

## For General Release

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>FULL COUNCIL 20 JULY 2015</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM NO:</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>BUSINESS REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Director of Legal and Democratic Services</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Sean Fitzsimons Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b>	<b>The constitutional requirement that Council receive a Scrutiny Business Report.</b>

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 Council is asked to note the Scrutiny work programme for 2015-16 (attached) and scrutiny activity since the beginning of the municipal year (May 2015).
- 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 2015-16 scrutiny work programme.
- 1.3 Members are asked to note the Lines of Enquiry for each review and consider whether they or their constituents may be able to contribute comments or questions for consideration and to tweet/facebook the topics to their followers

### **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This is the report of Scrutiny and Overview Committee, covering the period from 21 May to 30 June 2015 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 21 May and 30 June 2015.

### **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 Overview Committee
- Scrutiny Work Programme 2015-16

# **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE Scrutiny and OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

**21 May to 30 June 2015**



**Councillor Sean Fitzsimons  
Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Following a successful scrutiny year in 2014-15 which saw two Local Action Mini Reviews make recommendations to Cabinet, pre-decision scrutiny on a number of important issues and scrutiny Members hold all our Cabinet Members to account through Question Time sessions, the four scrutiny Committees are up and running and plan to cover considerable ground again this year.

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee and its three Sub-Committees have developed initial work programmes for the year and will continue to develop the scope and depth of their reviews in the coming weeks and months. One of the main steps forward in 2014-15 was to focus on our outcomes and in the current year we aim to ensure that scrutiny in Croydon becomes even smarter in the recommendations it makes to public service organisations in the borough.

Some important topics will be revisited as Members aim to monitor contracts such as the Street Lighting PFI contract, progress on the continued development of resilient flood risk management plans and the impact of partners including the Stronger Communities Partnership and Safer Croydon Partnership. Scrutiny has retained some flexibility in its work programme so that its Committees can be responsive, for example to the outcomes of the Fairness Commission when it reports later in the municipal year.

Health issues continue to challenge scrutiny in Croydon as the Committee struggles to cover all the aspects of the health economy and social care it would like to despite adding additional meetings to the schedule. The Health Sub-Committee will be taking some of these important issues to residents by holding its meetings around the borough once again this year.

Mini Reviews continue to offer Members an opportunity to highlight matters of interest or concern and the Chairs of Scrutiny would welcome applications from ward Members.

## **2. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **2.1 Scrutiny and Overview Committee**

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting on 9 June heard from the **Leader of the Council**, Councillor Tony Newman who provided Members with information about the challenges and opportunities facing the borough following the recent general election.

The Committee resolved not to make any recommendations to Cabinet though it was appreciative of the full answers the Leader provided to wide-ranging and challenging questions including on:

- Budget pressures including the need to reduce reliance on the needs based grant
- Shared services with other local authorities such as Lambeth
- Making the case for fair funding
- Changes to Croydon's demographics and the resulting pressures of services
- Mayoral election in May 2016
- South London Partnership including its purpose, remit and opportunities
- Potential benefits to Croydon arising from its Growth Zone status
- Recent cycling event held in the town centre
- Potential removal of Member referral rights which was listed as a possible 2016/17 budget saving
- Cultural offer in Croydon including plans for the Queen's Gardens stage
- Fairness Commission
- Right to Buy implications and challenges for Croydon
- The re-structure of Council departments
- Village style refuse and recycling collections and street cleaning
- Community budgets for ward Members
- Public health
- Policing and community safety
- Transport including Network Rail

### **2.2 Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

The Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee met on 23 June 2015 and Members were delighted to welcome HealthWatch Croydon Co-optee Kate Denham on to the Committee. Members look forward to another year of positive working between the two organisations.

**Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group** lead by the Chair Dr Tony Brzezicki,

Dr Agnelo Fernandes and Paula Swann, Chief Officer, attended the meeting to give Committee Members an overview of services commissioned by the organisation. Members noted with concern that the CCG will see an accumulative deficit of £40m by the year end and that there was no indication of when the deficit would be cleared.

The Committee was anxious that the CCG was failing to consult scrutiny over substantial variations and development to services. Following a full and frank discussion the Committee is hopeful that it will see more issues being referred in the future in line with the CCGs statutory duty. This first meeting provided an overview of issues and subsequent meetings will involve a “deep dive” into specific topics.

Members of the Committee noted with concern that the CCG failed to include in its presentation reference to its priorities going forward and information about how these were going to be delivered. The report provided to the Committee looked back over the past year where some priorities had not been met.

The Committee plans to be out and about again in 2015-16 and will be meeting in community settings for a second year. Already a number of venues have been booked with meetings taking place at Christ Church Purley on 15 September 2015 and the Oasis Restaurant in Croydon University Hospital on 26 January 2016.

The Committee also hopes to conduct a range of site visits throughout the year in order to help inform Members about issues relating to health, social care and housing in the borough.

### **2.3 Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

At the 16 June meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee, Members scrutinised the **provision of school places** in the borough. They were reminded of the enormous growth in demand over the last few years, leading to the creation of 5000 additional primary school places over the last four years. Officers added that pressure to secure sufficient school places was now beginning to be felt in the secondary sector and is likely to grow significantly until 2020-2021. Committee was informed that the Councils strategy for dealing with this bulge was to rely on the fact that (a) a number of pupils traditionally go to the Independent sector (b) a number of pupils tend to go out borough (c) there is a planned vacancy level built in and (d) expressions of interest from Free Schools and Academies, if realised, would cumulatively meet the demand. Committee was not convinced that this was an adequate risk management strategy

Members questioned officers regarding the appropriateness of the locations chosen to build new schools and the transport planning procedures involved in a planning application for a new school and stressed the environmental importance of reducing the need to travel, particularly by car. Officers highlighted the fact that some schools had been very good at encouraging young people to walk and that the introduction of 20mph limits had helped to foster a “walking culture” for some establishments.

Officers were questioned about the capacity and willingness for growth at popular **faith schools** in the borough, and were encouraged to work with such schools and with Diocesan Boards to provide additional school places to meet the projected demand for places in faith schools.

Committee decried the failure of officers to inform ward Members of educational developments in their ward. Committee stressed the need for ward Members to be kept informed of plans to build or expand schools for the earliest stages in order to be informed about these developments before residents were made aware of them. They asked for a procedure to be put in place to ensure that Members would be kept up-to-date on every stage in school planning, building, expansion or closure within their ward.

## **2.4 Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

At the Croydon council Cabinet meeting of 16 March 2015, Cabinet Members considered and agreed a **transport vision** for the borough. In order to help set the scene for the work of the Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the new municipal year, the Committee asked a number of stakeholders to present their response to the vision at its meeting on 30 June 2015.

Members canvassed the views of a number of different transport users about their transport needs and whether or not the vision delivers against these needs. Councillor Kathy Bee, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment was present and provided information on the need for the Council to work with transport providers to develop an infrastructure that encouraged cycling, walking and public transport while managing the needs of road users. It was reported that Public Health Croydon had undertaken an Health Impact Assessment arising from the Vision and supported the document as it supported Active Travel which could help health outcomes in the borough.

The Committee supported the Transport Vision document though they felt that the needs of people with disabilities and road users could have been more explicitly considered in the Vision presented. Members asked that the promise that delivery plans be measured against the vision be fulfilled although they recognised that in doing so the council could face difficult choices in the future.

The Committee heard from a Deputy Member of the Youth Parliament that in a recent survey transport was second only to Crime and Safety as the one of the most important issues to young people in Croydon. Members were supportive ideas relating to travel to school/ college for young people and added a review of School Travel Plans to the Committee’s work programme as a result.

Members were also concerned about the impact of freight transport particularly in the light of the redevelopment of the town and district centres over the next few years and will also consider an item on Construction Management Plans in November this year.

The Committee was keen to support consultation with the Mobility Forum and Disability Forum when larger transport schemes are considered.

Members heard that a Walking Strategy was under development and asked to be kept informed of its progress so that pre-decision scrutiny could be considered as an addition to the work programme.

## 2.5 Forthcoming meetings:

Committee	Date & venue	Topics
Scrutiny and Overview Committee	8 <sup>th</sup> September Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question time: Councillor Simon Hall</li> <li>• Overview of Council Contracts</li> <li>• FM procurement contract update</li> </ul>
Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> September <i>Christ Church, Purley</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for people living with chronic conditions</li> <li>• London Ambulance Service</li> </ul>
Joint meeting of Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee and Health Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee	22 <sup>nd</sup> September Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects of domestic violence on children</li> <li>• CAMHS (Emotional Wellbeing of Children)</li> </ul>
Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee	29 <sup>th</sup> September Town Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question time: Councillor Kathy Bee</li> <li>• Network Rail</li> </ul>

## 3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

The 2015-16 scrutiny work programme is being developed and an “at a glance” summary is attached. Scrutiny Chairs continue to discuss the lines of enquiry for topics in the 2015-16 programme and would welcome suggestions from Members for existing or potential topics for scrutiny to cover.

Please note that going forward all references to “CAHMS” will now be to “Children’s Emotional Wellbeing” to fit in with current professional advice.

## SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16<sup>1</sup> - as at 1 July 2015

<b>SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (SOC)</b>	<p><b>9 June 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QT: Leader &amp; CX</b> (post-election impact)</li> <li>• Work programme</li> <li>• Terms of reference</li> </ul>	<p><b>8 September 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QT: Finance and Treasury</b></li> <li>• Overview of Council Contracts</li> <li>• FM procurement contract update</li> </ul>	<p><b>3 November 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QT: Culture, Leisure and Sport</b></li> <li>• Capital budgets</li> </ul>	<p><b>15 December 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QT: Leader and CX</b></li> <li>• Budget 2016/17 and performance</li> </ul>	<p><b>19 January 16 (change of date)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QT: Economy and Jobs</b></li> <li>• Revitalising the evening economy in Croydon (inc. policing and licensing)</li> </ul>	<p><b>22 March 16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QT: Communities, Safety &amp; Justice</b></li> <li>• Safer Croydon Partnership (repeat offending &amp; criminal justice system)</li> <li>• Stronger Communities Partnership (update)</li> <li>• Scrutiny Annual report (draft)</li> </ul>	<p><b>12 April 16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topics for 2016/17</li> <li>• Digital inclusion</li> <li>• Financial inclusion</li> </ul>	
<b>HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE (HSCH)</b>	<p><b>23 June 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work programme</li> <li>- Terms of reference</li> <li>- Co-option Healthwatch rep</li> <li>- The work of the CCG</li> </ul>	<p><b>15 September</b></p> <p>Support for People Living with Chronic conditions London Ambulance service</p>	<p><b>22 September</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JOINT MEETING WITH CYP SUB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children's Emotional Wellbeing<sup>2</sup></li> <li>- Children affected by domestic violence</li> </ul>	<p><b>10 November 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>QT: Homes, Regeneration &amp; Planning</b></li> <li>- Homelessness/tenancy strategies</li> <li>- Adult safeguarding</li> <li>- Housing repairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>8 December 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GP Performance including (instances of Immunisation)</li> <li>- Professions allied to medicine</li> </ul>	<p><b>26 January 16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>QT: Families, Health &amp; Social Care</b></li> <li>- Better Care Fund</li> <li>- Croydon Health Services NHS Trust</li> <li>- PH Annual Report (themes 2016)</li> </ul>	<p><b>8 March 16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SLAM (and Children's Emotional Wellbeing)</li> <li>- HWBB (including sexual health)</li> <li>- Review of the Work Programme</li> </ul>	<p><b>10 May 16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Topics for 2016/17</li> <li>- Quality Accounts</li> </ul>
<b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SUB-COMMITTEE (CYP)</b>	<p><b>16 June 15</b></p> <p>School places Estates strategy Work programme Terms of reference</p>	<p><b>14 July 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fostering Services and Adoption Services</li> <li>- Cabinet response report &amp; action plan re. children's safeguarding recommendations</li> </ul>	<p><b>22 September 15</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JOINT MEETING WITH HEALTH SUB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CAMHS</li> <li>- Children affected by domestic violence</li> </ul>	<p><b>17 November 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>YOUNG PEOPLE 'S TAKEOVER MEETING</b> (Topic to be decided by Young people)</li> </ul>	<p><b>12 January 16 (change of date)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>QT: Children, Young People &amp; Learning</b></li> <li>- School standards and inclusion</li> <li>- <i>The Budget 2016/17</i></li> <li>- Review of the Work Programme</li> </ul>	<p><b>15 March 16</b></p> <p>Safeguarding/ Council social care Transition from children's social care to adult social care The work of the Children's Safeguarding Board and its Annual Report Topics for 2016/17</p>		
<b>STREETS AND ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (S&amp;E)</b>	<p><b>30 June 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work programme</li> <li>- Terms of reference</li> <li>- Scene setting from stakeholders re. Croydon Transport Vision</li> </ul>	<p><b>29 September 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>QT: Transport &amp; Environment</b></li> <li>- Network Rail and Southern (Gatwick, infrastructure, London Bridge, accessibility and compensation)</li> </ul>	<p><b>24 November 15</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning policy reference housing, communities and neighbourhoods</li> <li>- Plus: Construction Management Plans &amp; School Travel Plans</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 February 16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>QT: Green and Clean</b></li> <li>- Village style street cleaning and waste collection</li> <li>- Street lighting PFI contract</li> </ul>	<p><b>1 March 16</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of the Work Programme</li> <li>- Sustainability</li> <li>- Flood risk management</li> </ul>	<p><b>5 April 16</b></p> <p>Topics for 2016/17 Public realm design guide</p>		

<sup>1</sup> This is an at a glance programme. For full details consult the full work programme. Some lines of enquiry have still to be developed by Members

<sup>2</sup> Previously CAHMS