

## CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

### ITEM 11(1) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP

“At the beginning of November 2022 there were 11 empty units in The Eastgate Shopping Centre. This is a sad reflection on the state of the economy, ~~the state of the~~ retail business **sector**, and the changing face of the city centre **and the council being unable to enter into long term leases until we hear the outcome of the Levelling Up Fund round two bid.**

Businesses have failed and moved out because they haven't been ~~unable~~ to afford rising costs and business rates, have been unable to compete with ~~on-line~~ **online** shopping and as the way the public buy things has changed, some businesses have been unable to keep up.

Having empty units in the Eastgate Centre ~~is costly to the council, is economically unviable and results in a loss of income~~ **means that the council are unable to reach the full earning potential of this asset.**

Empty units are also unsightly, **can** give the impression of a lack of investment, leads to a rundown environment, which in turn affects footfall.

~~Now that the~~ **As** Gloucester City Council owns the Eastgate Centre ~~one way in which the council could address the issues with empty units is to introduce a~~ **since the start of 2022, it has been working on a new managing agent tender, which was awarded in late summer and includes options to help combat the issue of empty units. This includes a** ‘Meanwhile Space’ initiative. ~~Such a scheme would~~ **which** enables local community organisations, small business start-ups, social enterprises and similar organisations the opportunity to use empty units for temporary or ~~short term~~ **short-term** periods based on realistically reduced and affordable terms and conditions.

Such occupancy**ies** would not only fill vacant premises in the Eastgate Centre but would also bring a diversity of uses and illustrate to the public the wealth of community initiatives and organisations that exist in Gloucester.

It would also be far better to have units used for alternative purposes rather than keep them empty for an extended period.

This council therefore resolves to:

- ~~Initiate~~ **Continue its work on developing** a Meanwhile Space scheme, ~~in the Eastgate Centre~~ **which in Gloucester will form part of the Place Activation Strategy which will cover all of the council's assets in the city centre.**
- Consider vacant units that could be put to Meanwhile Space use, **whilst considering the impact of a successful Levelling Up Fund round two bid.**
- **Continue to** ~~identify potential~~ organisations, community groups and business start-ups who might take advantage of the scheme
- Lead by example and encourage landlords in other parts of the city centre to consider Meanwhile Space usage.”

## LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP AMENDMENT

### ITEM 11(1) NOTICE OF MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP

“At the beginning of November 2022 there were 11 empty units in The Eastgate Shopping Centre. This is a sad reflection on the state of the economy, the state of retail business and the changing face of the city centre.

Businesses have failed and moved out because they haven't been able to afford rising costs and business rates, have been unable to compete with on line shopping and as the way the public buy things has changed, some businesses have been unable to keep up.

Having empty units in the Eastgate **Shopping** Centre is costly to the council, is economically unviable and results in a loss of income.

Empty units are also unsightly, gives the impression of a lack of investment, leads to a rundown environment, which in turn affects footfall.

~~Now that the Gloucester City Council owns the Eastgate **Shopping** Centre and one way in which the council could temporarily let address the issues with the empty units is to introduce as 'Meanwhile Space' initiative~~ **units**. Such a scheme would enable local community organisations, small business start-ups, social enterprises and similar organisations the opportunity to use empty units for temporary or short term periods based on realistically reduced and affordable terms and conditions.

~~Such occupancy would not only fill vacant premises in the Eastgate Centre but would also bring a diversity of uses and illustrate to the public the wealth of community initiatives and organisations that exist in Gloucester.~~

~~It would also be far better to have units used for alternative purposes rather than keep them empty for an extended period.~~

**The city council has put in a grant bid from the government's Levelling Up 2 programme to carry out major refurbishment to the Eastgate Shopping Centre, which would see the indoor market moved within the centre and the old market building used as community space.**

This council therefore resolves to:

- ~~Initiate a~~ **Consider the** Meanwhile Space scheme ~~in~~ **for** the Eastgate Centre or elsewhere in the city and ask officers to prepare a report outlining site and organisational options.
- Requests that officers prepare a report for members on how the proposals for the Eastgate Shopping Centre Levelling Up 2 project is progressing and how it would be delivered if the government grant isn't forthcoming.**
- ~~Consider vacant units that could be put to Meanwhile Space use~~
- Identify potential organisations, community groups and business start-ups who might take advantage of the **a Meanwhile Space** scheme
- Hold discussions with** ~~Lead by example and encourage~~ landlords in other parts of the city centre to consider Meanwhile Space usage.”