

**COUNCILLOR MIKE FISHER
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

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ITEMS CONSIDERED AT 10 DECEMBER 2012 CABINET

**1. EDUCATION ESTATES STRATEGY UPDATE
Cabinet Member: Councillor Tim Pollard**

Through the September 2012 Cabinet report on education estates, Croydon Council agreed to consult on proposals to permanently expand five maintained schools as part of the strategy to expand capacity for the September 2013 intake. The consultation process consists of two parts, beginning with an initial statutory period, followed by the issuing of statutory notices. The Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning considered, on 22 October, the outcomes of the initial consultation and agreed to the publication of statutory notices. In line with statutory requirements and processes for school expansion the notices were published on 24 October 2012 in a local newspaper and also posted at the main entrance to the schools. These invited representations – including objections and comments – to be made within the four week statutory period.

Two additional statutory notices were also published on 24 October, relating to the establishment of SEN resource bases at Chipstead Valley, and Fairchildes Primary Schools, allowing a six week statutory period for representations.

In line with the statutory requirement for expanding a maintained school, the Council needs to make a decision about whether to reject or approve the proposals. If the Council fail to decide proposals within two months of the end of the representation period the Council must forward the proposals, and any received representations to the Schools Adjudicator for decision.

The purpose of the report considered by Cabinet was to enable it to make a decision about the proposals to expand the schools, following which, the Cabinet Member will write to stakeholders, including the DfE, setting out the reason for the decisions, in line with statutory guidance.

A further purpose of the report being considered was to provide an update and further proposal in respect of the development of secondary provision on the South Norwood CALAT site, and to link this with a potential development on the nearby Arena site.

A further report will be made to Cabinet that will detail primary school expansions needed for the September 2014 intake.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below:

1. Following the completion of the statutory process and having considered any representations made, to agree that the following schools will be permanently expanded to provide an additional reception class of 30 pupils with effect from September 2013:
 - Parish Church CE Infants and Junior
 - Howard Primary
 - Downsvew Primary
 - Forestdale Primary
 - Norbury Manor Primary
2. To note the progress on the consultation to extend two academies, using the Brigstock Manor and Stroud Green sites
3. Following the completion of the statutory process and having considered any representations made to agree the establishment of SEN resource bases at:
 - Chipstead Valley Primary
 - Fairchildes Primary Schools
4. As part of Croydon's contribution to the Olympic legacy, to agree to the proposal to establish a new secondary school, with a specialism in sport, using a combination of the CALAT South Norwood and Arena sites.

2. CROYDON INNOVATION CENTRE
Cabinet Member: Councillor Vidhi Mohan

There is a well established need to increase the attractiveness of Croydon as a place for business investment and growth set out within the 'We are Croydon – this is our Vision' enterprising city theme. An unmet demand has been identified within Croydon for the provision of a new form of workspace to support high growth potential businesses.

It will support the existing programmes of activity in the West Croydon areas to ensure a pipeline of employment opportunity is generated. It will dovetail with the proposed Enterprise hub in London Road which will support local independent businesses and the skills and employment agenda. It will also target entrepreneurs from riot impacted areas to ensure new business ideas from the youth population are nurtured.

There is no existing or proposed facility designed and managed specifically to foster the creation of high growth businesses in the Borough that is specifically linked to a University or research institute.

The proposed Innovation Centre project will provide superior quality space supported by a skilled, exceptionally well-networked, professional support team. The combination of flexible small business space, access to University facilities and the highest level advisors will provide the best platform for high growth businesses to develop in Croydon.

The short, medium and long term results will be much needed additional employment and a boost to Croydon’s reputation as a place for business growth. It is anticipated that this could generate 470 net additional jobs and 267 in Croydon.

The centre is expected to take tenants from Croydon as well as the town’s wider south London commercial and coast-to-capital catchment. Borough wide marketing will focus on finding entrepreneurs from areas with highest unemployment and riot affected areas to bring them through the pathways of employment and enterprise support, including the Innovation Centre.

Summary of expected Project Outputs

	High Quality Business Space renovated	Businesses supported	Job supported or created
2012-13	10,586 sq ft		3
2013-14		40	40
2014-15	10,674	40	100
2015-16			46
2016-17		40	46
2017-18		40	47
2018-19			47
2019-20		40	47
2020-21		40	47
2021-22		27	47
TOTAL	21,260	267	470

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. approve the setting up of the Innovation Centre in Croydon and
2. delegate to the Chief Executive authority:
 - to enter into a funding agreement with the GLA for £1,499,540,
 - to enter into a 10 year lease for the provision of an Innovation Centre on the basis of the lease terms detailed within this report and
 - to take any further actions necessary to implement the recommendation in 1 above.

3. BUDGET OPTIONS 2013/15

Cabinet Members: The Leader, Councillor Mike Fisher & Councillor Steve O’Connell

The Cabinet received the ‘July Financial Review’ report on the 9th July 2012 as part of overall budget strategy preparation and baseline financial assumptions

which set out a budgetary financial gap for 2013/14 of £10.480m and a gap for the next four years (2013/17) of £52.728m.

The report considered by Cabinet sought the approval for public engagement of an efficiency programme of £11.291m, a Step Change programme of £6.346m, a cuts programme for 2013/14 of £2.828m and an income programme of £0.884m to enable a balanced budget for 2013/14 to be achieved. The proposals also recommended included a programme of efficiencies of £10.417m, step change programme of £2.773m, cuts programme of £0.878m and income programme of £0.513m for 2014/15. As part of an ongoing programme of consultation and engagement with residents, on 11th December a process of engagement with residents began on the budget options proposed within this report.

The Council has a duty under the Local Government Finance Act 2003 to set a balanced budget before 14th March 2013. The report supported the enablement of that duty to be fulfilled.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve for consultation:-

1. The draft departmental Efficiency programme for 2013/15 as contained in Appendix A;
2. The draft Cuts programme for 2013/15 as contained in Appendix B;
3. The draft Step Change programme for 2013/15 in Appendix C;
4. The draft Income programme for 2013/15 as contained in Appendix D;
5. To delegate to the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services, in consultation with the Leader, to add further budget options, as necessary, for 2013/15 for the purposes of engagement and decision making.
6. The Council should carry out an engagement with the public on the proposed budget options;

in order to enable a balanced budget position for 2013/14 to be recommended to Council on 25th February 2013 and to establish a solid and stable financial platform for the Council for future years in accordance with the Councils financial strategy.

4. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME **Cabinet Member: Councillor Sara Bashford**

There is currently a national council tax benefit (CTB) scheme which supports residents on low incomes who need help to pay their council tax. At present central Government fund 100% of the total payment of CTB. As part of the Spending Review 2010, the Government announced that it intended to localise CTB from 2013/14 (1st April) with a 10% reduction in national funding support for local authorities to meet the cost of council tax benefit. The impact of the

reduction is much higher in Croydon, currently identified as 16%; due to our growth in customers forecasted for the current and following year.

These proposed changes represent a significant potential cost to the Council of £4.84m per annum with an additional increased cost each financial year as a consequence of the continuing increase in demand for council tax benefit from within our community.

Cabinet received a report in July 2012 which outlined the principles of the proposed new Council Tax Support Scheme which were agreed and that consultation on the suggested scheme with residents should commence.

The consultation having been completed, the results collated and the considered, recommendations were made for the approval of a new Council Tax Support Scheme to commence on the 1st April 2013.

Alongside the recommendations for a Council Tax Support Scheme were proposals for changes to the current council tax exemptions and discounts which had been introduced by the Local Government Finance Act 2012 ("the LGFA 2012") which are not subject to the same consultation requirements necessary for the Council Tax Support Scheme.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the outcome of the consultation;
2. Subject to number 3 below, recommend the adoption of the Croydon Council Tax Support Scheme to full Council on the terms consulted upon. A full copy of the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme in the form to be recommended to the Council for adoption, is contained in the appendix to the report;
3. Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director Corporate Resources & Customer Services in consultation with the Council Solicitor, the authority to update the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme to reflect the changes introduced by the publication of the Regulations as set out in paragraph 4.6 of the Cabinet report, in advance of consideration for adoption by full Council;
4. Recommend to full council the provisions on council tax discounts and exemptions be altered as detailed in paragraph 9 of the Cabinet report.
5. **CROYDON DISCRETIONARY SUPPORT SCHEME (CDS)**
Cabinet Member: Councillor Sara Bashford

As part of the Government's Welfare Reform Act 2012, changes have been made to the operation of the Social Fund. The Social Fund includes funeral payments, maternity grants, crisis loans, budgeting loans, community care grants and cold weather payments. Winter fuel payments are also a type of Social Fund payment, but they are restricted to people who have reached state pension age.

From April 2013 the DWP will no longer operate the social fund elements for provision of Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans. The funds for these

awards will be allocated to local authorities to design and introduce localised schemes, to meet the needs of local residents in these areas. The level of funding provided will be based on previous expenditure in Croydon.

Under the current arrangements, Community Care Grants are non-repayable awards of cash or goods, to help people either stay in their community or move back to their community.

Crisis Loans, as applied by the current social fund system, are interest free cash payments for people facing emergency situations or who are facing a disaster situation.

The DWP have published details of Croydon's grant allocation for the next two years and there is an additional provision within the grant allocation for the administration of the localised scheme. There is no statutory requirement for the council to provide a scheme and the funds which have been allocated are not ring-fenced. Although the Government expects the funding to be used to provide the new provision and future funding will be dependent on how much the council spends

Unfortunately the level of detail obtained from DWP in respect of payments made, which Croydon residents receive those payments and the reasons for support are very basic. This places significant limits on the level of understanding regarding the support required for Croydon residents going forward and therefore significantly adds to the risk to the council of making any dramatic changes to the current manner of operation of the crisis loans and community care grants.

Having considered the Council's public sector equalities duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the report and the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) at Appendix 2 to the report, and the results of consultation with stakeholders;

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to agree Croydon's Discretionary Scheme as our local replacement scheme for crisis loans and community care grants, Option 2.

6. CROYDON JOINT DEMENTIA STRATEGY 2013-16 **Cabinet Member: Councillor Margaret Mead**

There are now 800,000 people with dementia in the UK and there are estimated to be 670,000 family and friends acting as primary carers. Given the numbers of people with dementia and the rising cost, it is vital that we forward plan our strategy for not only meeting the demand but add value through improved quality and providing choice. In Croydon 3300 people have received a diagnosis of dementia but through prevalence and demographic data there is the real possibility of growth in numbers by at least another 1000.

This strategy has been developed with all the key statutory and voluntary sector partners. Its emphasis is on delivering key targets within existing resources by developing early intervention, prevention and more use of reablement services. However, the council with its key partners is expecting

that more resources will have to be found over the next 5 years for home care/care home placements. Also, better value for money will be found by a further integration of commissioning across health; and social care will enable any savings to be recycled to fund the future growth.

The board of the clinical commissioning Group has adopted dementia care as a priority now and in the future.

There is ample research and reports relating to the work undertaken to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their carers but also evidence which clearly states people are not living well with dementia and hence lies the challenge.

We require a major shift in societal awareness and understanding about dementia, how we manage this terrible illness from early onset to end of life and what, jointly we need to do to make all parts of the journey easier to navigate.

Having considered the requirements of the Council's public sector equalities duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the Cabinet report and the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) the Cabinet **RESOLVED** to agree the adoption and implementation of the Dementia Strategy (electronic copy appendices only) with key partners including small amounts of development and project funding.

7. **ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN**
Cabinet Member: Councillor Tim Pollard

The statutory guidance on safeguarding children, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2010), points out that 'The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009' introduced a requirement for LSCB's to produce and publish an annual report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. The report is presented in fulfilment of these responsibilities and is composed of the following:

The Annual Report of Croydon Safeguarding Children Board 2011-12 and the Business Plan April 2012-13. This gives an overview of the performance across agencies within Croydon. The key responsibility for the Local Safeguarding Board is for local agencies to hold each other to account for performance in safeguarding. Whilst the Council co-ordinates the arrangements for the board, it is independently chaired. This report provides an overview of the Council's performance in 2011-12, and provides details of the emerging developments in 2012-13.

In 2011-12 there was (and continues to be) major reorganisation across key partner agencies; Health, Police and Children's Social Care have all had significant changes to their senior management teams. The Board has been mindful that a period of re-organisation inevitably introduces additional risk to consistent service delivery, and took steps to minimise that risk through review. Effective safeguarding requires an active, open partnership between families, communities and professionals working with children.

The key areas of activity for the Board in 2011-12 were:

- The strengthening of a Quality Assurance Framework – supporting the Board to understand the impact of the work being undertaken across partners. This involves the development of a programme of audit work to be undertaken by individual agencies and by the multi agency partnership together. These audits aim to triangulate information by auditing case work, speaking to practitioners and their managers, and consulting with service users about their individual experiences. In 2011-12 the Board considered 'The Effectiveness of the Common Assessment Framework', and 'The Effective Application of Thresholds'. The Board also undertook a multi agency audit of 12 cases.
- Development of a Safeguarding dataset to be presented to the Board on a 6 monthly basis.
- Development and embedding of the Missing Children Protocol – there are now clear pathways established for the safe management and oversight of children missing from home and care in Croydon.
- 2 Serious Case Reviews initiated – one completed in year 2011-12. Key messages delivered to CSC social work conference in March 2012.
- Identification of areas of vulnerability and oversight of improvement plans– Health – pressures relating to resources, (health visitor, midwifery and school nurse numbers), CAMHS/SLaM – pressures relating to resources. Children's Social Care – high levels of activity (referral and assessment), concerns re practice and management oversight.
- Inspection activity and ongoing monitoring of action plans.

The agreed priorities for the Children's Safeguarding Partnership are set out in the 2012-13 business plan. During this period the Board will also need to strengthen its scrutiny role and increase its accessibility and visibility to the general public, the third sector, and universal services.

The key areas for focus in 2012-13 are:

- The development of the Sexual Exploitation Protocol and pathways
- Provision of partnership training on domestic violence to support the implementation of the Domestic Violence Strategy
- Development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Further development of the scrutiny/critical challenge role of the Board through review of an individual agency annual safeguarding report and supporting evidence (Section 11 Audit).
- Recruitment to 3 critical posts to support the Board (Training, Quality Assurance and Board Development Officers).

Croydon Council Safeguarding Children Annual Report. This is an annual report of the Council's own direct responsibilities for safeguarding children through its own service delivery. The report highlights the significant levels of activity at the 'front door' in terms of referral and assessment rates, provides a summary of audit work undertaken and offers analysis on safeguarding activity for children in need and children in need of protection. An analysis of recruitment and retention is provided. A number of improvement strategies are set out in the report evidencing the robust approach being taken to drive the required changes.

The key improvement projects are:

- Re-organisation of Children's Social Care
- Development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Implementation of a new Social Care Case Recording System
- Implementation of a new procedures manual.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to recognise the work of the Council's services in continuing to achieve the high level of performance in effective safeguarding of children during 2011-12, and their ongoing work during the current year, as detailed in Appendices 1 & 2 to the Cabinet report, the Croydon Council Safeguarding Children Annual Report 2011-12, and the Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board 2011-12 and the Business Plan April 2012-13

8. **REGULATION OF TOWN CENTRE ADVERTISING BOARDS & HAND-HELD PLACARDS**

Cabinet Members: Councillors Simon Hoar & Phil Thomas

The Town Centre has seen a growth in numbers and types of advertisements displayed on the public highway.

The situation has now reached a point where it is considered that regulation is required over advertisements in the Town Centre. The large size and clusters of traditional shop advertisements (hereafter referred to as 'A-boards') within this area and hand-held placards at certain locations are causing significant obstruction to the users of the highway.

It is considered that the proliferation of portable advertisements has a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area and represents a health and safety concern for users of the highway, which will only get worse if not addressed.

The purpose of the proposals is to ensure the health and safety of pedestrians and better regulation within the Town Centre, with adequate footway for pedestrians to pass by and thus improve the shopping experience.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. consider the proposal to designate the area within the Town Centre as set out in *Appendix A* of the Cabinet report for the purposes of Section 6 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007 ("the Act") in which the display of portable advertisements is prohibited unless subject to consent, either deemed or express.
2. authorise officers to instigate a consultation process and publish, in accordance with the requirements of the Act, notice of the Council's intention to designate the area within the Town Centre for the purposes of prohibiting the display of portable advertisements;
3. note that, before the Council may designate the area under the Act, interested parties must be given and opportunity to comment and the

Council must consider these representations. Officers will report the outcome of the Consultation to Cabinet to enable a decision to be taken in light of representations received;

4. note that Planning Committee will be asked to adopt the Policy & Criteria for licensing of 'A-boards' within the Town Centre designated area as this is a non-executive function with falls within the role of the Planning Committee.

9. **CCURV ANNUAL REPORT**
Cabinet Member: Councillor Jason Perry

CCURV is a pioneering 50:50 partnership between the London Borough of Croydon and John Laing established in November 2008. The partnership is a 28-year exclusive joint venture involving the use of an asset backed Urban Regeneration Vehicle (URV) into which the Council commits land and in return John Laing invests equity funds as well as development expertise. The partners have equal voting rights, and this gives the Council far more control over the delivery of development schemes than if it used traditional delivery methods.

To date CCURV's initial projects have secured:

Work for local companies:

CCURV's strategy of engaging with and supporting local companies through a series of events including "meet the buyer" events resulted in £6 million of supply chain contracts being awarded locally by the end of 2011. Since the year end this figure reached £7m. Work packages awarded locally include Building supplies, Building Management Services, Catering, Concrete and floor screed, Construction recruitment, Digital printing and signage, Graphic design, Haulage, Hospitality, Industrial supplies, Ironmongery, Landscaping, Office space rental, Planning services, Production of marketing materials, Sand and gravel, Sign makers and designers, Skip hire, Tiling

Local jobs – For Bernard Weatherill House the target of achieving 10% local employment was achieved every month of the contract, and for 19 months the figure reached 18%. For Waddon the target was 20% and this was achieved every month.

Placements and Apprenticeships – By the end of 2011 a total of 32 placements and apprenticeships had been provided by CCURV's contractors and subcontractors covering disciplines including mechanical and electrical engineering, building management systems, dry lining, brick & blockwork, insulation, painting and decorating, roofing, carpentry and engineering. Since the year end this figure has risen to 41. A detailed schedule showing the companies providing the placements and apprenticeships is contained in section 3.4 of this paper.

Through CCURV STEP, Martin Todorov, a profoundly deaf student at Croydon College, has taken up an apprenticeship with Commercial Insulation. With

support from REDS10, Imtech Meica and Sir Robert McAlpine, Martin has progressed extremely well and has received a glowing report from his boss.

Help for the long-term unemployed

Sir Robert McAlpine and its supply chain partners worked with Jobcentre Plus to deliver training and employment opportunities for long term unemployed residents in Croydon. Eight of the ten candidates successfully completed intensive work placements with Alandale Logistics, A. C. Beck, Focchi Ltd and MPG Group and have since taken up full time jobs with these firms.

Training

A wide range of lectures and placements have been delivered by Sir Robert McAlpine for students at Croydon's colleges and schools and Wates Construction have provided training in the latest industry technologies for teaching staff at Croydon College's New Addington construction training centre.

Efficiency Savings

Significant efficiency savings have been secured for LBC over the next 20 years through reduced property operating costs arising from the move to Bernard Weatherill House, including a saving of circa £40m in the projected cost of bringing Taberner house up to modern standards.

Carbon savings

Energy consumption at Bernard Weatherill House will be half that at Taberner House.

The CCURV Annual Report 2011 will be published in December 2012 and is the third CCURV annual report. It covers the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011 and sets out a number of items including project progress; key achievements and financial position. A summary of these are highlighted in the paragraphs below.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the CCURV Annual Report 2011

10. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cabinet Members: Councillors Steve O'Connell & Dudley Mead

The report considered by Cabinet summarises the Council's financial performance and related operational performance indicators as at the month ending September 2012 and detailed the projected outturn position and highlighted the action taken to manage under performance.

The detailed information was set out in the Appendices to the Cabinet report:

- Appendix 1 – Revenue outturn summary.

- Appendix 2 – Departmental revenue spending forecasts and recovery plans
- Appendix 3 - Capital (greater than £0.1m) variances

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to note:

1. The current in-year revenue outturn position for 2012/13 of a forecast overspend of £2.658m before the use of contingency;
2. The projected Capital programme spend of £201.767m;
3. The current in-year HRA revenue outturn position for 2012/13 of a forecast underspend of £1.596m.

11. YOUR CROYDON COUNTS

Cabinet Member: Councillor Steve O'Connell

This was the second Your Croydon Counts report of 2012/13. The document is the borough's quarterly performance report, focused on the issues that matter most to Croydon's residents.

Based on feedback from Cabinet and members of the public, the look and feel of the report has been changed for 2012/13 with the following objectives:

- To ensure a sharper focus on priority issues and the impact that the Council, together with partners, is having in each area;
- To ensure that the information we report is accessible, transparent, clear and concise; and
- To report only new and fresh data that helps us to understand our achievements and challenges on the issues that matter most to our residents; and
- To minimise reporting on inputs and processes and focus instead on outcomes delivered for our residents and customers.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note highlighted performance indicators and accompanying commentary within appendix 1 (printed separately).
2. Agree any changes to focus areas within the next quarterly performance report to Cabinet (March 2013).