

<b>Item No.</b> 24.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 14 September 2021	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Report of the Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission: Review of Community Hubs	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That cabinet note the recommendations from the housing and community engagement scrutiny commission arising from the scrutiny review of community hubs (paragraphs 6 and 7).
2. That cabinet request that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet on the recommendations within eight weeks.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. At its meeting on 14 October 2020 the housing and community engagement scrutiny commission received a detailed report from the cabinet member for social support and homelessness on the Southwark Community Hub set up in response to the pandemic and resulting lockdown to provide support for vulnerable residents. The report also included the key findings and recommendations of the community hub review working group which was established in order to hear evidence from partners from across sectors and views on priorities for the future of the Community Hub.
4. At the same meeting, the commission also received a briefing from the cabinet member on the cabinet report 'Update on implementation of Southwark Community Support Alliance' which was due to be considered by cabinet on 20 October 2020.
5. The commission considered and agreed a set of recommendations put forward by the chair of the commission at its meeting on 26 April 2021. The rationale and commission recommendations are set out at paragraphs 6 and 7.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Set out below are the recommendations of the housing and community

engagement scrutiny commission:

6. It is important the council supports residents to move on from emergency food support, where this is possible and appropriate. This means that Southwark Council should be offering advice and support on accessing full entitlement to benefits, employment and training support, housing advice, financial planning advice (paying bills etc.), childcare entitlement and immigration advice. If this support is best delivered in the community hub, then the council needs to be developing and funding this service adequately. If support is best delivered via other means, we need to ensure there is a clear triage and referral process in community hubs. With finances constrained, it is important Southwark is not paying/funding this in two places.

Recommendation 1 - That Cabinet ask officers to review support available to those no longer accessing emergency support to ensure services are funded and there is no duplication.

7. If new services become available in community hubs, Southwark may need to reconsider providing similar services centrally. Conversely, if Southwark has a well-run centralised service, we should be building on that success and not duplicating via the community hubs. Many services have performed better and more consistently when centralised.

Recommendation 2 - That cabinet takes steps to ensure duplication is not occurring as a result of new services being provided from community hubs.

8. It is for the cabinet to decide whether or not to accept the scrutiny commission's recommendations.
9. Overview and scrutiny procedure rule 15.3 requires the cabinet to consider and provide a written response to the report within two months.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission agenda and minutes – 14 October 2020	Southwark Council Website	Amit Alva <a href="mailto:Amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk">Amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk</a>
<b>Link (please copy and paste into browser):</b> <a href="https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=551&amp;MId=6816&amp;Ver=4">https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=551&amp;MId=6816&amp;Ver=4</a> (see item 8)		
Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission agenda and minutes – 26 April 2021	Southwark Council Website	Amit Alva <a href="mailto:Amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk">Amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk</a>
<b>Link (please copy and paste into browser):</b> <a href="https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=551&amp;MId=7064&amp;Ver=4">https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=551&amp;MId=7064&amp;Ver=4</a> (see item 8)		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Member</b>	Councillor Gavin Edwards, Chair, Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Governance	
<b>Report Author</b>	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	2 September 2021	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	2 September 2021	