

## Scrutiny Review of Affordable Workspace in the Lewes District

### Delivery Timeline

Weeks	Action	Engagement
1 (w/c 15 Jan)	Agree programme timeline	Scrutiny Panel
2-3 (w/c 22 Jan)	Organise consultation	
3, 4, 6 and 7 (w/c 29 Jan)	Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Key terms</li> <li>▪ Types of creative workspaces</li> <li>▪ Review of published evidence of typical support needed by creative businesses</li> </ul>	
3, 4, 6 and 7 (w/c 29 Jan)	Short review of supply of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Affordable workspace</li> <li>▪ Creative workspaces</li> </ul>	
3, 4, 6 and 7 (w/c 29 Jan)	Map: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strategic partnerships</li> <li>▪ Support to creative businesses</li> <li>▪ Commercial property databases</li> </ul>	
6-12 (w/c 19 Feb)	Consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Key terms</li> <li>▪ Functions of the strategic partnerships and how to engage and influence</li> <li>▪ Supply of affordable workspace</li> <li>▪ Provision of support to creative businesses</li> <li>▪ What support do creative businesses need?</li> <li>▪ Functions of commercial property databases</li> <li>▪ Types of creative workspaces</li> <li>▪ Supply of creative workspace</li> </ul>	<u>Panel</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic Position (Feb)</li> <li>2. End Users of Workspace and Business Support (Mar)</li> <li>3. Providers of Workspace and Business Support (Mar or Apr)</li> </ol>
6-12 (w/c 19 Feb)	Create methodology on how to measure effectiveness of commercial property databases and apply	
14 and 16 (w/c 16 Apr)	Review findings	
17-20 (w/c 7 May)	Write draft report including	

	evidence base	
21-22 (w/c 4 Jun)	Draft report to Scrutiny Panel	
22-23 (w/c11 Jun)	Amendments	
24 (Date: 28 June)	Scrutiny Committee	

## Panel Interviews

### 1. Strategic Position

Who: Sally Staples, Cultural Strategy Manager, ESCC

Area of expertise: ESCC, CES, SECEN, SELEP

Set of Questions:

- Could you please provide an overview of your area of work including the functions of the different partnerships?
- According to SECEN, what is meant by affordable workspace?
- According to SECEN, what is meant by creative businesses?
- Do you have any knowledge on the effectiveness of commercial property databases in searching for creative workspace and affordable workspace in the Lewes District?
- Apart from what types of creative workspaces listed in the SECEN Workspace Master Plan, do you have any further knowledge on space requirements which might be useful for the Review?
- What support (encouragement to succeed physical and non-tangible) do creative businesses need?
- What support are you and SECEN aware of for creative businesses in the Lewes District and how effective are they?
- How can LDC engage and influence the strategic partnerships to support the development of affordable workspace?

### 2. End Users of Workspace and Business Support (Maximum of 3, representative of District but was also discussed to invite all to agreed date and time and numbers of representations based on take up – need to make a decision)

Who: Amy Zamarripa Solis, Programme Development Manager, Devonshire Collective and Phil Evans, Senior Head of Tourism and Enterprise, Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough Councils

Area of expertise: Setup and management of Devonshire Collective, creative workspace, in Eastbourne.

Session: Presentation on the set up and management of the Devonshire Collective. Suggestions to include:

- How it started
- Funding

- Financial model
- Governance
- Rents, service charges, terms and facilities
- Take up
- Business Support
- Challenges
- Successes
- Strategic links
- What is meant by affordable workspace?
- What is meant by creative businesses?
- What support (encouragement to succeed physical and non-tangible) do creative businesses need?

Who: Lewes Phoenix Rising

Area of expertise: Knowledge of creative sector in Lewes and ambitions to setup an artist creative hub to provide low cost workspace.

Who: Making Lewes

Area of expertise: Network of businesses in the fields of making, architecture, design and sustainability in Lewes offering local networking.

Who: The Hive

Area of expertise: Community of freelancers, small businesses, charities and social enterprise in Lewes offering affordable office space and local networking.

Who: Lewes Women In Business, Chloe Edwards, Founder

Area of expertise: Network of support of women in business in Lewes. 671 likes on Facebook. No public number of members.

Who: Action in Rural Sussex, Rural Networking Hub - Simon Kiley, Policy & Communications Officer and Faustina Bayo, Community Development Officer

Area of expertise: Working in collaboration with LDB to encourage the formation of peer-to-peer business networks in rural East Sussex and to improve access to free business advice and support. Networks in Danehill and Ditchling.

Who: South Downs WiRE Network

Area of expertise: Networking group for women in business in rural communities.

Who: University of Sussex

Area of expertise: Supply of talent and provides business support.

*Others:*

- *Cuckmere BN1 Newhaven (34 members)*
- *First Friday Network Lewes*
- *The Athena Network Lewes Group*
- *The Mumpreneurs Networking Club – Lewes*

Set of Questions:

- Could you please provide an overview of your area of work
- According to your network, what is meant by affordable workspace?
- According to your network, what is meant by creative businesses?
- Could you please name the different types of creative workspaces?
- What support (encouragement to succeed physical and non-tangible) do creative businesses need?
- What support is your network aware of for creative businesses in the Lewes District and how effective are they in meeting the sector's needs?
- What are the barriers for creative businesses looking to start-up or expand in the Lewes District?
- Has anyone in your network ever tried using commercial property databases to search for affordable workspace and creative workspace in the Lewes District and how effective where they?
- Could you please provide us with a list of affordable workspaces and creative workspaces in the Lewes District?

3. Workspace and Business Support Providers (Maximum of 3, representative of District but was also discussed to invite all to agreed date and time and numbers of representations based on take up – need to make a decision)

Who: Philip Johnson, Programme Director, LES

Area of expertise: Location and funding support to businesses. Contract managed by LDB.

Who: Fred Thomas, Business Support Navigator, BES

Area of expertise: East Sussex Hub business support. Contract managed by LDB.

Who: Newhaven Enterprise Centre

Area of expertise: Managed offices in Newhaven. Facilitates The Networking Hub, a free B2B networking event in Newhaven.

Who: Christina Ewbank

Area of expertise: ACES, business networks and Director of Edeal – local business support provider in Lewes and Eastbourne and Wealden

Set of Questions:

- Could you please provide an overview of your area of work
- According to your organisation, what is meant by affordable workspace?
- According to your organisation, what is meant by creative businesses?
- Could you please name the different types of creative workspaces?
- What support (encouragement to succeed physical and non-tangible) do creative businesses need?
- What support does your organisation offer to creative businesses in the Lewes District and do you have any case studies?

- What are the barriers for creative businesses looking to start-up or expand in the Lewes District?
- Could you please provide us with a list of affordable workspaces and creative workspaces in the Lewes District?
- What are the functions of commercial property databases? *LES only*
- How effective is the LES commercial property database in searching for creative workspace and affordable workspace? *LES only*
- Could you please provide us with a list of average commercial rents by property types and areas? *LES only*