

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE BOARD CITY CENTRE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of meeting held on 9 JULY 2013 at Loxley House from 4.35 pm to 5.15 pm

- ✓ Councillor Nick McDonald (Chair)
Councillor Graham Chapman
Councillor Jon Collins
- ✓ Councillor Nicola Heaton
- ✓ Councillor Dave Trimble
Councillor Jane Urquhart

- ✓ indicates present at meeting

1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Nicola Heaton as Vice-Chair for the 2013/14 municipal year.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Jon Collins)
Councillor Graham Chapman) other City Council business
Councillor Jane Urquhart)

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

4 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2013 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

5 NOTTINGHAM CITY CENTRE STRATEGY

The Committee considered the Corporate Director of Development's report, summarising the progress on the development of an overarching plan for Nottingham City Centre, which incorporated the Retail Strategy and Place Plan, and identified the work planned to take the Strategy forward. The strategy had previously been discussed at the Committee's 20 November 2012 meeting (minute 14).

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the progress to date on the City Centre Strategy;**
- (2) request that authors of delegated decisions which relate to the City Centre incorporate consultation with this Committee prior to publication of those decisions.**

Reasons for the decision:

Creation of an overarching strategy will ensure that Nottingham City Centre remains successful and grows in the future by making sure that all of its component parts continue working to a common vision and that plans and strategies that relate to the City Centre are aligned.

Other options considered:

Not to have an overarching strategy. This was rejected as it would allow individual strategies to develop in an un-coordinated way.

6 VACANT SHOPS - UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Development which gave an overview of the current vacancy figures and an update on the action plan to reduce the number of vacant units in the City Centre. This matter had previously been discussed at the Committee's 20 November 2012 meeting (minute 16).

RESOLVED to note the following (as detailed in the report):

- (1) the progress on activities to reduce the number of vacant retail units in the City including the establishment of a Task Group to address issues, proactive marketing of vacant shops and improving the street scene around areas with high levels of vacancy;**
- (2) the allocation of High Street Innovation funds to activities planned to reduce the number of vacant shops in the City;**
- (3) the progress to date of activities undertaken via the Vacant Shops Grant Scheme including offering up to £5,000 to landlords (to be match-funded) to improve the interior/exterior of vacant properties.**

Reasons for the decision:

It is necessary to try to improve the retail offer, by reducing vacant unit numbers, to raise business confidence and avoid a negative view of the City.

Other options considered:

Do nothing and rely on the market to improve – dismissed as this will not address the issue and, therefore, not help in raising Nottingham's retail profile/ranking.