

# Scrutiny & Overview Committee Agenda



To: Councillors Sean Fitzsimons (Chair), Robert Ward (Vice-Chair), Leila Ben-Hassel (Deputy-Chair), Jerry Fitzpatrick, Oni Oviri and Joy Prince

Reserve Members: Jeet Bains, Robert Canning, Richard Chatterjee, Pat Clouder, Mary Croos and Andrew Pelling

A meeting of the **Scrutiny & Overview Committee** which you are hereby summoned to attend, will be held on **Tuesday, 30 March 2021** at **6.30 pm**. **This meeting will be held remotely.**

Jacqueline Harris Baker  
Council Solicitor & Monitoring Officer  
London Borough of Croydon  
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www.croydon.gov.uk/meetings  
Monday, 22 March 2021

Members of the public are welcome to view the webcast both live and after the meeting has completed at <http://webcasting.croydon.gov.uk>

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If you require any assistance, please contact Simon Trevaskis 0208 7266000 as detailed above.

## **AGENDA – PART A**

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence from any members of the Committee.

### **2. Disclosure of Interests**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and the statutory provisions of the Localism Act, Members and co-opted Members of the Council are reminded that it is a requirement to register disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) and gifts and hospitality to the value of which exceeds £50 or multiple gifts and/or instances of hospitality with a cumulative value of £50 or more when received from a single donor within a rolling twelve month period. In addition, Members and co-opted Members are reminded that unless their disclosable pecuniary interest is registered on the register of interests or is the subject of a pending notification to the Monitoring Officer, they are required to disclose those disclosable pecuniary interests at the meeting. This should be done by completing the Disclosure of Interest form and handing it to the Democratic Services representative at the start of the meeting. The Chair will then invite Members to make their disclosure orally at the commencement of Agenda item 3. Completed disclosure forms will be provided to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion on the Register of Members' Interests.

### **3. Urgent Business (if any)**

To receive notice of any business not on the agenda which in the opinion of the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

### **4. Scrutiny Improvement Review**

Report to follow.

### **5. Libraries Consultation**

Report to follow.

### **6. Establishment of the Town Centre Task & Finish Group (Pages 5 - 6)**

The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to:-

1. Agree to set up a task and finish group to undertake a review on the future of the Town Centre in Croydon.
2. To review and agree the scope for the Task and Finish Group,

set out in the report.

**7. Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The following motion is to be moved and seconded where it is proposed to exclude the press and public from the remainder of a meeting:

“That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within those paragraphs indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.”

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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY &amp; OVERVIEW COMMITTEE</b> <b>30 March 2021</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Establishment of Town Centre Task &amp; Finish Group</b>
<b>PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:</b>	<b>Councillor Sean Fitzsimons – Chair of the Scrutiny &amp; Overview Committee</b>
<b>PUBLIC/EXEMPT:</b>	Public

<p><b>POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:</b></p> <p>The future of the Croydon Town Centre one of the key drivers to the vitality of the borough and touches upon many aspects of the Corporate Plan.</p> <p><a href="#">Corporate Plan for Croydon 2018-2022</a></p>
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<b>ORIGIN OF ITEM:</b>	The Scrutiny Chairs, Councillors Ben-Hassel, Fitzsimons and Ward, have identified scrutiny of the recovery of the town centre following the covid-19 pandemic as one of the key priorities for the Scrutiny Work Programme in 2021-22
<b>BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:</b>	<p>The Scrutiny &amp; Overview Committee is asked to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree to set up a task and finish group to undertake a review on the future of the Town Centre in Croydon.</li> <li>2. To review and agree the scope for the Task and Finish Group, set out in the report.</li> </ol>

## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a massive impact on the UK as a whole, which will likely bring significant change to the country going forward as the vaccination programme is rolled out and lockdown is exited for, what is hoped to be, the final time.
- 1.2. Beyond the immediate health and wellbeing challenges, one of the key challenges facing the country as it exits the lockdown will be the recovery of the economy. In Croydon specifically the recovery of the town centre economy will be crucial to the borough.
- 1.3. The Scrutiny Chairs, Councillors Leila Ben Hassel, Sean Fitzsimons and Robert Ward, have identified reviewing the recovery of the town centre as one of the key areas of work it would like to prioritise in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021-22 and have agreed that given the potential scale of this review, that it will be best achieved through the formation of a task and finish group.

## 2. TOWN CENTRE TASK & FINISH GROUP

### ***Intended Outcome of the Review***

- 2.1 To produce a report covering the following:-
1. Identifying the key risks and challenges facing Croydon town centre in its recovery from the effects of the covid-19 pandemic,
  2. An evaluation on the viability of potential models and options for the future of the town centre,
  3. Creating a set of both short term and long term recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet on the future of Croydon Town Centre.

### ***Scope of the Review***

- 2.2 The Town Centre Task and Finish Group is asked to:-
1. Receive evidence from key stakeholders on the challenges facing Croydon town centre as it exits the pandemic lockdown,
  2. Receive evidence from key stakeholders and expert witnesses on potential short term options to aid the recovery of Croydon town centre,
  3. Receive evidence from expert witnesses on the possible options for the long term future of town centres
  4. To work with the Growth Zone project to gain an understanding of the viability of development opportunities within the town centre,
  5. To investigate potential options for attracting outward investment into the town centre.
  6. In light of the financial challenges facing the Council, to establish the most effective means for the Council to support the recovery of the town centre and to influence its future.

### ***Membership of the Task & Finish Group***

- 2.3 The Task and Finish Group will have a politically balanced membership of five scrutiny councillors (3 Labour & 2 Conservative).
- 2.4 The Task and Finish Group will be chaired by Chair of the Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee and include the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee as members, along with two other scrutiny members.

### ***Timeframe for the Task & Finish Group***

- 2.5 The work of the Town Centre Task and Finish Group will start in June 2021 and will deliver its final report to the Scrutiny & Overview Committee meeting on 7 December 2021.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Simon Trevaskis – Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer – Scrutiny

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