

**Agenda Item No:** 5

**Report Title:** Scrutiny Review of affordable workspace in the Lewes District

**Report To:** Scrutiny Affordable Workspace Panel      **Date:** 20 April 2018

**Ward(s) Affected:** All wards

**Report By:** Scrutiny Officer, Democratic Services

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**Purpose of Report:**

1. To understand the work of the South East Cultural Enterprise Network and related strategic partnerships; and
2. To evaluate the SE LEP Team East Sussex report on Open Workspace.

**Officers Recommendations:**

3. To provide feedback to Sally Staples regarding the content of the two meetings that South East Cultural Enterprise Network have held, and the report on Open Workspace by the SE LEP Team East Sussex; and
4. To agree which external representatives will be invited to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Affordable Workspace Panel in line with the terms of reference.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

5. To contribute to the focussed programme of work which will enable the District Council to consider whether any changes to its existing policies, or any other actions, are to be recommended when considering the supply of low-cost and affordable workspace within the Lewes District.
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**Information**

6. At the Panel's first meeting on 17 January 2018, it was agreed that the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Affordable Workspace Panel would be to scrutinise;
  - How Lewes District Council engaged and influenced South East Creative Economy Network and other strategic partnerships to support the development of affordable workspaces;

- What Lewes District Council could do better to support creative businesses; and
  - How effective the commercial property databases and the Locate East Sussex service were in searching for affordable and creative workspace.
7. Members are asked to note that, pursuant the following recommendation of the first meeting...

*“That a representative from South East Creative Enterprise Network, East Sussex County Council and Culture East Sussex be invited to the next meeting of the Panel, to contribute to the Panel’s review into the supply of low-cost and affordable workspace within the Lewes District.”*

...Sally Staples was invited to attend the Scrutiny Affordable Workspace Panel meeting on 20 April 2018, but this invitation was rejected with the following response:

*“Unfortunately I am unable to attend on any of the dates set out below. However, having discussed this with Richard Dawson we would suggest that rather than me attending it would be more appropriate for you to feedback on the content of the two meetings we have held and circulate the TES report on Open Workspace with the accompanying Master Plan.”* (Enclosed at Appendix 3 & 4)

8. As an alternative to a representative from South East Creative Enterprise Network, East Sussex County Council and Culture East Sussex, the Head of Regeneration and the Regeneration Project Manager will present officer considerations to the Panel regarding the work of South East Creative Enterprise Network, and provide the Panel with an update on the Public Meeting for Newhaven’s Creative Quarter.

### **Financial Appraisal**

9. An annual budget of £1,000 is available to support the work of the Scrutiny Committee and its Scrutiny Panels. Any costs associated with the review proposed are expected to be minor, given that the research work can be carried out by Council staff.

### **Legal Implications**

10. In considering the recommendations of this report, the Committee should adhere to the Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in part 4 of the Council’s Constitution.

### **Risk Management Implications**

11. There is no requirement for an analysis of risk.

### **Equality Screening**

12. An equalities analysis exercise is not considered necessary at this stage. If the Committee decides to proceed with the review, an equality analysis would be

undertaken as part of the review and would be reported along with the review findings.

### **Background Papers**

None

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Strategic Position - Affordable workspace in the Lewes District

Appendix 2 - What is meant by creative businesses?

Appendix 3 - TES South East Creative Economy Workspace Programme Report

Appendix 4 - South East Creative Economy Network Workspace Master Plan 17/18