

# LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

<b>REPORT:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>15 May 2024</b>	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses to Recommendations arising from:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Homes Sub-Committee held on 23 October 2023 (Appendices 1 &amp; 2) and the Scrutiny &amp; Overview Committee held on 16 January 2024 (Appendices 3 &amp; 4)</b></p>	
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<p><b>Jane West, Corporate Director for Resources</b></p> <p><b>Adrian May, Interim Head of Democratic Services</b>  <b>T: 020 8726 6000 X 62529. Email: <a href="mailto:adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk">adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk</a></b></p>	
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Rowenna Davis</b> <b>Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee</b>	
<b>AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">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.</p>	
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>No</b>	N/A
<b>CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?</b>	<b>No</b>	Public
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	All	

## 1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

1.1 This report invites the Executive Mayor to approve the full response to the Scrutiny recommendations originally set out in the Stage 1 report presented to the Cabinet meeting held on 27 March 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.

- 1.2 Following approval by the Executive Mayor, the response to the scrutiny recommendations will be reported to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or relevant Sub-Committees.
- 1.3 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:
  1. Approve the responses and action plans attached to this report as Appendices 1, 2, 3 & 4; and
  2. Delegate authority to the officers identified in Appendices 1, 2, 3 & 4 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 requires the Cabinet to respond to a Scrutiny and Overview report within 2 months beginning from 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 The Scrutiny and Overview Committee (or the relevant Sub-Committee) is responsible for monitoring the progress made with the implementation of any recommendations accepted by the Executive Mayor

## **4 SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The scrutiny recommendations are set out in the appendices to this report.
- 4.2 The appendices also include a detailed response to the scrutiny recommendations, including: -
1. An action plan for the implementation of agreed recommendations.
  2. Where recommendations have been rejected, an explanation of the reasons for this.
  3. Where it is considered that a recommendation is already in progress, an explanation will be given to confirm how it is being delivered.

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

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 financial implications and as each recommendation is developed the financial implications will be explored and approved through appropriate decision-making routes.

Comments approved by Allister Bannin, Director of Finance (Deputy s151), 15/04/24.

### **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. (09/04/2024)

### **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 have equality implications and will 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**

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Homes Sub-Committee held on 23 October 2023, Item: Croydon Housing Approach to the development of the Resident Engagement Structure

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Homes Sub-Committee held on 23 October 2023, Item: Report on principles for HRA Business Plan 2024-25

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 16 January 2024, Item: Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2023-29

Appendix 4 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 16 January 2024, Item: Quarterly Procurement Plan Update

## **10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Meeting of the Homes Sub-Committee held on 23 October 2023

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=485&MId=3707>

Meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 16 January 2024

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=3514>

Meeting of the Cabinet held on 27 March 2024

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3580>