

Croydon Council

Recovery Board

Terms of Reference

Context

On the 17th July 2025, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government used her powers under sections 15(5) and 15(6) of the Local Government Act 1999 to appoint Commissioners to Croydon Council.

She directed Croydon Council to work with the Commissioners to:

- Continue to develop and implement the London Borough of Croydon Stabilisation Plan and transformation programme to the satisfaction of Commissioners and as a minimum, to implement the following components:
 - a) To continue to address the culture of financial management at the Authority that remains poor in key respects.
 - b) To continue to restore public trust and confidence in the Authority by transforming the Authority's activities and practices, to ensure that they are compatible with the Best Value Duty.
 - c) To secure as soon as practicable that all the Authority's functions are exercised in conformity with the Best Value Duty thereby delivering improvements in services and outcomes for the people of Croydon.
- Report to the Secretary of State on the delivery of the London Borough of Croydon's Stabilisation Plan and transformation programme after a six-month period, with a second report before summer 2026, or at such intervals as Commissioners may direct and adopt any recommendations from Commissioners with respect to the London Borough of Croydon Stabilisation Plan and transformation programme and their implementation.

Purpose

The Board will oversee the development and delivery of the council's work to address the Secretary of State's directions set out above. It will enable the Commissioners to provide assurance to Croydon residents and the Secretary of State that the council is taking the right action and has the capacity and capability to deliver the improvement required.

To this end, the Board will:

1. promote a corporate, council-wide culture of continuous improvement and collective accountability for the Council's improvement journey towards achieving financial sustainability and meeting its Best Value Duty;

2. oversee, and receive reports on, the delivery of the Stabilisation Plan and transformation programme and subsequent action plans to ensure desired outcomes are achieved and the requirements of the Directions are delivered;
3. receive updates on the development of the Council's reporting to the Secretary of States from Members and senior officials, ensuring that this is done to the timescales set out in the Directions or as determined by the Commissioners;
4. provide advice, guidance and challenge to the council on the actions required.

It is for the council to take the actions required to deliver the Stabilisation Plan and transformation programme, using the policies and procedures it already has in place or introduces to enable the Plan to be delivered.

The Board will act as a consultative forum, providing challenge and advice as appropriate. The Commissioners will exercise the powers given to them by the Directions as and when necessary.

The Board will consider wide-ranging and potentially contentious solutions to rectify the current position of the council. For the Board to operate effectively, it is critical that Board members and deputies agree to treat these sensitive discussions as confidential.

The Board will not meet in public. Its minutes will be published on the Commissioners page on www.croydon.gov.uk.

Membership of the Board:

- Ged Curran – Lead Commissioner (Chair)
- Debbie Warren – Commissioner (Finance)
- Jackie Belton – Commissioner (Transformation)
- Abi Brown – Commissioner (Political Adviser)
- Jason Perry – Executive Mayor
- Councillor Lynne Hale - Deputy Mayor
- Councillor Jason Cummings - Cabinet Member for Finance
- Councillor Stuart King – Leader of the Opposition
- Elaine Jackson – Acting Chief Executive
- Jane West - Corporate Director, Resources (S151)
- Venetia Reid Baptise - Corporate Director, Sustainable Communities, Regeneration and Economic Recovery
- Annette McPartland - Corporate Director, Adult Social Care & Health (DASS)
- Stuart Collins - Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education (DCS)
- Susmita Sen - Corporate Director, Housing
- Kevin Kewin – Local Government Association
- Lindsey Lewis – Chief of Staff to the Commissioners