

REPORT TO:	CABINET 24 SEPTEMBER 2018
SUBJECT:	STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY
LEAD OFFICERS:	RICHARD SIMPSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESOURCES AND S151 OFFICER STEPHEN ROWAN – HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND SCRUTINY
LEAD MEMBER:	COUNCILLOR SEAN FITZSIMONS CHAIR, SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT CABINET RECEIVES RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND TO RESPOND TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE RECEIPT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations contained within this report:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1.1 Receive the recommendations arising from Scrutiny and Overview Committee (10th July & 4th September 2018) to provide a substantive response within two months (ie. at the next available Cabinet meeting on **19 November 2018**).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Recommendations that have been received from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and its Sub-Committees since the last Cabinet meeting are provided in the body of this report. The constitution requires that an interim or full response is provided within 2 months of this Cabinet meeting.

3. 10 JULY 2018 – SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee considered an item on the Financial Strategy 2018/2022; present was the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources. Subsequent to the questions

asked of to those present, the Committee made the following recommendations to the Cabinet:

1. That there should be a fundamental rethink on the underlying principles of the Financial Strategy.
2. A principle should be established to inform how any income delivered from Brick by Brick was spent.
3. A principle should be established around how the Council worked with its partners, with a focus on local wealth building and a focus on social value as well as economic benefit.
4. The principles should not be overcomplicated and effort should be made to ensure they were simple and understandable.

3.2 This item was pre-decision Scrutiny of the proposed new Financial Strategy. The Financial Strategy is listed elsewhere on this Agenda for decision by Cabinet. The covering report of that item sets out how the recommendations above have been taken into account in developing the proposed strategy.

3.3 The Committee also considered the Annual Complaints Report 2017/18 and made the following recommendations for future iterations of the report, which are presented for the Cabinet's information:

1. That a section be added to the report detailing trends in complaints
2. That benchmarking data with other local authorities be included.
3. That a section be added on what has been learnt from the complaints during the year and how processes have changed as a result.

4. 4TH SEPTEMBER 2018 – SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Committee considered an update on the Financial Strategy 2018/2022 item considered at their meeting in July, to include information on the proposed Asset Investment Strategy; present was the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources. Subsequent to the questions asked of to those present, the Committee made the following recommendations to the Cabinet:

1. That the Cabinet improves how the Minority Group is formally briefed prior to decisions being taken on individual investments as part of the Asset Investment Strategy, and ensure the briefing is done early in the process.
2. Any future asset acquisition paper should refer back to the proposed matrices and the judgements the Council has made to recommend approval of the purchase.

4.2 As with the report considered in July, this item was pre-decision Scrutiny of the proposed new Financial Strategy listed elsewhere on this Agenda for decision by Cabinet.

4.3 The Committee considered a Call-In item on the decision to acquire the freehold interest in the Croydon Park Hotel as a commercial investment. The Committee were reassured by the information provided and agreed that no further action was required and as such the decision could be implemented.

- 4.4 The Committee also consider a report from the Chief Executive, which provided an update on the New Operating Model and an overview of staffing at Croydon Council. Arising from the discussion, the Committee made a recommendation relating to the Corporate Plan, which is listed elsewhere on this Agenda for consideration by the Cabinet. The recommendation is:
1. That the Cabinet gives further consideration to how the Labour Manifesto pledge to empower local people and communities can be made more explicit within the new Corporate Plan priorities.
- 4.5 The Committee also made three other recommendations on this item, which are presented for the Cabinet's information:
1. That detailed analysis from the staff survey, providing information on a departmental level and also relating to Agency staff is shared with the Members of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee.
 2. That further information is provided to the Scrutiny & Overview Committee on the outcomes from the Back to Basics initiative, once it is available.
 3. That a further report on staffing be brought back to the Scrutiny & Overview Committee in 12 months.

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 The recommendations are presented to Cabinet in accordance with the Constitution. This requires that the Scrutiny report is received and registered at this Cabinet Meeting and that a substantive response is provided within 2 months (ie. **Cabinet, 19 November 2018** is the next available meeting).

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Background document 1: Reports to the Scrutiny & Overview Committee on 10th July 2018.

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=1729&Ver=4>

Background document 2: Reports to the Scrutiny & Overview Committee on 4th September 2018.

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=1518&Ver=4>