

<b>GROWTH, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES' SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
<b>13 NOVEMBER 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Rob Hill, Service Director Housing and Communities	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Alison Jones – Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities	
Contact Officer(s):	Clair George, Head of Safer Communities	Tel: 07920 160 733

**CITY CENTRE UPDATE ON PROJECT BOARD**

RECOMMENDATIONS	
<b>FROM: Rob Hill – Service Director Housing and Communities</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<p>It is recommended that Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviews and comments on the programme of works, as outlined in this report, for the city centre.</li> <li>2. Recommends that progress reports are presented at future Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee or are provided via briefing notes – timescales to be agreed.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 The report is presented to the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee at the request of this Committee.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report is presented to this Scrutiny Committee to seek views, and comments on the Council's programme of works for the city including the approach, key themes, timescales and planned activities to address issues and concerns in the city centre.

2.2 This report is for the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4, Overview Scrutiny Functions, Paragraph No.2.1 Functions determined by Council:

7. City Centre Management;

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>N/A</b>
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## 4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

### 4.1 Background

Our city centre needs to be a vibrant, welcoming, clean and safe place people want to visit without the fear or perceived fear of crime. Space needs to be redesigned/repurposed and used for increased events, pop-up themed markets and other commercial activities, which will lead to economic growth and increase footfall in the city centre.

Permanently resolving these issues and transforming our city centre is a priority for Corporate Leadership Team, the Administration, Group Leaders, MPs and the Independent Improvement Panel.

### 4.2 City Centre Project Board

To assist with the development and delivery of transformation of the city centre a project board has been established which is made up of senior officers across the council and meets on a monthly basis. The project board reports progress and is accountable to the Economy and Inclusive Growth Portfolio Board which is chaired by the Executive Director for Place and Economy.

The purpose of the board is to oversee the delivery and drive forward initiatives/activities to improve the city centre ensuring the area is safe, clean, vibrant and welcoming and perceived positively by residents, visitors, businesses and investors.

The board has drafted a programme of works and have started delivery on key works streams to improve the city centre, including animating spaces, community safety and security, street furniture and other infrastructure, cleanliness/waste management, and marketing. Several sub-groups have been formed which include partner agencies to assist with delivery of the plan which is looking at initiatives over a short, medium and long-term basis.

### 4.3 Work Strands/Subgroups

#### 4.3.1 *Animating Spaces*

A sub-group has been formed to look at ways to use the space in the city centre differently. By utilising the space differently and increasing events/markets, it is anticipated that we will also see a reduction in anti-social behaviour in known areas. The sub-group is made up of city council officers with links with outside organisations. Below are activities currently being investigated/implemented over the next 6 months.

*Table 1 – Animating Spaces*

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Activity/Output Deliver</b>
Curation of an event programme	Curation of one shared events calendar for the city centre showing daily activities to be used by partners agencies
	Use calendar to increase and link number of diverse events in the city centre
Market Offer	Deliver more themed/permanent markets in the city centre
Street Traders	Review and develop a plan to attract street vendors to identified spaces linking with the evening economy
Street Entertainment	Create a busking code for the city centre
	Roll out busking code and advertise/attract quality buskers and other street entertainment to the city centre via social media

#### 4.3.2 *Security and Community Safety*

A multi-agency sub-group oversees this workstream as community safety and security fall across several agencies including the police as well as support and outreach services. As well as the sub-group a multi-agency weekly management meeting takes place to direct resources

accordingly addressing ongoing safety, security and crime in the city centre.

*Table 2 – Security and Community Safety*

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Activity/Output Deliver</b>
St Peter's Arcade	A successful bid submitted to ASB Hot Spot fund to reduce ASB in the arcade, including infrastructure and increase in patrols
Begging & Review of Enforcement Powers	Review of all enforcement powers available to city centre enforcement officers is being undertaken as well as looking at best practice in other authorities which have had success in dealing with ASB issues linked to begging. In the interim officers working with the police to issue Community Protection Warning/Notice and Criminal Behaviour Order against individuals.
CCTV	All cameras have been reviewed across city centre, and additional locations identified (and to be installed at such locations should funding become available). CCTV agreement between the police Force Control Room and Citi-Link being developed.
ASB	Additional patrols are being undertaken by the police as part of ASB hot-spot funding for additional patrols. A multi-agency bid has also been submitted to the fund, for target hardening measures including additional CCTV cameras.

#### 4.3.3 *Street Furniture and other infrastructure*

Several infrastructure projects are already in progress, including security measures in the city centre, which is at final design phase. Other projects which are to be completed in the next 6 months are detailed below.

*Table 3 – Street furniture and other infrastructure*

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Activity/Output Deliver</b>
Kings Street	Implement the plan to create a safe space at King Street through planters, traffic restrictions etc
Audit of all street furniture	Audit all street furniture to look at cleanse/replace/repair depending on funding available and as necessary.
Security Measures	Ongoing project to introduce security measures across the city centre. Measure to also look at best use of planters and other street furniture.

#### 4.3.4 *Cleanliness / waste management*

Ways to improve waste management and cleanliness in the city centre are currently being discussed with key partners. Currently the focus is on reducing the number of trade waste bins in the city centre and ensuring waste management contracts are in place.

*Table 4 – Cleanliness/waste management*

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Activity/Output Deliver</b>
Waste Management Collection	Complete a waste contract audit in the city centre and plan to address the findings
Reduce the number of commercial bins	Reduce the number of bins vs the original audit figures

#### 4.3.5 *Marketing*

The communications team are supporting the City Centre Project Board, by highlighting the positives within the city centre (both current and upcoming). They are also supporting the various workstreams as required to promote new initiatives and share information as well as creating a dedicated webpage for street trading, including market pop-ups, artisan markets, and street vendors.

## **5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 5.1 Economy & Inclusive Growth – by making sure that our ‘places are attractive and vibrant’ by reducing the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the city centre and delivering events and markets which will attract residents/visitors to the city centre. The increase in footfall will also assist with economic development and attracting new businesses, residents and investment into the city centre.

Our Places and Communities – the City Centre Project Board links to our commitment to ‘create healthy and safe environments where people want to live, invest, work, visit and play’ by tackling crime and disorder in the city.

Carbon Impact Assessment – this report contains no proposals for changes to service delivery and therefore there is no decision to take which may impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Executive Director Place & Economy  
All departments Place & Economy  
City Centre Project Board  
Property Services  
Communications Team  
Peterborough Ltd  
Cambridgeshire Constabulary  
Cabinet Member – Housing & Communities  
Cabinet Member – Environment & Transport  
Cabinet Member – Growth & Regeneration

- 6.2 As workstreams progress consultation will take place with both external and internal agencies, as well as with traders, the Chamber of Commerce, and Peterborough Positive.

## **7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 7.1 It is anticipated that making transformation of the city centre a key priority will result in a more vibrant, safer environment, significantly improving the experience for residents, businesses, and visitors to the city centre.

## **8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 Transformation of the city centre is a key transformation project for the council. This paper outlines information on the city centre project board, and initial 6 months' work stream and progress being made.

## **9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 Continue to deliver different projects in isolation, this would not have the desired impact on changing the city centre by working across departments/agencies and having a city centre project board will have a significant impact on improving the city centre.

## **10. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 10.1 As initiatives are developed, funding will be sought via grants and other funding opportunities.

## **Legal Implications**

- 10.2 No current legal implications regarding the programme of works, however, as the programme progresses legal advice, regarding available enforcement powers, may be required.

## **Equalities Implications**

- 10.3 N/A

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 11.1 N/A

## **12. APPENDICES**

- 12.1 N/A

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