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| REPORT TO: | SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 7 September 2021 |
| SUBJECT: | Update on the Town Centre Task & Finish Group |
| PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING: | Councillor Sean Fitzsimons – Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee |
| PUBLIC/EXEMPT: | Public |

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| ORIGIN OF ITEM: | 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 |
| BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE: | The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree the membership of the Town Centre Task & Finish Group. 2. Agree the changes to the scope for the Task and Finish Group and consider whether any further changes are needed. |

1. TOWN CENTRE TASK & FINISH GROUP

- 1.1. At its meeting on 30 March 2021, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to review the recovery of the town centre following the covid-19 pandemic. Since the Committee meeting work has started on the initial planning for the Group.
- 1.2. This report has been prepared for the Committee to agree the membership of the Panel. The Committee is asked to agree the following membership:-
 - Councillor Leila Ben Hassel (Chair)
 - Councillor Jade Appleton
 - Councillor Louis Carserides
 - Councillor Sean Fitzsimons
 - Councillor Robert Ward
- 1.3. At its meeting on 16 August, the Cabinet agreed to set up an Advisory Town Centre Board, which would be tasked with producing a vision for the town centre following the pandemic.
- 1.4. The Scrutiny Chairs are keen to avoid any duplication of effort and as a result have suggested two amendments to the scope highlighted below in section 2 of the report. It is also important for the Committee have the opportunity to review the scope of the Task and Finish Group to ensure it is satisfied it complements the work of the

Advisory Board. For the information of the Committee, the Cabinet report from 16 August is attached at Appendix A.

2. SCOPE OF THE 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, **taking account of the work of the Advisory Town Centre Board.**

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.
 7. **To amplify all stakeholders and residents' voices in the shaping of the Advisory Town Centre Board's vision for Croydon town centre.**

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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