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## **EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 2 JULY 2012**

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**EX.073/12    \*\*BOTCHERGATE CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL**  
(Key Decision – KD.017/12)

(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item)

**Portfolio**      Economy and Enterprise

**Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel**      Environment and Economy

**Subject Matter**

Pursuant to Minute EX.066/12, it was with pleasure that the Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder presented report ED.25/12 concerning the Botchergate Conservation Area Appraisal, which set out a clear vision and expectation for the area.

The Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder reminded Members that a 'design workshop' event had taken place at Greystone Community Centre on 20 January 2012. Attendees had been very interested in ensuring that improvements were made to the Botchergate area, and a good range of comments had been received as part of the consultation exercise, including a will to redress years of decline in the area.

The Executive had, on 1 June 2012, resolved that Report ED.22/12 be made available for consideration by the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 21 June 2012. As the Panel had already considered the draft document in depth, a small Task Group comprising the Chairman of the Panel, Councillors Bowditch and Nedved, had met on 13 June 2012 to consider the responses to the consultation. Those Members then presented a short report to the Panel for approval, which informed this response to the Executive.

A copy of Minute Excerpt EEOSP.37/12 had been circulated.

The Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder thanked the Task Group for what was a very good piece of work. He further paid tribute to the work undertaken by staff to improve cleanliness, which work would be ongoing and make a real difference to Botchergate. If the City Council was to improve the environment in terms of public realm, it was important that businesses also took responsibility for improvements to their own properties and he hoped that local people would come on board. He added that highways formed part of the longer term ambitions, which aspect fell within the remit of the County Council.

The Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder stated that the Executive considered the Appraisal to be an active document, including the development of an Action Plan. He looked forward to working with Overview and Scrutiny in that regard.

Following consultation, it was proposed that the boundary of the Conservation Area be modified as detailed at section 1.5 of the report.

The Chairman of the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel indicated that Members had welcomed the opportunity to look at the results of the consultation exercise. The meeting of the Task Group had proved to be extremely positive. Whilst mindful of the current economic climate, Members had raised a number of points for referral to the Executive:

- Historical buildings outside of the boundary being taken into consideration
- Concerns about the City Council's capacity to undertake enforcement action on breaches of planning control or the neglect of Listed Buildings
- Members would like to see positive action within the action plan, which would be produced should the document be adopted by the Council, to address the issue of signage and hoardings to the impromptu car park opposite Tait Street junction
- The area could be substantially enhanced with improved streetscape
- Members noted that instances of poor design made the area look inconsistent and shabby and small enhancements would improve the area
- Members agreed that the consultation period was robust and following scrutiny of the responses to the consultation, agreed with the changes included in the revised document to address any views or concerns.

In response, the Economy and Enterprise Portfolio Holder welcomed the comments expressed by the Scrutiny Panel and looked forward to the Action Plan being considered by the Panel. He then recommended that the revised Botchergate Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan be referred to Council for adoption on 17 July 2012, which was duly seconded by the Leader.

**Summary of options rejected**    None

## **DECISION**

That the Executive had considered the revised Botchergate Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, as appended to Report ED.25/12, and recommended the paper to Council on 17 July 2012 for adoption.

## **Reasons for Decision**

To ensure that the Conservation Area boundary and appraisal was up-to-date for use by those interested in future proposals for Botchergate.