

Scrutiny Recommendations: Stage 1

Committee	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Conclusion	Recommendation	Political Lead	Officer Lead
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Directorate Overview	The Sub-Committee concluded that any review of Healthy Neighbourhoods scheme should be submitted for pre-decision scrutiny by the Sub-Committee before a decision is taken at Cabinet.		Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Directorate Overview	The Sub-Committee concluded that the directorate should look at opportunities to engage in more innovative partnership working with other authorities.		Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Directorate Overview	The Sub-Committee were of the view that it was too difficult to report missed [bin / refuse] collections in some cases and that this should be improved.	The Sub-Committee recommended that the information on the Council Website around how to report waste collection issues and for the option to 'make an enquiry' be reviewed and made more prominent.	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Directorate Overview	The Sub-Committee were of the view that more work needed to be done to improve trust in waste collection services and to improve the perception that services were improving and	The Sub-Committee recommended better data collection on areas where there were repeated missed waste collections relating to obstructions or narrow roads to inform a more proactive	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd

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			providing value for money to residents.	approach that was less reliant on reporting.		
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Directorate Overview	The Sub-Committee concluded that waste collections for flats above shops were an issue and solutions on this should be fed into the review of the waste contract.	The Sub-Committee recommended that the Cabinet Member for Streets and Environment investigate pilots on waste collection trails for flats above shops.	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Directorate Overview		The Sub-Committee recommended that the Council produce a Litter Strategy in line with good practice.	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Directorate Overview	<p>The Sub-Committee concluded that there should be co-ordination between waste collection and street cleansing schedules to improve perceptions of street cleanliness and that this should be fed into the review of the waste contract.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee were pleased to hear that the option of bringing the waste contract in-house was one of the options being appraised as part of the forthcoming review of the contract.</p>	The Sub-Committee recommended Ward Councillor visits to assess street cleaning grading were resumed.	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd

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Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Sustainable Communities, Regeneration & Economic Recovery Directorate Overview	The Sub-Committee concluded that there was significant strain on parking income and that a new parking strategy was needed to incorporate current trends in behaviours and the adoption of low emission vehicles.	The Sub-Committee requested clarity on timescales for the new parking strategy and for information on how this would contribute to over net zero plans.	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Revocation of Croydon Suburban Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 2 (SPD2)	The Sub-Committee were concerned about the use of earmarked reserves for the Local Development Framework / Local Plan to develop the new documentation on residential extensions and alterations and the possibility of abortive costs that could leave the work needed to bring the new Local Plan to adoption under-resourced.		Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Revocation of Croydon Suburban Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 2 (SPD2)	The Sub-Committee were concerned about inequalities of knowledge and resource on planning matters across different communities in the borough.		Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd

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Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Revocation of Croydon Suburban Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 2 (SPD2)	The Sub-Committee were concerned that revocation of SPD2 was being recommended to Council without the replacement supplementary planning documentation on residential extensions and alterations ready to take its place as was thought to be best plan making practice which was the process that had been followed for the South Norwood Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.	The Sub-Committee requested that the policy on residential extensions and alterations in national, regional and local planning framework that would be used to determine applications in the absence of SPD2 be provided to the Sub-Committee.	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Revocation of Croydon Suburban Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document 2 (SPD2)	The Sub-Committee were advised by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration that there was a political mandate for the revocation of SPD2 but Members were of the view that the risks to residents of poor quality residential extensions and alterations in the absence of replacement guidance had not been appropriately assessed.	The Sub-Committee requested more information on the timescales in developing and adopting the new documentation on residential extensions and alterations be provided.	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Nick Hibberd

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Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Housing Directorate Overview	The Sub-Committee were of the view that recruitment, retention and staff capacity were still major risks within the directorate.		Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Susmita Sen
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Housing Directorate Overview	The Sub-Committee felt that the Housing Directorate Overview report lacked focus on the private rental sector and felt that more could be done in this area	The Sub-Committee felt that there needed to be a greater emphasis on private sector rental accommodation and recommended that the work undertaken by Generation Rent be reviewed by the directorate and Cabinet Member for Housing to investigate best practice.	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Susmita Sen
Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Housing Directorate Overview		The Sub-Committee felt that there needed to be greater engagement and partnership working with registered social landlords to increase the numbers of residents moving from temporary and emergency accommodation into permanent housing.	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Susmita Sen

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Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee	20 July 2022	Housing Directorate Overview	The Committee were concerned about documentation and information management within the directorate and the possible risks that this created for residents at risk of homelessness.	That greater detail on the proposed move to an early intervention and prevention model be provided to Members alongside additional information on information management.	Executive Mayor Jason Perry	Susmita Sen
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	21 July 2022	Opening the Books Review	Following a thorough review of the Opening the Books Review report, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee agreed that commissioning a diagnostic review of the Council's finances was a reasonable action for the new Administration to take and took reassurance from the confirmation that there would be an emphasis on delivering value for money in the outcomes of the review.		Mayor Jason Perry	Jane West
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	21 July 2022	Opening the Books Review	Given there had been repeated instances of past Council budgets being destabilised by unforeseen costs, it was agreed that this would have been mitigated to some extent with more robust forecasting and budget monitoring processes. As such, the Committee welcomed provision of		Mayor Jason Perry	Jane West

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			<p>training for budget managers and finance officers as part of the Opening the Books review, which would help to improve and standardise the forecasting and budget monitoring processes used across the Council.</p>			
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	21 July 2022	Opening the Books Review	<p>Reassurance was taken from the confirmation provided by the Cabinet Member for Finance that the Administration would be taking a 'worst case scenario' approach to setting the budget. which contrasted with the process for setting previous budgets that may have been influenced by an 'optimism bias'. The emphasis on changing the financial culture of the Council towards an organisation that openly reported issues at an early stage was commended by the Committee.</p>		Mayor Jason Perry	Jane West

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee	21 July 2022	Opening the Books Review	It was noted that Council's financial software, Fusion Oracle had been successfully used at other local authorities and that there was a separate project underway to full embed the Fusion Oracle finance system across the Council. The Committee agreed that this work should be a priority, as it would be part of the bedrock for delivering robust financial monitoring systems, that could allow the identification of issues at an early stage. If the outcome from this project was less than optimal there was a significant risk that the budgeting errors of the past could be repeated.	It was recommended that the project to maximise the functionality of the Fusion Oracle financial software should be treated as a priority and resourced accordingly, given the potential high level of risk in the Council budget.	Mayor Jason Perry	Jane West
Scrutiny & Overview Committee	21 July 2022	Opening the Books Review	It was recognised that it was very likely some extremely difficult choices would need to be made to deliver the level of savings required by the Council. It was highlighted that Scrutiny could be used by the Administration as a resource to test any significant service changes to or the discontinuation of services.	It was recommended that the Administration engages in pre-decision scrutiny at an early stage in the budget setting process to consult on significant changes to service provision.	Mayor Jason Perry	Jane West

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Scrutiny & Overview Committee	21 July 2022	Opening the Books Review	Given there had been a significant influx of new Councillors following the election in May, there was a need to provide training for all Members on the budget setting process and should include the production of a guide mapping out the process.	It is recommended that a robust training plan is prepared on the budget setting process for Members to ensure all have the requisite skills and knowledge to make an informed judgement on the proposed budget at the Budget Council meeting.	Mayor Jason Perry	Jane West