

# LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

<b>REPORT:</b>	Audit & Governance Committee	
<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	20 July 2023	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Update from the Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:</b>	Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense Director of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer	
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Adrian May Head of Democratic Services & Scrutiny	
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Rowenna Davis Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
<b>DECISION TAKER:</b>	N/A	
<b>AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:</b>	This item has been included on the agenda at the request of the Independent Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee to update the Committee on the work of Scrutiny and facilitate closer working between to Scrutiny and Audit Committees	
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	NO	N/A
<b>CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?</b>	NO	Public
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	N/A	

## 1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 Both the Audit and Scrutiny functions of the Croydon Council have their respective roles to play in the ongoing improvement journey of the Council and in holding decision makers to account. To ensure that the benefit of any such work is maximised, it is important to ensure that both functions work together and that there is clarity on the remits of the Scrutiny and Audit Committees respectively. To help facilitate this working relationship, the Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, Councillor Rowenna Davis, has been invited to provide a short update to the Audit and Governance Committee on the work of Scrutiny.

## 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is asked to:-
1. Note the update provided by the Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
  2. Note the guidance from the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny – Audit Committees and Scrutiny Committees: Working Together.

## 3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This item has been scheduled on the agenda of the Audit & Governance Committee to start to facilitate closer working arrangements between the Committee and the Scrutiny and Overview Committee. As such the Committee is recommended to receive and note the update provided.

## **4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS**

- 4.1 The Independent Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee, Olu Olasode, and the Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee, Councillor Rowenna Davis, have held regular meetings over the past year to coordinate the work of the two Committees. To continue this work, the Independent Chair has invited the Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee to the 20 July 2023 meeting to provide an update on the work of Scrutiny.

- 4.2 Both Committees have their respective roles to play in the improvement journey of the Council and the work to ensure its long term financial sustainability. It is essential that both Audit and Scrutiny work closely, allowing issue to be raised for further investigation when they fall within the others remit. Appended to this report is a recent publication from the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny that provide guidance on how Audit and Scrutiny Committees can ensure they work well together. This is provided for the information of the Committee.

## **5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 None – Closer working between the Audit & Governance Committee and the Scrutiny & Overview Committee will be of benefit to the improvement journey of the Council.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 None

## **7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 7.1 Both the Audit & Governance Committee and the Scrutiny & Overview Committee have statutory roles to play in monitoring the improvement journey of the Council and ensuring the future sustainability of the Council's finances.

## **8. IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1.1 There are no financial considerations for the Audit & Governance Committee to take account of from receiving an update from the Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee on the work of Scrutiny.

- 8.1.2 Comments approved by Lesley Shields, Head of Finance for Assistant Chief Executive and Resources on behalf of the Director of Finance. 12/7/23

### **8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.2.1 There are no legal considerations for the Audit & Governance Committee to take account of from receiving an update from the Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee on the work of Scrutiny.

**8.2.2** Approved by: the Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (Date 12/07/2023)

### **8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

**8.3.1** As a Public Sector Authority we will be required to promote the Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED) as detailed below.

- (i) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- (ii) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (iii) Foster or encourage good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

**8.3.2** Failure to meet these requirements may result in the Council being exposed to costly, time consuming and reputation-damaging legal challenges.

**8.3.3** This report is exempt from an EQIA as it does not affect service delivery.

Comments were approved by Denise McCausland, Equalities Programme Manager.  
Date: 10/07/2023

## **9. APPENDICES**

**9.1** *Appendix A: Audit Committees & Scrutiny Committees: Working Together.*