



## Brighton & Hove City Council

### Democratic Services

Brighton & Hove City Council  
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VIA EMAIL

**Date:** 4 August 2022

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Dear Councillor Bagaeen,

### **Question presented to the Policy & Resources Committee meeting – 7 July 2022**

I have detailed the response to your Question on behalf of the Chair of the Committee:

*Can the Chair provide an update on the status of proposals to replace the Brighton Centre with a new facility at Black Rock?*

“There hasn’t been a proposal to have a conference centre at Black Rock for over two years. Detailed reports are provided to councillors who attend the Strategic Delivery Board. I have brought back reporting of major projects to the committee and the Special Policy & Resources Committee before the end of the month will report again on the state of the project, as did the committee in February. There is also a dedicated page on the council’s website on Black Rock. Or you can just ask the Conservative councillor on the Eastern Seafront Programme Board, Cllr Bell.

Reports in December 2019 and December 2020 to Policy & Resources Committee set out that the city council and Aberdeen Standard Investments are exploring options for a city centre conference facility and venue. The city centre is considered to be the best location in terms of access to transport, hotels and other leisure facilities.

Work is currently being done by Theatre Projects, a venue specialist, to advise on the optimum size and arrangement for a new facility, and whether there is a viable business case to support investment.

In the meantime, Black Rock has received funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership in order to de-risk the site for a future development and also to improve the transport links and connectivity in the area. The funding at Black Rock will address this by:

1. Decontaminating the site to create a clear unencumbered site for a future development
2. Creating a more developable site area and building a new sea wall with pedestrian promenade, on an extended alignment – also creating more space to build the new sustainable link

A Development Brief for the Black Rock site is scheduled to be produced in consultation with the community to highlight where priorities should lie for future redevelopment of the site, in compliance with the City Plan Part 2 and which will also meet with the Council's committed outputs for the Local Enterprise Partnership.

The Eastern Seafront Masterplan is also underway, which will help to provide the necessary strategic links along the Eastern Seafront and guide future development.”

If you have any further questions or queries or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Anthony Soyinka**  
**Head of Democratic Services**