

## **Statement – Bexhill Town Centre Steering Group – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

Members discussed the future of the Bexhill Town Centre Steering Group (BTCSG). This was prompted by discussion around the need for revised terms of reference for the group and a refreshed strategy and action plan.

Terms of Reference: the revised ToR identifies the need to develop a shared vision for the future of the Town Centre with consideration for four key areas:

- The future sustainable economy of the Town Centre
- Movement and access between key economic assets.
- Improving the residential offer in the Town Centre
- Urban design and public realm

A series of workshops will be held in the New Year to engage varying viewpoints from town centre stakeholders. Workshops will take place between January and April 2019. The results of the workshops will be fed into a draft refreshed strategy which will be presented to steering group members for final agreement September/October 2019. A funding approach will be developed alongside the strategy to identify opportunities to fund the agreed actions.

Revised Terms of Reference were agreed by the group for submission to Cabinet for approval in November.

Scope: the town centre map has been re-drawn to encompass Beeching Road and London Road with the scope of the Town Centre Strategy.

Membership: There was discussion around membership of the steering group and agreement that there should continue to be core members but that expert voices relevant to agenda items, should be asked to join specific meeting as required.

DLW Heights: The owners of the building are happy for a proposal to come forward for the hoardings to improve their appearance. Designs have been discussed and awaiting costs.

S106 Funding: In May 2018 Neighbourhood Services team undertook an in-depth audit of the town centre which included all public realm infrastructure owned by the Council. Following this audit a number of works or improvements have or will be undertaken this financial year using the ring-fenced £20,000 funding. This work will continue with a further audit of the main roads in the town centre which will also look at small scale public realm improvements that would make an impact on the overall sense of place within the town centre.

DaSA: final draft to go to Full Council for approval shortly. A number of policies relating to the town centre were highlighted including retail allocation on Beeching Road, the primary

shopping policy, cultural quarter proposals and the enhancement corridor for London and Sackville Road.

Maps: Officers to look at the orientation of maps in Devonshire Square and Sea Front.

December steering group meeting: this meeting has now been cancelled and the workshops will be organised for the New Year.