

The principle of this motion now needs to be agreed or rejected by Cabinet. NB: Individual aims do not need to be formally endorsed at this stage but will be subject to scrutiny.

If agreed, in normal circumstances, officers would have then got on with the task of drafting a Retail Strategy which took account of the issues identified above. In light of the current coronavirus crisis however, Cabinet is being advised that corporate recovery and resilience arrangements are being implemented which includes a Business and Economy sub-group. This is in addition to an Economic Resilience Cell which forms part of the countywide response to the crisis, Herts Growth Board and its ongoing engagement with government to agree a growth deal and the ongoing work of WGC Town Centre BID and Hatfield Town Centre Manager.

It is therefore considered that the best course of action is that the EOSC motion is incorporated into the objectives of the Business and Economy sub-group so that it can consider the immediate, short-term and long-term recovery and resilience of the borough's town centres, high streets, neighbourhood centres and village centres as part of the wider economy. A timetable for this work and its outputs will be presented to a future Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.