

Mayor and Cabinet			
Title	Comments of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on transforming rehabilitation		
Contributor	Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee	Item No.	
Class	Part 1	Date	11/09/13

1. Summary

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the views and comments of the 29th July 2013 Safer Stronger Select Committee, arising from a probation service report '*transforming rehabilitation*', which advised the select committee on changes affecting the future of the probation service.

2. Recommendation

The Mayor is recommended to note the views of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee as set out in section three of this referral and agree that the Executive Director for Community Services be asked to respond.

3. Safer Stronger Select Committee views

- 3.1 On 29 July 2013, the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee considered a report entitled *transforming rehabilitation* provided by the London Probation Trust.
- 3.2 The Committee wishes to express, in the strongest terms, its opposition to the Government's proposals for reforming the delivery of probation services and the management of adult offenders.
- 3.3 The Committee is opposed to the privatisation of provision for rehabilitation of offenders. The Committee is extremely concerned about the suitability of private sector organisations to manage community rehabilitation and probation. It is also concerned about the transfer of offenders between private and public provision because of the unpredictable level of risk posed by offenders as well as the complicated arrangement of the payment mechanism being proposed.
- 3.4 The Committee is troubled by the failure of some government contracts with the private sector to meet basic standards of transparency and cost effectiveness.
- 3.5 The Committee is concerned about the risks involved in the transition from existing provision to the new structure of services.
- 3.6 The Committee does not believe that all of the potential risks to the successful implementation of the new model have been fully considered.
- 3.7 The Committee believes that further representations should be made by the Council to the appropriate authority setting out the concerns about these changes.

4. Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising out of the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

5. Legal implications

The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

6. Crime and disorder implications

There are likely to be significant and wide-ranging implications arising from the changes being proposed to the rehabilitation of offenders. These will need to be considered in the response.

7. Further implications

At this stage there are no specific environmental or equalities implications to consider.

Background papers

Transforming rehabilitation:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s23819/05%20Probation%20290713.pdf>

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Timothy Andrew, Scrutiny Manager (0208 3147916), or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business & Committee (0208 3149327).