

Cabinet Supplementary Agenda



3. Urgent Business (If any) (Pages 3 - 10)

To receive notice of any business not on the agenda which in the opinion of the Chair, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

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Agenda Item 3

REPORT TO:	CABINET 7 December 2022
SUBJECT:	STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY (DECEMBER 2022)
LEAD OFFICERS:	JANE WEST - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES ADRIAN MAY – INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & SCRUTINY
LEAD MEMBER:	COUNCILLOR ROWENNA DAVIS CHAIR, SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
CABINET MEMBER:	JASON PERRY, EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF CROYDON
WARDS:	ALL
FINANCIAL IMPACT The Scrutiny recommendations to the Executive (Appendix A) may have financial implications. Following the recommendations being received at Cabinet, the Executive will identify and consider any financial implications as part of their response. If any recommendation is subsequently progressed for consideration and decision by the Executive Mayor in Cabinet, full financial, legal and equalities implications would be presented.	
FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE: Not a key decision	

The Executive Mayor has the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations contained within this report:

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Mayor in Cabinet is asked to:

1. Receive the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Homes Sub-Committee held on 5 December 2022 (Appendix A).
2. To provide a substantive response to the recommendations (a Scrutiny Stage 2 Report) within two months (i.e. at the next available Cabinet meeting on 22 February 2023).

2. STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY

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

3. CONCLUSIONS FROM COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 3.1 In order to provide additional context for the Cabinet, a summary of the conclusions reached by the Scrutiny & Overview Committee or relevant Sub-Committee follows.

Homes Sub-Committee – 5 December 2022

Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Updating the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

- 3.2 The Sub-Committee concluded that the department were taking the right approach by not rushing into producing a new Strategy and extending the current strategy with an updated Action Plan and Members were reassured that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities were on board with this.
- 3.3 Members were encouraged that additional resource and expertise was being sought to address substance misuse and concluded that, should central government grant funding for Croydon be reduced, that the plan to address this was shared with Members.
- 3.4 The Sub-Committee were of the view that under occupancy of registered social landlord properties should be investigated to see if this could provide additional Temporary and Emergency Accommodation capacity.

Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Distribution of the Household Support Fund Grant

- 3.5 The Sub-Committee thanked officers for their hard work in getting the Fund into place in good time and under challenging conditions, considering the late issuing of government instructions on the distribution of the Household Support Grant.
- 3.6 Members were of the view that simplified information on grant eligibility be provided to Members and residents, with Members involved in helping to identify possible allocations for the Fund.
- 3.7 The Sub-Committee raised concerns about the length of payment times for the discretionary element of the fund and the impact this could have on the most vulnerable recipients.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The recommendations were developed from the deliberations of either the Scrutiny & Overview Committee or one of its Sub-Committees.

5. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

- 5.1 The recommendations set out in the appendix to this report directly arise from Scrutiny.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the content of this report. Please see Finance Impact Section above.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance that the recommendations are presented to Cabinet in accordance with the Constitution.
- 7.2 This requires that the Scrutiny report is received and registered at this Cabinet Meeting and that a substantive response is provided within 2 months (i.e. **Cabinet – 22 February 2023** is the next available meeting).

Approved by Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation & Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from the content of this report, the report received recommendations from scrutiny, but no decision for recommendation.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 9.1 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the contents of this report

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the contents of this report, the report received recommendations from scrutiny, but no decision for recommendation.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

11.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from the contents of this report, the report received recommendations from scrutiny, but no decision for recommendation.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

12.1 There is a statutory requirement for Cabinet to receive the recommendations made by Scrutiny.

13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

13.1 None

14. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

14.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?

There are no Data Protection implications at this stage, but that the situation will be reviewed again at Stage 2 when Cabinet provide their response to the proposed recommendations.

14.2 HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?

No.

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APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Recommendations from Scrutiny

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Meeting of the Homes Sub-Committee held on 5 December 2022

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=485&MIId=3443>

Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Political Lead	Officer Lead
Recomm.1	The Sub-Committee recommended that the Action Plan is updated to show overall timeline of the action plan, key milestones, deliverables for each workstream and that interdependencies and associated risks be highlighted and included in the action plan.	Councillor Lynne Hale	Susmita Sen
Recomm.2	The Sub-Committee recommended that the Action Plan is updated to show that the Occupancy Checks workstreams covered both the remit of ensuring the accommodation is occupied by homeless households placed by the Council to meet housing duty and of monitoring how long new clients were staying in Temporary or Emergency accommodation. To be updated by next 6 th Feb Sub-Committee meeting and updated version to be sent to committee members.	Councillor Lynne Hale	Susmita Sen
Recomm.3	The Sub-Committee recommended that Occupancy Checks proactively looked to see that accommodation was still meeting the needs of clients that had been placed there and that this was supported by appropriate staff training to empower them to anticipate and identify changing needs (e.g. pregnancies/overcrowding, disability).	Councillor Lynne Hale	Susmita Sen
Recomm.4	The Sub-Committee recommended that suitable policy or guidance is in place once Occupancy Checks started, to ensure those who had left accommodation were not penalised if they had done so for legitimate reasons.	Councillor Lynne Hale	Susmita Sen

Recomm.5	The Sub-Committee recommended that the Executive Mayor write to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to lobby for additional homelessness funding for Croydon, recognising the homelessness situation is acute in Croydon on a par with inner London Boroughs	Councillor Lynne Hale	Susmita Sen
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Recommendation Number	Recommendation	Political Lead	Officer Lead
<p>Recomm.1</p>	<p>Members recommended the publicity be clear on the criteria and exceptions relating to the distribution of the Discretionary part of the fund and to consider using of social media advertising (including Facebook paid ads) to proactively publicise the Fund. It was further recommended that all councillors were provided with the information in a timely manner so they can promote through community networks and other social media channels incl. Next Door.</p> <p>Chair and Vice-Chair to be updated on communication of the grant before Christmas break.</p>	<p>Councillor Lynne Hale</p>	<p>Susmita Sen</p>
<p>Recomm.2</p>	<p>The Sub-Committee recommended that a provision for emergency situations be investigated for the discretionary element of the Fund. This could be in the form of faster processing of the grant (days instead of 2 week turnaround) and/or vouchers.</p> <p>Chair and Vice Chair to be updated on feasibility before the Christmas Break</p>	<p>Councillor Lynne Hale</p>	<p>Susmita Sen</p>

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