Kingston Town Neighbourhood Committee
5th November 2019
Reimagining Kingston Town Centre Streets and Spaces Strategy
Report by Director of Growth

<table>
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<th>Purpose</th>
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<td>To obtain endorsement from the Neighbourhood Committee for Reimagining Kingston Town Centre Streets and Spaces Strategy.</td>
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<th>Recommendations</th>
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<td>To Resolve that the strategy is endorsed as a document to be used as an evidence base for future funding opportunities by strategic partners.</td>
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<th>Benefits to the Community:</th>
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<td>Everyone should have opportunities to contribute to making and remaking the place where they live by coming together to develop common spaces and shared resources. The strategy provides an evidence base alongside a step by step guidance on how to implement and fund changes to help those interested in implementing public realm changes in their local area, successfully deliver these.</td>
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<th>Key Points</th>
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<td>‘Reimagining Kingston Town Centre’ is a collaborative partnership project, led by a multi-organisational client group consisting of Kingston First BID, Kingston University, the GLA, and RBK.</td>
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A. Reimagining Kingston Town Centre’s Streets and Spaces is a strategy focusing on developing new ideas for how streets and public spaces can contribute towards a successful, vibrant and inclusive town centre.

B. The strategy has been co-created and developed through observations, conversations and workshops with various local stakeholders.

C. The strategy sets out 9 Guiding Principles and 5 Strategic Priorities which have been formed through engagement and best practices.

D. The strategy includes recommendations for introducing new activities to the town centre, which support evening activation, and promote public engagement with local assets.

E. Proposed projects are not limited to the ones within the strategy and further ideas that support the guiding principles and priorities are welcomed.

F. The strategy is an interactive document and provides accessible information to support opportunities for community-led change and activation of streets and spaces and enable a broad range of people beyond the council to utilise and deliver change.
Context

1. The ‘Reimagining Kingston Town Centre’ project was brought about by a GLA Good Growth Fund bid submitted in 2017. The project has been funded through development funding from the GLA and financial input from Kingston First and Kingston University. The work was competitively tendered through the GLA ADUP framework and won by ‘We Made That’.

2. Since its inception, the project has been a piece of partnership working with a variety of internal and external stakeholders including Kingston First and Kingston University who have both financially and technically contributed to this work.

3. The strategy has been produced through an extensive community engagement and co-design process taking place from November 2018 - April 2019. From conception, the core ethos of the strategy has been to empower communities and other stakeholders to develop and deliver projects of various scales and kinds to increase the diversity of activities in the streets and spaces, contributing to a more resilient and vibrant town centre.

4. In accordance with the Council’s Consultation Strategy, a range of community engagement and co-design techniques were used to inform the strategy and ensure inclusiveness throughout the process.

5. In addition to the community/stakeholder engagement and co-design activities, a Social Value Audit was undertaken to understand the social value drivers and weaknesses within the town centre. The outcomes of conversations and surveys with the community led to further investigations into networks and organisations relevant to evening and night time activities and understanding the needs of young people. All of this was collated and fed into the recommendations of the strategy.

6. The strategy articulates a collective vision and approach to physical and temporary changes to the public realm within the Town Centre which has been co-developed with local groups, social enterprises, residents, public institutions, and businesses communities within the town centre.

7. The strategy was displayed and announced at Kingston University’s Civic Day on the 14th October which the Leader of the Council presented at. As such, it has been made publically available on RBKs website and is intended to be used as a supporting document and evidence base for internal and external use.

8. The strategy is intended to inform public realm improvements, emerging documentation, strategies and visioning work where appropriate.

9. Any projects that emerge from the strategy would need to go through the usual planning process before being implemented.

Proposal and Options

10. The proposal is to endorse the strategy and use it to shape public realm projects carried out by the council, developers, third sector organisations, public institutions and residents.
11. Should the Committee decide to endorse the strategy it will be formally used to inform public realm projects in the town centre. It will also be actively used by the Council to inform partnership projects and funding bids.

12. The Committee could resolve not endorse the strategy. If this is the option proceeded, this document would still remain on the website but would be noted that it was not endorsed by the Committee. As the strategy was the outcome of partnership work the Council could not restrict its usage by the other partners. It should be noted that the non endorsement of this co-developed strategy could be perceived negatively by partners and contributors and reflect badly on further funding bids and partnership working.

Consultations
13. A range of community engagement and co-design techniques were used to inform the strategy over a 6 month period.
14. A number of one-to-one local stakeholder meetings were held alongside walking workshops with internal (client group officers/employees) and external (community representatives and Councillors) stakeholders; a SWOT workshop; a public co-design workshop (vision and guiding principles); project card stakeholder workshops (internal and external); and a youth workshop programme gave Kingston University and Kingston College students an opportunity to plan and host a 'live testing' event in the town centre.
15. KCIL and VI Parliament groups were actively engaged and took part in the workshops.
16. See for Consultation Summary outlining all engagements that took place.

Timescale
17. The website will be updated post call-in period (19th November) to note the outcome of the Committees decision.

Resource Implications
18. The strategy is an evidence base to encourage and broker opportunities for community-led delivery of change and activation of streets and spaces. As such it should reduce the resources needed to develop funding bids.
19. As the strategy is digital, there are no print costs.
20. When projects come forward, they will need input from officers around the Council dependent on the proposal.
21. As a result, there is no financial implication to the Council if the Reimagining Kingston Town Centre Streets and Spaces Strategy is endorsed.

Legal Implications
22. None for the purposes of this report.

Risk Assessment
23. The risk of not endorsing the strategy would limit our ability to support and win funding bids, and reduce the Councils ability to empower the community to deliver local change.
Equality Assessment
24. Equality consideration were taken into account during the strategies development especially in the engagement process which included workshops with the less abled including the partially sighted community to ensure we comply with the public sector equality duty in this process.

25. Any projects that arise from this strategy will need to ensure they undertake an appropriate equality impact assessment to inform the projects implementation.

26. ‘Form A: Equalities Relevance’ has been completed and reviewed by the RBK Equalities Officer.

Health Implications
27. The Public health team were invited to comment on early drafts of the strategy with regards to health, including mental health implications, community cohesion, social prescribing, social connectedness and physical activity. These comments were incorporated into the final strategy.

Road Network Implications
28. Any projects that arise from this strategy which result in temporary or permanent changes to the road network would need to go through the usual planning process.

Environmental Implications and Air Quality
29. None, the strategy demonstrates improvements to the environment including air quality.

Benefits to the Community
30. Everyone should have opportunities to contribute to making and remaking the place where they live by coming together to develop common spaces and shared resources.

31. The strategy is a call to action to help transform the streets and spaces of Kingston Town Centre to be filled with public life and activity for everyone.

32. The strategy provides evidence and step by step guidance on how to implement and fund changes to help those interested in making changes successfully deliver these.

Background papers - The below documents can be found online at: https://bit.ly/2BxcFUc or at Guildhall 2 reception.

- Reimagining Kingston Town Centre Streets and Spaces, 2019
- Reimagining Kingston Town Centre Streets and Spaces : Consultation Strategy, 2019
- Reimagining Kingston Town Centre Streets and Spaces : Social Value Report, 2019
Reimagining Kingston Town Centre Streets and Spaces: Equalities Impact Form A, 2019

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