunities and an accessible and pedestrian-friendly environment.

4.40 The Inclusive Economy Strategy action plan will seek to ensure that these Cultural Quarters are inclusive and represent the diversity of local communities in those areas, for example by creating opportunities to showcase local produce, supporting an evening economy and by helping community-based creative industries.

- 4.41 **Recommendation 9**
Continue working with the GLA and other Central London boroughs to introduce an Article 4 Direction to continue to protect office floor space in the Central Activity Zone (CAZ) from Permitted Development Rights (PDR) for change of use from office to residential.
- 4.42 **Response**
An Article 4 Direction (A4D) to remove office-to-residential permitted development rights in the Central Activities Zone came into force on 20 March 2019, ahead of the lifting of the CAZ exemption in May 2019.
- 4.43 **Recommendation 10**
Continue working with the GLA and other Central London boroughs to introduce an Article 4 Direction to continue to protect office floor space in the Central Activities Zone (CAZ) from PDR for change of use from light industry to residential.
- 4.44 **Response**
The A4D came into force on 3 November 2017. All applications involving a change of use from light industrial use to a residential use now need to apply for planning permission and be assessed against adopted Local Plan policy.
- 4.45 In addition, the Council is continuously engaging with landlords and developers to ensure the protection of light industrial spaces, and will rigorously guard these spaces, where possible, through its planning powers.
- 4.46 **Recommendation 11**
Contact broadband providers and OFCOM, lobby for more affordable and faster broadband connections for local business and street traders.
- 4.47 **Response**
Digital Services are in discussion with several fibre broadband providers in order to facilitate new installations on Housing Estates across Islington. The benefits will be an additional option for residential broadband services, as well as the creation of new fibre service hubs at larger estates which will provide the ability to spread the new fibre services to local businesses.
- 4.48 Digital Services are also in talks with Virgin Media to implement a broadband offering within temporary accommodation buildings. This will benefit anyone who stays within these buildings by providing online access to Council services, charities and local businesses.
- 4.49 There is currently a free public Wi-Fi service on lamp columns across Islington's high streets provided by Arqiva Wireless Concession. This service can be utilised by residents, visitors and businesses alike. Arqiva Wireless Concession are also operating as agents for mobile phone networks and have identified and commenced installations of 4G small-cell units across the borough to offer improved coverage and capacity of mobile phone services throughout the borough.
- 4.50 Islington is working in partnership with the GLA to obtain DCMS funding for 5G roll-out. Work is ongoing in this regard, and further updates will be provided in due course.

- 4.51 **Recommendation 12**
Review parking requirements in town centres to support the day-to-day operation of local business in terms of loading and servicing provision, providing the necessary parking for disabled people, pay and display bays with an emphasis on encouraging visitors, shoppers and workers to travel to the town centres using sustainable forms of transport; i.e. widely available public transport, cycling or walking.
- 4.52 **Response**
The Traffic and Parking Service has met with businesses and traders in all town centres across the borough and carried out walkabouts to review their specific requirements, particularly where businesses have been negatively affected by major developments. The Council has arranged discounts and price freezes on Fonthill Road in Finsbury Park near the City North Development, and in Archway, where businesses were impacted by the gyratory works, discounts and freezes were also agreed. From each of these walkabouts, action plans have been drafted and agreed with the traders' associations, town centre management groups and the Inclusive Economy Service and these are reviewed regularly in partnership with business groups.
- 4.53 The Traffic and Parking Service has also introduced additional advisory signage in town centres to advise drivers on loading and unloading and how to make cashless payments for paid for parking bays, as well as making signage improvements at the request of business fora.
- 4.54 **Recommendation 13**
Provide an update to the Committee on the Council's planned response to the devolution on business rates.
- 4.55 **Response**
In 2019-20, Islington is a member of the London 75% business rates retention pilot pool (currently confirmed only on an annual basis) comprising all London boroughs, the City of London and the GLA. Instead of being directly influenced by what happens in Islington alone, our retained business rates income is wholly dependent on what happens at a London wide level.
- 4.56 Under the 75% business rates retention pilot pool, retained business rates makes up a significantly greater proportion of our core funding. This provides a much stronger incentive than under the previous system for all pool members (including Islington) to grow their net contribution to the pool and the overall pot of business rates income available to be redistributed. The down side is that there is also greater risk around appeals, although this is shared across London.
- 4.57 It is no longer possible to forecast our business rates income ourselves and we are entirely reliant on updated forecasts from London Councils (which are based on individual submissions from pool members). Based on the latest London Councils update, it is estimated that Islington will be £2.9m better off in the pool in 2019-20 than it would have been under the previous system. This is reflected in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) assumptions.
- 4.58 **Recommendation 14**
Work in partnership with local businesses to address the problem with the collection of waste.

4.59 **Response**

The Council has been meeting with local businesses across the borough through its commercial waste service to make sure that businesses are content with the service that they receive and are able to respond to any waste-related inquiries or issues that the businesses may be facing.

4.60 Through work with the Town Centre Management Groups, the Council is providing a time-banded service for commercial waste collections which sets specific limits on when waste can be presented by businesses operating within that time-band and also guarantees that the Council will collect the waste they present within this period. The Council has also been monitoring the service through its ASB team who carry out regular monitoring of areas to ensure issues around waste collection do not arise.

4.61 The Council provides a comprehensive commercial recycling service to all businesses who wish to ensure their waste is recycled and supporting any local business which wants to separate their residual and recycling waste; providing a competitive fee for recycling waste collected over residual waste.

4.62 **Recommendation 15**

Explore and pursue opportunities for consolidated business deliveries in retail areas undergoing considerable regeneration.

4.63 **Response**

With the Zero Emissions Network (ZEN) and Low Emissions Network schemes in Archway the Inclusive Economy Service is supporting businesses to adapt to new modes of delivery which are green, efficient and economically inclusive, as part of a project funded by the Mayor of London for £185,000 to improve air quality in the town centre.

4.64 Archway ZEN, with the support of the Inclusive Economy Service, has been conducting a range of innovative activities to enhance the built environment, encourage alternative transportation and improve the supply chain. Through one-to-one advice, free trials and grant funding, businesses in Archway are offered the chance to adopt lower emission energy and travel options that will help them operate cheaper, cleaner and greener.

4.65 In Archway, Free Cargo bike hire for town centre businesses also encourages alternative means of travel and reduces the number of vehicles used for deliveries.

4.66 In Finsbury Park, the Council has been working to ensure that deliveries to the new City North Development are kept to a minimum and organised in such a way as to suit local traders as much as practicable. An example of this is that when businesses identified that trucks were waiting on Fonthill Road, the Council requested that City North come up with a stacking system offsite and deliver 'just in time'. This has now been implemented successfully.

4.67 These initiatives are the start of much wider scale work with local businesses on deliveries as an integral part of ensuring environmental justice in an inclusive economy. Work has recently begun on researching how the Council can respond locally to the national agenda around the Green New Deal, the Green Industrial Revolution and the Council's new 2030 carbon neutral target. Partnership with local business will be critical in driving these changes.

5. Finance Implications:

5.1 The responses to the recommendations in this report are delivered through existing resources and do not commit the Council to any additional financial obligations that are not already funded.

6. Legal Implications:

6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report. Legal advice and support will be provided as necessary regarding the continued implementation of the individual recommendations.

7. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

7.1 Several of the recommendations in this report have positive environmental implications;

- encouraging local employment (recommendation 1) could help reduce impacts associated with commuting;
- preventing office or industrial space being converted to residential (recommendations 10 and 11) is beneficial as such conversions often create energy-inefficient homes;
- the work on waste collection (recommendation 14) could reduce the number of waste vehicle journeys and increase recycling; and
- consolidating deliveries (recommendation 15) will reduce transport impacts such as emissions and congestion;
- social value (recommendation 3) includes environmental benefits, so securing more social value will lead to environmental improvements which will contribute to the Council's 2030 Carbon Reduction target
- recommendations 13,14 and particularly through workshops as in recommendation 5, our work in partnership with the business community will also promote carbon reduction.
- the Council's Inclusive Economy aims include environmental sustainability as a core theme and as such will contribute to the Council's Carbon Reduction target.

8. Resident Impact Assessment:

8.1 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.

8.2 A RIA has not been completed for this report because it is not requesting a decision or policy change and therefore there is no direct impact on residents as a result of this report. However, it is considered that there are no adverse impacts on equalities target groups arising from this report.

8.3 A full RIA will be conducted alongside the development of the Inclusive Economy Strategy. It will ensure any impacts on residents where positive are fully considered, and any negative impacts are identified and mitigation measures put in place as the strategy evolves. As with the proposed RIA for the Inclusive Economy Strategy, a RIA is also being developed alongside the Local Plan.

9. Reason for recommendations

The ongoing work emerging from the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on the regeneration of retail areas will be integrated into the forthcoming Inclusive Economy Strategy and the Executive is asked to note the Executive Member's responses as detailed in this report.

Appendices – none

Background papers - none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



27 September 2019

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for Inclusive Economy and Jobs

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