

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	CABINET	
DATE	24 May 2023	
REPORT TITLE:	STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY	
LEAD OFFICER:	Jane West, Corporate Director for Resources Adrian May, Interim Head of Democratic Services T: 020 8726 6000 X 62529. Email: adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Rowenna Davis Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	<p>Recommendations that have been developed from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and its Sub-Committees since the last Cabinet meeting are provided in the appendices to this report. The constitution requires that an interim or full response is provided within 2 months of this Cabinet meeting.</p>	
KEY DECISION?	No	N/A
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1 CONCLUSIONS FROM COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 1.1** This In order to provide additional context for the Cabinet, a summary of the conclusions reached by the Scrutiny & Overview Committee or relevant Sub-Committee follows.

Scrutiny & Overview Committee – 28 March 2023

Item: Council Tax Hardship Scheme 2023-24

- 1.2** The Scrutiny & Overview Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the Council Tax Hardship Scheme 2023-24 prior to its consideration by the Mayor.
- 1.3** The Scrutiny & Overview Committee recognised that the scheme in its current format had been developed using a data led approach and as such it was reasonable for the Mayor to accept the scheme as proposed.

- 1.4 It was reassuring that there was a robust system of monitoring being built around the Council Tax Hardship Scheme to ensure that it was reaching those most in need and allow adjustments to be made if needed.
- 1.5 Although the Scrutiny & Overview Committee accepted the reassurance given on the level of communication to be undertaken to promote the availability of the Council Tax Hardship Scheme, further reassurance would require the provision of the communications plan once available.
- 1.6 The Scrutiny & Overview Committee agreed that given the understanding Members have of their Wards, it would be helpful to circulate ward level data on the distribution of the fund to Members to help identify any potential outliers which could be addressed through targeted communications.

Item: Financial Performance Monitoring – Month 9

- 1.7. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee welcomed the possibility of reviewing the transformation programme structure to bring it more in line with a matrix approach, cutting across services, rather than the current alignment based around existing directorates.
- 1.8. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee welcomed confirmation that the in-year 2022-23 budget was projecting to be balanced budget despite the not insignificant challenges faced during the year.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Executive Mayor has the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations contained within this report. The Executive Mayor in Cabinet is asked to:
- 2.2 Receive the recommendation arising from the meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 28 March 2023 (Appendix 1)
- 2.3 To provide a substantive response to the recommendation (a Scrutiny Stage 2 Report) within two months (i.e. at the Cabinet meeting on 26 July 2023).

3 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

- 3.1 The recommendations set out in the appendix to this report directly arise from Scrutiny.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The recommendations were developed from the deliberations of either the Scrutiny & Overview Committee or one of its Sub-Committees.

5 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The Scrutiny recommendations to the Executive may have financial implications. Following the recommendations being received at Cabinet, the Executive will identify and consider any financial implications as part of their response. If any recommendation is subsequently progressed for consideration and decision by the Executive Mayor in Cabinet, full financial, legal and equalities implications would be presented.

7 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000 (“The Act”), Scrutiny and Overview Committee (SOC) have the powers to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any executive and non-executive functions and to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. SOC also has the power to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority on matters, which affect the authority’s area or the inhabitants of its area.
- 7.2 Under Section 9FE of the Act, there is a duty on Cabinet to respond to the scrutiny report, indicating what (if any) action Cabinet proposes to take, within 2 months of receiving the report and recommendations.
- 7.3 Approved by Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation & Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

8 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the contents of this report

9 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 9.1 The recommendations in the appendix to this report may have an Equalities impact and as each recommendation is developed, these implications will be explored and approved.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the contents of this report, the report received recommendations from scrutiny, but no decision for recommendation.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 11.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from the contents of this report, the report received recommendations from scrutiny, but no decision for recommendation.

12 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

- 12.1** There is a statutory requirement for Cabinet to receive the recommendations made by Scrutiny.

13 OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 13.1** None

14 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?**

There are no Data Protection implications at this stage, but that the situation will be reviewed again at Stage 2 when Cabinet provide their response to the proposed recommendations.

- 14.2 HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?**

NO

15 APPENDICES

- 15.1** Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Stage 1: Recommendations from Scrutiny & Overview Committee – 28 March 2023

16 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 16.1** Meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee on 28 March 2023

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=2930&Ver=4>