

# Scrutiny Committee Briefing Paper



**South  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

## **Subject: Former Co-op Site, Richmond Road, Towcester**

Officer Responsible: Executive Director: Resources, Andrew Hunkin

<b>Background and Reason for Briefing Note</b>	To provide Members with an update on the acquisition of the Former Co-op Site and future plans.		
<p>The acquisition was completed on 10 July 2020.</p> <p>Shares held by the Co-op in the Richmond Road Management Company were also transferred to the Council. Two directors were appointed – Councillors Peter Rawlinson and Hywel Davies.</p> <p>The planning application for the demolition of the former Co-op store and the creation of a car park, including the reconfiguration of the existing car park was approved on 29 October subject to conditions in relation to the car parking provisions, together with landscaping and ecology matters to be dealt with.</p> <p>The current car park provides 92 parking spaces. The proposed car park will provide a total of 152 parking spaces.</p> <p>An initial ecology survey determined that it is likely that the store is inhabited by bats, who would need to be relocated. This will require at least one survey to be carried out in May 2021. So the building cannot be demolished now.</p> <p>We are looking to see whether we can have an initial reconfiguration of the car park with the building in situ.</p> <p>Essential maintenance work on wall and trees is currently being carried out.</p> <p>CCTV cameras are to be installed at the rear of the convenience store and on former public conveniences.</p> <p>The intention is to maintain and modify the former public conveniences. This is currently being costed.</p> <p>The Town Council has indicated its desire to take over the management of the public conveniences once refurbished.</p>			
<b>Completed by:</b>	<b>Andrew Hunkin</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>19/11/20</b>
<b>Presented to:</b>	<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>01/12/20</b>