

Cabinet

Meeting held on Monday, 21 September 2020 at 6.30 pm. This meeting was held remotely.

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Tony Newman (Chair);

Councillor Alison Butler, Stuart Collins, Hamida Ali, Janet Campbell, Alisa Flemming, Simon Hall, Stuart King (voting – Job Share), Oliver Lewis, Paul Scott (non-voting – Job Share) and Manju Shahul-Hameed

Also Present: Councillors Jason Perry, Jason Cummings, Lynne Hale, Maria Gatland, Simon Hoar, Yvette Hopley, Vidhi Mohan, Helen Redfern, Scott Roche, Andy Stranack, Gareth Streeter, Sean Fitzsimons, Robert Ward, Clive Fraser, Mario Creatura, Muhammad Ali, Jamie Audsley, Leila Ben-Hassel, Margaret Bird, Simon Brew, Sherwan Chowdhury, Patsy Cummings, Nina Degrad, Felicity Flynn, Bernadette Khan, Shafi Khan, Toni Letts, David Wood and Louisa Woodley

Officers: Katherine Kerswell (Interim Chief Executive), Jacqueline Harris Baker (Executive Director of Resources), Shifa Mustafa (Executive Director of Place), Lisa Taylor (Director of Finance, Investment & Risk and Section 151 Officer) and Guy Van Dichele (Executive Director of Health, Wellbeing & Adults)

PART A

61/20 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The part A minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 July 2020 were agreed.

62/20 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were none.

63/20 **Urgent Business (If any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

64/20 **Sustainable Croydon - A Year On Update**

The Leader advised the meeting that this item would be taken at the next Cabinet meeting in October to allow for a full discussion of the council's budget and response to covid-19.

RESOLVED: To consider the report at the next meeting of Cabinet in October 2020.

65/20

Financial Performance Report - Quarter 1

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and noted that when the budget for 2020/21 was agreed at Council in March 2020, it had received cross party support. The impact of Covid-19 on the council's budget could not have been predicted when the budget was set, however the impact had been significant and was the priority focus of himself and Cabinet and the interim chief executive and the executive directors of the Council. The Cabinet was committed to developing a robust plan to tackle the financial difficulties which included a request to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for financial support in the shape of a capitalisation direction.

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources stated that he believed that the level of the General Fund Reserve had not changed in the previous decade and that this had been recognised as part of the budget for 2020/21 with a commitment to increase the reserves.

He also stated that he believed that the 2020/21 budget had been a challenging one, however local authorities had been particularly hard hit in the first wave of Covid-19. As such the over spend in Croydon had reached £49m which could not be met by the reserves. The Cabinet Member stressed that despite Government assurances, the full costs of the pandemic had not been met.

The work of the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk (section 151 Officer) was highlighted by Cabinet and she and her officers were thanked for all their work on the council's finances.

The Director of Finance, Investment and Risk advised Cabinet that the report detailed the financial position of the council at the end of Quarter 1 (June 2020) which forecasted an over spend of £49m, this figure had risen since Q1 to £51m as outlined in a report later in the agenda.

Cabinet was advised that the savings required in 2020/21 were challenging and with the backdrop of the pandemic the council was only able to progress delivery on £15m of savings out of an agreed £40.3m. In addition to the challenges of responding to Covid-19, it was highlighted that adults and children's social care continued to significantly overspend which put further pressures on the budget.

Cabinet was advised by the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk that it was imperative that strong financial measures were put in place to ensure the position improved. The Leader continued that it was important that, as a council, there was a priority of delivering services within the tight financial envelope available as Covid-19 could continue to be an issue for future months ahead.

The Leader introduced and welcomed the new Interim Chief Executive to the Cabinet meeting and to Croydon.

The Interim Chief Executive began by saying that the report represented a very challenging first quarter for the council which was hampered by the exceptionally large savings target set within the budget which had not been achieved. Despite the challenges of the budget and Covid-19, officers had continued to work on achieving in-year savings and those budget savings. The work of the Finance Review Panel was also highlighted by the Interim Chief Executive and all those involved were thanked for their contributions.

Opposition Members thanked officers for their work during difficult times but noted that the financial position of the council was unprecedented. Whilst it was noted that a number of local authorities across the country had been impacted by Covid-19, the impact had been particularly significant in Croydon due to the financial position of the council and the low level of reserves prior to the pandemic.

In response to Member questions, the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources stated that whilst it was known that the operator was not particularly financially robust when the council purchased the freehold of the Croydon Park Hotel; the professional advice had been that the rent the council would receive would outweigh the risk and that the site could be re-let. Unfortunately, the hotel had been forced to close as a consequence of Covid-19. However he believed taking into account that write-off, the money received by the council had more than paid off the interest accrued from the asset acquisition. Furthermore, he stated that the site was now being used to provide housing for vulnerable and homeless residents and was still generating income for the council which covered the interest payments.

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

RESOLVED: To

1. Note the current general fund revenue outturn forecast at the end of the first quarter of 2020/21 of £49m overspend, after the inclusion of funding received from the MHCLG for Covid19.
2. Note the details of the monthly Covid19 impact submissions being made to the MHCLG and the details of the financial support that is available to the council in light of Covid19.
3. Note the work being undertaken by the Finance Review Panel to reduce the overspend this financial year and put in place savings for next financial year.

4. Note the HRA revenue position of a £1.5m forecast overspend against budget.
5. Note the revised capital outturn projection of £309m for the general fund and HRA, forecast to be an underspend of £8m against the revised budget and that most of the underspend in 2019/20 has not been slipped into 2020/21.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Council

1. The approval of the revised capital programme as detailed in section 9 and table 8 of this report including the slippage from 2019/20, which reflects a substantial reduction in the original capital budget for 2020/21.

66/20

Croydon Renewal Plan and amendments to the 2020/21 General Fund Budget

The Leader of the Council stated that the report was the council's immediate response to the Q1 outturn. He believed that tough decisions were required as the council needed a significant response to the financial position; with the first tranche of decisions set out in the report. Members were informed that the report represented only the first phase of the response to the situation with the option of a capitalisation direction from MHCLG being the preferred long-term solution.

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources informed Members that it was recognised that there were immediate financial pressures facing the council in April/May 2020 and the Finance Review Panel was convened to review the immediate measures programme. Despite this programme, it was recognised that changes were not taking place at the pace required and in recent weeks there had been a renewed drive to deliver change at pace.

A staffing review had taken place as part of the immediate measures which had resulted in the deletion of 400 posts. It was recognised by the Cabinet that this had been a particularly difficult time for staff; however, the Cabinet Member stated that there had been a full consultation and the result had been that the majority of posts deleted had been vacant posts.

The Cabinet Member noted the council had been able to use its relationship with the local NHS, had reviewed contracts and made savings where possible and had sought to reduce interest costs in relation to the General Fund capital programme. Members were assured that the council was continuing to review opportunities for in-year savings and had made the decision keep closed services which had not yet been reopened following lockdown. Additionally, it has been recognised that the council had a number of companies and other subsidiaries and that an independent review of all these would be undertaken.

The Cabinet meeting was advised that the council had been holding informal discussions with the MHCLG on financial support in the form of a capitalisation direction which it was hoped would give the council time to deliver a sustainable budget for the council. A formal submission for this support was due to be with the MHCLG in November 2020.

The Director of Finance, Investment and Risk informed Members that the report set out the General Fund position and the work required in year and in future years to enable the council to have a sustainable and balanced budget. It was recognised that local government had been at the forefront in responding to the pandemic and that while money had been received from government this had not been sufficient. However, the challenge of responding to the pandemic had not been unique to Croydon rather that the challenging in-year savings of £40m not being achieved had been a major factor in the position the council was facing.

Members were informed that it was the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk responsibility to ensure a balanced and deliverable budget was presented to Members for decision and implementation by the executive leadership team. When this was no longer possible it was her responsibility to take immediate steps to bring to Cabinet's attention the need to make further savings or increase income to balance the budget in-year. In response to the current financial position facing the council, the Chief Executive, the Executive Directors and Cabinet were working together with the Finance Review Panel to review options. It was stated by the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk that if there came a point where it was clear that the council's income could not cover its expenditure she would be required to serve a Section 114 notice and the Council would be forced to cease all expenditure and set an emergency budget within 21 days.

As noted in the report the council did not have sufficient income nor reserves to cover the overspend and anticipated costs and, as such, the report formally sought to request a capitalisation direction from MHCLG. MHCLG and H. M Treasury would require a robust and sustainable plan from the council as part of any agreement to provide this funding to the council which would be drawn up ahead of a submission in November. It was clarified that the capitalisation direction was not free money, it was a loan and would have to be paid back. However it would provide the council with an opportunity of three years in order to manage the significant financial savings required to operate within a sustainable and balanced budget going forward.

The Director of Finance, Investment and Risk clarified that the council was not bankrupt as it was formally seeking government financial support, however if MHCLG decided not to agree the loan then a S114 would need to be issued and immediate savings would need to be implemented. The council was not facing a shortfall in its cash flow as it had been able to reprofile expenditure, but this could change and it was important that there was timely budgeting taking place.

Members were assured that the council's Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Investment and Risk were continuing its conversations with MHCLG and would also work on delivering the in-year savings, finding further savings and increasing income where possible.

The Executive Director of Resources and Monitoring Officer addressed the meeting and noted that this represented a critical time for the council to meet its financial challenges. It was stated that whilst it was the responsibility of the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk and Section 151 Officer to fulfil her statutory obligations to present and assure Members of the in-year delivery of a balanced budget, it was also for the Chief Executive, as Head of Paid Service, and herself as Monitoring Officer to ensure there were relevant processes in place to support this. Members were advised that it was important that there were regular updates on the financial position to both Cabinet and council meetings with clear and transparent reports. The importance of challenge and scrutiny at Cabinet and at the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and the General Purposes and Audit Committee were highlighted by the Monitoring Officer to support the council in delivering savings.

The plan to have an independent strategic review of the Council's companies and other entities was highlighted by the Chief Executive as having been noted by the MHCLG as a positive step. It was further advised by the Chief Executive that in her first week she had seen a real interest from both staff and the community to contribute to the review which was welcomed.

The Opposition Leader stated that as an opposition they had taken their responsibility seriously and had challenged decisions in previous years and whilst it was recognised that Covid-19 had a significant impact on all of local government, it was stated that in his view there had been a history of financial mismanagement within the council. The Opposition Leader stated he believed that in the previous six years the Administration had doubled debt, reduced income and had continued to spend. Concerns were raised that while all Croydon residents would be impacted by the financial position of the council, it would be the most vulnerable residents which would be most impacted.

In response, the Leader stated that it was an important discussion and that the council remained committed to protecting the services which supported the most vulnerable residents. The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources further noted that the Opposition had voted for the budget and that the debts which had been referred to were in relation to building schools and homes for residents.

The Chair of Scrutiny & Overview Committee highlighted the role of scrutiny as a cross party endeavour and on a cross party basis the Committee had called in the July Cabinet finance reports as it had not been convinced of the immediacy of the council's response to the

situation. It was stressed that it was the responsibility of all councillors to ensure the council delivered a balanced budget and in response to the situation it was noted that it was inevitable the council would be smaller. As such, it was also stressed that it was important that the council supported its staff to deliver with less.

It was recognised that the role of scrutiny, in holding Cabinet to account, was integral to the future of the council and as such it was the committee's focus, along with the local response to the pandemic, for its coming meetings. Whilst it was felt that there was a renewed focus within Cabinet, Members were advised that scrutiny would hold them to account in the spirit of partnership to ensure the best outcome for the council, its staff and residents.

In response to Member questions, the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources stated that Brick by Brick was required to repay loans following the completion of a site and confirmed that he believed all payments were up to date. He described that the recently published figures of Brick by Brick showed the company had made a profit in the previous year and would be bringing in capital receipts which had not been previously budgeted. The Leader stressed that everything, including Brick by Brick, would be reviewed independently to ensure that the council had a resilient and sustainable future.

Concerns were raised that the most vulnerable in society had been heavily impacted by Covid-19 and that the report included the option to reduce care packages by 20%. In response, the Leader stressed that the council was committed to protect the most vulnerable residents and the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources confirmed that the savings were in relation to looking at alternative provision at reduced costs.

Cabinet Members stated that they were in no doubt of the savings and difficult decisions which were urgently required. It was recognised by all Cabinet Members that everyone needed to remain focussed on delivering the identified savings at pace and to demonstrate the commitment of the council to the MHCLG that it could deliver a robust, sustainable plan at pace. Cabinet Members highlighted the importance of utilising the council's excellent partnerships with residents, staff and partners and ensuring they understood the position of the council to support the delivery of a sustainable future for the Borough.

In response to a question on how the council would look in future years, the Leader stated that the preferred option was a three-year plan, The Croydon Renewal Plan which would require financial support (the capitalisation direction) from MHCLG. This plan would require the council to discuss its future with the people of Croydon. It was recognised that it was important that a variety of tools of engagement were used to ensure that every household in the borough felt that it had had the opportunity to engage in the conversation about the future of the council.

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning confirmed that caseloads of children's social workers were still within manageable levels and were being reviewed regularly with the Director of Early Help and Children's Social Care. It was stated that there was a national shortage of permanent social workers, however there had been a push to recruit permanent social workers in Croydon in the wake of the Ofsted findings in 2017, and that staff savings had been achieved through the deletion of vacant posts. The Cabinet Member stated that it was recognised that there was still work to do within children's services and that senior officers were working with staff to ensure the impact of savings was manageable and the voice of social workers was still being heard.

Members were assured that the Community Fund was not due to be cut following the proposals set out in the report, rather that CIL monies would provide an alternative funding source from the general revenue budget to the Fund to ensure community funding was available.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the council was seeking performance data which would feed into future reviews of services and inform decisions going forward. The request to capitalise revenue funding in this way and at this scale was new territory for local government and so it was important to ensure the plan submitted to MHCLG was robust. Following the submission, the Chief Executive stated, the detail and work with partners in delivering the plan could begin in earnest.

In response to Member questions, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration (voting – Job Share) stated that the proposed changes to parking charges represented only £1m of the £28m savings identified. It was further noted that the council did not increase parking charges in isolation, rather that parking charges were a traffic management measure which contributed towards meeting the council's road network duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984.

The Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon noted that the council was experiencing unprecedented times and that all discretionary services needed to be reviewed, including the free bulky waste collection. It was noted by the Cabinet Member that there had not been a correlation between reinstating the free service and any reduction in fly tipping. The proposed charges outlined within the report would make the service cost neutral as residents would only be charged what the council paid Veolia to collect the waste.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure & Sport advised Members that a decision had been made to not reopen facilities which were closed and, as such, Purley pool would remain closed. The Cabinet Member further confirmed that the library book fund had underspent that year due to closures and that the proposed savings in the book service were a contribution to the council's savings. It was

stated that it was important that all services contributed to the required savings.

The challenge from Members was welcomed by the Chief Executive as it was important that the report and proposals were fully scrutinised. Furthermore, it evidenced to the MHCLG how seriously the council took its current position and the commitment to develop a robust and sustainable new budget plan at pace. It was noted that both the Scrutiny and General Purposes & Audit Committees also had important roles in ensuring the plan was robust and delivered. The Leader confirmed that it was important that there was political challenge and scrutiny to ensure a sustainable budget for the future was delivered at pace and thanked all Members for their challenge and questions.

The Chief Executive noted that a second wave of Covid-19 was approaching and would further impact upon the council, but stated officers were committed to the delivery of the financial plan and responding to the pandemic.

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

RESOLVED: To

1. Note the latest forecast revenue budget overspend of £50.3m detailed in section 3 of the report.
2. Approve the savings options of £27.9m listed in section 5 of the report to reduce the forecast overspend this year, and amend the 2020/21 budget to include the additional in year savings.
3. Agree that a formal approach is made to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to seek a capitalisation direction to enable the 2020/21 budget to be balanced.
4. Agree to the development of Croydon's Renewal Plan, to deliver a sustainable balanced budget over the medium term, and to provide an update to Cabinet in November 2020.
5. Note the in-year review of the Capital Programme and agree that a review of the future Capital programme is undertaken and to provide an update to Cabinet in November 2020.
6. Agree that a strategic review of the Council's group of companies and entities is undertaken and to delegate to the Executive Director of Place the scope and terms of that review, and to provide an update to Cabinet in November 2020.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Council to

1. Note the latest forecast revenue budget overspend of £50.3m detailed in section 3 of the report.
2. Approve the savings options of £27.9m listed in section 5 of this report to reduce the forecast overspend this year, and amend the 2020/21 budget to include the additional in year savings.
3. Agree that a formal approach is made to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to seek a capitalisation direction to enable the 2020/21 budget to be balanced.
4. Agree to the development of Croydon's Renewal Plan, to deliver a sustainable balanced budget over the medium term, and to provide an update to Full Council in November 2020.
5. Note the in-year review of the Capital Programme and agree that a review of the future Capital programme is undertaken and to provide an update to Full Council in November 2020.
6. Agree that a strategic review of the Council's group of companies and entities is undertaken and to delegate to the Executive Director of Place the scope and terms of that review, and to provide an update to Council in November 2020.

67/20

Finance Review and Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources noted that at the time the budget for 2020/21 was set, a commitment had been made to set a new Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Work had started pre-Covid, however this had to be restarted to ensure the MTFS reflected the long-term impact of Covid-19.

Cabinet noted that there was a budget gap of £79m over the following three years, however a sustainable and resilient plan was being drawn up which would address this situation at pace. Members were assured that 2021/22 budget setting work was taking place with budget development meetings occurring.

The Director of Finance, Investment and Risk stated that the report provided an update on the work of the Finance Review Panel and officers to develop a sustainable MTFS. Significant budget gaps were anticipated, however it was hoped that approval would be given for a capitalisation direction which would enable the council to address the financial situation over a three year period.

Members were assured that active management of the council's finances was in place and a series of budget development meetings were taking place which sought to identify cost reductions and increased income. It

was further confirmed by the Director of Finance, Investment and Risk that an updated MTFs report would be taken to both the Scrutiny & Overview Committee and Cabinet later this year.

The Interim Chief Executive reiterated that it was important that the council demonstrated to the MHCLG its commitment to delivering services in coming years within the funding envelope available to support its request for a capitalisation direction.

In response to Member concerns, the Leader stated that an independent review of Brick by Brick would be undertaken as part of the strategic review of all companies and other entities and the outcome would be shared with all councillors. In the meantime, no additional loans to Brick by Brick were anticipated. The Leader further confirmed that the submission to MHCLG for a capitalisation direction would cover the next three years and would support the council to build a sustainable future.

The Leader pointed to the decisions the Cabinet had made as part of the Croydon Renewal Plan report as evidence of a commitment to tackling the financial position and making the necessary savings. Members were advised that chief officers were being asked to provide assurances that the savings identified would be delivered and both Cabinet Members' and chief officers' focus was on delivering those savings.

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

RESOLVED: To note

1. The work undertaken to date under the auspices of the Finance Review Panel and their plans for further development; and
2. The progress and plans for setting a budget for 2021/22 and the development of a three-year Medium Term Financial Strategy.

68/20

Croydon Together: Update on our ongoing response to COVID-19

The Leader of the Council informed Members that he had attended a meeting with the leaders of London councils and the Mayor of London earlier that evening in response to the R rate increasing. It was stated that it was important that everyone acted now to slow the increase in transmission, and as such it was anticipated that there would be further announcements from the Prime Minister on restrictions the following evening.

The Director for Public Health confirmed that the picture was rapidly changing and that Covid-19 was once again on the rise across the country. It was stressed that there were six top tips to stopping the spread of the virus: adhering to the Rule of Six, wearing a mask, washing your hands regularly, keeping your distance, checking your symptoms and

getting a test and isolating where necessary and encouraging friends and family to also follow the guidance. It was noted that there were challenges in relation to tests so the Director of Public Health stressed that tests should only be booked if the person has symptoms. The Interim Chief Executive reiterated that if everyone followed the advice then the spread of the virus could be slowed. Members were further informed that local government was being given a new responsibility which was to provide funding for those financially impacted by having to self-isolate.

The Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social Care welcomed the Winter Plan which included over £500m of support for councils during the period. It was recognised that there would be a new responsibility for local councils in terms of street marshals, however further details in relation to this were due. The Cabinet Member assured Members that the council was meeting regularly with care homes and was ensuring appropriate PPE was available.

Concerns were raised that elderly residents were at risk and it was important that the council ensured the most vulnerable were protected. In response, the Leader stressed the importance of testing, especially in hospital discharges, to stop virus outbreaks in care homes.

The Executive Director of Health, Wellbeing & Adults shared his condolences with all those who had been impacted by Covid-19 and recognised that many residents were anxious of the impact of the virus spreading. In response to concerns raised in relation to care homes, the Executive Director stated the council had a good relationship with all care setting providers and the CQC, and all were working together to protect the most vulnerable residents. Unlike at the start of the first wave, Members were assured that there was sufficient PPE and that excellent infection control measures were in place. It was noted by the Executive Director that whilst there was a high number of care homes in the borough, the borough was not listed as an at risk borough, however Members were encouraged to share any intelligence and concerns with chief officers so it could be investigated.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs informed Cabinet that 90% of businesses had reopened and the council had been supporting local businesses throughout this period. It was noted that the Discretionary Grants programme had been a lifeline for most businesses and that the third tranche had been announced by the government. During this period, the council had also been lobbying the government to introduce more flexibility into the Kick Start programme to support SMEs to create job opportunities for young people.

The Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social Care responded to concerns in relation to the Liquid Logic contract and advised Members that this IT programme would complement localities work and provide savings in the future. It was stated that spending on IT projects had not

put residents at risk and instead enabled improved support to care homes.

The Director of Public Health confirmed that a test centre had opened in New Addington which was the Croydon testing site. She stressed that tests should only be booked when a person had symptoms so as to manage the demand for tests. Whilst it was recognised that Croydon had done well to reduce the number of cases so significantly, it was important that everyone worked together and lived by the six priorities: adhering to the Rule of Six, wearing a mask, washing your hands regularly, keeping your distance, checking your symptoms and getting a test and isolating where necessary and encouraging friends and family to also follow the guidance.

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decision:

RESOLVED: To note the report and the activities of the Council working with partners to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 across Croydon.

69/20

COVID 19 - Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund

The Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs noted that the report provided an update on the progress of implementing the Discretionary Grant Fund which had been announced on 1 May 2020. In Croydon, the share of the grant fund had been £2.8m which had benefited 597 businesses.

Members were advised that the Cabinet Member had personally visited a number of businesses across the borough which had expressed their appreciation for the grants allocated to them. Furthermore, officers had contacted all businesses and had provided support for them to submit applications where necessary.

Concerns were raised that whilst over 500 businesses had received grants, there were around 400 hospitality businesses which had been in receipt of grants. Further concerns were raised that only 82.7% of the funding had been allocated which placed Croydon in the bottom 10% of councils for allocating the grants.

In response, the Cabinet Member advised that the council had been following government guidance and were ensuring due diligence had been followed when issuing grants. Issues had been experienced as almost 300 businesses had been in contact with the council which were not part of the business rates system. The Cabinet Member and officers had been lobbying for more guidance to enable grants to be paid to those businesses. Members were assured that an update on this would be provided by the end of the month on this matter.

In relation to the Shop Local Campaign and Love Your Local Business, the Cabinet Member stated that the council was in communication with

local businesses and was providing support. It was recognised that footfall was integral to these businesses and, as such the Cabinet Member and chief officers were continually lobbying for additional support from government, the LEP and Coast to Capital for the local economy.

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

RESOLVED: To

1. Note progress in implementing Croydon's Discretionary Grants Fund Scheme
2. Note and endorse the phased extension of the Discretionary Grants Fund Scheme that included additional categories of businesses through Phases Two and Three as more fully detailed in the report.

70/20

Stage 1: Recommendations arising from Scrutiny

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

RESOLVED: To receive the recommendations arising from meetings of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 22 July and 25 August 2020, and to provide a substantive response within two months (i.e. at the next available Cabinet meeting on 16 November 2020).

71/20

Scrutiny Stage 2: Responses to Recommendations arising from Joint Meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee and the Health & Social Care Sub-Committee on 26 May 2020

The Chair of Scrutiny & Overview Committee advised Cabinet that scrutiny had taken a key role in scrutinising the council and health services in terms of their preparedness and response to covid-19. A meeting of the Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee was due to take place the following evening and would follow-up on issues which had been identified in March and review winter preparedness.

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

RESOLVED: To approve the response and action plans attached to the report at Appendix A and that these be reported to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or relevant Sub-Committees.

Investing in our Borough

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources noted that the contract for Liquid Logic facilitated the roll out of an IT project which would have huge benefits for vulnerable residents in Croydon.

It was noted by the Interim Chief Executive that whilst the Investing in our Borough was a regular report, it was an important report which played a role in developing a sustainable council for the future. The Interim Chief Executive highlighted that there were a number of contract extensions listed in the report and that it was important that the council undertook procurement for contracts to achieve best value for money. In response, the Leader confirmed the report would be reviewed to ensure the necessary rigour on the awarding of contracts was in place.

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

RESOLVED: To approve the award of contract variation for South London Partnership Work & Health Programme Contract in accordance with the recommendations set out in the agenda at item 13a, as set out in section 4.1.1 of the report.

RESOLVED: To note

1. The list of decisions pursuant to Part 5 A Article 1.7 (Urgency Decisions) of the Council's Constitution, made as relevant body by the nominated Cabinet Member in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources or, where the nominated member is the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources in consultation with the Leader, as set out in section 4.2 of the report.
2. The contracts between £500,000 and £5,000,000 anticipated to be awarded by the nominated Cabinet Member, in consultation with the nominated Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources or, where the nominated Cabinet Member is the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Leader, as set out in section 4.2.1 of the report.
3. The list of delegated award decisions made by the Director of Commissioning and Procurement, between 18/06/2020 – 17/08/2020, as set out in section 4.2.2 of the report.
4. The list of summer recess delegated award decisions for contracts over £5,000,000 in value made by the nominated Cabinet Member in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources or, where the nominated Cabinet Member is the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources in consultation with the Leader since the last meeting of Cabinet, as set out in section 4.3.1 of the report.

5. The contracts between £500,000 and £5,000,000 anticipated to be awarded by the nominated Cabinet Member, in consultation with the nominated Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources or, where the nominated Cabinet Member is the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Leader, as set out in section 4.3.2 of the report.
6. The list of delegated award decisions made by the Director of Commissioning and Procurement, between 18/06/2020 – 17/08/2020, as set out in section 4.3.3 of the report.

a **DWP Work & Health Programme Job Entry: Targeted Support**

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, in response to Member questions, advised that the money was for targeted support and the requirements had been set by the Department for Work & Pensions. Whilst it was not possible to confirm the number of Croydon residents who would benefit from the varied contract as it covered South London, it was possible to confirm the number who had benefited from the previous contract and this detail would be provided.

The Leader of the Council delegated authority to the Cabinet to make the following decisions:

RESOLVED: To agree, in accordance with Regulation 30.3 of the Council's Tenders and Contracts Regulations, to vary the contract between London Borough of Croydon (as Co-Financing Organisation on behalf of the South London Partnership) and Reed In Partnership to include additional services required in light of Covid-19 at a value of £3.47 million for a period of 12 months at a maximum value of £16.85m.

73/20

Exclusion of the Press and Public

This item was not required.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm