



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**25 JULY 2012**

**BRIEFING NOTE:**

**SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – RETAIL EXPERIENCE**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Scrutiny Panel 2 (Retail Experience) has embarked upon its evidence gathering and has held two meetings.

**2 UPDATE**

- 2.1 At the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012, the Panel received various background documents and baseline data including:

- National and local statistics
- Demographics- local and national
- Definition of the Town Centre
- Vision for the Town Centre
- Town Centre Footfall
- Vacancy Rates
- Numbers and Types of retail within the town
- Car Park Usage

- 2.2 Site visits to comparable towns, in terms of size, catchment and make up were agreed.

- 2.3 A paper detailing the Executive Summaries of various published documents was received:

- The Portas Review
- The Right to Retail: Can Localism save Britain's small retailers
- Understanding High Street Performance

- 2.4 The Panel held a further meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July and defined the core questions that it would put to expert advisers. It also received a paper detailing a seminar: The Town Centre Challenge: Building a thriving high street for the future that representatives of the Panel had attended in May 2012.
- 2.5 It is envisaged that the Chair of Scrutiny Panel 2 will present the final report to this Committee at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

### **3 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the progress report from the Chair of Scrutiny Panel 2 be noted.

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6<sup>th</sup> July 2012