**Information for Unitary Councillors**

**Sheet Number:2022-27/59**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **From:** | **Peter Paddon** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Relevant ELT Director and sign-off date:** | **Chris Palmer**  **11/08/23** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date:** | **11/08/2023** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **To:** | **All Unitary Councillors** |

**Wilko Stores**

Wilko the retailer with shops in Yeovil, Taunton and Bridgwater, entered into administration on Thursday 10th August 2023.  PWC has been appointed as the administrator and is currently seeking a buyer to take over the company.  At this stage the shops remain open and there have been no redundancies.  Nationally 400 stores are at potential risk of closure and 12,000 employees at potential risk of redundancy.  We are looking into the staff numbers across the three Somerset stores and the split between full and part-time employees.  The shops sell a wide range of products including gardening, decorating, DIY, home, pets and cleaning, and are generally located in Town Centres, High Streets.  The Yeovil store is owned by Somerset Council and the Economic Development (ED) team is liaising with the Property team.

The Somerset Council ED Team will monitor the situation very closely and when (and if) appropriate (noting that PWC is currently trying to sell the company and stores) contact the local stores and offer staff redundancy support services in partnership with other local delivery bodies.  This support covers recruitment, training, self-employment, business start-up and welfare, within the support available.  Such support has worked well, supporting staff made redundant from other Somerset employers, over the past few years.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| For more information please contact: | Name: Peter Paddon  Lead Specialist, Economy  Email: peter.paddon@somerset.gov.uk |