

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE</b> <b>12 APRIL 2016</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM NO:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>STAGE 2: RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM:</b> <b>SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING ON 3 NOVEMBER 2015</b> <b>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING ON 17 NOVEMBER 2015</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICERS:</b>	<b>Solomon Agutu, Statutory Scrutiny Officer</b>

## **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting on 3 November 2015 and the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting on 17 November 2015, Members made recommendations to Cabinet.

The Cabinet responses to the scrutiny recommendations from both meetings are now attached as Appendices to this report.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee is invited to comment on the recommendations and to note the report.

## **3. RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**3.1** The Scrutiny recommendations are contained in the schedule in the appendices to this report.

**3.2** The detailed responses (including reasons for rejected recommendations) and action plans (for the implementation of agreed recommendations) are contained in the appendices.

### **3.3 Scrutiny and Overview Committee Recommendations - Capital Budgets (Minute number A27/15)**

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting on 3 November 2015 resolved to monitor the capital budget and the policies that underpin capital decision making as part of the Scrutiny work programme each year, and to ask Cabinet to:

- 1) Ensure that Ward Members are informed when s106 agreements have been negotiated in their ward and for what purpose the funds are secured
- 2) Consult the Scrutiny and Overview Committee before a decision about the allocation of the CIL '*Local Meaningful Proportion*' is made, specifically with regard to the suggestion that the original allocation through the 16 places of Croydon be refined to reflect allocation through a smaller number of place regeneration plans
- 3) Provide Members of the Committee with an update of the s106 summary balance sheet and allocation (as in appendix 2 of the report) in 12 months (Autumn 2016)

These recommendations and a timetable for response are attached at **Appendix A**.

### **3.4 Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee Recommendations - Housing for young people (Minute number A57/15)**

The Children and Young People Sub-Committee at its meeting on 17 November 2015 resolved recommend to Cabinet that the council should:

- 1) Address the needs of its large young adult population in the Croydon Local Plan and its Housing Allocation Policy
- 2) Work with local developers to provide suitable housing for young graduates to retain talent in the borough
- 3) The council's development company should consider providing accommodation specifically for young people, such as basic "starter homes"
- 4) Consider introducing starter tenancies to encourage good tenancy management from the very beginning of a tenancy
- 5) Consider offering more enticing incentives to landlords to encourage them to lease more accommodation so that it can be let to young people on low incomes
- 6) Publicise the "My Croydon" app and housing services through a wider range of media including billboards around town
- 7) Work with local businesses to encourage them to offer their young staff support with rent deposits or part of them, and to encourage local businesses to provide references to prospective landlords to make it easier for young people to obtain a tenancy

In addition the Sub-Committee made the following recommendation to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee:

- 1) That scrutiny should run more "young people's take-over" meetings to give young Croydonians the opportunity to question politicians on issues of concern to them and thus encourage young people to get involved in local democracy

The Sub-Committee also recommended to Croydon College that it should create Housing Ambassadors among students in order to:

- 1) Disseminate information and advice on housing issues
- 2) Encourage young people to get involved in the council's consultation on the borough's Local Plan and Housing Allocation Policy
- 3) Raise awareness of young people's housing issues with local councillors and members of parliament

The recommendations to Cabinet and a timetable for response are attached at **Appendix B.**

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

**Background document 1:** Reports to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting, 3 November 2015

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kabmenu.pl?cmte=SOC>

**Background document 2:** Reports to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting, 17 November 2015

<https://secure.croydon.gov.uk/akscroydon/users/public/admin/kabmenu.pl?cmte=CYP>

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	DEPARTMENT AND CABINET MEMBER RESPONDING	ACCEPT/ REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS (inc. reasons for rejection)	IDENTIFIED OFFICER	ANY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IF ACCEPTED (ie Action Plan)	DATE OF SCRUTINY MEETING TO REPORT BACK
<b>The Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting on 3 November 2015</b> (Minute number A27/15 Capital Budgets item <b>RESOLVED</b> to monitor the capital budget and the policies that underpin capital decision making as part of the Scrutiny work programme each year, and to ask Cabinet to:						
1) Ensure that Ward Members are informed when s106 agreements have been negotiated in their ward and for what purpose the funds are secured	Place – Councillor Butler	Accept	Pete Smith	No	<i>This is being investigated within the context of a new IT system for DM. It is likely to be achievable within this year.</i>	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016
2) Consult the Scrutiny and Overview Committee before a decision about the allocation of the CIL 'Local Meaningful Proportion' is made, specifically with regard to the suggestion that the original allocation through the 16 places of Croydon be refined to reflect allocation through a smaller number of place regeneration plans	Place – Councillor Butler	Accept	Steve Dennington	No	Before the end of 2016, pending the outcome of the Council's Growth Zone submission to the Government, which will determine the focus for borough CIL investment. Following this the mechanism for the allocation of 'Local Meaningful Proportion' will be finalised.	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016
3) Provide Members of the Committee with an update of the s106 summary balance sheet and allocation (as in appendix 2 of the report) in 12 months (Autumn 2016)	Place – Councillor Butler	Accept	Steve Dennington	No	Autumn 2016	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016

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<b>The Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting on 17 November 2015</b> (Minute number A57/15 Housing for Young People item <b>RESOLVED</b> to recommend to Cabinet that the council should:						
1) Address the needs of its large young adult population in the Croydon Local Plan and its Housing Allocation Policy	Place – Councillor Butler	Accept	Steve Dennington	No	The Croydon Local Plan is anticipated to be adopted in late 2017. As part of the overall housing need, as identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, the needs of the young adult population will be planned for in the context of the overall Local Plan housing target.	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016
	People Dept	Accept	Director of Housing Need, Mark Meehan	Any financial impact will be determined within a wider financial assessment of implementation of a revised policy	The Council's housing allocation scheme will shortly (subject to cabinet approval) be the subject of a 12 week public consultation	
2) Work with local developers to provide suitable housing for young graduates to retain talent in the borough	Place – Councillor Butler	Accept	Steve Dennington	No	The current Croydon Local Plan promotes the provision of further education in the borough. The emerging Croydon Local Plan is anticipated to be adopted in late 2017.	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 22 March 2016

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					As part of the overall housing need, as identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, the needs of graduates will be planned for in the context of the overall Local Plan housing target.	
3) The council's development company should consider providing accommodation specifically for young people, such as basic "starter homes"	Place – Cllr Butler	Accept	Colm Lacey	No	<p>The development company will work up multi-tenure schemes which address planning policy and local need.</p> <p>The development company is called Brick by Brick and it has been set up by the council and is a private, independent company, with the council acting as sole shareholder.</p>	<p>Scrutiny and Overview Committee</p> <p>22 March 2016</p>
4) Consider introducing starter tenancies to encourage good tenancy management from the very beginning of a tenancy	People Dept	Accept	Director of Housing Need. Mark Meehan	None specific	Current Tenancy policy provides for fixed –term tenancies. Renewal is dependent on a number of considerations which include conduct of a tenancy.	<p>Scrutiny and Overview Committee</p> <p>22 March 2016</p>

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5) Consider offering more enticing incentives to landlords to encourage them to lease accommodation so that it can be let to young people on low incomes	People Dept	Accept	Director of Housing Need. Mark Meehan	Any additional payment constitutes additional cost	Incentives paid to private sector landlords are continually reviewed in line with changing market conditions	Scrutiny and Overview Committee  22 March 2016
6) Publicise the "My Croydon" app and housing services through a wider range of media including billboards around town	Resources Dept	Accept	Graham Cadle Assistant Chief Executive Customer and Transformation,	None specific	The app and a number of my account services (including housing) are due to be advertised on the decaux boards shortly	Scrutiny and Overview Committee  22 March 2016
7) Work with local businesses to encourage them to offer their young staff support with rent deposits or part of them, and to encourage local businesses to provide references to prospective landlords to make it easier for young people to obtain a tenancy	Place Dept	Accept	Drector District Centres and Regeneration		The Council will engage with the Chartered Institute of Housing, Shelter and the GLA on best practice and action taken in this area.	Scrutiny and Overview Committee  22 March 2016