

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF EPSOM PLAYHOUSE

Report of the:	Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Contact:	Margaret Jones
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Annexes/Appendices (attached):	Annexe 1 - Report of the Scrutiny Review Task Group on the Review of Venues: Epsom Playhouse
Other available papers (not attached):	

REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee with the Report of the Scrutiny Review Task Group on the Review of Epsom Playhouse

RECOMMENDATION (S)

That the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) Approves the Report of the Scrutiny Review Task Group on the Review of Epsom Playhouse attached at Annexe 1.**
- (2) Agrees that the report be presented to the Community & Wellbeing Committee on 23 January 2018.**

1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

1.1 The Report of the Scrutiny Review Task Group contributes to two of the Council's Key Priorities:

1.1.1 Supporting our community; and

1.1.2 Managing our resources.

2 Background

- 2.1 This report forms Part 2 of the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee Review of Venues originally placed in the Committee's work programme back in November 2015. The investigation into Epsom Playhouse commenced in January 2017 following the conclusion of Part 1 of the review which looked at Bourne Hall and Hook Road Arena.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Review Task Group appointed by the Committee in February 2016 to undertake the review of venues undertook all investigative work.
- 2.3 The review was intended to contribute to the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy by ensuring services provided are fit for purpose, meet the needs of local residents and are cost effective to provide. Proposals were to be developed for improving the efficiency of the service including an analysis of the customer base.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee approve the Task Group's report attached at **Annexe 1** and agree that it be presented to the next meeting of the Community & Wellbeing Committee on 23 January 2018.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 The scrutiny investigation included an analysis of Epsom Playhouse finances (capital and revenue) for the last 3 years, 2014/15 to 2016/17. Findings of the Task Group are set out in paragraphs 5.25 to 5.33 of the report (Annexe 1). Other wider financial considerations associated with Epsom Playhouse are also addressed.
- 4.2 Chief Finance Officer's comments: ***The financial considerations are set-out in the Scrutiny Review Task Group's findings at Annexe 1. The Task Group's suggested way forward for the future delivery of services at Epsom Playhouse, which involves further exploration of a number of matters relating to income, equipment and the building, would mostly require a full financial analysis before any final decisions can take place.***

5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 5.1 Certain legal matters relating to the provision of theatre services were considered during the review, for example ownership, professional contracts, inspections and certifications. Legal implications associated with any changes that the Council wishes to implement following the scrutiny review will need to be considered in full before any final decision is made.
- 5.2 ***Monitoring Officer's comments: There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.***

6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

- 6.1 Health and safety of visitors is of paramount consideration in discussions relating to the provision of services at Epsom Playhouse.

7 Partnerships

- 7.1 Partnership working is of importance to Epsom Playhouse. As such, partnership matters are discussed by the Task Group in its report, including the potential for further development in this area.

8 Risk Assessment

- 8.1 Although an overview of risks was taken by the Task Group in relation to the 5 options identified (see Appendix 6), a formal risk assessment has not been undertaken. Any decisions to be made by the Council following the scrutiny review will need a formal, in-depth risk analysis prior to being made.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 9.1 The Report of the Scrutiny Review Task Group on Epsom Playhouse attached at **Annexe 1** sets out the findings and conclusions of the Task Group appointed in February 2016.
- 9.2 It is recommended that the Audit, Crime & Disorder and Scrutiny Committee approves the Report of the Scrutiny Review Task Group on Epsom Playhouse and agrees that it should be presented to the Community & Wellbeing Committee in January 2018.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: (All Wards);