

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

To: All Member of Council
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STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET ON 31 JANUARY 2024

This statement is produced in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012. Further to the associated public notice of Key Decisions no scrutiny call-in has been received, and therefore the following decisions can be implemented.

The following apply to the decisions listed below:

Reasons for these decisions:

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3578>

Other options considered and rejected:

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3578>

Details of Conflicts of Interest declared by the Decision Maker: None

Note of dispensation granted by the head of paid service in relation to a declared conflict of interest by that Decision Maker: None

The Executive Mayor has made the executive decisions noted out below:

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. Receive the recommendations arising from the meetings of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee held on 10 October 2023 (Appendix 1), the Streets and Environment Sub-Committee held on 1 November 2023 (Appendix 2) and the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 21 November 2023 (Appendix 3).
- 1.2. To provide a substantive response to the recommendation (a Scrutiny Stage 2 Report) at the Cabinet meeting on 27 March 2024.

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: SCRUTINY STAGE 2 RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER (APPENDICES 1 & 2)

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

- 1.1. Approve the responses and action plans attached to this report as Appendices 1 & 2; and
- 1.2. Delegate authority to the officers identified in Appendices 1 & 2 to report back to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, or relevant Sub-Committee, within the periods specified in the agreed responses and action plans, and on progress made in implementing any action plan.

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: RESIDENTS SURVEY

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED:

- 1.1. To note the results of the Croydon residents' survey – autumn 2023 (Appendix A)
- 1.2. To note that the council's transformation plan, service planning and other processes will all review the results and incorporate actions to respond to resident feedback.
- 1.3. To agree that the council will carry out targeted deep-dive analysis and engagement with representative groups of residents during 2024. A further comparable residents' survey would then be conducted in 2025 as set out in section 5.3 of the report.

Key Decision no.: 8523EM

Decision Title: LIBRARIES SERVICE REVIEW

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED:

- 1.1. To note the methodology and activity undertaken to review the library service officer and develop proposals for an alternative model, outlined in Section 4.
- 1.2. To agree to consult on the proposals for a new library service model, as outlined in Section 6.
- 1.3. To approve the commencement of formal public consultation on the proposals as outlined in Section 8.

Key Decision no.: 8423EM

Decision Title: CROYDON TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION PROGRAMME AND GROWTH ZONE ANNUAL BUDGET & PROGRAMME - 2024/25

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED:

- 1.1. To agree a £7,202,000 budget for the 'Delivery the Growth Zone' programme 2024/25; and
- 1.2. To delegate to the Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151) and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration authority to make necessary changes to the funding assigned to Sub Groups as outlined in Table 1, subject to the parameters previously approved in the March 2021 Cabinet report 'Delivering the Growth Zone'

to note:

- 1.3. The general update on the status of the current and upcoming Croydon Town Centre regeneration programme; and

- 1.4. The indicative funding profile and projects for Growth Zone Sub Groups and projects as detailed in Table 1 of this report; and
- 1.5. The recommendations previously agreed by Cabinet in July 2022 regarding the governance and implementation of a successful Levelling Up Fund bid.

Key Decision no.: 9223EM

Decision Title: LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESULTS

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED:

- 1.1. To note the responses to the public consultation about the draft LFRMS, at appendices 3 & 4 to this report.
- 1.2. To consider the amendments to the draft LFRMS and Action Plan as a result of those responses, as outlined at appendix 2 to this report.
- 1.3. To approve adoption of the revised LFRMS and Action Plan, at appendix 1 to this report, as the final version to be published on the Council website.

Key Decision no.: N/A

Decision Title: BUILDING SAFETY ACT AND BUILDING CONTROL READINESS

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED:

- 1.1. To note the content of this report and endorse the ongoing in-house transformation of Croydon Building Control.
- 1.2. To note Croydon Building Controls intent to sign up to the Framework Agreement in respect of regional working through a Hub arrangement for the facilitation of Section 13 requests from the Building Safety Regulator under the Building Safety Act 2022.

Key Decision no.: 0424EM

Decision Title: EDUCATION ESTATES STRATEGY

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED: To

School Admissions:

- 1.1. Agree to the proposed community schools' Admission Arrangements for the 2025/26 academic year (Appendix 1).
- 1.2. Approve the continued adoption of the proposed Pan London scheme for co-ordination of admissions to Reception and Junior schools – Appendix 1a; and adoption of the proposed Pan London scheme for co-ordination of admissions to secondary schools (Appendix 1b).
- 1.3. Note that there are no changes proposed to the previously agreed admission arrangements for our community schools.

School Maintenance and Compliance

- 1.4. Approve the draft Capital Programme Budget summary (Appendix 2).
- 1.5. Approve the proposed Schools' Maintenance Plan (Appendix 3) for 2024/25 with an overall budget cost of £3,412m for 2024/25 and £3,777m for 2025/26.
- 1.6. Delegate authority to the Interim Corporate Director – Children, Young People and Education to vary the proposed Schools' Maintenance Plan to reflect actual prices and new urgent issues that may arise, including authorising spend against the allowance for emergency and reactive works. The Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education shall report back to the Executive Mayor in Cabinet in respect of any exercise of such authority.

The Executive Mayor in Cabinet is asked to note the following:

School Place Planning

- 1.7. Comparison between the available school places vs 2023 School Capacity (SCAP) Pupil Projections – Appendix 4 (primary) and Appendix 4a secondary).
- 1.8. There is sufficiency of school places to meet demand at early years, primary and secondary education phases.

1.9. Managing Surplus School Places

The local authority is continuing to work in partnership with school leaders to manage the risk of falling school roll, especially in the primary educational phase. The main strategy used at this time is a reduction of the relevant school's Published Admission Number (PAN) and/or variation of their in-year admission number.

1.10. Early Years

Croydon Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023 (Appendix 5) which measures the demand for, and supply of childcare across the borough indicates that currently there is sufficient childcare available across the borough for all age groups. This is being reviewed to consider the childcare reforms will introduce significant changes to early years education and childcare through the extension of the free childcare on offer. Implementation will be extended in phases, starting from April 2024.

1.11. Maintained Nursery Schools

Following informal consultation on the future options for Croydon's five Maintained Nursery Schools, the Executive Mayor in cabinet have considered the outcomes of the consultation and recommendations and requested that officers explore and carry out more detailed modelling of other options suggested as part of the consultation process, to determine if any of these are feasible and will make MNS financially viable.

1.12. Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

The demand for Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) continues to increase. The data on prevalence and needs of our SEND community is reviewed monthly in order to inform resource and placement planning.

1.13. Alternative Provision / Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

The proposed conversion of Saffron Valley Collegiate to an academy has been moved to 1st April 2024. Additional demand for Alternative Provision places is met by commissioning suitable places via our Approved Alternative Provision Provider List.

Key Decision no.: 8723EM

Decision Title: DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) SCHOOL FUNDING 2024/25 FORMULA FACTORS

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED:

- 1.1. To approve the statutory spend of £319.1m of DSG funding for the period 2024-25,
- 1.2. To approve the provisional funding formula for Croydon schools for the financial year 2024/25 for both maintained schools and academies in line with the recommendations voted by Schools Forum on 6 November 2023,
- 1.3. To support the local authority strategic decision to transfer £1.2m from the school's block to the High Needs through the disapplication process as part of DfE High Needs Safety Valve DSG Deficit Recovery Strategy,
- 1.4. To note the DfE optional factors values reported in appendix D and E. Appendix E provides additional insight into the how Schools Forum evaluated the three main DfE options for each factor shown appendix D before selecting the final factor which forms the bases underlying the draft budget for 2024/25,
- 1.5. To finally note the three key changes required in setting the 2024/25 school's budget.

Key Decision no.: 8623EM

Decision Title: 2023-24 PERIOD 7 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Details of decision:

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports, the Executive Mayor in Cabinet

RESOLVED:

- 1.1. To note the General Fund revenue budget outturn is forecast to breakeven at Period 7, after the forecast utilisation of £63m capitalisation directions requested from DLUHC and £1.5m of the corporate risk contingency budget. It is not planned to utilise the risk contingency budget and directorates will work to bring the service directorate positions within budget.
- 1.2. To approve the budget movements between directorates to match the movement of teams between directorates as set out in paragraph 4.13.
- 1.3. To approve within budget inter-directorate virements from Corporate to service directorates for pay inflation (£10.270m) (para 4.95).
- 1.4. To approve within budget inter-directorate virement of £0.698m from the Corporate economic demand pressures budget to the Children, Young People and Education directorate as set out in paragraph 4.97.
- 1.5. To approve within budget inter-directorate virements from Corporate to service directorates to correct General Fund recharge budgets relating to the

HRA, Public Health, capitalisation of salaries and corporate support (overhead) recharges, and staffing and income budget corrections (£5.802m) (para 4.99).

- 1.6. To note the progress in MTFS savings achievement as set out in paragraph 4.107.
- 1.7. To note the work that has commenced on the Council's Transformation Programme as set out from paragraph 4.102.
- 1.8. To note the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget outturn is forecast to overspend by £12.0m.
- 1.9. To note the General Fund capital programme 2023-24 forecast underspend of £18.0m against the revised capital budget of £144.7m.
- 1.10. To note the HRA capital programme 2023-24 forecast overspend of £5.7m against the revised capital budget of £33.2m.
- 1.11. To note the Council's historic borrowing and debt burden continues to be critical to the sustainability of the Council's revenue budget. Dialogue with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) continues, and the Council is seeking further financial support from Government in regards to its level of indebtedness and balancing the budget to ensure it can deliver sustainable local government services.
- 1.12. To note that the Council continues to operate Spend Control Panels to ensure that tight financial control and assurance oversight are maintained.
- 1.13. To note that current forecasts are based on the best available information at the time and will be subject to review and change during the financial year.

Signed: Monitoring Officer

Notice date: 09 February 2024