



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Executive Director - Resources**

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	12 September 2023
Subject:	Scrutiny Review Report: Town Centre Improvements

Summary:

In September 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board approved a review of Town Centre Improvements and Scrutiny Panel A was assigned the task of undertaking this review, including preparing a draft report with recommendations, for consideration and approval by this Committee. The final report will be considered by the Executive on 3 October 2023.

A draft report, attached at Appendix A to this report, has been prepared by the Scrutiny Panel, and includes six areas for its recommendations.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider approving the draft report, attached at Appendix A, as the final report on Town Centre Improvements for submission to the Executive on 3 October 2023.

1. Background

On 30 September 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board approved a scrutiny review of Town Centre Improvements in the context of stimulating new business and employment opportunities, reviving retail, and supporting a broader demographic to use town centres, notably by younger people. Scrutiny Panel A was assigned the task of undertaking the review, preparing a report with recommendations, for consideration and approval by this Committee, for consideration by the Executive.

The terms of reference were developed at the first meeting of the Scrutiny Panel. The review would focus on current needs and opportunities emerging in Lincolnshire town centres (excluding Lincoln), high streets and market towns.

The following key lines of enquiry for the scrutiny review were agreed by the Panel:

- (1) Understanding changes in behaviours, shopping, land use and the impact of technology on the future of high streets across Lincolnshire and how that changes the infrastructure and services needed in town centres.
- (2) Consider the delivery of existing Towns Fund deals; future project pipelines and the ways in which the Council could effectively support such changes and projects.
- (3) Examine how the Council can support the needs of businesses (including retail and hospitality sectors) in town centres, including hardships arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and the EU Transition.
- (4) Identify the best practice of supporting green recovery of the high street.

The Scrutiny Panel comprised Councillors Phil Dilks (Chairman), Tracey Carter (Vice Chairman), Stephen Bunney, Mrs Julie Killey, Noi Sear, Adam Stokes, and Mark Whittington. The Panel met on twelve occasions between January 2022 and April 2023. A series of site visits and workshops were also conducted throughout the duration of this review. Previous scrutiny activity on this subject is set out in the relevant appendices to the report.

The draft report is attached at Appendix A for the Committee’s consideration, with a view to the Committee approving the report for consideration by the Executive on 3 October 2023.

2. Conclusion

The Committee is requested to consider the report attached at Appendix A, including the recommendations, and approve the report for submission to the Executive on 3 October 2023.

3. Consultation

Not applicable.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Town Centre Improvements – Draft Report by Scrutiny Panel A on behalf of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee (August 2023)
Appendix B	Appendices 1 - 7 Evidence Considered

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 552102 / 07500 571868 or by e-mail at Kiara.Chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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