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Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee
Agenda

Wednesday, 9 March 2016
6.30 pm
Committee Room 3
Civic Suite
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Simone van Elk (020 831 46441)

This meeting is an open meeting and all items on the agenda may be audio recorded and/or filmed.

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Members of the public are welcome to attend committee meetings. However, occasionally, committees may have to consider some business in private. Copies of agendas, minutes and reports are available on request in Braille, in large print, on audio tape, on computer disk or in other languages.
Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 9 March 2016.

Barry Quirk, Chief Executive
Tuesday, 1 March 2016

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Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2015

1.1 That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2015 be agreed as an accurate record.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1 The following non-prejudicial interests were declared:

Councillor Colin Elliot: Council’s representative for the Lewisham Disability Coalition (in relation to agenda item 5: Main Grants Programme 2016-17).

Councillor David Michael: member of the Lewisham Safer Neighbourhood Board, Council representative for Lewisham Citizen’s Advice Bureau Management Committee (in relation to agenda item 5: Main Grants Programme 2016-17) and working patron of the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust (in relation to agenda item 5: Main Grants Programme 2016-17).

Councillor Pauline Morrison: volunteer at Crofton Park Library (in relation to agenda item 5: Main Grants Programme 2016-17), Chair of the Ackroyd Community Association (in relation to agenda item 5: Main Grants Programme 2016-17) and a member of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (in relation to agenda item 3: Police and fire brigade update).

Councillor Pat Raven: Council’s representative for the Lewisham Disability Coalition (in relation to agenda item 5: Main Grants Programme 2016-17).

Councillor Paul Upex: Member of the Greenwich Cooperative Development Agency (in relation to agenda item 5: Main Grants Programme 2016-17).

Councillor Alicia Kennedy: Member of the Executive Committee of the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust (in relation to agenda item 5: Main Grants Programme 2016-17).

3. Police and fire brigade update
3.1 Apologies were offered as the police borough commander was not able to attend the meeting.

3.2 Keeley Smith (Borough Commander for Lewisham, London fire brigade) introduced a report to the Committee. The following key points were noted:

- The Fire Brigades Union’s announced in December 2015 that it had suspended their strike action over a dispute with the Government on pensions (until Summer 2017) therefore allowing the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) to stand down the contingency arrangement for strike action thus saving £1.7m in 2016/17.
- There is still a budget gap for LFEPA of £6.4m for 2016/2017. There is a public consultation ongoing on two different options to achieve the required savings. The consultation closes on 1 February 2016.
- Option A recommends putting the 13 fire engines back into service but making savings by establishing alternate crewing at stations with some special appliances. Alternate crewing means that in stations where there is a fire engine and a special appliance, such as an aerial ladder platform, there would be one crew for both appliances. Option B recommends the permanent removal of the 13 fire engines and reinvesting some of the savings into increasing the number of staff available to crew Fire Rescue Units (FRUs).
- London fire brigade has a commitment to attendance times for the first appliance of an average of 6 minutes, and 8 minutes for the second appliance. The fire brigade is achieving these attendance times across the borough of Lewisham. In 2012/13, Downham fire station was still open and the pumping appliance hadn’t been removed from Forest Hill fire station yet, so 2012/13 is used as the base year to compare attendance times against.
- If the 13 appliances including the pump from Forest Hill fire station were retained, it is believed that this would improve average London wide attendance times by around four seconds for the first engine and by around 18 seconds for the second fire engine.
- Attendance times are published per ward, but the commitment for attendance times from the London fire brigade pertains to the average time per borough and not per ward. If these times were to be achieved for every ward in London, £90m would need to be spent and at least a 100 extra fire appliances would need to be hired.
- The fire brigade offers free home fire safety checks and will install fire alarms if none are present. Partner organisations can refer people to this service, but the referral rate in Lewisham is low.
- From November 2015 a new mobilising system VISION has been used to respond to emergency calls, which is expected to improve attendance times. The new system uses GPS to identify and despatch the fire appliance that is closest to the location of the fire. The old system would identify which station ground or geographical zone the location of the fire was in, and despatch a fire appliance from that station.

3.3 Keeley Smith answered questions from the Committee. The following key points were noted:

- The consultation on options for the budget was conducted by the communications team of the London fire brigade, including promoting the consultation and consultation events. There was a consultation event hosted in Southwark for residents of South East London. It was well attended compared to consultation events hosted in other parts of London but overall the turn-out was still quite low given the number of residents impacted and the significance of the decisions. Part of the consultation period also included Christmas and New Year’s, which may have had an impact on turn-out and responses.
• The closure of Downham fire station was unlikely to have had a significant impact on the attendance times for Forest Hill ward given the distance between Downham and Forest Hill.
• A 6th London Safety Plan is due to be adopted, but this has been deferred until a new Mayor of London has been elected. A new Chair of the LFEPA will be appointed after the London Mayoral election as well as a new Commissioner. Once these three positions have been filled, a new London Safety Plan will be developed.
• The decision on Option A or Option B for the savings to the LFEPA budget will be taken before the 6th London Safety Plan is in place. The consultation ends on 1 February, so the decision is expected to be taken sometime in February or March and implemented in April.
• Attendance times are measured as the time between a call for the fire brigade being made and the time the appliance arrives at the scene. The time it then takes before firefighters can safely enter the building with the fire is not taken into account. Firefighters have to spend some time to put systems of safety in place before they can enter a building. It’s also the case that entering a house can be done more quickly than a flat, especially if the flat in question is high above the ground floor. When a fire in a flat is reported, the fire brigade already requires 4 appliances to attend to the scene.
• London has always suffered from sporadic flooding. The fire brigade has national resilience appliances stationed throughout London to deal with incidents of flooding. Each emergency service has a different approach to dealing with major incidents, and a different threshold for when something is declared a major incident. An event that could be declared a major incident by the police or ambulance service wouldn’t necessarily be declared a major incident by the fire brigade because the services are organised in different ways.

3.4 The Committee made the following comments:

• The consultation could be better advertised to residents but also to all Members of the Council.
• If consultation events don’t have a high attendance, the fire brigade could consider attending events organised by local groups to gather their views in that way.
• The Committee requested that they be informed of the decision between Option A or Option B for savings in the LFEPA 2016/17 budget.

3.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee note the report, and that the Committee be informed of the decision following the consultation on Option A or Option B.

4. Poverty review evidence session

4.1 Barry Quirk (Chief Executive) gave a presentation to the Committee. The following key points were noted:

• The causes for poverty are difficult to identify. Problems can be divided into simple, complicated, complex and chaotic situations. A complicated problem is one where there likely is a clear relationship between cause and effect, but it requires expertise to work out the right solution to a problem. In a complex situation, many factors are interrelated so there is no one action to take that will certainly result in a desired consequence. This requires experimental practice to work out a solution. The problem of poverty is probably somewhere in between being a complicated and being a complex problem.
• Poverty is Lewisham is mostly concentrated in the north and the south of the borough. That geographical distribution has been persistent for the last 30 years. In the north, the surrounding areas are also not that well off so residents are likely to experience less deprivation relative to their neighbours. In the south of the borough, neighbouring
areas tend to be well off, which means residents in poverty there are likely to experience more relative poverty compared to the people living near them.

- Lewisham doesn’t have a lot of river front. River front properties tend to attract high income households as can be seen in neighbouring boroughs such as Lambeth and Southwark. Lewisham has never really had high value land compared to other areas in London.

- Lewisham has a relatively large population from African and African-Caribbean background, a group which suffers from discrimination on the labour market. This has an impact on average earnings in the borough.

- There are significant variations in median household income.

- The geographical distribution of poverty used to replicate where social housing was provided. Currently, the distribution of poverty replicates where people live in the private rented sector. 28% of the population of Lewisham live in the private rented sector. Three quarters of the house moves in Lewisham each year happen in the private rented sector.

- Averages can make a proper understanding of the issue of poverty more difficult, as there significant variations in median household income in London which can mask the situations people live in. It is difficult to ensure that policies that aim to tackle poverty or alleviate its outcomes, target the right people.

- Residents living in poverty can’t be identified simply be their locality. For example, every ward in the borough will have children living in child poverty and children that don’t live in child poverty. When looking at smaller geographical areas to focus on, one could focus on lower super output areas (LSOAs), which are the areas of measurement for the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

- Lewisham has 169 LSOAs: 7 of them are in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in the country. However, 7 out every 10 children in child poverty in Lewisham do not live in those specific LSOAs. So policies targeting certain areas facing deprivation would miss out large groups of the children the policy should be aimed at.

- Whether people are living in poverty also can’t simply be determined by looking at their housing tenure. Lone Parent Families with Dependent Children (LPFwDC). A large percentage of LPFwDC live on social housing estate but not everyone living on a social housing estate falls into that category. In addition many LPFwDC don’t live on social housing estates. ‘Estate’ based action against poverty won’t be very effective in targeting the groups suffering poverty or deprivation.

- London’s labour market is substantially different from other areas of the country, and even big cities in other countries. 53% of all jobs in London are graduate level jobs. In Paris and New York this is about 40%, while in Berlin it’s 37%. The percentage of jobs at graduate level in inner London is 65%. The labour market in London at graduate level attracts people from all over the world, so children in London who are currently in education will end up having to compete globally for those graduate level jobs.

- An interesting sociological concept is that of the ‘precariat’. This term is used to describe a group of people that are detached from the labour market and wider economy. People in this group tend to rarely work and when they do, they tend to move from job to job without much security. 15% of the UK economy consists of people living and working in those conditions. Lewisham as well as Lambeth and Southwark tend to have a high proportion of people that can be described as part of the precariat.

- The Council can have some impact on poverty by how it pays its employees. In addition the Council can have some impact on the pay policies of its contractors but only in a limited way.

- The London economy is very successful, especially in the sectors of IT, finance and construction. The question for the long term is how Lewisham residents can benefit from that success. To tackle poverty and alleviate its consequences, welfare reform is probably the short term answer.
4.2 Barry Quirk responded to questions from the Committee. The following key points were noted:

- Lewisham each year has 4,700 births and 1,600 deaths which creates a net natural increase of the population of 3,100. There is a net international migration of 1,900 and net domestic migration out of Lewisham of 2,400. These figures mean it is difficult to determine when comparing figures for child poverty between different years, to know whether those same children are still living in the borough. Children could have stayed, moved or just entered the borough.
- The best strategy to tackle poverty in the long term is for people to get good jobs that are reasonably well paid. The Council has to set a benchmark for its suppliers in terms of providing good employment conditions. The majority of non-professional jobs tend to be filled by women and it can be very hard for young men with low qualifications to find employment.
- Construction is a growth sector in London. The joint work on skills by Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark is focused on opportunities in the construction industry.
- Higher education in London is very much connected to central London boroughs. The universities in London are not necessarily connected to London as a whole.
- Everyone is responsible for the aspirations of children and young people. People are naturally drawn to ‘winner takes all’ career paths. The conversation about which career to pursue should focus much more on ‘which destination would be best to get to?’ as opposed to asking young people the question ‘where do you want to go?’ One approach is to find inspirational people to motivate people into certain career paths. Oldham Council for example ran an event with Brian Cox because he came from Oldham to inspire local residents and young people to go into science.
- The Council can’t impose conditions on building contractors working in the borough to provide apprenticeships and jobs for Lewisham residents if the Council is not itself contracting the work. The Council tried to ensure there was provision of apprenticeships in its Building Schools for the Future programme and this was at best moderately successful. The approach can’t be too local. It has to be viewed across the South East London economy.
- The numbers of people moving out of Lewisham are so small that whether their incomes were high or low, would have a negligible effect on the average or median income in the borough.
- Lewisham has residents who are experiencing similar living standards as some residents from for instance Sunderland. The difference is that people in Sunderland do not have the same growth and opportunities so near them, so they’re likely to experience their living standards differently. The City is only 2 miles from Evelyn ward for example.
- Families with troubles aren’t necessarily families that cause troubles. The Council helps people because they’re in difficulty, not because they cause problems. CYP directorate aims to offer wrap around services to families that are in transition.
- The Council’s HeadStart programme was designed to support young people in building resilience. It has led to peer-to-peer support systems being developed in schools.
- 70,000 residents leave Lewisham every day to go to work outside the borough. This leads to Lewisham having a small daytime population and it means the ratio of adults to children and teenagers during the day is very low compared to the rest of London. As a result, it isn’t easy to encourage businesses to set up in the borough as there is a lack of footfall of people with disposable income. The borough tends to function as a transport node which people move through. When it comes to encouraging businesses, the question is how to create a place where money sticks.
- The Council collects about £53m in business rates annually, but gets £86m back from central government. So even though Lewisham doesn’t have a lot of businesses, it does benefit from the current business rates retention scheme.
A strategic question for the Council is: to what extent can the Council protect the poorest in its communities from the raging inequality in London?

4.3 The Committee made the following comments:

- The new Indices of Multiple Deprivation can indicate that certain geographical areas suffer from poverty, but it can be difficult to be aware of deprived streets that are surrounded by better off streets as the average deprivation of that area can be deceptive.
- Lewisham has seen a decline in child poverty. Was that a percentage or total number? It could be that a decline as a percentage was caused by rich families moving into Lewisham, as opposed to children being lifted out of poverty.

4.4 Rachel Leeser (Senior Research and Statistical Analyst Social Exclusion, Intelligence Unit, GLA) gave a presentation to the Committee. The following key points were noted:

- There are different definitions of poverty. One is focused on a lack of resources to meet need. Money is a significant element of that, but other things also contribute. Poverty tends to be looked at per household. The way ‘a lack of resources to meet need’ is operationalised as ‘can you afford to live in society and meet the norms of that society’. To measure material deprivation, the question is whether an individual can meet those societal norms. This would include expenses and activities such as for a child; being able to have a friend round for tea and being able to afford to celebrate occasions such as birthdays for a friend. For pensioners; being able to heat their adequately, being able to go out once a month.
- The concept of deprivation is much wider than the concept of poverty. Deprivation is measured at a very local scale as opposed to poverty for which data are only published regularly at a regional level.
- Equivalised income is a measure of all income in a household before any taxes and it includes any payments in kind. The measure of equivalised income then takes the number of people living in a household into account. So three people living in one household with an income of £20,000 in total would have a lower equivalised income than 2 people living in a household with that same income. One example of a payment in kind is free school milk. For the purposes of measuring equivalised income across London, Lewisham is counted as being part of the group of inner London boroughs.
- Relative income applies to an individual when they are part of a household with less than 60% of contemporary median equivalised household income. The percentage of people living in relative poverty in London increases significantly after housing costs are taken into account. One argument for government to take account of relative poverty statistics after housing costs as opposed to before is that people in London do not get better quality housing for the amount of money they spend. Relative income after housing costs have been taken into account has always had a significant impact on the number of people in relative poverty in London as costs of housing have always been more expensive in London.
- ‘Absolute’ poverty is measured by looked at a fixed set of living standards. This allows for comparisons over time of the percentage of people living in poverty. The measure of ‘absolute’ poverty has been rising in London and nearly every region of England.
- If median income falls this tends to mean that more people are living in poverty in terms of ‘absolute’ poverty. However, if median income falls, less income is needed for people to live above the line of relative poverty, which is 60% of that contemporary median equivalised household income.
- It has been established that there is significant impact on the outcomes for children that live in persistent poverty. Persistent poverty is measured as living in relative poverty for three of the last four years. The number of children living in relative poverty in London has dropped by 100,000 in x years, but it matters for outcomes whether those children
had been living in relative poverty for a long time. It is very difficult to identify whether those children are the same children that were living in relative poverty the previous years.

- There is a national survey being conducted that follows a relatively small number of people over the course of many years to study how they move in and out of poverty over time. This is used to produce national statistics on persistent poverty, but not regional statistics.
- People in persistent poverty may not have any reserves left, where people who just entered a state of relative poverty may have some financial reserves to rely on.
- Pensioners in London who are owner occupier tend to be ok in terms of in London. Although other services tend to also be more expensive in London.
- Mean income is a distorted measurement in London as there are people with extremely high incomes. Maps of London allow some comparison between areas. The poverty estimates of the Lower Super Output Areas from the Office for National Statistics were due to be released soon.
- Good qualifications do not necessarily guarantee that someone will have a good job. Having a job doesn’t necessarily guarantee you are able to work sufficient hours to have a decent income. Two thirds of the households in poverty in London are in work.
- Currently, the number of self-employed people is going down as they move into salaried jobs.
- It makes a significant difference to income whether someone over state retirement age has a private pension or just relies on a state pension.
- A large number of people living in social rent properties tend to live in poverty. That tends to be the reason they live in social rent accommodation.
- Sometimes the number of people on welfare payments is used a measure for the number of people living in poverty. As the eligibility criteria for welfare payments have become stricter, such a measure would indicate that more people are no longer living in poverty though their material circumstances may have become worse.

4.5 Rachel Leeser and Barry Quirk answered questions from the Committee. The following key points were noted:

- Poor households do not necessarily have more children on average. This is not the driving factor for poverty. However, households with three children are more likely to experience poverty than households with only one or two children. This is because household income doesn’t necessarily increase with the addition of child but expenses naturally do.
- The national wealth and asset survey is the only research that asks people about their reserves. Not aware that anyone has reviewed this situation specifically.
- Some indicators that local authorities may hold that could be used to locally measure which children are living in persistent poverty are recipients of free school meals, recipients of Council tax rebates. There are also secondary indicators that could be gathered by Public Health or social housing teams. The measurement has to be consistent over time and enable data to be traced to individual residents.

4.6 The Committee made a number of comments. The following key points were noted:

- Would it possible for the Council to measure which children in the borough suffer from persistent poverty by using locally collected data such a recipients of free school meals or recipients of Council tax rebates?
- Do the low national interest rates have an impact on pensioners’ incomes? It seems likely this would have an effect on their investments.

4.7 RESOLVED: that the Committee note the presentation, that the Committee be provided with more information on the Council’s HeadStart programme and that the Committee be
provided with the poverty estimates of the Lower Super Output Areas from the Office for National Statistics once they become available.

5. **Main Grants Programme 2016-17**

5.1 James Lee (Head of Culture and Community Development) introduced the report. The following key points were noted:

- The Main Grants Programme 2015-18 had started in July last year. This report related to the second year of the Main Grants Programme.
- The Grants were reduced in the last round of savings. Five organisations received transitional funding to cope with the reduction in grant or the removal of grant funding.

5.2 James Lee responded to questions from the Committee. The following key points were noted:

- There is no particular definition of a ‘failing’ organisation in receipt of grant funding. The development officers are there to challenge and support the organisations that receive grants from the Council. These assessments are often judgement calls by the development officer involved with a particular organisation. If there is a lapse in judgement by an officer, that would become a management issue.
- Officers are awaiting monitoring reports for the second quarter of the 2015-16 grant programme. One criterion for concern is if the monitoring reports indicate for two quarters in a row that an organisation may not be able to meet their agreed outcomes.
- The Rocket Science self-assessment tool (section 7 and appendix 3 of the report) is used to support organisations in identifying their strengths and weaknesses and taking appropriate action to remedy any problems.
- A grant is not automatically taken away by the Council when it's not spent by an organisation as organisations for instance have experienced delays in recruiting staff and so have spent less than expected. However, if this recruitment does not happen, the grant funding will eventually be removed.
- The faith grants do not fund religious activities, but are explicitly only used to fund community activities conducted by faith based organisations.
- The outcomes that are measured as part of the grant monitoring regime are the agreed outcomes when the Main Grants Programme 2015-18 was decided on in April 2015.

5.3 The Committee made a number of comments. The following key points were noted:

- The Committee questioned why the faith grants and small grants were run through the same programme.
- The Committee requested that paragraph 7.4 of the report contain more detail on what the consequences would be for an organisation that does not meet their agreed outcomes, and what process would be followed.
- The Committee noted that there was a lack of clarity of which organisation received rent grants and to what extent.

5.4 The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:

The Committee noted that ‘the Council provides support to organisations in a number of different ways, including providing repairs & maintenance, rent grants, main grant funding, peppercorn lease arrangements and so on’

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1 Paragraph 9.19, report Main Grants Programme 2016-17 at Safer Stronger Select Committee on Tuesday 19 January 2016
The Committee is concerned that there is a lack of transparency about which voluntary sector organisations receive the support listed in paragraph 3.2 above. This can create difficulties for voluntary organisations who may not be aware of the financial value of the support they are receiving and the risk to their organisations if this support would fall away.

The Committee feels detailed information about this support provided to voluntary sector organisations should be made available to Councillors, voluntary sector organisations and the wider public. The Committee feels that Mayor and Cabinet should encourage the creation of an asset register for this purpose.

5.5 **RESOLVED**: that the Committee’s views be referred to Mayor and Cabinet.

6. **Select Committee work programme**

6.1 Simone van Elk (scrutiny manager) introduced the report. The Committee discussed its work programme and decided that:

- The following items would be on the agenda for the March meeting:
  - Lewisham Disability Coalition's review into Hate Crime
  - Provision for the LGBT community
  - Comprehensive Equalities Scheme
  - Safer Lewisham Plan
- The following items should be considered in the next municipal year:
  - Lewisham police service update
  - Leisure centre contract update
  - Poverty review – final report and recommendations
  - Violence against women and girls service update
- The Committee meeting scheduled for 9 March should start at 18.30 instead of 19.00.
- The item on the Review of the Enforcement service should be considered in the next municipal year instead of at the March meeting if possible.

7. **Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet**

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm

Chair:

Date:
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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;
(b) and 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 members’ 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 not 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)
1. **Purpose**

1.1 The Committee decided its meeting on 1 July 2015 to add an item to its work programme from the Lewisham Disability Coalition on disability related harassment.

1.2 Lewisham Disability Coalition has provided a report on its review into disability related harassment in Appendix A.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the Lewisham Disability Coalition ‘Hidden in plain sight – disability related harassment’ report in Appendix A.
- Direct any questions to the representatives from the Lewisham Disability Coalition present at the meeting.

For further information please contact Simone van Elk, Scrutiny Manager on 020 8314 6441.
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1. **Introduction**

In 2009 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has conducted a statutory inquiry called Hidden in Plain Sight, looking at disability related harassment\(^1\).

This was prompted in part by the Inquest into the death of Fiona Pilkington and her daughter Hardwick were found in the family’s burnt-out blue car in a lay-by not far from their home. The inquest into their deaths concluded that Fiona had killed herself and her daughter ‘due to the stress and anxiety regarding her daughter's future, and ongoing antisocial behaviour’.

“We started to see a pattern emerging: our previous research indicated that violence and hostility towards disabled people was widespread in Britain. Intelligence gathered through our helpline and stakeholder network convinced us that there was a serious problem regarding the harassment of disabled people that needed to be better understood.”

*The Inquiry made a number of recommendations, both in terms of case management and crime-prevention, as well as challenging attitudes which contribute to disability discrimination.* (EHRC)

Like most local authorities Lewisham deals with such incidents harassment as part of hate crime, anti social behaviour and safeguarding procedures.

Although there was no specific evidence of any weaknesses in Lewisham’s approach, in comparison with other areas, Lewisham Disability Coalition has undertaken a small scale audit, based primarily of evidence from members and clients to review the picture locally.

2. Methodology

In order to review the picture in how the systems work in practice, LDC has:

- Reviewed Internal Third party reporting process
- Held discussions with key partners
- Held a member meeting
- Conducted semi structured interviews with informants, identified via meetings and self reporting via drop in sessions

3. Definitions

A hate incident - Any non-crime incident which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person’s disability or perceived disability, race, religion or sexual orientation.

A hate crime - Any criminal offence, which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person’s disability or perceived disability, race, religion or sexual orientation. 

Financial abuse - Theft, fraud or other abuse of a person’s money or benefits.

4. Key findings

The picture that emerged was one of positives and negatives:

**Interagency partnership** - Lewisham has an interagency framework for addressing hate crime which includes third party reporting sites. In addition the Safer Neighbourhood Board has a specific body which reviews hate crime in the borough. The police are proactive with outreach work, including an LGBT liaison officer who frequently covers the broader spectrum of hate crime as part of her work with her communities.

However, during the summer of 2015 in Lewisham Disability Coalition itself, due to staff turnover, the information about the operational workings as a Third Party Reporting site had been mislaid and staff were not aware of how to report cases to the central point in the Council’s Community Safety Team. While this is an area for internal concern within our charity and has since been addressed, it would suggest that Third Party Reporting sites are not regularly checked to ensure they are still fully operational.

**Transport police** have also been engaged, and are reviewing whether to do outreach work with LDC future events.

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Case studies from the front line:

Client A – Client A is a stroke survivor who described a period of specific harassment at his home which he believes was directed at him on the grounds of his disability. He attempted to call the police. However, the person who answered the phone asked him “are you drunk”, possibly on the grounds of his slurred speech.

Client B – Client B has learning and mobility disabilities. She faces harassment from local school children, particularly during afternoon “busy times” and sometimes restricts the times of moving across the borough to avoid this, although she feels she should not have to. Harassment has included comments and fast food papers thrown at her. She has had positive support from transport police who have liaised with the schools where the perpetrators appear to come from. This has not completely ended the problems but has increased her confidence in reporting and speaking out.

Carer A – Carer A shared problems with public transport, particularly during busy times on buses where there are conflicts with disabled people, particularly in wheelchairs, and people with buggies. This can lead to disputes on public transport where discriminatory language and behaviour is used.

Client C – Client C is visually impaired. He has described problems with extreme anti social behaviour from a neighbour, some of which is targeted directly at his disability. He lives in social housing. His description is of the landlord’s attempts to address the ASB being frustrated by lack of support from the courts process.

Client D – Client D is on the autistic spectrum. An attack by a dangerous dog has triggered mental health issues and deterioration in his confidence in going out in public. He feels the court processes did not adequately support him as a vulnerable witness.

Client E – Client E has learning disabilities and believes they have been financially abused. The allegation via a supporter is that a relative “borrowed” considerable sums which was actually a deliberate deception and theft but the client being confused during an attempt to report this to the police who may not have made sufficient adjustments e.g. including an appropriate adult.

Client F – Domestic violence survivor where violence has been linked to her disability was not aware of the Lewisham VAWG support services, commissioned from Refuge.

Client H – Client H sought support after being loudly verbally abused in front of witnesses by a senior manager at his workplace. The issues of dispute were linked to request to undertake tasks that, according to our client, were not possible, due to his physical impairment.

General comments – Several informants raised a more general issue of welfare reforms contributing towards a climate of disbelief or resentment towards disabled people which had increased hostility towards them personally.

5. Conclusions

We have indentified some areas where practice could improve and advocacy and support have been required but not major failures in individual services.
However, the above cases are a snapshot and demonstrate that there are issues of disability harassment and situations where disabled people’s access to justice appears fragmented.

Many of our clients continue to experience abuse and harassment and/or restrict their movement and times of travel to avoid trigger points and are not aware of how to get support or help. For example the majority of ‘victims’ who present to us do so about another issue initially (frequently welfare rights).

What does appear to be needed are as follows:

- Greater awareness-raising about rights and dignity for disabled people, undertaken in a way that does not reinforce negative stereotypes or increase fear of crime.
- Targeted interventions to address stereotypes.
- Public bodies to ensure that Equality Analysis Assessments of public spending cuts have due regard to the duty to address violence and harassment across protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010, including disability.
Introduction

1. This report summarises the draft Comprehensive Equalities Scheme (CES): ‘Opportunity and Responsibility for All’ 2016-20. In particular, the report sets out the statutory context informing the development of the CES, describes the draft objectives going forward and summarises next steps.

Recommendations

2. This Committee is invited to:
   
   • note the processes supporting the production of the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme, to be published 31 March 2016;
   
   • give consideration to, and make comments on, the draft CES.

Background and context

3. The Equality Act of 2010 took existing equality legislation into a single statute and extended coverage to include a broader range of protected groups than were acknowledged previously. The nine characteristics given protection under the Equality Act are: age, disability, gender, gender re-assignment, marriage, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion & belief and sexual orientation.

4. In respect of these protected characteristics, the Equality Act places a General Duty on public bodies to have due regard to the need to:
   
   • eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under this Act;
   
   • advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it;
• foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

5. The Specific Duties of the Equality Act also provide that public bodies have a statutory duty to publish equality objectives setting out how they will comply with the General Duty. These objectives are required to be in place for four years and must be measurable.

6. For Lewisham, the requirements of equalities legislation and the national policy context, provide a clear framework for the performance of Council functions and provision of services.

Comprehensive Equality Scheme 2016-20

7. Back in 2008 (as part of the first CES) in addition to statutory schemes for disability, gender and race the Council developed non-statutory schemes for age, religion or belief and sexual orientation. Then in 2012, under the new legislative framework, Lewisham was one of the first local authorities in London to develop CES – with our approach mirrored by other local authorities.

8. Lewisham’s CES 2016-20 replaces the previous scheme which ran from 2012-16. In terms of its strategic fit, with the Council’s higher level ambitions, the CES sits within the wider framework of the borough’s Sustainable Community Strategy and in particular the two overarching principles of the Strategy which focus on:

• reducing inequality – narrowing the gap in outcomes
• delivering together efficiently, effectively and equitably – ensuring that all citizens have appropriate access to and choice of high quality local services

9. In addition, the CES gives expression to the Council’s ten priorities which set out the specific contribution that the local authority will make to the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Council priorities are as follows:

• Community leadership and empowerment
• Young people achievement and involvement
• Clean, green and liveable
• Safety, security and visible presence
• Strengthening the local economy
• Decent homes for all
• Protection of children
• Caring for adults and older people
• Active healthy citizens
• Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity
CES objectives

10. For the next four years, it is proposed that the objectives of Lewisham’s CES will be to:

- tackle victimisation, harassment and discrimination
- improve access to services
- close the gap in outcomes for our citizens
- increase understanding and mutual respect between communities
- increase participation and engagement

11. The five objectives above, which cover the Council’s role as both an employer and service provider, are deliberately high-level in as much as the intention is to ensure that every protected characteristic can recognise themselves within these aspirations.

12. In terms of the underlying intentions behind each objective; the Council will take reasonable steps to ensure that residents, service users and employees are not unlawfully discriminated against and will take appropriate action to prevent & tackle victimisation and harassment. The Council will also take reasonable steps to ensure that services are inclusive, responsive to risk, physically accessible and provided through the most efficient and effective channels available.

13. Similarly where gaps exist in life chances, the Council will take reasonable steps to improve life chances for citizens by closing outcomes gaps that exist within the borough as well as between the borough and elsewhere. The Council will also take reasonable steps to build stronger communities and promote good relations both within and between communities.

14. Finally where barriers exist to participation and engagement, the Council will take reasonable steps to remove such barriers and help residents (especially those who are under-represented) to participate in and influence local decision making.

Policy context

15. Lewisham’s CES has been developed at a particularly challenging time for the Council. Substantial cuts to public spending and local government funding have left local authorities facing extremely difficult choices about future service provision and have, in some instances, meant the discontinuation of some services altogether.

16. Lewisham faces a complex set of challenges: the borough’s population, currently at 292,000 is expected to rise rapidly over next 20 years. In the area of health, there is a significant disparity in life outcomes for our residents - the gap in average life expectancy, between the least and most deprived wards, is 7 years for men and 9 years for women. With regard to jobs and earnings,
Lewisham’s unemployment rate is lower than London and Great Britain, however median earnings are below the Inner London average (with the gap widening). In common with other borough’s, Lewisham is also challenged by a rapidly changing housing economy, with more than one in four residents now living in private rented accommodation (nearly double what is was ten years ago). In Lewisham schools, the performance of pupils at early years and primary is amongst the best in the country, however performance of secondary school pupils, at Key Stage 4, is amongst the worst in London.

17. In light of these and other challenges, the Council has become increasingly mindful of two things: firstly that the environment within which equality issues are emerging and playing out, is fluid and dynamic. Second, that we need to be increasingly sophisticated in our understanding of how inequalities is addressed eg: when is it reasonable to expect people to do more for themselves? Where we can help people to solve problems with others? Where might the Council need to act to protect public welfare?

approach

18. Lewisham’s CES is based on the overarching principle of ‘Opportunity and Responsibility for All’. In practical terms this means doing all we can to ensure that every citizen has a chance to do their best for themselves and for others. The development of the CES objectives is informed by a data gathering exercise\textsuperscript{5}, which again underscored the relevance of the five objectives agreed for 2012-16. As a result, these objectives have been ‘rolled forward’ for 2016-20.

19. The revised CES also highlights the importance of a shared approach to equality. This is especially important as it is a deliberate move away from a silo-based approach (which can place undue emphasis on difference and distinction), to one that focuses on shared aspiration, collective accountability and individual responsibility. As much as this approach is a clear recognition of the need to use our resources more effectively, it is also a recognition of the greater benefits that can be derived when individuals and groups work together towards a common good.

20. In addition, the CES underlines the Council’s commitment to the efficient and effective use of data. As part of this, the scheme makes a clear commitment to collecting data that is appropriate to business needs and effective decision making. This systematised approach to data collection and use, will help reduce bureaucracy and plug knowledge gaps. It will also enable the Council to identify risks and determine what action might need to be taken in light of such risks. By pooling together richer data relating to protected groups, the Council will add even greater depth and breadth to its understanding and be able to further enhance its capacity for effective decision making.

implementation

21. The intention is that CES objectives will be implemented as part of the Council’s existing process of strategic planning and annual review. As such
the CES will not require an additional investment of resource. The five high level strategies that have been specifically identified as vehicles for CES implementation are as follows:

- Safer Lewisham Strategy 2014-17
- Housing Strategy 2015-20
- Work and Skills Strategy 2015-20
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-23
- Children and Young Peoples Plan 2015-18

22. Each of the above strategies should be able to describe how, through their delivery, they give expression to one or more of the five CES objectives. As such, the above arrangement will enable Members, in their scrutiny role, to see the specific contribution being made by these high-level strategies towards the five equality objectives. This in turn will further empower Members to hold officers to account and, where necessary, identify priorities for action going forward. The approach avoids duplication of activities and properly focuses attention where the debates about priorities and resource allocation take place.

Financial Implications

23. The costs of delivering the CES and associated action plans will be contained within the resources allocated for service budgets.

24. The scheme therefore has no direct financial implications. Where services will need to undertake consultation to meet their statutory duties for evidence-based service design or policy development, these costs must also be contained within service budgets.

Legal & Human Rights Implications

25. The 2010 Equalities Act brings together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty), replaces the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 5th April 2011. The general equality duty has three aims, as previously set out within paragraph 4 above.

26. The “specific duties” announced by the Government in regulations which came into force on 10th September 2011 (stated in paragraph 34 below,) require the Council to set specific and measurable equality objectives and to publish information about our equality performance, no later than 31 January 2012 and at least annually thereafter.
27. Further, pursuant to regulation 3 of the 2011 Regulations all public authorities must prepare and publish one or more objectives they think they should achieve to further the aims of the general duty under section 149 of the Act by no later than 6 April 2012. These are equality objectives that are specific and measurable and that will help the Council to further its aims of the general duty. These must be based on equality evidence and analysis and must be published at subsequent intervals of no greater than four years beginning with the date of the last publication.

28. Basically, the specific duties require public authorities to be transparent about how they are responding to the equality duty – requiring them to publish relevant, proportionate information showing compliance with the equality duty, and to set equality objectives.

29. The Council’s Corporate Equality Scheme 2016-2020 meets the public sector equality duty (section 149) and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific duties) Regulations 2011 which came into force on 10 September 2011.


31. Sections 12, 13 & 14 of the HRA expressly preserve freedoms of expression, thought, conscience and religion and this is further embodied within Articles 9 and 10 of Schedule 1 the HRA. These are however “qualified” rights, in that these freedoms, which carry duties and responsibilities, must also be subject to “… formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, …or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary”.

32. Article 14 of Schedule 1 to the HRA, prohibits discrimination generally. Discrimination is prohibited on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

Crime and Disorder Implications

33. The scheme itself does not have any direct crime and disorder implications.

34. However on a general note it is anticipated that improving service design and delivery to achieve equality of opportunities for local people, (while promoting good relations between different groups in the community) will have a positive impact on matters such as community safety, crime and disorder, and community cohesion.
Equality Implications

35. The primary focus of the CES is to promote equal life chances for all. The equality implications are therefore contained within the scheme itself. The CES was developed through the analysis of data and through consultation with the community, partners and stakeholders.

36. As a single equality scheme, the CES provides an overarching framework and focus for the Council’s work on equalities. Furthermore, the alignment of our legal duties and responsibilities into a comprehensive scheme will help minimise bureaucracy and free up Council staff to concentrate on the provision of services to the public.

Contacts:

Barrie Neal, Head of Corporate Policy and Governance
Paul Aladenika, Service Manager, Policy Development
References

1 Equality Act 2010 - UK Parliament
2 Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) – UK Parliament
3 Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2012-16 - LB Lewisham
4 Shaping our Future: Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020 – Lewisham Strategic Partnership
5 Comprehensive Equalities Scheme (CES) data sift, LB Lewisham October 2015
1. **Purpose of the Report**

   1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) (In Lewisham, the Safer Lewisham Partnership) to develop a three year Crime and Disorder Strategy which sets out how crime and Anti Social Behaviour will be tackled – Safer Lewisham Strategy 2014-2017

   - An additional responsibility is also placed on Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Strategic Assessment to ensure emerging community safety trends are captured, and priorities are refreshed where necessary.

   - The Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment.

   - The accompanying **Strategic Action Plan** sets out how the Partnership will work together over the next year to tackle crime and disorder priorities building on best practice around effective crime reduction and clear objectives and outcomes to be achieved.

2. **Executive Summary**

   Due to the timing of the Committee a draft Plan has not been completed for circulation. Data will be provided through a presentation at the committee and a draft plan shared for comments.

3.0 **Recommendations**

   - This is a single paper on this item for information
   - The progress made against the Plan to be reported to the Select Committee annually.

4.0 **Background**

   4.1 The annual report is required under legislation and seeks to pull together all available information in relation to Crime and Disorder and setting priorities for the Partnership to deliver against. There are MOPAC properties which
may or may not align, however this challenge for the Partnership is significant and important in relation to delivering what really makes a difference

4.2 The MOPAC Challenge

The challenge set by MOPAC for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) up to 2016:
“A Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) that becomes the UK’s most effective, most efficient, most respected, even most loved police force”

The 20/20/20, 20/20/20 Challenge promises to:

- Cut crime by 20%
- Boost public confidence by 20%
- Cut costs by 20%
- Reduce court delays by 20%
- Increase compliance with community sentences by 20%
- Reduce reoffending by young people leaving custody by 20%

**MOPAC 7 -** MOPAC’S target for the MPS is to cut 7 key “neighbourhood” crimes by 20% by 2016

**Crime Types:**
- Violence with injury
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Theft of a motor vehicle
- Theft from a motor vehicle
- Theft from the person
- Vandalism (criminal damage)

The aim is to achieve an aggregate Metropolitan Police–wide reduction in these offences of 20% down on average levels seen in 2008-12, or even 20% down on 2011/12 (stretch target)

4.3 In summary, MOPAC both sets broad crime-reduction priorities and funds a portion of service activity at borough level. However, there is still a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to produce the annual strategic assessment – this document – the aim of which is to analyse problems in the borough and nominate strategic priorities.

4.4 The challenge for Safer Lewisham Partnership is to align the existing statutory requirements with the new governance and funding reality, while reflecting local needs and feedback from residents. There is also only 1 further year of confirmed funding from MOPAC. Announcements of future funds will be made in the Autumn.
5.0 **Safer Lewisham Partnership Priorities for 15-16 were:**

Working closely with MOPAC, informed by local data and in response to community concerns, the Safer Lewisham Partnership identified the following priorities:

- The **First** priority will be to continue to focus on reducing volume crime in Lewisham. Those ‘neighbourhood’ crimes that account for the majority of the crime experienced in the borough each year. Targeting those known offenders in key locations across the borough will have a demonstrable effect on satisfaction and confidence of victims of these crimes. This also aligns with the MOPAC challenge, through intelligence-led efforts to reduce the ‘MOPAC 7’ crimes of:
  - Violence with injury
  - Robbery
  - Burglary
  - Theft of a motor vehicle
  - Theft from a motor vehicle
  - Theft from the person
  - Vandalism (criminal damage)

In working to achieve a 20% reduction across these crime types, the SLP will ensure all public services work collaboratively and with voluntary groups and communities to prevent crime, support victims and reduce re-offending while improving confidence across all criminal justice agencies.

- The **Second** priority will be to reduce key violent crime. This priority will focus on both reducing ‘Serious Violence’ (SV) and also reducing violence under the various strands under the ‘Violence Against Women and Girls’ (VAWG) agenda.

- The **Third** priority will be to focus on a renewed multi-agency drive to tackle the issues that residents are most concerned about to improve public confidence. This will include issues of ASB, Licensing related matters, Trading standards concerns and Public Health and noise nuisance. Under the new ASB, Police and Crime Bill, residential, commercial and public space ASB will be dealt with swiftly, proportionately and with the victim at the heart of finding a resolution.

6.0 **Financial Implications**

6.1 The SLP currently monitors the spend in relation to the MOPAC funding. Resource allocation in relation to tackling emerging issues are agreed at SLP as required.

7.0 **Legal & Human Rights Implications**

7.1 The Council is under a number of statutory obligations to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder; the Anti Social Behaviour 2003 requires the Council as a local housing authority to have policies and procedures for dealing with anti-social
behaviour and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places the Council under a duty to have, when carrying out its functions, due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between persons of different racial groups.

7.2 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the local authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to the combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

7.3 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers the local authority to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of all or any persons within the local authority's area.

7.4 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Safer Lewisham Strategy.

8.0 Equalities Implications

8.1 Developing safe and secure communities is central to the work of the Council as a whole and in particular to the Community Services directorate. Reducing and preventing crime, reducing fear of crime and supporting vulnerable communities is critical to the well-being of all our citizens.

9.0 Crime and Disorder Implications

9.1 Section 17 places a duty on partners to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area. The level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken in the day-to-day of local bodies and organisations. The responsible authorities are required to provide a range of services in their community from policing, fire protection, planning, consumer and environmental protection, transport and highways. They each have a key statutory role in providing these services and, in carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area.

10.0 Environmental Implications

10.1 all appropriate services are consulted about on agreed activity before proceeding where Key decisions made may have environmental implications

11.0 Conclusion

11.1 The annual Plan 16-17 will be agreed by the SLP in March 16 and reviewed quarterly. The SLP will continue to review its practice and that of the sub groups to ensure that all activity in relation to crime and disorder and drugs
and alcohol is in line with the sustainable communities strategy, and the Safer Lewisham Strategy as well as having links to children's and young persons board and the health and wellbeing board.

*For further information on this report please contact Geeta Subramaniam Head of Crime Reduction & Supporting People, Directorate for Community Services on 020 8314 9569*
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1. **Purpose**

1.1 To provide Members of the Select Committee with an overview of the work programme for 2015-16 and to advise the Committee about the process for agreeing the 2016-17 work programme.

2. **Summary**

2.1 At the beginning of the municipal year each select committee is required to draw up a work programme for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel. The Panel considers the suggested work programmes and coordinates activities between select committees in order to maximise the use of scrutiny resources and avoid duplication.

2.2 The meeting on 9 March is the last scheduled meeting of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee in the 2015-16 municipal year. The Committee’s completed work programme is attached at appendix B; it lists the issues considered in 2015-16. The Committee is being asked to put forward suggestions for the 2016-17 work programme.

3. **Recommendations**

3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:

- note the completed work programme attached at appendix B;
- review the issues covered in 2015-16 municipal year;
- take note of the notice of key decisions attached at appendix C;
- consider any matters arising that it may wish to suggest for future scrutiny.

4. **Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee 2015-2016**

4.1 The Committee held eight meetings in the 2015-16 year:

- 20 April
- 14 May
- 01 July
- 16 September
- 21 October
- 30 November
- 19 January
- 9 March
4.2 Along with all other select committees, the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee has devoted considerable attention to the proposals put forward as part of the development and delivery of the Lewisham Future Programme. It is anticipated that all scrutiny committees will be tasked with reviewing further Lewisham Future Programme proposals in the 2016-17 municipal year.

4.3 The Committee’s completed work programme is attached at appendix B.

5. Planning for 2016-17

5.1 Eight meetings will be scheduled for 2016-17 municipal year. A work programme report will be put forward at the first Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee meeting of the 2016-17 year for members to review, revise and agree. The report will take account of the Committee’s previous work and may incorporate:

- issues arising as a result of previous scrutiny;
- issues that the Committee is required to consider by virtue of its terms of reference;
- items requiring follow up from Committee reviews and recommendations;
- issues suggested by members of the public;
- petitions;
- standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which is based on a regular schedule;
- suggestions from officers;
- decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet.

Issues arising from the 2015-16 work programme

5.2 The Committee has already agreed that the following items should be put forward for consideration as part of the 2016-17 work programme:

- Implementation of the main grants programme
- The Council’s workforce profile
- Delivery of changes to the library service Consideration of any future proposals for the use of community payback in relation to the probation service
- Lewisham police service update
- Leisure centre contract update
- Poverty review – final report and recommendations
- Violence against women and girls service update
- Review of the Enforcement service
- Provision of services for LGBT community

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee terms of reference

5.4 The Committee’s terms of reference are included at appendix A.

5.5 The Committee’s areas of responsibility, include, but are not limited to:

- Equalities
5.6 The Committee also has the responsibility for carrying out the statutory crime and disorder scrutiny function. The constitution sets out that this enables the committee to call before it members of the Safer Lewisham Partnership to explain decisions made or actions taken in the delivery of their crime and disorder functions.

6. Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There will be financial implications arising from items on the agenda; these will need to be considered, as necessary.

7. Legal implications

In accordance with the Council’s Constitution, all scrutiny select committees must devise and submit a work programme to the Business Panel at the start of each municipal year.

8. Equalities implications

8.1 The Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

8.2 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

8.3 There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Select Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

Background documents

Lewisham Council’s Constitution

Centre for Public Scrutiny: the Good Scrutiny Guide
Appendix A

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee

(a) To fulfill all overview and scrutiny functions in relation to the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder function as set out in Sections 19 and 20 Police & Justice Act 2006, as amended from time to time, and all other relevant legislation. This shall include the power:

(i) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder function,

(ii) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of those functions; and

(iii) to make reports and/or recommendations to the local authority with respect to any matter which is a local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member of the authority. A local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member means a matter concerning crime and disorder (including, in particular, forms of crime and disorder involving anti social behaviour or other behaviour adversely affecting the environment), or the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, which affect all or part of the electoral area for which the member is elected or any person who lives or works there.

(b) make proposals to the Executive to promote equality of opportunity within the borough, including issues of discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, sexuality, age and/or class;

(c) to recommend to the Executive, the Council or an appropriate committee proposals for policy development in relation to equalities issues;

(d) to analyse policy options as necessary to inform the proposals to be made to the Executive or other appropriate committee;

(e) to advise the Executive or other committee on all matters relating to equality of opportunity both in terms of policy, service provision, employment and/or access to public services;

(f) to enhance and develop existing and innovative consultative and/or advisory work for equality of opportunity and to consider issues of inequality and discrimination across the borough;

(g) to consider and recommend to the Executive, ways in which participation by disadvantaged and under-represented sections of the community might be more effectively involved in the democratic processes of local government;

(h) to pilot methods of consultation and involvement and to report back to the Executive or appropriate committee on their effectiveness with recommendation if appropriate;

(i) to establish links with and liaise with external organisations in the borough which are concerned with the promotion of equality of opportunity.
(j) Overview & Scrutiny functions (excluding call-in) in relation to library provision.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work item</th>
<th>Type of item</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Delivery deadline</th>
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<td>Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair</td>
<td>Constitutional requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main grant programme funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAWG review report</td>
<td>In-depth review</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>CP4 Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary sector accommodation</td>
<td>Policy development</td>
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<td>Probation service update</td>
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<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poverty review</td>
<td>In-depth review</td>
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<td>CP10 May</td>
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<td>Provision for the LGBT community</td>
<td>Standard review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation of the volunteering strategy</td>
<td>Standard review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Council employment profile</td>
<td>Standard item</td>
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<td>Main grants equalities approach</td>
<td>Performance monitoring</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>CP10 Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development of the CES Policy Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact of the Public Health savings proposals on the Community and Voluntary Sector</td>
<td>Standard item</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Local Assemblies Performance monitoring</td>
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<td>Library and information service Performance monitoring</td>
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<td>LDC Hate crime research</td>
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<td>VAWG service update</td>
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<td>Medium</td>
<td>CP4 Mar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safer Lewisham Plan - monitoring and update</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enforcement review Joint scrutiny</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Equalities Scheme - monitoring and update</td>
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<td>Equalities work</td>
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<td>Supporting VCS in seeking external funding</td>
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<td>Library consultation 2015 update</td>
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<td>Leisure Centre contracts update</td>
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<td>Lewisham police update</td>
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<td>Local fire brigade update</td>
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<td>Main Grants Programme 2016-17</td>
<td>Policy development</td>
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<td>Priority</td>
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<td>Safer SCS</td>
<td>Empowered and responsible SCS</td>
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<td>Priority 1</td>
<td>Community Leadership CP</td>
<td>Priority 2</td>
<td>Young people's achievement and involvement CP</td>
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### FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

**Forward Plan March 2016 - June 2016**

This Forward Plan sets out the key decisions the Council expects to take during the next four months.

Anyone wishing to make representations on a decision should submit them in writing as soon as possible to the relevant contact officer (shown as number (7) in the key overleaf). Any representations made less than 3 days before the meeting should be sent to Kevin Flaherty, the Local Democracy Officer, at the Council Offices or kevin.flaherty@lewisham.gov.uk. However the deadline will be 4pm on the working day prior to the meeting.

A “key decision” means an executive decision which is likely to:

(a) result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates;

(b) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 2016</th>
<th>Private Rented Sector Proposed Additional Licensing scheme for Flats over Commercial Premises</th>
<th>02/03/16 Mayor and Cabinet</th>
<th>Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2016</td>
<td>Catford Regeneration Partnership Ltd Business Plan 2016-17</td>
<td>02/03/16 Mayor and Cabinet</td>
<td>Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources &amp; Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor</td>
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<td>Ravensbourne Flood Alleviation Scheme</td>
<td>02/03/16 Mayor and Cabinet</td>
<td>Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources &amp; Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor</td>
<td>Sara Williams, Executive Director, Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2016</td>
<td>St Winifred's Catholic Primary School Making of Instrument of Government</td>
<td>02/03/16 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)</td>
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<td>Public Health GUM Sexual Health Provision</td>
<td>02/03/16 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)</td>
<td>Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Chris Best, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People</td>
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<td>December 2015</td>
<td>Award of Contracts for Residential Detoxification Services</td>
<td>15/03/16 Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel</td>
<td>Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Janet Daby, Cabinet Member Community Safety</td>
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<td>January 2016</td>
<td>Contract Variation and Single Tender Action for PLACE/Ladywell</td>
<td>15/03/16 Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel</td>
<td>Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing</td>
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<td>Contract Award for Targeted Family Support Service</td>
<td>15/03/16 Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel</td>
<td>Sara Williams, Executive Director, Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</td>
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<td>February 2016</td>
<td>Discretionary Housing Payments for People Affected by Welfare Reform</td>
<td>15/03/16 Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel</td>
<td>Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing</td>
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<td>Insurance Provisions and reserves</td>
<td>15/03/16 Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel</td>
<td>Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources &amp; Regeneration and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources</td>
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<td>December 2015</td>
<td>Reprocurement of Healthwatch and NHS Complaints Advocacy Service</td>
<td>15/03/16 Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel</td>
<td>Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Chris Best, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2016</td>
<td>Award of contract to deliver community breastfeeding support service</td>
<td>15/03/16 Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel</td>
<td>Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Chris Best, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>2016 Schools Minor Works Contract - Permission to vary 2015/16 Contract to deliver works to Fairlawn School</td>
<td>15/03/16</td>
<td>Overview and Scrutiny Education Business Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2015</td>
<td>'A natural Renaissance for Lewisham (2015-2020)' The Borough's Biodiversity Action Plan.</td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
<td>Mayor and Cabinet</td>
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<td>January 2016</td>
<td>Beeson Street Scheme Approval and Proposed form of investment partnership/procurement route</td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
<td>Mayor and Cabinet</td>
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<td>January 2016</td>
<td>Brasted Close Housing Development</td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Equalities</td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
<td>Janet Senior, Executive</td>
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<td>December 2015</td>
<td>Deferred Payment Agreement Arrangements Care Act 2014</td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
<td>Mayor and Cabinet</td>
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<td>November 2015</td>
<td>Development Agreement with the Education Commission for the Archdiocese of Southwark</td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
<td>Mayor and Cabinet</td>
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<td>Discharge into Private Rented Sector Policy</td>
<td>03/16</td>
<td>Mayor and Cabinet</td>
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<td>Disposal of Land at Corner of Deptford Church Street and Creekside</td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
<td>Mayor and Cabinet</td>
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<td>Disposal of Saville Centre Lewisham High Street</td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
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<td>Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor</td>
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<td>August 2015</td>
<td>Health and Social Care Devolution Pilot</td>
<td>23/03/16 Mayor and Cabinet</td>
<td>Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Chris Best, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People</td>
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<td>January 2016</td>
<td>Housing Allocations Policy</td>
<td>23/03/16 Mayor and Cabinet</td>
<td>Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing</td>
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<td>January 2016</td>
<td>Housing Led - Regeneration Sites, parts 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>23/03/16 Mayor and Cabinet</td>
<td>Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing</td>
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<td>January 2016</td>
<td>Lewisham Homes Management Agreement</td>
<td>23/03/16 Mayor and Cabinet</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Debts Write Off</td>
<td>23/03/16 Mayor and Cabinet</td>
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<td><strong>New Bermondsey Housing Zone Bid Update</strong></td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
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<td><strong>OFSTED Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers</strong></td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
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<td><strong>Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board OFSTED Action Plan</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Phoenix Homes Community Housing Development Agreement</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Surrey Canal Triangle (New Bermondsey) - Compulsory Purchase Order Resolution</strong></td>
<td>23/03/16</td>
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<td><strong>Contract Award for Community</strong></td>
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<td>Director, Children and Young People and Councillor Chris Best, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Older People</td>
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<td>Annual Pay Statement</td>
<td>30/03/16 Council</td>
<td>Andreas Ghosh, Head of Personnel &amp; Development and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources</td>
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<td>Catford Regeneration Partnership Ltd Business Plan 2016-17</td>
<td>30/03/16 Council</td>
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<td>February 2016</td>
<td>2016 School Minor Works Contract</td>
<td>05/04/16 Overview and Scrutiny Education Business Panel</td>
<td>Sara Williams, Executive Director, Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People</td>
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<td>Annual Lettings Plan</td>
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<td>Formal Designation of Crystal Palace &amp; Upper Norwood</td>
<td>04/16 Mayor and Cabinet</td>
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<td>Processing of Dry Recyclables Contract</td>
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<td>Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Rachel Onikosi, Cabinet Member Public Realm</td>
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<td>Contract Award Security</td>
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