



Scrutiny

14 June 2021

Report of: Councillor Rob Bindloss – Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Committee

Response and Recovery Task and Finish Group (Place) Final Report

Corporate Priority:	Delivering sustainable and inclusive growth in Melton Excellent Services positively impacting on our communities.
Relevant Ward Member(s):	N/A
Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):	N/A
Exempt Information:	No

1 Summary

- 1.1 To present the final report of the Response and Recovery Task and Finish Group (Place) along with recommendations which are presented for Scrutiny Committee approval and further recommendation to Cabinet.

2 Recommendation

That Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 **Approve and recommend to Cabinet the Final Report of the Response and Recovery Task and Finish Group (Place) (Appendix A).**

3 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Procedure Rules require that any Task and Finish Group will produce a report to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee outlining details of the review process, evidence gathered, conclusions and subsequent recommendations.

4 Background

- 4.1 On 1 September 2020 the Melton Borough Council Scrutiny Committee approved the establishment of two Task and Finish Groups to review the response and recovery in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to both place and people based issues.
- 4.2 It was agreed that one Task and Finish Group would relate to Place issues and would be led by Cllr Rob Bindloss, Vice-Chairman of Scrutiny Committee. The other Task and Finish Group would relate to People issues and would be led by Cllr Pat Cumbers, Chairman of Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.3 Members agreed that support for the local community during and in the wake of the pandemic would be critical to the recovery process and therefore it was proposed that Scrutiny evaluate and analyse the impact and the response of the Council and external organisations.

5 Main Considerations

- 5.1 The Task and Finish Group's scope and purpose was to collate and analyse evidence in order to identify lessons learnt and any areas of weakness in order to provide recommendations which might inform and improve the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and also provide a template for dealing in with any future similar emergency situation.
- 5.2 Full details of the scope, purpose and anticipated outcomes of the Groups were set out in the terms of reference and draft scoping documents approved at the [September Scrutiny Committee Meeting](#).
- 5.3 A scoping exercise was carried out for the Response and Recovery Task and Finish Group (Place) and the Group agreed to focus on the following main themes:
- i. Town Centre
 - Retail and market
 - Café Culture
 - ii. Leisure and Tourism
 - Place branding and promotion
 - Destination management
 - Hospitality
 - iii. Employment
 - Skills/apprenticeships
 - Business Support

- 5.4 The timetable for the review can be found below:

Date	Actions
24 September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First meeting: Summary/Background• Review Terms of Reference• Agree timetable and scope of review

17 November 2020	Meeting to consider Town Centre and Employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail and market • Café Culture • Skills/apprenticeships • Business Support
28 January 2021	Meeting to consider Leisure and Tourism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place branding and promotion • Destination management • Hospitality
29 March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss format and content of final report
By email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To agree the final recommendations and report for Scrutiny Committee – Date
June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Scrutiny Committee • Review by Chief Executive • Report to Cabinet – July 2021 (Date TBC)

5.5 Over the last 9 months the Group has established an evidence base which includes feedback and responses to surveys/questionnaires, information collated through evidence sessions with partners and stakeholders and review of the Melton Borough Council Support Programme. A summary of the evidence considered is included in the report (Appendix A).

5.6 The Group have evaluated the evidence and translated their findings into a series of recommendations for consideration by Cabinet. The recommendations are included in full in the Final Report (Appendix A) and are summarised below:

5.6.1 To increase resources for project development.

5.6.2 To collaborate with key stakeholders to increase awareness of the town's waterways which are currently under used and encouraging their use for leisure and fitness purposes by highlighting the range of potential and current activities that are available.

5.6.3 To include the following key priorities in the formation of the Melton Town Centre Vision:

- Develop a greater range of activities for a diverse and captivating Melton town evening economy.
- Focus on attracting smaller retail outlets that are reactive to the needs of the shoppers
- Improve and increase signage and information
- Development of online portal/improved website to promote and showcase Melton's food, drink and historical heritage.

5.6.4 Any review of fees paid by taxi operators or taxi fares should have a specific focus on the impact of Covid-19 to ensure that this sector is provided with support to recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

5.6.5 With any further tranches of funding, the Council should undertake additional forms of communication to promote the message and increase uptake e.g. drop in sessions, radio interviews or poster campaigns.

6 Options Considered

6.1 Once established the Task and Finish Group must report back to the Scrutiny Committee on their findings, there are no alternative options.

6.2 The Scrutiny Committee may approve the report and forward for Cabinet consideration, or they may approve the report subject to specified amendments/additions.

7 Consultation

7.1 A list of stakeholders and expert witnesses consulted is contained in the final report.

7.2 The Portfolio Holder for Growth and Prosperity has been consulted prior to the publication of the report.

7.3 Some of the recommendations will require further consultation should they be approved and taken forward by Cabinet. Where appropriate this has been highlighted in the report.

8 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication

8.1 Subject to the approval of the Scrutiny Committee the report will be presented to Cabinet on 21 July 2021.

9 Financial Implications

9.1 Any financial implications arising from the recommendations will be evaluated and further information will be provided to Cabinet in advance of consideration at the relevant Cabinet meeting.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Deputy S151 Officer

10 Legal and Governance Implications

10.1 The Scrutiny Committee is not a decision making Committee, but may provide recommendations for Cabinet and/or Council approval.

10.2 The remit and operation of Task and Finish Groups and reports from the Scrutiny Committee are set out in Chapter 2, Part 9 and 10 (Scrutiny Committee – Functions and Procedures) of the Melton Borough Council Constitution.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Monitoring Officer

11 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

11.1 Equalities implications arising out of the recommendations will be considered on a case by case basis.

12 Community Safety Implications

12.1 Any recommendations in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic response and recovery will be subject to regulations in place at the time of implementation.

13 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

13.1 There are no environmental and climate change implications.

14 Risk & Mitigation

14.1 There are no risks associated with this report. The purpose of the Task and Finish Group was to complement the significant amount of work already being undertaken by considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and highlighting any areas for improvement in relation to the response and recovery.

15 Background Papers

15.1 Town Centre Survey – Response Data

15.2 Business Survey – Response Data

16 Appendices

16.1 Appendix A - Response and Recovery Task and Finish Group (Place) Final Report

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