

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Children & Young People Sub-Committee
DATE	20 January 2025
REPORT TITLE:	Budget Scrutiny Challenge
LEAD OFFICER:	Stuart Collins - Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	Kerry Crichlow - Director Quality, Commissioning & Performance (Deputy DCS) Róisín Madden – Director of Children’s Social Care Shelley Davies – Director of Education
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Maria Gatland Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
ORIGIN OF ITEM:	<p>This item was included on the Children & Young People Sub-Committee Scrutiny Sub-Committee Work Programme for 2024/25 as part of Scrutiny’s budget assurance processes.</p>
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	<p>The Children & Young People Sub-Committee is asked to review the information provided on the identified budget proposals and reach a conclusion on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the savings deliverable, sustainable and not an unacceptable risk? 2. Is the impact on service users and the wider community understood? 3. Have all reasonable alternative options been explored and do no better options exist? 4. Do these proposals align with the Mayor’s Business Plan?
PUBLIC/EXEMPT:	Public

1 BUDGET SCRUTINY CHALLENGE

1.1 The Children & Young People Sub-Committee Scrutiny Sub-Committee has asked to review 2025/26 budget proposals for two high-risk areas that fall under the Children, Young People & Education directorate.

- 1.2 The Sub-Committee has identified the following areas that are covered in the main report:
- SEND Transport - 2025-29 SCRER GRO 005
 - Children's Social Care demographic growth and market price pressures - 2025-29 GRO CYPE 001
 - Strategic delivery partner savings - 2025-29 SAV CYPE 001
- 1.3 The Sub-Committee will look to satisfy the three following questions on the proposals:
- Are the savings deliverable, sustainable and not an unacceptable risk?
 - Is the impact on service users and the wider community understood?
 - Have all reasonable alternative options been explored and do no better options exist?
 - Do these proposals align with the Mayor's Business Plan?
- 1.4 The Sub-Committee are asked to satisfy the questions above using the information provided in Appendix 1 to the report (that will be presented at the Sub-Committee), as well as the information available in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy update presented to [Cabinet in October 2024](#); the [Financial Performance reports](#); and the Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2023-29 presented to [Cabinet in December 2024](#).

2 APPENDICES

- 2.1 Appendix A: SEND Transport
Appendix B: Children's Social Care demographic growth and market price pressures & Strategic delivery partner savings

3 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 16 October 2024 - Cabinet Paper: 2025-29 Medium Term Financial Strategy Update
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3916&Ver=4>

4 December 2024 – Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2024-30
<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=183&MId=3929&Ver=4>

Croydon Council - Corporate Performance and Finance Reporting
<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/council-and-elections/council-leadership-committees-and-meetings/committees-boards-and-meetings/corporate-performance-and-finance-reporting>