

Agenda No 6

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Motion from Council – Business Hubs
Name of Committee:	Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	30 January 2023
Contact Officer:	Nicola Smith- Chief Officer Growth and Investment
Summary:	<p>On 28 September 2022, Council referred a motion to Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Council Standing Order 11.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider the Motion and decide how it should be dealt with.</p>
Financial Implications:	There are no immediate financial implications.
Risk Management Implications:	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
Environmental Implications:	There are no immediate environmental implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications:	There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.
Equality and Diversity:	There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

Scrutiny Committee – 30 January 2023

Motion from Council – Business Hubs

Public Report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment

Summary

On 28 September 2022, Council referred a motion to a scrutiny committee in accordance with Council Standing Order 11.

The Committee is asked to consider the Motion and decide how it should be dealt with.

1. MOTION FROM COUNCIL

On 28 September 2022, Council considered a motion submitted on notice by Cllr Slinger and seconded by Cllr Mrs O'Rourke as set out below.

“We call upon the Council to seek to attract partners such as Plus X to build business hubs in Rugby town centre wards. We note that Plus X create inspiring workspaces designed to unlock the potential of local businesses and entrepreneurs, “unlock potential, drive business growth and innovation, community collaboration and positive social impact”. We further note that Plus X’s first hub was built in an area of social deprivation. We urge the Council to seek to work with partners such as Plus X to provide more opportunities for Rugby’s talented entrepreneurs and innovators.”

In accordance with paragraph 11.2(d) of Council Standing Orders the motion stood referred to Scrutiny Committee.

2. CURRENT POSITION

The newly adopted Town Centre Regeneration Strategy recognises that the town centre currently has a low level of office space. It recommends that small scale office development in the form of incubator units, business hubs and flexible working space should be provided within the town centre to activate vacant units and to drive footfall in the town centre.

The Council's Investment Plan for UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) sets out the Council's desire to use the money awarded to Rugby to establish a business hub in the town centre.

During 22/23 officers have been undertaking work in researching the establishment of a business hub within the town centre and have already had preliminary discussions with Warwickshire County Council and the Chamber of Commerce regarding examples of business hubs elsewhere. These findings, alongside examples of providers such as Plus X will be presented to Cabinet as part of the intended Town Centre Strategy Action Plan.

One of the early considerations in the implementation of the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy is the establishment of a hub with considerations around whether this is a public / multi use hub, flexible work space or a business incubator unit. Options appraisal of the Council's assets are currently being undertaken to establish whether any of our sites could accommodate such a hub or whether vacant units within the town centre could be utilised. The results of these findings will be reported to Cabinet as part of the Town Centre Strategy Action Plan.

3. MOTION ON NOTICE PROCEDURE

The Constitution requires the Scrutiny Committee to decide whether to consider the motion itself or refer it for consideration by a task group. Any task group so appointed will report back to the Committee. Once the Committee has considered the motion, or received a report back from a task group, it will report to the next available meeting of Cabinet.

Consideration of a motion might take the form of simply dealing with the motion without further scrutiny and reporting to Cabinet accordingly. If, however, the committee were to decide to consider the motion itself in more detail, any scrutiny would need to be supported by evidence that might not yet have been assembled.

4. NEXT STEPS

The Committee is asked to decide how to deal with this motion.

Name of Meeting: Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 30 January 2023

Subject Matter: Motion from Council – Business Hubs

Originating Department: Growth and Investment

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink