

Body:	Scrutiny Committee
Date:	4 December 2017
Subject:	Appointment of the Sovereign Centre Task Group; and agreement of its terms of reference.
Report of:	Ben Bix, Committee Services Lead
Cabinet member:	Councillor Bannister
Ward(s)	Sovereign
Purpose of the report:	To enable the Scrutiny Committee to appoint four councillors to the Sovereign Centre Task Group; and set the terms of reference for the group.
Decision type:	Non-key
Recommendation:	<p>The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Appoint four members to the Sovereign Centre Task Group (2 Liberal Democrat, 2 Conservative) 2) Agree the terms of reference set out in section 3.1 of this report.
Reasons for recommendations:	To comply with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 11, that the Committee appoint the membership of the task group and set its terms of reference, and a timescale for reporting back to the Scrutiny Committee.
Contact:	Jazmin Victory, Scrutiny Officer, jazmin.victory@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk 01323 415811

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Committee received a work programme request from Councillor Di Cara and resolved to create a Sovereign Centre Task Group at its meeting of 4 September 2017. The task group now needs to be formed.
- 1.2 The Task Group will be formed of 4 Members appointed by the Scrutiny Committee, and will operate within the terms of reference set out in this report at section 3.1.

2.0 Appointments to the group

- 2.1 Scrutiny Procedure Rule 11 provides that *normally* two councillors be

appointed to a task group. This report recommends that four councillors be appointed to the task group for two reasons:

- a) To increase the likelihood that the group can come to a conclusion in line with the timescale set out in 3.2 below.
- b) To mitigate the risk of apologies for absence on the schedule of meetings.

3.0 Terms of reference

3.1 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, including tourism, as presented by officers
- iii) To recommend a preferred option for the site to the Scrutiny Committee on 5 February 2018

3.2 In order for the Scrutiny Committee to make its report and recommendations to Cabinet on 21 March 2018, the task group must conclude its work and prepare its report to Scrutiny Committee by 26 January 2017. This would demonstrate the efficient discharge of the scrutiny function to prepare recommendations for consideration.

3.3 In order for the task group to complete its work, it is proposed that there be three meetings of the group to complete each of the three parts of its terms of reference. Accordingly, the group should meet once in December 2017 and twice in January 2018.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a work programme request from Councillor Di Cara at its September meeting and endorsed the creation of a Sovereign Centre task group for inclusion on its work programme. Subsequently, Council met in November and resolved the scrutiny work programme unanimously.

5.0 Corporate plan and council policies

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

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

6.0 Business case and alternative option(s) considered

6.1 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.

- 6.2 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.

7.0 Outcome expected and performance management

- 7.1 The outcome from the group will be the making of recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee. The making of recommendations by the scrutiny committee would conclude the work of the task group.

8.0 Financial appraisal

- 8.1 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.

9.0 Legal implications

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

10.0 Equality analysis

- 10.1 There are no equality implications flowing from this report to create a task group.

11.0 Conclusion

- 11.1 That the task group be appointed and commences its work in order to make recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee on 5 February 2018.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Sovereign Centre Task Group meeting dates for consideration (page 71)

Background papers

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

- The Constitution of the Council <http://bit.ly/2hF8xaU>
- Work programme request, 4 September 2017 <http://bit.ly/2hPJFkl>

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.