

**For General Release**

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>FULL COUNCIL 25 JANUARY 2016</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM NO:</b>	<b>14</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 25 November 2015.
- 1.2 All Members are asked to note the continuing Mini Reviews and 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 (see paragraph 3 of the attached report).
- 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 25 November 2015 to 15 January 2016 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 25 November 2015 and 15 January 2016.

**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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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Solomon Agutu, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer,  
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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

25-November 2015 to 15 January 2016



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

## **1. REPORTING SUCCESS FOR THE PEOPLE OF CROYDON**

In the October 2015 report to Council, we reported that the NHS (CCG and NHS England) and the council had embarked on a programme of significant variation in the health and care services in Croydon and that the Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee had expressed concern to the CCG that such variations require formal consultation with Scrutiny, which did not appear to be happening. The CCG then belatedly advised Scrutiny of a number of variations which would be coming to the Health Scrutiny sub-committee. However the CCG sought to make a distinction between “*engagement*” which the CCG said they were conducting and “*consultation*” which they felt was not appropriate at that stage. The Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee challenged this interpretation and sought to agree a protocol with the CCG on determining when the duty to consult Scrutiny was triggered.

The Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee was advised by the CCG at its December 2015 meeting, that on reflection a Protocol would not clarify the issues and that the best approach was for the CCG to share with Scrutiny the CCG current exercises as they get programmed by their Governing Body.

This is a good result for the people of Croydon.

## 2. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 2.1 Scrutiny and Overview Committee



The Leader of the Council,  
Councillor Tony Newman at  
scrutiny

The Committee considered a pre-decision item on the proposed Council Budget 2016/17 at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Committee Members questioned the Leader, Councillor Tony Newman, Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury, Councillor Simon Hall, the Chief Executive, Nathan Elvery and Assistant Chief Executive, Richard Simpson for over 2 and a half hours on the councils performance over the past 12 months as well as proposals for balancing the budget in the future.

The Leader presented a gloomy picture of swingeing cuts to the council's funding and dramatic and increasing need for its services which was presenting the council with unprecedented challenges. He informed the Committee that the council was responding by looking to do more for less, was working differently and was not looking at 'salami slicing' services to make the savings necessary.

The Chief Executive said he was as confident as he could be that the transformation programme would enable the council to make choices about how services are delivered with a reduced level of staff and that as some staff apply for the voluntary severance scheme and start to leave the council, options to transform some services will need to be considered and some reduction in some services could be expected

The Assistant Chief Executive informed the Committee that notwithstanding the recent government announcement that would allow the blurring between capital and revenue receipts for the purpose of transformation projects, as Section 151 officer he would look for a business case to be made to enable receipts from the sale of fixed assets to be used for this purpose. On the subject of borrowing, he informed the Committee that in the future the council was looking to take shorter term loans to 'match' the time period of these regeneration projects rather than the considerably longer, traditional loan periods

The Chief Executive stated that local authorities are seeing significant reductions to the grant and as their two other major income streams (Council Tax and Business Rates) are controlled by government income overall is reduced.

The Assistant Chief Executive informed the Committee that 2% of council tax equated to £2.7m and that that modelling indicated that if the council did nothing increased demand would cost an additional £3-4m per year. Regardless of where the funding came from, the council was facing a massive problem with a predicted 60% increase in the adult population and increased

demand for services. Outcome-based commissioning and redesigning services were therefore crucial to help build in resilience.

The Leader confirmed that community groups would not be charged for services (such as obtaining the keys to toilets) when holding festivals within parks. He added that some work was being done to establish if support for events in parks could be done more efficiently.

The Leader confirmed that green waste collections would only be undertaken in the future as a paid for service and that sufficient residents needed to sign up before the January deadline for this to be put in place. Following comments from Members, the Leader undertook to revisit the letter to residents which was reported to be confusing. He confirmed that 30 residents had visited Access Croydon to sign up online and that residents having difficulty with online or telephone sign-up would be supported.

The Chief Executive stated that there a seismic shift in how the council was funded, that the risks and relationships between the sources of income was complex and would become more so. He offered to hold a briefing session for all Members on this matter which the Committee welcomed.

This meeting was filmed for broadcast on the council's internet site and can be seen at: <http://www.croydon.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

## 2.2 Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee

As reported in the last report to Council, the Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee considered an item relating to proposed revisions to the Croydon Local Plan at its meeting on 24 November 2015.

The Sub-Committee asked wide ranging questions about the consultation, proposed changes and the potential impact on residents over the next 20-30 years.



The Sub-Committee resolved to submit its own representations as part of the consultation process on matters relating to the provision of motorbike and scooter storage in new developments and the provision of housing for young people. As Chair of the Sub-Committee, I therefore submitted written representations on these issues before the consultation closed on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

If Members, stakeholders or Members of the public would like to see a copy of my letter, please email [scrutiny.chair@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny.chair@croydon.gov.uk) and I'll be pleased to send it to you.

## 2.3 Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee held its latest meeting at John Ruskin College on 8 December 2015. Agenda items attracted some press interest and Members of the public came along to listen to the presentations and to take part in the meeting.



Headlines included a presentation from Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which explained how it continues to monitor and drive up performance standards of general practitioners across Croydon. Several initiatives were discussed, including the vital role that pharmacists play and the introduction of Variation Teams. Practices are encouraged to work in clusters to learn from best practice and support poor performance through a peer review approach. This was further demonstrated by the investigation of immunisation rates on a per practice basis.

NHS England had no representation at the meeting although the Sub-Committee had expected an update on the immunisation status of Croydon against national and local targets. The Interim Director of Public Health was in attendance to provide some context and provide expert commentary and gave some guidance to the Sub-Committee. Suggestions were made in relation to future areas of investigation that should be reported back to the Committee by NHS England which is due to appear at the meeting on 8 March 2016 as part of the Committee's work programme.

The Sub-Committee was pleased to have the opportunity to hear about the community and acute facing roles of allied health professionals who operate as the conduit between the acute and community arms of Croydon Health Services NHS Trust. Officers presented the unique position that AHPs have as often being the first to identify and signpost patients to a range of medical professionals. This was particularly clear when discussing the role and importance of the pharmacist.

In response to the changing health landscape, the Sub-Committee agreed to receive an item from the CCG in relation to the re-procurement of urgent care services. The urgent care contract, due for renewal has given the CCG the opportunity to synchronise existing urgent care provision under one umbrella as the service is currently delivered by four contractors.

CCG officers also reported that they had completed a series of public events testing 9 scenarios through a modelling exercise. Hard to reach groups and seldom heard groups were also targeted. The resulting options should, in line with the National strategy, streamline services and help reduce confusion.

As a direct consequence of the recent Care Quality Commission inspection and subsequent report in relation to services provided by the London Ambulance Service, the Sub-Committee agreed to amend their work programme and receive an item on the outcome of the inspection and subsequent quality improvement plan. Representatives from LAS have been invited to attend the next meeting on 26 January 2016.

The Sub-Committee recognised the importance of LAS being put into special measures and agreed to recommend that a London-wide Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee be convened to review LAS on a pan-London basis.

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

At the 12 January 2016 meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee, Members were given a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Learning, Councillor Alisa Flemming.

Councillor Alisa Flemming stressed the importance of early intervention at the heart of all services to provide all children in the borough a good start in life. She also outlined the range of steps being taken to address the financial pressures being faced in the light of shrinking funding and addressed questions regarding the impact of falling resources on quality of service.



Councillor Alisa Flemming,  
Cabinet Member for  
Children, Families and  
Learning

The Cabinet Member and officers were also questioned on the 2016-2017 education budget, on the pupil premium allocation for the borough, and on the council's and the Department of Education's funding contributions towards the provision of new school places in the borough.

At this meeting, Members also questioned officers on education quality in Croydon. They focused at length on the partnership work between council officers and the Regional Schools Commissioner to improve pupil performance and tackle emerging issues. They also questioned officers regarding approaches to tackling the unsettling impact of high pupil turnover in some schools. Members sought information on young people Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) and were advised that their number had fallen significantly in recent years.

## **3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16**

The 2015-16 scrutiny work programme continues to be developed and an "at a glance" summary is attached.

Scrutiny Chairs discuss and agree the lines of enquiry for topics in the 2015-16 programmes with their Committee Members and would welcome suggestions from all Members for existing or potential topics for scrutiny to cover.

### 3.1 Mini Reviews in progress

There are currently two Mini Reviews in progress:

- Councillor Kyeremeh and his working group are conducting a Mini Review on **School Exclusions** and researching approaches to addressing the needs of pupils at risk of exclusion. The group have attended primary and secondary Fair Access Panel meetings where the cases of pupils at risk of exclusion are discussed and solutions are agreed. They have also visited a Pupil Referral Unit, met with Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators and plan to talk to affected parents and pupils. In addition, they have conducted a survey with Croydon's Councillors and received some useful contributions from them on issues relating to school exclusions. The findings of the mini-review are to be shared with officers and chairs of Fair Access Panels prior to the completion of the review.
- Councillor Rendle is leading a Mini Review on **Travellers in Croydon** and has been conducting briefing meetings and gathering background material over the past four months. The review aims to evaluate the council's approach to, and understanding of, traveller issues and contribute to future council policy for the benefit of local residents and traveller communities. The review does not cover the allocation of specific sites for potential use by travellers as this is a planning issue and subject to consultation of the Croydon Local Plan.

A small panel will sit alongside Councillor Rendle at a meeting to gather evidence on issues relating to this mini review. It is expected that this meeting will take place in February 2016.

### 3.2 Past and future Mini Reviews

Update on past mini reviews:

- The Mini Review on **Employability and Brokerage for Young People** was reported to Cabinet on 20 October 2015 and the recommendations were accepted "subject to ESF bids".

In the run-up to the 12 January 2016 Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting, Members were provided with an update which stated that all the recommendations which were accepted/partially accepted by Cabinet are dependent on the submission of a successful European Social Fund (ESF) bid to fund the proposed activities, specifically under the anticipated London 'Careers Cluster' bid opportunity. However, calls for applications/ bids for the ESF 2014-2020 youth programme have been significantly delayed.



On 11 November 2015 the following communication was received by officers:

*The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) has written to Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) today to propose a changed timetable for managing the £650m of European Social Fund (ESF) that the SFA will manage and match fund in England. The proposal is to run a “sequence of procurement” that would begin almost immediately and which must finish by the end of September 2016 at the very latest to allow a minimum delivery period of 18 months.*

This proposed revised timetable means that the ESF call for bids has now been delayed to any time between now and September 2016. It remains the intention to submit a Croydon ‘Careers cluster’ bid when the opportunity arises and, subject to success of this bid and funding received, partially address the recommendations in the Scrutiny report. A partnership has already been formed and an outline proposal drafted in anticipation of the call for bids being released.

Possible future mini reviews:

- A Mini Review to be led by Councillor Fitzsimons on **Surrey Street Market** is in process of being scoped but is subject to the availability of officer resources.

All Members from all parties are urged to consider the success of the Mini Review process and to consider leading a Review on a topic of their choice.

**Attached: At a glance scrutiny work programme 2015/16**

# SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16<sup>1</sup> - as at 15 January 2016

<b>SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (SOC)</b>	<b>9 June 15</b> <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>	<b>8 September 15</b> <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>	<b>3 November 15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QT: Culture, Leisure and Sport</b></li> <li>• Capital budgets</li> <li>• Cabinet response to scrutiny recommendations</li> </ul>	<b>15 December 15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>QT: Leader and CX</b></li> <li>• Budget 2016/17 and performance</li> </ul>	<b>16 February 16 (change of date)</b> <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>	<b>22 March 16</b> <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>	<b>12 April 16</b> <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>	<b>23 June 15</b> <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>	<b>15 September</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for People Living with Chronic conditions</li> <li>- London Ambulance service</li> <li>- Reprourement of Urgent Care (CCG)</li> </ul>	<b>22 September</b> <u>JOINT MEETING WITH CYP SUB</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CAMHS</li> <li>- Children affected by domestic violence</li> </ul>	<b>10 November 15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>QT: Homes, Regeneration &amp; Planning</b></li> <li>- Outcome Based Commissioning (CCG)</li> <li>- Mental health Review (CCG)</li> <li>- Adult safeguarding</li> <li>- Housing repairs</li> </ul>	<b>8 December 15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GP Performance including (instances of Immunisation)</li> <li>- Professions allied to medicine</li> </ul>	<b>26 January 16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>QT: Families, Health &amp; Social Care</b></li> <li>- Better Care Fund</li> <li>- LAS – CQC Inspection Outcomes and QUIPP</li> <li>- CCG Provision of CDC services</li> </ul>	<b>8 March 16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SLAM (and CAMHS)</li> <li>- HWBB (including sexual health)</li> <li>- Review of the Work Programme</li> </ul>	<b>10 May 16</b> <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>	<b>16 June 15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School places</li> <li>- Estates strategy</li> <li>- Work programme</li> <li>- Terms of reference</li> </ul>	<b>14 July 15</b> <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>	<b>22 September 15</b> <u>JOINT MEETING WITH HEALTH SUB</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CAMHS</li> <li>- Children affected by domestic violence</li> </ul>	<b>13 October 15 (extra meeting)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safeguarding/ Council social care</li> <li>- The work of the Children's Safeguarding Board and its Annual Report</li> </ul>	<b>17 November 15</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>YOUNG PEOPLE'S TAKEOVER MEETING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Topic = Housing</p>	<b>12 January 16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>QT: Children, Young People &amp; Learning</b></li> <li>- School standards and inclusion</li> <li>- The Budget 2016/17</li> <li>- Review of the Work Programme</li> <li>- Cabinet response to recommendations</li> </ul>	<b>15 March 16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transition from children's social care to adult social care</li> <li>- Children's safeguarding and council social care</li> <li>- Topics for 2016/17</li> </ul>	
<b>STREETS AND ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (S&amp;E)</b>	<b>30 June 15</b> <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>	<b>7 September 15 (extra meeting)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norbury Avenue Experimental Road Closure</li> </ul>	<b>29 September 15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>QT: Transport &amp; Environment</b></li> <li>- Network Rail</li> </ul>	<b>24 November 15</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Croydon Local Plan</li> <li>- Cabinet response to scrutiny recommendations</li> </ul>	<b>2 February 16</b> <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>	<b>1 March 16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Metropolitan centre co-ordination and delivery inc. Public Realm Design Guide</li> <li>- Plus: Construction Management Plans &amp; School Travel Plans</li> <li>- Review of the Work Programme</li> </ul>	<b>5 April 16</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rail services inc. Performance, Accessibility and South London Metro Services</li> <li>- Sustainability update</li> <li>- Topics for 2016/17</li> </ul>	

<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

