

# LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

<b>REPORT:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	<b>24 July 2024</b>	
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY</b>	
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jane West, Corporate Director for Resources</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Adrian May, Interim Head of Democratic Services</b>  <b>T: 020 8726 6000 X 62529. Email:</b>  <b><a href="mailto:adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk">adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk</a></b></p>	
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Councillor Rowenna Davis</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee</b></p>	
<b>AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:</b>	<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>	
<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 sets out recommendations from Scrutiny for the consideration of the Executive Mayor. These recommendations originate from the meeting of the Homes Sub-Committee on 16 April 2024 (*Note – these are still to be signed off by the Scrutiny & Overview Committee meeting, after 4 June meeting was deferred due to pre-election period*).

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For the reasons as set out in this report and appendices, Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to agree to:
1. Receive the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Homes Sub-Committee on 16 April 2024 (Appendix 1).
  2. To provide a substantive response to the recommendations (a Scrutiny Stage 2 Report) at the Cabinet meeting on 25 September 2024.

### **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 executive to consider and respond to Scrutiny and Overview reports within 2 months, beginning from the date on which the executive received the report or recommendation.

### **4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS**

- 4.1 To provide additional context for the recommendations appended to this report, this section provides the conclusions reached by Scrutiny on the item under consideration.

#### ***Homes Sub-Committee***

##### *Item: Culture Change in Housing Update*

- 4.2 The Sub-Committee commended the work of the Housing team on putting together a comprehensive culture change programme to improve the culture within the workforce, recognising that a significant amount of the work had already been undertaken within a short timescale. The Sub-Committee Members asked leading officers to pass on their thanks to all staff involved.
- 4.3 The Sub-Committee recognised that one of the key challenges to the pace of delivery was capacity within the service, which was being exacerbated by ongoing recruitment challenges.
- 4.4 The Sub-Committee commended the use of effective graphics to supplement the information provided in the report, as it had helped to ensure the information provided on culture change was more easily accessible.

### **5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 None. It is a statutory and constitutional requirement for the Executive to receive and respond to recommendations made by Scrutiny.

### **6 CONSULTATION / PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

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

### **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 1: Make our streets and open spaces cleaner so that Croydon is a place that residents and businesses can feel proud to call home.

Priority 5: Lead action to reduce carbon emissions in Croydon.

## **8. IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1.1** 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.

- 8.1.2** If any recommendation is subsequently progressed for consideration and decision by the Executive Mayor in Cabinet, full financial (as well as legal and equalities) implications would be presented.

Comments approved by Allister Bannin, Director of Finance (Deputy s151), 13/06/24.

### **8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.2.1** 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.

- 8.2.2** 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.

*Approved by:* Sandra Herbert, Head of Corporate and Litigation on behalf of Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense, Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer (15/5/2024)

### **8.3 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.3.1** There are no human resource implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

### **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 Sec 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The Council must in the performance of its functions, therefore, have due regard to:

- i. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- ii. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- iii. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**8.4.2** The recommendations in the appendices to 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.

## **8.7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

### **8.7.1 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.

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

**NO**

## **9 APPENDICES**

**9.1 Appendix 1: Recommendations from Homes Sub-Committee on 16 April 2024**

## **10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Papers for the Homes Sub-Committee meeting on 16 April 2024

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=485&MIId=3709&Ver=4>