

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY**

**24 SEPTEMBER 2013**

### **REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

## **STREET CAFES AND A-BOARDS ADVERTISING**

### **SUMMARY**

Executive Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider a referral from Urban Environment Task Group (UETG) regarding the issue of café seating areas on footpaths and the use of A-board advertising.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the issue of café seating areas and A-board advertising on footpaths be added to the scrutiny work programme and referred to Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee, once it has completed its review of North East Purchasing Organisation.

### **DETAIL**

1. The use of A-board advertising by businesses and permitting cafés to have areas of seating on footpaths in the boroughs town centres have been increasing. Although the Council want to encourage businesses, such use of the footpath may cause issues in terms of disabled access and access for pushchairs therefore it essential that A-boards and café seating areas are situated in an appropriate place.
2. The issue has been considered previously by the Urban Environment Task Group (UETG), which is chaired by Cllr Steve Nelson and attended by several Cabinet members and key officers. The group has recognised that it should be addressed however a policy has yet to be developed to ensure that A-boards and café seating is positioned in the most appropriate areas in local town centres. It is especially timely to develop a policy with the redevelopment of Stockton Town Centre.
3. At its meeting on 16 July the UETG agreed to refer the issue to Scrutiny for further investigation, and it is suggested that Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee has capacity to carry out this work within the current year.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4. There are no direct financial or legal implications.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5. There are no legal implications at this stage.

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