



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – RETAIL EXPERIENCE

29TH OCTOBER 2012

BRIEFING NOTE: SITE VISIT TO NORWICH

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Panel on 27th June 2012, it was agreed that site visits take place so that a comparison could be made with other town centres against that of Northampton.
- 1.2 Councillor Matt Lynch, Chair of Scrutiny Panel 2, visited Norwich city centre on 10th August 2012.

2 Information

- 2.1 Councillor Lynch found Norwich a pleasant city to visit. The entrances to the city centre are tree lined roads with very attractive hanging baskets.
- 2.2 Councillor Lynch found parking not so easy and there appears to be a lack of parking near the city centre. There is no park and ride system.
- 2.3 The streets around the city centre were very clean, as were the shop fronts. Councillor Lynch did not see any beggars or “chuggers”. There were some street entertainers which gave the centre a nice atmosphere for shopping.
- 2.4 Councillor Lynch revisited the city centre in the evening and spoke with some local residents. They advised that the roads around the centre are cleaned every morning. Litter picking takes place every day around the city centre. Norwich City Council also has a Litter Warden who hands out tickets to anyone who he sees dropping litter.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 Norwich city centre is very clean but does not have the provision of a park and ride system.
- 3.2 Street entertainers gave a nice atmosphere to the shopping experience and the Chair suggested that this could be investigated for Northampton.

3.3 The provision of a Litter Warden was supported.

3.4 Detailed at Appendix A are photographs of Norwich city centre.

4 Recommendations

4.1 That the information gathered from the site visit to Norwich be used to inform the Panel's evidence base.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Matt Lynch, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2.

Date: 24th October 2012