

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	CABINET EXECUTIVE MAYOR DECISION	
DATE OF DECISION	22 February 2023	
REPORT TITLE:	Annual Delivering the Croydon Growth Zone Report – 2023/24	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Nick Hibberd – Corporate Director of Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Heather Cheesbrough - Director of Planning and Sustainable Regeneration	
LEAD OFFICER:	Steve Dennington – Service Head Spatial Planning and Interim Service Head Growth Zone and Regeneration Email: Steve.Dennington@croydon.gov.uk Telephone: 020 8726 6000 (Ext 28152)	
LEAD MEMBER:	CLLR Jeet Bains – Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration	
KEY DECISION - 7422EM	Yes	REASON: Decision incurs expenditure, or makes savings, of more than £1,000,000 and Decision significantly impacts on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	NO	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	Fairfield, Addiscombe West & Park Hill & Whitgift	

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Growth Zone business rate uplift retention funding mechanism was approved by Cabinet in July 2016 and the Mayor of London in September 2016, and ring-fences growth in business rates from April 2018 for 16 years. A Statutory Instrument was laid in parliament which led to the formal approval of the Growth Zone by the Government from April 2018.
- 1.2 As further historic context, following the adoption of the Croydon Opportunity Area Planning Framework by the Council and the Greater London Authority in 2013, it was clear the infrastructure needs related to the planned growth required additional financial support. Therefore, from inception, the Growth Zone was developed in a collaborative approach with the GLA and Transport for London (TfL) to secure central government financial devolution in the form of business rate retention for a designated area within central Croydon. This process resulted in the Growth Zone coming into force in April 2018.
- 1.3 This annual report sets out proposals for the Growth Zone budget and programme for 2023/24. It reflects the Mayor's Business Plan 2022 – 2026, the need to support the approach to recovery and renewal of Croydon town centre following the devastating socio-economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, challenging macro-economic conditions and the implications for development activity. The Growth Zone income is ring fenced by the Statutory Instrument and provides an additional funding source. Therefore, positively contributing the Council's financial position.
- 1.4 This report sets out high level detail for the Growth Zone programme of £12,261,000 for financial year 2023/24. A further report will be submitted to Cabinet in the 23/24 financial year identifying the expenditure proposed for the financial year 2024/25 and to take account of the government's recent disappointing announcement that the Council's submission for Levelling Up Funding has been unsuccessful (as detailed in para 4.8).

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

For the reasons set out in the report the Executive Mayor, in Cabinet, is recommended:

- 2.1 to agree £12,261,000 budget for the 'Delivering the Growth Zone' programme 2023/24;
- 2.2 to note the indicative funding profile for Growth Zone Sub Groups and projects as detailed in Table 1 of this report; and,
- 2.3 to agree subject to the requirement to comply with the provisions of Part 4G of the Constitution in taking delegated decisions, and the parameters previously approved in the March 2021 Cabinet report 'Delivering the Growth Zone' 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.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Growth Zone business rate uplift retention funding mechanism was approved by Cabinet in July 2016 and the Mayor of London in September 2016, and ring-fences growth in business rates from April 2018 for 16 years. Since the inception of the Growth Zone, it has been understood that the infrastructure and interventions required to mitigate the planned growth will not be delivered by existing delivery methods, current funding availability or through planning gain. Therefore, the Growth Zone is essential to enable the delivery of critical and essential infrastructure to mitigate the impact of the planned growth (Croydon Local Plan 2018, Croydon Opportunity Area Planning Framework 2013 and London Plan 2021) for the benefit of existing and future residents, businesses and visitors. Also, the Growth Zone funding will play a key role in the Council's approach to recovery and renewal of Croydon town centre following the devastating socio-economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, challenging macro economic conditions and the implications for development activity.
- 3.2 The Growth Zone is an innovative approach to fund and deliver this infrastructure and regeneration response. The Growth Zone inception pre dates the coronavirus pandemic, the current challenging macro economic circumstances and the Council's financial challenges. Therefore, it is important that the Growth Zone continues to evolve to support the town centre's growth, regeneration and social and economic recovery. This may lead to the Growth Zone funding being invested more flexibly, including meanwhile activation, environmental and maintenance projects and interventions to support recovery of the town centre in the shorter term, rather than being solely focused on new physical infrastructure. This is a real prospect given the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy presented to Cabinet on 30th November 2022 seeking flexibility from the government regarding Growth Zone funding assignment. This would also need to be agreed with the Greater London Authority (GLA).
- 3.3 The recommendation to approve the 'Delivering the Growth Zone' programme 2023/24 reflects the need to support the centre's growth, regeneration and social and economic recovery. The budget and programme reflects the Council's current resource structures as of 2022/23 that reflect and respond to the Council's financial challenges. It is important that the programme for 2023/24 is realistic in terms of the capacity for delivery.
- 3.4 The 'Delivering the Growth Zone' programme 2023/24 enjoys the support of the core partners of GLA and Transport for London (TfL). This has been secured through the well-established and functional Growth Zone governance.

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1 The Growth Zone programme was originally established to leverage opportunities to create the appropriate social, economic, cultural and physical infrastructure needed to ensure that the significant development and growth anticipated within Croydon town centre was sustainable. As a 16-year programme, starting in 2018, it was always envisaged the strategic direction of the Growth Zone and funding available would flex and change over time, with a governance structure established to ensure that the priorities of the programme reflect the needs of the town centre as development and regeneration takes shape.
- 4.2 The core objectives of the Growth Zone to support the regeneration and renewal of the town centre and borough, and to support delivery of social, economic, cultural and physical infrastructure align with the Mayor's Business Plan 2022 – 2026. This report

directly contributes to the Mayor's Business Plan's priorities including – making Croydon a borough we're proud to call home, supporting the regeneration of Croydon's town and district centres and delivering a vibrant London Borough of Culture which showcases local talent and supports Croydon's recovery.

4.3 Whilst many of the major development projects planned for the town centre were starting to progress in the early years of the Growth Zone programme, there have been delays and reconsideration of the nature to some key town centre developments, including the proposed redevelopment of the Whitgift Centre. These delays are likely to have been compounded by the devastating economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic on town centre businesses.

4.4 **Growth Zone Delivery – 2022/23**

4.5 The notable outputs of the Growth Zone for 2022/23 are set out below.

- Place and Public Realm
 - Completion of Minster Green Public Realm RIBA Stage 4 technical designs.
 - Completion of Croydon Urban Room project initiation, design development, public programme development and mobilisation.
 - Commencement of the Growth Zone 2017-19 Meanwhile Asset Audit. The audit will identify which assets may need to be removed, which are to be refurbished and which might be relocated from their present location.
- Culture
 - Recruitment to the Borough of Culture 2023 Project Team.
 - Programme of communications and marketing for the Borough of Culture 2023.
 - Progress and implementation of the March 22 Cabinet Report - Borough of Culture 2023. Examples include, preparation for flagship events, such as - 'Recognition' & 'Places and Faces' to involve diverse groups in the borough and showcase Croydon under the tag 'this is Croydon'; recruitment of a Borough of Culture Programme Manager and Creative consultant; and, provide funding for ongoing fundraising.
- Inward Investment
 - Inward investment concierge service delivery – 37 businesses secured premises in the last 12 months.
 - Support delivery of London South Bank University Green Engineering & Built Environment Innovation Centre – programme of activity being developed with business partners.
 - Working with strategic partners to support & promote Croydon.
 - Working with the Croydon Business Improvement District on the Economic Strategy which will include Inward Investment.
- Transport
 - Completion of Phase 1 of Strategic Transport Modelling with TfL for the purpose of assessing the impact of Croydon Purley Way masterplan and Croydon Town Centre.
 - Continued delivery of walking, cycling and bus priority schemes including those identified in the table below:

High street walking and cycling
Dingwall road walking and cycling
Brighton road walking and cycling
London road walking and cycling

- Smart Cities
 - 4G small cells 52 sites delivered.
 - Combined Breathe London Air Quality monitoring at construction logistics sites along with construction logistics cameras to monitor and control spikes in traffic and air quality.
 - Full fibre broadband connectivity to 80+ CCTV sites in delivery.
- Construction Logistics
 - Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) emission control and monitoring.
 - Automated Traffic Control - monitoring all types of vehicle movements entering and exiting the town centre.
 - CCTV cameras - cameras located to where the HGV emission sensors are and used to monitor and manage construction site activity and behaviour.
 - Continued use of 'One.Network' – it has transformed the way network management/construction logistic coordinates works / events / emergencies on the network and is assisting the Council in carrying out our statutory duty under the Traffic Management Act.

4.6 Delivering the Growth Zone programme 2023/24

4.7 High level detail of the Growth Zone programme 2023/24 for the next financial year is set out in Table 1 below. The work of the Sub Groups and the projects are varied and demonstrate the flexibility of Growth Zone funding, under Growth Zone governance, to deliver interventions that are the appropriate response to the current circumstances and as circumstances evolve. Therefore, Growth Zone outputs for 2023/24 are anchored to the core objectives to support the regeneration and renewal of the town centre and borough, and to support delivery of social, economic, cultural and physical infrastructure, which align with the Mayor's Business Plan 2022 – 2026. This is rather than being anchored to an overall long term vision for the Town Centre, which is currently under development. Given this context, the Executive Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration will be updated twice a year on the delivery of the annual programme. This will happen in tandem with the GLA Deputy Mayor for Planning and Regeneration.

Table 1

Sub Group / Project	£(000)	Comment
Town Centre Vision (and economic analysis)	200	A Town Centre Vision is necessary to support the Council's approach to recovery and renewal of Croydon town centre. This vision will need to respond to the devastating socio-economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, understand the future of town centres and high streets, address challenging macro economic conditions and the implications for current and future development activity. The vision will support the Mayor's Business Plan – 2022 – 2026. The vision will not be developed in isolation and needs to be developed in collaboration with partners, such as the GLA, TfL and members of the Town Centre Advisory Board. To ensure the robustness of the vision it will be informed by economic analysis. The vision will be informed by the Croydon Inward Investment strategy and action plan as outlined in the Inward Investment section, the GLA's economic framework and masterplanning activity by key developers in the town centre, including Croydon Limited Partnership.
Transport & Parking Sub Group	900	The Sub Group's activity is dependent on TfL's financial challenges and particularly the TfL funded annual Local Implementation Plan Funding process. Notwithstanding this dependency, work will be focussed on completion of current strategic transport modelling, continue to monitor the Brighton Main Line Upgrade project subject to government announcements, re-engage with Network Rail regarding the renewal of West Croydon station, bus priority programme (work will focus on identifying low-cost and deliverable measures that can be implemented in future years), active travel measures (pedestrian improvements and segregated cycle tracks (continued delivery of the 2022/23 programme)) together with associated public realm improvements and explore opportunities to manage freight/delivery demand.
Minster Green Public Realm Project (RIBA stage 5) & Implementation of the Growth Zone 2017/19 Meanwhile Asset Audit	£7,592	<p>Minster Green Public Realm Project - Located in the heart of Croydon's Old Town, Croydon Minster has been a focal point for the borough's wider history and is a key community partner for positive change in Croydon. However, the surrounding gardens and memorial spaces have lost their original purpose and link to the growing communities in the area.</p> <p>The public realm project will re-establish the relevance of the Minster's public realm and gardens including improvements to the layout including relocation of</p>

<p>(Place and Public Realm, Culture Sub Group)</p>		<p>parking; introduction of a new play area; improved wayfinding; removal of the pedestrian subway; feature lighting to the Minster; and enhancement of the landscaped areas and historic gravestone features. These changes will provide improved activation and benefits for local communities, greatly enhancing the Minster and its surrounds for the people of Croydon.</p> <p>In 2023/24 design will move to delivery on site (RIBA Stage 5). Given cost inflation (material and labour) and delivery complexities in such a sensitive location, a budget of up to £6.68m to be allocated. The Council's term contractor are undertaking a further cost review for Stage 5 to provide greater clarity on the extent of cost increases and whether the construction can be concluded entirely in 2023/24.</p> <p>Despite the cost inflation the Minster Green Public Realm project forms part of the programme for 2023/24 for the following reasons:</p> <p>The Minster is a fundamental part of the borough's history and heritage and its public realm should celebrate the fact.</p> <p>There is time limited Diocese faculty consent in place for the scheme and seeking approval again would be a missed opportunity. It is considered that momentum is key having reached construction stage.</p> <p>The design of the scheme has been informed by engagement with the Diocese and the local community, for example the inclusion of play facilities within the design to offer enhanced green open space.</p> <p>It is hoped the project will leave a space that people will enjoy and dwell, and address some of the current environmental quality, safety and anti-social behaviour issues.</p>
<p>Urban Room (Place and Public Realm, Culture Sub Group)</p>	<p>175.5</p>	<p>The Croydon Urban Room is a physical (Whitgift Centre Unit) and digital platform for public, business and wider stakeholder engagement and participation in the revival and development of the Whitgift Centre and the wider North End Quarter area of the town centre. Situated in a shopfront, the Croydon Urban Room will be an accessible public space - an extension of the public realm that aims to catalyse the sustainable renewal, vitality and resilience of the area. It will aim to do this by improving access and inclusion, empowering the public to be meaningfully involved in future planning, regeneration and development process and in turn contribute to expanding social, sustainable, creative and</p>

		<p>learning infrastructure, bringing investment and economic activities.</p> <p>The public programme of workshops, activities, events and exhibitions will be delivered through a series of programme partnerships with industry, academic and local partners - this will create a greater sense of ownership whilst providing further elements of match funding to the project.</p> <p>The digital platform will reflect the physical activities and public programme in the physical space and expand the outreach of the project. Some pop-up events are also anticipated around the town centre and wider borough to improve access and participation.</p> <p>The 23/24 budget figure is based on a contribution being secured through the ongoing negotiations with Croydon Limited Partnership through the Indemnity Land Transfer Agreement.</p>
Construction Logistics Sub Group	100	Continue to provide interventions and deliver projects to mitigate the impact of construction logistics on the operation of the Croydon Opportunity Area and borough road network. Examples of these projects include, setting up a Croydon Considerate Constructor award scheme, utility and developer coordination and forum, HGV emissions controls and introduction of mobile CCTV construction site activity monitoring.
Borough of Culture (Place and Public Realm, Culture Sub Group)	377.5	Continued funding of the Borough of Culture 2023 to ensure the resource is available to deliver the programme and projects are funded fully to ensure success and their positive impact. The funding will support delivery of projects within the town centre to ensure growth and benefits derived are also available to local businesses and to enhance the perception and accessibility of the town centre as a visitor destination. Specific projects and interventions to be agreed and monitored through the Growth Zone Steering Group and Sub Group.
Museum 2023/24	200	Funding to ensure the operation of the Croydon Museum as a visitor and cultural destination in 2023/24. Strong social infrastructure is critical to the Croydon Opportunity Area's regeneration, particularly as growth is directly linked to resident and visitor spend and footfall. The operation of the Croydon Museum the Borough of Culture offer in 2023 and support increased footfall. This funding was included in the Council's 2023/24 Medium Term Financial Strategy agreed by Cabinet on 30/11/22.

<p>Smart Cities Sub Group</p>	<p>200</p>	<p>Continue to improve digital connectivity including full fibre broadband and 4G/5G connectivity. Build digital inclusion support for jobseekers, micro-businesses and SMEs providing digital skills, connectivity, and access to devices. Continued funding will enable delivery of ongoing projects including 4G small cells across town centre sites, full fibre broadband connectivity to CCTV sites (delivered £1m funding from GLA Connected London), and development of the Digital Borough map providing GIS mapping of all Internet of Things sensors, 4G small cells, Air Quality sensors, foot fall sensors, traffic monitoring sensors, Electric Vehicle Charging Points and all other Smart Cities locations. Accessible by services across the organisation to enable improved data and intelligence to support better decision making. Joint working with Construction Logistics sub group to deliver constructions logistics monitoring through cameras as combined with Air Quality sensors and monitoring secured through funding from the South London Partnership Innovate Programme.</p>
<p>Inward Investment (Place and Public Realm, Culture Sub Group)</p>	<p>139</p>	<p>A dedicated concierge service that supports new businesses into the Growth Zone working with developers, commercial agents and landlords to bring a vibrant offering to the Growth Zone/town centre.</p> <p>Development of a Croydon Inward Investment strategy and action plan within 2023/24 for the Growth Zone area which brings together partner collaboration and attracts investment into the town centre and retains Croydon businesses.</p> <p>London South Bank University – Green Engineering & Built Environment Innovation Centre</p> <p>To build on the past work to support the Innovation Centre which focuses on green research and development bringing local, regional and national businesses and the university together to deliver new green technology solutions to market. Continue to work to deliver the space to collaborate and innovate, create and make new technology helping to drive a green recovery in Croydon and London.</p> <p>Growing the Economy - Growth Zone</p> <p>Working with stakeholders and partners to deliver dedicated business support, advice, guidance and innovation to town centre businesses helping them to become resilient and adaptive to change. Continue a programme of support that delivers support to a minimum of 250 businesses per annum.</p>

Social Infrastructure Sub Group	100	The Sub Group did not operate in 22/23 due to capacity constraints. Should 23/24 Growth Zone recruitment prove successful the sub group will be re-introduced to support social infrastructure delivery in 2023/24.
East Croydon Link Bridge	100	Funding to support the maintenance and cleansing of the public side of the East Croydon Link Bridge as a contractual obligation with Network Rail. The completion of the East Croydon Link Bridge will support the regeneration of the Town Centre by improving and increasing the accessibility of the town centre and visitor experience around East Croydon Station.
Fair Field Halls Forecourt (Growth Zone funded, but not a project that forms part of the Growth Zone delivery programme)	600	Funding for the Council's Fair Field Halls Project Team to deliver improvements to the Fair Field Halls forecourt from the current interim state.
Wellesley Road Crossing (match funding)	1,000	Should up to £1m be secured through the ongoing negotiations with Croydon Limited Partnership through the Indemnity Land Transfer Agreement to secure the whole funding for the Wellesley Road Crossing.
Staffing costs (at 2022/23 costs)	577	This is the cost of Growth Zone establishment for 2022/23 carried forward into 2023/24.
Total – Growth Zone 23/24	12,261,000	

4.8 This report responds to the government's disappointing announcement that the Council's submission for Levelling Up Funding has been unsuccessful for the most recent round of funding. In response, the Council, with partners, will during 2023/24 work to prioritise projects and interventions that could be funded from Growth Zone income. Projects will be prioritised on the basis of supporting the renewal and regeneration of the town centre. The allocation of future Growth Zone funding will be the subject of Growth Zone governance, with core partners (GLA and TfL), and Cabinet approval. Furthermore, the Council has requested feedback from the government on the unsuccessful submission and that feedback is awaited.

4.9 In addition, the ongoing Strategic Transport Modelling study being undertaken, as part of the Transport and Parking Sub-Group, with TfL will be used to determine the transport interventions required to support the current Growth Zone development plans, as well as those necessary to support the Purley Way masterplan and Local Plan Review. This will help project prioritisation and identify the schemes that require Growth Zone funding in future years, which again will be the subject of Growth Zone governance, with core partners (GLA and TfL) and Cabinet approval.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Two other reasonable alternative options were considered and were rejected for the reasons set out below.
- 5.2 An option would be to not set a budget and programme for 2023/24 and allow the Growth Zone income to appreciate given the Council's financial and capacity constraints. This option was rejected as it would not support the town centre's growth, regeneration and social and economic recovery at a very critical stage given the impact of the pandemic and the challenging macro economic conditions. Also, Growth Zone income is ring fenced given the statutory instrument, so is a source of funding for interventions and projects that is not available from other sources given the Council's and partners' financial challenges. Finally, the GLA and TfL would be unlikely to support this option as it creates a clear tension with the original intent and approval of the Growth Zone in 2016.
- 5.3.1 A second option would have been to set a budget and programme that is overly ambitious with the very real risk of under delivery. To ignore the Council's current resource and structures as of 2022/23 that reflect the Council's financial challenges would represent poor programme management. In other words, the option of setting a budget and programme that reflects the resources and structures prior to the Council's Section 114s would represent poor programme management.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation has taken place with key stakeholders and partners as established through the Growth Zone governance structures. The budget and programme set out in this report enjoys the support of the core partners of Greater London Authority (GLA) and Transport for London (TfL).

7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 7.1 The Executive Mayor's priorities are detailed in the Executive Mayor's Business Plan 2022 – 2026. The priorities that this report directly contributes to are outlined below.
- Croydon is a cleaner, safer and healthier place, a borough we're proud to call home.
 - Support the regeneration of Croydon's town and district centres, seeking inward investment and grants.
 - Deliver a vibrant London Borough of Culture which showcases local talent and supports Croydon's recovery.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1.1 At the start of the 2022/23 the Growth Zone dedicated reserve balance was £23.1m.
- 8.1.2 Cabinet in February 2022 agreed the 2022/23 budget and programme, which assigned up to £5.7m to Growth Zone projects and programmes.

- 8.1.3 It is forecast that actual spend in 2022/23 will be circa £2m. The underspend has largely occurred as a consequence of the financial constraints on the Council in the 2022/23 financial year, the diminished resources within the Growth Zone team (recruitment and retention) and across the Growth Zone Sub Groups. Given the Growth Zone has a period of 16 years this underspend can be assigned across the whole Growth Zone period.
- 8.1.4 The table below sets out the 2022/23 opening balance, the forecast spend of £2m for 2022/23 and applies an estimated income of £6,453M (based on 2020/21 income). This is forecast to lead to a closing balance for 2022/23 of £27,553m.
- 8.1.5 The effect of this report is to agree a budget of up to £12,261m Growth Zone funding for 2023/24.
- 8.1.6 Taking account of the forecast opening balance for 2023/24, proposed expenditure and estimated income, it is anticipated the 2023/24 closing balance will be circa £21,745m.
- 8.1.7 This report sets out how the Council will respond to the government's disappointing announcement that the Council's submission for Levelling Up Funding has been unsuccessful for the most recent round of funding.
- 8.1.8 Growth Zone budget risk is managed as follows.
- The Growth Zone financial model is based on anticipated future business rates income, which would enable the Council to fund Growth Zone programmes and projects. Any significant changes to future income streams will impact on the viability of the Growth Zone.
 - The Growth Zone finance governance and financial model will monitor the impact on Growth Zone income of the Business Rate revaluation April 2023 as announced in the government's Autumn Statement 2022.
 - Growth Zone income levels depend on the satisfactory progress of developments occurring in the town centre, which will bring about the uplift in business rates. If these developments slip, the income in future years could be affected.
 - Any overspends in early programmes will impact on the funding available for later projects and programmes. Expenditure and delivery of projects will be managed by the Growth Zone Steering Group. Any unavoidable overspend will mean a reduction in funding available for projects planned for the future.
 - Project and programme delays could impact on the success of the Growth Zone. Governance arrangements are in place with partners and stakeholders to ensure clear understanding of roles and responsibilities. Regular cross partner meetings of the Growth Zone Steering Group is a practical method of monitoring project management and the early identification of any delivery issues for attention.

8.1.9 Growth Zone consequences of report recommendation

	Current Year	Medium Term Financial Strategy – 3 year forecast		
	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26
Revenue Budget Available				
Expenditure Income				
Effect of decision from report				
Expenditure Income				
Remaining Budget				
Growth Zone Budget available	23,100	27,553 (est)		
Expenditure Income	(2,000) (forecast) 6,453 (est)	6,453 (est)		
Effect of decision from report				
Expenditure Income		(12,261)		
Remaining Budget	27,553	21,754		

8.1.10 Comments approved by Darrell Jones [Acting Head of Finance SCRER, Investment & Risk] on behalf of the Director of Finance. (Date 05/01/2023)

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.2.1 The Head of Commercial and Property Law comments on behalf of the Director of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer that the Non-Domestic Rating (Designated Areas) Regulations establish and enable what is known as a 'Local Growth Zone' by providing for the local retention of non-domestic rates collected in designated areas in England, Croydon being one of those areas.

- 8.2.2 The Regulations designate areas in England (“designated areas”) for the purpose of paragraph 39(1) of Schedule 7B to the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (“the 1988 Act”) (local retention of non-domestic rates). They provide rules for calculating in respect of a billing authority in England all or part of whose area falls within a designated area— (a) the billing authority's non-domestic rating income in respect of the designated area for a specified year; and (b) the proportion of that non-domestic rating income that is to be disregarded for the purpose of specified calculations under Schedule 7B to the 1988 Act. The calculations are to be made separately for each designated area within which a billing authority's area falls. Regulation 3(1) and Schedule 1 designate the areas. The designation of the areas is made by reference to maps.
- 8.2.3 Through the 2018 Regulations, Regulation 3(2) provides that the designation of the Local Growth Zone in Croydon takes effect on 1st April 2018 and is established for 16 years.
- 8.2.4 The Executive Mayor has the power to exercise executive functions pursuant to s9E of the Local Government Act 2000 and has the power to delegate those functions. This report seeks relevant delegations to exercise executive functions.
- 8.2.5 The recommendations in this report are in accordance with the Council’s Constitution and in implementing the recommendations the officer decision maker will need to adhere to the Decision Making Procedure Rules within Part 4G of the Constitution, the provisions of Part 4B of the Constitution in relation to Access to Information Procedure Rules including the publication, where required, of key decision notices and will need to adhere to the provisions of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules at 4C.
- 8.2.6 Comments approved by Kiri Bailey the Head of Commercial and Property Law on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (Date 05/01/2023)

8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.3.1 A key priority for the Council is to work with our partners to make Croydon a safer, fairer and more inclusive place for all our communities. One of the Council’s core priorities detailed in Equality Strategy 2020 -2024 is to focus on tackling ingrained inequalities and the underlying causes of inequality and hardship such as structural racism, environmental injustice and economic injustice. Successful delivery of the Growth Zone interventions and projects outlined in this report will create more opportunities for Croydon residents and contribute towards greater equality and fairness by focusing on tackling ingrained inequality and poverty in the borough reducing tackling the underlying causes, of inequality and hardship, such structural racism, environmental injustice and economic injustice.
- 8.3.2 The Equality Analysis dated February 2022 found that the programme will have a positive impact for all protected groups that share protected characteristics. These include improved accessibility within the street environment and access to public

transport, a cultural offer that supports routes to employment and training opportunities; and safe and reliable public transport and walking and cycling routes.

- 8.3.3 Though the Equality Analysis has identified positive impact in many areas, mitigation has been identified to minimise and plan for any negative impacts that may rise across characteristics throughout the life of the projects. The action plan will be reviewed and monitored.
- 8.3.4 Further Equalities Analyses are being undertaken for each individual Growth Zone project as these progress through the design stages. However, these further analyses have not been recorded so cannot be considered at this stage. The Growth Zone programme governance sets out that individual work streams within sub-groups will ensure this occurs and where necessary action will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts on groups that share a protected characteristic.
- 8.3.5 Approved by: Denise McCausland – Equality Programme Manager (19/12/22)

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.4.1 There are no immediate HR impact contained in this report. If any should arise, these will be managed under the Council Policies and Procedures.
- 8.4.2 Approved Jennifer Sankar, Head of HR Housing Directorate & Sustainable Communities Regeneration and Economic Recovery Directorate, for and on behalf of Dean Shoemith, Chief People Officer, on 14 December 2022.

9 APPENDICES

- 9.1 **Appendix 1:** February 2022 - Growth Zone Equalities Impact Assessment - [Microsoft Word - Equality Analysis Form_GZ_February 2022.docx \(croydon.gov.uk\)](#) & [2022_02 Cabinet Delivering the GZ \(croydon.gov.uk\)](#)

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1 March 2021 Delivering the Growth Zone Cabinet Paper – Item 48/21 - [Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 22nd March, 2021, 6.30 pm | Croydon Council](#)

11 URGENCY

- 11.1 None.