

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	CABINET	
DATE	27 March 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses to Recommendations arising from: Children & Young People Sub-Committee held on 10 October 2023 (Appendix 1), the Streets and Environment Sub-Committee held on 1 November 2023 (Appendices 2 & 3) and the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 21 November 2023 (Appendices 4 & 5).	
LEAD OFFICER:	Jane West, Corporate Director for Resources Adrian May, Interim Head of Democratic Services adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk	
LEAD MEMBER:	Cllr Rowenna Davis Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	The Constitution requires that in accepting a recommendation, with or without amendment, from a Scrutiny and Overview Committee or Sub-Committee, the Executive Mayor shall agree an action plan for the implementation of the agreed recommendations and shall delegate responsibility to an identified officer to report back to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or Sub-Committee, within a specified period, on the progress made in implementing the action plan.	
KEY DECISION?	No	N/A
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

1.1 This report invites the Executive Mayor to approve the full response reports arising from the Stage 1 reports presented to the Cabinet meeting held on 31 January 2024, including:

- Action plans for the implementation of agreed recommendations, or;
- Indicating where a recommendation is already in progress, or;
- Reasons for rejecting the recommendations.

and that these be reported to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or relevant Sub-Committees.

- 1.2 The Constitution requires that in accepting a recommendation, with or without amendment, from a Scrutiny and Overview Committee or Sub-Committee, the Executive Mayor shall agree an action plan for the implementation of the agreed recommendations and shall delegate responsibility to an identified officer to report back to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or Sub-Committee, within a specified period, on the progress made in implementing the action plan.

2 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Executive Mayor, in Cabinet, has the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendation below and is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- 2.1.1 Approve the responses and action plans attached to this report as Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5; and
- 2.1.2 Delegate authority to the officers identified in Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 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.

3 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION**

- 3.1 Part 4E of the Council's Constitution: Scrutiny and Overview Procedure Rules (paragraphs 8.5 – 8.7) and Section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000 require the Cabinet to respond to a Scrutiny and Overview report within 2 months beginning with the date on which the executive received the report.
- 3.2 Detailed reasons for individual responses and action plans recommended are contained in the appendices to this report.
- 3.3 Scrutiny and Overview Committee and relevant Sub-Committees are responsible for monitoring progress in implementation of recommendations to the Cabinet.

4 **SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny recommendations are set out in the appendices to this report.
- 4.2 The detailed responses, including reasons for rejected recommendations and action plans for the implementation of agreed recommendations are also contained in these appendices.

5 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 These are contained in the appendices to this report.

6 CONSULTATION / PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

- 6.1** The recommendations have been developed following the deliberations of either the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or one of its Sub-Committees.
- 6.2** The recommendations in the appendices to this report may involve further consultation and as each recommendation is developed, these implications will be explored and approved through appropriate decision-making routes.
- 6.3** Some of the recommendations in the appendices to this report are the result of Pre-Decision Scrutiny.

7 CONTRIBUTION TO EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S BUSINESS PLAN

- 7.1** Outcome 1: The Council balances its books, listens to residents and delivers good sustainable services:

Priority 4: Ensure good governance is embedded and adopt best practice. The Council must learn the lessons of past failures and embed sound governance processes to ensure that decision-making is transparent, open and honest. These must ensure effective control of our projects and programmes and encourage meaningful scrutiny and challenge.

- 7.2** Outcome 3: Children and young people in Croydon have the chance to thrive, learn and fulfil their potential:

Priority 2: Make Croydon safer for young people. Making the borough safer for our young people is a top priority. In the year to July 2022, serious youth violence in Croydon rose by almost a quarter compared to the previous 12 months. We will work as one Council to strengthen partnerships with the voluntary, business and statutory sectors and schools in Croydon to tackle the root causes of youth crime, protect those at risk of offending and embed a strong joint approach to prevent youth violence and help our young people to be, and feel, safe.

- 7.3** Outcome 4: Croydon is a cleaner, safer and healthier place, a borough we're proud to call home:

Priority 1: Make our streets and open spaces cleaner so that Croydon is a place that residents and businesses can feel proud to call home. Residents expect and deserve to feel proud of our borough as they walk down the street. That means working with them and partners to look after our streets, parks and open spaces, and crack down on the graffiti and litter which blight our communities.

Priority 4: Ensure new homes are safe, well-designed and in keeping with the local area. New development will be design-led, not density-led. While we must continue to

plan for new homes, schemes must respect the views of local people, enhance the character of our places, and recognise the need for amenity space.

8 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1.1 The recommendations set out in the appendices to this report may have a financial implication and as each recommendation is developed the financial implication will be explored and approved through appropriate decision-making routes.

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.2.1 Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000 (“the Act”), Scrutiny and Overview Committee have the power 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. The Committee 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. To discharge this scrutiny function, the Committee has appointed Scrutiny Sub-Committees. Pursuant to the above provisions the Committee, and its Sub-Committees, have made recommendations arising from their scrutiny of areas under their remit, which are detailed in the attached appendices.

8.2.2 Under Section 9FE of the Act, there is a duty on the executive to respond to the scrutiny reports, indicating what (if any) action they propose to take, within 2 months beginning with the date on which the executive received the report.

8.2.3 *Approved by:* Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation & Corporate Law, on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer (22/02/2024).

8.3 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

8.3.1 The recommendations in the appendix to this report may have a Human Resources impact and as each recommendation is developed these implications will be explored and approved through appropriate decision-making routes.

8.4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.4.1** The Council has a statutory duty, when exercising its functions, to comply with the provisions set out in the Section 149 Equality Act 2010. The Council must, in the performance of its functions, therefore, have due regard to:
1. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
 2. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
 3. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 8.4.2** The recommendations set out in the appendices of this report may have equality implications and may require an EQIA as part of the development of the proposals. The implications will be explored to identify impact and mitigation utilised to negate any adverse impact where necessary.

9 APPENDICES

- 9.1** Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Children & Young People Sub-Committee, Item: Youth Justice Plan 23/24, 10 October 2023

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Streets and Environment Sub-Committee, Item: Cleaner Croydon, 1 November 2023

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Streets and Environment Sub-Committee, Item: Local Plan Review, 1 November 2023

Appendix 4 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Scrutiny & Overview Committee, Item: 2023-24 Period 5 Financial Performance Monitoring Report, 21 November 2023

Appendix 5 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Scrutiny & Overview Committee, Item: Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Progress update on tranche 1 asset disposals, seeking approval for tranche 2 of asset for disposal and approval of the update of the Community Asset Transfer Policy, 21 November 2023

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1** Meeting of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee held on 10 October 2023
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=167&MId=3751>

Meeting of the Streets and Environment Sub-Committee held on 1 November 2023
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=170&MId=3507>

Meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 21 November 2023
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=3513&Ver=4>

Meeting of the Cabinet held on 31 January 2024
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3578>