

Extract from minute of:

CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

4th December 2024

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**Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

**Notice of Motion – Retail Business in Sandy Row**

The Committee considered the following motion which had been referred by the Standards and Business Committee held on 21st November, and proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Brooks:

“That this Council recognises the importance of small businesses and the creation of a thriving economy in communities across our city; accepts that changes to infrastructure can have a significant impact on local businesses in the surrounding area; agrees that businesses in Sandy Row have been disadvantaged by the closure of the Boyne Bridge as part of the Grand Central Station development and recognises the struggle of business owners in the area to survive given the reduction in footfall; and calls on this Council to look at options of re-opening the Boyne Bridge, create a Taskforce, alongside the Department of the Economy, Department for Communities, Translink and local business owners, to explore how businesses can be urgently supported.”

During discussion, Councillor Kelly highlighted the urgent need for an emergency plan and stakeholder group, together with animation and Christmas lights for the area.

Members also requested that the potential for rates relief for the businesses was investigated and the economic impact of business closures was considered as part of the report.

After discussion, the Committee agreed the motion and that a report, outlining a detailed consideration of the motion and the potential cost implications and economic impact would be submitted to a future meeting.

