

## Report of Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management

**BEESTON TOWN CENTRE UPDATE**1. Purpose of Report

To update Cabinet on the progress development in Beeston Town Centre.

2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to NOTE this report.**

3. Detail

- Ottimo opened for trade in unit 5 on 29 April 2022.
- The Beeston Social is now in its final stages of fitting-out units 2 and 3, and is planning to open during the week commencing 6 June 2022.
- Rassam's Creamery are due to complete their lease of unit 1 any day now and expect to start fitting-out almost immediately. They should be ready to trade in a couple of months' time.
- This leaves just one small unit – number 4 – of the new development available and agents are actively seeking a tenant for this.
- The letting of the first floor of the Argos Block to Core VR is in solicitor's hands and is expected to open shortly after the August Bank Holiday.
- The proposed letting of the former Argos store to a Shisha Lounge operator is not now proceeding due to the inability to comply with smoking legislation.
- Planning permission for external alterations to the Argos block canopy and shopfronts was approved on 4 May 2022. Work is due to start in July with an 8-week programme.
- The developer of the adjoining residential site has submitted a planning application to change the consent from flats to student accommodation, albeit largely within the same building footprint and massing.
- Construction works for the Changing Places Toilet are scheduled to commence on site in July with a 4-month build programme.

4. Financial Implications

The final account with Bowmer & Kirkland has been settled within budget, but the project file is being kept open until the Argos Block is complete.

5. Legal Implications

The cross-party Project Board continues to provide governance over delivery of this development.

6. Background Papers

Nil.