

Short Life Working Group – Dalkeith Town Centre**Report by Director, Resources****1 Purpose of Report**

This report invites the Council to consider and approve the continuance of the Short Life Working Group together with the business remit.

2 Background

2.1 At a meeting of the Council on 26 June 2018 following consideration of a report by the Head of Finance and Integrated Service Support, relating to the draft Capital Investment Strategy, the Council agreed to:-

- (a) welcome the draft Capital Investment Strategy;
- (b) note the affordability gap for General Fund reserves;
- (c) set-up a Short Life Working Group, to consist of the 3 Dalkeith Elected Members and relevant officers, to look at the regeneration of Dalkeith and report to a Seminar and;
- (d) hold a Seminar to consider more fully the Strategy before it is finalised and presented to Council on 2 October 2018 for approval.

2.2 With regard to 2.1 (c) above, the Short Life Working Group met on 27 August and 10 September. The Short Life Working Group also met on 6 November 2018 which was after the date of the Seminar. At this meeting Members noted that whilst it was considered that there was merit in the Group continuing, in the short term, the governance granted by the Council had in effect come to an end following submission and approval of the Strategy on 2 October 2018. The Council is therefore requested to consider and approve the continuance of the Group for up to another 3 meetings to be held prior to the Council meeting in March 2019 and approve the revised business remit, namely, to consider the options for the regeneration of Dalkeith Town Centre and report back to Council on 26 March 2019.

2.3 With regard to 2.2 (d) above, the Seminar was held on 18 September and the Strategy was approved by the Council on 2 October 2018.

3 Report Implications**3.1 Resource**

There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

3.2 Risk

There are no direct risk implications arising from this report.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Ensuring the Working Party is properly constituted supports the decision making process of the Council.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The absence of an approved remit adversely impacts on the Council decision making process.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Not applicable.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

Not applicable.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.

3.10 IT Issues

Not applicable.

4 Recommendation

The Council is invited to approve the continuance of the Short Life Working Group on the basis described in paragraph 2.2 above.

3 December 2018

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Background Paper:

Minute of Meeting of Midlothian Council of 26 June 2018

Notes of Meetings of the Short-Life Working Group held on 27 August; 10 September and 11 November 2018.