

## SCRUTINY REVIEW – TOWN AND VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS: DESKTOP REVIEW OF TOWN AND VILLAGE SIGNAGE

### 1. Purpose of Report

This report provides information on whether there is consistency regarding town and village signage, and the availability of on line mapping or direction information, as requested by the Committee.

### 2. Recommendations

Members are asked to

2.1 consider the evidence from the desktop review of town and village signage in **Appendix 1**;

2.2 consider the evidence from the desktop review of on line mapping or direction information as detailed in **Appendix 2**; and

2.3 agree this should be added to the evidence gathered for the Town and Village Improvements Scrutiny Review.

### 3. Considerations

3.1 The Scrutiny and Performance Committee agreed to undertake a review of Town and Village Improvements on 16 April 2015.

3.2 The Review Scope's purpose is:

To evaluate the effectiveness of the investment made in the town and village improvements and identify any improvements for the future.

#### Review Objectives:

- Identify public realm improvements to key towns' centres (Dumfries, Stranraer Lockerbie, Dalbeattie and Annan) across the region over the last five years
- Understand the Shop Front Improvement Scheme including the factors that have influenced take up
- Establish the role of planning and the opportunities for positive contributions
- Establish the impact of the improvements made
- Compare and contrast with arrangements in other local authority areas, including evaluation methodology
- Make recommendations for future arrangements

3.3 Members at the 17 January 2017 Committee meeting requested further information on whether there is consistency and clarity for the region's car parks and on street parking and where to find information, whether locally or through on line sources. An updated summary of the results are attached at **Appendix 1 and Appendix 2**.

3.4 The key findings identified in relation to signage is that there appears to be a lack of consistency across different signage conveying information for pedestrians, motorists, public transport, visitors and cycle routes; all of which are aimed at directing the public and visitors within our towns and villages. Local communities, public and private bodies all have the freedom to create and design their own signage which succeeds in providing a local style but does appear to create a lack of consistency across the region. In discussion with Council officers with varying responsibility for signage, there is recognition that a clearer and co-ordinated approach, led by the Council, to tackle this issue is needed.

3.5 **Appendix 2** outlines examples of mobile applications that are developing within the region and the learning from the developers can be shared to replicate the information for other communities.

#### 4. Governance Assurance

The Corporate Management Team contributed to the development of the Review Scope and has been involved in, and is in agreement with, the overall Review process and arrangements.

#### 5. Impact Assessment

As this report does not propose a change in policy, the formal adoption of a plan, policy or strategy it is not necessary to complete an Impact Assessment.

#### Author

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#### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION
Lorna Meahan	Director Corporate Services

#### Appendices – 2

Appendix 1 – Signage

Appendix 2 – Mobile Apps

#### Background Papers

[Scrutiny and Performance Committee - Handbook - meeting of 15 November 2012](#)

[Scrutiny and Performance Committee - Future Work Programme 2015 -17 - meeting of 16 April 2015](#)

[Scrutiny and Performance Committee – minute of meeting of 17 January 2017](#)