

## Scrutiny Recommendations: Stage 1

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Cabinet Lead	Officer Lead
Meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committee	22 July 2020	Croydon Economic Recovery	The Committee retained a concern about the transparency of the Economic Renewal Board and felt that there should be an aim to make it as transparent as possible to allow local businesses and the public to understand the aims of the Board and the outcomes it was delivering.	That information on the Economic Renewal Board, including terms of reference, vision and an ongoing overview of activity, is published on the Council website.	Manju Shahul-Hameed & Stuart King/Paul Scott	Stephen Tate
Meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committee	22 July 2020	Croydon Economic Recovery	The Committee welcomed the confirmation that options for using existing Council buildings to provide business support were being investigated and would encourage the exploration of options for using Fairfield Halls during its closure.	That options for using the Fairfield Halls for alternative means during its closure are explored.	Manju Shahul-Hameed & Stuart King/Paul Scott	Stephen Tate
Meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committee	22 July 2020	Croydon Economic Recovery	Although it was acknowledged that the Council was marketing the borough as a place to do business and there was limited funding available to expand upon current activity, given the opportunities that may be available arising post covid-19 lockdown it would encourage the exploration of cost effective options to increase the marketing of the borough.	That options to increase the marketing of the borough are explored to identify cost effective solutions.	Manju Shahul-Hameed & Stuart King/Paul Scott	Stephen Tate

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Meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committee	25 August 2020	Call-In: Key Decisions set out in Cabinet Reports 'Responding to the Local Government Funding Challenge' and 'July Financial Review'	As scrutiny of the Council's finances is a key role for Scrutiny (set out in the Scrutiny Guidance published in 2019) and in light of the ongoing risk of a Section 114 Notice being served, the Committee agrees that both itself and its Sub-Committees will keep a watching briefing on this year's budget for the remainder of the financial year, and will take a more active role in scrutinising the development and setting of the 2021-22 Budget.	To enable greater transparency, the Committee requests that the Cabinet endorses the approach of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee, and its sub-committees, to keep a watching brief over the Council's finances for the remainder of the financial year, and on the budget setting process for 2021-22, and requests the allocation of sufficient support to ensure that the scrutiny of the budget is both timely and meaningful.	Simon Hall	Lisa Taylor
Meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committee	25 August 2020	Call-In: Key Decisions set out in Cabinet Reports 'Responding to the Local Government Funding Challenge' and 'July Financial Review'		The Committee requests that they are kept informed of progress made with the Capital Programme Review, including any policy changes made as part of the review.	Simon Hall	Lisa Taylor

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Meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committee	25 August 2020	Call-In: Key Decisions set out in Cabinet Reports 'Responding to the Local Government Funding Challenge' and 'July Financial Review'	<p>Although it was difficult to plan for unforeseen events, such as the covid-19 pandemic, the Committee agrees that there are lessons to be learnt from the crisis which should inform the Council's future risk management processes.</p> <p>The Committee welcomes the greater financial controls introduced to address the funding gap and agreed that a robust approach to new spending will be needed on an ongoing basis going forward if the Council is to address historic underfunding and increase the level of reserves held.</p>	<p>To ensure lessons are learnt the Council's risk management processes and the risk register are reviewed in light of the covid-19 pandemic to ensure that greater allowance is made for unforeseen events.</p> <p>The outcomes from this review should feed into the revision of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the setting of new targets for general fund balances.</p> <p>As the Council is undertaking a fundamental restructuring of the organisation to aid delivery of its locality strategy, the Council should also take this opportunity to re-evaluate its organisational culture, to ensure its fitness going forward during a period of financial uncertainty.</p>	Simon Hall	Lisa Taylor

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Meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committee	25 August 2020	Call-In: Key Decisions set out in Cabinet Reports 'Responding to the Local Government Funding Challenge' and 'July Financial Review'	The Committee agrees that transparency about decisions made to address the funding gap was essential for both Council staff and the wider public to retain confidence in the Council and its ability to deliver essential services.	That a Communications Plan is developed to ensure that there is a greater level of transparency with the general public over the budget challenges facing the Council and the action needed to address the shortfall. This should include, as a minimum, an easily accessed section on the Council's website outlining the issues facing the Council and regular updates on progress made in addressing the shortfall.	Simon Hall	Lisa Taylor
Meeting of Scrutiny & Overview Committee	25 August 2020	Call-In: Key Decisions set out in Cabinet Reports 'Responding to the Local Government Funding Challenge' and 'July Financial Review'	The Committee recognises that the Government's plans to confirm its funding settlement intentions in November at the earliest for this and future years, continues to extend the period of uncertainty for local authorities and their ability to plan or respond in year accordingly. The Committee encourages that all avenues for lobbying are explored.	That the Cabinet continues to explore all avenues to lobby the Government to provide earlier and greater financial certainty for local authorities, and that regular updates on the results of lobbying are provided for the Committee.	Simon Hall	Lisa Taylor