

For General Release

REPORT TO:	FULL COUNCIL 1 DECEMBER 2014
AGENDA ITEM NO:	11
SUBJECT:	BUSINESS REPORT OF 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 Council receive a Scrutiny Business Report.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Council is asked to note the Scrutiny work programme for 2014/15 (attached) and scrutiny activity since 6th October 2014.
- 1.2 All Members are asked to consider the opportunities offered by Local Action Mini Reviews and what contribution they or their constituents can make to these or to the topics selected for Scrutiny as part of the 2014-15 scrutiny work programme.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the report of Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee, covering the period from 6th October to 30th November 2014 as required by the Constitution. The Constitution allows 10 minutes for this item, which includes up to 2 minutes for announcements

3. DETAILS

This report provides an account of Scrutiny activity carried out between 6th October and 30th November 2014.

4. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

The Council’s Constitution (Part 4a Council Procedure Rules 3.05) states that the purpose of the Scrutiny Business Report is “To update the Council on Scrutiny activity since the previous Council meeting. Also to advise on any major issues that needs to be considered by Scrutiny. Incorporating (1) written questions and (2) oral questions on the items contained in the Business Report”.

The Constitution allows 10 minutes for this item, which includes up to 2 minutes for announcements.

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: None

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report from the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
- Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15
- 20mph report from the Streets & Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

6th October to 30th November 2014



**Councillor Sean Fitzsimons
Chair, Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee**

1. INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to report that Scrutiny is well on the way to meeting the Scrutiny Outcomes which we set for ourselves at the beginning of the municipal year.

The new style scrutiny committees are continuing to develop the approach of giving time to public speakers at meetings and as a result have been gaining valuable insights into the subjects under scrutiny. We are particularly proud of the contribution that young people have made at meetings and we plan to develop this further. The Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee have scheduled a number of meetings outside the Town Hall as part of the openness agenda but we are disappointed that so far resources have not been found for webcasting Scrutiny meetings.

We have also seen the production of the first of our new style 'topic' reports. The report on 20mph speed limits will be followed by others on street lighting, cycling and Croydon University Hospital. These reports are designed to provide members of the public, stakeholders and Members with an easy reference 'snapshot' in time on a particular subject.

Finally we have been pleased to see that ideas coming out of Scrutiny meetings are already influencing proposals and decision making.

2. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

2.1 Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee

The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee met on 11th November 2014.

Councillor Timothy Godfrey, **Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport** attended the meeting and through his presentation and responses to questions provided information about his portfolio which had been reinstated after the local elections in June. He particularly highlighted challenges relating to budget pressures and outsourced services and issued challenges to contractors delivering parks, library and leisure services that the contracts were being monitored for good performance and that there was always the option to bring them back in-house. He was concerned that the way the contracts were modelled did not now chime with the way the council wanted to use these services as part of the broader cultural and sporting offering. Councillor Godfrey praised the very small teams working within the council to deliver culture, leisure, sport and bereavement services against this difficult background. The young people present at the meeting asked that opportunities for them to take part in cultural and sporting activities be advertised better, particularly through schools.

Members received a report on the **Cultural Landscape of Croydon** and heard from a number of members of the public including representatives from Croydon Summer Festival 2015, RISE-gallery, Apsara Arts, Surrey Opera, Youth Council and Croydon Youth Arts Council. There was agreement that an enhanced cultural landscape would help make Croydon a better place to live and that it would support the borough's regeneration and growth ambitions. The Committee heard however that groups based in Croydon had to go outside the borough to find venues to perform, that members of the public tended to look outside Croydon for events and that promoters found it hard to make events pay in Croydon. Members heard that there were a number of initiatives underway to highlight cultural opportunities in Croydon including the Summer Festival in 2015 and the development of a cultural 'quarter' in the town centre.

Members of the Committee welcomed the development of a Cultural Strategy for Croydon, expressed support for the proposal that a Cultural Trust be considered for Croydon and concluded that there were a number of barriers to an enhanced cultural offering including the lack of affordable venues for amateur groups, the lack of flexibility in licensing events and venues and funding.

Following an item on the **Croydon Adult Learning and Training (CALAT)** service in March 2014, Members of the Committee followed up recommendations made at that meeting by visiting its Central Croydon site on 15th October. Members of the Committee were impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm of council officers and staff at CALAT and resolved to:

- Endorse the improvements made over the past 12 months in the delivery adult learning and training services through CALAT and recorded in the Self-Assessment Report,
- Support the leadership of the management team at CALAT and its approach to the development of the Self-Assessment Report which is due to be submitted to the Skills Funding Agency in December 2014.

2.2 Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee met on 21 October 2014 for the first of a series of five committee meetings to be held in various locations across the borough.

The committee(meeting at St Joseph's) heard from the **Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration**, who assured Members that the portfolios is working hard to reduce some of the nationwide issues affecting Croydon in relation to limitations of providing homes for the homeless and those with a housing need. Officers continue to work closely with authorities to review and where appropriate implement best practice locally.

An item on the homelessness and tenancy strategies were taken as pre decision reviews of both strategies. The committee were invited to and will be informed of up and coming events and initiatives related to the agreement and implementation of both strategies. The committee agreed to receive an item reviewing both strategies at its meeting of 12 May 2015.

The report of the Annual Public Health was reviewed during this meeting. Members felt that they could have given greater input if they had been involved earlier on in the process. Officers agreed to return to the Committee with potential themes for the 2015 report at their meeting of 27 January 2015.

Committee was pleased to Members of the public attend the meeting, including representatives of Landlords.

Site Visit – Triage Ward, Bethlem Royal Hospital - In addition to committee meetings a cohort of Members including non-committee members visited the remodelled triage facility at the Bethlem Royal Hospital on Monday 10 November 2014. This ward is borough specific to Croydon residents; however other authorities, if required could access the facility. The service is well staffed and patients appear to be happy and relaxed.

The Group met with a range of heads of service, clinicians and service users. The account given by service users was powerful and gave real appreciation of what treatments is provided on site. Staff were open to questions by Members and gave good accounts of their areas.

The Sub Committee is due to meet at the Bethlem Royal Hospital on 27 January 2014.

The Sub-Committee met on 12 November 2014, at Croydon University Hospital. A single substantive item agenda on services provided by **Croydon Health Services NHS Trust** was received.

The purpose of this item was the continued scrutiny of outcomes following the Care Quality Commission inspection of the acute services within the Trust (using their new inspection regimen) in September 2013; the subsequent report and two quality summits were designed to highlight best practice and areas of poor performance.

The Trust updated the committee on its quality improvement plan previously developed in consultation with key stakeholders, the CQC and the Trust during the first of the two quality summits. The Hospital was very open in its reporting of areas of poor performance and where it had achieved significant improvement.

To further tackle performance issue and improve the patient experience, the Trust had taken a top down and bottom up approach, by refreshing their senior management structures and committees, reviewed and changed the clinical area skill mix. A central initiative for achieving success has seen the Trust champion and embark on a series of Listening Into Action sets by way of involving both staff and patient groups. The Trust recognised that the Trust's standards and performance is a working progress.

CUH had kindly advertised the meeting on noticeboards and on their intranet and as a result, the committee welcomed a number of new public faces at the meeting.

2.3 Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee

At the Sub-Committee meeting on 14th October, Members focused on children's **safeguarding and tackling child sexual exploitation**. In attendance were council managers and representatives of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB), the NSPCC and the Safer London Foundation and two police representatives. Members questioned stakeholders on the membership of the Croydon Safeguarding Children Board, safeguarding practice and monitoring in various contexts including small sports clubs, Saturday schools and social housing.

After detailed discussions on the work of the CSCB, Members reached the following conclusions:

- The absence of children's voice in monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding was disappointing
- Training should be provided to members so that they could gain a better understanding of the issues and legislation involved, as well as the services being provided to safeguard children and young people in the borough
- Members should obtain more information relating to the safeguarding of children and young people, e.g. minutes of relevant meetings
- User-friendly member guidance should be provided to help them absorb the data available on safeguarding, in order to understand trends and emerging issues
- Clear steps should be taken for Scrutiny members to become more proactive in the area of safeguarding, not only through one yearly meeting, but on an ongoing basis - this might include carrying out site visits to scrutinise the quality of children's safeguarding
- An agenda item should be included on the agenda for the 25 November Sub-Committee meeting to agree recommendations and actions on children's safeguarding

The Chair opened the agenda item on children sexual exploitation with a reminder of the gravity of this item and of local agencies' responsibility not to shy away from tackling reports of child sexual exploitation, as had apparently occurred in Rotherham.

The Chair of the Croydon Children Safeguarding Board gave assurances that it took this offence very seriously, and had set up a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) sub-group to address issues in the borough.

Members were informed that an audit had been carried out this summer of the needs of Croydon's most vulnerable children and young people. The audit report had highlighted the risk factors making Croydon's young people particularly vulnerable to child sexual exploitation. The following groups were felt to be at highest risk of CSE:

- Unaccompanied asylum seeking young people leaving care and thus no longer under the supervision of social services
- Looked after children from other authorities who may not be monitored closely in view of their distance from the referring borough or council

Officers were asked what key improvements needed to take place in order to ensure that the situation in Rotherham could not be replicated in Croydon. They stated that the following three areas needed to be prioritised:

- Developing the right culture among local agencies, a challenge for the Croydon Children's Safeguarding Board
- Ensuring that front line staff and managers are accountable to the Board for their services and actions
- Focus on good practice, including outreach work carried out by the voluntary sector and community leaders, such as members.

2.4 Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Councillor Stuart Collins, **Cabinet Member for Green and Clean** attended the Sub-Committee meeting on 18th November and through his presentation and responses to questions provided information about his portfolio. He particularly highlighted the priorities for his portfolio and the challenges to deliver important green and clean priorities within its £30m budget. He described the council's ambition to be the greenest and cleanest London Borough and talked about the positive impact the 'Don't Mess with Croydon – Take Pride' campaign had already delivered. The Cabinet Member answered wide-ranging questions on issues relating to: enforcement, changes in legislation and the use of fixed penalty notices; street cleaning and orange bag collections; trade waste and working with traders; reporting and the use of the My Croydon App and Fly-tipping email address; problems relating to HMOs and permitted development; household waste and recycling and fly-tipping travellers and illegal encampments.

Members also received information on three reports relating to the Veolia Waste and Recycling Collection and Street Cleaning contract, Fly-tipping in Croydon and the South West London Waste Partnership.

Members heard that the **Veolia Waste and Recycling Collection and Street Cleaning contract** is a huge contract that has been running since 2003 but will end in 2018. Members received information about missed collections, green waste collections, orange bag collections and the mess left behind some waste removal trucks. Members heard how new technology in trucks was helping with reporting. The Cabinet Member for Green and Clean committed to a green waste collection in 2015-16 and to consider options other than charging for the service in later years as he understood the importance of the service to residents. Members noted with interest the intention to move to a 'village' model of waste collection from April 2015 and were interested to hear about the potential for 'smarter' working which this would deliver alongside initiatives such as street champions.

Members also received a report on **Fly-tipping in Croydon** and heard that although the instances of fly-tipping had been increasing year on year, the time taken to remove fly-tips had decreased. This was due to the target time being decreased from 72 hours to 48 earlier in the year and it being easier for fly-tipping events to be reported. Members heard about the challenges relating to fly-tipping on private land and initiatives such as Community Pride Cleanups to help address this. The Cabinet Member for Green and Clean stressed the importance of 'naming and shaming' offenders, crushing vehicles used for fly-tipping and successful prosecutions in helping to reduce fly-tipping.

Members also heard about the history, structure and governance of the **South West London Waste Partnership**. Members sought information about incinerator technology, truck journeys and the potential impact on the council and residents if Croydon was to withdraw from the Partnership. Members also heard about the importance of Household Waste Recycling sites, that Croydon was the only London Borough to have three such sites, that they accepted over 40 different types of materials and that recycling and reuse figures were on the increase.

Members of the Committee were aware of the current appeal against a ruling by a high court judge to uphold Sutton Council's decision to approve plans for an incinerator on Beddington Farmlands and did not stray into discussion on this. The Cabinet Member for Green and Clean undertook to issue a statement on behalf of the Council as soon as a decision on the appeal has been made.

2.5 South West London Standing Joint Health Overview Committee (JHOSC)

The SWL Standing JHOSC had their last meeting in July 2014. During this meeting a Sub-Committee was convened to review the public consultation process of the substantial change and variation in delivery of inpatient mental health services across South West London provided by St Georges Hospital. As very few Croydon Residents will be affected by the review, the standing JHOSC agreed to two Croydon Members sitting on the committee as observers only.

The public consultation period commenced on 29 September 2014 and will run until 21 December 2014. The Sub Committee met on Tuesday 18 November 2014 to review the outline business case. The last meeting of the Sub Committee is scheduled to take place on 17 December 2014 with a date pencilled in for January 2015 to allow for any slippage in the timetable.

2.6 Forthcoming meetings:

- **Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee**, Tuesday 25th November 2014 at 6:30pm in Room F10, the Town Hall, Croydon.
- **Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee**, Tuesday 9th December 2014, United Reform Church Purley, 906 Brighton Road, Purley, CR8 2LN.
- **Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee**, Tuesday 2nd December 2014 at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Croydon.
- **Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee**, Wednesday 17th December 2014 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Croydon.(Budget Scrutiny)

3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15 and 2015/16

The 2014/15 scrutiny work programme is on track and the “at a glance” summary is **attached**. Scrutiny Chairs continue to discuss how the 2015/16 programme is to be developed and welcome any suggestions.

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014-15 (as at 21 November 2014)

This schedule provides an overview of Scrutiny meetings in 2014/15 and outlines an indicative (but not final or complete) list of topics for discussion.

SCRUTINY & STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (SSOC)	1 July 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work Programme - Confirmation of Chair, Deputy Chair & Vice Chair - Establishment Streets & Environment Sub-Committee 	9 September 14 Cabinet Member Finance & Treasury (Simon Hall) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4-year Budget overview & resources - FM Procurement 	11 November 14 Cabinet Member Culture, Leisure & Sport (Timothy Godfrey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Culture in Croydon - CALAT update 	17 December 14 Leader of the Council & the Chief Executive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget and performance 	10 February 15 Cabinet Member Economic Development (Toni Letts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stronger Communities Partnership + Voluntary Sector Strategy 	3 March 15 Cabinet Member Safety & Justice (Mark Watson) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safer Croydon Partnership - Domestic Violence 	14 April 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Work Programme - Transparency Agenda - Data and Fol
HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE (HSCH)	8 July 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work Programme - Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair - Healthwatch Co-option - SW London JHOSC Update 	21 October 14 Cabinet Member Homes and Regeneration (Alison Butler) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homelessness Strategy/ Tenancy Strategy - Annual Report (DoPH) - Health Inequalities 	12 November 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Croydon Health Services NHS Trust - QIPP, LIA, End of Life Care 	9 December 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better Care Fund - Adult Safeguarding - NHS England Immunisation (6mth update) - Quality of Life for people with chronic conditions 	27 January 15 Cabinet Member People & Communities (Louisa Woodley) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health - Public Health Annual Report potential themes for 2015 	10 March 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health & Wellbeing Board - Housing Repairs 	12 May 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality Accounts - Housing Strategy - Review the Work Programme
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SUB-COMMITTEE (CYP)	22 July 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair - Work Programme - School Places and Estates Strategy 	14 October 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership work on safeguarding (LSCB Children's Board) - Implications for Croydon of Rotherham child sexual exploitation report 	25 November 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academies - evaluation/monitoring of effectiveness and standards of education provided 	3 February 15 Cabinet Member Children, Families & Learning (Alisa Flemming) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School standards and inclusion (including attendances) - Budget 	17 March 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Work Programme - Children's Social care (council services) - Follow-up on scrutiny recommendations 		
STREETS AND ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (S&E)	23 July 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work Programme - Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair - My Croydon App - Street Lighting PFI 	16 September 14 Cabinet Member Transport & Environment (Kathy Bee) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20mph speed limits 	18 November 14 Cabinet Member Clean & Green (Stuart Collins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWL waste Partnership - Veolia contract - Fly-tipping 	2 December 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cycling in Croydon inc. outcomes of 'Cycling day' (held on 19 November) - Street Lighting PFI Update following Walkabout (held on 4 November) 	20 January 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TfL – roads inc. A23 corridor - Connected Croydon 	24 March 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Work Programme - Flooding (update item) - Sustainability 	