

For general release

REPORT TO:	SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 10 th February 2020
SUBJECT:	Question Time: Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport
LEAD OFFICER:	Paula Murray – Director of Culture
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Oliver Lewis – Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	Councillor Oliver Lewis – Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:

This report provides an overview of Culture, Leisure and Sport activities over the past twelve months and a look ahead to the next year. It outlines how the Council is valuing the arts, culture, sports and activities and what we are delivering against these outcomes in the Corporate Plan for Croydon 2018-22.

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	Question Time sessions with each Cabinet Member are scheduled into the Scrutiny Work Programme annually.
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	The Committee is asked to consider the information provided by the Cabinet Member and decide if it wishes to make any recommendations.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the council's arts, culture, sport, and leisure activity looking back over the past year and looking ahead to the next twelve months.
- 1.2 The Council has delivered a significant amount over the past 12 months:
- Fairfield Halls reopened in September 2019 following capital investment, the programme is developing and the Pantomime was a success in terms of reception and ticket sales;
 - Our ambitious Borough of Culture bid was submitted and was shortlisted against tough competition;
 - New Addington Leisure Centre opened in January 2020 offering high spec leisure facilities to our residents;

- We invested in our Libraries opening the refurbished Selsdon Library and starting work on Norbury, we increased investment in book stock and raised borrowing capacity to 6 million items across digital and analogue formats;
- We invested in our parks and allotments including delivering additional outdoor gyms as well as new play equipment;
- We had several large scale and new events including The Ends Festival, CroCro Land, Pride and the Mela – there has been real diversity and inclusivity across all of these in terms of talent, content and attendees.

1.3 The coming year will be as significant as 2019:

- We will continue investment in our Libraries; opening the new South Norwood site and completing the refurbishment to Norbury;
- Inclusive culture programming will continue with Pride and Mela as our flagship events;
- Investment in parks and green spaces will improve allotments and provide new play equipment in at least 6 parks;
- A new and exciting Museum of Croydon offer will feature 9 new installations by local artists or organisers and include late night openings;
- The Cultural Partnership fund will provide match-funding to artists and groups to deliver new content and events in Croydon.

1.4 Scrutiny & Overview Committee have supported development of policy and practice across the portfolio over the past year through pre-decision input into the development of the Council's Libraries, Culture, and Evening & Night Time Economy Strategies. Actions taken following the Committee's recommendations can be found at Appendix 1 of this report.

QUESTION TIME - CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT

2. Croydon Libraries

- 2.1 The Council brought libraries back in-house in January 2018, following the collapse of Carillion and in May 2019 Cabinet agreed to the adoption of Croydon Libraries Plan - Inform, Involve, Inspire 2019-28. The Plan's aim is to create vibrant and inspirational local community spaces where everyone has the opportunity to access council services and information, learn, improve their employability, enjoy the arts and cultural events, volunteer and get involved in their local community.
- 2.2 In 2019 the book stock budget has increased by 9% enabling the purchase of an additional 1,250-1,500 books per year. Between March and December 2019 libraries hosted 4,692 events and activities, attended by 55,693 people, this is an improvement on previous year and demonstrates our libraries are well used community spaces.

Improvements to our Libraries

- 2.3 Selsdon Library reopened after a makeover on 10 August with 700 visitors on the first day. Selsdon Library was the pilot for the new library design guide, including a fresh

colour scheme, lighting, new furniture, IT equipment and a new faster network. The public response has been overwhelmingly positive, customers said:

“There is more space, more light, comfy chairs and space for more people”

“My favourite improvement is the facilities in the children’s area, especially the sofa seating lighting and new books. The separation in areas is wonderful too as the whole environment is more welcoming and inviting.”

- 2.4 Customers were also delighted to find a collection of new books, additional activities, and tablets for children. The next development will come early in 2020 - a pilot of Open Plus technology to provide out of hours access for registered library customers.
- 2.5 Norbury Library refurbishment started on 1st September and will deliver new furniture, lighting, IT equipment and a new faster network, it will also reopen the upstairs hall which will be renamed in honour of Cllr Maggie Mansell who passed away in January 2018 and who had been a strong supporter of the local library and its development. Norbury Library will reopen to residents in spring 2020, and in the meantime there is alternative provision at Broad Green library which is open additionally on Thursdays 9am -7pm. There are also two pop up libraries for book collection and free reservations at Harlow Hall (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday mornings) and Norbury Park Lawn Tennis Club (Saturdays)
- 2.6 South Norwood Library will move into the new building near Norwood Junction in spring 2020. There have been delays completing the overall building structure which have meant a change to the original opening plans, but the existing South Norwood Library will continue to serve the public until the new library is ready to open. The new library design will feature the same furniture, IT equipment, and network which customers are enjoying in Selsdon Library.

Digital Infrastructure

- 2.7 The majority of customer complaints for the last two years have been about IT equipment and network speeds. By the end of December 2019, new library IT network and equipment had been installed in 10 libraries, with Coulsdon, South Norwood and Norbury to come. The faster network speeds are already delighting customers, as well as Council colleagues who can now log in to the Council network in our libraries. Service providers for our work clubs, homework clubs and digital workshops will find it easier to support clients now. Crucially, we expect an increase in our visitor and IT usage figures as a result of this improvement. This infrastructure underpins the delivery of the new Library Management System, which launched on 4th November.

Library Management System (LMS) Symphony

- 2.8 Linked to Croydon’s new membership of The Libraries Consortium, the new system provides Croydon residents with access to a new catalogue of over 6 million titles from across 16 other member boroughs, which are free to reserve on the system for delivery to Croydon. New system features include notifications by email or text to alert customers when books are due to be returned. We also launched the mobile phone app which allows search and reservation access to the entire catalogue on a mobile phone, plus a link to all eResources, plus account management, including renewals, status of reservations and linked accounts. Our customers can now access books and internet services in other libraries across 16 London Borough with a Croydon

Library card.

Supporting Businesses

- 2.9 Libraries received 3-year of European funding to become one of 10 British Library Startups in Libraries hubs, hosting workshops and delivering one to one guidance sessions for startup businesses. Starting in May 2019 the service has delivered quarterly workshops that have been oversubscribed, as well as popular 1:1 sessions with our local project champion.

3. Arts & Culture

- 3.1 The arts and culture programme continues to grow and develop and this year was bolstered by the reopening of Fairfield Halls in September – the opening garnered much positive media attention both locally and nationally.
- 3.2 The flagship events of Pride and Mela in July 2019 were successful with over 17,000 people attending and they were more diverse than ever. The Mela was curated by a female team, featured non-Asian talent and Pride focused on trans issues. Pride and Mela will also take place in 2020 building on the success of 2019 and looking to include more diverse acts and to be as inclusive as possible.
- 3.3 The Ends took place in May in Wandle Park – this new urban music festival was well received; taking place over 3 days it brought something new to the cultural calendar. The Ends will be returning in 2020 and we will continue to work with the organisers to establish Croydon event and use it as a platform for local talent. CroCro Land was a festival with a very different feel - the 2 day sell out indie festival showcased over 50% female talent on the stage and behind the scenes.
- 3.4 Street Live 2020 is already being planned for the period from June to August which will take it to its third year. Whilst there may be fewer events due to large sporting activities such as Euro 2020 and the Olympics – those planned will be more impactful and there will be more themed weekends. Wimbledon screenings will return to the High Street as well as the Beach weekend which was so successful in 2019.
- 3.5 We are seeking further spaces to curate and display public art, including planning for the hoardings around the Fair Field site, and installations for the plinths at Carolyn House.
- 3.6 Not everything is focused on the metropolitan centre; we are also prioritising existing neighbourhood festivals supporting them by offering partnership funding and help bidding for external funds – we have worked with London Road Carnival, Crystal Palace International Film Festival, South Norwood Community and New Addington Carnival.
- 3.7 Croydon's Borough of Culture Bid was submitted and a team from Croydon attended the Guildhall in January 2020 to present the shortlisted proposal. If successful Croydon will be London Borough of Culture in 2023.
- 3.8 2019 saw the official launch of Croydon's Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ) a Greater London Authority (GLA) funded initiative designed to recognise emerging clusters in the creative industries across London. Croydon is one of six boroughs that have initially been awarded the CEZ designation and £500,000 to support a range of initiatives:

- Capital investment to create workspaces such as the ASC Art House in Grafton Quarter and NEXUS on the High Street;
- Support initiatives for young creatives including 40% workspace discount scheme and Creative Sector paid internships for Under 25s;
- The wider promotion of Croydon as a place accessible to new and established creative and cultural organisations through the offer of business development loans, rates relief and options for meanwhile use on empty properties.

3.9 Croydon Music City is an initiative borne out of the CEZ funded by GLA and Growth Zone. It aims to make Croydon:

- A place where talent can thrive locally through the development of the Music Academy Croydon and the “Future Stage” showcase project
- A place desirable to both touring acts through the provision of a range of venues of varying sizes
- Appealing to local fans and external audiences through supported and coordinated programming

3.10 The council operated 2 grants funds to support culture and creativity over the last year:

- Croydon’s Cultural Partnership Fund (CPF) is designed to offer partnership funding for cultural projects benefiting Croydon residents. It aims to get more cultural projects, programmes and events taking place across the borough and more funding for culture coming in from other third party funders.
- Youth Arts Fund (YAF) offers grants of up to £7,500 for projects where young people (under 25) are actively involved in the development, leadership and delivery of projects. Priority is given to projects involving young people not previously involved with the arts and from disadvantaged groups and to projects that increase access and participation.

3.11 40 applications have been received in the past year, 27 for the CPF and 13 for the YAF. £177,223 has been awarded across 34 projects which has levered in £651,890 additional arts funding – for every £1 invested by Croydon £3.68 has been invested by organisations such as Arts Council England.

4. Parks and Green Spaces

4.1 The last 12 months have seen a hive of activity across our 127 parks and green spaces. Despite the challenge presented by historical levels of budget for maintenance and development of green infrastructure, we are collaborating with external partners, groups and individuals to deliver significant improvements to greenspaces for our residents and visitors.

Croydon Parks Vision Masterplans

4.2 The masterplans launched in 2018, as part of the ‘Ambitious for Croydon’s Parks’, have been the impetus for developments in Happy Valley, Norbury Park, Lloyd Park,

Park Hill Park, Ashburton Park and South Norwood Lake and Grounds. Some of the achievements over the last year include;

- The launch of the South London Downs National Nature Reserve only the third in London;
- A new outdoor gym in Norbury Park in December 2019;
- A new walking/cycling route through Lloyd Park;
- Successful crowdfunding campaigns for accessibility improvements in the Park Hill Park Walled Garden;
- A regenerated playground for Ashburton Park;
- The replacement of the South Norwood Lake platforms with recycled plastic platforms enabling fishing and accessible public enjoyment of the lake.

4.3 We continue to work with the 42 Friends of... groups on a range of activities including include community events, landscaping and grounds maintenance activities, crowdfunding for capital investment in the parks and more.

Natural Capital Accounting

4.4 In September the council delivered a project to create the first Natural Capital Account (NCA) of Croydon's parks and greenspaces. The NCA provides an understanding of the economic value of our greenspaces to not only safeguard these assets, but guide investment in the green infrastructure strategically to achieve outcomes identified in the Locality-based approach to service delivery identified in the Corporate Plan. Croydon NCA also mapped green infrastructure against health inequalities at a more granular level than has been done before in London, through this work we now know that here are 7.2 million recreational visits to Croydon greenspaces per year and that Croydon greenspaces can provide £890m worth of Public Health benefits over the next 60 years. During the next 12 months the council will be using the NCA findings to guide greenspace strategy and activity working across departments, teams and partner organisations.

Play Capital Investment Programme

4.5 Following an internal review of playgrounds within our greenspaces, a programme has been developed, which will see a multi-phase investment to regenerate 6-9 playgrounds between 2020 and 2022. Sites identified for investment were prioritised based on local needs analysis (childhood population, childhood obesity, population inactivity and deprivation) and a quality assessment of the current infrastructure. The playgrounds to be regenerated are:

- Grangewood Park Playground
- Addington Park Playground
- Northwood Road Playground (Phase 1)
- Ashburton Park Playground

- Edgecoombe Playground
- Northborough Road Playground (Phase 2).

4.6 In addition to the sites identified above, capital funding will also be used to make improvements to other playgrounds within our parks and green spaces over the next 12 months. During 2020 there will also be a programme of meanwhile activity in Park Hill Park. Funded by Growth Zone, these large scale events will activate one of the key greenspaces in the metropolitan centre and will be formative in guiding significant capital investment into play and recreation infrastructure during 2022-2023.

Biodiversity, Conservation and Landscape Management

4.7 In July 2019 Cabinet joined other London Boroughs by declaring a 'climate emergency', meaning both politically and organisationally, Croydon is committed to supporting the local environment in a number of ways.

4.8 Historically, we have supported nature and wildlife through a range of key partnerships. The partnerships, which continue to operate in our greenspaces, result in access to 160+ work days per year, at which we have 110 regularly active Croydon residents delivering 2,100+ volunteer work days per annum, equating to a value of £105,000. Some of the partnership highlights are identified below:

- South London Downs National Nature Reserve (SLDNNR) – Croydon Council and neighbouring landholders, City of London, have collaborated with Natural England to declare 417 hectares of land within Croydon as the newest National Nature Reserve, only the third in London. An NNR declaration is only given to sites of natural importance which are managed in an exemplary manner, both of which apply to Croydon's Happy Valley and surrounds.
- The Croydon Conservation Volunteers (TCV) – TCV continue to run a successful 2-day mid-week conservation project for more than 50 Croydon residents to volunteer and carry out land management and nature activities across 60 of our 127 greenspaces. The two year Croydon Pond Project, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) delivered by TCV, will end in March 2020. With the help of over 40 volunteers the project surveyed 42 publicly accessible ponds, conducted historical research on their origin and produced management guidance to ensure these ponds are maintained and enjoyed by more people and future generations. A project report and 6 interpretation signs will be the legacy of the project.
- London Wildlife Trust (LWT) – the Great North Wood (GNW) project continued this year, a four year HLF project to deliver practical woodland habitat and access improvement works in Biggin Wood, Beaulieu Heights, The Lawns and Grangewood Park. The annual Woodland Festival was held at The Lawns/Spa Wood and attracted over 800 people. Additional funding was secured from the Mayor's Tree Planting grant to plant 30 extra trees in Upper Norwood Recreation Ground, a link site between two GNW areas, which was expertly done during two days with over 60 volunteers. Since September 2019 LWT have also been leading the Brilliant Butterfly Border Project – a two year, £1M People's Postcode Lottery funded partnership project. With the help of over

3,000 volunteers and using the latest technology and citizen science techniques, the project aims to improve nature reserves as well as nearby parks and road verges in Croydon to create a butterfly habitat network.

- Downlands Countryside Partnership (DCP) – The DCP delivers conservation grazing in Happy Valley (a SSSI), Sanderstead to Whyteleafe, Hutchinson's Bank and Foxley Wood. This year, the DCP were the chosen charity for Fidelity, which resulted in corporate work days to manage important habitats in Addington Hills, SWCA and Hamsey Green Pond. The DCP is being reviewed as part of a process to simplify services delivered and ensure a sustainable longer term vision.

Allotments

- 4.9 In 2019 £360,000 capital funding was identified for an invest-to-save programme centred on improving facilities and increasing fees and charges to 500 plot holders across six direct managed sites bringing them in alignment with neighbouring boroughs. We have started delivery of this scheme and it will continue into 2020.

5. Sport & Physical Activity

Leisure Centre

- 5.1 New Addington Leisure Centre opened in January 2020 and provides a much improved offer in the area; the new facility includes a 25 metre six-lane swimming pool and learning pool, an extensive fitness suite, sports hall and multi-purpose activity studio, on site café; and flexible community space with capacity for around 300 people. The New Addington Construction Training Academy linked to the leisure centre development operated between 2018 and 2019 – delivered in partnership between the main contractor Wilmott Dixon and Croydon Works, the Council's job brokerage - 107 people were trained and 51 have so far moved into work.
- 5.2 Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) has operated Croydon's Leisure Centres since 2018. The contract is carefully managed with quarterly monitoring against key performance indicators (KPIs) and strategic contract reviews held annually. The contract is delivering additional Social Value outcomes such as:
- Community activity – for Q3 19/20 384 hours were achieved an improvement of 45% against the same period last year (264 hours);
 - Parks and Silver Fit projects - alternative outdoor physical activity with 988 Our Parks visits recorded in Q3 19/20 - an increase of 12% compared to Q3 in 2019;
 - GLL have facilitated and supported a number of community events, such as Addiscombe Winter Carnival in Ashburton Park. There have been collaborations with the council programmes like, Get Active at CR7 square in summer 2019, where GLL provided tennis equipment for the Active Lifestyles team and Regeneration.

Outdoor Active Spaces

- 5.3 In 2019 £470,000 was invested by S106, the Matt Palmer Trust and councillor ward budgets to support the design and installation of five innovative and unique 'spaces' in

local parks that are free, accessible and encourage physical activity. In August an £8k small grants scheme enabled 7 community groups to partner with local fitness providers delivering beginner taster sessions to low participation groups across the boroughs Outdoor Active Spaces.

RAP (SEND Sport Scheme)

- 5.4 The RAP scheme helps children 5-25 years of age with disabilities and additional needs to participate in sport and physical activity in a safe and supportive environment. In 2018-19 the service delivered a comprehensive programme of term time and school holiday sessions across the borough to 171 young people providing a total of 6965 hours of much needed respite/ 'short breaks' for parents/ carers.

London Youth Games

- 5.5 Croydon was crowned Para-Games champions at London Youth Games 2019 which contributed to a respectable top 10 finish overall. London Youth Games is Europe's largest annual youth festival of sport where all 33 borough compete in a variety of sports competitions for children aged 8-18 years of age. Croydon entered a total of 28 competitions engaging over 600 young people.

Parklife

- 5.6 In 2016 Croydon was successful in winning a Sport England and Football Association Parklife project. Parklife is a five-year commitment to build multi-pitch football 'hubs' to create sustainable community football facilities. It aims to raise playing standards and provide more opportunities for everyone to enjoy the game. A study determined that modern football facilities at both Purley Way Playing Fields and Ashburton Playing Fields were feasible and viable and there has been extensive engagement with clubs, leagues and residents. In February 2019, the Football Foundation asked all partners to temporarily pause development work on their projects while they reviewed both the national delivery model and individual projects. Following a period of business and strategy review, the council is moving forward positively in partnership with the Football Foundation to develop the plans to deliver two new football hub sites in the borough. Design work is underway and discussions around funding, governance and operation of the sites is being progressed by senior officers at both the council and the Foundation. The Football Foundation is establishing a new Trust to oversee the Parklife programme and will shortly begin a tender process to appoint a national Parklife leisure operator. We are working closely with the Foundation to agree the terms of both.

6. Museums & Archives

- 6.1 Visitor numbers are rising for the Museums and Archives service with a total of 28,992 people visiting between April and November up 25% on the same period last year.
- 6.2 In the past 12 months the service has developed strong partnerships leading to more diverse and interesting content for example the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) a Stormzy portrait on loan to us and we are also in a formal partnership with NPG for the Citizen Project. The Archives Accreditation process is underway with final set of recommendations received, and community led programming has resulted in increase in audience numbers and diversity which has raised the profile of the Museum.

6.3 The Museum has also taken first steps to become accredited by the Arts Council; the Museums Accreditation scheme is a demonstrable commitment that museums are sustainable, focused and trusted organisations, which offer their visitors a great experience. The Accreditation Scheme sets out nationally-agreed standards, which inspire the confidence of the public and funding and governing bodies. The Museum of Croydon has set out on its accreditation journey and has been awarded 'Working Towards' status which means we demonstrate a commitment to applying for full accreditation in the three year timeframe.

Museum of Croydon 2020

6.4 The Museum received 31 expressions of interest for 2020 exhibitions for 9 available spaces, the successful exhibitors, all local artists/organisations/groups have been selected across the themes of Place People and Identity – the Museum programme for 2020 which includes late night opening is set out below.

	PLACE (1 Feb - 2 May)				PEOPLE (30 May - 29 Aug)				IDENTITY (26 Oct - 12 Dec)			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Croydon Now (Exhibition space 1)	Rotation	Good Wolf			Rotation	Queer Archive of Croydon			Rotation	Rosie Mills Eckmire		
Atrium (Exhibition space 2)		CNHSS				Well Versed Ink				The Kala Chethena Kathakali Troupe		
Exhibition Gallery (Exhibition space 3)		Play for Progress				MOSS				The Content Creatives		
Research Room	System Change (27th April to 20th June 2020)				Urban Room (Dates TBC)							
Artist in Residence	Sam & Danni			Anusha Subramanyam		Agata Nowak		London Mozart Players				
All areas - Museums Lates			20/03/20 Friday			4/06/20 Thursday				20/11/20 Friday		

6.5 The Museum will be a cornerstone of the proposed Clocktower redevelopment. Initial plans have been drawn up for the site which enable more flexible use of space to create a cultural hub. Library, learning, museum, performance and community space will be retained and enhanced in the redevelopment. Further detailed plans will be drawn up over the coming months and additional funding sourced to enable the scheme to deliver on our ambitions for the building.

7. Bereavement Services

7.1 Croydon Crematoriums cremators were replaced over the summer and autumn of 2019. The new machines have an improved refractory with better thermal qualities which will reduce heating times and ongoing gas usage. They also have increased internal dimensions which will enable the service to accommodate the larger coffins.

7.2 Planning permission was given, via appeal, to extend Greenlawns Memorial Park on 23 December 2019 and we can now begin developing this site. There is a considerable amount of preparatory work required before the site becomes operational, and will provide in excess of 3000 new grave spaces. It is anticipated that the extension will be opened in the autumn of 2021.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny & Overview Recommendations & Actions

Appendix 2 – Libraries – Additional Information

CONTACT OFFICER: Emma Lindsell, Place Department, 07776992031

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny & Overview Recommendations and Actions

Recommendation	Conclusion	Accept / Reject Recommendation	Financial Implications	Timetable for completion	PROGRESS REPORT: FEB 2020
From Committee Meeting 11th December 2018					
<p>1. That the project leads meet with Councillor Andy Stranack and the Mobility Forum to provide reassurance in regard to the accessibility of the redeveloped Fairfield Halls</p>	<p>During the discussion of the Fairfield Halls item the Committee were advised that there had not been any engagement with the Mobility Forum regarding the accessibility of the venue and as such felt that this should be undertaken prior to opening.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p>Presentation with an opportunity for questions took place with The Croydon Mobility Forum prior to opening. The Mobility Forum also used a meeting room at the Halls for its last meeting in November 2019.</p>
<p>2. That plans to introduce the Music City scheme in Croydon should also include provision to celebrate the Borough's musical heritage.</p>	<p>The Committee felt that Croydon had a significant musical heritage and agreed that this needed to be celebrated.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>By the end of 2020</p>	<p>Within the Croydon Music City and related CEZ programme there are two key initiatives designed to celebrate Croydon's rich musical heritage.</p> <p><u>Croydon Music City Mural</u> A large scale mural is planned that celebrates Croydon's musical story featuring key figures to be complete end of Q1 2020/21.</p> <p><u>Music Heritage Trail</u> The Trail will integrate technology such as mobile devices using AR (augmented reality) to bring Croydon's musical past to life. Sound Diplomacy identified the key musical genres to be celebrated as part of the trail and these are Punk, Bass Music (encompassing Ska, Reggae, and Dubstep), South Asian / global music and Classical Music.</p>

3. That a short briefing note is prepared for Committee on the status of the Allotment Review.	The Committee was keen to receive an update on the scope of the Allotment Review and progress made to date.	Accept	N/A	Complete	A briefing note was circulated to the Committee in June 2019
4. That a review is undertaken of the byelaws in place in the Council's parks to ensure that they remain relevant and fit for purpose.	The Committee had a concern that many of the byelaws relating to local parks were out dated and difficult to enforce and as such agreed to recommend that they be reviewed.	Accept	N/A	Ongoing	By Laws are reviewed in line regularly to ensure compliance with national legislation and local demands. Emerging undesirable behaviors in our parks can be addressed using supplementary powers under the ASB Crime and Policing Act.
5. That the Evening and Night Time Economy strategy had SMART, deliverable outcomes.	Although welcoming of the aims of the Strategy, the Committee agreed that its success would be judged on its outcomes and as such felt that these needed to be tangible and deliverable.	Accept	N/A	Complete	Annual delivery plans will be created for the Evening & Night Time Action Plan and Economic Strategy that will include SMART targets to be agreed and monitored by Future Place Board
6. That the [Evening and Night Time Economy] Strategy retained a strong focus across the borough and not just the town centre.	The Committee endorsed the approach to visit district centres as part of the formation of the Strategy and was keen to ensure that the final Strategy retained a borough-wide view.	Accept	N/A	Complete	The Plan retains a borough wide approach and can be found at https://www.croydonobservatory.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Evening-Night-Time-Economy-Plan-2019.pdf
7. That the [Evening and Night Time Economy] Strategy reflected the diversity of the borough.	The Committee was keen to ensure that the final Strategy was representative of the borough.	Accept	N/A	Complete	The Plan has inclusivity and diversity at its heart
From Committee Meeting 11th February 2019					
1. The Cultural Plan needed to take into account the Council's aspirations for the borough on a wider level and ensure that its	The Committee concluded that the biggest risks to the success of the Cultural Plan lay outside of the control of the Cabinet Member.	Accept	N/A	Complete	Croydon Creates: Our Cultural Plan for Croydon 2019-2023 – published on Tuesday 7 th May 2019. The Plan includes wider aspirations and is clear that a partnership approach is needed to delivery

own aims were aligned with these.					Croydon's ambitions on Culture. The report and Plan can be found at: https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/documents/g1554/Public%20reports%20pack%2007th-May-2019%2018.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10
2. It was essential that the Cultural Plan clearly set out how it will interact with the other key strategies and plans of the Council and external partners to achieve its aims.	The Committee concluded that the biggest risks to the success of the Cultural Plan lay outside of the control of the Cabinet Member.	Accept	N/A	Complete	Links to other plans and strategies were included in the Cabinet report for the Plan
3. The Cultural Plan should be a three to five year plan to cover the period of major redevelopment in the Town Centre.	The Committee agreed that the redevelopment of the town centre represented a major risk to the Plan and as such there was a need to focus upon culture in district centres.	Accept	N/A	Complete	The plan covers 2019 – 23 and includes an annual review to ensure it remains on track
4. Actions in the Cultural Plan should cover the whole of the borough and be a reflection of the diverse population in Croydon.	The Committee agreed that the redevelopment of the town centre represented a major risk to the Plan and as such there was a need to focus upon culture in district centres.	Accept	N/A	Complete.	Diversity and Inclusion and a borough-wide approach is included in the Plan
5. That all [Culture Plan for Croydon] actions should include SMART objectives to define how they will be achieved.	It was acknowledged that many of the actions set out in the Cultural Plan would not be new, but would need to be clear on aspirations and constraints.	Partially Accept - the Cultural Plan is very wide ranging and some of the detail of how the aims and objectives will be achieved will sit in delivery plans relating to different service plans,	N/A	Complete	The plan includes an annual review to ensure it remains on track

		programme and project plans.			
6. The Cultural Plan should be signed off by the Cabinet as a whole, with actions allocated to those Cabinet Members who will have a role in delivering it.	The Committee concluded that the biggest risks to the success of the Cultural Plan lay outside of the control of the Cabinet Member.	Partially Accept - the lead Cabinet Member will work with the Cabinet to deliver the plan but is noted as the overall lead.	N/A	Complete	The Plan outlines its partnership and cross-portfolio approach
From Committee Meeting 16th July 2019					
1. That the national outcomes for library usage should be used as a basis for the [Library Plan for Croydon] strategy, with the service offered being evaluated against these outcomes. The strategy should also be informed by usage data and other available sources of information. The Strategy should interlink with other Council strategies and plans where appropriate.	That the seven national outcomes were a useful basis for understanding future provision.	Accept	N/A	Complete	The seven national outcomes for library usage were incorporated into the approved version of the Libraries Plan 2019-28. Since the publication of the Libraries Plan, Libraries Connected have consolidated the seven universal offers into four: Reading; Digital & Information; Culture & Creativity; Health & Wellbeing.
2. That the creation of an evaluation framework for the Libraries Plan should be a priority and it is request that it be shared with the Committee once finalised.	Given the approval of the Libraries Plan by the Council on 15 July, there was concern that an evaluation framework, to enable the success of the Libraries Plan to be judged, had not yet been developed.	Accept	Libraries Transformation Programme - £5m	Complete	The Libraries Plan Evaluation Framework was developed to set key performance monitoring of the Libraries service aligned to the Libraries Plan. The Evaluation Framework was returned to the Committee in October 2019.

Appendix 2 – Libraries Service Additional Information

Comparative Performance Measures for Croydon Libraries

Data CIPFA 2017-18 (latest available)

	Croydon 2017/18	London Authorities 2017/18	All UK Authorities 2017/18
Issues/ Loans	207,314	169,898	192,524
Visits	937,438	439,683	347,975

Measure Category	Croydon	London Authorities	All UK Authorities
Number of Libraries	13	10	20
Active Borrowers per 1,000 pop*	84	128	122
Revenue expenditure per 1,000 pop	£8,967	£16,215	£13,030
Physical Visits	4,838	5,138	3,755
Book Issues per 1,000 pop	1,827	2,784	2,802
Book stock per 1,000 pop	887	1,124	1,144

Library events and activities

In the 9 months to the end of December 2019, the libraries have hosted 4,692 events and activities, attended by 55,693 people. Some of these activities include:

Events	Where	No of events	Attendances
Under-5s Rhymetimes	All libraries	1,150	24,231
Homework Clubs	Ashburton, Central, Broad Green, New Addington	346	2,287
School class visits to the library	All libraries	147	4,294
Employment support/Work Club	Broad Green, Central, Thornton Heath	273	2,263
IT sessions	All libraries	386	665
IT sessions for older people (mainly 1-2-1)	All libraries	420	473
ESOL/Conversation clubs	Broad Green, Central, Thornton Heath	76	854

Reading Groups	All libraries	239	1,847
Health for older people (exercise, etc.)	All libraries	137	1,783
Regular clubs (craft/hobby/social)	All libraries	417	2,865

The Libraries Consortium

Since joining the Libraries Consortium on 1 November, Croydon Libraries' customers have had access to a shared catalogue of library stock across the following categories:

	Croydon (approx.)	Consortium (approx.)
Adult fiction	92,000	1,200,000
Adult non-fiction	103,000	1,140,000
Children's fiction	79,000	1,200,000
Children's non-fiction	26,000	475,000
Spoken Word Audio	5,800	67,000

As part of the consortium, we are also able to increase our digital offer to customers via access to consortium agreements. We have already increased the number of digital magazines which can be downloaded for free from 50 to over 700 titles.

By April 2020, we will have increased the e-book and e-audio collection from one platform offering around 3,500 titles to four platforms offering in excess of 40,000 titles.

Culture and Libraries

Our libraries host a range of cultural content in 2019 this has included:

- London Cityread 2019 was *Sofia Khan is not Obligated* by author Ayisha Malik who visited Ashburton Library in May 2019 to talk about her book
- Instapoetry workshops and open mic events for teenagers led by Shaniqua Benjamin and Well Versed Ink – poetry on Instagram
- Summer: series of events for all ages, but especially for young people taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge Space Chase, encouraging them to read and write stories, and to visit the Museum
- London Mozart Players: hosted Peter & the Wolf performance in May 2019 in Central, New Addington and Thornton heath Libraries, working with Croydon Music & Arts to let children try out musical instruments in a workshop before the performance, and working with localities team to bring in refugee families to ensure the performance reached communities who would not otherwise have access to live music.
- Brit School: their Christmas community show was in Croydon Central Library for schools with a final show for their parents.
- Croydon Music & Arts: their community showcase with brass band and Parkour
- Well Versed Ink: created community poem in Spring during SPINE Festival showcase for young people and ran Instapoetry workshops along with Shaniqua Benjamin in Autumn
- Good Wolf Theatre company delivered shows and workshops exploring growing up in care for young people in July and returned this autumn to deliver training for teenagers to support young children in their reading.