

CABINET – 11TH SEPTEMBER 2012

SUBJECT: TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUPS

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To review the terms of reference of the Town Centre Management Groups (TCMGS)

2. LINK TO STRATEGY

2.1 The viability of the Caerphilly County Borough's town centres is an essential element of the Council's regeneration programme.

3. THE REPORT

3.1 The existing Town Centre Management Groups have operated for a number of years, having been set up to act as a sounding board for proposals affecting town centres. The original focus was on practical issues such as car parking, anti social behaviour and the affect of Traffic Orders.

3.2 Vital to the success of all town centres is that they are well maintained and project a positive image. Town Centre Management Group's have developed their role to concentrate not only on practical issues, but also to consider how best to promote the town centre.

3.3 In 2005 it was decided that the primary purpose of Town Centre Management Groups should be as a consultative forum for all stakeholders with an interest in the economic, physical and social well being of the town centre. To support the primary purpose the terms of reference for the groups was amended.

3.4 The terms of reference for the groups has not been amended since 2005. Over the past months a number of queries have arisen regarding how the Town Centre Management Groups operate and it was therefore felt appropriate to review the terms of reference.

3.5 A revised terms of reference is attached as Appendix 1 to this report and it is proposed that it should apply to all Town Centre Management Groups namely Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Newbridge, Risca and Ystrad Mynach.

3.6 Membership of the groups has been more clearly defined, as has the way in which voting at the groups will be carried out. It is intended that the Groups should incorporate those Wards where residents regularly use the Town Centre in question. The groups do not have any decision making powers, but may make recommendations to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee. Any matter requiring a decision would then be the subject of a report to Cabinet.

3.7 The Chairman of each Group will be selected from the Local Members who are eligible to attend the Town Centre Management Group meetings. The method of selecting the Chair is set out in the attached Terms of Reference.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications arising as a result of reviewing the terms of reference.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no personnel implications arising out of this report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The report reflects the views of the consultees.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the revised terms of reference for the Town Centre Management Groups as set out in the appendix be agreed.

9. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 To ensure that the Town Centre Management Groups continue to contribute to the viability of town centres across the Borough.

10. STATUTORY POWERS

- 10.1 Local Government Act 1972.

Author: Daniel Perkins - Head of Legal & Governance

Consultees: Councillor Ken James - Cabinet Member
The Members of the following Wards : Aberbargoed, Bargoed, Blackwood, Cefn Fforest, Crumlin, Gilfach, Hengoed, Morgan Jones, Newbridge, Risca East, Risca West, St. James, St. Martins, Ystrad Mynach
Anthony O'Sullivan - Chief Executive
Nigel Barnett - Deputy Chief Executive
Pat Mears - Head of Regeneration and Planning
Jan Bennett - Group Manager, Advisory Services
Andrew Highway - Town Centre Development Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Town Centre Management Groups - Terms of Reference