

For General Release

REPORT TO:	CABINET 19th JANUARY 2015
AGENDA ITEM NO:	14
SUBJECT:	BUDGET SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
LEAD OFFICER:	Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Director of Democratic & Legal Services
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Sean Fitzsimons Chair, Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	The constitutional requirement that Cabinet considers recommendations from scrutiny committees.

The Leader of the Council has agreed that Cabinet have delegated power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1. Cabinet is asked to consider recommendations arising from the meeting of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee on 9th September 2014 and 17th December 2014 and to take these into account in drawing up final proposals for submission to the Council.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee considered a pre-decision report relating to the Budget Process at its meeting on 9th September 2014 and the Council Budget 2015/16 at its meeting which was held on 17th December 2014 as it is empowered to do under Part 4C of the Constitution.

The Committee has made recommendations to Cabinet which it is asked to consider before final decisions relating to the Budget 2015/16 are made. The recommendations and the minutes comprise the comments of the committee on the proposals published by the Leader and cabinet.

3. DETAILS

The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee, at its meeting on 9th September 2014 (Minute number A44/14), noted that the Council has been successful in controlling revenue expenditure over a number of years and in this context resolved to:

- Recommend to Cabinet that in order to be certain of achieving maximum value for money, more rigour might need to be applied to capital expenditure.

The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee, at its meeting on 17th December 2014 (Minute number A61/14), resolved to:

- Recommend to Cabinet that it (cabinet) consider a report on the proposed closure of the Purley Pool at the February Council Tax cabinet meeting before drawing up proposals for submissions to Council and that the report should seek to address the concerns and questions raise by the Scrutiny committee and concerns of pool users(and their expert report), and take into account the practicalities of the effective use of Waddon pool as an alternative (including access by public transport, parking and capacity) and any health implications arising from the closure
- Recommend that Cabinet should provide more information to Council about the implications of the proposal to limit further member referrals to the Planning Committee to major applications only (as referrals from MPs and GLA Members have already been limited) before any decision is taken.

4. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

The recommendations are in accordance with the constitution. This allows the Scrutiny committee to comment on budget proposals published by the Leader and Cabinet. The Leader and cabinet may take any response from the Scrutiny committee into account I drawing up proposals for submission to the Full Council..

6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Background document 1

Copy of the pre-decision scrutiny report to the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee

09.09.14 – The Budget Process

<http://egeprapwv01lc.lbcbau.croydon.net/akscroydon/images/att4148.pdf>

Background document 2

Copy of the pre-decision scrutiny report to the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee

17.12.14 agenda item 7 - Council Budget 2015/16

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kab14.pl?operation=SUBMIT&meet=25&cmte=SSO&grpid=public&arc=1>