

CONSULTATION STATEMENT

Sutton Town Centre Spatial Masterplan

Sutton Town Centre – Rethink, Repurpose, Remake paper

March 2019

Introduction

The Sutton Town Centre Spatial Masterplan (previously two separate documents - Draft Sutton Town Centre Spatial Masterplan; Sutton Town Centre – Rethink, Repurpose, Remake paper) aims to provide a framework for future investment and development which maximises the opportunities for Sutton and capitalises on its existing assets.

This statement sets out details of the consultation that has taken place - how, when and with whom, and how this informed the final Masterplan.

Consultation Details

On the 23rd January 2019 the Council published the draft Sutton Town Centre Spatial Masterplan and accompanying paper – Sutton Town Centre: Rethink, Repurpose and Remake for public consultation. The consultation ended on 22nd February 2019.

The draft documents were available to view during the consultation period on the Council's website: www.ashfield.gov.uk

Paper copies of the documents were also made available to view during normal offices hours at the following locations:

- Main District Council Offices at Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield
- District Council Offices at Brook Street, Sutton in Ashfield and Watnall Road, Hucknall.
- Sutton, Huthwaite, Skegby, Kirkby, Selston and Hucknall libraries

Press Coverage:

- Chad (double-page spread + online coverage)
- Radio Mansfield (air time news + online coverage)
- Also sent to Nottingham Post, BBC Radio/EMT, ITV – unconfirmed coverage as we don't see/hear everything published by these.

ADC Coverage:

- Website (homepage banner + news section)
- Social media

A letter/email was sent to statutory consultees, key stakeholders, adjoining Local Authorities and Parish Councils and other known interested parties.

The consultation consisted of a series of questions as set out below, but comments on any element of the documents were welcomed.

Consultation Questions

1. Do you agree with the Spatial Vision, as set on page 10 of the Masterplan?
2. Do you agree with the concept of a Historic Core (based around the old market place), comprising of services industries, cultural and residential uses?
3. Do you consider the opportunities set out in the Plan will improve the attractiveness of the gateway and entrances to the Town Centre? Do you have any further suggestions?
4. Do you think that the Town Centre is easy to navigate, i.e. is it easy to find your way into and around the town centre?
5. What shops, facilities or activities would encourage you to use the Town Centre in the daytime?
6. What uses/facilities or activities (e.g. restaurants, leisure facilities etc.) would encourage you to use the Town Centre in the evening?
7. What else would you like to see in Sutton Town Centre?
8. Do you have any other comments about the Spatial Masterplan and the proposals contained within it? (please state which section number of the Masterplan your comment applies to)
9. Do you have any comments about the Sutton Town Centre – Rethink, Repurpose, Remake paper?

Summary of Key Finding and Issues

A total of 88 representations were received following the formal consultation period. All representations have been fully considered by the Council and where appropriate the draft Spatial Masterplan has been modified. The table below identifies the key findings and issues raised.

Question 1: Vision
72% of respondents agreed with the Vision for Sutton Town Centre.
Question 2: Historic Core
84% of respondents agreed with the concept of a Historic Core (based around the old market place), comprising of services industries, cultural and residential uses.
Question 3: Gateways
68% of respondents agreed that the opportunities set out in the Masterplan will improve the attractiveness of the gateway and entrances to the Town Centre.
Question 4: Accessibility
81% of respondents agreed that the Town Centre is easy to navigate, i.e. is it easy to find your way into and around the town centre.
Question 5: Daytime economy
<p>Suggested day times uses and activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal activities - christmas market and summer on the beach • Better selection of good quality shops • Green Space • Continental and farmers market • Less cheap discount shops • Bistro type establishments with great outdoor space • Children's activities • Community hub and exhibition centre • Community advice centre • Street performers
Question 6: Evening economy
<p>Suggested evening uses and activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good quality restaurants and pubs • Better lighting • Music venue for live music • Leisure activities – cinema, bowling • Theatre
Question 7: What else for Sutton?
The area behind Wilko's including the conservative club could be made into an urban park and something made of the River Idle.
Portland Square should be re-opened to through traffic, possibly one way.

Question 8 – Other comments

Support for:

- 'Town Centre Core' in terms of concentrating retail development, but also acknowledged that a mix of uses are important for vitality.
- 'Historic Core' in terms of the proposed vision as an area for services industries, cultural and residential uses. It was also identified that more should be made of the town's heritage – e.g. information and signage.
- Opportunities identified for the Low Street area – concerns raised about the derelict and empty shops and the poor quality environment.
- Opportunities identified for the Fox Street area – improved pedestrian link between Asda and Portland Square, the redevelopment of Lloyd's Bank and the relocation of the taxi rank drop-off point.
- Better links between Sutton Academy and Low Street and Portland Square.

Concerns raised:

- The town centre does not feel safe, especially in the evening – anti-social behaviour and drugs are a real problem. Better policing required.
- Town feels unloved and neglected.
- Empty properties, poor quality shopfronts and vacant land.
- Outram Street (beyond Northern Bridge) should be included in the Masterplan – this area is also struggling and in decline.
- The approach to the town gateways are also important and need to be considered.

Question 9: Rethink, Repurpose, Remake paper

The Rethink, Remake, Repurpose paper should be integrated into the Masterplan to form one document.

Proposed main modification to the Masterplan following consideration of the representations received

- Integrate the Rethink, Remake and Repurpose paper into the introduction of the Masterplan (Chapter 1).
- Identify pedestrian linkages beyond the town centre, in particular the link between Brook Street and the Devonshire (adjacent residential area) on the Concept Plan.
- Separate Outram Street and Forest Street (1b) and identify them as individual opportunity areas (1b and 1c).