

Cabinet Supplementary Agenda



10. Scrutiny Stage 1: Recommendations from Scrutiny & Overview Committee (Pages 3 - 14)

Lead Member: Chair of Scrutiny & Overview Committee, Councillor Sean Fitzsimmons

Officer: Executive Director Resources, Jacqueline Harris Baker

Key decision: no

JACQUELINE HARRIS BAKER
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Agenda Item 10

REPORT TO:	CABINET – 18 February 2021
SUBJECT:	STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY
LEAD OFFICERS:	JACQUELINE HARRIS BAKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES STEPHEN ROWAN – HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & SCRUTINY
LEAD MEMBER:	COUNCILLOR SEAN FITZSIMONS CHAIR, SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
CABINET MEMBER:	ALL
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: The constitutional requirement that cabinet receives recommendations from scrutiny committees and to respond to the recommendations within two months of the receipt of the recommendations	
FINANCIAL IMPACT The recommendations in the appendix to this report may have a financial implication and as each recommendation is developed the financial implication will be explored and approved.	
FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO: not a key decision	

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations contained within this report:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to:

Receive the recommendations arising from meetings of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee held on 19 January 2021 and Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 4 & 9 February , and to provide a substantive response within two months (i.e. at the next available Cabinet meeting on **22 March 2021**).

2. STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

- 2.1 Recommendations that have been received from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and its Sub-Committees since the last Cabinet meeting are provided in Appendix A. The constitution requires that an interim or full response is provided within 2 months of this Cabinet meeting.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The recommendations were developed from the deliberations of either the Scrutiny & Overview Committee or one of its Sub-Committees.

4. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

- 4.1 The recommendations set out in the appendix to this report directly arise from Scrutiny.

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the content of this report.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance that the recommendations are presented to Cabinet in accordance with the Constitution.
- 6.2 This requires that the Scrutiny report is received and registered at this Cabinet Meeting and that a substantive response is provided within 2 months (i.e. **Cabinet, 22 March 2021** is the next available meeting).

Approved by Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation & Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 7.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from the content of this report

8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the contents of this report

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the contents of this report

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

10.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from the contents of this report

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

11.1 There is a statutory requirement for Cabinet to receive the recommendations made by Scrutiny.

12. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12.1 None

13. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

13.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?

There are no Data Protection implications at this stage, but that the situation will be reviewed again at Stage 2 when Cabinet provide their response to the proposed recommendations.

13.2 HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?

No.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Background document 1:

Meeting of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee held on 19 January 2021
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=167&MIId=2148>

Background document 2:

Meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 4 February 2021

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MIId=2498>

Background document 3:

Meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 9 February 2021

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MIId=2157>

Scrutiny Recommendations: Stage 1

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead
Children & Young People Sub-Committee	19 January 2021	Staff Changes, Service Impact and response to Budget Reductions In Early Help and Children's Social Care	Clarity was needed on the future role of the voluntary sector which has provided immense support to families during this time and was experiencing unprecedented challenges. If the intention is that the voluntary sector should replace some of the services cut due to the need to save costs, we need to be reassured that they are in a position to do so.	Reduction in early help will impact schools. The Council needs to be clear on the level of support to be provided to school and consider how to ensure effective timely communication to schools about what support is available and how to access it in order to make suitable alternative arrangements.	Alisa Flemming	Debbie Jones
Children & Young People Sub-Committee	19 January 2021	Staff Changes, Service Impact and response to Budget Reductions In Early Help and Children's Social Care	The intention to maintain services above the statutory minimum in spite of the need to significantly reduce costs across the Council, was welcomed.	There was a risk that the Council may not secure MHCLG approval for a capitalisation directive. Consideration be given by the Executive Leadership Team as to how this risk will be managed.	Alisa Flemming	Debbie Jones
Children & Young People Sub-Committee	19 January 2021	Blended Learning	In looking forward, it was important that the department prioritise measuring of inequality on attainment gaps as a consequence of the pandemic and explore ways to address the gaps identified.	That a means be found to measure the inequalities in attainment gap caused by the pandemic and that focussed evidenced efforts are made to close the gap over time.	Alisa Flemming	Debbie Jones

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead
Children & Young People Sub-Committee	19 January 2021	Blended Learning	It was clear that whilst there were issues with provision and availability of suitable devices to support virtual learning, the importance of resources to strengthen parental engagement and ability to support their child/children must remain an area of focus and priority.	That the number of children who do not have access to the necessary equipment for remote learning are quantified, especially for those in Secondary schools, and that closing that gap is made a priority.	Alisa Flemming	Debbie Jones
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	4 February 2021	Cal In: Proposed Closure of Virgo Fidelis School	Notwithstanding, the reassurance taken on the transition of former Virgo Fidelis pupils to new schools, it was agreed that further reassurance would be sought by the Children & Young People Sub-Committee, at a later date, on the long-term management of the transition.	That a further report on the transition of pupils from Virgo Fidelis School be scheduled for a meeting of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee at a date to be determined.	Alisa Flemming	Shelley Davies
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	4 February 2021	Cal In: Proposed Closure of Virgo Fidelis School	The Committee felt that General Purposes and Audit Committee, as the appropriate Council body for managing risk, should be given oversight of school deficits in the borough on at least an annual basis.	That an annual report on the schools deficit in the borough be programmed into the work plan for the General Purposes and Audit Committee.	Alisa Flemming	Shelley Davies

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	4 February 2021	Cal In: Proposed Closure of Virgo Fidelis School	<p>The Committee agreed that it would be useful for the Children & Young People Sub-Committee to be provided with information on the demand from Roman Catholic parents for Roman Catholic school places in the borough, when it next considered school place planning.</p> <p>It was also agreed that consideration should be given to the questionnaire on school applications and whether a question could be added on whether faith had a bearing on the choice of school.</p>	That when the Children & Young People Sub-Committee next reviewed school place planning in the borough, that information was included on the demand for faith schools.	Alisa Flemming	Shelley Davies
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Equalities Strategy	It was recognised that SMART targets should be used wherever possible, as this would mean the impact of the Equalities Strategy could be measurably demonstrated. It would be preferable if there were a small number of SMART targets for improving the lives of the people of Croydon that the Council had significant influence over.	That targets used to measure the success of the Equalities Strategy are SMART and focussed on improving the lives of the people of Croydon, in areas which the Council had significant influence over.	David Wood	Gavin Handford

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Equalities Strategy	The Committee felt that past experience should be used to inform the development of the new Equalities Strategy.	That any previous Equalities Strategies or any other equalities targeted programmes should be reviewed and evaluated as part of the development of the new Strategy.	David Wood	Gavin Handford
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Equalities Strategy	The Committee concluded that the views of the stakeholders, who responded to the consultation, should be acknowledged in the Strategy.	That there should be analysis of the responses from stakeholders, and the Strategy should reflect how these responses have informed the final strategy.	David Wood	Gavin Handford
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Equalities Strategy	The Committee agreed that the use of data would be important in demonstrating the impact of the Equalities Strategy. As such it was essential that there was a central, corporate data source that allowed progress in implementing the Strategy to be monitored.	That information from across the Council should be compiled into a corporate equalities dashboard.	David Wood	Gavin Handford
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Equalities Strategy	The Committee concluded that there was a synergy with the Autism Strategy, which was currently being developed, and as such the two strategies should be reviewed to ensure that they were mutually compatible.	The Equalities Strategy should be shared with the officer preparing the Autism Strategy.	David Wood	Gavin Handford

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Equalities Strategy	The Committee noted that the next census was due to start this year and as such agreed that it would be an important source of data for the Strategy.	That a process for reviewing the Equalities Strategy in light of any new data sources, such as census data, becoming available, should be built into the Strategy.	David Wood	Gavin Handford
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Review of Brick by Brick	Although the report identified that a loan of less than £10m to Brick by Brick was required to deliver the preferred option, the Committee recognised that there were risks that may impact upon the amount of money required. Should a loan exceeding the identified £10m or a further loan be required, there needed to be a mechanism in place to allow additional scrutiny.	That a mechanism be put in place to ensure additional scrutiny of any further lending to Brick by Brick, above and beyond that identified in the review of future options for the company.	Hamida Ali	Katherine Kerswell
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Review of Brick by Brick	The Committee welcomed the reassurance that work was underway to embed risk management processes throughout the Council, but questioned how this could be evidenced going forwards.	That consideration is given to how the Executive team will track and evidence that risk management processes are being embedded across the Council.	Hamida Ali	Katherine Kerswell

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Review of Brick by Brick	The Committee recognised that there would be considerable public interest in the financial details set out in the confidential section of the Review of Brick by Brick report and felt that releasing this information should be reviewed, once it was no longer considered to be commercially sensitive.	That a mechanism is put in place to review the confidential information set out in the report, to allow it to be publicly released once appropriate to do so.	Hamida Ali	Katherine Kerswell
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Review of Brick by Brick	As a key learning point from the experience of the Council with Brick by Brick, the Committee felt that a process should be put in place to review any external companies owned by the Council at regular intervals, to ensure that they were achieving their intended outcomes and remained fit for purpose.	That a regular review be undertaken of all Council companies, with the outcomes from this review reported to Scrutiny.	Hamida Ali	Katherine Kerswell
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Review of Brick by Brick	The Committee retained a concern about the past lending arrangements with Brick by Brick and felt that further investigation was required to understand the arrangements and to ensure that any such lending was legally compliant.	That a review be undertaken of past lending to Brick by Brick to provide greater clarity over the arrangements and to ensure that the arrangements were legally compliant.	Hamida Ali	Katherine Kerswell

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Interim Asset Disposal Strategy	Although the Committee were satisfied with the approach proposed in the Interim Asset Disposal Strategy, it felt that there was not enough information included within the report to reach any conclusions on the identified options for the Croydon Park Hotel.	That further information be included within the report, for when it is considered by Cabinet, on the potential options for the Croydon Park Hotel to allow a more informed judgement to be made on the best way forward.	Stuart King	Ozay Ali
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Interim Asset Disposal Strategy	The Committee recognised that there would be considerable public interest in the list of assets identified for disposal set out in the confidential appendix to the report, and felt that further consideration was needed over how this information could be brought into the public domain.	That the information set out in the in confidential section of the report be reviewed to establish whether it would be possible to make public the list of assets identified for disposal and if not, further clarity as to the reasons should be added to the report.	Stuart King	Ozay Ali
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	9 February 2021	Interim Asset Disposal Strategy	The Committee highlighted a concern that consultation with Ward Councillors about decisions on assets in their local areas had in the past been intermittent at best.	That the process for consulting and informing Ward Councillors about decisions to be taken on assets in their local area be reviewed to ensure it was fit for purpose.	Stuart King	Ozay Ali

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