

Executive Board City Centre Committee**19 February 2013**

Title of paper:	City Centre Mapping	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	David Bishop	Wards affected: Arboretum, Bridge, Radford and Park, St Anns
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr McDonald	Date of Consultation with Portfolio Holder(s); 31 st January 2013
Report author(s) and contact details:	Nicki Jenkins Head of Economic Development nicki.jenkins@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
Other colleagues who have provided input:		
Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority: (you must mark X in the relevant boxes below)		
World Class Nottingham		X
Work in Nottingham		X
Safer Nottingham		
Neighbourhood Nottingham		
Family Nottingham		
Healthy Nottingham		
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>An effective city centre is made up of a complex system of activity, which depending upon how effectively it works together can make the difference between a city centre that is successful and drives the growth of the local economy or one that just fulfils the basic requirements of its users.</p> <p>While there are a number of activities underway there is no overarching vision or strategy for the City Centre, this report updates committee on the outcome of the workshop held to map city centre activity and proposes next steps in ensuring alignment of all city centre related activity.</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To note the outcomes from the city centre mapping workshop.	
2	To agree to the City Centre Directors Group to undertake further analysis of the workshop outcomes and to develop an action plan to address the issues raised, as part of the Nottingham City Centre Strategy, as a holding strategy to coordinate other city centre plans and strategies.	
3	For a draft City Centre Strategy to be brought back to committee in April	

1. BACKGROUND

An effective city centre is made up of a complex system of activity, which depending upon how effectively it works together can make the difference between a city centre that is successful and drives the growth of the local economy or one that just fulfils the basic requirements of its users.

In November last year, committee agreed to undertake a mapping exercise across the City Council to understand how far activity relating to the city centre was aligned and where improvements could be made.

On 31st January a workshop involving key representatives from across the council was held, which looked at a number of areas of work. The agenda for the workshop covered the following areas of work within the city centre;

- City Centre Future Plans
- City Centre Retail Strategy
- Leisure, Markets and Events
- Community Protection
- City Services

Overall all services were aiming to achieve similar objectives i.e. an effective well, run city centre, which is welcoming to visitors. However there were a number of areas identified where improvements could be made.

The key points of discussion from the workshop are detailed in appendix 1, however the areas of discussion can be summarised into 3 overarching points as follows;

- 1) Consideration of operational issues at the design stage can reduce problems and costs later on.
- 2) We need a clear understanding about who does what and where the gaps lie.
- 3) There are some practical examples (quick wins) where improvements can be made now, such as looking at how developments involving the caves link together, looking at the public realm strategy, street activation and events/markets plans to ensure they are aligned and looking at how we can apply some of the 'neighbourhood' practices such as ward walks to the city centre.

Next Steps

It is proposed that following on from the workshop the City Centre Departmental Directors group will review the discussion points identified and establish a joint action plan for taking this forward.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

There are a number of positive initiatives already underway which are aimed at ensuring that the City Centre remains successful and drives growth for the future.

While they are all interrelated and some have been developed in consultation with each other, there is still no overarching vision for the City Centre and there are still some gaps that need to be addressed.

This workshop is the first step in ensuring greater co-ordination in relation to city centre development and activity. Further work needs to be undertaken to ensure that these issues identified are addressed and to ensure that the vision for the future of the city centre is fully realised.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

One option would be for services to continue to operate as they currently do in isolation from each other. However to have no overarching strategy or co-ordination, could mean that future decisions and the delivery of services within the City Centre may not be contributing to a common goal or vision, and could potentially duplicate or conflict going forward.

In addition this could mean that the potential for the growth of the city centre is not met, which will have a direct impact on our ability to support the transformation of the Nottingham economy.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations in this report, but the proposals may lead to more effective use of existing resources.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

The proposals set out in the report raise no significant legal issues.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

No

Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

Executive Board City Centre Committee Paper, Nottingham City Centre Strategy, 20th November 2013.

**Summary of Discussion Points from City Centre Workshop
31st January 2013**

- 1) Consideration of operational issues at the design stage can reduce problems and costs later on.**
 - Public spaces need to be set up to 'plug and go'
 - Transport to tourist attractions needs to be factored in to planning.
 - We need to consider the wider implications of on street trading/markets – particularly on property.
 - Developments need to consider the 'hidden infrastructure', i.e. operational services and how they are built in.
 - We need to future proof our developments – how do we become a smart city of the future?
 - When designing schemes or looking at issues such as change of use we need to factor in consultation with operational services.
 - We need to consider the implications for the family friendly zones vs the reality of existing venues.
 - We need to look at how the proposed zones link to identifiable locations for visitors.
 - Crime linked to operational issues could be designed out.
 - We have operational co-ordination and planning co-ordination but the two need to come together.

- 2) We need a clear understanding about who does what and where the gaps lie?**
 - There is no clear lead for street activation and it needs to link up to work on improving the public realm.
 - We are lacking one point of contact for operational issues relating to the city centre (city centre management).
 - We need a shared understanding of the roles and relationships with key partners.
 - There is a gap that hasn't been considered – street lighting and electrical supply. Who is their client?

- 3) There are some practical examples (quick wins) where improvements can be made now.**
 - Cultural agenda needs to link up with the visitor economy.
 - Need to link up work on activating the public realm to the 'linked trail' plan.
 - Need a more joined up offer to encourage overnight stays.
 - Developments focusing on caves in castle needs to link up to consideration of caves in Broadmarsh.
 - Need to move to more of a commissioning approach for events rather than the organiser.
 - The neighbourhood 'ward walk' approach would be beneficial in the city centre.
 - There is a lack of funding for small scale operational issues within the city centre - ward budgets focus on the wider ward rather than the city centre.