

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

To: all Members of the Council (via e-mail)
Taberner House Access Croydon

PUBLIC NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS MADE AT THE CABINET MEETING ON 9 JULY 2012

In accordance with the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Procedure Rules, the following decisions may be implemented from **1300 hours on 16 July 2012** unless referred to the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee:

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out below:

Agenda item 15: the future of grant funding to voluntary organisations for Education Community Grants Programme

The Cabinet RESOLVED:

having considered the outcome of the public consultation on the impact of potentially ceasing funding for voluntary organisations for Education Community Grant programmes as detailed in the report, the requirements of the Council's public sector Equalities duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the report and in the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) at Appendix 3 of the report, to agree:

- i. The commissioning of a mentoring programme targeted at BME communities in the north of the borough at a value of £15,000 per year as part of a single co-ordinated approach to mentoring from January 2013;
- ii. The principle of further funding, using some external grant funding for this purpose, subject to agreement of the funding agency; and
- iii. The cessation of funding for community language classes, supplementary education provision and the play scheme from January 2013, which will have the effect of saving £78k per year.

Scrutiny Referral/Call-in Procedure

1. The decisions may be implemented **1300 hours on 16 July 2012** (5 working days after the decisions were made) unless referred to the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee.
2. The Council Solicitor, Director Democratic and Legal Services shall refer the matter to the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee if so requested by:-
 - i) the Chair or Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee and 4 members of that Committee; or
 - ii) 20% of Council Members (14)
3. The referral shall be made on the approved pro-forma (*attached*) which should be submitted electronically or on paper to Jim Simpson and Julie Belvir by **1300 hours on 16 July 2012**. Verification of signatures may be by individual e-mail, fax or by post. A decision may only be subject to the referral process once.
4. The Call-In referral shall be completed giving:
 - i) The grounds for the referral
 - ii) The outcome desired
 - iii) Information required to assist the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview committee to consider the referral
 - iv) The date and the signatures of the Councillors requesting the Call-In
5. The decision taker and the relevant Chief Officer(s) shall be notified of the referral who shall suspend implementation of the decision.
6. The referral shall be considered at the next scheduled meeting of the Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee unless, in view of the Council Solicitor, Director Democratic and Legal Services, this would cause undue delay. In such cases The Council Solicitor, Director Democratic and Legal Services will consult with the decision taker and the Chair of Scrutiny and Strategic Overview to agree a date for an additional meeting. The Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee may only decide to consider a maximum of 3 referrals at any one meeting.
7. At the Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee meeting the referral will be considered by the Committee which shall determine how much time the Committee will give to the call in and how the item will be dealt with including whether or not it wishes to review the decision. If having considered the decision there are still concerns about the decision then the Committee may refer it back to the decision taker for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of the concerns.

8. The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee may refer the decision to Full Council if it considers that the decision is outside of the budget and policy framework of the Council.
9. If the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee decides that no further action is necessary then the decision may be implemented.
10. The Full Council may decide to take no further action in which case the decision may be implemented.
11. If the Council objects to the decision it can nullify the decision if it is outside of the policy framework and/or inconsistent with the budget.
12. If the decision is within the policy framework and consistent with the budget, the Council will refer any decision to which it objects together with its views on the decision. The decision taker shall choose whether to either amend/ withdraw or implement the original decision within 10 working days or at the next meeting of the Cabinet of the referral from the Council.
13. The response shall be notified to all Members of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
14. If either the Council or the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee fails to meet in accordance with the Council calendar or in accordance with paragraph 6 above, then the decision may be implemented on the next working day after the meeting was scheduled or arranged to take place.
15. **URGENCY:** The referral procedure shall not apply in respect of urgent decisions. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the referral process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. The record of the decision and the notice by which it is made public shall state if the decision is urgent and therefore not subject to the referral process.

Signed: Council Solicitor & Monitoring Officer, Director of Democratic and Legal Services

Date: 11 July 2012

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PROFORMA

REFERRAL OF A KEY DECISION TO THE SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

For the attention of: Jim Simpson & Julie Belvir,
Democratic & Legal Services Division

Meeting: Cabinet

Meeting Date: 9th July 2012

Agenda Item No: 15, The future of grant funding to voluntary organisations for
Education Community Grants Programme

Reasons for referral:

- i) The decision is outside of the Policy Framework
- ii) The decision is inconsistent with the budget
- iii) The decision is inconsistent with another Council Policy
- iv) Other: Please specify:

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- 1)The failure to provide sufficient detail on the performance of individual BME groups so that the under performance of children from a Caribbean and white & Caribbean heritage relative to the Croydon average was hidden, giving a false impression of performance and avoiding the need to discuss any ongoing needs for these groups of children
- 2)Impact on education attainment by BME groups in Croydon – the decision ignores the contribution that these services to the increase in attainment of these groups and the risk that attainment will fall back if the funding is cut
- 3)That school exclusions still proportionally impacts on BME groups and remains an issue of concern
- 4)There has been insufficient consultation with children and young people who use these services so that the impact from their perspective is not properly understood
- 5)No evidence that Croydon Secondary Schools will make up shortfall in funding for supplementary education, or that a free school initiative is a viable or desirable alternative
- 6)More clarification is needed on future of Mentoring projects to assess suitability of new approach
- 7)The majority of the organisations funded operate in the deprived North of the Borough and the report does not address the concerns of local voluntary

organisations that, coming on top of the previous cuts to BME voluntary sector organisations in North Croydon, there is a risk of hollowing out the sector in an area of high deprivation.

The outcome desired:

- 1) To withdraw/ suspend current funding cuts.
- 2) To re-engage in a meaningful consultation with the community groups on the proposals.
- 3) To bring a new report back to cabinet in autumn outlining community group responses to the current proposals.
- 4) To provide more detailed information on those projects the Council will continue funding

Information required to assist the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee to consider the referral:

- 1) Details of the consultation process and the information given to those consulted by Croydon Council.
- 2) To provide to the committee evidence which justifies withdrawal of funding.
- 3) Representative(s) from Croydon's Secondary schools to explain how they will tackle issues of Mentoring, Supplementary Education, and Community Language teaching in future.
- 4) To receive oral and written evidence from selected number of groups who cover the issues of Mentoring, Supplementary Education, & Community Language teaching.
- 5) The council to explain how a Free School initiative is a viable option in regards Supplementary Education

Signed: Sean Fitzsimons

Date: 12th July 2012

1 **Member of _THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE & Main Scrutiny & Overview Committee.**

_____ Committee