

A study on Town Centre management for sustainability; A case study of Redditch in the United Kingdom (Abstract)

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The town centre and retail sector are facing tremendous challenges from local, national and global consumer trends. This situation has become more serious since the global economic recession of 2008, which was the start of a significant long term global restructuring of world's economy.

Looking back into the past, with the rapid expansion of the motorized transport and the increase of urban population, the movement of public facilities to outside of town centres and the development of shopping centres out-of-town have occurred. In contrast, the hollowing-out of regional town centres represented a significant problem. The shift from manufacturing to service caused the decrease of firms and employment's opportunities in the towns, which has spurred the decline of population. Moreover, motorization made traffic congestion in urban area so that firms sought for the site in suburbs because of avoiding traffic congestion and preference of cheaper place. In contrast, the decline of town centres becomes more serious.

This research chose Redditch which is one of the UK's middle sized Newtown as a case study and it aims to define the local needs (facilities) for sustainability and investigate method of creating facilities in order that town centre regeneration becomes efficient and effective.

Keywords: Town centre management, sustainability