

For General Release

REPORT TO:	FULL COUNCIL 6 OCTOBER 2014
AGENDA ITEM NO:	12
SUBJECT:	BUSINESS REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
LEAD OFFICER:	Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Director of Democratic & Legal Services
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Sean Fitzsimons Chair, Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:	The constitutional requirement that Council receive a Scrutiny Business Report.

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 Council is asked to note the Scrutiny work programme for 2014/15 (attached) and scrutiny activity since 16th July 2014.
- 1.2 All Members are asked to consider the opportunities offered by Local Action Mini Reviews and what contribution they or their constituents can make to these or to the topics selected for Scrutiny as part of the 2014-15 scrutiny work programme.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the report of Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee, covering the period from 16th July to 5th October 2014 as required by the Constitution. The Constitution allows 10 minutes for this item, which includes up to 2 minutes for announcements

3. DETAILS

This report provides an account of Scrutiny activity carried out between 16th July and 5th October 2014.

4. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

The Council's Constitution (Part 4a Council Procedure Rules 3.05) states that the purpose of the Scrutiny Business Report is "To update the Council on Scrutiny activity since the previous Council meeting. Also to advise on any major issues that needs to be considered by Scrutiny. Incorporating (1) written questions and (2) oral questions on the items contained in the Business Report".

The Constitution allows 10 minutes for this item, which includes up to 2 minutes for announcements.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

Not relevant for the purposes of this report.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

ATTACHMENTS:

- Report from the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee
- Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SCRUTINY AND STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

16th July to 5th October 2014



Councillor Sean Fitzsimons
Chair, Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee

1. SCRUTINY 2014/15

The 2014/15 scrutiny work programme has been developing apace over the past few months – starting with the formation of the **Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee** to cover important issues relating to transport, shared road use and streets as well as the environment and sustainability matters.

In addition, new initiatives relating to Local Action Mini Reviews and pre-decision scrutiny have been launched. Three **mini reviews** are already underway on:

- (1) Youth employability
- (2) Royal Mail deliveries and
- (3) The impact of poorly designed and managed HMO and private rent properties on the residential street scene.

These mini reviews are scheduled to report back to scrutiny before Christmas. This initiative has been developed to provide all members with the opportunity of using this process to respond to issues affecting their residents.

Pre-decision scrutiny provides scrutiny members with the opportunity of receiving information on key policies and strategies while they are under development. This process is not intended to slow the decision-making process down but aims to develop greater understanding of the strategic context, objectives, challenges, pressures and desired outcomes of new policies and strategies. So far scrutiny committees have looked at the budget process, facilities management procurement strategy and options for 20mph speed limits in the borough.

Cabinet Members are being invited to engage with committee members, partners, stakeholders and the public by coming along to scrutiny meetings and talking about their ambitions for the coming months. The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee was delighted to welcome Councillor Simon Hall, Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury to its September meeting while Councillor Kathy Bee, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment came to a meeting of the Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee a week later. Both gave short presentations and answered questions from members and the public about the challenges facing their portfolios and outlined some of the achievements made so far and forthcoming initiatives and policies with clarity and enthusiasm.

More **public engagement and partnership working** is an objective for scrutiny this year. Meetings of the Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee are being held at venues around the borough in the coming months and members of our committees are going out-and-about on fact-finding visits too. Contributions from members of the public, interested groups and stakeholders as well as ward councillors and council officers are being actively sought and encouraged.

The scrutiny **work programme** is settling down as the timing of some items has become clearer. An extra meeting of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee has been added to the schedule in order to create capacity for an item on culture in the borough and the Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee will also hold an extra meeting in December in order to consider an item of cycling.

2. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS

2.1 Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee

The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee met on 9th September 2014. Councillor Simon Hall, **Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury** attended the meeting and through his presentation and responses to questions provided a clear description of the context of funding, demand for services in the borough and the principles relating to finances, commissioning and other areas of the portfolio.

Members received a pre-decision scrutiny report on the **Budget Process** and noted the considerable budget pressure challenge facing the council over the next 4-years and the challenges and opportunities offered by the integration of budgets (including those relating to health, community safety and domestic violence). The Committee felt that although the Council has been successful in controlling revenue expenditure over a number of years, in order to achieve maximum value for money, more rigour might need to be applied to capital expenditure. Finally, it noted that budget options for 2015/18 will be presented for pre-decision scrutiny at a joint meeting of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee and Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee in December 2014.

Members welcomed the opportunity of reviewing the options for **facilities management procurement strategy** at an early stage in the process. They also welcomed the undertaking by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury that the 'bundles' of contract lots described in the report will be subject to further work and review. Scrutiny recommended that when the 'bundles' of contract lots are finalised, customer service to the Council and residents be of paramount importance. The Committee noted that smaller 'bundles' may enable some contracts to be procured in-house or may improve the chance of locally-based organisations being awarded contract lots. The -Committee asked officers to consider drafting procurement documentation to include social value criteria, subject to procurement best practice. It also agreed that it would like to see the Council supporting small and medium sized enterprises achieve procurement pre-qualifying criteria during the process where possible.

2.2 Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee met on 8th July 2014, to receive a report from **Croydon's Clinical Commissioning Group**. The presentation was well received by Members which included a structured timetable of the CCG's five year strategy, pressure points, challenges and constraints, and the proposed service delivery programme of healthcare across South West London which replaced the Better Services, Better Value (BSBV) programme. SWL Collaboration Commissioning remained a clinically lead initiative which included 4 main drivers.

During the presentation officers were clear that the clinical case for change remained relevant and emerging issues were at the forefront of thinking when developing the vision and 5 year strategy for the CCG.

Workforce gaps needed to be addressed to combat raising demand, coupled with a seven day working pattern in accident and emergency and maternity services would increase demands on staffing further. Mental health remains high on the health and wellbeing agenda and will be considered when planning the health economy for Croydon and across the South West London Sector.

Examples of existing and future initiatives included the move to transfer elements of care to the community setting, an elderly care single point of access within accident and emergency and an increased focus on primary multidisciplinary team working.

Mental health is high on the agenda as provision currently is under standard. South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) have included in health packages an *ad hoc* service and are developing a rapid crisis response service.

To achieve the London standard, Croydon in collaboration with the SW London sector would seek to develop specific areas of care. Using the success of Epsom orthopaedic model of care and the planning of the stroke and trauma London landscape, health professionals are considering applying this format to planned care centres in a range of specialities ie. Urology.

The **Better Services, Better Value** (BSBV) programme, did not deliver. However lessons learnt have enhanced partnership working and demonstrated good engagement with all stakeholders. The skills gap remains high on the list of constraints and includes the lack of A&E consultants and midwives nationwide.

The Committee continues to receive a nomination from **Healthwatch** Croydon for a Co-opted member. The Committee received a nomination from Kate Denham who reported on enter and views conducted and when to expect written reports of outcomes. Previous Healthwatch three main priorities were Croydon University Hospital, Mental Health Services and joint strategic needs assessment. The emphasis had shifted slightly and the new priorities from April 2014 are Croydon University Hospital (specifically with regard to elderly people and patient experience), Mental Health (working with Hear Us) and Care homes.

In the spirit of the transparency agenda, the committee had agreed to hold a series of their committee **meetings in the community**. The dates and venues of these meeting will be published shortly.

2.3 **Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

At the Sub-Committee meeting on 22nd July, members received information on the current situation regarding **school places and admissions** in the borough, noting that this had become increasingly pro-active. As a result, bulge classes had been put in earlier than in previous years and parents had been advised that there would be additional classes to accommodate rising demand.

It was noted that parents of secondary school pupils had a strong preference for well performing schools rather than a particular location. As regards standards of education in academies and free schools, officers explained that a number of new regional commissions were being set up to improve **accountability** in these establishments the borough itself had set up controls to ensure that all schools had an inclusive ethos. Members were advised that these controls had recently been used to assess a recent application for a faith-based school.

Members discussed the impact of migration patterns on the demand for school places. Officers were questioned on the impact of “churn”, i.e. pupils changing schools as a result of a house move, on the provision of school places. This was a particular challenge for some areas in the north of the borough. Members were advised that schools needed to keep a few vacancies to tackle this challenge.

In answer to members’ questions, officers explained that the schools with the highest and lowest demand for school places were dotted around all over the borough. It was noted, however, that there had not been a single vacancy in the whole of the central area and that pressure for expansion in this part of the

borough was growing and being exacerbated by the paucity of available sites for new schools. It was noted in particular that sites in the centre were notably lacking in green spaces for **sports activities**.

Members noted that many schools have established reciprocal links to make the best possible use of shared resources and offer good opportunities for sport and physical activity to their pupils.

The Sub-Committee recommended that planning applications for new schools should include a school sports plan to secure adequate provision for sports and physical activity and asked that the Council encourage early partnership work with local sports organisations to explore opportunities for sport in new schools.

2.4 **Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

The inaugural meeting of the Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee took place on Wednesday 23rd July with members reviewing My Croydon App and the Street Lighting PFI contract. Members of the Sub-Committee agreed that the **My Croydon App** was a positive development, welcomed the future development of a wider range of applications for it but asked that greater complexity should not compromise ease of use.

A presentation on the progress of the **Street Lighting PFI** was made and members focused their questioning on the due diligence process before project commencement, project challenges and the programme recovery plan. Serious concerns about the delay in the street lighting programme were expressed and members called for significant changes to the contract monitoring process to ensure that they are robust, that all issues relating to the implementation of the contract are detected and tackled swiftly and efficiently and that the scrutiny process becomes transparent. Members were concerned that consultation with residents by the contractor was inadequate and asked for information on the cost of the delays and stressed that action should be taken to ensure that the council suffered no losses. The Sub-Committee agreed to take a tour of Addiscombe and Ashburton to examine works carried out and identify areas for improvement before making its final recommendations. This 'walkabout' will take place in November with an update item being scheduled for a subsequent meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Kathy Bee, **Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment** accepted an invitation to attend the second meeting of the Sub-Committee on 16th September. She briefed members on the remit of her portfolio and answered questions from members and the public on the priorities for the council and the borough. Councillor Bee also provided information on progress made in the first few months of the administration and outlined a number of projects in the pipeline. She sought involvement from the Sub-Committee in pre-decision scrutiny on a number of topics including the Transport Delivery Plan, Cycling Strategy and a Parking Review for the Borough and stressed to officers the importance of getting into the habit of fitting scrutiny into the decision-making cycle.

The Sub-Committee considered a pre-decision item on **20mph speed limits** in the borough and received information from Councillor Kathy Bee as Cabinet Member, Officers, the police and a number of interested organisations and charities representing different road users.

The Sub-Committee received a report of a site visit to Portsmouth which had already introduced 20mph. The Sub-Committee received and considered 40 written representations from members of the public, ward councillors and local MPs on this issue. The principle of introducing 20mph had already been agreed by cabinet as a manifesto commitment.

The Sub-Committee focused its inquiry on a number of areas including the robustness of road casualty statistics (anti-20 mph campaigners questioned using road casualty statistics as the basis for introducing 20mph speed limits), options for consultation, the distinction between 20mph zones and 20mph limits, area-wide proposals for 20mph limits or a targeted approach, the kinds of roads a scheme could include and exclude, enforcement and education, possible timescales and phasing and the costs of implementation. The Sub-Committee heard from the cabinet member that the basis of the decision in principle was multi-faceted and included reducing road casualties, encouraging walking, encouraging cycling and encouraging people to see their home as starting with their street not just their front door.

2.5 South West London Standing Joint Health Overview Committee (JHOSC)

At the Full Council meeting on 15th July, Councillors Carole Bonner and Lynne Hale were nominated as Croydon representatives on the South West London Standing JHOSC. At the first meeting of the JHOSC on 17th July 2014 it was confirmed that Croydon would have 2 substantive voting places on the Committee and 1 non-voting observer member.

The SW London JHOSC disbanded the previously convened *Better Services Better Value* JHOSC to form a new standing JHOSC that would by way of sub committees determine how best to review and address issues affecting the health and wellbeing of residents across SW London. The first of these Sub Committees has started the review of provision of mental health services delivered by South West London Mental Health. Croydon's residents have their mental health needs cared for by South London and Maudsley (SLaM) however a small proportion of residents access SW London's mental health services. For this reason Croydon has one observer on the Sub-Committee. This has proved to be beneficial from the outset as the Croydon independent view has made improvements to the consultation process by suggesting that the conclusion of outline business case be extended beyond the end date of the consultation period to enable outcomes to be considered and for possible inclusion in the result of the consultation period.

The public consultation period commenced on 18 August and will take place over a period of 6 weeks.

2.6 Forthcoming meetings:

- **Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee**, Tuesday 14th October 2014 at 6:30pm in Room F10, the Town Hall, Croydon.
- **Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee**, Tuesday 21st October 2014 at 6:30pm in St Joseph's College, Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood, London, SE19 3HL.
- **Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee**, Tuesday 11th November 2014 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Croydon.
- **Streets and Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee**, Tuesday 18th November 2014 at 6:30pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Croydon.

3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

The work programme continues to be developed and there are a number of topics under consideration for inclusion. However, a scrutiny work programme is underway and is **attached**.

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014-15 (as at 16 September 2014)

This schedule provides an overview of Scrutiny meetings in 2014/15 and outlines an indicative (but not final or complete) list of topics for discussion.

SCRUTINY & STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE (SSOC)	1 July 14	9 September 14	11 November 14	17 December 14 (joint meeting with CYP Sub-Cttee)	10 February 15	3 March 15	14 April 15
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work Programme - Confirmation of Chair, Deputy Chair & Vice Chair - Establishment Streets & Environment Sub-Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4-year Budget overview & resources - Cabinet Member Finance & Treasury (Simon Hall) - FM Procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Member Culture, Leisure & Sport (Timothy Godfrey) - Culture in Croydon inc. funding - CALAT update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget - Leader & CEO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stronger Communities Partnership + Voluntary Sector Strategy - Cabinet Member Economic Development (Toni Letts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Member Safety & Justice (Mark Watson) - Safer Croydon Partnership - Domestic Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Work Programme - Transparency Agenda - Data and Fol
HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE (HSCH)	8 July 14	21 October 14	12 November 14	9 December 14	27 January 15	10 March 15	12 May 15
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work Programme - Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair - Healthwatch Co-option - SW London JHOSC Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Member Homes and Regeneration (Alison Butler) - Homelessness and Tenancy Strategies - Annual Report (DoPH) - Health Inequalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Croydon Health Services NHS Trust - QIPP, LIA, End of Life Care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better Care Fund Adult Safeguarding - NHS England Immunisation (6mth update) - Quality of Life for people with chronic conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mental Health - Cabinet Member People & Communities (Louisa Woodley) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health & Wellbeing Board - Housing Repairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality Accounts - Review the Work Programme
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SUB-COMMITTEE (CYP)	22 July 14	14 October 14	25 November 14	17 December 14 (joint meeting with SSOC)	3 February 15	17 March 15	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair - Work Programme - School Places and Estates Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership work on safeguarding (LSCB Children's Board) - Implications of Rotherham child sexual exploitation report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academies - evaluation/monitoring of effectiveness and standards of education provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget - Leader and CEO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Member Children, Families & Learning (Alisa Flemming) - School standards and inclusion (inc. attendances) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Work Programme - Children's Social care (council services) - Follow-up of approved scrutiny recommendations 	
STREETS AND ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE (S&E)	23 July 14	16 September 14	18 November 14	2 December 14	20 January 15	24 March 15	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work Programme - Confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair - My Croydon App - Street Lighting PFI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20mph limits - Cabinet Member Transport & Environment (Kathy Bee) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fly-tipping baseline - SWL Partnership (waste) - Veolia contract - Cabinet Member Clean & Green (Stuart Collins) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cycling strategy - Street lighting update (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TfL – roads inc. A23 corridor, bridges renewal, Central Croydon infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Work Programme - Flooding (update item) 	