

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	CABINET	
DATE	15 May 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	STAGE 1: RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY	
LEAD OFFICER:	<p>Jane West, Corporate Director for Resources</p> <p>Adrian May, Interim Head of Democratic Services T: 020 8726 6000 X 62529. Email: adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk</p>	
LEAD MEMBER:	<p>Councillor Rowenna Davis</p> <p>Chair, Scrutiny and Overview Committee</p>	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	<p>Recommendations that have been developed from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and its Sub-Committees since the last Cabinet meeting are provided in the appendices to this report. The constitution requires that an interim or full response is provided within 2 months of this Cabinet meeting.</p>	
KEY DECISION?	No	N/A
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	All	

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents recommendations to the Executive from the meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 26 March 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Executive Mayor has the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations contained within this report. The Executive Mayor in Cabinet is asked to:
1. Receive the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 26 March 2024 (Appendix 1).
 2. To provide a substantive response to these recommendations (a Scrutiny Stage 2 Report) at the Cabinet meeting on 24 July 2024.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

- 3.1** Part 4E of the Council's Constitution: Scrutiny and Overview Procedure Rules (paragraphs 8.5 – 8.7) and Section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000 requires the executive to consider and respond to a Scrutiny and Overview report within 2 months beginning with the date on which the executive receives the report or recommendation.

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

Scrutiny & Overview Committee

- 4.1** To provide additional context for the recommendations set out in appendices, outlined below are the conclusions reached by the Committee on the items considered.

Item: Croydon Community Safety Partnership

- 4.2** The Committee recognised the work of the Safer Croydon Partnership which had been delivered a wider range of activity across its priority areas, while operating within limited resources across a challenging and complex borough.
- 4.3** The Committee recognised the commitment of the Safer Croydon Partnership to increasing the level of community engagement in its work, which could be evidenced through the creation of the Community Safety Engagement Board.
- 4.4** The Committee recognised that the Safer Croydon Partnership had delivered a significant amount of work over 2023/24. It was agreed that future annual reviews should provide more quantitative data on the positive outcomes achieved through the Partnership.

Item: Violence Reduction Network – Draft Strategic Assessment

- 4.5** The Committee agreed that the Strategic Assessment was an excellent report which provided a clear and comprehensive summary of the key community safety challenges within the borough, with knife crime, robbery and reoffending rates being of particular concern.
- 4.6** The Committee commended the work of the Police in its partnership working with schools, including basing 22 full time officers in schools across the borough and providing extra patrols at school opening and closing times.
- 4.7** The Committee noted that, whilst work had started on its previous recommendation to create bespoke community plans to be created for high priority crime hot spot areas that involved their own unique community partners', the commitment to create plans for each area had not been completed, and this needed to be followed up.
- 4.8** The Committee agreed that Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings were an important mechanism for securing community engagement in community safety matters and as

such would encourage all Members to promote awareness of their local meetings through their own community networks.

Item: Violence Against Women & Girls – Deep Dive

- 4.9** The Committee welcomed the development of the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan for Croydon, including a supporting report prepared by an independent consultant which had been informed by community engagement.
- 4.10** The Committee welcomed confirmation that a briefing would be provided for Members on the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Delivery Plan.
- 4.11** The Committee welcomed confirmation that the Council looked to transfer funding, where possible, to community and voluntary sector groups through the commissioning of services and would be looking to prioritise them for any future grant funding. It was agreed that it was important to maximise the effectiveness of this approach by raising awareness amongst these organisations of any new funding opportunities becoming available.
- 4.12** There was concern about the cultural competence and equal treatment of victims, particularly from black and ethnic minority communities, that had also been picked up by the work of the Council's independent consultant. This needed to be addressed.
- 4.13** There was a concern that awareness about the excellent services available for victims and survivors of VAWG, in both the statutory and third sector, were not well known by the public, and this needs to be addressed.
- 4.14** In light of comments from the community meetings about the lack of awareness of the services available in the borough, the Committee welcomed confirmation there would be a review of the information provided in the community safety pages of the Council website, as this would be an opportunity to provide a centralised source outlining the support available in the borough. It was suggested that the production of hard copies of this information should also be explored for community distribution.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1** None. It is a statutory and constitutional requirement for the Executive to receive and respond to recommendations made by Scrutiny.

6 CONSULTATION / PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

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

7 CONTRIBUTION TO EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S BUSINESS PLAN

- 7.1** Outcome 1: The Council balances its books, listens to residents and delivers good sustainable services:

Priority 4: Ensure good governance is embedded and adopt best practice. The Council must learn the lessons of past failures and embed sound governance processes to ensure that decision-making is transparent, open and honest. These must ensure effective control of our projects and programmes and encourage meaningful scrutiny and challenge.

7.2 Outcome 4: Croydon is a cleaner, safer and healthier place, a borough we're proud to call home:

Priority 2: Ensuring our borough is and feels like a safe place to live is a top priority. We will strengthen partnerships between the voluntary, business and statutory sectors in Croydon to share intelligence and coordinate action. The Safer Croydon Partnership will be restructured, with six delivery boards focussed on violence against women and girls, youth safety, hot spot areas, counter-terrorism, substance misuse and community engagement. We will support the Police to tackle crime and violence in our borough. We recognise what 'Friends' Groups can do to tackle low level antisocial behaviour (ASB) and will work with residents and partners to crack down on ASB hot spots.

IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1.1** The Scrutiny recommendations to the Executive 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.
- 8.1.2** If any recommendation is subsequently progressed for consideration and decision by the Executive Mayor in Cabinet, full financial (as well as legal and equalities implications) would be presented.

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.2.1** Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000 ("The Act"), Scrutiny and Overview Committee (SOC) have the powers to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any executive and non-executive functions and to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. SOC also has the power to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority on matters, which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of its area.
- 8.2.2** Under Section 9FE of the Act, there is a duty on Cabinet to respond to the scrutiny report, indicating what (if any) action Cabinet proposes to take, within 2 months of receiving the report and recommendations.
- 8.2.3** Approved by: Sandra Herbert Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (09/04/2024)

8.3 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

8.3.1 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

8.4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.4.1 The Council has a statutory duty, when exercising its functions, to comply with the provisions set out in the Sec 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The Council must in the performance of its functions, therefore, have due regard to:

- i. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- ii. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- iii. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.4.2 The recommendations in the appendices to this report have equality implications and will require an EQIA as part of the development of the proposals. The implications will be explored to identify impact and mitigation utilised to negate any adverse impact where necessary.

8.7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

8.7.1 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.

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

NO

9 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Stage 1: Recommendations from Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 26 March 2024

10 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Meeting of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee held on 26 March 2024

<https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=166&MIId=3955>