

## Public Document Pack

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Monday, 14 October 2013

**7.00 pm,**

Civic Suite

Lewisham Town Hall

London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Salena Mulhere 0208 314 3380

### Part 1

Item		Pages
1.	Minutes of the meetings held on 30 April 2013 and 26 June 2013	1 - 5
2.	Declarations of Interest	6 - 9
3.	Response from Mayor and Cabinet: Responding to the consultation on the Draft Fifth London Safety Plan	10 - 25
4.	Emergency Services Review: DRAFT final report	
	To follow.	
5.	Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet	

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Monday, 14 October 2013.

Barry Quirk, Chief Executive  
Thursday, 3 October 2013

Councillor Alan Hall (Chair)

Councillor Kevin Bonavia (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Olufunke Abidoye

Councillor Jackie Addison

Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye

Councillor Anne Affiku

Councillor Christine Allison

Councillor Abdeslam Amrani

Councillor Pauline Beck

Councillor Paul Bell

Councillor John Bowen

Councillor David Britton

Councillor Duwayne Brooks

Councillor Suzannah Clarke

Councillor Jenni Clutten

Councillor Liam Curran

Councillor Vincent Davis

Councillor Amanda De Ryk

Councillor Alexander Feakes

Councillor Peggy Fitzsimmons

Councillor Julia Fletcher

Councillor Patsy Foreman	
Councillor Vicky Foxcroft	
Councillor Helen Gibson	
Councillor Sven Griesenbeck	
Councillor Carl Handley	
Councillor Michael Harris	
Councillor Ami Ibitson	
Councillor Mark Ingleby	
Councillor Stella Jeffrey	
Councillor Darren Johnson	
Councillor Madeliene Long	
Councillor Chris Maines	
Councillor Jim Mallory	
Councillor Pauline Morrison	
Councillor John Muldoon	
Councillor Marion Nisbet	
Councillor Sam Owolabi-Oluyole	
Councillor Stephen Padmore	
Councillor Jacq Paschoud	
Councillor John Paschoud	
Councillor Philip Peake	
Councillor Eva Stamirowski	
Councillor Alan Till	
Councillor Dan Whittle	

## **MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 30 April 2013 at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Hall (Chair), Olufunke Abidoye, Obajimi Adefiranye, Abdeslam Amrani, Pauline Beck, Paul Bell, Suzannah Clarke, Liam Curran, Julia Fletcher, Patsy Foreman, Vicky Foxcroft, Sven Griesenbeck, Carl Handley, Ami Ibitson, Mark Ingleby, Stella Jeffrey, Darren Johnson, Chris Maines, Pauline Morrison, Sam Owolabi-Oluyole, Jacq Paschoud, Philip Peake, Eva Stamirowski and Alan Till

ALSO PRESENT: Timothy Andrew, Salena Mulhere, Barrie Neal and Petra Der Man

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Britton, Councillor Vincent Davis, Councillor Jim Mallory, Councillor John Muldoon, Councillor Marion Nisbet and Councillor John Paschoud

### **1. Minutes of the Meetings Held on 11 February 2013 and 20 March 2013**

RESOLVED: Subject to the addition of Cllr Ingleby as in attendance and the deletion of section 4 in the minute of the meeting on 11 February 2013, the minutes of both meetings were agreed as a true record.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

### **3. OSC Select Committee Appointments**

RESOLVED: The Committee reviewed the membership of the Safer And Stronger Communities Select Committee and approved the appointment of Councillor Olufunke Abidoye to the Committee in place of Councillor Vicky Foxcroft

### **4. Emergency Services Review - Update**

4.1 The Chair advised the Committee that the public consultation on the Draft Fifth London Safety Plan 2013-2016 closed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June. The Committee discussed the consultation timetable and the proposals for Lewisham. The Committee noted the consultation meeting in Lewisham takes place on Wednesday 22 May at 7pm at Sydenham School.

4.2 The Committee agreed its full support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross.

4.3 The Committee noted concern regarding the proposal to remove a fire engine from Peckham fire station, given the potential impact of this proposal on the residents of Lewisham.

4.4 The Committee resolved that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee respond to the consultation on behalf of the Committee to reflect the views and concerns of the Committee.

4.5 The Committee resolved to call upon the Mayor to also respond to the consultation and express support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New

Cross and to also express concern regarding the proposals in Southwark, given their potential impact on the people of Lewisham.

4.6 Salena Mulhere introduced the report. The key points to note were:

- All Select Committees had been advised of the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny committee on 11 February 2013 to undertake the review
- Sustainable Development would be considering a scoping report the next evening, all other select committees bar CYP had received a scoping report.
- Upon consideration of a scoping report, PAC decided not to take any evidence as part of the review at this time as it felt it would be duplication, however PAC resolved to take up any concerns, in relation to finances, raised by the other select committees in the future if any are raised.
- The other three select committees had received scoping reports and plan to take evidence as part of the review
- It is suggested that as all select committees currently plan to have taken all evidence and agreed recommendations by September, a report of the review and the recommendations of all the select committees be prepared for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the Autumn.

4.7 The Committee discussed the decisions of the CYP and the Public Accounts Select Committees, and the Chair proposed:

- that the Committee agree to receive a draft report and all select committee recommendations in the Autumn
- that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair any decision relating to dealing with any financial concerns raised by the select committees,
- that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that Business Panel receive a scoping report of the CYP elements of the review to consider,
- that on receipt of the scoping report, Business Panel then decide how that element of the review could be carried out,
- that the scoping report include:
  - (a) Engagement with young people in schools via the schools police officer and Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) engagement with primary schools
  - (b) Engagement work with young people in relation to fire prevention, fire safety and, if appropriate, in relation to hoax calling
  - (c) Support to schools emergency planning in relation to fire evacuation
  - (d) Any implications for children's social services including changes to youth offending services
  - (e) Potential healthcare service implications for children related to the proposed changes to A&E services and related acute paediatric services

4.8 This proposal was agreed by the Committee.

4.9 Councillor Curran welcomed the scope coming to sustainable development the next day, and asked for confirmation that it would cover transport. Salena Mulhere confirmed that the scope for Sustainable development would cover transport concerns, Healthier Communities would lead on "blue light" travel for ambulances in relation to health outcomes.

4.10 Councillor Morrisson confirmed that Safer Stronger select committee would be taking evidence on the fire proposals at its next meeting.

- 4.11 The Committee discussed the importance of members being clear on the new structures that exist in the local policing model across the borough, and the responsible sergeants for ward based teams. The Committee agreed that this information for members needed to be requested from Lewisham Metropolitan Police Service.
- 4.12 The Committee discussed the impact of the Police and Crime Plan 2013-2015 on public engagement, and specifically the impact this would have on engagement in Lewisham through the Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group (LCPCG). Councillor Johnson confirmed that it was a Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime (MOPAC) decision to change the CPCG model to a "Safer Neighbourhood Board" in every borough by 2014, with the functions of the Boards set out by MOPAC.
- 4.13 The Committee discussed the format of the new Board and agreed a desire to ensure that community led engagement was at the heart of any replacement to the LCPCG in Lewisham.
- 4.14 The Committee discussed the recent update, received by Healthier Communities Select Committee, on the integration planning being undertaken by Lewisham Healthcare Trust in respect of the Secretary of State decision to integrate the Queen Elizabeth Hospital into the trust.
- 4.15 Councillor Maines advised the Committee that Healthier Communities were advised that no changes would be made in advance of any legal decision, and that work was underway on due diligence and practical handovers such as staffing so that effective services could continue if the merger were to go ahead. Councillor Jeffrey seconded the information provided and advised that members were assured that early planning needed to go ahead so organisations were ready to respond to any changes enforced by the decisions made.
- 4.16 The Chair noted his concern that quite large organisational changes that may impact on services provided were being discussed and planned without full engagement with local councils and local people.
- 4.17 RESOLVED: The Committee agreed its full support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross.
- 4.18 RESOLVED: The Committee noted concern regarding the proposal to remove a fire engine from Peckham fire station, given the potential impact of this proposal on the residents of Lewisham.
- 4.19 RESOLVED: That the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee respond to the consultation on behalf of the Committee to reflect the views and concerns of the Committee.
- 4.20 RESOLVED: To call upon the Mayor to also respond to the consultation and express support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross and to also express concern regarding the proposals in Southwark, given their potential impact on the people of Lewisham.
- 4.21 RESOLVED:
- that the Committee agree to receive a draft report and all select committee recommendations in the Autumn
  - that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair any decision relating to dealing with any financial concerns raised by the select committees,

- that Business Panel receive a scoping report of the CYP elements of the review to consider,
- that on receipt of the scoping report, Business Panel then decide how that element of the review could be carried out,
- that the scoping report include:
  - (f) Engagement with young people in schools via the schools police officer and Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) engagement with primary schools
  - (g) Engagement work with young people in relation to fire prevention, fire safety and, if appropriate, in relation to hoax calling
  - (h) Support to schools emergency planning in relation to fire evacuation
  - (i) Any implications for children's social services including changes to youth offending services
  - (j) Potential healthcare service implications for children related to the proposed changes to A&E services and related acute paediatric services

4.22 RESOLVED: That an “organogram” from Lewisham Metropolitan Police service outlining the new staffing structure across the borough be requested

## **5. Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet**

The Committee resolved to refer the following points to Mayor and Cabinet:

- The Committee agreed its full support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross.
- The Committee noted concern regarding the proposal to remove a fire engine from Peckham fire station, given the potential impact of this proposal on the residents of Lewisham.
- The Committee resolved that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee respond to the consultation on behalf of the Committee to reflect the views and concerns of the Committee.
- The Committee resolved to call upon the Mayor to also respond to the consultation and express support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross and to also express concern regarding the proposals in Southwark, given their potential impact on the people of Lewisham.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm

# MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 26 June 2013 at 8.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Hall (Chair), Kevin Bonavia (Vice-Chair), Olufunke Abidoye, Jackie Addison, Obajimi Adefiranye, Pauline Beck, Paul Bell, John Bowen, David Britton, Duwayne Brooks, Suzannah Clarke, Jenni Clutten, Liam Curran, Vincent Davis, Amanda De Ryk, Alexander Feakes, Julia Fletcher, Patsy Foreman, Vicky Foxcroft, Helen Gibson, Sven Griesenbeck, Carl Handley, Michael Harris, Ami Ibitson, Mark Ingleby, Stella Jeffrey, Darren Johnson, Chris Maines, Jim Mallory, Pauline Morrison, Sam Owolabi-Oluyole, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Philip Peake, Eva Stamirowski, Alan Till and Dan Whittle.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Chris Best, Councillor Janet Daby, Councillor Damien Egan, Councillor Paul Maslin, Councillor Joan Millbank, Councillor Crada Onuegbu and Mayor Sir Steve Bullock.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Christine Allison, Councillor Abdeslam Amrani, Councillor Peggy Fitzsimmons, Councillor Madeliene Long, Councillor John Muldoon and Councillor Marion Nisbet.

## 1. OSC Chairs & Vice Chairs

**RESOLVED** that the Committee notes that recent changes in party strength do not require any alteration to the current proportional allocation of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of select committees.

## 2. OSC Select Committee Appointments

**RESOLVED** That the Committee notes that the Labour Group representation on the Housing Select Committee has increased to eight places while the Liberal Democrat allocation has been reduced to two places but that no changes to personnel are required as Councillor De Ryk has been nominated by the Labour Group to assume the position she formerly held as a Liberal Democrat.



# Agenda Item 2

<b>Committee</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>Item No.</b>	2
<b>Title</b>	Declarations of Interest		
<b>Wards</b>			
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	<b>Date</b>	14 October 2013

## Declaration of interests

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

### 1 Personal interests

There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct :-

- (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (2) Other registerable interests
- (3) Non-registerable interests

### 2 Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined by regulation as:-

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person\* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship –payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).
- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person\* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member's knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person\* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.

- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:-
- (a) that body to the member's knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough; and
  - (b) either
    - (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
    - (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person\* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

\*A relevant person is the member, their spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom they live as spouse or civil partner.

### **(3) Other registerable interests**

The Lewisham Member Code of Conduct requires members also to register the following interests:-

- (a) Membership or position of control or management in a body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) Any body exercising functions of a public nature or directed to charitable purposes, or whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party
- (c) Any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25

### **(4) Non registerable interests**

Occasions may arise when a matter under consideration would or would be likely to affect the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect the wellbeing of those in the local area generally, but which is not required to be registered in the Register of Members' Interests (for example a matter concerning the closure of a school at which a Member's child attends).

### **(5) Declaration and Impact of interest on member's participation**

- (a) Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take no part in consideration of the matter

and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**

- (b) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph (c) below applies.
- (c) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- (d) If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- (e) Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

## **(6) Sensitive information**

There are special provisions relating to sensitive interests. These are interests the disclosure of which would be likely to expose the member to risk of violence or intimidation where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that such interest need not be registered. Members with such an interest are referred to the Code and advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance.

## **(7) Exempt categories**

There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-

- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)

- (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor;
- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception)

# Agenda Item 3

Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
<b>Report Title</b>	Response from Mayor and Cabinet to matters referred by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee – the consultation on the draft Fifth London Safety Plan.	
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	Item No 3
<b>Ward</b>	All	
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Resources (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: October 14 2013

## 1. Summary

This report informs members of the response given at Mayor and Cabinet to a referral in respect of recommendations to the Mayor following the discussions held on the consultation on the draft Fifth London Safety Plan which the Committee considered in April 2013.

## 2. Purpose of the Report

To report to members the response given at Mayor and Cabinet to recommendations made by the Committee on April 30 2013.

## 3. Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to receive the Mayoral response to their consideration of consultation on the draft Fifth London Safety Plan.

## 4. Background

- 4.1 The Mayor considered the attached report entitled 'Response to the Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the consultation on the draft Fifth London Safety Plan' at the Mayor & Cabinet meeting held on June 19 2013.

## 5. Mayoral Response

- 5.1 Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor Janet Daby, the Mayor resolved that:

(i) the consultation response which was submitted as part of the London Fire Brigade's consultation exercise on the draft fifth London Safety Plan, and which included the issues referred to the Mayor by the

Overview and Scrutiny Committee following their meeting on 30 April 2013 be received; and

(ii) this report be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Mayor & Cabinet minutes June 19 2013

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business & Committee, 0208 314 9327

<b>MAYOR AND CABINET</b>			
<b>Report Title</b>	Response to the Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the consultation on the draft Fifth London safety Plan.		
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	Item No.	
<b>Ward</b>	All		
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Community Services		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 19 June 2013	

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This report presents Lewisham's response to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority's consultation on the draft fifth London Safety Plan. The consultation response includes the issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which they referred to the Mayor on 1 May 2013.

## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the consultation response which was submitted as part of the London Fire Brigade's consultation exercise on the draft fifth London Safety Plan, and which included the issues referred to the Mayor by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following their meeting on 30 April 2013. (The response forms Appendix 1 to this report.)
- 2.2 Agree that this report should be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **3. Policy Context**

- 3.1 The draft fifth London Safety Plan 2013 - 2016 sets out the aims and objectives of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) in relation to:

- Prevention
- Protection
- Response
- Resources
- People
- Principles

- 3.2 The plan includes a number of proposals regarding reviews of and changes to provision and services in London.
- 3.3 The overall vision for Lewisham is established in the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Safer Lewisham Partnership contribute to the achievement of the Safer strand – where people feel safe and live free from crime, antisocial behaviour and abuse and works together with partners to:
- Reduce the overall level of crime to below the London average.
  - Tackle antisocial behaviour and ensure that people feel confident and safe throughout the borough.
  - Keep our children and young people safe from harm, abuse and criminal activity.
  - A reduction in the rates of crime that impact most upon Lewisham, such as serious violent crime, serious acquisitive crime and repeat incidents of domestic violence.
  - A reduction in the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System.
  - A reduction in reoffending and substance misuse among Lewisham’s adults and young people.
  - A reduction in the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on Lewisham’s roads.
- 3.4 The work of the Partnership also supports the Council priority - ‘safety, security and a visible presence’ which details the Council’s partnership working with the Police and others to combat anti social behaviour.

#### **4. Referral**

- 4.1 On the 30 April 2013, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered an update report on the progress of the ongoing scrutiny review of emergency services in Lewisham. The Committee also discussed the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) consultation on the Draft fifth London Safety Plan.
- 4.2 As part of their discussions the Committee resolved to call upon the Mayor to respond to the consultation and express support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross and to also express concern regarding the proposals in Southwark, given their potential impact on the people of Lewisham.
- 4.3 At the Mayor and Cabinet meeting on 1 May 2013 the Executive Director for Community Services was tasked with responding to this referral, and as a result has ensured that the comments and issues raised are central to the consultation response.



## **5. Response**

- 5.1 There has been wide spread communications with key stakeholders, partners and all Cllrs to advise of the consultation event which took place in the borough on 22 May. Additionally all appropriate agencies and individuals were asked to respond as they felt appropriate. The Consultation will also be discussed at June's Safer Lewisham Partnership.
- 5.2 As with all possible closures of emergency service buildings, officers will ensure detailed responses are put through the formal routes to register Lewisham's views.
- 5.3 In responding to the consultation officers specifically expressed concern for the proposals to close the two fire stations and the Mayor and Council's support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross.
- 5.4 Additionally the response expressed concern regarding the proposals in Southwark and made clear the Council's belief that these would have a significant negative impact on the people of Lewisham.
- 5.5 Both key issues have been supported with a range of evidence and data, to ensure that the reasons for the strength of feeling were robustly evidenced.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this response.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this response, save for noting that the Council's Constitution provides that the Executive may respond to reports and or recommendations by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **8. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this response.

## **9. Equalities Implications**

- 9.1 The Safer Lewisham Partnership priorities impact on large sections of the community, including the most vulnerable. The focus on effective interventions in the Criminal Justice System ensures that Human Rights remain essential to the strategy's vision, strategic themes and monitoring processes.

9.2 One of the Partnership's key outcomes is to ensure equity in representation and that equality and diversity issues are followed in the work of the partnership.

## **10 Environmental Implications**

10.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this response.

### **Background Papers**

1. Draft Fifth London Safety Plan

For further information please contact Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney, Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People on 020 8314 9569.

<b>Consultation Response - Fifth London Safety Plan – 2013-2016</b>	
<b>Authority</b>	<b>London Borough of Lewisham</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney, Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People, Community Services Directorate</b>

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Lewisham Council is concerned by the proposals contained within the Draft Fifth London Safety Plan.
- 1.2 We believe that the proposals to close New Cross and Downham Fire Stations will have a disproportionate impact on the Borough, losing two of the five fire stations and a third of all appliances.
- 1.3 We are concerned that borough-wide average response times hides significant increases at a ward level. While attendance in some areas will continue at the same rate, others may see an increase ranging from 4 to 10 minutes longer.
- 1.4 Many of the fire stations outside the Borough under threat from closure also respond to incidents in the Lewisham area and we are concerned about the impact this will have on responding to incidents in the locality.
- 1.5 We are also concerned that Lewisham will lose a disproportionate number of officers to redundancy. Lewisham's total officer numbers currently are 212, a loss of 64 officers based at Downham and New Cross Fire Stations would represent a 30% reduction. We believe this is likely to have a disproportionate impact on the borough.

## **2. Introduction**

- 2.1 This is Lewisham Council's response to the Draft Fifth London Safety Plan Consultation. It incorporates the views of The Mayor of Lewisham, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, relevant Council services and the Safer Lewisham Partnership.
- 2.2 Lewisham has an excellent Safer Partnership which has for many years worked positively, together, towards a safer Lewisham and will continue to do so. Whilst the London Safety Plan is a step towards identifying priorities for London, it is imperative that local arrangements and the improvements and developments our Safer Partnership have undertaken to date are supported to continue.

- 2.3 The work undertaken in Lewisham to date has led to a significant positive impact on a majority of local fire and crime statistics. This includes less victims of crime, and also a much broader approach to working with all key stakeholders in the criminal justice system.
- 2.4 The Mayor and Cabinet, Select Committees and the Safer Lewisham Partnership feel very strongly about the plan's proposals and do not feel that sufficient consideration has been given to the real and significant impact, particularly the closure of stations, will have on Lewisham residents.
- 2.5 This response focuses on the key issues for Lewisham and highlights the strength of feeling with regard to specific proposals in particular in relation to fire station closures.

### 3. Fire Stations

- 3.1 The London Fire Brigade's budget envelope necessitates large savings to be made there. There is real concern in Lewisham about the impact the savings will have in relation to locality and access and deployment to local areas in a timely manner. Lewisham residents and their elected representatives additionally believe that the closure of public service buildings as a whole is symbolic of disinvestment and would be a detrimental social loss.
- 3.2 We feel that the cumulative impact has not been considered in the modelling that has taken place. Stations in other boroughs can and will assist in fires within Lewisham, but there is little recognition that some stations may not be functional due to refurbishments, whilst other stations will experience reductions in units which will mean there will not be a fully modelled service in practice.
- 3.3 Lewisham has five stations: Deptford, Downham, Forest Hill, Lewisham and New Cross. All except Forest Hill, have 1 appliance. Forest Hill has 2.
- 3.4 Last year, there were a total of 2,151 incidents in Lewisham.

Lewisham		
Total Number of Incidents (excluding false alarms)	2,151	
Fires Attended	874	15th most in London
Special Services (flooding, road traffic collisions etc.) attended	1,277	7th most in London

- 3.5 Both Downham and New Cross Fire Stations are proposed for closure. According to the LFB, the impact of these closures will be an increase in the arrival of both the first and second fire engines at an incident in the Lewisham area. The average attendance time for first appliances arriving at emergency incidents for Lewisham is 04.47mins. If the proposed cuts are implemented, it will increase to 05.18mins. This means the first fire engine will arrive, on average, 31 seconds later while the second fire engine will arrive 12 seconds later, on average.
- 3.6 These statistics are borough wide averages. At a more local level, the attendance times will differ dramatically. While attendance in some areas will continue at the same rate, others may see an increase ranging from 4 to 10 minutes longer.
- 3.7 Furthermore we understand the increases in times for arrival of engines are much more significant than initially suggested and vary considerably between wards. Catford will see a 44 second increase to 6.13 minutes, Telegraph Hill will increase from 5.15 to 7.24 minutes and whilst in Whitefoot response times will increase by 2 minutes and 49 seconds to almost 8 minutes. This is important, as seconds are critical - a domestic fire can quadruple in intensity in just 2 minutes.
- 3.8 We understand that the clock starts ticking to record attendance times NOT from when the 999 call is received, but from when the job is allocated to a fire station and the clock stops when the appliance arrives at the scene and the fire fighters press a button to say they have arrived. The published response times therefore do not necessarily give a true picture of:
- a) the total time it takes from when the fire is reported to when the appliance arrives, and
  - b) the time it may take from when the engine stops at the location to when the fire-fighters are actually in a position to start tackling the fire/emergency
- 3.9 We also understand that the LFB policy is that no fire fighter would enter a building until the second appliance has arrived, making the arrival of the second appliance crucial in fighting fires and saving lives. Therefore it is the time taken for the second appliance to arrive on scene which is the critical not the time for the first. We do not feel this is clear in the report and has significant implications and heightens the impact of proposed closures.
- 4. Incidents**
- 4.1 New Cross fire station responded to 553 incidents in the last 6 months. Of these, 283 occurred within Southwark (51.2% of the total number of incidents), while 261 (47.2%) occurred within Lewisham.
- 4.2 Downham fire station responded to 413 incidents in the last 6 months. Of these, 284 occurred within Lewisham (68.8% of the total number of incidents).

- 4.3 Many of the fire stations outside the Borough under threat from closure also respond to incidents in the Lewisham area. The chart below sets out how many incidents in Lewisham fire stations from outside the Borough under threat of closure responded to in the last 6 months:

<b>Stations facing Closure/Loss of Pump</b>	<b>Borough</b>	<b>Incidents responded to in Lewisham</b>
Peckham	Southwark	29
Whitechapel	Tower Hamlets	4
Silvertown	Newham	2
Clapham	Lambeth	1
Westminster	Westminster	1
		<b>37</b>

- 4.4 Overall 582 incidents were responded to in Lewisham by stations under threat of closure in the last 6 months.

New Cross fire station	261
Downham fire station	284
Other potentially cut stations	37
<b>Total incidents responded to in Lewisham by stations under threat of closure in the last 6 months</b>	<b>582</b>

- 4.5 In February this year, fire crews were called to a house fire in Culverly Road in Catford. Fortunately a family of four escaped before fire-fighters arrived. Four fire engines attended the scene from Downham, New Cross, Beckenham and Lee Green fire stations; 2 of which are proposed to close. Future responses to similar fires could be seriously affected by these plans.
- 4.6 In April 2010, there was a fire in a school on Monson Road, New Cross. Ten fire engines and around 50 fire-fighters responded to the call. The stations who responded, which didn't include New Cross, included a number proposed to close or lose an appliance. Lewisham, Greenwich, Peckham, Forest Hill, Brixton, Southwark, Old Kent Road and Deptford. If the planned cuts go ahead, those fire engines would not have been able to respond to this fire in Lewisham.

## 5. Impact on other Boroughs

- 5.1 The loss of New Cross and Downham fire stations will not just affect residents of Lewisham. In the last 6-months, both have responded to incidents outside the borough for a significant amount of their calls. New Cross for 52.8% of their calls, Downham for 31.2% of theirs:

### New Cross

Borough of incident location	Mobilisations from New Cross fire station	Percentage of mobilisations from New Cross fire station
Southwark	283	51.2%
Greenwich	6	1.1%
Tower Hamlets	1	0.2%
Lambeth	1	0.2%
NULL*	1	0.2%
Grand Total	292	52.8%

\*Incident records incomplete

### Downham

Borough of incident location	Mobilisations from Downham fire station	Percentage of mobilisations from Downham fire station
Bromley	99	24.0%
Greenwich	21	5.1%
Croydon	4	1.0%
Lambeth	3	0.7%
Bexley	1	0.2%
NULL*	1	0.2%
Grand Total	129	31.2%

5.2 The impact of the potential fire station closures, both within Lewisham and in surrounding areas, reaches far beyond their physical locality. London Fire Brigade responds to incidents in an integrated way, with responses coming from across boroughs.

5.4 It is of concern that under the proposals, stations will have a greater area to cover (in terms of emergency and preventative work) but with 12% less staff.

## **6. Reduction in Staff**

6.1 Whilst we recognise that budget reductions will undoubtedly mean reductions in staffing, the consultation document comments on reductions in senior staff. We understand that there is likely to be a reduction of 520 officers across London, however with the 2 fire stations proposed to close in Lewisham we see a reduction of 64 officers; a 12.3% loss for a single borough. Lewisham's total officer numbers currently are 212, a loss of 64 officers would be a 30.1% reduction. We believe this is a disproportionate impact on the borough of Lewisham.

## **7. Crime Prevention**

7.1 We are pleased to see a focus on crime prevention and have already done a lot of work across a number of areas; developing a hoarders protocol, developing joint work in Priority areas (P1 areas), and working with local social housing providers in relation to lift releases. The report focuses on fires in care homes and sheltered housing, and the Young Educated People, which we feel is important. However, there may be further vulnerable groups that require some focus such as alcohol and drug users. We are keen to share work we have undertaken in this area locally, and feel this could be an important cross London area of focus.

7.2 LFB note that there is no link to increased population and increased fire risk, but acknowledge that deprivation and age are two factors that increase the risks of fire and that lifestyle factors are the main causes of fire. This is of importance to a borough like Lewisham. We understand that more people are opening up old fire places and having real fires in part due to benefit cuts and austerity. This could be seen as a potential increase in risk that has not been taken account of thus far.

## **8. Emergency Planning**

8.1 We are pleased to see the continued support and priority placed on emergency planning arrangements, and have always found the Fire Brigade to be a valuable partner in this area of work. It is important in times of staff reductions across all public services that arrangements for these exceptional incidents are maintained to provide both intervention and reassurance to local communities.



## **9. Youth Work**

- 9.1 We commend the work of the LIFE programme and have supported this for many years. It is important that development of any youth work is done in conjunction with Local Authorities and appropriate voluntary and community groups to ensure that greatest impact and variety of provision is available whilst supporting all agencies trying to do valuable work in the local community.

## **10. Checking for Fire Risks**

- 10.1 We see this area of anti social behaviour as significant and important. Local Authorities should be able to work closely with the Fire Brigade to help identify and review empty properties, and work closely with environmental services to support removal of fly-tipping / discarded items etc. which are a fire risk.

## **11 London Building Act**

- 11.1 The withdrawal of the Fire Safety and Property Protection aspects of the London Building Act is a concern. The London Building Act required enhanced property protection measures and particularly sprinkler protection for any significant building (i.e. one in excess of 7,000 m<sup>3</sup>) in the capital and enhanced fire resistance and compartmentalisation requirements for many others. The withdrawal of these requirements and the fact that buildings originally designed with these requirements in place need no longer comply, could significantly deteriorate the protection levels of building stock in the Capital. The FPA have already evidenced building owners choosing to decommission or rip out sprinkler systems in buildings undergoing refurbishment or renewal and this is likely to become more of a feature over time. The loss of this type of inherent protection will invariably affect fire and rescue tactics and response.

- 11.2 As a consequence of the need for greater thermo efficiency and the introduction of more combustible materials into the building process we feel consideration needs to be given as how this will affect building structures on fire. In London we have already seen the consequences of increased radiated heat from timber framed construction site fires; modern buildings generally use more combustible materials and as we have already witnessed do perform differently in fire and this will affect intervention times and fire-fighting strategies in the future.

## **12 Sprinklers**

- 12.1 Whilst we understand the rational and benefits of this in new and old properties, further work needs to be done with local areas and developers in relation to the possibility of adding these to properties both new and old. Perhaps discussions can be had at a regional level to assist with the costs and implementation of this possibility.

12.2 Lewisham will be working closely with LFB colleagues to deliver on the outcomes indicated, whilst continuing to undertake annual strategic assessments to better understand our issues and set local priorities which meet the needs of all our citizens.

<b>Mayor and Cabinet</b>			
<b>Title</b>	Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on responding to the consultation on the Draft Fifth London Safety Plan		
<b>Contributor</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>Item No.</b>	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	<b>Date</b>	01 May 2013

## **1. Summary**

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, arising from discussions held on the officer report entitled "Emergency Services Review- Update", considered at its meeting on the 30 April 2013.

## **2. Recommendation**

The Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to consider the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in section three of this referral and agree that the Executive Director for Community Services be asked to respond.

## **3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee views**

- 3.1 On the 30 April 2013, the Committee considered an update report on the progress, of the ongoing scrutiny review, of emergency services in Lewisham. The Committee discussed the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) consultation on the Draft Fifth London Safety Plan.
- 3.2 The Committee agreed its full support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross.
- 3.3 The Committee noted concern regarding the proposal to remove a fire engine from Peckham fire station, given the potential impact of this proposal on the residents of Lewisham.
- 3.4 The Committee resolved that the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee respond to the consultation on behalf of the Committee to reflect the views and concerns of the Committee.
- 3.5 The Committee resolved to call upon the Mayor to also respond to the consultation and express support for the retention of the fire stations at Downham and New Cross and to also express concern regarding the proposals in Southwark, given their potential impact on the people of Lewisham.

## **4. Financial implications**

There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there may be financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

#### **5. Legal implications**

The Constitution provides for Scrutiny 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. Further implications**

At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider.

#### **Background papers**

Emergency Services Review – Update report (Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda 30.04.13)

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Salena Mulhere, Overview and Scrutiny Manager (ext. 43380), or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Committee Business (ext. 49327).