

REPORT TO:	CABINET 12 OCTOBER 2022
SUBJECT:	STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY (SEPTEMBER 2022)
LEAD OFFICERS:	JANE WEST - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES ADRIAN MAY – INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & SCRUTINY
LEAD MEMBER:	COUNCILLOR ROWENNA DAVIS CHAIR, SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
CABINET MEMBER:	JASON PERRY, EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF CROYDON
WARDS:	ALL
FINANCIAL IMPACT	
<p>The Scrutiny recommendations to the Executive (Appendix A) may have financial implications. Following the recommendations being received at Cabinet, the Executive will identify and consider any financial implications as part of their response. If any recommendation is subsequently progressed for consideration and decision by the Executive Mayor in Cabinet, full financial, legal and equalities implications would be presented.</p>	
FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE: Not a key decision	

The Executive Mayor has the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations contained within this report:

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Mayor in Cabinet is asked to:

1. Receive the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 6 September (Appendix A).
2. To provide a substantive response to the recommendations (a Scrutiny Stage 2 Report) within two months (i.e. at the next available Cabinet meeting on 7 December 2022).

2. STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

- 2.1 Recommendations that have been developed from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and its Sub-Committees since the last Cabinet meeting are provided in Appendix A. The constitution requires that an interim or full response is provided within 2 months of this Cabinet meeting.

3. CONCLUSIONS FROM COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 3.1 In order to provide additional context for the Cabinet, a summary of the conclusions reached by the Scrutiny & Overview Committee or relevant Sub-Committee follows.

Scrutiny & Overview Committee – 6 September 2022

Community Safety Partnership

- 3.2 Following its review of the Community Safety Partnership, the Committee agreed that it would be supportive of a campaign to de-normalise low level sexual harassment against women, such as 'cat-calling', but recognised that any such campaign would be dependent on further resources being identified.
- 3.3 The Committee welcomed confirmation that there would be an emphasis on recording offences in the town centre to provide evidence on the need for the Public Space Protection Order. The Committee also welcomed the proposed review of this scheme in two months to make sure that anti-social behaviour doesn't simply shift to neighbouring areas.
- 3.4 There was a concern about whether there was sufficient coordination of information between the Police and Council, but it was also acknowledged that the attendance of councillors at their local Ward Panel meetings may help to provide reassurance on this concern.
- 3.5 The Committee agreed that the following information would be requested following the meeting:-
- a. Information on the support available for women with no recourse to public funds.
 - b. Clarification on the Council's policy on police presence in schools and the use of searches.
 - c. Clarification on processes for moving children across borough boundaries.
 - d. The statistics on the number of children subject to managed moves and placements in pupil referral units.

Budget Monitoring – Month 4

- 3.6 The Committee was frustrated that it had only received the report for this item after 6pm the night before the meeting, inhibiting Members' ability to scrutinise the paper with the attention that it deserves.
- 3.7 The Committee was frustrated that significant work was still required before the Council's financial reporting processes could be considered to be at an expected standard. The Cabinet Member for Finance's confirmation that it was likely to be 'two years' before an acceptable standard could be met was concerning. However, confirmation that additional resource had been allocated to embedding the Fusion Oracle system was welcomed.
- 3.8 The Committee welcomed confirmation from the Cabinet Member for Finance that there would be a greater emphasis on transformational projects to deliver the savings required in the 2023-24 and looked forward to reviewing these proposals once they were published in October.
- 3.9 The Committee was supportive of the principle of using capital funds for 'invest to save' schemes that would benefit the revenue budget in the longer term.
- 3.10 The Committee agreed that a report would be added to the Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee work programme to provide further explanation on the Housing Benefit Budget deficit.
- 3.11 The Committee welcomed confirmation that training on the budget scrutiny process would be commissioned for later in the autumn for both officers and scrutiny members.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The recommendations were developed from the deliberations of either the Scrutiny & Overview Committee or one of its Sub-Committees.

5. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

- 5.1 The recommendations set out in the appendix to this report directly arise from Scrutiny.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the content of this report. Please see Finance Impact Section above.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance that the recommendations are presented to Cabinet in accordance with the Constitution.

- 7.2 This requires that the Scrutiny report is received and registered at this Cabinet Meeting and that a substantive response is provided within 2 months (i.e. **Cabinet – 12 October 2022** is the next available meeting).

Approved by Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation & Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from the content of this report, the report received recommendations from scrutiny, but no decision for recommendation.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 9.1 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the contents of this report

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the contents of this report, the report received recommendations from scrutiny, but no decision for recommendation.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 11.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from the contents of this report, the report received recommendations from scrutiny, but no decision for recommendation.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

- 12.1 There is a statutory requirement for Cabinet to receive the recommendations made by Scrutiny.

13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 13.1 None

14. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 **WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?**

There are no Data Protection implications at this stage, but that the situation will be reviewed again at Stage 2 when Cabinet provide their response to the proposed recommendations.

14.2 HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?

No.

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APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Recommendations from Scrutiny

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 6 September 2022

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=2925&Ver=4>