

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF PROJECTS AND REGENERATION	PLANNING COMMITTEE	8 MARCH 2023	7
TOWN CENTRES WORKING GROUP – CLOSURE REPORT			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The current term of office for the Council will end in May 2023 with the Borough elections and the return of a new group of elected members. The Boundary Commission Review means that there will be a reduction in the number of elected members from 51 to 37 and the governance review undertaken in response to the reduced membership of the council will see the creation of an executive policy committee and scrutiny arrangements. The council from May 2023 will have new governance that will require different working arrangements. At the final meeting of each committee for the current term of office the working groups and boards that have been established and appointed by the committee will be formally closed and disbanded where appropriate to create the opportunity for the new council to review and determine the most appropriate arrangements under the new governance structure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee disband the Town Centres Working Group and acknowledges that the members of the Group appointed by the Committee have contributed to achieving some of the objectives that were set out within the original Terms of Reference. The groups work and focus changed dramatically during the Covid pandemic from a proactive to a reactive perspective, ensuring the resilience of the boroughs Town Centre businesses during successive lockdowns.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Planning Committee approved the creation of the Town Centres Working Group on 11 March 2020.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

1. The Town Centres Working Group was established in March 2020 by this committee. The purpose of the group as referred to in the agreed terms of reference are:

'To be an advisory working group to the Planning Committee in respect of town centre development, to enable research and discussion on town centre strategy and management issues and to coordinate, support and develop initiatives to reinvigorate and strengthen the three town centres of Fylde borough'.

2. The remit of the working group changed dramatically during the Covid pandemic to consider measures to protect the resiliency of the Town Centre businesses and to stimulate economic recovery post-pandemic.
3. The Town Centres working group evolved over time into three separate sub-groups for the Town Centre's of Lytham, St Annes and Kirkham. Each sub-group contained elected representatives on a borough and town/parish level and representatives from the local business groups.
4. The Planning Committee has received numerous reports with recommendations from the Town Centres Working Group and sub-groups, that have informed and supported the decisions made by this committee and the Full Council.
5. The Town Centres Working Group and sub-groups have gone some way to fulfilling the remit set by this committee over the last 3 years and are thanked for their hard work, dedication, and contribution. In summary it is recommended that the Town Centres Working Group is disbanded and that arrangements for Town Centre research, engagement and management input under the new governance arrangements are determined by the new council.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	There are no legal implications
Community Safety	There are no community safety implications
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no human rights or equalities implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no sustainability or environmental implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no health & safety or risk management implications

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Planning Committees	Various dates / most meetings	www.fylde.gov.uk