

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	CABINET	
DATE	25 September 2024	
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: <u>adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk</u>	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Rowenna Davis Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	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.	
KEY DECISION?	No	N/A
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out recommendations from Scrutiny for the consideration of Cabinet. These recommendations originate from the meeting of the Children & Young People Sub-Committee on 16 July 2024 and the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee on 22 July 2024.

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 Children & Young People Sub-Committee on 16 July 2024 (Appendix 1) and the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee on 22 July 2024 (Appendix 2).

2. To provide a substantive response to the recommendations (a Scrutiny Stage 2 Report) at the Cabinet meeting on 20 November 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.

Children & Young People Sub-Committee

Item: Cabinet Paper - Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman Decision Finding of Fault Causing Injustice and Action Plan to Prevent Reoccurrence

- 4.2 The Sub-Committee thanked officers for their attendance and noted the report and Action Plan, and agreed to add an item to update the Sub-Committee on the implementation of the action plan to the Work Programme for 2024/25 to include the number of Section 19 requests under the Education Act 1996.
- 4.3 The Sub-Committee acknowledged that additional training was needed on the SEND Strategy and Locality SEN Support offer in order to provide more effective scrutiny on these topics and thanked the Director for Education for offering to provide this.
- 4.4 The Sub-Committee concluded that SEND provision in the borough needed to be an area of focus in the work programme for 24/25.

Item: Youth Justice Plan 2024/25

- 4.5 The Sub-Committee noted the report and thanked officers and the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People and the Cabinet Member for Community Safety for their open discussions with the Sub-Committee.
- 4.6 The Sub-Committee concluded that the Youth Justice Plan 2025/26 include additional evaluation of the Youth Justice Service through hypothetical case studies and tracking of where service users are in their lives.

Streets & Environment Sub-Committee

Item: Presentation - Update on Grass Cutting

- 4.7** The Sub-Committee concluded that they would like to review the Grounds Maintenance resourcing plan for 2025/26 ahead of the budget setting process.
- 4.8** The Sub-Committee raised some concerns about the grass cutting service being provided to Housing sites, other than the 42 identified for services by Grounds Maintenance.
- 4.9** The Sub-Committee concluded that it would like to add the Wild Meadow Strategy to its Work Programme.

Item: Presentation - Update on Grant Funded Regeneration Programmes

- 4.10** The Sub-Committee welcomed the resident and partner engagement that had already taken place as part of the regeneration schemes discussed and encouraged officers to continue this wherever possible.
- 4.11** The Sub-Committee were encouraged by the Council's success in bidding for projects under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Levelling Up Fund, Historic England and Greater London Authority (GLA) Good Growth Fund and welcomed that the Council would continue to bid for regeneration funding wherever it was available

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 3: Children and young people in Croydon have the chance to thrive, learn and fulfil their potential.

Priority 1: Ensure children and young people have opportunities to learn, develop and fulfil their potential.

Priority 2: Make Croydon safer for young people.

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.

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.

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.

8.2.3 *Approved by:* Kiri Bailey Head of Commercial, Housing and Litigation and Deputy Monitoring Officer on behalf of Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense, Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (08/08/2024)

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 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 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 Children & Young People Sub-Committee on 16 July 2024
Appendix 2: Recommendations from Streets & Environment Sub-Committee on 22 July 2024

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Papers for the Children & Young People Sub-Committee on 16 July 2024
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=167&MId=3878>

Papers for the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee on 22 July 2024
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=170&MId=3884>