

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	KETTERING TOWN FORUM	Item 8	Page 1
Report Originator	Liz Wade, Interim Head of Commercial Development	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All	30 th January 2017	
Title	STRENGTHENING KETTERING TOWN CENTRE ENGAGEMENT		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report seeks the views of the Kettering Town Forum on the proposed amalgamation of the Kettering Town Centre Taskforce Group.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Kettering Town Centre Taskforce was set up many years ago, initially to improve the feel of the town centre at night, to reduce the fear and experience of crime and to apply best practice in relation to managing the evening economy. It involved elected members, officers, police, fire, pub and taxi trade representatives and has met regularly since that time, looking at a series of projects.
- 2.2. It last met on the 6th December and reviewed its Terms of Reference (Appendix 1). It was noted that the Town Centre Taskforce attendance has been deteriorating over the past two meeting resulting in a “disappointing attendance”; however Healthy High Streets, reductions in town centre violence, the setup of the street pastors scheme, the Purple Flag award and the Market Place Regeneration were noted as being key successes over the period the taskforce had been active.
- 2.3 The taskforce members felt that the purpose and much of the membership of the taskforce was duplicated alongside the Kettering Town Forum and that the focus and work of the taskforce should be fully transferred into the Town Forum. Retail sector representatives could be sought out to attend these meetings to encourage organisations to share their views, opinions and ideas.
- 2.4 As a result of this, the views of the Kettering Town Forum are sought before further action is taken towards strengthening the engagement, particularly with the Town Centre business community, which is currently re-energising its own collective efforts at the moment.

Committee	KETTERING TOWN FORUM	Item 8	Page 2
-----------	-----------------------------	-----------	--------

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

The proposal is to abolish the taskforce and amalgamate its terms of reference into that of the Town Forum, in order to strengthen the representation and engagement, and improve communication and consultation with the wide range of stakeholders that are represented in the Town Centre.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Part 7 of the Council Constitution relating to Consultations and Partnerships forums is quoted below. That enables the Forum to agree on the Forum representation.

Geographic Forums

The three existing local forms for Kettering Town, the A6 Towns and the Rural area. Their membership will comprise the Borough and County Councillors for their respective areas, plus representatives of the relevant Town and Parish Councils, together with other bodies and individuals as may be agreed between each Forum and the appointing body.

5. FINANCIAL RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The administration of the groups if merged will be reduced. No other resource implications are noted.

6. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

8. RECOMMENDATION

That the Kettering Town Centre Forum endorses the amalgamation of the work of the Taskforce into that of the Town Forum. In order to help strengthen the wider Town Centre engagement.

B O R O U G H O F K E T T E R I N G

Committee	KETTERING TOWN FORUM	Item 8	Page 3
------------------	-----------------------------	-------------------	---------------

Background Papers:

Title

Date

Contact Officer

Previous Minutes/Reports: Kettering Town Centre Taskforce

Ref: Item 1

Date: 6th December 2016