

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	CABINET	
DATE	27 September 2023	
REPORT TITLE:	STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY	
LEAD OFFICER:	Jane West, Corporate Director for Resources Adrian May, Interim Head of Democratic Services T: 020 8726 6000 X 62529. Email: adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Rowenna Davis Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	Recommendations that have been developed from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and its Sub-Committees since the last Cabinet meeting are provided in the appendices to this report. The constitution requires that an interim or full response is provided within 2 months of this Cabinet meeting.	
KEY DECISION?	No	N/A
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents recommendations to the Executive from Scrutiny following meetings of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee held on 27 June 2023, the Streets and Environment Sub-Committee held on 11 July 2023 and the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 25 July 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Executive Mayor has the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations contained within this report. The Executive Mayor in Cabinet is asked to:
- 2.2 Receive the recommendations arising from the meetings of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee held on 27 June 2023 (Appendix 1), the Streets and Environment Sub-Committee held on 11 July 2023 (Appendices 2) and the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 25 July 2023 (Appendix 3).

- 2.3 To provide a substantive response to the recommendation (a Scrutiny Stage 2 Report) at the Cabinet meeting on 22 November 2023.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

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

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

Children & Young People Sub-Committee – 27 June 2023

Item: Early Help, Children's Social Care and Education Dashboard

- 4.1 The Sub-Committee welcomed the positive movement in the dashboard, and the absence of red indicators.
- 4.2 The Sub-Committee concluded that for the next meeting an additional appendix would be added to this item, which provided a list of currently 'Red' indicators across the CYPE directorate KPIs to discuss with the relevant directors.

Streets & Environment Sub-Committee – 11 July 2023

Item: Parking Policy Transformation Project

- 4.3 The Sub-Committee were of the view that they would like to see strong communications from the Council when new enforcement initiatives were introduced and actions taken, as they felt that this would provide a good soft deterrent.
- 4.4 The Sub-Committee concluded that they would like to see strong engagement with disabled residents and disability-led organisations.
- 4.5 The Sub-Committee felt that there could be better feedback for residents who reported parking violations for enforcement as to the outcome of their report.
- 4.6 The Sub-Committee concluded that the existing map on the Council website that showed where CPZs were in the borough was not sufficient.
- 4.7 The Sub-Committee welcomed engagement with Croydon's district centres and were keen to see that none were missed.

Item: Consultation on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

- 4.8 The Sub-Committee welcomed the detailed report on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, and the hard work that had gone into developing it thus far.
- 4.9 The Sub-Committee were keen to encourage officers to investigate nature-based solutions to flood prevention.

- 4.10** The Sub-Committee were of the view that a year-round approach to publicity on flood prevention would be more effective than a campaign that only took place during the winter period.
- 4.11** The Sub-Committee concluded that publication of the Flood Risk Register on the Council's website would increase transparency and accessibility for residents.

Scrutiny & Overview Committee – 25 July 2023

Item: Financial Performance Monitoring – Month 2 2023-24

- 4.12** The Committee welcomed the reassurance given by the Cabinet Member for Finance on progress made with the Council's Transformation Programmes and noted that the first quarterly Transformation Monitoring report was due to be considered at the Cabinet meeting on 27 September 2023.
- 4.13** Although it was accepted that some of the factors involved were not unique to Croydon and were either London-wide or national challenges, the Committee concluded that the vacancy rates within certain services of the Council presented a considerable risk to the delivery of both business-as-usual services and transformation programmes.

Item: Equalities Strategy Refresh

- 4.14** The Committee welcomed confirmation that the Equalities Impact Assessment was being refreshed and endorsed the approach of requiring the equalities implications of a decision to be assessed at an early stage in the decision-making process, rather than being left to a later stage when it could be more challenging to meaningfully take account of the potential equalities' implications.
- 4.15** The Committee welcomed confirmation that the Equalities Strategy Action Plan would focus on measurable outcomes using SMART targets, which ensure that its success could be assessed.

Item: Scrutiny Recommendations

- 4.16** Arising from its discussion with the Executive Mayor at previous meeting on 6 June 2023, The Scrutiny & Overview Committee welcomed the sharing of the feedback received from the Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities on the Council's bid for Levelling-Up funding and noted it reflected positively on the bid submitted.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1** Scrutiny meetings do not necessarily result in any recommendations to the executive.

6 CONSULTATION / PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

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

7 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 7.1** Outcome 1: The Council balances its books, listens to residents and delivers good sustainable services:

Priority 4: Ensure good governance is embedded and adopt best practice The Council must learn the lessons of past failures and embed sound governance processes to ensure that decision-making is transparent, open and honest. These must ensure effective control of our projects and programmes and encourage meaningful scrutiny and challenge.

8 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1.1** The Scrutiny recommendations to the Executive 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.
- 8.1.2** If any recommendation is subsequently progressed for consideration and decision by the Executive Mayor in Cabinet, full financial (as well as legal and equalities implications) would be presented.

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.2.1** Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000 ("The Act"), Scrutiny and Overview Committee (SOC) have the powers to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any executive and non-executive functions and to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. SOC also has the power to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority on matters, which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of its area.
- 8.2.2** Under Section 9FE of the Act, there is a duty on Cabinet to respond to the scrutiny report, indicating what (if any) action Cabinet proposes to take, within 2 months of receiving the report and recommendations.
- 8.2.3** Approved by Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation & Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

8.3 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

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

8.4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.4.1 The Council has a statutory duty, when exercising its functions, to comply with the provisions set out in the Sec 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The Council must, in the performance of its functions, therefore, have due regard to:

- i. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- ii. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- iii. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.4.2 The recommendations in the appendices to this report have equality implications and will require an EQIA as part of the development of the proposals. The implications will be explored to identify impact and mitigation utilised to negate any adverse impact where necessary.

8.4.3 Approved by: Naseer Ahmad for Denise McCausland Equality Programme Manager

8.5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8.6 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

8.6.1 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.

8.7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

8.7.1 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.

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

NO

9 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Stage 1: Recommendations from Children & Young People Sub-Committee - 27 June 2023

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Stage 1: Recommendations from Streets and Environment Sub-Committee - 11 July 2023

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Stage 1: Recommendation from Scrutiny & Overview Committee - 25 July 2023

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Meeting of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee held on 27 June 2023
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=167&MId=3502>

Meeting of the Streets and Environment Sub-Committee held on 11 July 2023
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=170&MId=3506>

Meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee on 25 July 2023
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=3511>