

REPORT TO:		Resources Overview and Scrutiny Officer	
DATE:		27 October 2016	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Clare Cleary - Housing and Regeneration	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Overview and Scrutiny Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Town Centre Viability	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 For the Committee to give consideration to matters relating to Accrington town centre.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 That the Committee considers the information and decides whether or not it wishes to scrutinise any of the issues raised further.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

3.1 At a meeting between Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs, on 10th June 2016, the item "Town Centre Viability" was added to the work programme.

3.2 When referring to a town centre, vitality is a measure of how busy a centre is and viability is a measure of its capacity to attract ongoing investment for maintenance, importance and adaptation to changing needs. Although no single indicator can effectively measure the health of a town centre, the use of a series of them can provide a view of performance and offer a framework for assessing vitality and viability.

3.3 The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regeneration, Cllr Clare Cleary, has liaised with Officers from across various departments of the Council and has pulled together brief information on a range of topics which could fall under the "Town Centre Viability" theme. When referring to Accrington, a few of the topics which could be considered include:

- Town Centre Investment
- Heritage Square

- Bus Station and public transport links
- Market Hall / Town Hall
- Night time economy
- Licensing issues and late night licensing
- Business rates
- Retailer profile / shop rents / shop vacancies

3.4 The above is by no means an exhaustive list. The Portfolio Holder will talk briefly on a few of these topics. Members of the Committee should consider whether or not they wish to carry out an in depth scrutiny review on any of these issues by way of establishing a Scrutiny Panel or at a future meeting.

4. **Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 Not applicable.

5. **Consultations**

5.1 Not applicable at this stage.

6. **Implications**

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	Not applicable – none arising directly from this report.
Legal and human rights implications	Not applicable
Assessment of risk	Not applicable
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not applicable

7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985: List of Background Papers**

7.1 None.