

# Briefing Note

**Title:** Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Review of the Year 2018/19

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**Date:** 16 July 2019

**Intended Audience:** Internal  Partner organisation  Public  Confidential

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## **Purpose or recommendation**

To provide an update on recommendations made by the Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel during 2018-19.

## **Overview**

The Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel aims to scrutinise activities of the Stronger City Economy service within the Council. During 2018-19, the Panel looked at the following areas:

- Enabling a Vibrant City Centre
- Apprenticeships
- Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy
- Portfolio Holder Q&A
- Innovation
- Strategic Economic Plan
- City Commission

## **Review of the year 2018-19**

The following action plan outlines progress against recommendations from Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel.

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Date and Theme	Panel Resolutions	Progress
26 June 2018 Enabling a Vibrant City Centre	<p>Endorses the current approach to diversify the City Centre's role and focusing on making the centre a desirable place to visit and spend time.</p> <p>Endorse the action group approach to continue to proactively respond to the repurposing of the City Centre.</p>	<p>Update on City Centre Commission provided at meeting on 12 February 2019.</p> <p>The Council has submitted an expression of interest to the Future High Streets Fund to take forward its vision for the City Centre. A further expression of interest is being developed for a High Streets Heritage Action Zone.</p>
18 September 2019 Apprenticeships	<p>Agreed to receive an update review report on apprenticeships in twelve months time.</p> <p>That a Headteacher be invited to the meeting so that the Panel can receive witness evidence from a further prospective on the subject of apprenticeships.</p>	<p>Apprenticeships are on the work plan for 14 November 2019.</p> <p>The lead for Apprenticeships is Paula Warrilow, Head of OD and Apprenticeships. A new refreshed website showcasing City offer through the <a href="#">Wolvesworkbox</a></p>
20 November Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy	<p>Feedback be forwarded to Scrutiny Board for consideration.</p> <p>For a future report on how the Council monitors the effectiveness of budget consultation, how it is promoted and who it chooses to consult with.</p>	<p>Feedback taken into account at Cabinet.</p> <p>Report circulated previously by e-mail.</p>
20 November Portfolio Holder Q&A session	No formal resolution	A successful session was held with agreement that separate informal meetings be held following the session to address issues raised.

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12 February Innovation	<p>Panel acknowledge recommendations made by the witnesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directed MD of Plastic Bottles Supplies Ltd to wolves@work to support recruitment.</li> <li>• Improving traffic flow to the city and wider region to support deliveries.</li> <li>• Local industrial land availability – how to unlock land for industrial use</li> <li>• Uncertainty following Brexit.</li> <li>• Schools teaching shooting as sport/local shooting lead at Aldersley</li> <li>• Communication of funding available.</li> </ul> <p>Right facilities and premises at affordable cost and importance and value of the Council engaging local businesses would be beneficial to the Council and the wider local economy</p>	<p>Wolves@Work Employer Work Coaches are working with a number of Wolverhampton employers including Plastic Bottles Supplies Ltd to support recruitment.</p> <p>The WMCA Brexit Commission has earmarked £170,000 of MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) Capacity Building funding to supporting businesses, communications, resilience planning, product safety and environmental health.</p> <p>A number of Business Development Officers in the Enterprise team have access to Grantfinder and inform businesses of opportunities.</p> <p>Engagement activity is a key part of the Enterprise service. Referrals and engagement with property owners feature in this work.</p>
Strategic Economic Plan		Agreed by Cabinet 27 March 2019
City Commission	Agreed the briefing note. Recommended Chair of City Centre Commission be from an organisation the Council approaches. Strategic purpose. Fit with other strategies and forums.	Future updates can be provided