

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	CABINET	
DATE	24 July 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses to Recommendations arising from: Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 26 March 2024 (Appendices 1, 2 & 3)	
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>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>	
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 to Scrutiny recommendations set out in the Stage 1 reports presented to the Cabinet meeting held on 15 May 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 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 For the reasons as set out in this report and appendices, Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to:
 - 2.1.1 Approve the responses and action plans attached to this report as Appendices 1, 2, & 3; and
 - 2.1.2 Delegate authority to the officers identified in Appendices 1, 2, & 3 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 appendices also include a detailed response to the scrutiny recommendations, including:
- An action plan for the implementation of agreed recommendations.
 - Where recommendations have been rejected, an explanation of the reasons for this.
 - 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 2: Tackle anti-social behaviour, knife crime and violence against women and girls so that Croydon feels safer. Ensuring our borough is and feels like a safe place to live is a top priority. We will strengthen partnerships between the voluntary, business and statutory sectors in Croydon to share intelligence and coordinate action. The Safer Croydon Partnership will be restructured, with six delivery boards focussed on violence against women and girls, youth safety, hot spot areas, counter-terrorism, substance misuse and community engagement. We will support the Police to tackle crime and violence in our borough. We recognise what 'Friends' Groups can do to tackle low level antisocial behaviour (ASB) and will work with residents and partners to crack down on ASB hot spots.

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.

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 and Corporate Law, on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (11/06/2024)

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.

Comments approved by Ken Orlukwu, Senior Equalities Officer, on behalf of Helen Reeves, Head of Strategy & Policy on 10/06/2024.

9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 26 March 2024, Item: Croydon Community Safety Partnership

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 26 March 2024, Item: Violence Reduction Network – Draft Strategic Assessment

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 26 March 2024, Item: Violence Against Women & Girls – Deep Dive

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 Meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 26 March 2024
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=166&MIId=3955>

Meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 May 2024
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=183&MIId=3582>