

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 DECEMBER 2015

TESCO STORE: CHATHAM

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

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Summary

This report provides an update on the former Tesco store, Chatham.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The proposals set out in this report will help support the Council's priority of everyone benefiting from regeneration (Council Plan).

2. Background

2.1 Chatham's Tesco store closed on 5 April 2015. Officers prepared a report for RCC O&S Committee on 7 April 2015 setting out the measures being taken to support employees and to encourage a new tenant for occupation as soon as possible.

2.2 Officers met with Tesco in May 2015 and have kept in regular touch with them since then. Tesco confirmed that a new lease of the store was being marketed, as well as the disposal of Tesco's entire land interests in the site.

2.3 An update on the current status of the Tesco site has been requested by Councillor Vince Maple, Leader of the Labour Group.

3. Advice and analysis

3.1 Tesco have now confirmed that a lease of the former Tesco store has been signed with a new tenant. The national chain "Go Outdoors" has begun internal and external works on the site, in preparation for a proposed opening in February/March 2016.

3.2 "Go Outdoors" are a UK wide retailer of outdoor clothing, camping equipment and equipment for other outdoor pursuits such as horse riding, fishing, cycling and skiing. They have about 55 stores across the country, but a small presence in Kent, with only one store in Canterbury.

3.3 The lease of the former Tesco store will allow the continuing operation of the adjoining business, Coslo Homeplus, which sells furniture and household goods.

4. Risk management

4.1 There are no specific risk management implications arising from this report.

5. Financial implications

5.1 There are no financial implications for the Council, except the collection of Business Rates.

6. Legal implications

6.1 There are no legal implications for the Council.

7. Recommendation

7.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

RCC O&S Committee Member's Item: Closure of Tesco Store in Chatham, 7 April 2015

<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=3061&Ver=4>
(item 929 refers)