



Finance and Resources

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

June 2018

New Deputy

I am delighted to say that Cllr Patsy Cummings has been appointed as my deputy. She was first elected in September 2017 and re-elected in May. She brings a wealth of experience in many different areas and is already actively supporting me, as well as driving forward her role as BME Champion, which has included organising the recent Windrush event.

Director of FM and Support Services

I would like to congratulate Mark Norrell who has been appointed to the new role of Director of Facilities Management and Support Services, having previously been the Head of Facilities Management, where he has been incredibly successful and effective.

Annual accounts and audit

This year, government reduced the time councils have to prepare their draft accounts from three months to two months. Lisa Taylor and her team worked incredibly hard to comply with this reduced time, with a high quality set of draft accounts and working papers for the auditors.

The audit is currently being carried out and, I understand, going to plan.

Outturn for 2017/18

The year-on-year government funding cuts, additional burdens which are not properly funded, the adverse impact of national legislation changes and the continued substantial growth in demand for services, not least Children's Services, makes financial management critical and challenging.

The outturn for 2017/18 showed a £1.3m. surplus before exceptional items. However, there were £6.3m. of exceptional items, relating to the additional costs from Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children and the rollout of Universal Credit. The overall £5.0m. deficit has been funded by £0.3m. from General Fund reserves and £4.7m. from the surplus in 17/18 on the Collection Fund.

Children's Improvement Finance Group

This group, chaired by myself and with Cllr Flemming and senior officers as members, meets monthly to ensure that the relevant resources are made available to support the improvement programme, to ensure that the resources are making a difference to the improvement journey and to ensure that we have a sustainable model going forward.

This work includes extra social work teams, higher levels of business support, increased levels of legal resource and contracts for additional services such as return home interviews.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



Finance and Resources

Cabinet Member Bulletin

Councillor Simon Hall

June 2018

New reporting app

Following some technical problems with the MyCroydon app, it was decided to take this offline. Because of our new approach to ICT, in terms of planning for improvements, we were already in the process of bringing in a replacement reporting app, based on one of the leading national providers. The new app will be up and running in the next few days.

Contract Management

The new robust approach to contract management is showing real advantages, not just in financial penalties but, more importantly, helping to ensure that contractors deliver their services to the required level or put in place improvement plans.

In some cases, the scope for the Council to achieve this is compromised by legacy contracts, that do not have the appropriate levers to ensure good performance. We are actively working to address this.