



1. Receive the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee on 8 October 2024 (Appendix 1).
2. To provide a substantive response to the recommendations (a Scrutiny Stage 2 Report) at the Cabinet meeting on 12 February 2025.

**Agenda Item: 6            OUTCOME OF THE OFSTED INSPECTING LOCAL  
AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES INSPECTION  
(PUBLICATION OF REPORT TO FOLLOW)**

**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,

The Executive Mayor and Cabinet, **RESOLVED** to;

2.1 Note and consider the outcome and findings from Ofsted's inspection of Croydon's Children's Services which concluded on 25th October 2024 and judged the Council's services for children as 'good'.

2.2 Note that improvement plans will be reviewed and refreshed to ensure they address all the issues raised in the inspection report.

**Agenda Item: 7            EQUALITY ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024**

**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,

The Executive Mayor and Cabinet, **RESOLVED** to;

2.1. Consider and note the Annual Report detailing progress made in delivering the Equality Strategy 2023-27.

2.2. Note that the Equality Annual Report is to be referred for noting and discussion at Full Council each year, as previously agreed by Full Council to ensure that progress delivering the Equality Strategy is visible and accountable to all Councillors and the community.

**Agenda Item: 8            2024-25 PERIOD 6 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Key Decision No.: 2224CAB**

**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 and Cabinet, **RESOLVED** to;

2.1 to note the General Fund revenue budget outturn is forecast to overspend at financial year end by £17.6m at Period 6, 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 through the in-year Financial Recovery Plan as set out from paragraph 4.9.

2.3 to approve inter-directorate virements from Corporate to service directorates for pay inflation (£6.768m) (para 4.116).

2.4 to note the progress in Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings achievement of £21.9m (79.1%) against the total savings target of £27.7m as set out in paragraph 4.138.

2.5 to note the work that is continuing on the Council's Transformation Programme as set out from paragraph 4.136.

2.6 to note the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue budget outturn is forecast to overspend by £8.0m.

2.7 to note the General Fund capital programme 2024-25 forecast underspend of £23.2m against the revised capital budget of £118.5m.

2.8 to note the HRA capital programme 2024-25 forecast underspend of £8.3m 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 as set out from para 4.159. 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, and tightened the criteria from July 2024, to ensure that stringent 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 FEES AND CHARGES 2025-26**

**Key Decision No.: 1124CAB**

**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 and Cabinet, **RESOLVED** to;

2.1 Have due regard to the equalities impact assessment in Appendix 2 in making the decisions set out in these recommendations.

2.2 Approve the fees and charges as set out in Appendix 1 to the extent that they fall within the authority of the Executive to determine.

2.3 Approve delegation for further in-year amendments to fees and charges for the financial year 2025-26, to the relevant Corporate Director following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and the Executive Mayor.

**Agenda Item: 10 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY - MID-YEAR REVIEW 2024/25**

**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,

The Executive Mayor and Cabinet, **RESOLVED** to;

a) Consider the comments received from Audit and Governance Committee on 20th November relating this report.

b) Consider the contents of the mid-year report on the treasury management activity for 2024/25.

c) Recommend to Full Council that it agrees to increase the current Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit to £1,769.5m and £1,819.5m respectively to bring it in line with the projected Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for capital expenditure and for the prudential management of the Council's financial affairs.

**Agenda Item: 11 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL STRATEGY 2024-30**

**Key Decision No.: 1224CAB**

**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 and Cabinet **RESOLVED**, to recommend to Full Council for consideration and approval:

2.1 The Council's 2024-30 General Fund Capital Programme which includes planned expenditure of £554.3m (including capitalisation directions) across the six year period. This includes expenditure financed through borrowing of £250.7m over the six years, during which time the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) "paying down" of the capital financing requirement would be £186.7m. The MRP annual borrowing cost would increase incrementally by an average £2.1m each year over the six years. The cost of this future borrowing will be factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

2.2 The transformation projects set out in the table at paragraph 4.33 of this report to be included into the 2024-30 General Fund Capital Programme.

2.3 The 2024-30 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme which includes planned expenditure of £394.7m with borrowing of £153.4m.

2.4 The Council's Capital Strategy, as detailed within Appendix A of this report.

2.5 Note the Council's historic legacy borrowing and debt burden continues to be critical to the non-sustainability of the Council's revenue budget. Dialogue with MHCLG continues, and the Council is seeking further financial support from Government in regard to its level of indebtedness to ensure it can deliver sustainable local government services.

**Agenda Item: 12 PROGRESS UPDATE ON TRANCHE 1& 2 ASSET DISPOSALS, SEEKING APPROVAL FOR TRANCHE 3 OF ASSET FOR DISPOSAL - PART A**

**Key Decision No.: 0624CAB** – Please note correction to KD number listed in report (7923EM).

**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,

The Executive Mayor and Cabinet, **RESOLVED;**

2.1 To note the progress made on tranche 1 and 2 disposals.

2.2 To approve tranche 3 of sites for disposals as set out in Appendix 1 of this report together with indicative book values as set out in exempt Part B Appendix 1.

2.3 To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Resources and s151 Officer to agree the terms and final price for each disposal included within tranche 3.

2.4 The delegations in this report shall only be exercised following: i. sign off of a business case/ financial assessment by the Corporate Management Team (CMT) ii. formal Red Book valuation, if required, on a property to be sold; and iii. formal marketing unless there is a clear special purchaser or offer made considerably in excess of the market value.

2.5 To note that the target value for disposals for tranche 3 and that disposals of tranche 3 assets will commence immediately alongside tranche 1 & 2 disposals.

**Signed:** Monitoring Officer

**Notice date:** 05 December 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 13 December 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:** 05 December 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:

---

---

---

**The outcome desired:**

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

Signed:

Date:

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