

London Borough of Croydon

Notice of Outcome of Meeting to consider Public Interest Report Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 24 and Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 an Extraordinary meeting of the Council was held on Thursday 3 February 2022 commencing at 6.30pm in order to consider the report in the public interest submitted by Sarah Ironmonger of Grant Thornton UK LLP, the local auditor of the accounts for the London Borough of Croydon, relating to the refurbishment of Fairfield Halls and related governance arrangements.

The full report is available online at the following website address: <http://www.croydon.gov.uk/publicinterestfairfield> .

Having considered the report in the public interest, accompanying Council report and supporting appendices presented to Council, which can be accessed here: <https://democracy.croydon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=2907>, the Council decided as follows:

- 1.1 To fully accept the findings of the Report in the Public Interest and the external auditor's recommendations;
- 1.2 To note that recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 11 have been identified by the external auditor as S24 statutory recommendations as detailed in appendix 1 to the report;
- 1.3 To note the range of corrective actions that have already been taken to date as detailed in paragraph 2 of the report;

- 1.4 To note that the financial issues detailed in the report have already been fully taken into account in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy as agreed by Council in March 2021 and that the report does not create any significant additional financial pressures that have not already been dealt with by the Council.
- 1.5 To consider and agree with the opinion contained in the Council's Chief Finance Officer's (Section 151 Officer) report set out in paragraph 4 of this report;
- 1.6 To consider and agree with the opinion contained in the Council's Monitoring Officer's report set out in paragraph 5 of this report;
- 1.7 To consider and agree the action plan detailed at appendix 2 to this report, that includes a response to each of the external auditor's recommendations, and the indicative timeline for actions and accountabilities;
- 1.8 To agree that the action plan be presented to both the General Purposes & Audit Committee and the Scrutiny & Overview Committee at their next meetings to consider and review the plan from their differing constitutional positions and report any feedback to Cabinet.
- 1.9 To request that Cabinet receives a report that includes any feedback on the action plan from the Scrutiny & Overview Committee and the General Purposes & Audit Committee and provides further detail on the delivery of the Action Plan, including the anticipated costs of implementing the recommendations;

- 1.10 To agree that the action plan be incorporated into the Croydon Renewal and Improvement Plan as part of the refresh currently underway;
- 1.11 That progress on implementing the external auditor's recommendations be included in the existing Croydon Renewal Improvement Plan update reports that are presented to Cabinet, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee, General Purposes and Audit Committee and Council;
- 1.12 Note that a report detailing proposals to finalise any further refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls will be presented to Cabinet in March 2022.
- 1.13 Note that the Chief Executive has written to the Directors of Brick by Brick to request that they review and explain the charge made to the Council in relation to the project management of the refurbishment of the Fairfield Halls and the variations.
- 1.14 Note that the Council will continue to maintain an open dialogue with the external auditor, Independent Chair of the General Purposes and Audit Committee, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Improvement and Assurance Panel to keep them appraised of the progress in implementing the Action Plan.

Dated this 16th day of February 2022.

Katherine Kerswell

Chief Executive Officer