

# LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

To: All Members of Council  
Croydon Council website  
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## **PUBLIC NOTICE OF KEY AND NON KEY DECISIONS MADE AT THE CABINET MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2024**

This statement is produced in accordance with Regulation 12 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

In accordance with the Scrutiny and Overview Procedure Rules the following decisions may be implemented from **1300 hours on 4 October 2024** unless referred to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee (ie after 13.00 hours on the 6th working day following the day on which the decision was taken). The call-in procedure is appended to this notice.

The following apply to each decision listed below

### **Reasons for these decisions:**

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3914&Ver=4>

### **Other options considered and rejected:**

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3914&Ver=4>

**Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report:** None

**Details of conflicts of Interest declared by any Cabinet Member:** None

Cabinet has made the decisions set out below:

**Agenda Item: 5 SCRUTINY STAGE ONE**

**Key Decision No.:** N/A

### **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,

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to;

1. Receive the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee on 16 July 2024 (Appendix 1) and the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee on 22 July 2024 (Appendix 2).
2. To provide a substantive response to the recommendations (a Scrutiny Stage 2 Report) at the Cabinet meeting on 20 November 2024.

**Agenda Item: 6            SCRUTINY STAGE TWO**

**Key Decision No.:** N/A

**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,

Cabinet **RESOLVED** the following amended recommendations to;

- 2.1.1 Approve the responses and action plans attached to this report as Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7;
- 2.1.2 Delegate authority to the officers identified in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 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, and;
- 2.1.3 To approve the Executive Responses as detailed in the supplementary agenda, regarding the Libraries Review recommendations, from the Scrutiny meeting on the 17th September.

**Agenda Item: 7            LIBRARIES REVIEW**

**Key Decision No.:** 0124CC

**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,

Cabinet **RESOLVED** the following amended recommendations;

- 2.1 To consider the assessment of local needs undertaken as part of the Libraries Review, detailed in Appendix A to the 31st January Cabinet - Phase 1-2 Report and outlined in paragraph 6.47 below

- 2.2 To consider the detailed consultation activity undertaken on the proposed Library Service model as outlined in Section 6 of this report and Appendix A titled Library Service Review Phase 3 Report and Appendix B titled Library Service Review Phase 3 Consultation Findings Report.
- 2.3 To consider the consultation responses and findings on the proposed Library Service model including the areas of concern raised by residents as outlined in section 6 of this report and Appendix B titled Library Service Review Phase 3 Consultation Findings Report and Appendix C – Review of Closure Options Report.
- 2.4 To consider the equality impact assessments of the proposed Library Service model including the proposed library closures and the action to mitigate the impact on groups with protected characteristics as outlined in Section 6 (6.47 to 6.67) and Section 8 (8.3.1 to 8.3.9) and Appendix D titled Equality Impact Assessment set, and Appendix C titled Review of Closure Options.
- 2.5 To consider the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting on 17th September 2024 relating to the proposed Library Service model.

**Please note** the Executive Response to the Scrutiny recommendations was approved by Cabinet at Item 6. Scrutiny Stage Two.

- 2.6 To consider whether the proposed Library Service model as set out in Section 6 below would meet the assessed local needs and the duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service.
- 2.7 To agree to adopt the proposed Library Service model set out in Section 6 below and Chapter 5 of Appendix A Library Service Review Phase 3 Report and summary of which are as follows:
- a) To keep open and increase the opening hours to a minimum of 5 days a week and Saturday opening, including a programme of activity aligned to the Library Universal Offers at the following nine libraries:
- i) Central Library (Opening days to be increased from 5 to 6 days per week);
  - ii) Ashburton Library (Opening days to be increased from 4 to 5 days per week);
  - iii) New Addington (Opening days to be increased from 3 to 5 days per week\*);
  - iv) Selsdon Library (Staffed opening days to increase to from 3 to 5 days per week with two days self service access retained\*);
  - v) Coulsdon Library (Opening days to be increased from 3 to 5 days per week);
  - vi) Purley Library (Opening days to be increased from 2 to 5 days per week\*); vii) Norbury Library (Staffed opening days to increase to from 3 to 5 days per week with two days self service access retained);
  - vii) South Norwood Library (Opening days to be increased from 2 to 5 days per week\*) and
  - viii) Thornton Heath Library (Opening days to be increased from 3 to 5 days per week)

All libraries will be open five days a week. \*including some self-service access. See 6.38 for proposed new timetable.

- b) To open all nine listed libraries above with staff on Saturdays.
- c) To extend self-service access to Coulsdon and Thornton Heath Libraries.
- d) To redevelop South Norwood Library in conjunction with the neighbouring Samuel Coleridge Taylor Youth Centre, delivering a library service alongside the existing Youth Centre and a new Family Hub, introducing self-service access and extending the opening hours to include Saturdays.
- e) To redesign the space at New Addington Library to improve the utilisation and alignment with existing Croydon Adult Learning & Training (CALAT) service and to extend the opening hours to include Saturdays.
- f) To invest in Purley Library to create classroom/event space for utilisation by CALAT and other VCFS partners and to extend the opening hours to include Saturdays.
- g) To develop an outreach service to enable the library service to engage more effectively with non-users, reach areas of need in the borough and mitigate the impact of library closures across the following three strands of provision, and as set out in paragraphs 6.41-6.45 and Chapter 5 of Appendix A – Phase 3 Report: - Home Library Service – a book delivery service for residents unable to visit a library building, care homes and school settings impacted by library closures. - Community events – library service information and promotion at community events and festivals and in schools and settings. - Library Links – a network of community book collections in local venues available alongside weekly drop in sessions of library events and activities.
- h) To provide a digital offer including the 24-hour online service offering an extensive collection of stock and materials, learning and reference help and a programme of digital skills support sessions delivered in the libraries and community venues as outlined in paragraph 6.46 and Chapter 5 of Appendix A – Phase 3 Report.
- i) To improve the promotion and marketing of the service to better inform and engage residents with the library offer.
- j) With effect from the 8th November 2024, to close the following four libraries: Bradmore Green, Broad Green, Sanderstead and Shirley.
- k) To approve the following general measures to mitigate the impact of the four libraries closures:
  - Extended opening hours at the remaining nine libraries to a minimum of 5 days a week, including introducing Saturday opening at all nine libraries and evening opening at two libraries, increasing staffed opening hours overall to 344 per week;

- Provision of a scheduled weekly accessible bus shuttle service for residents with access needs to visit their nearest library;
- Delivery of an outreach service entailing community book collections and weekly events held in community venues with a particular focus on areas of higher deprivation raised during the consultation;
- Provision of book collections for schools most impacted by the closure of libraries;
- Schools local to a library proposed to close will be accommodated for class visits at the next nearest Croydon Libraries;
- Investment in the library service digital offer including training and skills sessions;
- Improved marketing and communication of the service offer to better reach local residents;
- Access for users who are unable to visit a library to use the home library service.

2.8 To agree that the proposed model for the Library Service meets the assessed local needs identified and the duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service and as set out in paragraph 6.46 below.

2.9 To consider and approve the implementation plan outlined from section 6.73 and Chapter 7 of Appendix A Library Service Review Phase 3 Report for delivering the new model and which comprise a transition plan and full community mitigation measures for the four proposed libraries closures.

2.10 To agree to commence a process to consider community operation for sites no longer required for delivery of the statutory library service

## **Agenda Item: 8          2024-25 PERIOD 2 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

### **Key Decision No.: 0324F**

#### **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,

Cabinet **RESOLVED**;

2.1 to note the General Fund revenue budget outturn is forecast to overspend at financial year end by £15.6m at Period 2, after the budgeted utilisation of £38m capitalisation directions requested from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), utilisation of the £5.0m risk contingency budget and utilisation of £13.0m corporate earmarked reserves.

- 2.2 to note that all service directorates have been asked to reduce their net expenditure so that the annual budget can be balanced at the end of the year. It should not be underestimated what a challenge this will be against the background of increased demand pressures which are continuing to build across local government and increased market prices. Forecast overspend pressures are also demonstrated in the Month 2 and Quarter 1 reports published by other London councils. However, the Council will still strive to bring its 2024-25 budget into balance including through the in-year Financial Recovery Plan as set out from para 4.8.
- 2.3 to note the progress in Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings achievement of £20.8m (75.1%) against the total savings target of £27.7m as set out in paragraph 4.118.
- 2.4 to note the work that has commenced on the Council's Transformation Programme as set out from paragraph 4.115.
- 2.5 to note the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget outturn is forecast to overspend by £2.0m.
- 2.6 to approve the net budget increase in 2024-25 General Fund capital programme budgets resulting from 2023-24 net slippage of £19.7m.
- 2.7 to note the General Fund capital programme 2024-25 forecast underspend of £1.0m against the revised capital budget of £110.0m.
- 2.8 to note the HRA capital programme 2024-25 forecast underspend of £4.9m against the capital budget of £57.2m.
- 2.9 to note the Council's historic borrowing and subsequent debt burden continues to be critical to the non-sustainability of the Council's revenue budget. Dialogue with MHCLG continues around options of further financial support from Government in regard to the level of structural indebtedness to ensure the Council can deliver sustainable Local Government services.
- 2.10 to note that the Council continues to operate Spend Control Panels to ensure that tight financial control and assurance oversight are maintained.
- 2.11 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.

**Agenda Item: 9            2024-25 PERIOD 3 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Key Decision No.: 0424F**

**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,

Cabinet **RESOLVED**;

- 2.1 to note the General Fund revenue budget outturn is forecast to overspend at financial year end by £23.9m at Period 3, after the budgeted utilisation of £38m capitalisation directions requested from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), utilisation of the £5.0m risk contingency budget and utilisation of £13.0m corporate earmarked reserves.
- 2.2 to note that all service directorates have been asked to reduce their net expenditure so that the annual budget can be balanced at the end of the year. It should not be underestimated what a challenge this will be against the background of increased demand pressures which are continuing to build across local government and increased market prices. Forecast overspend pressures are also demonstrated in the Month 2 and Quarter 1 reports published by other London councils. However, the Council will still strive to bring its 2024-25 budget into balance including through the in-year Financial Recovery Plan as set out from para 4.8.
- 2.3 to approve budget inter-directorate virements from Corporate to service directorates for non-pay inflation (£15.694m) as set out in the table in paragraph 4.102.
- 2.4 to note the progress in Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings achievement of £20.8m (75.1%) against the total savings target of £27.7m as set out in paragraph 4.124.
- 2.5 to note the work that is continuing on the Council's Transformation Programme as set out from paragraph 4.122.
- 2.6 to note the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget outturn is forecast to overspend by £2.0m.
- 2.7 to approve the budget changes in 2024-25 General Fund capital programme budgets totalling a net increase of £8.5m, which includes adoption of Reconnecting Croydon (£4.755m funded by government grant) and the Oracle Improvement Programme (£4.419m funded by earmarked reserves) as set out in para 4.152.
- 2.8 to note the General Fund capital programme 2024-25 breakeven forecast against the revised capital budget of £118.5m.
- 2.9 to note the HRA capital programme 2024-25 forecast underspend of £4.9m against the capital budget of £57.2m.
- 2.10 to note the Council's historic borrowing and subsequent debt burden continues to be critical to the non-sustainability of the Council's revenue budget. Dialogue

with MHCLG continues around options of further financial support from Government in regard to the level of structural indebtedness to ensure the Council can deliver sustainable Local Government services.

2.11 to note that the Council continues to operate Spend Control Panels to ensure that tight financial control and assurance oversight are maintained.

2.12 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.

**Agenda Item: 10      PROCUREMENT WASTE AND STREET CLEANSING SERVICE - AWARD REPORT (PART A)**

**Key Decision No.: 0424CAB**

**Details of decision:**

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, the associated confidential part B report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports,

Cabinet **RESOLVED**;

2.1 To approve the appointment of the preferred bidder named in the Part B report for the delivery of waste and recycling collection, street cleansing and vehicle maintenance services for a term of eight years (April 2025 – 2033), with an option to extend for a further two periods of eight years each by mutual consent for the value stated in the Part B report.

2.2 To agree that, subject to there being no material changes to the scope of services and proposed solutions set out in this report, the Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities, Regeneration and Economic Recovery in consultation with the Executive Mayor and Cabinet Member for Streets & Environment is authorised to agree the final contract.

2.3 To note the identity of the Preferred Bidder will be released following the award decision, in accordance with usual practice.

**Agenda Item: 11      CROYDON INVESTMENT PLAN - UNLOCKING CROYDON'S POTENTIAL**

**Key Decision No.: 0124CAB**

**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,



Cabinet **RESOLVED** to;

- 2.1. Agree to adopt the Croydon Investment Plan.
- 2.2. Agree to the establishment of a Partnership Board that brings together key partners to action the Plan and deliver new investment into the borough.
- 2.3. Subject to agreeing recommendations 2.1 and 2.2, agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities Regeneration and Economic Recovery in consultation with the Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration to agree the structure, membership, constitution and Terms of Reference of the Partnership Board.

**Agenda Item: 12 WHITGIFT INDEMNITY AND LAND TRANSFER AGREEMENT REMEDY - UPDATE (PART A)**

**Key Decision No.: 1624EM**

**Details of decision:**

Having carefully read and considered the Part A report, the associated confidential part B report, and the requirements of the Council's public sector duty in relation to the issues detailed in the body of the reports,

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to;

- 2.1 Agree to enter into the following agreements to facilitate the regeneration of the town centre:
  - a) Deed of Release and Replacement of Guarantor in respect of the CPO Indemnity & Land Transfer Agreement ("ILTA") releasing Hammerson UK Properties Limited as a guarantor and appointing Unibail-Rodamco TH B.V. as the replacement guarantor; and
  - b) 4th Supplemental Agreement to the ILTA in relation to general updating and introducing the revised remedy provisions.
- 2.2 Agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities, Regeneration and Economic Recovery to negotiate and enter into a Conditional Land Sale Agreement in relation to the freehold of the former Allders Car Park, the leasehold of the Whitgift Car Park, subsoil of a small area of land in Poplar Walk, subsoil of part of Dingwall Avenue, and possible ground anchor licences.
- 2.3 Agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities, Regeneration and Economic Recovery in consultation with Executive Mayor and Cabinet member. to finalise the terms of the above agreements (as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2) and take decisions pursuant

to the above agreements once completed, including in relation to the implementation of the remedies

**Agenda Item: 13 PUBLIC HEALTH PEER REVIEW**

**Key Decision No.:** N/A

**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,

Cabinet **RESOLVED**;

2.1 to note the key findings of the Public Health Peer Review contained in appendix A and summarised in section 4.4 of this report.

2.2 to note next steps and the transformation the Public Health function is undertaking, an outline summary for which is set out in appendix B in accordance with the peer review recommendations.

2.3 to endorse the publication of the peer review report.

**Signed:** Monitoring Officer

**Notice date:** 26 September 2024

**Contact Officers:** [hannah.cretney2@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.cretney2@croydon.gov.uk)

## Scrutiny Referral/Call-in Procedure

1. The decisions may be implemented **1300 hours on 4 October 2024** (the 6th working day following the day on which the decision was taken) unless referred to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
2. The Council Solicitor shall refer the matter to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee if so requested by:-
  - i) the Chair and Vice Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and 1 member of that Committee; or for education matters the Chair, Vice Chair and 1 member 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 Democratic Services by the deadline stated in this notice. 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 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. The Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee shall also be notified.
6. The referral shall be considered at the next scheduled meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee unless, in view of the Council Solicitor, this would cause undue delay. In such cases the Council Solicitor will consult with the decision taker and the Chair of Scrutiny and Overview to agree a date for an additional meeting. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee may only decide to consider a maximum of 3 referrals at any one meeting.
7. At the Scrutiny & 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 Cabinet for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of the concerns. The Cabinet shall then reconsider the decision, amending the decision or not, before making a final decision.
8. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee may refer the decision to the Council if it considers that the decision is outside of the budget and policy framework of the Council. In such circumstances, the provisions of Rule 7 of the Budget & Policy Framework Procedure Rules (Part 4C of the Constitution) apply. The Council

may decide to take no further action in which case the decision may be implemented. If the Council objects to Cabinet's decision it can nullify the decision if it is outside the Policy Framework and/or inconsistent with the Budget.

9. If the Scrutiny and Overview Committee decides that no further action is necessary then the decision may be implemented.
10. If the Council determines that the decision was 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, to the Cabinet. The Cabinet 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.
11. The responses of the decision-taker and the Council shall be notified to all Members of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee once the Cabinet or Council has considered the matter and made a determination.
12. If either the Council or the Scrutiny and 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.
13. **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. The Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee must agree that the decision proposed cannot be reasonably deferred and that it is urgent. In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair's consent shall be required. In the absence of both the Chair and Deputy Chair, the Mayor's consent shall be required. Any such urgent decisions must be reported at least annually in a report to Council from the Leader including the reasons for urgency.

**Signed:** Monitoring Officer

**Notice Date:** 26 September 2024

**Contact Officers:** [hannah.cretney2@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.cretney2@croydon.gov.uk)

**PROFORMA**

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

For the attention of: Hannah Cretney, Democratic Services & Scrutiny e-mail to [Hannah.cretney2@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.cretney2@croydon.gov.uk)

Meeting:  
Meeting Date:  
Agenda Item No:

**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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**The outcome desired:**

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

Signed:

Date:

Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Committee