

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	CITY CENTRE FORUM
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	19 FEBRUARY 2013
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
None	

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to seek authority to participate in and support a City Centre Forum, suggested in the City Centre Master Plan and which is now being proposed by key business organisations to facilitate City Centre development proposals.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) That the Director, Environment and Economy be authorised to enter into any necessary arrangements to facilitate and support proposals for the City Centre Forum.

### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Future proposals for the regeneration of the City Centre contained in the City Centre Master Plan/City Centre Action Plan need to be owned by a wide range of stakeholders including the business community.
2. The proposed establishment of a City Centre Forum is a means of strengthening links with business and securing their involvement and assistance with the implementation of development proposals and delivery of the overall regeneration process.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

3. Not to set up the Forum: not responding to business and not establishing a Forum rejected as this would dilute ownership and involvement of the Business Community with the implementation of City Centre proposals.

### **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

4. The City Centre Master Plan (consultation report) states that the Plan needs to be owned by a wide range of stakeholders to include local people, key landowners, the business community etc. In particular, the Master Plan proposes the establishment of a City Centre Forum as a means of strengthening links with business and securing their involvement with implementation.
5. Business Solent and the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce (Southampton) strongly endorse this proposal and with the support of the City Council, wish to establish a City Centre Forum. Discussions and consultation between these two bodies and other members of the business and wider City Centre Community concerning the need for broad engagement and the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders within the overall remit of the proposed City Centre Forum are on-going. The suggestion is that the Forum would involve City Council members and officers as well as business and community representation.

6. It is proposed that the Forum could focus on the themes set out in the Master Plan/City Centre Action Plan:- a great place for business and to shop, an inspiring place to visit, a great place to live, a distinctive and greener centre and easier to get about in. The Strategic City Centre Forum Board could attend to high level goals, long term monitoring and review as well as identifying actions for existing business groups dealing directly with the themes, operating as task and finish groups and reporting back to the Board. A Secretariat would be provided by Capita Symonds with assistance from Business Solent, the Chamber of Commerce and the City Council (see Appendix 1).
7. The business sector, through the Forum, could facilitate development proposals both by acting as a sounding board and promoting proposals and also by initiating development interest through the use of contacts and networks to attract developers, investors and landowners. In addition, the Forum in bringing together business organisations could present the “business view” to Government, Solent LEP etc to facilitate proposals and contribute to development policy through responding to consultation on discussion papers, development briefs and formal planning documents etc. Individuals can also contribute to implementation through membership of the design panel, task and finish groups etc.
8. Draft terms of reference for the proposed City Centre Forum are set out in Appendix 2. This could involve taking a proactive over view of private sector investment, liaising with relevant groups and adopting a facilitating role in pursuit of development proposals. When appropriate, the Forum could liaise with the Solent LEP and facilitate development through maximising involvement by land owners to secure timely development opportunities.
9. Consultation has been carried out with Planning, Transport and Sustainability, Skills, Economy and Housing Renewal, Leisure and Culture, Legal and Democratic Services, Finance, and Property. In addition, external consultation has taken place with Business Solent, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce (Southampton) and Southampton Connect.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital/Revenue**

10. Resources to support a City Centre Forum are contained within existing revenue streams. There are no other known financial implications.

### **Property/Other**

11. None

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

12. Section 1 Localism Act 2011

### **Other Legal Implications:**

13. None

## POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

14. The proposed forum is in line with the Council’s draft City Centre Action Plan with regard to “Delivering the Vision”. This states that the vision will be delivered by a wide range of partners – the Council, landowners, and private sector business amongst other partners. In addition reference in the plan is made to some of these partners having a strategic and ongoing role and business organisations with the commitment to provide support and advice on key issues, including the involvement of the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Business Solent.

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**KEY DECISION?** No

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	Bargate
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## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

### Appendices

1.	Proposed City Centre Forum
2.	Draft Terms of Reference

### Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	None
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### Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
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### Other Background Documents

#### Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None