

REPORT TO:	Cabinet 21 March 2016
AGENDA ITEM NO:	11
SUBJECT:	STAGE 2: RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM: SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING ON 3 NOVEMBER 2015 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING ON 17 NOVEMBER 2015
LEAD OFFICERS:	Jo Negrini, Executive Director of Place Paul Greenhalgh, Executive Director, People Graham Cadle, Assistant Chief Executive Customer and Transformation
CABINET MEMBERS:	Councillor Alison Butler, Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning Councillor Alisa Flemming, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	The constitutional requirement that Cabinet receives recommendations from scrutiny committees and to respond to the recommendations within two months of the receipt of the recommendations.

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: The Constitution requires that in accepting a recommendation, with or without amendment, from a Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee or Sub-Committee, the Cabinet shall agree an action plan for the implementation of the agreed recommendations and shall delegate responsibility to an identified officer to report back to the Strategic Overview Committee or Sub-Committee, within a specified period, on progress in implementing the action plan.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON & WHY ARE WE DOING THIS:

Croydon a Place to Live and Work;
Fairness – Equalities, Open & Accountable;
Croydon Safe & Secure; Sustainable Transport.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The recommendations in this report may have a financial implication and as each recommendation is developed the financial implication will be explored and approved.

FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: not a key decision

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to approve the response reports and action plans attached to this report (at Appendix A and Appendix B) and that these be reported to the relevant Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting on 22 March 2016.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 This report asks the Cabinet to approve the full response reports arising from the stage 1 reports to the Cabinet meeting held on 14 December 2015 including:

- Action plans for the implementation of agreed recommendations, or
- Reasons for rejecting the recommendations

and that these be reported to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting on 21 March 2016.

3. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Scrutiny recommendations are contained in the schedule in the appendices to this report.

3.2 The detailed responses (including reasons for rejected recommendations) and action plans (for the implementation of agreed recommendations) are contained in the appendices.

3.3 Scrutiny and Overview Committee Recommendations - Capital Budgets (Minute number A27/15)

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting on 3 November 2015 resolved to monitor the capital budget and the policies that underpin capital decision making as part of the Scrutiny work programme each year, and to ask Cabinet to:

- 1) Ensure that Ward Members are informed when s106 agreements have been negotiated in their ward and for what purpose the funds are secured
- 2) Consult the Scrutiny and Overview Committee before a decision about the allocation of the CIL '*Local Meaningful Proportion*' is made, specifically with regard to the suggestion that the original allocation through the 16 places of Croydon be refined to reflect allocation through a smaller number of place regeneration plans
- 3) Provide Members of the Committee with an update of the s106 summary balance sheet and allocation (as in appendix 2 of the report) in 12 months (Autumn 2016)

These recommendations and a timetable for response are attached at **Appendix A**.

3.4 Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee Recommendations - Housing for young people (Minute number A57/15)

The Children and Young People Sub-Committee at its meeting on 17 November 2015 resolved recommend to Cabinet that the council should:

- 1) Address the needs of its large young adult population in the Croydon Local Plan and its Housing Allocation Policy
- 2) Work with local developers to provide suitable housing for young graduates to retain talent in the borough
- 3) The council's development company should consider providing accommodation specifically for young people, such as basic "starter homes"
- 4) Consider introducing starter tenancies to encourage good tenancy management from the very beginning of a tenancy
- 5) Consider offering more enticing incentives to landlords to encourage them to lease more accommodation so that it can be let to young people on low incomes
- 6) Publicise the "My Croydon" app and housing services through a wider range of media including billboards around town
- 7) Work with local businesses to encourage them to offer their young staff support with rent deposits or part of them, and to encourage local businesses to provide references to prospective landlords to make it easier for young people to obtain a tenancy

In addition the Sub-Committee made the following recommendation to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee:

- 1) That scrutiny should run more "young people's take-over" meetings to give young Croydonians the opportunity to question politicians on issues of concern to them and thus encourage young people to get involved in local democracy

The Sub-Committee also recommended to Croydon College that it should create Housing Ambassadors among students in order to:

- 1) Disseminate information and advice on housing issues
- 2) Encourage young people to get involved in the council's consultation on the borough's Local Plan and Housing Allocation Policy
- 3) Raise awareness of young people's housing issues with local councillors and members of parliament

The recommendations to Cabinet and a timetable for response are attached at **Appendix B**.

4. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

The recommendations are in accordance with the constitution.

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: Reports to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting, 3 November 2015

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kabmenu.pl?cmte=SOC>

Background document 2: Reports to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting, 17 November 2015

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kabmenu.pl?cmte=CYP>

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	DEPARTMENT AND CABINET MEMBER RESPONDING	ACCEPT/ REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS (inc. reasons for rejection)	IDENTIFIED OFFICER	ANY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IF ACCEPTED (ie Action Plan)	DATE OF SCRUTINY MEETING TO REPORT BACK
The Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting on 3 November 2015 (Minute number A27/15 Capital Budgets item RESOLVED to monitor the capital budget and the policies that underpin capital decision making as part of the Scrutiny work programme each year, and to ask Cabinet to:						
1) Ensure that Ward Members are informed when s106 agreements have been negotiated in their ward and for what purpose the funds are secured	Place – Councillor Butler	Accept	Pete Smith	No	<i>This is being investigated within the context of a new IT system for DM. It is likely to be achievable within this year.</i>	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016
2) Consult the Scrutiny and Overview Committee before a decision about the allocation of the CIL 'Local Meaningful Proportion' is made, specifically with regard to the suggestion that the original allocation through the 16 places of Croydon be refined to reflect allocation through a smaller number of place regeneration plans	Place – Councillor Butler	Accept	Steve Dennington	No	Before the end of 2016, pending the outcome of the Council's Growth Zone submission to the Government, which will determine the focus for borough CIL investment. Following this the mechanism for the allocation of 'Local Meaningful Proportion' will be finalised.	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016
3) Provide Members of the Committee with an update of the s106 summary balance sheet and allocation (as in appendix 2 of the report) in 12 months (Autumn 2016)	Place – Councillor Butler	Accept	Steve Dennington	No	Autumn 2016	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016

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The Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting on 17 November 2015 (Minute number A57/15 Housing for Young People item RESOLVED to recommend to Cabinet that the council should:						
1) Address the needs of its large young adult population in the Croydon Local Plan and its Housing Allocation Policy	Place – Councillor Butler People Dept	Accept Accept	Steve Dennington Director of Housing Need, Mark Meehan	No Any financial impact will be determined within a wider financial assessment of implementation of a revised policy	The Croydon Local Plan is anticipated to be adopted in late 2017. As part of the overall housing need, as identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, the needs of the young adult population will be planned for in the context of the overall Local Plan housing target. The Council's housing allocation scheme will shortly (subject to cabinet approval) be the subject of a 12 week public consultation	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016
2) Work with local developers to provide suitable housing for young graduates to retain talent in the borough	Place – Councillor Butler	Accept	Steve Dennington	No	The current Croydon Local Plan promotes the provision of further education in the borough. The emerging Croydon Local Plan is anticipated to be adopted in late 2017.	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016

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					As part of the overall housing need, as identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, the needs of graduates will be planned for in the context of the overall Local Plan housing target.	
3) The council's development company should consider providing accommodation specifically for young people, such as basic "starter homes"	Place – Cllr Butler	Accept	Colm Lacey	No	<p>The development company will work up multi-tenure schemes which address planning policy and local need.</p> <p>The development company is called Brick by Brick and it has been set up by the council and is a private, independent company, with the council acting as sole shareholder.</p>	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016
4) Consider introducing starter tenancies to encourage good tenancy management from the very beginning of a tenancy	People Dept	Accept	Director of Housing Need. Mark Meehan	None specific	Current Tenancy policy provides for fixed –term tenancies. Renewal is dependent on a number of considerations which include conduct of a tenancy.	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016

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5) Consider offering more enticing incentives to landlords to encourage them to lease accommodation so that it can be let to young people on low incomes	People Dept	Accept	Director of Housing Need. Mark Meehan	Any additional payment constitutes additional cost	Incentives paid to private sector landlords are continually reviewed in line with changing market conditions	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016
6) Publicise the "My Croydon" app and housing services through a wider range of media including billboards around town	Resources Dept	Accept	Graham Cadle Assistant Chief Executive Customer and Transformation,	None specific	The app and a number of my account services (including housing) are due to be advertised on the decaux boards shortly	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016
7) Work with local businesses to encourage them to offer their young staff support with rent deposits or part of them, and to encourage local businesses to provide references to prospective landlords to make it easier for young people to obtain a tenancy	Place Dept	Accept	Drector District Centres and Regeneration		The Council will engage with the Chartered Institute of Housing, Shelter and the GLA on best practice and action taken in this area.	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016