

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Sovereign Centre Task Group</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>6 June 2018</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Preliminary meeting of the Sovereign Centre Scrutiny Task Group</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Jazmin Victory, Scrutiny Officer
<b>Cabinet member:</b>	Councillor Bannister
<b>Ward:</b>	Sovereign
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	To finalise the scope and terms of reference for a Scrutiny Review regarding the options for the current Sovereign Centre Site.
<b>Decision type:</b>	Non-key
<b>Recommendation:</b>	The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to agree the scope and terms of reference for a Scrutiny Review regarding the options for the current Sovereign Centre Site.
<b>Reason for recommendation:</b>	To comply with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23.1, that the Task Group hold a preliminary meeting where it sets its terms of reference, and a timescale for reporting back to the Scrutiny Committee.
<b>Contact:</b>	Jazmin Victory, Scrutiny Officer, <a href="mailto:jazmin.victory@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk">jazmin.victory@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</a> , 01323 415811

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a work programme request from Councillor di Cara at its September 2017 meeting and endorsed the creation of a Sovereign Centre Task Group for inclusion on its work programme. A copy of which is attached at Appendix A. Subsequently, Council met in November 2017 and resolved the scrutiny work programme unanimously.

Part 4 of the Constitution of the Council sets out how Task Groups will operate. Members' attention is drawn to 23.1:

"A preliminary meeting will be held attended by the councillors appointed to the task group, the Scrutiny Secretary and the relevant Lead Officer for the purposes of:

- a) Determining the overall content and scope of the issue, subject to any terms of reference already established by the Scrutiny

- Committee.
- b) Agreeing the persons to be invited to answer questions and/or give evidence.
- c) Setting the approach to be taken (e.g. workshops, interviews, presentations, etc.)
- d) Scheduling sessions (e.g. full day, one or two half days, one or two evenings)."

As Lead Officer, the Senior Planning Policy Officer will present officer considerations to the Scrutiny Sovereign Centre Committee, at its first meeting on 6 June 2018.

## **2.0 Terms of reference**

2.1 The proposed scope for the Task Group is:

To make informative recommendations following consultations with relevant professionals regarding what types of development may be appropriate for the current Sovereign Centre site once it becomes vacant, as well as identifying what may not be appropriate in the best interest of the public and the Council's strategic objectives.

2.2 The proposed terms of reference of the task group are:

- i) To understand the planning policy considerations of the Sovereign Centre site;
- ii) To consider options for the site, as presented by officers and;
- iii) To recommend a preferred option for the site to the Cabinet on 20 March 2019.

2.3 In order for the Scrutiny Committee to make its report and recommendations to Cabinet on 20 March 2019, the task group must conclude its work and prepare its report to Scrutiny Committee by 4 February 2019. This would demonstrate the efficient discharge of the scrutiny function to prepare recommendations for consideration.

2.4 The proposed approach for this task group is that there are three meetings of the group to complete each of the three parts of its terms of reference. The format of these sessions (workshops, presentations, interviews) is dependent upon who the group decide to invite to future meetings.

## **3.0 Corporate plan and council policies**

3.1 Recommendations from this review would be relevant to two corporate plan priority themes:

- Priority Theme 1 – Prosperous Economy
- Priority Theme 3 – Thriving Communities

## **4.0 Business case and alternative option(s) considered**

- 4.1 Scrutiny Procedure Rule 1.4 provides that the Scrutiny Committee should be the key mechanism for enabling councillors to represent the views of their constituents and other organisations, and to ensure that these views are taken into account in policy development.
- 4.2 The Committee could have chosen to have conducted the review in a Committee setting. The preferred option chosen by the Committee at its last meeting was to form a task group. The task group approach is a more direct, engaged and enabling vehicle for the production of recommendations from members for the Scrutiny Committee to consider.

## **5.0 Outcome expected and performance management**

- 5.1 The outcome from the group will be the making of recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee. The making of recommendations by the Scrutiny Committee to the Cabinet would conclude the work of the Task Group.

## **6.0 Financial appraisal**

- 6.1 The scrutiny function is budgeted for, and the formation of this task group is part of the planned work of the function, within existing resources.

## **7.0 Legal implications**

- 7.1 The Scrutiny Procedure Rules are set out in Part 4 of the Constitution. This report complies with those rules.

## **8.0 Equality analysis**

- 8.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **9.0 Conclusion**

- 9.1 That the task group be appointed and commences its work in order to make recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee on 4 February 2019 and to the Cabinet on 20 March 2019.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A - Work programme request, 4 September 2017
- Appendix B - Sovereign Centre Planning Policy Position

## **Background papers**

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- The Constitution of the Council <http://bit.ly/2hF8xaU>