

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	CABINET	
DATE	20 November 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	<p style="text-align: center;">Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses to Recommendations arising from:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Children & Young People Sub-Committee on 16 July 2024 (Appendices 1 & 2) and the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee on 22 July 2024 (Appendices 3 & 4)</p>	
LEAD OFFICER:	<p>Jane West, Corporate Director for Resources</p> <p>Adrian May, Interim Head of Democratic Services T: 020 8726 6000 X 62529. Email: adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk</p>	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Leila Ben Hassel Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	<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>	
KEY DECISION?	No	N/A
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

1.1 This report invites the Cabinet to approve its response to the Scrutiny recommendations originally presented in the Stage 1 report to the Cabinet meeting held on the 25 September 2024. This response includes:

- 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 Cabinet, the response to the scrutiny recommendations will be reported back to the next meeting of either the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or the 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, Cabinet 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 set out in this report and appendices, the Executive Mayor and Cabinet, is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- 1 Approve the responses and action plans attached to this report in 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 report (Stage 1) was originally received.
- 3.2** Detailed reasons for individual responses, along with action plans where applicable, are contained in the appendices to this report.
- 3.3** The Scrutiny and Overview Committee or the relevant Sub-Committee are responsible for monitoring progress with the implementation of recommendations 'accepted' by 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 from the Cabinet 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 Alternate options 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 set out 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 1: Make our streets and open spaces cleaner so that Croydon is a place that residents and businesses can feel proud to call home.

7.3 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: Priority: Make Croydon safer for young people

8 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1.1** Recommendation 3 has a one-off financial implication which will be funded via an existing transformation budget. Recommendations 1,2 and 4 have no financial implications.

Approved by: Head of Strategic Finance – Chief Accountant, on behalf of the Director of Finance and Deputy Section 151 (16 October 2024)

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.

Approved by: Comments approved by Kiri Bailey Head of Commercial, Housing and Litigation and Deputy Monitoring Officer on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (04/11/2024)

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 meeting on 16 July 2024, Item: Cabinet Paper - Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman Decision Finding of Fault Causing Injustice and Action Plan to Prevent Reoccurrence

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Children & Young People Sub-Committee meeting on 16 July 2024, Item: Youth Justice Plan 2024/25

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Streets & Environment Sub-Committee meeting on 22 July 2024, Item: Presentation - Update on Grass Cutting

Appendix 4 – Scrutiny Stage 2 Responses: Recommendations from Streets & Environment Sub-Committee meeting on 22 July 2024, Item: Presentation - Update on Grant Funded Regeneration Programmes

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 10.1** Papers for the Children & Young People Sub-Committee meeting on 16 July 2024:

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=167&MId=3878>

Papers for the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee meeting on 22 July 2024:

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=170&MId=3884>

Meeting of the Cabinet held on 25 September 2024:

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3914>