

REPORT TO:	Cabinet 20 March 2017
AGENDA ITEM NO:	9
SUBJECT:	STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 10 JANUARY 2017 AND THE STREETS, ENVIRONMENT AND HOMES SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE 31 JANUARY 2017
LEAD OFFICERS:	Richard Simpson, Executive Director 'Resources' and S151 Officer Stephen Rowan – Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Sean Fitzsimons Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee
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.

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations contained within this report:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1.1 Receive the recommendations arising from the meetings of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee (10 January 2017) and the Streets, Environment and Homes Scrutiny Sub-Committee (31 January 2017) and to provide a substantive response within two months (ie. at the Cabinet meeting on 19 June 2017)

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

3. 10 JANUARY 2017 – SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee considered an item on Surrey Street Market; present were the Cabinet Member for Economy and Jobs and the Head of Employment and Investment. Subsequent to questions to those present, the Committee came to the following conclusions:

- 1) Surrey Street Market serves the whole of Croydon and welcomes the scale of investment in Surrey Street as the area had been neglected for far too long.
- 2) The committee agrees that Council should listen to the views of all stakeholders including traders, customers, local businesses and residents, and should review its approach to future consultations. With the agreed underlying policy objective of ensuring there is a thriving street market.
- 3) The Council should not lose sight of its original ideas for the market which was to improve the look of the market through an upgrade of the stalls.
- 4) Agreed that the refurbishment of Surrey Street can contribute to the growth of the evening and night-time economy but the council should have regard to the impact this may have on local residents.
- 5) That the council should not be so prescriptive over the make-up of the Sunday Market if there is a demand from stall holders to trade on a Sunday, as older markets do need to adapt to modern shopping patterns and many people now shop for the groceries on a Sunday.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

- 1) The Council should make explicit that one of its key objectives is to ensure a thriving street market in Surrey Street.
- 2) The physical refurbishment of the Surrey Street area needs to be future-proofed not just for the changing needs of the market, but also for the evening/night-time economy and for one-off events. This includes the installation of street lights and power supplies that accommodate these demands, and avoid the need for temporary supplies.
- 3) The Council further shows its commitment to having a thriving street market in Surrey Street by installing arches to the entrances of the market and to maximise potential benefits from the refurbishment by funding the upgrade of the market stalls.
- 4) The Council review its stakeholder management of market and surrounding area to give all a voice.
- 5) Review the trading arrangements of Sunday Market and the restrictions on who can trade.
- 6) When the Council reviews its licensing strategy that its key objective of a thriving Surrey Street is taken into account.

4. 31 JANUARY 2017 – STREETS, ENVIRONMENT AND HOMES SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Sub-Committee considered an item on Air Quality; present were the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment and the Cabinet Member for Families, Health and Social Care. Officers present included the Director of Safety, Public Protection Manager, Pollution Team Manager and the Head of Health and Wellbeing. There were also representatives from the Greater London Authority and ClientEarth. Subsequent to questions to those present, the Sub-Committee came to the following conclusions:

1. People are dying in Croydon because of the polluted air that they breathe and that Croydon is facing a health emergency.
2. It is important for the council to be bold in its actions to combat the air pollution in the borough, and should use all legal powers, including the use of new by-laws.
3. Welcomed the Cabinet Member giving scrutiny an opportunity to undertake pre-scrutiny of the Air Quality Action Plan;
4. Welcomed the inclusion of Public Health in the development of the new Air Quality Action Plan;
5. Noted the immense social and economic cost of the resultant public health crisis which was taking place and accepted it had a bigger impact on life expectancy than passive smoking or road accidents and was comparable to the economic cost of obesity.
6. Welcomed the proposed actions being taken by the council and the Mayor of London but accepted that neither had all the necessary powers needed to tackle this health emergency;
7. That central government had the key role in tackling this issue and there was an urgent need for a new Clean Air Act, and comprehensive diesel scrappage scheme. Continual co-operation with Europe post-Brexit was also necessary.
8. Supported the suggestions made within the draft report, however expressed caution in introducing congestion charging, and other similar schemes in the short-term; and suggested further actions for the council to consider.
9. Welcome proposed actions to tackle congestion and pollution in regards large scale construction projects in the Town Centre.
10. That the Council needed to continue to promote both walking and cycling and especially discourage short car journeys.
11. That the public had a role to play in improving Air Quality, including the type of vehicle they bought and drove, whether they drove them on days of high pollution; what type of gas central heating system they use; whether they bought or use wood burning stoves; had bonfires; or re-opened chimneys in their homes, and the type of fuel they burnt. All these activities contribute to air pollution and to the health emergency.
12. That local businesses, non-profit sector, and the public sector had a role to play in regards their transport policies, fleet purchase choices, logistics, staff commuting, flexible working practices.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. Support the overall aims of the draft report;
2. Recommend that Public Health intelligence be integrated into the formation of the final Air Quality Action Plan;
3. Recommend to Cabinet that an extensive Equalities Impact Assessment is completed for the final air Quality Action Plan which ensures no measures adversely affects residents with disabilities;
4. Recommend to Cabinet that an extensive education & publicity programme be undertaken to ensure the public are aware of the risks of air pollution;
5. Recommend to the Cabinet and Mayor of London that on days of high pollution that joint publicity should be undertaken including advising people to leave diesel cars at home, not to use wood burning stoves, open fire places, or light bonfires;
6. Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment that the Council join calls for a national diesel scrappage scheme;
7. Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment that the Council join calls for a new Clean Air Act which responds to the challenges of the 21st century;
8. Recommend to Cabinet that a new Smoke Control Order to be declared to cover the entire Borough and revoke the previous partial order;
9. Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment not to proceed with congestion charging, but to review whether the Croydon Parking Policy needs amending to discourage use of worst polluting diesel cars;
10. Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment ban bonfires in the borough, other than at times of festivals;
11. Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment that regulations on the use of wood burning stoves and chimneys, and the type of fuel used, be extended to cover the entire borough;
12. The Council undertake a publicity campaign, aimed of sellers and buyers of wooden logs and smokeless fuels, to remind customers of the law in regards wood burning stoves and open chimney fires and what legally is allowed to be burned;
13. Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment that trees be replanted across the borough with a particular focus on the most polluted areas;
14. Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning that its should be a requirement for all building sites to have temp green screens of trees to help tackle pollution generated on site;
15. Recommend to all councillors in Croydon to consider using ward funds to help tackle air pollution in the areas they represent by funding the planting of new trees in parks and streets;
16. Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment that proactive work be undertaken to tackle the issue of idling vehicles, in particular taxis around East Croydon station;
17. Recommend to Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning and Cabinet Member for Transport, and the Cabinet Member for Homes, Regeneration and Planning to carry out a review of the effectiveness of School Travel Plans, whether they are currently "fit for

- purpose" in regards pupil safety, public health, congestion, and air quality, and report back on how they can be improved;
18. Recommend to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning, to identify the schools on Croydon with the most pressing air quality issues and to work with the schools to reduce the impact of pollution;
 19. Recommend to the Mayor of London and the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment that work to tackle air quality issues should build upon current projects and knowledge, rather than always start afresh;
 20. Recommend to the Mayor of London that the Ultra-Low Emission Zone be extended to include outer London boroughs;
 21. Recommend to the Mayor of London that all buses be retrofitted to ensure lower emissions and particulate levels, with buses using London Road to be a priority; and
 22. Recommend to Royal Mail (re-recommendation from a previous review) that they consider opening a parcel collection point in the centre of Croydon which will enable fewer car journeys for people to collect their parcels.

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

The recommendations are in accordance with the constitution.

This requires that the Scrutiny report is received and registered at this Cabinet Meeting and that a substantive response is provided within 2 months (ie. **Cabinet, 19 June 2017** is the next available meeting).

7. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Stephen Rowan, Head of Democratic Services
and Scrutiny

T: 020 8726 6000 X 62529

Email: stephen.rowan@croydon.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Background document 1: Reports to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 10 January 2017.

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kab14.pl?operation=SUBMIT&meet=18&cmte=SOC&grpid=public&arc=1>

Background document 2: Reports to the Streets, Environment and Homes Sub-Committee on 31 January 2017.

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kab14.pl?operation=SUBMIT&meet=4&cmte=SEH&grpid=public&arc=1>