

# SCRUTINY REPORT



## **MEETING: OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

**DATE: 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**SUBJECT: WHITEFIELD HIGH STREET TASK FORCE**

**REPORT FROM: BGI (MAJOR PROJECTS)**

**CONTACT OFFICER: SARAH PORRU**

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### **1.0 CURRENT PROGRESS**

- 1.1 High Street Task Force "Unlocking Your Place Potential" meeting was held on 23rd June 2023. Their report following this meeting was issued in July and is supportive of Planit's approach to the Whitefield Town Centre Plan (WTCP).
- 1.2 The report recommended that the Council receives an "Expert Advice Visit", which has been prescribed to assist the Council and other stakeholders specifically in the specialism(s)/area(s) outlined in the report.

#### The Place Making Programme

- 1.3 The Place Making Programme involves a 3-hour interactive workshop, which is followed by a short post-workshop report which summarises 'quick wins' (how vitality and viability can be improved through focussing on one or more of 25 priorities identified in the High Street UK 2020 project) as well as more strategic recommendations (for repositioning, reinventing, rebranding or restructuring). These sessions will be held – September – October.
- 1.4 Planit have been working on the draft WTCP throughout July, with internal Officer input. The draft WTCP is due for issue to Council Officers on w/c 14th August.

This will commence the final round of consultation on the document, comprising:

- Internal project team review (14th – 21st August)
- Review by Whitefield internal Council stakeholder group (including, colleagues from Highways, Planning, Ground Maintenance, etc.) (21st August – 11th September)
- First High Street Task Force visit (expert advice) from w/c 21st August – identification of stakeholders for this visit ongoing. Second (place making programme) in October 2023.

- 1.5 The information from the above will inform the consultation draft of the WTCP. The consultation draft will be released to members and then the wider public for 4 weeks.

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**List of Background Papers:**

N/a

**Contact Details:-**

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Executive Director sign off Date:\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Team Meeting Date:\_\_\_\_\_