



AGENDA

MAYOR AND CABINET

Date: WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2016 at 6.00 pm, or upon the rising of Mayor & Cabinet Contracts, whichever is the later.

**Committee Rooms 1 & 2
Civic Suite
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU**

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MEMBERS

Sir Steve Bullock	Mayor	L
Councillor Alan Smith	Deputy Mayor - Growth & Regeneration	L
Councillor Chris Best	Health, Well-Being & Older People	L
Councillor Kevin Bonavia	Resources	L
Councillor Janet Daby	Community Safety	L
Councillor Joe Dromey	Policy and Performance	L
Councillor Damien Egan	Housing	L
Councillor Paul Maslin	Children & Young People	L
Councillor Joan Millbank	Third Sector and Community	L
Councillor Rachel Onikosi	Public Realm	L

Members are summoned to attend this meeting

**Barry Quirk
Chief Executive
Lewisham Town Hall
Catford
London SE6 4RU
Date: Tuesday, 15 March 2016**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The public are welcome to attend our committee meetings, however occasionally committees may have to consider some business in private. Copies of reports can be made available in additional formats on request.

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- ensure that you never leave your recording equipment unattended in the meeting room.

If recording causes a disturbance or undermines the proper conduct of the meeting, then the Chair of the meeting may decide to stop the recording. In such circumstances, the decision of the Chair shall be final.

MAYOR & CABINET		
Report Title	Declarations of Interests	
Key Decision	No	Item No. 1
Ward	n/a	
Contributors	Chief Executive	
Class	Part 1	Date: March 23 2016

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 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 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 2

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Minutes	
Key Decision		Item No.2
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive	
Class	Part 1	Date: March 23 2016

Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of that part of the meetings of the Mayor and Cabinet which were open to the press and public, held on February 17 2016 and March 2 2016 (copies attached) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Public Document Pack

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 17 February 2016 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Councillors Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Janet Daby, Joe Dromey, Damien Egan, Joan Millbank and Rachel Onikosi.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Paul Bell, Councillor Brenda Dacres, Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Councillor Alan Hall, Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin, Councillor Helen Klier and Councillor Jim Mallory.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Smith and Councillor Paul Maslin.

359. Declaration of Interests

The Mayor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 4 as a Board Member of the Surrey Canal Sports Foundation.

Councillor Joe Dromey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 8 as a member of the Deptford Neighbourhood Forum.

360. Matters Raised by Scrutiny and other Constitutional Bodies

A reference from the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel on the Budget was considered as part of Item 5.

361. The Future of Beckenham Place Park

The report was presented by Councillor Rachel Onikosi who urged the Mayor to accept the recommendations saying there was an opportunity to achieve substantial investment in the park.

Councillor Egan pointed out a written representation had been received from the Save the Eighteen campaign which contained a user survey claiming support for the continuation of golf in the park. Officers did not dispute this finding but pointed out it focused only on current park users and not the much wider potential audience of park users in the borough.

Councillor Daby advised the Mayor that as a Councillor in the nearby Whitefoot Ward, she had only received one objection to the proposals.

Councillor Bonavia received an assurance that efforts had been made over several years to attract a golf partner and increase income but that these had proved unsuccessful.

Councillor Dromey asked where the nearest municipal golf courses were and was informed there were two in the London Borough of Bromley.

The Mayor recalled that he had been deeply involved with Beckenham Place Park since 1984 when he was Chair of the Leisure Services Committee. He said the park had never enjoyed its expected usage but now there appeared

to be scope to radically improve this. The Mayor acknowledged there had been multiple representations demanding that golf be retained and that he had listened to these carefully but it seemed to be beyond doubt that the use of the golf course has steadily declined. The Mayor concluded that the best way forward for the use of open spaces had to be found and he was agreeing the proposed recommendations but he took no pleasure in the decision to cease golf.

Having considered an officer report, two tabled addendums, written representations from the Save the 18 campaign and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for the Public Realm, Councillor Rachel Onikosi, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the continuation of work on the restoration of Beckenham Place Park be approved, and that this will include:

- a) Public consultation about park design and facilities.
- b) On-going design work and accompanying technical work by consultants, to be funded by the HLF grant.
- c) Submission of a phase 2 bid to the HLF for approval of the detailed plans

(2) the closure of the existing golf course by 31st December 2016 be approved.

362. New Bermondsey CPO

The Mayor left the meeting room during consideration of this item. Councillor Best was in the Chair for this item only.

The Cabinet was advised by the Head of Law that this item should be withdrawn pending further inquiries.

Councillor Best advised the Cabinet to accept this advice and said she expected the developer, Millwall FC and Council Officers to seek a resolution to their differences without any unnecessary delays.

Councillor Dromey mentioned that he had received a petition with more than 15,000 signatures from the Defend the Den Campaign which he would be presenting at Council on February 24./cf

Having considered an officer report and an oral update from the Head of Law, the Cabinet, in the absence of the Mayor, agreed that the item should be withdrawn.

363. Budget 2016-17 Update

The Mayor accepted this as a late and urgent item having received an explanation that given the significance of the financial constraints that the

Council faces over the coming years, it was essential that the Mayor and Cabinet were updated on any changes affecting the 2016/17 Budget prior to presenting it to Council. The reason for lateness was to ensure that any decisions taken by the Mayor & Cabinet on 10 February 2016 could be appropriately considered within this report.

Having considered an officer report, a referral presented by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, Councillor Alan Hall and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) Council be recommended to agree a Band D Council Tax for 2016/17 of £1,102.66 for the Council's element. This is an increase of 3.99% (including a social care precept of 2%), based on a General Fund Budget Requirement of £236.218m for 2016/17.

(2) Council be asked to note an overall increase in the total Council Tax for 2016/17 of 3.99% to include the Greater London Authority (GLA) precept being reduced by £19 to £276, a 6.4% reduction from its 2015/16 level as proposed.

(3) Agrees to recommend to Council on 24 February 2016, the statutory calculation of the Budget Requirement for Lewisham for 2016/17, attached at Appendix A.

(4) Council be recommended to agree on 24 February 2016, the motion on the budget, attached at Appendix B, including modifications made to the proposals published in the 2016/17 Budget Report.

(5) Notes the provisional and estimated precept and levies from the GLA and other bodies as detailed in Appendix C and delegate authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to include any changes to these in the report for Council.

(6) the final settlement figure of £146.691m announced on the 8 February 2016 be noted, which is the same as the provisional settlement figure.

(7) there were no responses from Business rate payers to the consultation on the draft Budget which took place from 21 January 2016 to 4 February 2016.

(8) the updated equalities implications as set out for the introduction of the Social Care precept as part of proposed Council Tax increases be noted; and

(9) the Section 25 Statement from the Chief Financial Officer attached at Appendix D be received.

364. Sir Francis Drake Primary School enlargement

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that

(1) the successful conclusion of a series of contractor engagements and consultations in partnership with the Education Funding Agency and the final agreed building proposal be noted;

(2) the requirement to consult more widely with Councillors, the governing body, parents and neighbouring boroughs had been met;

(3) the decision to expand Sir Francis Drake Primary from 1 to 2FE for 2017 be ratified in accordance with the building proposals concluded in partnership with the Education Funding Agency; and

(4) additional expenditure to a maximum of £225,000 be approved to support additional site and planning requirements.

365. Admissions Arrangements 2017-18.docc

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) The nursery, primary, secondary and sixth form admissions arrangements for Lewisham's community mainstream schools as set out in Appendix A to H be approved; and

(2) The pan London Admissions Schemes for reception and secondary transfer and a local scheme for in year admissions as detailed in Appendix I be approved.

366. Deptford Neighbourhood Area and Forum

Councillor Dromey withdrew from the meeting while this item was considered.

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that

(1) the designation of the DNA Neighbourhood Area as set out at Annex 3 be approved;

(2) the Deptford Neighbourhood Action Neighbourhood Forum be designated as set out at Annex 2.

(3) the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be authorised to undertake the required publicity of the designations.

367. Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee London Fire Brigade

Having considered an officer report and a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Councillor Janet Daby, the Mayor

RESOLVED that the response be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

368. Response to OSC Referral on Devolution

Having considered an officer report and a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that

(1) the policy context for devolution in England and the background to the London devolution discussions be noted and

(2) the response be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

369. Catford Housing Zone bid

The Mayor stressed he was keen to support this bid and he was led to believe that a Catford bid stood a strong chance of being one of the ten new zones to be agreed by the Mayor of London.

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that the submission of a bid for a Catford Housing Zone to the GLA be approved.

370. Referral - Catford Regeneration - SDSC

The Mayor indicated he would write to Ian Chalk to thank him for producing this presentation.

Having considered an officer report, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the views of the Select Committee be received and the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be asked to prepare a response for Mayoral approval and reporting to the Select Committee.

The meeting closed at 7.24pm.

Public Document Pack

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET

Wednesday, 2 March 2016 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Councillors Alan Smith, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Janet Daby, Joe Dromey, Damien Egan, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank and Rachel Onikosi

371. Declaration of Interests

None were made.

372. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on February 10 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

373. Outstanding Scrutiny Matters

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

374. CRPL Business Plan

Having considered an officer report and a presentation from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alan Smith, the Mayor, from the options available:

RESOLVED that the contents of the 2016/17 Business Plan for the Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited (CRPL) be received and be submitted to the next available meeting of Council for approval.

375. Additional Licensing Scheme Houses in Multiple Occupation

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Damien Egan, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(i) the designation of an additional licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) above commercial premises in the whole of the Council's area be approved using the power set out in Section 56 (1) of the Housing Act 2004;

(ii) the statutory consultation undertaken on the proposed Additional Licensing scheme as required by Section 56 (3) of the Housing Act 2004 be noted;

(iii) the proposed fee for Licenses to be put to Supplementary Licensing Committee for approval and the fee level recommended for both the new additional licensing scheme and mandatory licences be £500 "per let unit" over the five year term with a proposed maximum threshold of £5000 for each property where there are 10 lettings or more per landlord, subject to

discounts;

(iv) the principle of the publication of an online register of landlords who are licensed by the Council be approved;

(v) the Executive Director for Customer Services be required to prepare a detailed project plan for implementation beginning May 2016 and publish the 3 month Statutory Notice for the scheme as part of the implementation;

(vi) the Executive Director for Customer Services, after consulting the relevant portfolio holder, be authorised to review the scheme, its implementation and resourcing and make amendments as necessary so as to ensure the principles of the scheme are achieved.

376. Budget saving 2016-17 Trade Union Secondments

Councillor Bonavia reminded the Mayor the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel had asked that this decision be taken at a Mayor & Cabinet meeting. He said the background to this saving was the massive reduction in resources provided by the Government which had led to a workforce of 4500 being reduced to less than 2500 with further job losses expected. He said the Trade Unions had been consulted and had accepted the proposal to delete a vacant post.

In answer to a question from Councillor Millbank, the Head of Human Resources stated trade union secondments were based on employee numbers and that there had been no changes for eight years.

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that the proposed reduction in the trade union secondment budget by £40,000 for 2016/17 be approved.

377. St Winifreds Catholic Primary School Making of Instrument of Government

Having considered an officer report, and a formal presentation by the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Councillor Paul Maslin, the Mayor for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) the Instrument of Government for St. Winifred's Catholic Primary School be made by Local Authority order dated 1 April 2016;

(2) the detailed Instrument of Government the Local Authority is proposing to make by order be approved and note the Instrument of Government has also been agreed by the Education Commission, Catholic Diocese of Southwark, Trustees, and Foundation Governors as well as the Local Authority.

378. Local Authority Governor Nominations

Having considered an officer report, and a formal presentation by the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Councillor Paul Maslin, the Mayor having considered the information supplied in respect of each candidate:

RESOLVED that the persons set out below be nominated as Local Authority governors and the information concerning the recommended nominated governors be noted.

Ms. Catherine Farmer	St Winifred's Catholic Primary School
Richard Cory	Forest Hill School

379. Appeal Panel Members Appointment

Having considered an officer report, and a formal presentation by the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Councillor Paul Maslin, the Mayor, having considered the information supplied in respect of each candidate:

RESOLVED that Mr John Martin, and Dr Eric Pape, be appointed as members of the independent education appeals panel.

380. Management Report

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance, Councillor Joe Dromey, the Mayor:

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

381. Response to Public Accounts Select Committee Income Generation

Councillor Kevin Bonavia thanked the Public Accounts Select Committee for their excellent review of the possibilities on income generation and indicated officers were working hard to realise the recommendations.

Having considered an officer report and a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Kevin Bonavia, the Mayor agreed that the response prepared by the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration be approved and reported to the Public Accounts Select Committee.

382. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 and under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs [3, 4 and 5] of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

13. River Ravensbourne Flood Defence Works

383. River Ravensbourne Flood Defence Works

The Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration's representative advised the Mayor that these necessary flood defence works could form a synergy with the recently agreed proposals for Beckenham Place Park and there was a possibility economies of scale could be achieved.

Having considered a confidential officer report, and a presentation by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Alan Smith, the Mayor, for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(1) a contribution from the Council of a stated value over three years be approved to ensure the flood defence works planned, to protect hundreds of homes and businesses from flooding, can be carried out;

(2) the demolition by the Environment Agency of the disused changing rooms and the building currently housing a nursery within Beckenham Place Park be approved, in order to allow the flood defence works to proceed.

(3) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, in consultation with the Head of Law, to agree the terms of the funding agreement for the Council's contribution with the Environment Agency.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Agenda Item 3

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Report Back On Matters Raised By The Overview And Scrutiny Business Panel or other Constitutional bodies	
Key Decision	No	Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Head of Business & Committee	
Class	Open	Date: March 23 2016

Purpose of Report

To report back on any matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel following their consideration of the decisions made by the Mayor on March 2 2016 or on other matters raised by Select Committees or other Constitutional bodies.

Mayor and Cabinet		
Title	Comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the future of south London's suburban railways	
Contributor	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Item 4
Class	Part 1 (open)	23 March 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, arising from discussions held on the future of south London's suburban railways at the Committee's meeting on 10 March 2016.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet consider the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out below and ask the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to respond.

3. Overview and Scrutiny Committee views

- 3.1 On 10 March 2016, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report and a presentation on the Centre for London's research into *Turning South London Orange* as part of a broader discussion about the future of South London's suburban railways. The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
- 3.2 The Committee welcomes the detailed work carried out to develop the proposals in *Turning South London Orange*. The Committee also noted the publication that same day of two significant reports from the National Infrastructure Commission on the strategic case for additional large scale transport in London and the south east¹.
- 3.3 Most significantly, the Committee recognised the specific opportunities for Lewisham including the potential for:
- additional services on the Hayes Line creating a 10 minute Overground service
 - additional services between Lewisham and Victoria
 - a new interchange at Brockley Station between the East London Line and services between Lewisham and Victoria
- 3.4 At the same time, TfL and DfT have launched a joint prospectus, which responds to such demands from boroughs. The prospectus outlines a new approach to rail passenger services in London and the south east, and is seen to pave the way for a wider roll-out of London Overground services.

¹ [Transport for a World City](http://tinyurl.com/je87su3) and [Review of the Case for Large Scale Transport Investment in London](http://tinyurl.com/je87su3) available at: <http://tinyurl.com/je87su3>

- 3.5 It is envisaged that new Overground routes will be planned as part of the re-franchising of existing routes and services. The first opportunity is therefore likely to be with the re-franchising of the south eastern network in 2018.
- 3.6 The Committee believes that further engagement with the public and key stakeholders will be necessary to develop future proposals and plans for improving the rail network in order to best serve the interests of south east London in the face of the huge and growing demands on the current south east London rail infrastructure.
- 3.7 The Committee recommends that Mayor and Cabinet engage with officers to advance a proactive corporate approach to the future of south London's rail services and that this should give particular consideration to the issues identified in *Turning South London Orange* and other key strategic documents such as those reported by National Infrastructure Commission.
- 3.8 The Committee recommends that the Council should develop plans to address those key points raised with the Committee by the Centre for London, which include:
- a clear statement of the needs and priorities of the Lewisham area
 - the feasibility of items identified in the *Turning South London Orange* report and in TfLs proposals
 - consultation by the rail industry with stakeholders and identification of all relevant projects
 - the optimal time window for project delivery needs to be identified and progressed
 - consideration of the options for establishing a joint programme to implant the Lewisham area as a strategic planning priority for future south central and south eastern rail investment projects
- 3.9 The Committee also recommends that the Council takes a proactive position on the future of rail services on the Thamelink route (through Catford and Bellingham) and ensures that the running of at least four trains an hour forms part of the negotiations (with TfL or others) for the future franchise of the line beyond 2020.

4. Financial implications

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

5. Legal Implications

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

Background papers

The future of South London's Suburban Railways, report and presentation on Turning South London Orange (<http://tinyurl.com/zzj2kjd>) considered at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 March 2016.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact **Timothy Andrew**, Interim Overview and Scrutiny Manager (**02083147916**).

DRAFT

Agenda Item 4

MAYOR & CABINET		
Report Title	Outstanding Scrutiny Matters	
Key Decision	No	Item No.
Ward	n/a	
Contributors	Head of Business and Committee	
Class	Part 1	Date: 23 March 2016

1. Purpose of Report

To report on items previously reported to the Mayor for response by directorates and to indicate the likely future reporting date.

2. Recommendation

That the reporting date of the items shown in the table below be noted.

Report Title	Responding Author	Date Considered by Mayor & Cabinet	Scheduled Reporting Date	Slippage since last report
Sustainable Development Select Committee – Modern Roads Review	ED Res & Regen	13 January 2016	23 March 2016	No
Public Accounts Select Committee – Work Programme	ED Res & Regen	13 January 2016	23 March 2016	No
Sustainable Development Select Committee – High Streets Review	ED Res & Regen	13 January 2016	23 March 2016	Yes
Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Key Planning Issues	ED Res & Regen	10 February 2016	20 April 2016	No

Sustainable Development Select Committee – Catford Regeneration	ED Res & Regen	17 February 2016	20 April 2016	No
Safer & Stronger Communities Select Committee – Main Grants Programme 2016-17	ED Community	17 February 2016	18 May 2016	No

BACKGROUND PAPERS and AUTHOR

Mayor & Cabinet minutes 13 January 2016, 10 February 2016 and 17 February 2016 available from Kevin Flaherty 0208 3149327.

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=139&Year=0>

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission		
Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing		
Report for: Mayor		<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Director		<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Part 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Key Decision <input type="checkbox"/>

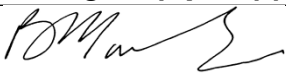
Date of Meeting	23 rd March 2016
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Title of Report	Ofsted Inspection of "Service for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers" and the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board
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Originator of Report	The Executive Director, Children and Young People The Director for Children's Social Care	Ext. 48527
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	√	
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	√	
Crime & Disorder Implications		X
Environmental Implications		X
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	√	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework		
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed:  Executive Member

Date: 15th March 2016

Signed:  Executive Director
Date: 15th March 2016

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

MAYOR & CABINET		
Report Title	Ofsted Inspection of 'Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers' and the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board	
Key Decision	Yes	Item No.
Ward	All	
Contributors	Executive Director for Children & Young People (Director Children's Social Care)	
Class	Open	Date: 23 March 2016

1. Summary and Purpose

- 1.1 An Ofsted inspection of 'Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers' was undertaken in Lewisham between 26 October 2015 – 20 November 2015, at the same time an Ofsted inspection of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was completed simultaneously. This report gives an overview of the main findings, grading and subsequent action being taken as a result of these inspections. This report should be read in line with the full inspection report attached as Appendix A, both reports are available on www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/lewisham.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Mayor:

- Notes the Inspection reports, findings and associated recommendations
- Endorses the Lewisham Improvement plan as a response to the inspection findings (Appendix B.)
- Notes the associated LSCB Improvement plan (Appendix C)

3. Policy Context

The purpose of an Ofsted inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided.

This inspection was conducted under s136 Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The proposals within this report are consistent with the Council's corporate priorities as set out in the Borough's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020. In particular, the proposals relate to the Council's priorities regarding young people's Achievement and Involvement, Protection of Children and Community Leadership and Empowerment. The proposals are also in line with the Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18 and the four outcomes of building resilience, staying safe, being healthy and active and raising achievement and attainment.

4. Background

4.1 Overview of Inspection

4.1.1 An Ofsted Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers was undertaken in Lewisham between 26 October 2015 – 20 November 2015. The framework for this inspection was first used in 2014 and was subsequently updated in October 2015. The Inspection was conducted as part of a 3 year cycle of inspection and was undertaken over a period of 4 weeks by a team of 7 of Her Majesty's inspectors and 1 Quality Assurance manager. The Inspection consisted of data analysis, documentation review, observation, file audits, focus groups and individual meetings with children and young people, Local authority staff and partner agencies.

4.1.2 The full Ofsted report was published at the same time as the Inspection report of the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board on 20th January 2016. The Inspection Framework allows for 4 potential judgements, Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement and Inadequate, the specific areas judged are outlined below with the overall inspection grading.

4.1.3 The judgements for Lewisham were made in the 3 categories and 2 sub categories as follows:

- Overall grading – Requires Improvement
- Children who need help & protection – Requires Improvement
- Children Looked After & Achieving Permanence - Good
 - Adoption – Good
 - Care Leavers – Good
- Leadership, Management & Governance – Requires Improvement

4.1.4 This inspection outcomes constituted a change from the judgments made in the previous inspection with the overall effectiveness for Safeguarding being 'Outstanding' and for Looked After Children being 'Good.'

4.1.5 The new Inspection arrangements are undoubtedly more stringent than previous inspections although the grading of "Good" has remained for Looked after Children, inspectors noted a deterioration in standards for children in need of early help and protection.

4.1.6 At the time of presentation of this report 83 authorities have been inspected under this framework and of these the following gradings have been made:

- Outstanding – 0
- Good – 19
- Requires improvement - 42
- Inadequate – 22

4.1.7 The inspection judgement for the LSCB was 'Requires Improvement.'

4.2 Recommendations

Local authority

4.2.1 As outlined within the report there are 9 recommendations:

- 3 recommendations relate to Early Help
- 3 recommendations relate directly to social work practice
- 1 recommendation relates directly to Child Sexual Exploitation
- 1 recommendation regarding Governance
- 1 recommendation relates to performance management and information systems.

4.2.2 The 9 detailed inspection recommendations are outlined below:

1. Improve governance arrangements so that there is effective oversight, support and challenge of children's services by the local authority's Children and Young People's Select Committee and the Corporate Parenting Panel to drive and monitor service improvement.
2. Review processes within the duty team to ensure that systems to manage contacts and referrals, including domestic abuse notifications, are secure and enable social workers and other professionals to keep children and young people safe and protected, in a timely manner.
3. Ensure that a revised early help strategy is implemented so that early help is effectively targeted, coordinated and evaluated so that families receive appropriate support when need is first identified.
4. Take action to improve information and intelligence sharing across partners regarding children at risk of sexual exploitation and/or going missing and use this to improve prevention and disruption activity.
5. Improve performance management and information systems to ensure that managers at all levels have timely, relevant and accurate performance information to enable them to work effectively and deliver a consistently good service.
6. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of step-up and step-down arrangements between early help and children's social care to ensure that appropriate actions are taken to improve services.
7. Ensure that all plans for any child or young person receiving a service focus on reducing risk; identify the needs of all children in the family; and are understood by parents and young people. Plans should be specific, measurable and time-bound.
8. Ensure that initial strategy discussions include relevant professionals to inform timely decision-making and planning in child protection investigations, as required by guidance.
9. Ensure that life story work is completed for those children and young people in long-term care who need to know and understand their life histories.

LSCB

4.2.3 For the LSCB there were 4 recommendations, 3 of these align with recommendations to the Local Authority with 1 recommendation relating to the workings of the LSCB itself.

4.2.4 The recommendations are detailed below:

1. Review the board's early help and threshold documentation in the light of changes to frontline services as part of an overall review of the early help offer within the local authority area.
2. Clarify the governance role of the board's sexual exploitation sub-group to align it with other groups within the local authority area.
3. Implement fully the performance framework to ensure that there is interrogation of performance reports to provide a clear understanding of any exceptions or deficits.
4. Streamline action planning and ensure that any actions undertaken are aligned with the board's priorities.

4.3 Improvement Plan and Delivery

4.3.1 The outcomes of the Inspection have been shared with elected members, partners, managers and front line staff within the Local Authority. An Inspection seminar has been held with the Lead Ofsted Inspector and senior officers and partners on 29th February 2016 to discuss detailed aspects of the inspection outcome as is customary practice.

4.3.2 From the date of publication of the inspection report on 20th January the Local Authority has 70 days to prepare and forward an Improvement Plan to Ofsted; this is also the case for the LSCB to respond. Understandably the plans will be reviewed by Ofsted to measure progress at the next scheduled inspection; the improvement plan for the Local Authority is attached as Appendix B and for the LSCB as Appendix C.

4.3.3 The plans aligns to areas of focus in line with the recommendations but also address some of the additional development areas highlighted within the report that did not lead to a formal recommendation. Work has already been initiated to address the recommendations as detailed within the plans, this includes:

- The creation of a multi-agency Early Help Board, the first meeting was held in January, dedicated staff have been aligned to assist the delivery of this.
- A review of our CSE arrangements with proposals for change due to be presented to the next Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board in March.
- 4 development sessions with our Corporate Parenting board to refresh Governance arrangements and associated delivery for services to our Looked After Children; the first of these was held on 3rd February 2016.
- Development of a comprehensive workforce strategy to assist in consistency of social work interventions and best practice to protect and support vulnerable children and young people. A Strategy Group has been created and workforce surveys have been completed to inform the strategy.

- A review of performance information has been initiated to ensure integrity of information and that the right information is available to the right people to inform good analysis and decision making. In association with this the IT platform for Lewisham was singled out as hampering service development and delivery, as such the improvement plan addresses the need for the roll out of Thin Client in April/May 2016 to promote greater stability as well as to allow usage of the most current release of the Liquid Logic system used for social care casework recording. There is still significant work required in this area to allow more mobile working and the use of digital technology to maximise efficiency and costs.
- An LSCB development day was held on 3rd March to assist with the framework to deliver priorities moving forward.

4.4 Monitoring and Reporting arrangements

- 4.4.1 The Local Authority Improvement Plan will be overseen by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and will be subject to quarterly progress reporting until completion. Co-ordination of the plan will be provided by the Corporate Strategy Unit and additional monitoring reports will also be made to the Children's Social Care Senior Management Team as well as the wider Children's Services Departmental Management Team. Priorities within the Improvement Plan are aligned with the Children's Social Care Business Plan 2016-17.

The LSCB in turn will monitor Appendix C via the main Board, the plan will be co-ordinated via the LSCB business manager.

5. Financial implications

There are no direct revenue implications arising for this report

The improvement plans may identify that extra expenditure is required in the future. In the first instance this will be managed through the current Children and Young People's budget.

There are no capital implications from this report.

6. Legal implications

Services to children are provided within the statutory framework providing support and protection to the general child population as well as those requiring individual intervention. The efficacy of these services and the operation of the framework as a whole is inspected by OFSTED as described in the report, with timescales for action and improvement plans where required as set out above.

7. Crime and disorder implications

There are no crime and disorder implications from this report.

8. Equalities implications

There are no Equalities implications from this report.

8.2 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). 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.

8.3 In summary, 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.

8.4 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

8.5 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

8.6 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
3. Engagement and the equality duty
4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
5. Equality information and the equality duty

8.7 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

9. Environmental implications

There are no particular environmental implications

10. Background documents

None.

Early Help, Protection and Looked After Children

Post-Ofsted Inspection Improvement Plan

March 2016

Introduction

The London Borough of Lewisham was inspected under Ofsted's Single Inspection Framework from 26th October - 20th November 2015. The report published on the 20th January 2016 gave the following judgements;

Overall Effectiveness	Requires Improvement
Children who need help and protection:	Requires Improvement
Children looked after and achieving permanence	Good
- Adoption performance	Good
- Care leavers	Good
Leadership, management and governance	Requires Improvement

This Improvement Plan is to be submitted to Ofsted in March 2016.

Governance

This Improvement Plan will be subject to a quarterly performance review by the Lewisham Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership as many of the improvement areas are aligned to the Children and Young people's Plan 2015-18, as well as regular monitoring by the Children and Young People Select Committee. Progress will also be reported into the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board and Corporate Parenting Boards respectively.

Structure

Ofsted identified 9 areas for improvement

The table overleaf outlines these together with a named lead for each.

In addition to the headline areas of improvement, this Improvement Plan is also informed by detail from the text of the Ofsted report, the lessons we learnt about safeguarding and care through the inspection preparation and process and lessons learnt from the individual cases Ofsted raised with the local authority during the inspection

There is a range of current and planned improvement work in Children’s Social Care which goes beyond this Plan, through the Children and Young People’s Plan, the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Business plan and the Children’s Social Care Business Plan 2015/16. To avoid duplication, this Improvement Plan will reference where relevant detail can be found in those documents.

Each of the 9 areas for improvement has a simple action plan which includes;

- a) Expected Outcome
- b) Measures of Success
- c) Actions

To enable monitoring, each plan also has the following;

- d) Action Plan RAG rating
- e) Impact: Data and Commentary
- f) Recommendations for Further Action

Monitoring will take place each Quarter.

RAG Ratings as follows;

Action Plan	Impact
Green = Action Completed or no risks to action being completed on time	Green = Action Plan is having the anticipated impact
Amber = Some delay or some risk to action being completed on time	Amber = Some evidence of impact or mixed picture
Red = Significant delay that warrants attention	Red – No evidence of impact when expected

Key Leads and Those Responsible for Actions

Job Title	Current Post-Holder (as of date of Plan Submission)
Chief Executive	Barry Quirk (BQ)
Executive Director for Children and Young People	Sara Williams (SW)
Director of Children's Social Care	Stephen Kitchman (SK)
Head of Crime Reduction	Geeta Subramaniam (GS)
Head of Targeted Services and Joint Commissioning	Warwick Tomsett (WT)
Principal Policy Officer	Paul Aladenika (PA)
Service Manager Quality Assurance	Eileen Collier (EC)
Service Manger Referral and Assessment	Paul King (PK)
Service Manager Family Social Work	Naeema Sarkar (NS)
Service Manager Looked After Children	Tina Benjamin (TB)
Service Manager Children with Complex Needs	Ann Wallace (AW)
Service Manager Early Intervention	Nathan Pritchard (NP)
Prevention and Inclusion Manager	James Lee (JL)
Human Resources Business Partner	Jackie Stirling(JSt)
Early Help Commissioner	Jonathan Stevens (JS)
Business Support Hub Manager	Maame Baryeh (MB)
Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager	Yasemin Aray (YA)
Serious and Acquisitive Crime, Metropolitan Police	DCI Andy Furphy (AF)
Head of Service Governance Support	Barrie Neale (BN)

Recommendation	Lead	Linked Plan
A. Early Help and Protection		
1. Review processes within the duty team to ensure that systems to manage contacts and referrals, including domestic abuse notifications, are secure and enable social workers and other professionals to keep children and young people safe and protected, in a timely manner.	Paul King	SS1 CYPP 2015-18 CSC Business plan 2016-17
2. Ensure that a revised early help strategy is implemented so that early help is effectively targeted, coordinated and evaluated so that families receive appropriate support when need is first identified.	Stephen Kitchman/Jon Stevens	BR2 CYPP 2015-18 LSCB Business plan
3. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of step-up and step-down arrangements between early help and children's social care to ensure that appropriate actions are taken to improve services.	Paul King/Nathan Pritchard	CSC Business plan 2016-17
4. Ensure that initial strategy discussions include relevant professionals to inform timely decision-making and planning in child protection investigations, as required by guidance.	Paul King	CSC Business plan 2016-17
5. Take action to improve information and intelligence sharing across partners regarding children at risk of sexual exploitation and/or going missing and use this to improve prevention and disruption activity.	Stephen Kitchman/ Geeta Subramaniam/ Eileen Collier	SS1 CYPP 2015-18 LSCB Business Plan 2016-17 CSC Business plan 2016-17
B. Children Looked After and Achieving Permanence		
6. Ensure that life story work is completed for those children and young people in long-term care who need to know and understand their life histories.	Tina Benjamin	CSC Business plan 2016-17

C. Leadership, Management and Governance		
7. Improve governance arrangements so that there is effective oversight, support and challenge of children's services by the local authority's Children and Young People's Select Committee and the Corporate Parenting Panel to drive and monitor service improvement.	Sara Williams/Stephen Kitchman	
8. Ensure that all plans for any child or young person receiving a service: focus on reducing risk; identify the needs of all children in the family; and are understood by parents and young people. Plans should be specific, measurable and time-bound.	Eileen Collier	CSC Business plan 2016-17
9. Improve performance management and information systems to ensure that managers at all levels have timely, relevant and accurate performance information to enable them to work effectively and deliver a consistently good service.	Paul Aladenika/Eileen Collier	CSC Business plan 2016-17

A. EARLY HELP AND SAFEGUARDING

1. Review processes within the duty team to ensure that systems to manage contacts and referrals, including domestic abuse notifications, are secure and enable social workers and other professionals to keep children and young people safe and protected, in a timely manner.

Lead:	Paul King, Service Manager Referral and Assessment
Linked Plan:	SS1 CYPP 2015-18 CSC Business plan 2016-17
Key Partners:	Police, Crime Reduction, Community Safety, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Housing Services, Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation, Adult Social Care

a) Expected outcome (what will be different?)

- Clear processes in place from initial referral to CSC to transition to longer term social work team or early help engagement.
- Multi-agency triage in place in line with best practice, with associated performance framework in place
- All service activity within referral and assessment will be completed within 45 working days.
- Detailed service performance information allows capture of efficiency, effectiveness and demand trends to inform service and commissioning development.

b) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

- Suite of performance indicators in place in new Early Help Strategy with clear targets and evidence that targets are met
- Multi Agency safeguarding Hub (MASH) in place with required partnership engagement; associated performance indicators evidence targets met
- Performance framework evidences impact regarding, timeliness and safeguarding activity
- Service standards met against quality assurance framework
- Audit activity indicates required processes adhered to and undertaken in a timely manner

c) Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
1. Develop project plan for review of Referral and Assessment service	31 st March 2016	Paul King	
2. Complete review of Referral and Assessment service to include capacity and response of the Emergency Duty Team	30 th June 2016	Paul King	
3. Implement revised Referral and Assessment Service arrangements	30 th Oct 2016	Paul King	
3. Implement MASH (Multi-agency safeguarding Hub) development plan	30 th Oct 2016	Paul King	
4. Introduce performance scorecard for Referral and Assessment and MASH	30 th Oct 2016	Paul King	
5. Include Referral and Assessment Service in thematic audit arrangements with particular focus on thresholds for service and response	31 st March 2016	Paul King	
6. Refresh Learning and Development plan for Referral and Assessment service	30 th April 2016	Jackie Stirling	

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MONITORING AND IMPACT

d) Action Plan Progress

e) Impact:

f) Recommendations for Further Action

A. EARLY HELP AND SAFEGUARDING

2. Ensure that a revised early help strategy is implemented so that early help is effectively targeted, coordinated and evaluated so that families receive appropriate support when need is first identified.

Lead:	Stephen Kitchman/Nathan Pritchard		
Linked Plan:	BR2 CYPP 2015-18 LSCB Business plan		
Key Partners	Police, Crime Reduction, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Housing Services, Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, Children's Centre Providers, Voluntary Sector Partners, Adult Social Care		
a) Expected outcome (what will be different?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focussed co-ordinated activity in place to ensure clear commissioning, delivery and monitoring of early help to vulnerable children and their families. Information is triaged effectively at the point of CSC referral to ensure need is clearly understood for appropriate response Children's workforce are clear on arrangements and roles and have required skills to ensure vulnerable children's needs are met at an early stage. 		
b) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of Common Assessment Framework (CAF) / Team Around the Child (TAC) arrangements in place with clear targets and qualitative review arrangements in place. LSCB/Children's workforce Learning and Development delivered to develop lead professional role. Reduction in repeat referrals to CSC Revised early help performance framework in place and understood by partnership Audit arrangements in place to monitor quality, effectiveness and for corrective action and assurance 		
c) Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
1. Convene multi-agency Early Help Board with clear governance arrangements in place	28 th February 2016	SK/JS	
2. Agree new Early help Strategy and disseminate (to be signed off by CYP strategic partnership and LSCB)	30 th June 2016	SK/JS	
3. Revise and re launch early help and safeguarding guidance (thresholds document) with endorsement by LSCB.	30 th Oct 2016	PK/YA	
4. Implement new performance framework for early help	30 th Sep 2016	JS	
5. Review the impact of interventions for alcohol and drug using parents and revise the framework for the targeting of these services to parents and their children	31 st March 2017	JL	
6. Design, pilot and launch E CAF arrangements and associated guidance across partnership	30 th September 2016	PK/NP	

EARLY HELP AND SAFEGUARDING

MONITORING AND IMPACT

appropriate actions are taken to improve services.

d) Action Plan Progress	
Lead:	Paul King
e) Impact: Data and Commentary	
Linked Plan:	CSC Business plan 2016-17
f) Recommendations for Further Action	Police, Crime Reduction, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Housing Services, Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, Children's Centre Providers, Voluntary Sector Partners, Adult Services

- a) **Expected outcome (what will be different?)**
- Clear, understood arrangements and systems are in place across the children's workforce for referral and exit from Children's Social Care
 - Clear arrangements and guidance in place for support to Children in Need under S17 of the Children Act
 - Children who require a statutory response receive this in a timely way
 - Early Help practitioners respond appropriately to risk and harm

- b) **Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)**
- Audit evidence of processes against revised requirements
 - Audit of congruence of early help/CSC assessments evidence appropriate decision making
 - Re-referrals are minimised

c) Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
1. Implement revised guidance within CSC for step down arrangements to Early Help services	30 th May 2016	PK	
2. Implement revised arrangements for service provision to children in need and their families	30 th July 2016	NS	
3. Develop new Audit framework with LSCB re CSC/early help decision making and process requirements	30 th Sep 2016	EC/YA	
4. Update performance framework for children in need	30 th July 2016	NS	
5. Roll out single assessment training as core development requirement	30 th July 2016	EC	
6. Monitor single assessment quality within monthly audit tool.	30 th May 2016	EC	

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MONITORING AND IMPACT

d) Action Plan Progress

e) Impact: Data and Commentary

f) Recommendations for Further Action

A. EARLY HELP AND SAFEGUARDING

4. *Ensure that initial strategy discussions include relevant professionals to inform timely decision-making and planning in child protection investigations, as required by guidance.*

Lead:	Paul King
Linked Plan:	CSC Business plan 2016-17
Partners:	Police, Community safety, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Housing Services, Community Rehabilitation Company, Children's Centre Providers, Adult Services

a) Expected outcome (what will be different?)

- Strategy discussions are informed by timely information from relevant partner agencies
- Strategy meetings include attendance of relevant professionals involved and salient information for decision making

b) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

- S47 enquiries are routinely informed by relevant partner information at the earliest point of enquiry
- Audit framework evidences compliance with required standards for information sharing and engagement of partners at initiation of enquiries.

Page 39	c) Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
	1. Recirculate guidance on initial strategy discussions to relevant social work practitioners and managers	28 th February 2016	PK	
	2. Confirm endorsement of partner engagement via LSCB	31 st March 2016	EC/YA	
	3. Implement audit framework to include strategy discussion/meeting engagement of partners, including monitoring within the LSCB Monitoring and Evaluation sub group	31 st March 2016	EC/YA	
	4. Review the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer - who is responsible for allegations against the children's workforce) capacity to ensure that systems can allow for increases of referrals.	31 st March 2016	EC/SK	

MONITORING AND IMPACT

d) Action Plan Progress

e) Impact: Data and Commentary

f) Recommendations for Further Action

A. EARLY HELP AND SAFEGUARDING

5. *Take action to improve information and intelligence sharing across partners regarding children at risk of sexual exploitation and/or going missing and use this to improve prevention and disruption activity.*

Lead:	Stephen Kitchman, Geeta Subramaniam, Eileen Collier
Linked Plan:	SS1 CYPP 2015-18, LSCB Business Plan 2016-17, CSC Business Plan 2016-17
Partners:	Police, Community safety, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Housing Services, Community Rehabilitation Company, Children's Centre Providers, Safer London Partnership, Voluntary sector partners; Croydon Council

a) Expected outcome (what will be different?)

- Systems, processes and professional practice ensure partnership information is shared and positively impacts on children at risk of missing/CSE

b) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

Performance framework outlines timely decrease in risk rating for young people identified as at risk of CSE/Missing
 The key risk factors for young people in Lewisham are proactively addressed including: county lines/ serious youth violence and CSE and rating for young people identified as at risk of CSE/Missing
 Audit framework outlines that procedures are adhered to and effective in delivering best practice to reduce harm
 Repeat episodes of missing children are reduced

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c) Actions

	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
1. Undertake awareness raising programme within LSCB and partners including business community to ensure timely identification and referral of concerns to relevant agencies.	30 th June 2016	YA/GS	
2. Implement Liquid Logic CSE module	tbc with IT provider	DD/SK	
3. Refresh Performance framework regarding missing/CSE, to ensure indicators are linked to impact and data is good quality.	30 th June 2016	GS/SK/AF	
4. Refresh CSE governance arrangements, including CSE strategic forum/MASE and operational group and linkage with LSCB and Safer Lewisham Partnership	30 th April 2016	SK/GS/AF	
5. Undertake local awareness process and awareness raising to increase understanding of the interface between domestic violence and the wider VAWG agenda and CSE	31 st July 2016	GS	
6. Include CSE/Missing in CSC and LSCB thematic audit programme	31 st March 2016	EC	
7. Undertake CSE Peer challenge with Croydon Council	30 th May 2016	EC	
8. Commission Independent organisation for delivery of return interviews for all missing children and young people	30 th March 2016	JS	
9. Return Interviews analysed monthly to link with service planning and development and partnership response.	30 th June 2016	EC	

MONITORING AND IMPACT

d) Action Plan Progress

e) Impact: Data and Commentary-

f) Recommendations for Further Action-

B. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND PERMANENCE

6. *Ensure that life story work is completed for those children and young people in long-term care who need to know and understand their life histories.*

Lead:	Tina Benjamin
Linked Plan:	CSC Business plan 2016-17
Partners:	Commissioned Training providers

a) Expected outcome (what will be different?)

- High quality Life story work is undertaken for all children in long term care at required specification and frequency

b) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

- IRO confirmation that life story work initiated/completed at relevant statutory reviews
- Audit evidence that life story work has been initiated/completed to required standards

Page 42	c) Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
	1. Deliver workshops on life story work for LAC/Leaving care social workers	30 th April 2016	TB/JSt/JH	
	2. Review guidance and recirculate regarding life story work and standards	30 th April 2016	TB	
	3. Include life story work in monthly quality assurance report from statutory reviews	31 st March 2016	EC	
	4. Undertake audit to establish that requirements met based on agreed service standards	February 2017	EC	

MONITORING AND IMPACT

d) Action Plan Progress:

e) Impact: Data and Commentary.

f) Recommendations for Further Action

C. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

7. Improve executive management governance so that there is effective oversight, support and challenge of children's services by the executive management, the political executive, Children and Young People's Select Committee and the Corporate Parenting Panel to drive and monitor service improvement.

Lead:	Sara Williams/Stephen Kitchman
Linked Plan:	
Partners:	External challenge partner, Local Government Association (LGA) tbc

a) Expected outcome (what will be different?)

- A clear structure is in place whereby executive management, Elected Members and Scrutiny bodies are clear how they are challenging performance and championing scrutiny in Children's Social Care.

b) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

- Clear forward programme for all relevant bodies which reflects areas where performance needs to improve.
- Demonstrable performance improvements reflect challenge by executive managers and elected members.

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Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
1. Introduce formalised at least bi monthly meetings where the Chief Executive challenges performance and pace of change in CSC, establishing a clear dataset which is also reported to the Cabinet member	31 st March 2016	BQ	
2. Procure external performance partner for twice yearly service challenge, reporting to the Chief Executive and Cabinet Member	30 th June 2016	SW/BN	
3. Ensure Children and Young People's Select Committee forward plan reflects key development areas for CSC	27 th April 2016	BN SW	
4. Deliver LGA development session for Children and Young people's Select Committee and CYP Cabinet Member on best practice in elected members' scrutiny of Children's Services.	Tbc with LGA	SW	
5. Deliver development sessions for Corporate Parenting Board in line with NCB/LGA Toolkits	30 th April 2016	SK/TB	
6. Review Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference	30 th April 2016	SK/TB	
7. Review training offer for all members on Safeguarding and key challenge issues.	30 th April 2016	SK/BN	
8. Ensure forward plan for Corporate Parenting Board reflects the key development areas for Looked After Children services in the Borough.	30 th April 2016	SK/TB	

9. Deliver a revised Children's Social Care Performance Framework including reporting framework to elected Members and CYP strategic partnership.	30 th April 2016	SK/BN	
MONITORING AND IMPACT			
d) Action Plan Progress			
e) Impact: Data and Commentary			
f) Recommendations for Further Action			

C. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

8. *Ensure that all plans for any child or young person receiving a service: focus on reducing risk; identify the needs of all children in the family; and are understood by parents and young people. Plans should be specific, measurable and time-bound.*

Lead:	Eileen Collier
Linked Plan:	CSC Business Plan 2016-17
Partners:	Police, Crime Reduction, National Probation Service, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Housing Services, Community Rehabilitation Company, Children's Centre Providers, Adult Services, Safer London Foundation.

a) Expected outcome (what will be different?)

- All plans are specific, measurable and timely and address risk, permanence and contingency

b) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

- Plans are reviewed and updated in line with timescale requirement
- All children/ young people and parents have a copy of their plan
- Quality assurance activity indicates changes in line with plans
- Clear contingency arrangements in all plans

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Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
1. Review Plan templates on Children's Social Care ICS for Children in Need, Children subject to Child Protection Plans, Children Looked After and Care Leavers	30 th April 2016	EC	
2. Deliver workshops to promote best practice in care planning and use of ICS	30 th May 2016	EC	
3. Review procedures to ensure adequate guidance on use and development of plans	30 th May 2016	EC	
4. Ensure Care Plans are available and updated as required following each review, Chair to address quality of plan in recommendations of review meeting	31 st March 2016	EC/NS	
5. Review, disseminate via workshops and audit quality of chronologies within monthly audit schedule	30 th June 2016	NS	
6. Review minute taking arrangements and capacity within Review Child Protection Case Conferences	31 st March 2016	EC	
7. Include audit of plans in the thematic audit schedule	31 st March 2016	EC	

MONITORING AND IMPACT

d) **Action Plan Progress**

e) **Impact: Data and Commentary**

f) **Recommendations for Further Action**

•

C. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

9 *Improve performance management and information systems to ensure that managers at all levels have timely, relevant and accurate performance information to enable them to work effectively and deliver a consistently good service.*

Lead:	Stephen Kitchman/Barrie Neal
Linked Plan:	CSC Business Plan 2016-17
Partners:	Police, Crime Reduction, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Housing Services, Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service, Adult Services (Partners linked to MASH development)

a) **Expected outcome (what will be different?)**

- Agreed set of National and local Performance measures in place with clear targets/benchmark information.
- Data quality is ensured through system of checks and balances
- Performance culture is visible across CSC
- Data is linked to Business and service plans to drive performance
- Comprehensive Quality Assurance systems ensure consistently good provision is in place
- IT Platform is stable allowing upgrade to latest version of ICS
- IT equipment is in place to meet needs of CSC workforce.
- Digital strategy has clear, achievable and measurable aims/objectives for CSC including delivery schedules

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Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

- Timely qualitative and quantitative information is delivered in line with Business Plan objectives
- Audits confirm data is timely and accurate
- Performance information shows clear trajectory of improvement allowing systems, with challenge where necessary to enable corrective action
- Latest version of ICS being used consistently by all CSC staff
- Mobile working in place for CSC staff to improve efficiency and effectiveness
- Digital strategy in place with clear evidence of added value for CSC

c) Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
1. Review performance data requirements and develop a new performance management framework for CSC, including staff development to promote a performance culture	31 st March 2016	SK/PA	
2. Develop/roll out revised quality assurance strategy within CSC	30 th April 2016	EC	
3. Implement revised audit programme linked to key standards of Quality Assurance strategy	30 th April 2016	EC	

4. Agree a new system and protocol for data cleansing/data quality checks	31 st March 2016	PA	
5. Upgrade ICS to current version following roll-out of new council IT platform	tbc	DD	
6. Roll out laptops/lpad/mobile phones within CSC to enable mobile working	30 th May 2016	DD	
7. Ensure digital strategy reflects CSC requirements with associated SMT/DMT endorsement.	30 th May 2016	SK/SW/DD	
8. Develop and implement updated sufficiency strategy for Looked After Children's placements.	30 th Oct 2016	JH	
9. Implement review system to monitor frequency and quality of supervision arrangements and required corrective action.	31 st March 2016	EC	
MONITORING AND IMPACT			
d) Action Plan Progress			
Impact: Data and Commentary			
Recommendations for Further Action			

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Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board

Post-Ofsted Inspection Improvement Plan

March 2016

Introduction

This plan is in response to the report by Ofsted following the inspection which 'reviewed the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board' between the 26 October 2015 – 20 November 2015.

All board members from across the partnership have been provided the opportunity to input into and develop the improvement plan.

The report published on the 20th January 2016 gave the following judgements;

The Local Safeguarding Children Board requires improvement

This Improvement Plan was submitted to Ofsted in March 2016.

Governance

The Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board Main Board will govern this Improvement Plan, many of the improvement areas are closely related to the LSCB Annual Plan, Business Plan and the CYP Plan 2015-18.

Structure

Ofsted identified four areas for improvement. The table overleaf outlines these together with a named accountable lead for each, with clear timelines for each priority area.

In addition to the headline areas of improvement, this Improvement Plan is also informed by detail from the text of the Ofsted report, the lessons we learnt about safeguarding and care through the inspection preparation and process.



It should be noted that there is a range of current and planned improvement work through the Children & Young People's Plan, the Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual and Business plan and the Children's Social Care Business Plan 2015/16. To avoid duplication, this Improvement Plan will reference where the detail can be found in those documents.

Each of the 4 areas for improvement has a simple action plan which includes;

- a) Expected Outcome
- b) Measures of Success
- c) Actions

To enable monitoring, each plan also has the following;

- d) Action Plan RAG rating
- e) Impact: Data and Commentary
- f) Recommendations for Further Action

Monitoring will take place each Quarter.

RAG Ratings as follows;

Action Plan	Impact
Green = Action Completed or no risks to action being completed on time	Green = Action Plan is having the anticipated impact
Amber = Some delay or some risk to action being completed on time	Amber = Some evidence of impact or mixed picture
Red = Significant delay that warrants attention	Red - No evidence of impact when expected



Key Leads and those responsible for actions:

Job Title	Current Post-Holder (as of date of Plan Submission)
Director of Children's Social Care	Stephen Kitchman (SK)
Police	TBC
Health	TBC
Service Manager Quality Assurance	Eileen Collier (EC)
Service Manger Referral & Assessment	Paul King (PK)
Early Help Commissioner	Jonathan Stevens (JS)
Lewisham Safeguarding Children Board Business Manager	Yasemin Aray (YA)
Head of Service	Geeta Subramaniam (GS)
Independent LSCB Chair	Chris Doorly (CD)



Recommendation	Lead	Linked Plan
1. Review the board's early help and threshold documentation in the light of changes to frontline services as part of an overall review of the early help offer within the local authority area.	Stephen Kitchman/ Yasemin Aray	Early Help Strategy LSCB Annual Plan
2. Clarify the governance role of the board's sexual exploitation sub-group to align it with other groups within the local authority area.	Police/Stephen Kitchman/ Geeta Subramaniam	LSCB Annual Plan LSCB Business Plan
3. Implement fully the performance framework to ensure that there is interrogation of performance reports to provide a clear understanding of any exceptions or deficits.	Chris Doorly/ Yasemin Aray	LSCB Performance Framework
4. Streamline action planning and ensure that any actions undertaken are aligned with the board's priorities.	Chris Doorly/ Yasemin Aray	LSCB Annual Plan LSCB Business Plan



1. Review the board's early help and threshold documentation in the light of changes to frontline services as part of an overall review of the early help offer within the local authority area

Lead:	Stephen Kitchman/ Yasemin Aray
Linked Plan:	BR2 CYPP 2015-18 LSCB Annual and Business Plan 2016/17

- a) Expected outcome (what will be different?)**
- Clear early help pathways which are fully understood by all relevant professionals who are able to input effectively for improved safeguarding outcomes for children and young people.
 - Clearly defined thresholds document which aligns with expectations of the service which also support an effective referral process to both CSC and early help services.
 - Information is triaged effectively at the point of CSC referral to ensure need is clearly understood for appropriate response.
 - Children's workforce are clear on arrangements and roles and have required skills to ensure vulnerable children's needs are met at an early stage.

b) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

- Numbers of CAF/TAC arrangements in place
- Revised early help strategy
- Revised thresholds document
- LSCB/Children's workforce Learning & Development activity
- Reduction in repeat referrals to CSC
- High conversion rate, referral to single assessment
- Audit arrangements in place for corrective action & assurance

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c) Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
1. Early help board & clear governance arrangements in place	28 th February 2016	SK/JS	
2. Early help Strategy in place & agreed & disseminated	30 th May 2016	SK/JS	
3. Review early help & safeguarding guidance (thresholds document) & sign off by LSCB	30 th May 2016	PK/YA	
4. Re-launch early help & safeguarding guidance (thresholds document) and cross refer with Safer Lewisham partnership.	30 th September 2016	PK/YA	
5. Performance framework for early help in place	30 th May 2016	JS	
6. LSCB 'deep dive' of thresholds against revised early help guidance document	February 2017	YA	
7. Design, pilot & launch E CAF arrangements & associated guidance across partnership	30 th September 2016	PK/NP	



MONITORING AND IMPACT

2. ~~Clarify the governance role of the board's sexual exploitation sub group to align it with other groups within the local authority area~~

~~Lead: Impact: Data and Commentary Yasemin Akay/ Stephen Kitchman/ Geeta Subramaniam~~

~~Linked Plan: LSCB Annual/ Business Plan 2016/17~~

f) Recommendations for Further Action

a) Expected outcome (what will be different?)

- ~~Strategy & delivery of CSE interventions are well aligned, joined with broader strategic frameworks in the Borough and reflect best practice.~~
- Clear evidence of impact on CSE within the borough in line with CSE strategy outcomes.
- Clear performance information in place to inform decision making.

b) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

- Clear and accurate performance information received to underpin effective strategic CSE priorities
- The right membership and attendance for the CSE sub group which will enable key decisions to be undertaken, progressed and monitored
- The development of an effective work programme/ plan to assess accurately Lewisham's CSE profile and key strategic aims in how to tackle CSE locally.

c) Actions

1. Refresh CSE sub group (including TOR and membership)

2. Review alignment with missing strategy, county lines/Youth crime strategy and mechanisms for analysis of cross cutting themes.

3. Review sub-group reporting requirements to main LSCB Board

4. Review key data requirements against CSE strategy and reporting mechanisms to CSE group

5. Provide detailed annual review on CSE within main LSCB annual report

By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
31 st May 2016	SK/GS	
31 st May 2016	Police/GS	
31 st May 2016	SK/YA/GS	
30 th June 2016	GS/YA/ SK	
30 th March 2017	YA/ Community Safety Partnership	

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Part 5
5.5

MONITORING AND IMPACT	
d) Action Plan Progress	
e) Impact: Data and Commentary	
f) Recommendations for Further Action	



3. Implement fully the performance framework to ensure that there is interrogation of performance reports to provide a clear understanding of any exceptions or deficits

Lead: Yasemin Aray

Linked Plan: LSCB Business Plan 2016-17

a) Expected outcome (what will be different?)

- Effective performance information is in place that drives service improvement and planning.

b) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

- A multi agency safeguarding analysis tool is in place to underpin the work of the LSCB and inform its priorities
- Revised multi-agency performance framework in place against LCB priorities and areas of focus
- Performance frameworks in place to assist with agenda setting and clear work programmes for each of the sub groups
- Well developed and aligned Annual and Business Plan for LSCB for 2016/17

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Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
1. Development of a multi agency safeguarding analysis (MASA) for the LSCB.	30 th September 2016	YA/SK All relevant partners	
2. Review performance framework for both quantitative and qualitative reports and annual reporting and delivery programme.	31 st May 2016	YA/CD	
3. Refresh 'escalation' policy (in relation to safeguarding deficiencies in the delivery of services across the partnership), with linkage to corrective action and challenge processes where improvement is required and identified in information and service practice.	30th June 2016	YA/CD	
4. To provide well documented scrutiny and challenge which can be clearly evidenced and aligns/ feeds into targets/ priorities of the Board and its planning.	31 st May 2016	YA	

MONITORING AND IMPACT

d) Action Plan Progress



e) Impact: Data and Commentary-

-

f) Recommendations for Further Action-

-



4. Streamline action planning and ensure that any actions undertaken are aligned with the board's priorities

Lead:	Yasemin Aray
Linked Plan:	LSCB Annual/ Business Plan 2016-17

g) Expected outcome (what will be different?)

- Well aligned priorities and actions in line with Borough need and National priorities.
- Clear tracking arrangements in place for corrective action and evidence of impact on outcomes.

h) Measures of success (how will we know we have achieved it?)

- Clear business plan in place, with associated performance measures of success.
- Clear account of improvements made across the partnership in terms of service development (planning and practice) over a 12 month period which will then be used for reflection and future Annual/ Business planning.
- LSCB can centrally manage all actions and ensure they are completed and threaded into key developments and documents.

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Actions	By when/ Completed	By whom	Status
1. LSCB Away Day to be held to focus on key priorities, accountabilities and delivery mechanisms.	4th March 2016	CD	
2. Develop 2016/17 business plan to ensure smaller number of key priorities with associated delivery plan including timescales and accountabilities. For the LSCB to continue to have oversight of safeguarding practice and issues across the partnership and to be provided assurance that that changes take place subsequent to scrutiny and challenge by the LSCB.	30th March 2016	CD/YA	
3. Review MESI charring arrangements, membership and work plan in line with LSCB Business plan priorities.	30 th September 2016	YA	
4. Development of tracker system for actions from all LSCB meeting and activities. This will enable leads to identify actions, completion dates and these can be flagged if not completed to timescales.	30 th September 2016	YA	



Mayor and Cabinet		
Title	Comments of the Children and Young People Select Committee on the Ofsted Action Plan Report.	
Contributor	Children and Young People Select Committee	Item
Class	Part 1 (open)	23 March 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Children and Young People Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the Ofsted Action Plan report, considered at its meeting on 1 March 2016.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to consider the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee as set out in this report and request a response from the Executive Director for Customer Services

3. Children and Young People Select Committee's views

- 3.1 On 1 March 2016, the Children and Young People Select Committee considered a report entitled Ofsted Action Plan.

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

- Improved IT capabilities and up to date software is essential in delivering the Council's Ofsted action plan. In particular, in response to recommendation 9 in the Ofsted Report; the Action Plan states the following outcomes as being needed:
 - A stable IT platform, allowing upgrade to the latest version of the "Integrated Children's System".
 - An IT system in place to meet needs of Children's Social Care staff to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
 - A digital strategy with clear achievable and measurable aims/objectives for Children's Social Care including delivery schedules.

- 3.3 The Select Committee therefore recommends that:

- Improving the IT system and software for Children's Social Care is prioritised.
- The strategic importance of the Children Social Care service is noted and the timetable for implementation be outlined and guaranteed as soon as possible.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 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

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

6. Further implications

- 6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Background papers

Report to Children and Young People Select Committee, 1 March 2016, [Item 4: Ofsted Action Plan](#)

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Katie Wood, Scrutiny Manager (ext. 49446).

Agenda Item 6

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission		
Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing		
Report for: Mayor		
Mayor and Cabinet		X
Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)		
Executive Director		
Information <input type="checkbox"/>	Part 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part 2 <input type="checkbox"/>
		Key Decision <input type="checkbox"/>


Date of Meeting	23 rd March 2016
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Title of Report	Endorsement of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership's: 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2015-2020'
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Originator of Report	Nick Pond	Ext. 42007
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	X	
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	X	
Crime & Disorder Implications	X	
Environmental Implications	X	
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	X	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	X	
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed:  Executive Member

Date: 14th March 2016

Signed:  Director/Head of Service

Date 15th March 2016

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

Mayor & Cabinet		
Report Title	Endorsement of Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership's: 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2015-2020'	
Key Decision	Yes	Item No.
Ward	All	
Contributors	Executive Director Customer Services	
Class	Part 1	23 March 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham' sets out Lewisham's Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020. The document is the result of an ongoing partnership between the Council, Glendale Managed Services, The Creekside Education Trust, Thames 21, Quaggy Waterways Action Group [QWAG], London Wildlife Trust, Horniman Museum and Gardens, The Environment Agency, Sydenham Garden Organisation, TCV [The Trust for Conservation Volunteers], Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC [GiGL] and, most importantly, a range of local groups and individuals. The Partnership was established to consolidate the interests and expertise of a range of organisations and individuals with a duty to or interest in conserving the borough's wildlife and natural environment.
- 1.2 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham', sets out Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership's aspirations for the immediate future. It is a Partnership document that identifies the opportunities and the objectives to which the Partnership is committed to achieving, and demonstrates the links that the conservation of Lewisham's biodiversity can make to the Council's on-going programmes within various directorates. The foundations of a number of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) based within the context of the Council's policies and activities are contained in this document as case studies. 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham' and the individual Biodiversity Action Plans will serve as a benchmark against which we may monitor progress once these have been embedded in Council policies.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 Lewisham Council like all Local Authorities has a number of statutory obligations in relation to biodiversity policy and legislation. As a public body, Lewisham Council is required to comply with the 'Biodiversity Duty' as set out in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, (NERC). For local authorities this states that every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

3. Policy Context

3.1 Shaping our future – the Council’s Sustainable Community Strategy includes the following priority outcomes

- Empowered and responsible - where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities
 - Empower citizens to be involved in their local area and responsive to the needs of those who live there.
 - Promote volunteering and the activity of voluntary and community organisations.
 - Champion diversity and the contribution everyone makes to the borough’s quality of life.
- Clean, green and liveable – where people live in high quality housing and can care for and enjoy their environment
 - Protect and enhance our parks, open spaces and local biodiversity.
- Healthy, active and enjoyable – where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being
 - Improve the well-being of our citizens by increasing participation in healthy and active lifestyles.

3.2 The Council has outlined ten corporate priorities which enables the delivery of the Sustainable Community strategy.

- Priority number 1: Community leadership and empowerment-where people can be actively involved in their local area and are enabled to influence the Council and their localities.
- Priority number 2: Young people’s achievement and involvement, enjoying and achieving and making a positive contribution through partnership working.
- Priority number 3: Clean, green and liveable improving environmental management. The council is committed to protect and manage the environment and to aspire to a sustainable environment where people, have access to green spaces and take responsibility for their impact on the environment.
- Priority number 9: Active, healthy citizens where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being, through culture, sport and leisure.

3.3 The decision to endorse ‘A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham’ would be consistent with the Local Development Framework (June 2011): Core Strategy Objective 7: Open Space and environmental assets.

- This states that the important environmental, ecological and biodiversity features of Lewisham will be protected and capitalised to promote health and well-being by:
 - a. protecting all open space including Metropolitan Open Land
 - b. protecting Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and supporting and promoting local biodiversity
 - c. requiring green roofs and walls where appropriate

- d. implementing the Street Tree Programme
- e. improving the quality of, and safeguarding access to, all public open space
- f. providing accessible and varied opportunities for health, leisure and recreational activities including the South East London Green Chain Walk, the Green Grid, the Waterlink Way and river and waterways network, and the Thames Path.

4. Recommendation

The Mayor is recommended to

- 4.1 Endorse 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham' document and the strategic aspirations of the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership.

5. Background

- 5.1 'A natural Renaissance for Lewisham' Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020 will supersede previous Biodiversity work undertaken from 2006.
- 5.2 Biodiversity Action Planning policies derive from The Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 which established the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 5.3 In Nagoya, Japan, in Autumn 2010 the 192 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity renewed their commitment to take action to halt the alarming global declines of biodiversity and to ensure that by 2020 our natural environment is resilient and can continue to provide the ecosystem services that are essential for life.
- 5.4 The Natural Environment White Paper 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature,' published in 2011, recognises that a healthy, properly functioning natural environment is the foundation of sustained economic growth, prospering communities and personal well-being. It aims to mainstream the value of nature across our society, including across government departments.
- 5.5 'Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services', published in 2011, shortly after the White Paper, has as its mission to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems, and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.
- 5.6 The 'Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act' (NERC Act 2006) , Section 40 of the Act states that: 'Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'
- 5.7 National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] 109 states: The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

- 5.8 NPPF 113 states: Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged.
- 5.9 NPPF 114 states: Local planning authorities should set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure
- 5.10 “A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham”, sets out the Partnerships objectives for the immediate future for the conservation of nature across the Borough. The document also identifies the contribution of Lewisham’s natural environment to quality of life and sustainable development objectives within the Borough and also demonstrates the links that the conservation of Lewisham’s biodiversity can make to the Council’s on-going programmes within various directorates.
- 5.11 Once embedded in Council policies, the Action Plans will become an essential tool to guide the public and private sector in the maintenance, enhancement, and restoration of important species/habitats that will add to biodiversity and conservation at the local level. This will have particular relevance given the NERC Act and the National Planning Policy Framework.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Following the anticipated endorsement of “A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham” the document will be produced as a pdf publication that will be available on the intranet/Council website.
- 6.2 Many actions that will enhance the boroughs biodiversity will be delivered through sensitive planning of future services and will result from greater awareness of biodiversity issues. These will incur no significant additional cost.
- 6.3 In summary, there are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendation set out in section 4 above. Costs that do arise will be met from existing resources.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, imposes a duty upon Local Authorities to conserve biodiversity: “Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.” Section 40(3) of the Act explains that: “Conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat”. The duty applies to all local authorities and extends beyond just conserving what is already there to carrying out, supporting and requiring actions that may also restore or enhance biodiversity.
- 7.2 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provides details on a range of protection and offences relating to wild birds, other animals, and plants.

- 7.3. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). 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.
- 7.4 In summary, 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.
- 7.5 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
- 7.6 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>
- 7.7 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:
1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
 2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
 3. Engagement and the equality duty
 4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
 5. Equality information and the equality duty.

The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

8. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 8.1 A objective of 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham' is to promote the borough's wildlife assets and to encourage good management of natural areas that includes taking account of potential risk areas and reducing these so that they are easier to access and use. A key action is to inform and encourage people to make more use of wildlife areas, this includes producing interpretative materials, running guided walks and developing volunteer and user groups to raise the level of 'community ownership' of such sites. This is an important means to reduce or remove negative perceptions or fears about wildlife sites, but also increase the intensity of positive use, which helps to deter or drive out antisocial or criminal behaviour.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 All residents and visitors to the borough have a right to enjoy, learn about and make use of Lewisham's many and diverse wildlife habitats, species and landscapes, especially where access to and use of these resources is free throughout the year. Protecting Lewisham's biodiversity through the BAP process helps ensure this right of access and enjoyment is there for all cultures, ages and abilities and that information and knowledge about Lewisham's natural assets is promoted to the widest audience possible without preference, prejudice or prior assumption.

10. Environmental Implications

- 10.1 The environmental implications of 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham' are considerable, but all of these are positive rather than negative. The document and subsequent Biodiversity Action Plans will act as a powerful tool to raise awareness of and stimulate action to address environmental issues where the Council has legal obligations, a duty of care, or could become exposed in time to liabilities.

11. Conclusion

- 11.1 Given that it is Council policy to support the work of the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership and the Biodiversity Action Planning process it is recommended that the decision is taken to endorse 'A natural Renaissance for Lewisham' as the Councils' first formal step in demonstrating due regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

12. Background documents and originator

- 12.1 For further information please contact Nick Pond on 020 8314 2007 or nick.pond@lewisham.gov.uk
- 12.2 'A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham' (2015-2020)
- 12.3 Lewisham Local Development Framework (June 2011)
<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/LDF/Pages/default.aspx>
- 12.4 Open Spaces Strategy 2012-2017

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies/Documents/OpenSpaceStrategy2012.pdf>

12.5 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (October 2006)

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/pdfs/ukpga_20060016_en.pdf

12.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

12.7 Shaping our future: Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020

<http://www.lewishamstrategicpartnership.org.uk/docs/SCS.pdf>

12.8 Corporate Strategy 2008-2011

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies/Documents/CorporatePlan200811.pdf>

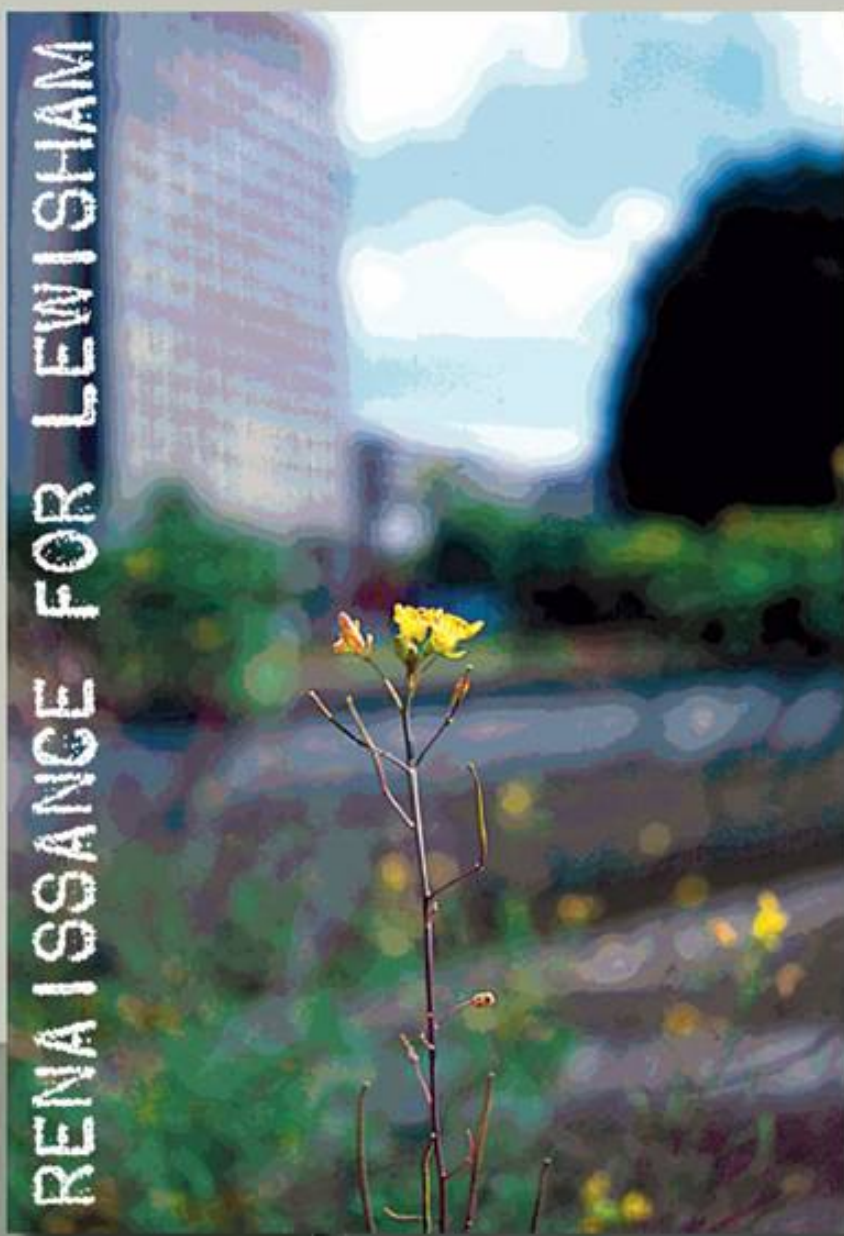
A natural renaissance for Lewisham

(2015-2020)



Photo courtesy of Tomos Brangwyn

A partnership document
July 2015



RENAISSANCE FOR LEWISHAM

A NATURAL



LEWISHAM
BIODIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIP

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1 What is the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership?

The Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership was established in 1999 to develop an action plan for the Borough's wildlife and natural environment. This followed national guidance and the objectives identified through the work of the London Biodiversity Partnership and the London Biodiversity Action Plan. Presently, the Partnership consists of Lewisham Council, Glendale Managed Services, The Creekside Education Trust, Thames 21, Quaggy Waterways Action Group [QWAG], London Wildlife Trust, Horniman Museum and Gardens, The Environment Agency, Sydenham Garden Organisation, TCV [The Trust for Conservation Volunteers], Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC [GiGL] and, most importantly, a range of local groups and individuals.

Lewisham's Biodiversity Action Plan aspires to be visionary, pragmatic, achievable and inclusive.

This is the second edition of "A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham" first published in 2007. This document seeks to build upon the Partnership achievements by setting out our objectives for the immediate future regarding the conservation of nature across the Borough. The document also identifies the contribution of Lewisham's natural environment to quality of life and sustainable development objectives within the Borough.

1.1 Biodiversity conservation foundations

Action to conserve and enhance Lewisham's natural environment has a long tradition and much of what Lewisham has now is down to the endeavours of a number of committed local residents and voluntary organisations who have given their support for over 25 years. The Borough was one of the first in the country to employ officers with a specific nature conservation remit to complement this activity. Today, the Council employs an Ecological Regeneration Manager and a Conservation Officer to promote biodiversity within Lewisham and ensure it is protected and enhanced within the core duties of the Council.

The Partnership was established to consolidate the interests and expertise of a range of organisations and individuals with a duty to, or interest in, conserving the Borough's wildlife and natural environment. It is there to ensure that the diverse range of views on Lewisham's biodiversity is effectively represented. It will promote innovation and best practice and, although the Partnership is not a campaigning organisation, it will challenge partners and others where necessary.

Since its establishment, the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership has:

- Contributed to the ecological restoration work at Deptford Creek, Cornmill Gardens, Ladywell Fields and along the River Pool Linear Park and Riverview walk
- Worked to promote biodiverse living roofs on all appropriate new development
- Played a key role delivering the 'Rivers and People' a Big Lottery funded project worth £544,000 that delivered public engagement and promotion of the Waterlink Way
- Led on the 3RiverCleanUp festival (which at the time of writing) in its 7th year and one which can boast to be the biggest volunteer river clean-up event in the UK
- Assisted with the development of the River Corridor Improvement Plan-Supplementary Planning Guidance and the forthcoming Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Plan

- Contributed to putting policies in place to protect and enhance biodiversity as part of the Local Development Framework and development processes such as, the Local Information Requirement and associated Biodiversity Guidance
- Created dedicated 'Lewisham Nature Conservation' and 'Rivers and People' web sites for the promotion of wildlife engagement, education, and events
- Delivered, monitored and reported on the Partnerships collective outputs since 2008.
- Generated and submitted biological data with GiGL.

Since 2008 the Partnership has engaged 70,487 individuals directly through one of the 3,555 events delivered. These include 1,094 nature conservation volunteer events that delivered over 3,282 volunteer hours worth in excess of £30,000; 861 interpretative guided walks; 1,427 schools education events. The Partnership has planted, built and/or recorded the installation of 333 bat boxes, 210 bird boxes, 125 Stag Beetle loggeries; 2,081m of hedgerow and recorded 15,728m² of living roof consented via the planning process.

We will be working over the forthcoming years to broaden the Partnership and bring in the expertise and enthusiasm of Lewisham's residents and workers. We aim to ensure that the work of the Partnership will be at the forefront of biodiversity conservation and, as such, will take a leading role to promoting our work across the London region. The Partnership will also monitor the Local Authority to ensure that in the exercise of its functions, it has regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, for the purpose of conserving biodiversity, in line with current legislation [Natural Environment and Rural Communities NERC Act 2006].

1.2 Working for a better quality of life

Lewisham is undergoing change and following the recession is under significant pressure to find savings across service areas. As the Council prepares to meet these challenges it is working to find economies and explore new ways of working so that it can maintain and improve the quality of life for Lewisham's residents, workers and visitors. The Council is taking a lead on issues such as regeneration in areas of deprivation, neighbourhood renewal, education, employment opportunities and seeks to maintain and where possible improve housing, parks and other services.

For London, the Mayor has published a series of inter-linked strategies towards which Lewisham is contributing. The most important of these, the London Plan, has established important directions as to how and where new development will take place. Much of this will be targeted in Areas of Opportunity, such as the Thames Gateway in which Lewisham lies.

Lewisham's natural heritage has an important part to play in this. It has helped shape the Borough's development and continues to be a reason why people choose to live and work here. Names such as Lee Green, Grove Park and Forest Hill give an idea of the landscape from which Lewisham developed. Today the Borough is characterised by a wide variety of green spaces and natural features that provide places for people to enjoy, such as the River Ravensbourne, Ladywell Fields, Beckenham Place Park and Hilly Fields. The Government recognises the value of urban green spaces in their contribution to regeneration and quality

of life; they give opportunities for people to have contact with the natural world and are essential for providing habitat for biodiversity.

2 What is a Biodiversity Action Plan and why do we need one? Isn't all wildlife valuable?

Borough Action Plans are there to highlight locally important plants and animals and the landscapes in which they live. They are there to help partners who may not have direct wildlife knowledge but who want easily accessible guidance on actions they can carry out that will help these locally important wildlife species and areas. They are actions that will help the Borough's biodiversity - its variety of life - to increase.

Action Plans deal with species and habitats that reflect national conservation priorities and also those that are culturally valued. However, **all** wildlife is important and it is wrong to assume that if an Action Plan is implemented then everything is covered. With new developments it is crucial to assess **all** the wildlife which may be using a site and **not** just the Action Plan species or habitats.

"A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham" sets out the Partnership's aspirations for the immediate future. It identifies the opportunities and objectives which Lewisham's Biodiversity Partnership is committed to achieving and demonstrates the links that the conservation of Lewisham's biodiversity can make to the Council's continuing programmes within various directorates.

The Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership aspires to contribute to and influence the Council's objectives in the following range of service areas:

- Urban Regeneration, Planning and Development
- Health
- Housing
- Parks & Open Spaces, Rivers and Nature Reserves
- Education and Community Regeneration
- Transport
- Culture

Once embedded in Council policies, the Action Plans will serve as benchmarks against which we may monitor progress.

3 Urban Regeneration, Planning and Development

The Partnership seeks to:

1. Ensure that developers take full account of appropriate Lewisham and London Biodiversity Action Plans in development designs and schemes.
2. Ensure that the new Local Development Framework, for local plans, continues to incorporate comprehensive policies and design guidance to benefit biodiversity.
3. Work closely with Lewisham planners on all major developments to encourage biodiverse living roofs that deliver meaningful Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems [SUDS] and that support wildlife, specifically the Black Redstart and all bats, both of which are London Biodiversity Action plan species.
4. Support and contribute to the work of the Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC [GiGL] the regional environmental records centre to ensure Lewisham's natural environment is accurately represented in their evidence base.
5. Increase the percentage of planning applications screened against GiGL data by developers and planners.
6. Increase the percentage of Lewisham rivers classified as having good ecological potential.
7. Periodically monitor and record progress in reducing areas of deficiency with respect to the Borough's publicly accessible wildlife sites.

Urban Regeneration, Planning and Development Actions

- Encourage developers to make biodiversity enhancements on all new development through the development control process

Please see Lewisham's Biodiversity Guidance:

www.natureconservationlewisham.files.wordpress.com/2011/04/lbl-draft-biodiversity-planning-guidance-notes-local-information-requirement-2013.doc

- Advise developers about living roof systems to maximise local biodiversity and preferred species lists, planting methodologies and maintenance guarantees

- Encourage and promote native species selection and/or wildlife friendly planting, landscaping and management in all new development
- Encourage and monitor the installation of bat boxes and advise about their orientation and placement
- Encourage the creation of ponds, meadow habitats, native hedgerows and other linear tree features for the benefit of bats and other wildlife species
- Encourage the installation of House Sparrow terraces, Swift boxes, open fronted nest boxes and nest boxes with a variety of entrance hole widths (26mm, 32mm & 45mm) to suit a range of typical garden birds such as, Robin, Black Bird, Blue Tit, Great Tit, and Starling
- Promote appropriate distribution, correct orientation and placement of bird nest boxes
- Encourage the provision of dead wood habitat for invertebrates and Stag Beetles
- Support the installation of other invertebrate nest box structures
- Support the 'Dark sky at night' principles and seek commitment for the delivery of sympathetic lighting schemes that avoid/minimise all light spill and that take account of nocturnal urban wildlife requirements

3.1 Case Study- Black Redstart



Photograph courtesy of Jim Lawrence

Historically Lewisham recorded over 1% of the national breeding population of this protected species but for several years there have been no new sightings which suggests that the bird has moved away. In Europe the bird is linked with rocky, mountainous terrain and cliffs but in London there is an association with the River

Thames, industrial infrastructure and brownfield sites. Preferred foraging areas include sparsely vegetated areas of rocky terrain with singing posts. This includes post-industrial land and areas undergoing or awaiting redevelopment. It is a key species that can benefit from the implementation of 'rubble' or 'brown' living roofs.

Vision

- To encourage re-colonisation and enhance associated habitats for the continued survival of the species

Objectives

- Ensure that mitigation for this species is incorporated into all appropriate new developments
- Provide developers with information and expertise on 'brown' living-roof mitigation design, installation and management

Further details from:

www.lbp.org.uk/downloads/Publications/Management/black_redstart_advice_note.pdf

3.2 Case Study- Green Roofs



There are a number of living roofs installed on buildings in Lewisham. These include the Horniman Museum, Shaws Cottage, Creekside Centre, Laban Dance Centre, Seagers Building, Loampit Vale developments, Heathside & Lethbridge Estate, Cannon Wharf and Kender Triangle. There are also numerous consented schemes such as at Lewisham Gateway and proposals for the Leegate Shopping Centre site. This plan aims to promote high quality design and locally appropriate systems in all new development schemes within the Borough.

Vision

- To install green roof systems for habitat mitigation and environmental benefits, such as energy conservation, flood alleviation and to ameliorate the effects of climate change

Objectives

- Influence the use of 'retrofits' in the refurbishment of existing buildings where appropriate
- Advise and promote the installation of high quality living roofs that deliver the maximum benefit for nature conservation on all appropriate new developments
- Provide guidelines for planners when promoting living roofs for biodiversity

Further details from:

www.livingroofs.org.uk

www.natureconservationlewisham.files.wordpress.com/2011/04/lbl-draft-biodiversity-planning-guidance-notes-local-information-requirement-2013.doc

3.3 Case Study- Bats



There are 18 species of bat in the UK, 17 of which are known to be breed. They comprise almost a quarter of our land based mammal species. Historic biodiversity data shows that Lewisham has records for 11 species. Bats are protected by law but despite this their numbers are in decline and this too is true of Lewisham where it would be extremely unlikely to find more than 7 species now. The *Pipistrelle* bat is the smallest and most common bat found in the UK and the one most likely to be seen in Lewisham.

Bats can live in a variety of habitats, including open woodland, parks and urban areas. They emerge from their roosts to feed, often before sunset, hunting a wide range of insects before returning to roost. Bats use echolocation to find prey and to navigate at night. They are attracted to where there are lots of insects, often over meadows and water features. They rely on natural linear features in the landscape such as tree lines to find their way around. In Lewisham they are most likely to be found along the railway lines and rivers but also in parks which are not so affected by light pollution. They live for many years and although they may have numerous roost sites depending on the time of year, environmental and lifecycle factors they are also habitual and are faithful to good roost sites.

Vision

- To encourage conditions which would lead to an increase in bat populations

Objectives

- Maintain, continue and increase knowledge of bat ecology, their status, distribution and factors that effect their conservation locally
- Protect, maintain and enhance the features in the landscape required by bats
- Encourage and monitor the installation of bat boxes and advise about their orientation and placement
- Encourage the creation of ponds, meadow habitats, native hedgerows and other linear tree features for the benefit of bats and other wildlife species
- Promote the planting of night-scented flowers that will attract insects
- Support the 'Dark sky at night' principles and seek commitment for the delivery of sympathetic lighting schemes that avoid/minimise all light spill and that take account of nocturnal urban wildlife requirements

4 Health



Nature's Gym building steps at Dacres Wood Local Nature Reserve

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership is working with Nature's Gym, Glendale, Thames 21, Parks Open Space and Nature Reserve user groups, Healthy Walk coordinators, the Green Chain Officer and a range of local groups and individuals to promote the health benefits of nature conservation volunteering and active walking initiatives that use the natural environment.

The partnership aspires to develop links with Lewisham Public Health to provide opportunities for residents to actively participate and enjoy the natural environment and to use it as a vehicle to improve both mental and physical health outcomes. There are short circular walks and short cycle trails developed on the Green Chain in Lewisham which are specifically targeted at the less mobile and less confident.

http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/greenchainsite/homepage/2/circular_walking_routes

http://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/greenchainsite/info/6/cycling/35/circular_cycle_routes

The Sydenham Garden project uses part of Queenswood nature reserve as a community horticultural therapy resource centre for those who are coping with significant illness. The project is an example of successful delivery where individuals who are rehabilitating are using creative outdoor work to help treat their conditions and are also managing and enhancing the remainder of the site for wildlife.

<http://www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk/>

The Partnership seeks to:

1. Make links to Lewisham Public Health to highlight and promote the benefits of green

space and contact with nature to patients and practitioners.

2. Build on and promote Nature's Gym, River Conservation Volunteering and Lewisham's Healthy Walks initiatives that use the Borough's nature reserves and other green spaces to bring about health benefits to Lewisham's residents.
3. Ensure that the network of accessible green spaces is protected and enhanced.
4. Promote the Waterlink Way and the Green Chain Walk as resources for both physical exercise and regular contact with nature.

Actions

- Promote and market active nature conservation volunteering via the nature conservation website
- Promote and market walking for health and guided walks that use parks, open spaces, rivers and nature reserves via the nature conservation website
- Encourage the training and development of new healthy walk leaders
- Deliver 60 nature conservation volunteer sessions per year
- Deliver 30 guided walk sessions per year

4 Housing

Housing land, both private and public, constitutes the largest amount of open space within the Borough. However, much of the private housing space including gardens lies outside the domain of the Council and requires the interest of home-owners for their biodiversity improvements. The Partnership supports and endorses 10 simple things that private households can do to encourage and support wildlife in private gardens.

1. Use native and/or wildlife friendly plants, those with simple flowers and night scented varieties are especially useful.
2. Compost food waste. Advice available from <http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/recycling>
3. Compost garden waste. Advice available from <http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/recycling>
4. Build a small pond to benefit amphibians and invertebrates. Free advice available from the London Wildlife Trust: <http://www.wildlondon.org.uk> t. 020 7261 0447
5. Start wildlife gardening. Free advice available from the London Wildlife Trust: <http://www.wildlondon.org.uk> t. 020 7261 0447
6. Provide food for Sparrows and other birds all year round but especially in the spring. See: <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw/gardens-wildlife/garden-birds/feeding>
7. Don't be too tidy -create wild areas to encourage mini-beasts like caterpillars, spiders and beetles.
8. Create a log pile to benefit Stag Beetles and other invertebrates using suitable untreated broadleaf dead wood (100 x 1000mm). Place in shade or dappled shade buried, or in contact with the soil.
9. Avoid using pesticides, slug pellets and herbicides and try to work with nature or use alternative natural systems instead (e.g. planting annuals such as Californian poppies and marigolds in your garden will attract a wealth of beneficial insects, like ladybirds and hoverflies, that will eat aphids).
10. Buy or build a bird nest box for your garden. Instructions for building your own can be obtained from: <http://www.bto.org/nnbw/building.htm>
11. Tell GiGL what you see: <http://www.gigl.org.uk/submit-records/>

5.1 Case Study- Stag Beetle



This, the largest beetle in the UK, is threatened at the global level and has undergone significant decline in the past 40 years. Recent surveys indicate south London is a national hotspot and in Lewisham they can be found throughout the Borough. They require suitable dead wood for their survival in order to complete their lifecycle. Female Stag Beetle eggs are laid underground in the soil next to logs or in the stumps of dead trees, and the larva (or grub) will spend up to seven years in the wood, slowly growing in size. Adults emerge from mid-May until late July. Males emerge earlier to actively search for females to mate, and can often be seen flying on sultry summer evenings an hour or two before dusk. As adults they are short-lived and generally die after mating, although occasionally some may over-winter in places such as compost heaps. It is because of their reliance on dead rotting wood that management of this resource is a key priority in order to provide suitable habitat.

Vision

- To maintain and enhance the current population within Lewisham and seek improvements of dead wood provision in gardens, parks, school grounds and other open spaces

Objectives

- Work with Glendale and other land managers to further the advice published by London Wildlife Trust and the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species for good site management
- Work with Glendale and other partners to install and record loggeries in key parks, schools and nature reserves
- Promote their conservation to the wider public, primarily at the time when adult Stag Beetles are seen (May-July)
- Promote and monitor the installation of Stag Beetle loggeries as part of Urban

Regeneration, Planning and Development Actions

- Tell GiGL when and where you see them: <http://www.gigl.org.uk/submit-records/>

5.2 Case Study- House Sparrow



The sparrow used to be a common sight in the capital but has undergone a dramatic decline in London and in the UK in recent years. This is mirrored in Lewisham, but there are still thriving colonies in Cornmill Gardens, Brookmill Park, Hilly Fields and elsewhere. More can be done to help this much loved bird re-establish itself.

Vision

- To reverse the decline of the current population within Lewisham

Objectives

- Ascertain the status of House Sparrow in Lewisham and submit biological records periodically to GiGL the regional record centre: <http://www.gigl.org.uk/submit-records/>
- Promote wildlife gardening to the public and encourage householders to provide food for sparrows all year round but especially in the spring
- Encourage and monitor the installation of House Sparrow nest boxes as part of Urban Regeneration, Planning and Development Actions
- Recruit and support “Bird champions” in parks, open spaces and nature reserves
- Support and publicise bird related engagement events and activities such as dawn chorus walks via the nature conservation website and other social media platforms

5.3 Case Study- Standing Water & Ponds



Hare & Billet Pond looking towards Blackheath village

Open standing water and ponds represent one of the most diverse of all ecological habitats in London. These habitats are particularly important for amphibians and reptiles such as frogs, toads, newts, slow worms and grass snakes. These smaller, often sheltered water bodies hold a huge variety of invertebrates. Most spectacular are damselflies, dragonflies and water beetles. Standing water generally supports larger variety of insects compared to dry habitats. These insects are important food sources for birds and bats especially during prolonged dry weather conditions in late spring and summer.

Aquatic habitats are incredibly vulnerable to environmental and human related pressures. For example the presence of certain species of fish will place considerable strain on the survival of aquatic invertebrates so even seasonal ponds are useful for these species as they are fish free. In the urban environment, open standing water is especially vulnerable to vandalism, pollution, and disturbance. Some standing water will be lost to development and some will simply dry out and evolve into a different habitat. Therefore, it is particularly important to engage with audiences such as residents, housing associations and developers to promote the creation of new water bodies wherever possible.

Vision

- To increase the provision and develop the good management of standing water and ponds in Lewisham

Objectives

- Encourage and support the creation and maintenance of new ponds
- Monitor the creation of new ponds as part of Urban Regeneration, Planning and Development Actions
- Develop and extend provision of management advice and awareness of the biodiversity value of ponds with local stakeholders and user groups
- Support partner engagement events, frog days and Froglife pond projects <http://www.froglife.org/>
- Continue to support and promote environmental education initiatives that utilise the ponds to deliver environmental learning outcomes

6 Parks and Open Spaces



Bee orchid in Mountsfield Park courtesy of Martin Hodge

Lewisham has a varied portfolio of parks and other green spaces -from those with strong historical links, such as Beckenham Place Park, Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries, Horniman Gardens and Blackheath, to those that have been created through community campaigning, such as the Sue Godfrey Nature Park [Local Nature Reserve]. These are all places which people come to enjoy a range of activities and to escape the stresses of modern city life. There are currently over 50 open spaces managed by Glendale, under contract to the Council. Council-run cemeteries are overseen by the Council's Bereavement Services, and include sites of nature conservation importance. Most nature reserve sites are currently managed in-house with some work contracted out to Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environment Management registered companies such as Complete Ecology. There is also support from voluntary and community groups on certain sites where effective partnerships have been built. Some other spaces, such

as allotments, are also managed by voluntary and community groups.

The added value that local groups and volunteers give to local wildlife sites by helping to promote and manage them is tremendous. A great deal of investment and wildlife engagement is only achieved as a direct result of the sustained involvement and commitment by them. The Partnership recognises that these acts of altruism need to continue to be encouraged, supported and celebrated by the Local Authority and all the partners.

Traditionally, many parks have not been managed with wildlife in mind and yet the potential to improve their quality, for both people and wildlife, is significant. Lewisham's Nature's Gym is a partnership between the Council and Glendale to run nature conservation volunteering in both parks and nature reserves. This has enabled volunteers and park users the opportunity to work together on small scale enhancements to improve spaces for both wildlife and people.

The Partnership seeks to:

1. Continue to work closely via Glendale, park user groups and the Lewisham Parks Forum to complement their activities that aim to enhance and develop maintenance and management of habitats for wildlife and people's appreciation of nature by encouraging and promoting:
 - Native species selection and/or wildlife friendly planting, landscaping and management
 - The creation of ponds, meadow habitats, native hedgerows and other linear tree features for the benefit of bats and other wildlife species
 - The installation of invertebrate nest box structures and bat boxes and advise about their orientation and placement
 - The installation of a variety of bird boxes and provide advice about appropriate distribution, correct orientation and placement
 - The provision of dead wood habitat for invertebrates including Stag Beetles
 - 'Dark sky at night' principles
2. Help deliver the aims of the adopted Parks and Open Spaces Strategy that places biodiversity conservation at its core
3. Work with the Council and others to seek Green Flag and Green Flag Community Award recognition for park's and nature reserves
4. Continue to support the delivery of invasive non-native plant species management and be vigilant with respect to surveillance and bio-security
5. Promote, champion and explore all appropriate communication and marketing tools to engage and interpret the natural environment/wildlife to residents and visitors, such as: park, open space and nature reserve notice boards; interpretation boards; walks and talks; websites and social media

6. Monitor and report to Defra on the positive conservation management of Lewisham's 64 designated 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' [SINCs]

See also:

<http://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/natures-gym-2/>

<http://www.greenflagaward.org.uk/>

<http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/Pages/default.aspx>

6.1 Case Study- Rivers



Cornmill Gardens before and after river restoration

Rivers are a major natural feature of Lewisham and the network of waterways formed by the Ravensbourne, Pool and Quaggy provide green corridors through the Borough. However, the Ravensbourne is also one the most 'engineered' river in the Greater London area and along much of its course is culverted, channelled or covered. This action plan seeks to further improvements to the river along its course.

The Quaggy Waterways Action Group [QWAG] were instrumental in influencing the Local Authority who now recognise the value of this resource and the opportunities that the river system provides for residents. To date, there have been a series of restoration projects, such as at Chinbrook Meadows, Deptford Creek, Brookmill Park, the Spring Brook at Downham Playing Fields, Ladywell Fields, Cornmill Gardens, River Pool linear Park and Riverview Walk. A River Corridor Improvement Plan -Supplementary Planning Guidance has also been developed to inform, direct and guide future development so that it enhances this asset and relates to it in a positive way.

Vision

- To seek the naturalisation of Lewisham's rivers wherever possible

Objectives

- Support the Environment Agency's programme of river restoration in south London
- Contribute to the Ravensbourne Corridor Improvement Plan and the obligations contained in the European Union Water Framework Directive
- Promote and support the wildlife/ecological value of Deptford Creek through the Creekside Education Trust and the Creekside Centre
- Support the annual 3RiversCleanUp festival initiative and manage invasive species issues associated with Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed
- Seek to champion and encourage a balanced approach to river bankside management, public access and conservation so that some areas remain undisturbed for the benefit of wildlife
- Highlight the benefits of an improved river corridor with regard to health, safety, education and environmental performance
- Support and promote environmental education initiatives that utilise the rivers to deliver environmental learning outcomes
- Resist any proposals which will increase the light levels directly adjacent to rivers

See also:

<http://www.creeksidecentre.org.uk/>

<http://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/schools/>

<http://riversandpeople.com/school-resources/>

<http://www.thames21.org.uk/>

<http://qwag.org.uk/>

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/LDF/SPDs/Pages/River-corridor-improvement-plan.aspx>

6.2 Case Study- Song Thrush



The Song Thrush has undergone a significant decline over the past 25 years. It is a priority species for conservation at the UK level. In Lewisham, populations can be found throughout much of the Borough but particularly along the Waterlink Way in the south and Blackheath where there are mature private gardens. River corridors have significant populations within the Borough and the species should not be overlooked during river restoration projects that may remove suitable habitat. Parks and other public open spaces are also likely to hold significant numbers but it is thought that a major negative impact on the bird is the use of pesticides by gardeners/land managers and the pressure to reduce shrubberies for perceived safety reasons.

Vision

- To maintain the current population of Song Thrush in Lewisham and where possible extend its range throughout the Borough.

Objectives

- Ascertain the status of Song Thrush in Lewisham and submit biological record periodically to GiGL the regional record centre
- Recruit and support “Bird champions” in parks, open spaces and nature reserves
- Support and publicise bird related engagement events and activities such as dawn chorus walks
- Assess the management practices that may affect it within Lewisham’s public open spaces and promote the Song Thrush as an indicator of good parks management
- Provide guidance to the Council, Glendale, Groundwork and others, on management practices to benefit Song Thrush
- Encourage householders to avoid the use of slug pellets and/or molluscicides

6.3 Case Study- Kingfisher



Photo courtesy of Tomos Brangwyn

Most people have an idea what the Kingfisher looks like even if they have never seen one. With its electric-blue back and orange underparts, it is a unique and unmistakable bird within the British and European species. At 16-17cm in length, it is not much bigger than a Sparrow, but its vibrant colours and long black bill make it stand out. Its proper name is the Common Kingfisher and it belongs to a global family whose 90 different species can be found on every continent except Antarctica and range from the African Dwarf Kingfisher to the Laughing Kookaburra of Australia.

The Kingfisher is a bird of rivers, canals and lakes. It can be seen either perched beside a river, perhaps on a low branch looking intently down at the water, or flying fast and low over the surface. It is a shy bird and will fly quickly away if disturbed, but it is possible sometimes to get close. Its diet consists mainly of small fish - Minnows, Sticklebacks, Bullheads - and the young offspring of larger fish such as Carp and Perch. It also eats aquatic and land-based insects and even small frogs. Its nest is a tunnel, between 45-90 cm in length, which it bores into vertical riverbanks. At the end of the tunnel, it makes a rounded chamber in which the eggs are laid and the young cared for. Normally, it has up to two broods per year.

In Lewisham, we owe the Kingfisher's presence to the network of rivers - the Ravensbourne, Quaggy and Pool - which flow through our borough. In the last few years, the Kingfisher has been seen all along these rivers from Bell Green and Chinbrook Meadows in the south to Deptford Creek in the north. It is known to have bred in Ladywell Fields and the River Pool Linear Park, but evidence suggests that, due to a

lack of suitable riverbank locations in Lewisham, it now moves upstream into Bromley during the spring breeding season. Last year, nest boxes were installed in two locations to try and provide breeding sites within the borough.

The Kingfisher is a Schedule 1 protected bird under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). It is listed as a Species of Conservation Concern in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Vision

- To provide the best habitat possible for the Kingfisher within Lewisham as an iconic bird representing the restored health of our waterways and an example of how wildlife can thrive within the inner city

Objectives

- Monitor the status and distribution of the Kingfisher within Lewisham on a quarterly basis each year
- Raise awareness of Kingfishers and their habitat requirements
- Monitor the health of Lewisham's waterways on a regular basis and take appropriate action against any cases of pollution
- Install nest boxes in suitable locations to assist in breeding and minimise disruption during the nesting season to potential or known locations
- Install riverside perches in suitable locations
- Liaise with other authorities within the Ravensbourne Catchment Area to assist in achieving these objectives

7 Education and Community Regeneration



Members of the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership are actively engaged in a range of formal and informal educational activities in respect of Lewisham's natural environment. These include the Council's Nature Conservation Officer, Glendale Nature Conservation Officer, organisations such as the Horniman Museum, Creekside Education Trust, Thames21, QWAG, Froglife and London Wildlife Trust as well as various Forest School initiatives run by other individuals and user groups.

Lewisham Council has been successful in managing the Big Lottery 'Access to Nature' project called 'Rivers and People' which ran and supported numerous projects to encourage public involvement and educational activities that utilise the Boroughs river network. The project has now come to an end but it achieved more than was ever expected by:

- Providing direct experience and improved opportunities to access the natural environment for 11,886 people
- Engaged 1,795 volunteers in training and nature conservation volunteering programmes
- Facilitated on site educational sessions that engaged 5,596 students
- Developed on line web teaching resources for schools and a legacy of river related illustrated & interpretative walking route maps

<http://riversandpeople.com/walk-guides/>

The Partnership seeks to:

Continue to make links with secondary schools, youth groups, adult learning centres and other educational resource centres to support and promote environmental education initiatives that utilise the natural environment to deliver learning outcomes and wildlife engagement.

See also:

<http://www.field-studies-council.org/>

<http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/what-is-forest-school/>

<http://www.creeksidecentre.org.uk/>

<http://www.horniman.ac.uk/>

8 Transport

It is recognised that, in order to promote sustainable transport and encourage more walking and cycling, it is essential to improve the quality of the environment. Both walking and cycling are going to play an increasingly important role in modern life, recognised by the Council's commitment to providing a strategic framework for the development and improvement of walking and cycling networks. Funds have been obtained from Transport for London for green corridors that improve the environment and link up cycling/walking routes to and from parks. The Green Chain Walk and Waterlink Way are both examples of important and valuable strategic routes where people can experience nature and schemes like 'Lewisham's Healthy Walks' operate in the Borough to help encourage activity by using and enjoying these spaces.

See:

<http://riversandpeople.com/walk-guides/>

<https://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/lewisham-healthy-walks>



Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership will work to protect, create, and improve habitats and public access, where appropriate, along any proposed and/or existing route. The Partnership seeks to set standards for the ecological design, management and promotion of quality walking and cycling routes, which provide opportunities for the public to enjoy and recognise valuable habitats and species.

The Partnership is working with the Council and various other relevant organisations to ensure that the new Lewisham town centre development (Lewisham Gateway) and creation of a new confluence park is designed to remove obstacles to fish passage and to provide a high quality space for both people and wildlife.

Lewisham's streets are frequently perceived as being 'the built environment' and often their ecological role is overlooked. Many streets can be thought of as linear parks, where front gardens provide a variety of habitats and trees in gardens or those planted in the pavement contribute to the general attractiveness and structure of the street. The Partnership is working to influence highway managers and transport planners to consider biodiversity enhancements that will also provide solutions to some of the issues they face. One such solution is the use of trees and other greenery in the 20mph Zone proposals designed to calm traffic by narrowing, visually, the width of streets. This method has been used in Germany effectively to reduce speeds and enhance the character of areas without resorting to 'hard' traffic engineering measures.

The use of trees in this way may compensate for some of the loss of vegetation from front gardens given over to parking. Research conducted by the London Assembly in 2003 has estimated that the overall area lost to garden parking in London is equivalent to 12 square miles or 22 Hyde Parks. Further research, published in 2010, showed that an additional area equivalent to 2.5 Hyde Parks were being lost each year. The Partnership will promote and work with initiatives that address this problem and initiatives that avoid giving large areas over to parking in new development, as these schemes are detrimental to both biodiversity, sustainable drainage and can exacerbate the urban heat island effect.

In the long run the Partnership hopes to be able to demonstrate the benefits of incorporating elements that enhance biodiversity and link projects, such as: home zones; cycling and walking corridors; traffic calming; safer routes to schools and that these will help us to move from the car to a much improved environment for all.

8.1 Case Study- Railway 'Linesides'



Lewisham is criss-crossed by an extensive network of railway lines. The land beside

them, especially embankments and cuttings, provides a haven for wildlife and is an excellent habitat for many plants and animals. In terms of biodiversity, it is important that these railway 'linesides' are protected and conserved.

At just over 45km, Lewisham contains, proportionately, one of the greatest lengths of London's railway network – c5.5% - managed by 3 companies: Network Rail, Docklands Light Railway, and London Overground. The corridor south of New Cross Gate through to Forest Hill is recognised as being of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and much of the rest is of Borough-wide significance for the habitats it supports.

This resource is of considerable importance as, cumulatively, the linesides make up a very large linear area that is habitat for many plants and animals. In addition, the linesides can add to the ecological integrity of adjacent Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation [SINCs] and other green open spaces that are more centrally located.

Although safety and operational concerns must always be the first priority, railway land can still be managed with wildlife in mind. A number of nature reserves have been established adjacent to the lineside such as at Devonshire Road and Grove Park Nature Reserve.

The Partnership seeks to:

Promote the protection and appropriate management of railway corridors for biodiversity. Establish positive working links with the Council, Network Rail, Transport for London (London Overground) -in respect to the protection and management of lineside habitats along Lewisham's rail network.

9 Culture



The cultural diversity of Lewisham is underpinned by the historical heritage of the Borough, which itself has been significantly characterised by its natural environment. The landscape of Lewisham is that of a river valley. Lewisham developed around the Ravensbourne and its confluences with the Thames at Deptford, River Quaggy at Lewisham town centre and River Pool at Catford. Deptford gets its name from the 'deep ford' over the Ravensbourne and this 'working creek' had a range of fascinating wharves, mills, bridges and landing stages, with a mix of heavy industry, transport infrastructure and new riverside development. The majority of the river courses in the borough were still part of the countryside and these low-lying fields afforded a pattern of farms and villages. The tidal creeks around Deptford became important trading posts, further developed for ship-building using timber from the woods that once covered Forest Hill and Sydenham. These areas were part of the Great North Wood of which Sydenham Hill Woods is one of the last remnant.

From the nineteenth century, as drainage techniques improved, industrialisation and the construction of railways brought rapid urbanisation and most of the borough was built-up. The railway expansion followed the rivers to some extent and these interconnected linear tracts of land connect habitats and are arguably the borough's greatest wildlife asset.

There is a strong cultural connection between the landscape and the places of Lewisham illustrated by key natural features: place, street and pub names like Blackheath, Catford, Hilly Fields, Perry Vale, Downham, Beckenham, Lee Green, Burnt Ash Hill, Redstart Close and Hare & Billet, to mention just a few. This cultural connection with the landscape can help build a sense of place and should be highlighted and interpreted via engagement activities and with interpretive materials such as signs, leaflets, websites and at events.

The Partnership will:

- Act as a consultative forum for those producing and commissioning public art. We encourage art that works with nature rather than imposing itself on nature and that can also aid wildlife/ecological interpretation in parks, open spaces, nature reserves and the streetscape
- Produce and comment on wildlife/ecological interpretation that aims to engage, enthuse and widen knowledge and understanding for the general public

Contacts and web links

Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership

C/O Nick Pond, Wearside Service Centre, Wearside Road, SE13 7EZ t. 020 8314 2007

Lewisham Council

Town Hall, Catford, SE6 4RU t. 020 8314 6000

Glendale Managed Services

The Lodge, Mountsfield Park, Stainton Road, SE6 1AN t. 020 8318 3986

London Wildlife Trust

Dean Bradley House, 46 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2AF t. 020 7261 0447

Creekside Education Trust

14 Creekside, Deptford SE8 4SA t. 020 8692 9922

Environment Agency

Swift House, Frimley, Frimley Business Park, Surrey, GU16 7SQ t. 08708 506 506

Greater London Authority

City Hall, The Queen's Walk, SE1 2AA t. 020 7983 4000

Horniman Museum & Gardens

100 London Rd, Forest Hill, SE23 3PQ t. 020 8699 1872

Natural England

4th Floor -Foss House,
Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX t. 0300 060 1911

Thames 21

Walbrook Wharf, 78 - 83 Upper Thames Street, EC4R 3TD t. 020 7248 7171

Greenspace Information for Greater London

c/o Dean Bradley House, 46 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2AF t. 020 7803 4275

Useful website links

<http://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/>

<http://natureconservationlewisham.co.uk/lewisham-biodiversity-group/>

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/apply-for-planning-permission/Pages/Validation-requirements.aspx>

<http://riversandpeople.com/school-resources/>

http://www.lbp.org.uk/downloads/Publications/Management/black_redstart_advice_note.pdf

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/LDF/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://livingroofs.org/>

<http://natureconservationlewisham.files.wordpress.com/2011/04/lbl-draft-biodiversity-planning-guidance-notes-local-information-requirement-2013.doc>

<http://www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk/>

<http://www.creeksidecentre.org.uk/>

<http://qwag.org.uk/>

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/recycling>

<http://www.wildlondon.org.uk>

<http://www.rspbshop.co.uk>

<http://www.bto.org/nnbw/building.htm>

<http://www.horniman.ac.uk/>

<http://www.thames21.org.uk/>

<http://ptes.org/>

<http://www.gigl.org.uk/>

<http://www.froglife.org/>

<http://greenflagaward.org.uk>

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://riversandpeople.com/walk-guides/>

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/LDF/SPDs/Pages/River-corridor-improvement-plan.aspx>

<https://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/lewisham-healthy-walks>

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/walking/green-chain-walk>

<http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/what-is-forest-school/>

<http://www.field-studies-council.org/>

Mayor and Cabinet		
Title	Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Biodiversity Action Plan.	
Contributor	Sustainable Development Select Committee	Item
Class	Part 1 (open)	23 March 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the Biodiversity Action Plan, considered at its meeting on 8 March 2016.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee as set out in this report.

3. Sustainable Development Select Committee's views

- 3.1 On 8 March 2016, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 3.2 The Committee resolved to note that they considered the Biodiversity Action Plan to be excellent and recommended the following to Mayor and Cabinet:

That the Biodiversity Action Plan be approved.

That Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy money be allocated for a borough-wide survey of potential sites for additional street trees and ecological enhancements.

That as part of the Digital Transformation Programme, consideration be given to how best to support the biodiversity action plan with improved use of IT.

4. Financial implications

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

5. Legal implications

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

6. Further implications

6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Background papers

Report to Sustainable Development Select Committee, 8 March 2016, Item 3: [Biodiversity Action Plan](#).

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Katie Wood, Scrutiny Manager (ext. 49446).

Agenda Item 7

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission			
Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing			
Report for:	Mayor	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Mayor and Cabinet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Executive Director	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Part 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>

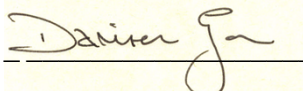
Date of Meeting	23 rd March 2016
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Title of Report	Housing Allocations Policy
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Originator of Report	Genevieve Macklin	Ext. 46057
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	X	
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	X	
Crime & Disorder Implications	X	
Environmental Implications	X	
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	X	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	X	
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed:  Executive Member

Date: 15th March 2015

Signed:  Director/Head of Service

Date 15th March 2015

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

Mayor & Cabinet			
Title	Allocations Policy Review		
Key decision	No	Item no	
Wards	All		
Contributors	Executive Director Customer Services		
Class	Part 1	23 March 2016	

1 Summary

- 1.1 The impact of national policy changes alongside demographic changes means that the number of homes for social rent – either new build or re-lets – has reduced over recent years.
- 1.2 There is increased demand for housing in a context of reducing supply. The council has taken a number of steps to address this challenge. The main initiative has been building new Council homes for the first time in a generation, so that the Council is directly providing new homes for social rent itself. The Council also continues to work in partnership with Housing Associations and other developers to build new homes in the borough.
- 1.3 In this context, Lewisham's Allocation Policy sets out how we will allocate households as fairly and efficiently as possible to the properties that become available to the Council. It sets out the principles of how we will do this and how we will make sure we comply with legislation and court rulings in this area.
- 1.4 Demand for social housing remains far higher than the supply available to the Council. The Allocations Policy was last reviewed in detail in 2012. Since that review, the number of households on the waiting list has grown from approximately 7,500 to over 9,250. Lewisham has also seen an increase in homelessness, with the number of households living in temporary accommodation increasing from less than 1,000 in 2010/11 to over 1,700 in 2014/15. Therefore officers propose that a number of changes are made to the Policy to ensure that we continue to be able to manage demand and bring the Policy up to date in light of other changes to how the service operates. This report provides background to the proposed changes.

2 Recommendations

The Mayor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the rationale for undertaking a review of the Allocations Policy.

- 2.2 Note the proposed changes set out in section 6 of this report.
- 2.3 Agree that officers should proceed to consult with residents and partners about the proposed changes set out in section 6 of this report.
- 2.4 Note that a full equality assessment analysis will be undertaken.
- 2.5 Note that a report will be brought back to Mayor and Cabinet later this year seeking approval for changes to the Allocation Policy in light of the outcome of the consultation and equality assessment analysis.

3 Policy context

- 3.1 The contents of this report are consistent with the Council's policy framework. It supports the achievements of the Sustainable Community Strategy policy objectives:
 - Ambitious and achieving: where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential.
 - Empowered and responsible: where people can be actively involved in their local area and contribute to tolerant, caring and supportive local communities.
 - Healthy, active and enjoyable: where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being, supported by high quality health and care services, leisure, culture and recreational activities.
- 3.2 The proposed recommendations are also in line with the Council policy priorities:
 - Strengthening the local economy – gaining resources to regenerate key localities, strengthen employment skills and promote public transport.
 - Clean, green and liveable – improving environmental management, the cleanliness and care for roads and pavements and promoting a sustainable environment

4 Background

- 4.1 Housing Allocations schemes are governed by legislation which requires housing authorities to determine and publish a lettings scheme setting out how it will prioritise applications for social housing. It is a requirement that certain groups are given “reasonable preference” within the policy. These groups include:
 - People who are homeless
 - Those living in unsatisfactory housing, e.g. overcrowded or lacking amenities
 - Those who need to move on medical grounds
 - Those owed a duty under other relevant legislation such as a closing order on a property.

- 4.2 Allocations policies must give preference to these groups above others. There is no requirement to give an equal weighting to all of the reasonable preference categories.
- 4.3 A key element of the allocations scheme is the Annual Lettings Plan which should be agreed by Members each year. This outlines the distribution between applicants with differing needs of the supply of lettings expected over the coming year. The proposed Annual Lettings Plan for 2016/2017 will be presented to Housing Select Committee at their meeting on 9 March 2016.
- 4.4 Lewisham extensively reviewed its Housing Allocation Scheme in 2012 in response to changes in legislation introduced by the Localism Act, as well as the changing trends in the supply and demand of social housing. These changes were approved by Mayor and Cabinet on 20th June 2012. The changes made as part of this review included the deletion of a fourth band of priority to reflect that the reduction in the number of lets meant that people in this band were extremely unlikely to receive an offer of social housing. In 2012 the local connection rule was also introduced which meant that an applicant had to have been a Lewisham resident for two years in order to qualify to register.
- 4.5 It is now proposed to review the policy further in order to ensure that we are able to continue to best allocate our supply of social housing and manage demand fairly within the challenging housing context where demand has increased by 87 per cent over the last five years whilst supply has decreased by 44 per cent.
- 4.6 The areas of focus in this review are as follows:
- The length of time required to qualify for a local connection
 - The increase in homeless applications
 - The ability to make Private Rented Sector Offers to discharge the council's housing duty to homeless households
 - Overcrowding and under occupation.
- 4.7 As the Service evolves it is essential that we review the policy to ensure that it manages the expectations as well as meeting the needs of service users, that it reflects the demands on the service and fosters good working relations with our partners.

5 Housing supply and demand

- 5.1 M&C have received a number of reports over the past years about the increased housing demand in the borough alongside the reduction in the supply of new homes for social housing and re-lets.

- 5.2 As of January 2016, there were over 9,250 households on Lewisham’s housing register, an increase of over 1,500 since 2012. In the same period, the number of lets has reduced from over 1,500 per year to just over 1,000 per year. The tables below set this out in more detail:

2012/13	Total Lets	1562
	Number on Housing Register	7593
2013/14	Total Lets	1235
	Number on Housing Register	8263
2014/15	Total Lets	1092
	Number on Housing Register	8591
2015/16	Total Lets to date	787
	Number on Housing Register	9253

- 5.3 Lewisham has also seen an increase in homelessness, with the number of households living in temporary accommodation increasing from less than 1,000 in 2010/11 to over 1,700 in 2014/15. This increased number of households in high housing need has also increased the demands on the service.
- 5.4 Government policy over the past five years has meant that fewer homes for social rent have been built. The current government is making changes so that it is likely that more of the new affordable homes built over the coming years are for ownership rather than for rent. Therefore the supply of new social homes beyond the Council’s own programme and those provided by some Housing Associations is likely to remain low, which means that the ability to meet demand will remain challenging.

6 Proposed Changes

- 6.1 This section summarises the proposed changes to the Policy.
Local Connection

- 6.2 In order to qualify for social housing in the borough, an applicant must demonstrate that they have a local connection. Currently, this means that they must be resident in Lewisham and have been resident for a period of two years.
- 6.3 It is proposed to increase the Local Connection criteria to five years to help manage demand for the service as well as the expectations of service users. This is also in line with partners in the South East London Housing Partnership (Southwark, Bexley, Greenwich and Bromley), creating geographic consistency.
- 6.4 This proposal will affect all new 'Part 6' applicants to the Council's general housing register. It would not affect 'Part 7' homeless applications.

Right to Move

- 6.5 New statutory guidance was introduced in March 2015 to introduce the 'Right to Move'. The intention behind this was to make it easier for social tenants to move if they need to for work reasons. The implications of the regulation is that local authorities are prevented from applying a local connection test that could disadvantage tenants who need to move across local authority boundaries for work related reasons
- 6.6 It is therefore proposed to introduce a quota ensuring that at least one per cent of all lettings are to households eligible under the 2015 'Right to Move' guidance, to publish the quota as part of the Allocation scheme and to report locally on demand and outcomes through the Annual Lettings Plan. This will build upon the provisions of section 2.2.2 of the Allocations policy which awards a local connection to those who require housing in the borough to be able to work in the borough.

Private Rented Sector offers

- 6.7 In March 2015, Mayor and Cabinet decided that the Council would be able to discharge its duty under Part Seven of the Housing Act by making an offer of Private Rented Sector (PRS) accommodation.
- 6.8 Whilst the Allocations Policy is related to Part Six of the Housing Act, it is proposed to include statements on the use of the PRS for the 'discharging of duty' under Part 7 of the Act and on the use of Temporary Accommodation outside the borough for the same purpose, to emphasise that this is an option for homeless households. This will also make reference to the Location Priority Policy.
- 6.9 It is a possibility that the temporary accommodation provided outside the borough could become permanent it is assessed as suitable.
- 6.10 It is also proposed to include a statement outlining that a PRS offer is an option for Homeless Prevention Priority (HPP) customers.

One offer policy for Housing Panel cases

- 6.11 In certain cases, the Council operates a policy of only making one offer of social housing to an applicant. These are high priority households where it is important that the household is found stable housing quickly.
- 6.12 It is proposed to change the wording of section 2.2.3 in relation to the 12 week period in which Housing Panel and Supported Housing Priority cases may bid for themselves. The change will reflect that this does not guarantee that an offer will be made or a bid will be successful in that time, and that the actual waiting time for a property may be longer dependent on availability and demand for properties. This will provide more clarity and help to manage the expectations of residents.

Allowing households in temporary accommodation to settle there permanently more quickly

- 6.13 Section 3.4.5 of the Policy allows the Council to offer a household in temporary accommodation the home they are occupying on a more permanent basis if the accommodation is suitable and it is possible to do so. Currently this only applies if the household has occupied the accommodation for at least 12 months.
- 6.14 It is proposed to amend section 3.4.5 of the policy to allow households placed in suitable Temporary Accommodation to be signed up as permanent within a shorter timescale.

Direct matching of applicants to properties

- 6.15 It is proposed to introduce 'Direct Matching' which will allow officers to directly place any nominated Part 7 homeless household into an available property whether it is advertised or not.

Chain lettings

- 6.16 Our current policy encourages 'chain lets' whereby in certain areas a large unit of accommodation household becomes available, and is let to an overcrowded household to improve their situation and the unit that has been vacated is in turn let to another household as requested to enable a further move.
- 6.17 It is proposed to amend section 3.4.6 relating to Chain Lettings to allow properties that become available through this means to be advertised for a specific purpose. This will encourage the best use of the stock, ensuring that the Allocations policy is responsive to the needs of customers and the demands of the service.

Rent arrears

6.18 Our policy is clear that a household with significant rent arrears at the time of being matched to a property must clear these before they move into a new home. However the way in which our policy is currently worded means that applicants with arrears over four weeks will be suspended. This causes administrative issues and can delay the letting of properties.

6.19 It is proposed to simplify this clause by amending section 2.2.4 regarding suspension for significant rent arrears. Where an offer is made in future it will be necessary for the applicant to have a rent account balance of zero as well as no outstanding former tenant arrears. The Housing Needs Group Service Manager will still retain the delegated authority to permit a move despite arrears where necessary.

6.20 This proposal will affect both Part 6 and Part 7 housing applications.

Limited offers rule

6.21 Occasionally, some applicants will view a number of properties but not accept the tenancy of any of them. This causes additional cost for the Council and delays a household being able to move into a new home. This does not include households where the one offer policy is applied, as set out in 6.9.

6.22 Therefore it is proposed to introduce a 'Limited Offer' rule, suspending applications from the register for 12 months where they have rejected three offers and to clarify the policy to note that not attending an accompanied viewing to sign a tenancy that has been offered will be considered a rejection.

6.23 This proposal will affect Part 6 housing applications who are not subject to the 'one offer only' policy..

Bedroom standard

6.24 The current Policy sets out how many bedrooms a household is entitled to:

"In calculating how many bedrooms you need, we will allow you:

- one bedroom or a studio for you and your partner, if you have one
- one bedroom for every two children of the same sex, aged under eighteen
- one bedroom for a child of the opposite sex to another child, if the child is aged over ten
- one bedroom for any other adult"

6.25 It is proposed to adopt the Department for Communities and Local Government's guidance bedroom standard when determining the number of bedrooms required by an Applicant. This has been designed to take into account Housing Benefit regulations regarding bed sizes.. The Bedroom Standard allocates a separate bedroom to each:

- married or cohabiting couple
- adult aged 21 years or more
- pair of adolescents aged 10-20 of the same sex

- pair of children aged under 10 regardless of sex

6.26 The policy will also be amended to note that under existing rules, applicants may be entitled for a home of one size but not be eligible for Housing Benefit at the same level.

Medical assessments

6.27 To clarify that the Council's medical advisor may recommend an extra bedroom on medical grounds.

6.28 This proposal will affect all existing and new Part 6 and Part 7 applications.

7 Timetable and next steps

7.1 Consultation will be undertaken with those likely to be affected by any changes and key stakeholders to seek their views on the proposed changes.

7.2 An equality analysis assessment of the proposed changes will be undertaken and reported to Mayor and Cabinet.

8 Financial Implications

8.1 As has been previously reported, the current housing issues experienced both nationally and in the borough are putting severe pressure on the council's housing budgets.

8.2 The changes to the allocations policy set out in the report are expected to assist in managing those pressures and assist in officers making the best use of the resources available to them.

9 Legal Implications

9.1 In compliance with section 166A,(1) (of the 1996 Act,) Lewisham Housing Authority has an Allocations Policy, "... for determining priorities,..." which sets out the procedure to be followed when allocating housing accommodation.

9.2 The statutory guidance on social housing allocations is entitled "Allocation of accommodation: Guidance for Local Authorities in England and was revised in June 2012. Authorities are obliged to have regard to this guidance when devising and implementing their schemes.

- 9.3 The Government launched a consultation exercise on proposals to issue new statutory guidance “to help local authorities make full use of their new allocation freedoms by tailoring their allocation priorities to meet the needs of their local residents and their local communities.” One of the proposals involved amending existing guidance to “strongly encourage all local authorities to adopt a two year residency test as part of their qualification criteria.” Consultation closed on 22 November 2013 and new supplementary statutory guidance was published in December 2013: *Providing social housing for local people*
- 9.4 On 9 March 2015 the Government announced an intention to ‘ensure local connection requirements do not prevent social tenants from moving into the area to take up work or apprenticeship opportunities.’
- 9.5 The Localism Act 2011 received royal assent on 15th November 2011. The 2011 Act introduces a number of significant amendments to Part 6 of the 1996 Act. Of particular relevance here are the following provisions: Section 160ZA replaces s.160A in relation to allocations by housing authorities. Social housing may only be allocated to ‘qualifying persons’ and housing authorities are given the power to determine what classes of persons are or are not qualified to be allocated housing (s.160ZA(6) and (7)).
- 9.6 Section 166A requires housing authorities in England to allocate accommodation in accordance with a scheme which must be framed to ensure that certain categories of applicants are given reasonable preference for an allocation of social housing. Section 166A(9) includes a new requirement for an allocation scheme to give a right to review a decision on qualification in s.160AZ(9), and to inform such affected persons of the decision on the review and the grounds for it. This is in addition to the existing right to review a decision on eligibility.
- 9.7 Section 166A(12) provides that housing authorities must have regard to both their homelessness and tenancy strategies when framing their allocation scheme. The requirement for an allocation scheme to contain a statement of the authority’s policy on offering a choice of accommodation or the opportunity to express preferences about their accommodation is retained. (s.166A(2)). However, the requirement to provide a copy of this statement to people to whom they owe a homelessness duty (under s.193(3A) or s.195(3A) of the 1996 Act) is repealed by s.148(2) and s.149(3) of the 2011Act. This is because, following the changes to the main homelessness duty made by the Localism Act 2011, there can no longer be a presumption that the homelessness duty will be brought to an end in most cases with an allocation under Part 6.

- 9.8 The European Convention on Human Rights states in Article 8 that “Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and correspondence”. The Human Rights Act 1998 incorporates the Convention. Whilst it does not, however, necessarily mean that everyone has an immediate right to a home, (because Article 8 is a “qualified” right and therefore is capable in certain circumstances, of being lawfully and legitimately interfered with,) the provision by an Authority of a relevant and considered Allocations Policy does assist to reinforce the Article 8 principles.
- 9.9 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). 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.
- 9.10 In summary, 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.
- 9.11 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
- 9.12 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>
- 9.13 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:
1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
 2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
 3. Engagement and the equality duty

4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
5. Equality information and the equality duty

9.14 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

10 Crime and disorder implications

10.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

11 Equalities implications

11.1 An equality analysis assessment of the proposed changes will be undertaken

12 Environmental implications

12.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

13 Background Documents and Report Originator

13.1 The current Allocations Policy is available here:

13.2 <https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myserVICES/housing/find/Documents/Lewisham%20Housing%20Allocations%20Scheme.pdf>

13.3 The government has published Allocations Guidance which is available here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5918/2171391.pdf

13.4 If you have any queries relating to this report please contact Genevieve Macklin on 020 8314 6057.

Agenda Item 8

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing

Report for: Mayor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information <input type="checkbox"/> Part 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Key Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	

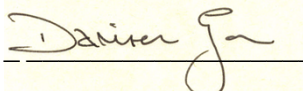
Date of Meeting	23 rd March 2016
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Title of Report	Brasted Close Housing Development Part 1
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Originator of Report	Genevieve Macklin	Ext. 46057
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	X	
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	X	
Crime & Disorder Implications	X	
Environmental Implications	X	
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	X	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	X	
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed:  Executive Member

Date: 15th March 2015

Signed:  Director/Head of Service

Date 15th March 2015

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

MAYOR & CABINET			
Report Titles	Brasted Close Housing Development		
Key Decision	Yes		
Ward	Sydenham		
Contributors	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CUSTOMER SERVICES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR RESOURCES & REGENERATION, HEAD OF LAW		
Class	Part 1	Date	23 March 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 Lewisham, and London more generally, faces severe housing pressures across all tenures. A combination of historic and on-going lack of new supply, welfare reform and rising property prices and rents has led to rapidly increasing demand in all tenures.
- 1.2 In order to respond to this increased demand and to provide a greater range and volume of housing options to enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations, officers are pursuing a wide range of new housing development approaches in order to meet demand. One such approach is working with Community Land Trusts (CLT).
- 1.3 Community Land Trusts are local organisations set up and run to develop and manage homes as well as other assets important to that community. The CLT's main task is to make sure these homes are genuinely affordable, based on what people actually earn in their area, not just for now but for every future occupier. CLT's are providing housing solutions which are not available via other forms of affordable housing and are therefore allowing access to the housing market to those who would otherwise be excluded.
- 1.4 The Housing Strategy 2015-2020 has a commitment to work with our communities and partners in order to maximise our ability to deliver well defined and affordable new homes for Lewisham and an objective to work with and support resident-led development. Lewisham is one of the leading authorities in the country on working in partnership with CLT's on affordable housing developments. The Council is already working with The Rural Urban Synthesis Society Community Land Trust (RUSS) on a site in Church Grove which will provide 33 affordable homes in the borough.
- 1.5 A further potential development site for a CLT has been identified in Brasted Close, Sydenham. The current site has 17 garages and is on Housing Revenue Account (HRA) land. Early scoping studies have indicated that 12-14 homes can be built on the site. Officers have undertaken a statutory S105 consultation with local secure tenants on using the land for a housing development, and have also sought comments from leaseholders, freeholders and other interested parties.

1.6 This report includes information following the consultation carried out with residents on the proposal to build affordable housing on the site and provides information on working with Lewisham Citizens and the London Community Land Trust to develop their plans.

2. Purpose of Report

2.1 To ask the Mayor to consider the responses from residents to the formal Section 105 consultation carried out on the Brasted Close estate and to declare the land surplus to the Council's requirements.

2.2 To ask the Mayor to agree to develop plans with Lewisham Citizens and the London Community Land Trust for the site with a view to disposing the land to them to provide affordable housing.

3. Policy Context

3.1 The scheme supports the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2020 especially the priority outcomes Reducing inequality – narrowing the gap in outcomes for citizens; Clean, green and liveable – where people live in high quality housing and can care for and enjoy their environment and Dynamic and prosperous – where people are part of vibrant communities and town centres, well connected to London and beyond.

3.2 The scheme also supports the Lewisham's Core Strategy which has the objective to make provision for the completion of an additional 18,165 net new dwellings from all sources between 2009/10 and 2025/26, to meet local housing need and accommodate the borough's share of London's housing needs. This aims to exceed the London Plan target for the borough. The Core Strategy also has the objective to make provision to meet the housing needs of Lewisham's new and existing population, which will include:

- provision of affordable housing
- a mix of dwelling sizes and types, including family housing
- lifetime homes, and specific accommodation to meet the needs of an ageing population and those with special housing needs
- bringing vacant dwellings back into use.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Mayor:

4.1 having considered the responses to the statutory Section 105 consultation, agrees to declare the garage site on the Brasted Close estate shown on the attached plan surplus to the Council's requirements;

4.2 agrees that officers work with the London Community Land Trust and Lewisham Citizens exclusively for a period of twelve months to seek to develop a fully affordable housing scheme for the site.

4.3 Notes that officers will provide a further report to Mayor and Cabinet to agree the disposal terms if a viable business case for pursuing the development can be finalised.

5. Disposal of the open land and garages on the Brasted Close estate

- 5.1 The potential site for a community land trust development consists of garages and small grassed area on the Brasted Close estate in Sydenham shown on the attached plan.
- 5.2 There are 17 garages on the site, 15 of which are currently in use with only 4 being let to current residents of the estate.
- 5.3 If the site ceases to be used for its current purpose, officers and Lewisham Homes staff will work with the tenants of the garages to identify whether there are available garages in the 4 other garage sites in the area. There is parking available on the estate and in surrounding streets.

6 Section 105 Consultation

- 6.1 Given the proximity of the site to secure tenants living in the surrounding area, officers have carried out a statutory S105 consultation with those tenants about the potential disposal of the site to enable the construction of new homes. A copy of the letter that was sent to residents, including a site plan can be found at Appendix A to this paper.
- 6.2 In addition to the statutory consultation, officers also wrote to leaseholders and freeholders on the estate and to the Headteacher of the neighbouring St Bartholomew's Primary School.
- 6.3 The consultation letters were hand delivered on 6 January 2016 and the consultation ran for 28 days. In that time none of the 51 secure tenants have responded. One response was received from a resident leaseholder who has shown concern over the proposal.
- 6.4 The main issues raised by the respondent expressing concern, was in relation to the potential loss of some grassed area which is safe for children to play, the strain on parking, emergency vehicle access and the proximity of a development to current buildings. The Council has responded advising that the red line plan provided is indicative of the site and that the use of the grassed area, parking issues and the proximity to current buildings will all be part of a planning application which will also be consulted on. Additionally, the Council has other garage sites in the local area which may have availability should the garages on Brasted Close be demolished. The full response to the consultation with the reply from Council Officers have been made available in the Members room.

7 London Community Land Trust and Lewisham Citizens

- 7.1 The London Community Land Trust is a not for profit social enterprise. Their principles are to actively engage with local people to deliver permanently affordable home ownership. The Trust have been working with Lewisham Citizens on the potential for a site in Lewisham. Lewisham Citizens is a local organisation who will lead on community engagement.
- 7.2 Although detailed plans have yet to be developed, early scoping work has identified that 12-14 homes can be built on the site. All will be for sale to people with a strong local connection with sales values being set at the local median income in perpetuity.

The setting of sales value at the local median income in perpetuity will be secured through a covenant.

- 7.3 The sales values will make the properties available to residents who are currently excluded from the housing market.
- 7.4 The London Community Land Trust have been working on a site to provide 23 affordable homes for sale in Tower Hamlets, the first housing CLT in London. The scheme is near completion and the sales values are to be between £130,000 for a 1 bed property and £235,000 for a 3 bed property. As with the proposal for a Lewisham scheme, these levels are set at the local median income in perpetuity.
- 7.5 Officers have had initial discussions with the London Community Land Trust about a CLT housing scheme in Lewisham and are very enthusiastic at the prospect of a scheme which delivers affordable sale units for local people at levels which open up the housing market to households who are otherwise excluded and also puts the community at the heart of the development.
- 7.6 Should the Mayor agree to the recommendations set out in this report, officers will work closely with the London Community Land Trust to develop their plans for the site and to engage further with local residents in order to bring back a viable scheme to the Mayor and Cabinet to agree the disposal terms.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 The Council has a wide general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do. The existence of the general power is not limited by the existence of any other power of the Council which (to any extent) overlaps the general power. The Council can therefore rely on this power to carry out housing development, to act in an “enabling” manner with other housing partners and to provide financial assistance to housing partners for the provision of new affordable housing.
- 8.2 The proposals set out in this report are at an early stage of development. Detailed specific legal implications will be set out in any subsequent report to Mayor & Cabinet if terms for the disposal of the site can be agreed.
- 8.3 Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985 provides that the Council must consult with all secure tenants who are likely to be substantially affected by a matter of Housing Management. Section 105 specifies that a matter of Housing Management would include a new programme of maintenance, improvement or demolition or a matter which affects services or amenities provided to secure tenants and that such consultation must inform secure tenants of the proposals and provide them with an opportunity to make their views known to the Council within a specified period. Section 105 further specifies that before making any decisions on the matter the Council must consider any representations from secure tenants arising from the consultation. Such consultation must therefore be up to date and relate to the development proposals in question.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1 This report seeks the Mayor’s agreement to the development of an affordable housing scheme with Lewisham Citizens and London Community Land Trust. No costs beyond officer time will be incurred in developing the proposal and, as such,

there are no financial implications in agreeing to the recommendations in section 4 of the report.

- 9.2 The site being discussed as a part of this proposal is currently HRA land. The land will need to be appropriated to the General Fund for the scheme to progress. Officers will need to consider the value of the land on appropriation and its impact on the viability of the scheme.

10. Environmental Implications

- 10.1 Any new housing provided will be built to the standards required by planning as a minimum and wherever possible, in design or viability, include higher and more innovative environmental elements.

11. Implications for Law & Disorder

- 11.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications.

12. Equality Implications

- 12.1 An Equalities Analysis Assessment will be undertaken as part of the further work in order to assess the impacts of the proposals and this will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet for consideration.

- 12.2 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). 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.

- 12.3 In summary, 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.

- 12.4 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

- 12.5 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of

evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at:
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legaland-policy/equality-act/equalityact-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

12.6 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
3. Engagement and the equality duty
4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
5. Equality information and the equality duty

12.7 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirement including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at:
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sectorequalityduty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

13. Background papers and author

13.1 There are no background papers to this report.

13.2 For more information on this report please contact James Ringwood, Strategic Housing on 020 8314 7944.



Resident of Brasted Close Estate

James Ringwood
Strategic Housing
4th Floor Laurence House
Catford
London SE6 4RU

direct line 020 8314 7944
james.ringwood@lewisham.gov.uk

6 January 2016

Dear Resident

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER CAREFULLY

**IT IS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE OPEN SPACE AND GARAGES IN THE NORTH
EAST OF BRASTED CLOSE SE26**

**IT ALSO EXPLAINS HOW YOU CAN PROVIDE US WITH YOUR VIEWS ABOUT
THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS**

I am writing to consult you about the Council's proposals to build a new housing development on the site of the garages in Brasted Close. If the development goes ahead, it would involve the garages no longer being available to rent and the land being used for the construction of new affordable homes for local people instead. This letter represents formal consultation under Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985, and is within the arrangements which the Council maintains for this purpose.

Background

In July 2012 Lewisham's Mayor, Sir Steve Bullock set out his ambition to build new homes to help meet the demand for housing in the borough and the site on the Brasted Close estate has been identified as one such opportunity.

Proposal

The attached plans show the location of the site (outlined in red).

The proposal is for the garages on this site to be demolished and the land to be used instead for new affordable housing for local people and will be subject to planning consent.

Consultation

The Council is seeking your views on the proposals set out in this letter. If you and any other secure tenant in your home wish to make any representations about any aspect of these proposals and their effect as outlined in this letter, you must do so please by **no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 3 February 2016**. The representations should be in writing and sent to the following address:

London Borough of Lewisham

**Strategic Housing
4th Floor, Laurence House
1 Catford Road
London SE6 4RU**

Comments can also be made via email at: [**james.ringwood@lewisham.gov.uk**](mailto:james.ringwood@lewisham.gov.uk)

All representations received by the time specified will be considered by Mayor and Cabinet before deciding whether or not to progress the development of housing on the site at a meeting to be held on 23 March 2016.

Yours sincerely

James Ringwood
Housing Delivery Manager

Site Location Plan – Garages and land in the north east of Brasted Close SE26



Agenda Item 9

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing

Report for: Mayor

Mayor and Cabinet

Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)

Executive Director

Information Part 1 Part 2 Key Decision

<input type="checkbox"/>
X
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

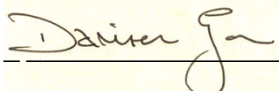
Date of Meeting	23 rd March 2016
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Title of Report	Phoenix Community Housing Development Agreement Part 1
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Originator of Report	Genevieve Macklin	Ext. 46057
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	X	
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	X	
Crime & Disorder Implications	X	
Environmental Implications	X	
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	X	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	X	
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed:  Executive Member

Date: 15th March 2015

Signed:  Director/Head of Service

Date 15th March 2015

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report Titles	Phoenix Community Housing Development		
Key Decision	Yes		
Ward	Bellingham, Downham, Whitefoot		
Contributors	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CUSTOMER SERVICES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESOURCES & REGENERATION, HEAD OF LAW		
Class	Part 1	Date	23 March 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 In July 2012 the Council embarked on a programme to build new Council homes in response to a series of on-going housing policy and delivery challenges, most notably an enduring under-supply of new affordable homes available to the Council to meet the housing demands placed upon it.
- 1.2 These homes are being built for a variety of purposes by a range of providers. The majority are Council homes being brought forward for social rent, with Lewisham Homes acting as the Council's development agent. Other projects include the delivery of a "pop-up" housing development in Ladywell directly by the Council, low-cost home ownership homes for people who live or work in Lewisham, and extra care housing by Phoenix Community Housing.
- 1.3 Phoenix Community Housing was created as a community gateway housing association in 2007, and the vast majority of the Council's housing stock in the south of the borough was transferred to it. As a result, in order for new homes to be provided in this part of the borough, the Council is working with Phoenix to support their plans to develop new homes.

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 This report informs Mayor and Cabinet about plans to develop new homes in the areas of the borough in which Phoenix Community Housing is the majority landlord, and recommends that the Council provides capital subsidy support of £1.32m from S106 funds for a development of 22 new homes for affordable rent at Forster House in Whitefoot.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The contents of this report are consistent with the Council's policy framework. It supports the achievements of the Sustainable Community Strategy policy objectives:
 - Ambitious and achieving: where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential.
 - Empowered and responsible: where people can be actively involved in their local area and contribute to tolerant, caring and supportive local communities.

- Healthy, active and enjoyable: where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being, supported by high quality health and care services, leisure, culture and recreational activities.

3.2 The proposed recommendations are also in line with the Council policy priorities:

- Strengthening the local economy – gaining resources to regenerate key localities, strengthen employment skills and promote public transport.
- Clean, green and liveable – improving environmental management, the cleanliness and care for roads and pavements and promoting a sustainable environment.

3.3 Lewisham's Housing Strategy was approved at Full Council in May 2015. This strategy sets out the Council's ambition to address the challenges in the borough through the following objectives:

- Helping residents at times of severe and urgent housing need
- Building the homes our residents need
- Greater security and quality for private renters
- Promoting greater quality in the social and private rented sectors

3.4 Lewisham's Core Strategy has the objective to make provision for the completion of an additional 18,165 net new dwellings from all sources between 2009/10 and 2025/26, to meet local housing need and accommodate the borough's share of London's housing needs. This aims to exceed the London Plan target for the borough. The Core Strategy also has the objective to make provision to meet the housing needs of Lewisham's new and existing population, which will include:

- provision of affordable housing
- a mix of dwelling sizes and types, including family housing
- lifetime homes, and specific accommodation to meet the needs of an ageing population and those with special housing needs
- bringing vacant dwellings back into use

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Mayor:

- 4.1 Notes the on-going partnership work between the Council and Phoenix Community Housing to identify housing development opportunities in the south of the borough, and to review potential mechanisms to fund those opportunities;
- 4.2 Having considered the information in section 6, agrees to provide funding of £1.32m from S106 funds to support the development at Forster House;
- 4.3 Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to finalise the terms of the funding agreement;
- 4.2 Agrees that Officers review options for the longer term funding of housing development by Phoenix Community Housing and report these back to Mayor and Cabinet.

5. Phoenix Community Housing

- 5.1 Previous government policy required Local Authorities to undertake a stock options appraisal to develop a strategy by which all their stock could meet the Decent Homes Standard. In order to bring in the investment needed to achieve this objective, the government provided three main ways to support local authorities who need additional funding to make their homes decent. These were:
- Setting up an Arms-Length Management Organisation (ALMO)
 - Entering into a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract
 - Transferring properties to a Registered Provider of social housing
- 5.2 Residents in the Bankfoot and Bellingham showed an interest in becoming more involved in controlling the future management of their homes. Residents approached the Council in late 2004 to explore a stock transfer to a community-led Registered Provider as a means of achieving Decent Homes on their estate. The decision to establish Phoenix, a newly created community gateway organisation, rather than select an existing RSL partner was agreed as part of the Decent Homes Strategy and the stock transfer took place in December 2007.
- 5.3 As the major landlord in the south of the borough, Phoenix is an important strategic partner in meeting the Council's aim to provide the homes our residents need. It is, for instance, developing a new state of the art extra care housing scheme at Hazelhurst Court in Bellingham, which is supported by both the Council and the GLA. Over the past year officers have continued to have close dialogue with Phoenix about the longer term potential to build new affordable rented homes in the south of the borough to help meet the demand for affordable housing. This dialogue has focussed on both the potential locations of future developments and the support that the Council can continue to offer to enable them to be delivered.
- 5.4 This report seeks approval for the Council to fund the first scheme to come forward following this partnership working, and also notifies the Mayor that officers are working with Phoenix to look at longer term options both for development and for funding that will provide a pipeline of new homes in the areas in which Phoenix operates.

6. Forster House infill development

- 6.1 Phoenix Community Housing has been working on proposals for new housing provision on its existing estates since 2014, with a focus on utilising underused and derelict areas for much needed new housing.
- 6.2 One such site is on underused space on Whitefoot Lane next to Forster House. The site is currently laid out as amenity space and parking and is underused. Phoenix began working on a scheme in June 2014 and received planning consent in January 2016 for a development of 22 new homes, made up of nine 1-bed flats and 13 2-bed flats, of which two flats will be especially configured to be wheelchair accessible. The development is intended to be 100% affordable, with all of the homes available for rent.
- 6.3 The plans reflect a wider strategic approach to rebalancing the mix of units in the area. The existing block at Forster House consists of 54 units, of which 36 are 3 bed family units and 18 are 1 bed flats. By developing a new scheme of smaller units,

therefore, this project will be broadening options for people wishing to stay in the area. A number of the occupiers of the 3 bed flats are older single people and couples, who are under occupying family accommodation, but who currently have limited ability to move locally as Phoenix has a limited number of smaller units in the area.

- 6.4 Phoenix expects to commence the procurement of a contractor to develop these new homes in April. In support of that process it has carried out cost analysis and viability testing exercises, and as is the case with any development in which the homes are all being made available for affordable rent, capital subsidy is required in order to make the scheme viable.
- 6.5 Given the massive on-going housing demand that the Council faces, and the need to review all potential options to develop new affordable homes, officers have been working with PCH to review the proposals for Forster House and consider how the Council might support those.
- 6.6 Following a period of negotiation, based on evidence from the cost consultants employed on the development, and on reviewing the appropriate levels of rents and other costs to ensure that the development remains affordable to tenants, both parties have settled on £1.32m as the level of additional subsidy that is required in order to enable the development to come forward.
- 6.7 As a general principle the Council's Strategic Housing team seeks to maximise the amount of affordable housing that can be delivered on any scheme, and to ensure that these homes are delivered on-site wherever possible. There are occasions however when it proves practically or financially more efficient to accept a capital payment in-lieu of affordable homes on site through the S106 process, in order that the capital be made available for the provision of affordable homes on another site.
- 6.8 At present there is approximately £1.4m of S106 available, with future receipts of £800k expected over the next three months and as such there is sufficient funding for the Council to make grant funding of £1.32m available to Phoenix to enable this development to come forward.
- 6.9 If agreed, Phoenix hopes to start on site with construction in August of this year, with a view to making the new homes available for letting – with the Council having full nomination rights to those homes – in the spring of 2018.

7. Longer term development opportunities

- 7.1 As noted above, officers have worked closely with Phoenix over the past year to review longer term development opportunities. At present most of the sites under consideration are small infill sites, just as they are with the Council's development programme led by Lewisham Homes. There is however the potential for larger development opportunities to emerge in the medium to long term.
- 7.2 Officers propose that these discussions continue, and also that this process includes a review of options that enable Phoenix to fund and deliver a longer term programme of affordable housing development in the south of the borough. It is anticipated that the outcomes of this process could be reported back to Mayor and Cabinet in the autumn of this year.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 The Council has a wide general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do. The existence of the general power is not limited by the existence of any other power of the Council which (to any extent) overlaps the general power. The Council can therefore rely on this power to carry out housing development, to act in an “enabling” manner with other housing partners and to provide financial assistance to housing partners for the provision of new affordable housing.
- 8.2 The Council has power to use S106 monies for the purposes for which they were provided, in this case the provision of affordable housing. A grant agreement will be entered into with Phoenix to secure the use of the funding for its agreed purpose, together with a nomination agreement to secure the Council’s nomination rights to the new homes.

9 Financial implications

- 9.1 Sufficient provision exists within S106 funds held by the Council for affordable Housing to support the development at Forster House as proposed in recommendation 4.2

10 Environmental Implications

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the recommendations set out in this report. The design stages of all sites under consideration under the New Homes, Better Places programme will address environmental issues through the procurement of design partners and the planning process. The programme has a stated objective of improving places for existing residents as well as the residents who will benefit from the new homes.

11. Implications for Law & Order

- 11.1 The design for any new homes will incorporate recommendations from the police via the Secured by Design principles.

12. Equality Implications

- 12.1 The provision of new homes will help the Council to address the general shortfall of affordable housing in the borough. There are more than 8,000 households currently on the Council’s waiting list for housing, and less than 1,500 properties become available each year. The New Homes Better Places programme helps to address this issue by directly adding to the Council’s housing stock. The provision of new age specific homes for the over 55’s will mean more of the boroughs aging population will have modern, high quality homes built to meet their ongoing housing needs.
- 12.2 An Equalities Analysis Assessment will be undertaken as part of the further work in order to assess the impacts of the proposals and this will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet for consideration along with the results of the Section105 consultation.

- 12.3 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>
- 12.4 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:
1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
 2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
 3. Engagement and the equality duty
 4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
 5. Equality information and the equality duty
- 12.5 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirement including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equalityduty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

13. Background papers and author

- 13.1 There are no background papers to this report.
- 13.2 For more information on this report please contact Jeff Endean, Strategic Housing on 020 8314 6213

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission			
Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing			
Report for:	Mayor		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mayor and Cabinet		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Executive Director		<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Part 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Date of Meeting	23/03/16
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Title of Report	Comprehensive Equalities Scheme
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Originator of Report	Janet Senior, ED, Resources & Regen	
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	X	
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	X	
Crime & Disorder Implications	X	
Environmental Implications		N/A
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	X	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	X	
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		N/A
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)	N/A	


 Signed: _____ Executive Member

Date: 14/3/2016
 Signed:  Director/Head of Service

Date: 15/3/16

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

Mayor and Cabinet			
Title	Draft Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016 – 2020		
Wards	All		
Contributors	Chief Executive, Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration		
Class	Part 1	Date	23 March 2016

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 (see paragraph 10) and summarises next steps. A draft of the CES 2016-20 is attached as an Appendix.

Recommendations

2. The Mayor is recommended to:
 - (i) approve and agree the draft equality objectives for the next four years;
 - (ii) approve the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016-20.

Background and context

3. The Equality Act of 2010¹ 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 Act² 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 scheme³ 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 Strategy⁴ 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 it 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 are 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 exercise⁵, 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.
30. The Human Rights Act 1998, which came into force on 2nd October 2000, incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law. The Council, as a public authority, is under a duty, by virtue of section 6 of the 1998 Act, to act compatibly with Convention rights in the exercise of their functions.
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

Appendix

Comprehensive Equalities Scheme

2016-20

'opportunity and responsibility for all'



“Equality is about opportunity and empowerment. But it is also about responsibility and making sure that everyone makes a contribution”.

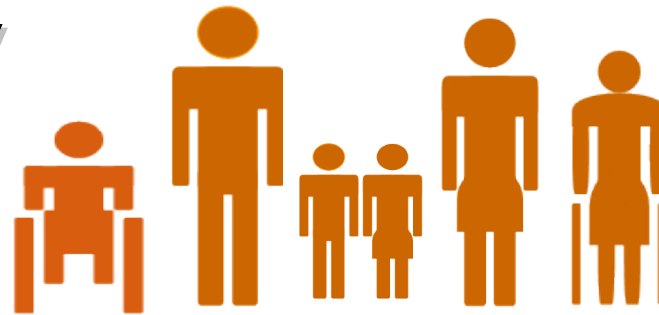


Lewisham is **a diverse place, a vibrant borough** and part of one of the world's greatest capital cities, with much to gain from improving infrastructure for homes, jobs and transport routes to employment across the region. However, whilst there have been some recognisable gains from the upswing in the wider economy, prejudice economic disadvantage and/or discrimination persist – limiting life opportunities and life chances for many. The purpose of the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme (CES) is to **identify Lewisham's own distinctive commitment to equity and fairness** through its powers to influence **access to secure good quality housing, education, safety & security, improving health and leisure**. The levers to act will vary and change over time, but the aim is for the CES to, once again, **define the key equality objectives for the next four years** and to make these a reality for those who live work and learn in the borough.

introduction



access **participation**
 empowerment
involvement responsibility
 independence choice
accountability



what do we mean by
equality?



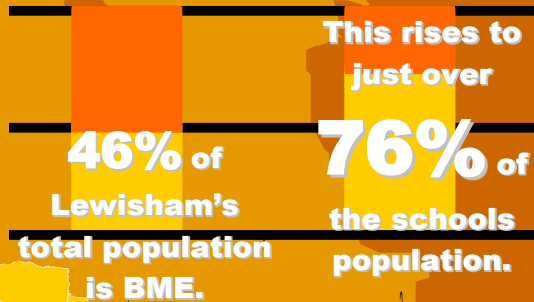
One in four
Lewisham residents
are aged 0-19



292,000

Lewisham's population. The 13th largest in London and the 5th largest in Inner London.

Some **three in ten** Lewisham children live in poverty



Lewisham's population is driven by the birth rate.

There are some **5,000** live births each year. Over the next 20 years, Lewisham will see the



one of the fastest rates of population growth in London

some **six in 10** Lewisham residents are employed across London and beyond

15

Lewisham is the 15th most ethnically diverse local authority in the country and the second most ethnically diverse in London

116,000

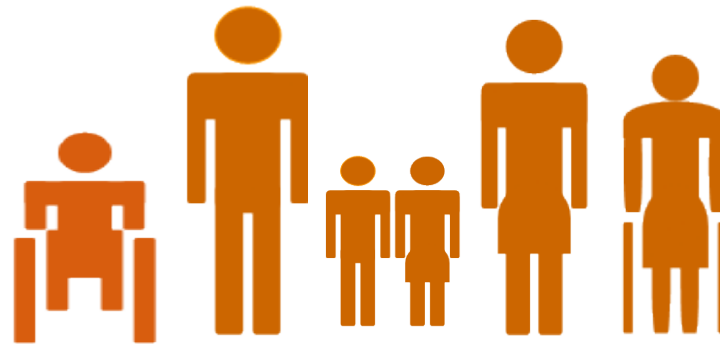
households, with private rented being the fastest growing housing sector



some context

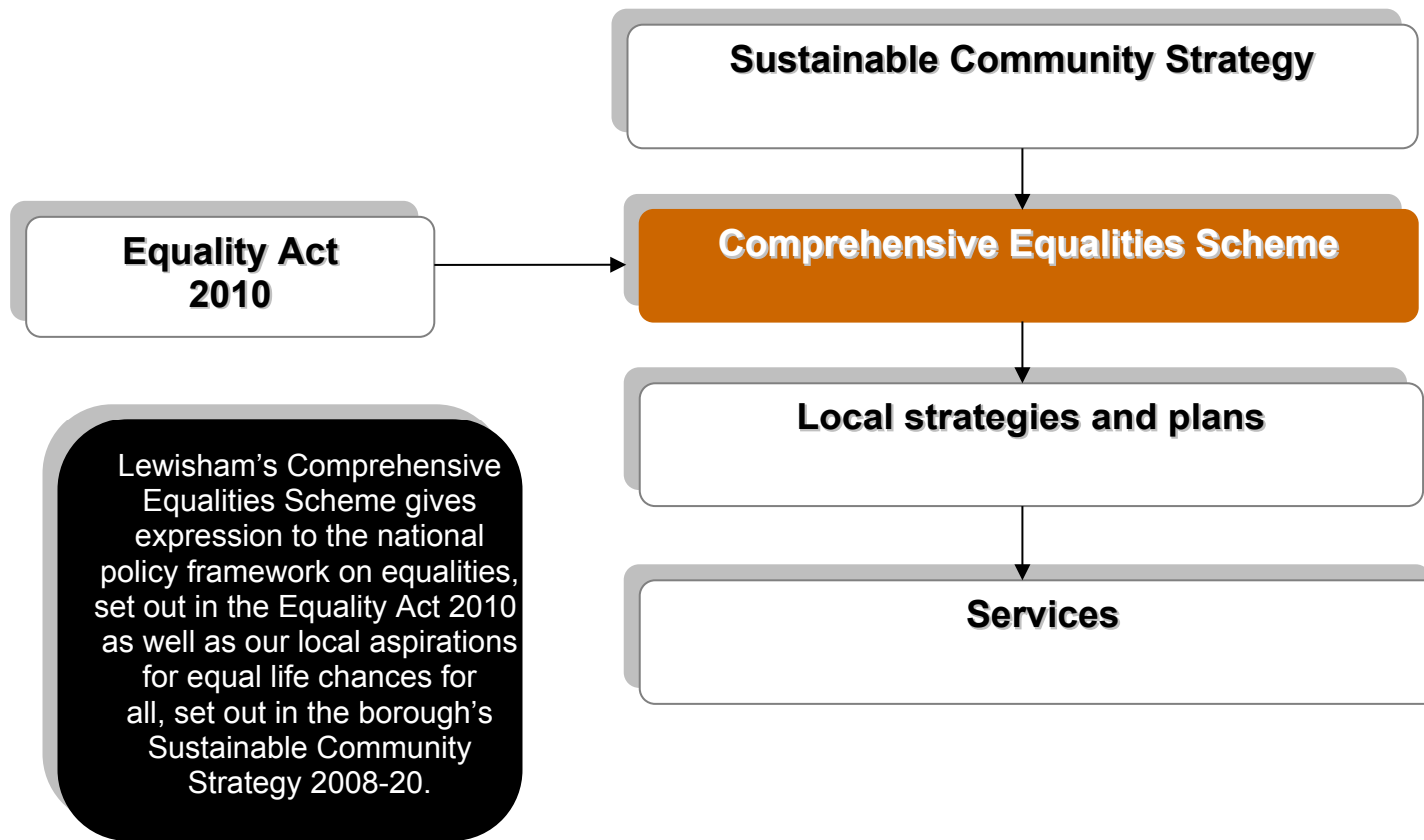


- ➔ a **statement** of strategic equality objectives
- ➔ a **framework** through which elected officials, officers and the public can assess and evaluate the equality impact of strategic planning and service delivery
- ➔ a **vehicle** through which the Council can demonstrate its compliance with the Equality Act 2010



what is the CES?



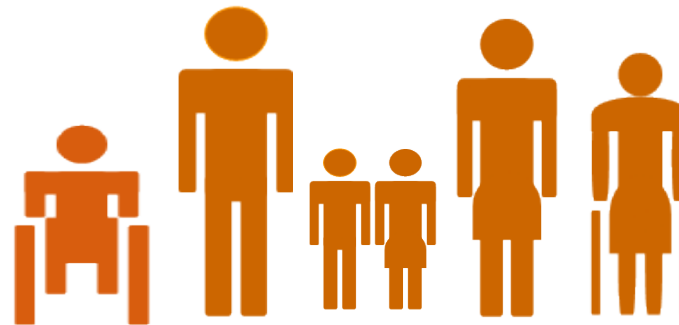


Lewisham's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme gives expression to the national policy framework on equalities, set out in the Equality Act 2010 as well as our local aspirations for equal life chances for all, set out in the borough's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-20.

equality framework



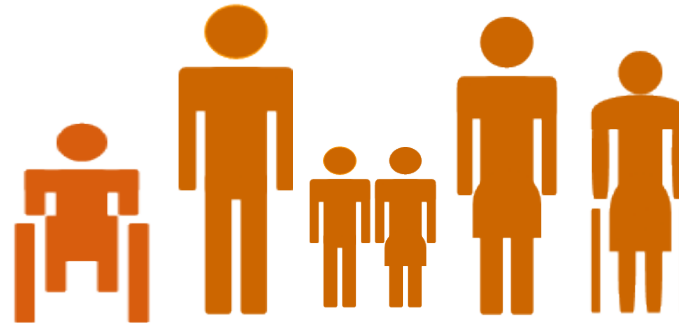
- ➔ age
- ➔ disability
- ➔ ethnicity
- ➔ gender
- ➔ gender re-assignment
- ➔ marriage/ civil partnership
- ➔ pregnancy and maternity
- ➔ religion or belief
- ➔ sexual orientation



protected characteristics



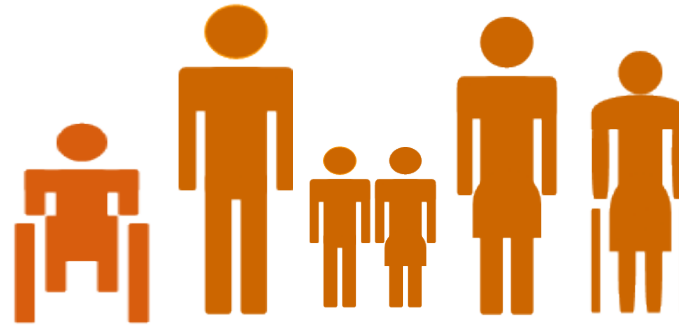
- ➔ worklessness and those who are furthest from the labour market
- ➔ the impact of low wages on living standards and quality of life
- ➔ provision of decent affordable accommodation – particularly for those on low income
- ➔ differential life outcomes in health, education, crime and income particularly for those living in the most deprived areas
- ➔ meeting the needs of new communities particularly those who are often the hardest to hear
- ➔ managing pressures and demands on public services at a time of reduced resources



what are the challenges?



- ➔ reduction in the number of workless households and increased access to employment for those who are furthest from the labour market and those who want to return to the labour market
- ➔ improved pupil attainment – particularly for the most disadvantaged and those pupils who perform least well
- ➔ access to affordable good quality housing
- ➔ reduction in the number of residents who suffer from preventable illnesses that limit life chances and life expectancy
- ➔ reduction in crime and the fear of crime



what will success look like?



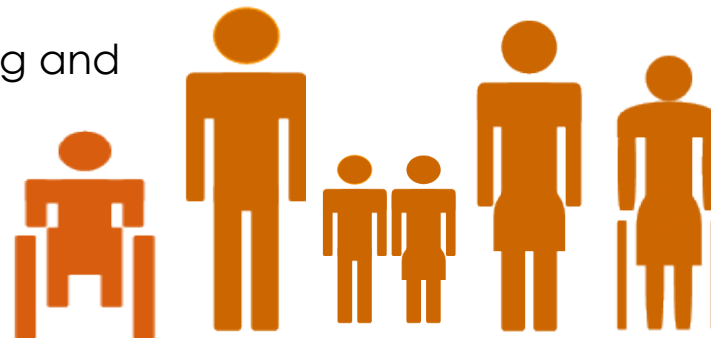
The strategic analysis of data (double click on picture icon opposite to launch data presentation) has led to the following priorities for action:

- ➔ **tackle** victimisation, discrimination and harassment
- ➔ **improve** access to services
- ➔ **close** the gap in outcomes for all residents
- ➔ **increase** mutual understanding and respect within and between

Comprehensive Equalities Scheme

2016-20

Data sift



five objectives

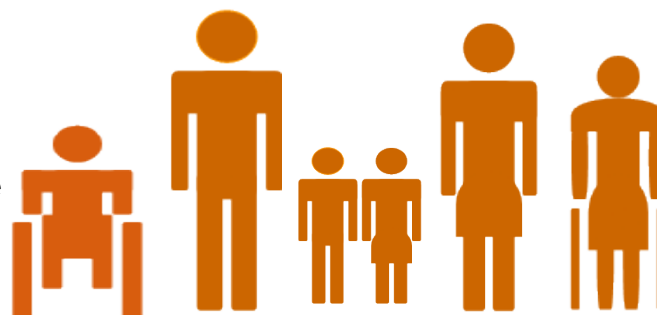


...tackling discrimination, victimisation and harassment

Discrimination, victimisation and harassment are barriers to progress and advancement (for individuals as well as communities). That is why public agencies, community groups and residents must continue to work together to confront such practices in all their forms and wherever they may be present. By doing so we make a clear statement, about our personal values, the value we place on our fellow citizens and the values that underpin the society in which we live.

In 2015 there were 567 reported incidents of hate crime in Lewisham. This compares to 421 reported incidents in 2014.

Source: Metropolitan Police Service, 2015

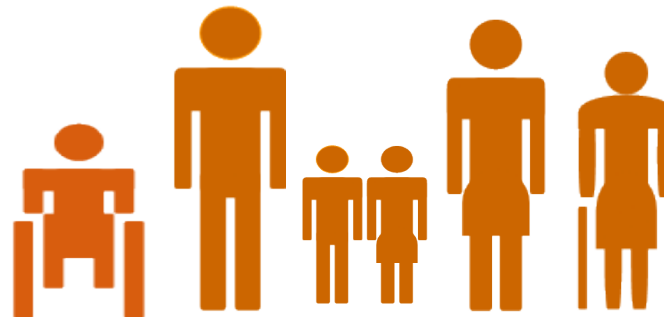


...improve access to services

Going forward and with less money to spend, we need to work together, with others, to find ever more imaginative ways to shape, provide and target services to our community. Getting it right means that we will increasingly rely on the input and ideas of service users, community groups as well as those who may not even live, work or use services in the borough. No-one, by themselves will have all the answers that's why Lewisham needs everybody to do their bit.

Between 2010 and 2015 Lewisham Council has sustained budget cuts of more than £100m

Source: LB Lewisham

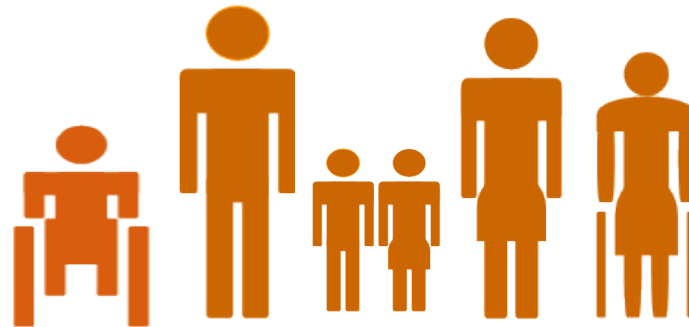


...close the gap in outcomes for all residents

Improving the life chances of our residents is one of the biggest challenges facing the borough. Going forward, we need to work together to tackle health inequalities particularly in the most deprived areas, ensure that attainment levels for the most disadvantaged pupils meets the standards of better performers and help our residents to access employment opportunities that will raise their living standards.

The difference in average life expectancy between Lewisham's least deprived and most deprived wards is 7 years for men and 9 years for women

Source: Lewisham Public Health

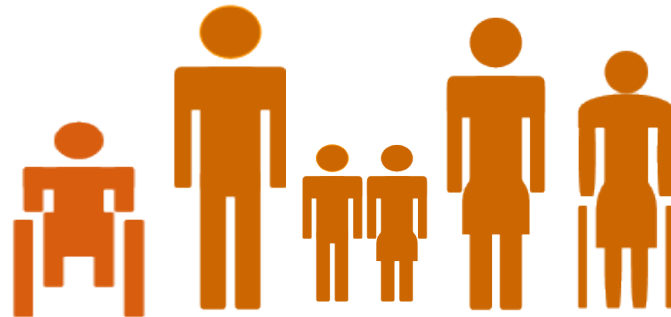


...increase mutual understanding and respect

Over the coming years, Lewisham will witness one of the fastest rates of population growth in London. By the time of the 2021 Census, the borough's population will be nearly 320,000. To ensure that our communities are sustainable, we all need to take responsibility for fostering mutual understanding and respect within and between communities. We all need to do our bit.

Lewisham's population comprises people from more than 70 nationalities, spanning five continents.

Source: Lewisham Electoral Roll. 2015

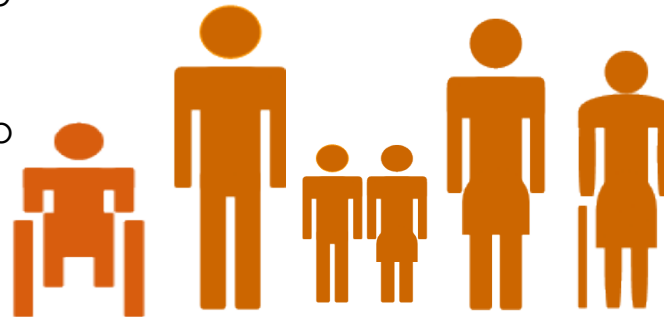


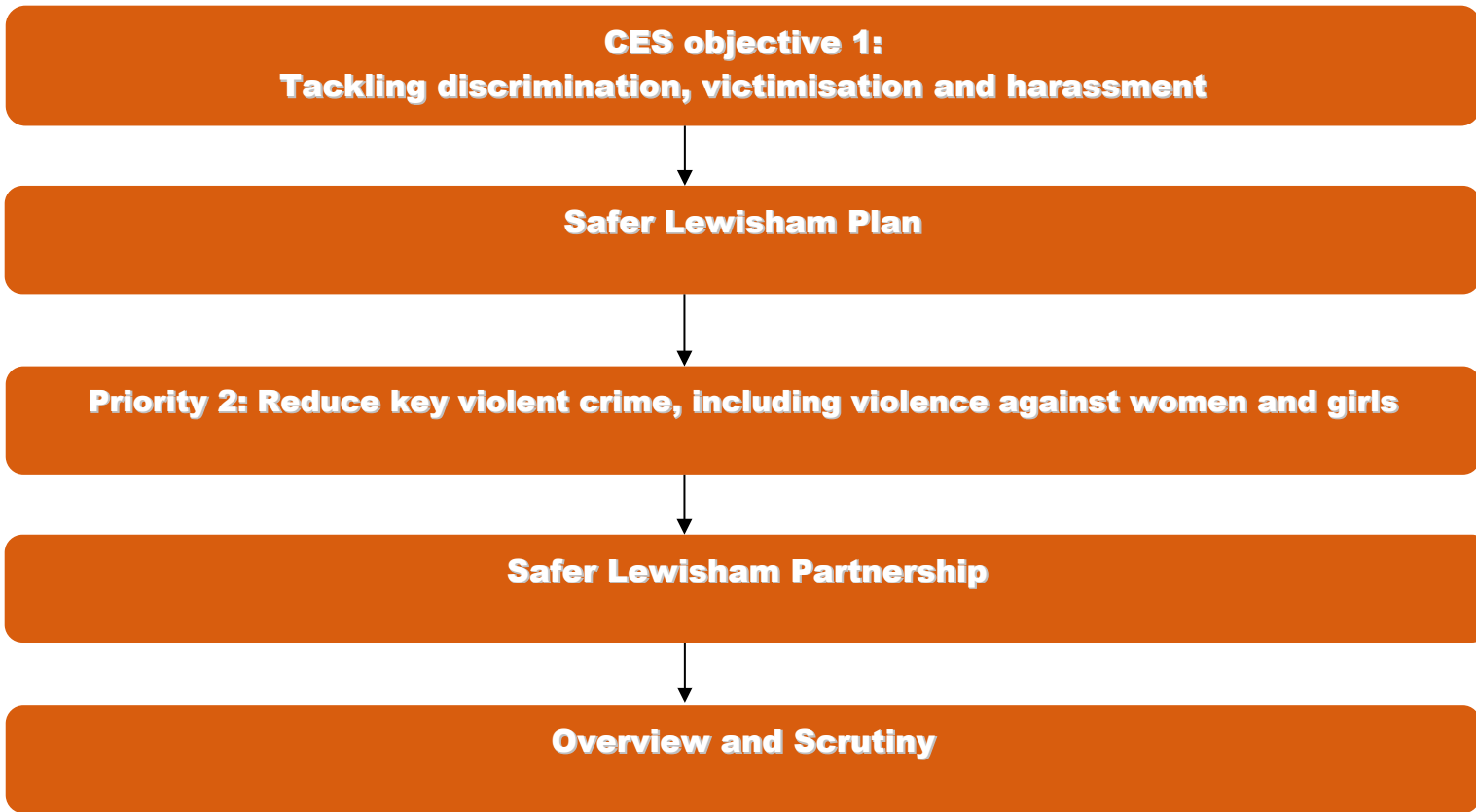
...increase participation and engagement

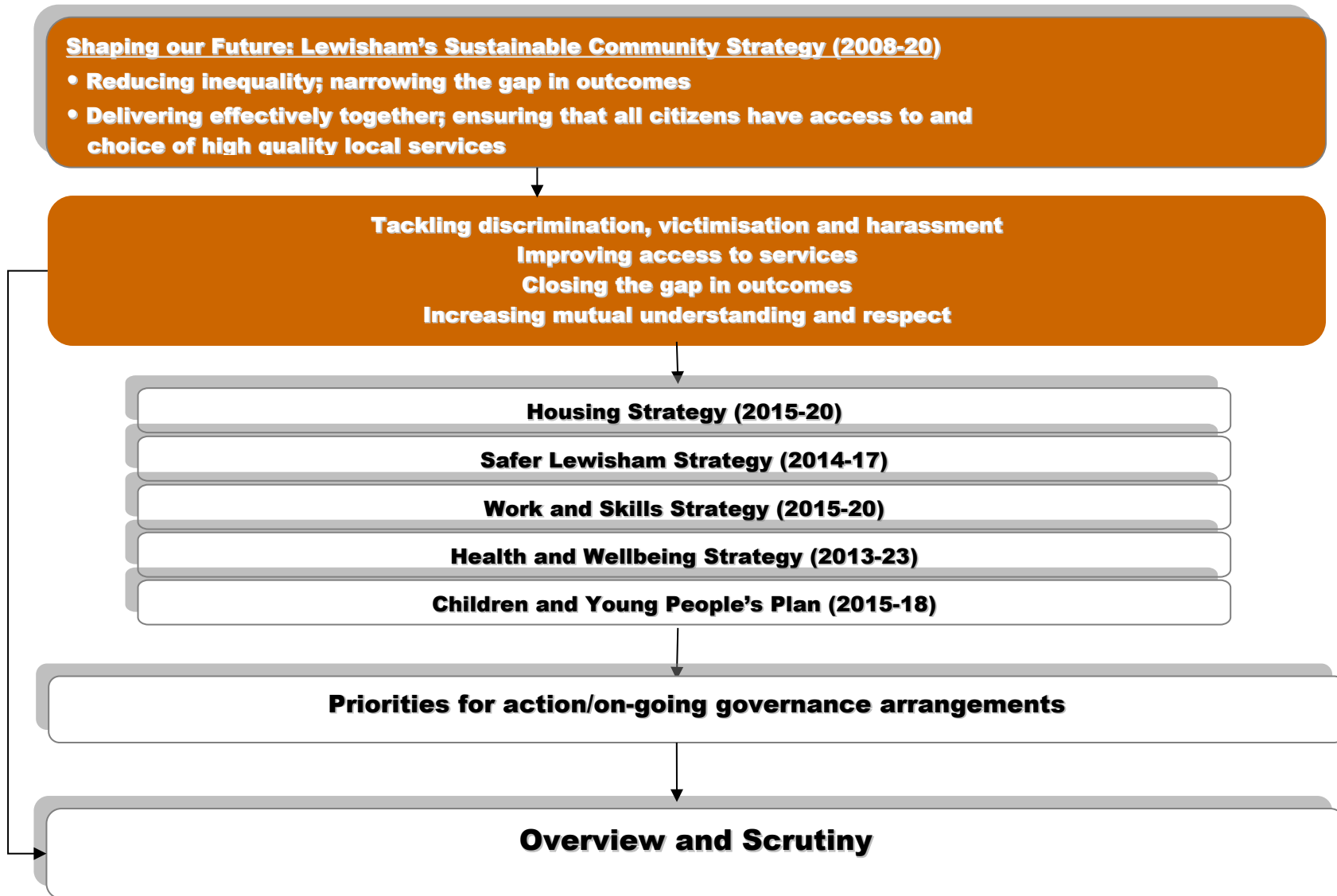
Lewisham is a place of rich diversity. To better harness that diversity, we need to work together to ensure that our residents (especially those furthest from the labour market) can access good employment opportunities, that our children can access the best schools and that decent, affordable homes are available for people to live in. We also need to make sure that all those who live, work and study in the borough, are encouraged to do their bit to make Lewisham a better place to live.

Rates of long term (over 12 months) Jobseekers allowance claimants in Lewisham are above the London and Great Britain averages.

Source: NOMIS 2015







Background documents

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

Mayor and Cabinet			
Title	Comments of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme		
Contributors	Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee	Item No.	
Class	Part 1	Date	March 23 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet meeting of the comments and views of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the officer report entitled Comprehensive Equalities Scheme at their meeting on 9 March 2016.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor is asked to consider the views of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee as set out in this referral when he determines the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme .

3. Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee views

- 3.1 On 9 March 2016, the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee considered a report entitled Comprehensive Equalities Scheme. The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:
- 3.2 The Committee noted the work done in drafting the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016 – 2020. The Committee also noted the links between the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme and the five high level strategies that have been identified as vehicles for the implementation of the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme.
- 3.3 The Committee felt strongly that the success of the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme should be evaluated on the basis of the Council's performance against the five objectives listed in the Scheme, and that it was therefore imperative that consideration for equalities was actively incorporated in all of the Council's work with specific emphasis for five high level strategies identified as vehicles for the implementation of the CES.
- 3.4 The Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee recommends that the Mayor identifies community stakeholder groups that are particularly affected by each of the five objectives of the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme. The Committee feels that formal relationships should be developed between these groups and the Council to enable constructive feedback to be provided on the Council's performance against the objectives in the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme and its associated strategies.

4. Financial Implications

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

5. Legal Implications

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

Background papers

[Comprehensive Equalities Scheme](#) at the meeting of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on 9 March 2016.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Simone van Elk, Scrutiny Manager (0208 3146441).

Agenda Item 11

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission			
Report for:	Mayor		
	Mayor and Cabinet		x
	Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)		
	Executive Director		
Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Part 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Key Decision


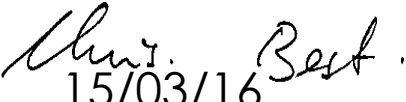
Date of Meeting	23 March 2016
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Title of Report	Deferred Payment Agreement Policy
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Originator of Report	Robert Mellors, Group Finance Manager	Ext. 46628
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	x	
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	x	
Crime & Disorder Implications	x	
Environmental Implications	x	
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	x	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	x	
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed		Director/Head of Service
Date		11/03/16
Signed		Cabinet Member
Date	15/03/16	

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report Title	Deferred Payment Agreement Policy		
Key Decision	Yes	Item No.	
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services, Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, Head of Law		
Class	Part 1	Date	23 March 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 Under the Care Act 2014 all councils in England are required to have a universal deferred payments scheme in place. Universal deferred payment schemes are required to follow legislation and Department of Health guidance. This report recommends a scheme for Lewisham Council which meets legislative and statutory guidance requirements and seeks approval for proposed charges for users of the scheme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Mayor:
- 2.1.1 Agrees to the Council's proposed universal deferred payments scheme under the Care Act 2014 as set out in this report for new deferred payment agreements entered into by the Council.
- 2.1.2 Agrees to use the maximum interest rate allowed by the Department of Health as set out in paragraph 5.3.3.
- 2.1.3 Agrees to set charges for deferred payment agreements as set out in 5.3.6.
- 2.1.4 Agrees to delegate authority to agree annual inflationary increases to these charges to the Executive Director for Community Services.
- 2.1.5 Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration and Head of Law, to agree the more detailed guidance and procedures for the operation of the scheme in line with this report.

3. Policy Context

3.1 Successful implementation of the Care Act 2014 will help to support and deliver the following priority outcomes as defined in the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020:

- *Healthy, active and enjoyable*: support people with long term conditions to live in their communities and maintain their independence; improve health outcomes and tackle the specific conditions that affect our citizens.

3.2 In addition, this paper contributes to the following corporate priorities:

- *Caring for adults and older people*: working with health services to support older people and adults in need of care.
- *Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity*: ensuring efficiency, effectiveness and equity in the delivery of excellent services to meet the needs of the community.

4. Background

4.1 Successive governments have been committed to ensuring that no-one should be forced to sell their home during their lifetime to pay for care costs. People with assessed needs for residential or nursing care, who own their home are sometimes faced with the prospect of selling it to pay for their care costs. For people receiving community based care services the value of their main home is not taken into account when assessing contributions towards care.

4.2 For some people who are assessed as needing care and move into residential/nursing care and own their home there is an automatic disregard of the value of the property where, for example, it is occupied by a spouse or partner or a close relative who has a disability. This will continue under universal deferred payments.

4.3 Where the main home is taken into account, a deferred payment is a way of deferring the costs of residential/nursing care in exchange for putting a legal charge on the property. The council agrees to pay for the costs of residential/nursing care in return for the person receiving care or their representative agreeing for these payments to be secured as debt against the property. Entering into a deferred payment agreement with the Council allows a person to retain their home and defer paying some of the costs of care and support until a later date. Under the Care Act 2014 all councils in England are required to offer a deferred payment to people who are assessed as needing residential/nursing care and when their main home has been taken into account when financially assessing a contribution. The establishment of a universal deferred payment scheme will mean that fewer people will be faced with the prospect of selling their home in order to pay for care.

4.4 The purpose of this report is to set out the Council's policy for a universal deferred payments scheme and to seek agreement for charges to users of the scheme. This policy takes into account the main changes introduced by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance published by the Department of Health.

4.5 Current deferred payment schemes

4.5.1 There is existing legislation which allows councils to offer deferred payments for people with a property and who are assessed as needing residential/nursing care. Section 55 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 already allows councils to offer deferred payments for people receiving residential/nursing care. Lewisham Council has its own deferred payment scheme which meets this requirement.

4.5.2 Although councils are already required to have a deferred payments scheme, existing schemes are locally administered and will often have different rules on eligibility. To reduce anomalies across the country and to ensure consistency between councils, the Care Act 2014 has introduced a universal deferred payments scheme, with a set eligibility criteria which all councils will be required to follow.

4.5.3 The Care Act 2014 clearly sets out the responsibilities of councils to have a deferred scheme in place. The scheme will be universally available, throughout England and the Government is committed to providing councils with additional funding for the scheme. The funding arrangements are set out in section 5 of this report.

4.5.4 The Department of Health has published guidance on universal deferred payments which provides councils with the framework within which universal deferred payments should be offered. Guidance allows councils to offer deferred payments to:

- Anyone who has assessed eligible care needs that can be met by the provision of care in a residential/nursing care home;
- Anyone with assets, excluding the value of their main home, of less than £23,250 (in 2016/17 this capital limit increases to £118,000);
- Anyone whose home is not disregarded as a capital asset when assessing contributions towards residential/nursing care.

4.5.6 Department of Health guidance sets out the circumstances in which the deferred payment request can be refused and a deferred payment agreement can be terminated. The guidance also sets out how information and advice should be provided to people entering into a deferred payment agreement. Guidance is provided on:

- How councils should administer the scheme;
- Eligible charges to cover the costs of the scheme;
- The amounts that can be deferred.

5. The Proposals

5.1 The London Borough of Lewisham universal deferred payments scheme

5.1.1 The proposed universal deferred payments scheme set out in this report has been developed to take into account the relevant legislation and guidance. It is proposed that the key principles underpinning the scheme for Lewisham Council are:

- To ensure that those who have been assessed as needing care may not need to sell their main home to pay for these care costs;
- That those who can afford to pay a contribution continue to do so;
- To ensure that residents are fully informed about deferred payments and care funding options;
- That the scheme is self-financing and sustainable.

5.1.2 In addition to the key principles which underpin the scheme it is proposed that there are a number specific policy changes under the proposed scheme for Lewisham. This report sets out the main changes. The need to ensure that the scheme is financially sustainable has shaped the recommendations on administrative and interest charges. These charges are necessary to cover the costs of the scheme.

5.2 Deferring the costs of care

5.2.1 The Department of Health guidance allows councils to have discretion on the amount of residential/nursing care costs that can be deferred. Universal deferred payments allows councils to defer at the contracted rates with residential/nursing care providers or the private rate someone pays as a self-funding client or the rate paid because they choose more expensive accommodation.

5.2.2 To promote choice and ensure greater flexibility on the care and support provided, it is proposed that under Lewisham Council's universal deferred payments scheme the amounts that can be deferred will generally be the actual rate the person pays the residential/nursing care provider. This actual rate includes where applicable the private rate.

5.2.3 The rate to be deferred will be regularly reviewed under guidance and procedures.

5.3 Interest and administrative charges

5.3.1 The interest rate for deferred payment agreements (DPAs) is based on the cost of government borrowing. The regulations and statutory guidance under the Care Act 2014 set out that the maximum interest rate chargeable is derived by adding the weighted average interest rate

on conventional gilts ("the gilt rate") to a 0.15 per cent default component.

- 5.3.2 The gilt rate is set out by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) twice a year in their Economic and Fiscal Outlook reports. The maximum interest rate changes every six months to track the gilt rate and it is fixed for six-monthly periods (1 January – 30 June and 1 July – 31 December). The relevant figure to use in calculating the interest rate for a given six monthly period is the gilt rate set out in the Economic and Fiscal Outlook report published most recently before the start of that period for the financial year in which the period is to start.
- 5.3.3 From 1 January to 30 June 2016 the maximum chargeable will be 2.15 per cent. This rate is derived from the [Economic and fiscal outlook – November 2015](#) which quotes a gilt rate of 2 per cent for 2015/16 (Table 4.1) to which the default component of 0.15 per cent is added. The Department of Health intends to disseminate further updates on the maximum interest rate chargeable via Local Authority Circulars after each relevant fiscal event.
- 5.3.4 It is proposed that the interest rate is set at the rate as set by the Department of Health.
- 5.3.5 In addition to interest rate charges, councils are also allowed to make a charge for:
- The costs of registering a legal charge, land property searches;
 - The costs of property valuation;
 - Legal costs associated with the setting up of a deferred payment agreement; administrative costs.
- 5.3.6 Only the actual costs incurred in arranging and maintaining the deferred payment will be charged. The proposed levels are as follows:
- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Set up charge | £750 |
| Annual charge | £300 |
| Termination charge | £325 |
| Independent valuation | Actual cost |
- 5.3.7 It is proposed that the administrative, legal and interest rate charges will be rolled up into the overall deferred payment agreement should the person decide they want to defer these costs.
- 5.4 Deferred payments for people in other care settings.
- 5.4.1 When consulting on the draft guidance the Department of Health initially sought feedback on the possibility of allowing deferred payments for people receiving non-residential or community based care services, for example home care. Although someone's main home is not taken into account when financially assessing contributions towards community based care, there are circumstances when a

person may want to unlock the equitable value in their home. For example, someone with assessed care needs may want to use the equity in their property to purchase additional care over and above the care they have been assessed as needing.

5.4.2 The proposed local approach is to offer deferred payments only to people receiving residential care. Should further amendments to the scheme be required a report will go forward to Mayor and Cabinet.

5.5 Universal Deferred Payments policy

5.5.1 In addition to the main changes already highlighted within this report, the introduction of universal deferred payments introduces a number of other changes and adjustments to Lewisham Council's existing deferred payments scheme.

5.6 Treatment of rental income

5.6.1 Although the person receiving care will be eligible for deferred payments they will still be responsible for paying a contribution towards their care out of their assessable income. Where someone's main home has been taken into account and the person is entitled to a deferred payment, there is a question as to how any rental income is treated when assessing a contribution towards care.

5.6.2 Under the current deferred payments scheme when assessing rental income, net rental income is fully taken into account along with other assessable income. After assessing a charge the person living in residential/nursing care is left with a personal expenses allowance of £24.90 per week (2015/16 rates). This expenses allowance is set by the Department of Health and follows statutory guidance.

5.6.3 From 1 April 2015, under the Department of Health guidance the personal expenses allowance increases from £24.90 to £144 per week for people who will be eligible for a universal deferred payment. The intention of the increase is to allow people to retain additional income to pay for any associated housing costs, such as the costs of maintaining the property.

5.6.4 The Department of Health guidance also allows councils discretion to have a further disregard on rental income, at a rate to be decided by each local authority. The purpose of this disregard is to incentivise people who qualify for a deferred payment to rent out their property.

5.6.5 It is proposed that the option of a disregard on rental income is reviewed after consulting other local authorities to establish best practice and further work with housing providers to establish the viability of a rental income disregard scheme. If a rental income disregard is viable, that this is included within the deferred payments guidance and procedures.

5.7 Other forms of security

5.7.1 Councils are required to obtain adequate security when entering into a deferred payment agreement. The primary form of security will be a legal charge registered on the person's main or only home. It is also necessary to provide for discretion on accepting other forms of security as there may be cases where refusal to do so may lead to the Council being unable to enforce debts that the resident has accrued, in accordance with section 69 (2) of the Care Act 2014

5.7.2 The requirement to have discretion to accept other forms of security will be incorporated within the finalised universal deferred payments guidance and procedures.

- A clear process to explain deferred payments agreements which takes into account a person's mental capacity.
- Advice on renting, insuring and maintaining the property.
- Facilitating access to advice on care funding options.

5.8 Advice and information

5.8.1 Under the Care Act 2014 councils will have a responsibility to provide advice and information about care and support. This responsibility extends to advice and information about deferred payments, including :

5.8.2 As a safeguard, there will be a clear deferred payment process to ensure that those entering into a deferred payment agreement or their representative are aware of the need to obtain independent advice and there will be particular safeguards for people who have mental capacity issues.

5.8.3 The advice and information pathway will be further developed as the universal deferred payments guidance and procedure is finalised.

6. Implementation

6.1 It is proposed that subject to the main recommendations in this report being agreed that authority to agree the more detailed guidance and procedures in line with this report will be delegated to the Executive Director for Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration and the Head of Law.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The Care Act 2014 will have a significant financial impact on social care as detailed in previous reports to Committee and in this report. Early indications are that Lewisham could expect between 5-10 new deferred payment entrants per year as the universal deferred payments scheme is rolled out.

- 7.2 The most immediate impact will be on cashflow. Although the debt will be secured through a deferred payment agreement and a legal charge on the property, the main impact will be on the flow of income between financial years. Maximum likely cumulative debts are as follows:

Financial Year	Estimated debt at year end £000
2015/16	146
2016/17	488
2017/18	912
2018/19	1,392
2019/20	1,909

- 7.3 The Government announced that there will be additional national funding of £85.5m to fund the scheme in 2015/16. The Department of Health's funding allocation formulae allocates an additional £311k to the London Borough of Lewisham to fund universal deferred payments. Funding for subsequent years is likely to be included in the overall Revenue Support Grant settlement. For Lewisham the overall Care Act funding for 2016/17 in the provisional settlement is £1.515m.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Care Act 2014 consolidates and replaces several different pieces of legislation into one legislative framework. There is a specific legislative requirement for local authorities to provide a universal deferred payments scheme from April 2015. The Department of Health has also issued statutory guidance on 23 October 2014, which all councils in England are required to follow.
- 8.2 Under Sections 34-36 of the Care Act 2014 and Care and Support (Deferred Payment Agreements) Regulations 2014, all councils will need to have a deferred payment scheme which:
- Complies with new national eligibility criteria on who is entitled to apply for a deferred payment.
 - Allows Councils to charge interest and administrative fees to offset the costs of the scheme and ensure it is cost neutral.
 - Allows councils to retain some local discretion on how the scheme is administered, for example the amounts of care costs that can be deferred.
- 8.3 The Care Act 2014 Section 69 (1) and (2) sets out that (1) Any sum due to a local authority [as residential charges] is recoverable by the authority as a debt due to it. But subsection (1) does not apply in a case where a deferred payment agreement could, in accordance with regulations be entered into, unless— (a) the local authority has sought to enter into such an agreement with the adult from whom the sum is due, and (b) the adult has refused.

- 8.4 The proposals set out in this report accord with the provisions in the Care Act 2014. Deferred payment agreements should take the form of a legal agreement between the local authority and the person taking out a deferred payment. A sample legal agreement has been produced by the Department of Health to support local authorities in developing their own legal agreements for deferred payments. It has been produced by the policy lead for deferred payments in the Department, the legal team who prepared the legislation, and external legal counsel engaged specifically for this purpose who has expertise in consumer contracting and mortgage law.
- 8.5 It also responds to some of the comments raised by local authorities on a previous draft version, and the Department have also engaged with the Financial Conduct Authority and the Consumer Markets Authority.
- 8.6 The agreement is provided in two versions - one for situations where the local authority is contracting with the care home on the person's behalf (and is deferring charging the person), and the other for situations where the person is contracting with the care home themselves and the local authority is effectively 'loaning' the person money to pay their care home costs. The sample agreements will be amended to reflect the policy decisions taken in this report in terms of how the Council will implement the scheme.
- 8.7 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). 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.
- 8.8 In summary, 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.
- 8.9 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
- 8.10 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have

regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 The Deferred Payment scheme is open to all residents regardless of any protected characteristics which they may have. Due to the nature of residential care following publication of the scheme any impact will most likely be upon those who are disabled and elderly. It will enable some residents to enter into agreements that will mean they are not required to sell their property. This is a positive impact upon those who may otherwise have to sell their property.

10. Environmental Implications

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Background papers

Department of Health guidance on deferred payments can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance/charging-and-financial-assessment>

Regulations can be found here:

<https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/media.dh.gov.uk/network/497/files/2014/06/DPA-Regs-28-5-14.pdf>

For further information on this report please contact Robert Mellors, Group Finance Manager (Community Services) on 020 8314 6628.

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission		
Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing		
Report for: Mayor		<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Director		<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Part 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Part 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>

Date of Meeting	23 March 2016
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Title of Report	Financial Forecasts 2015/16
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Originator of Report	Selwyn Thompson	Ext. 46932
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	✓	
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	✓	
Crime & Disorder Implications	✓	
Environmental Implications	✓	
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	✓	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	✓	
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed:  Executive Member (nominee)

Date: 10/3/16

Signed:  Director/Head of Service

Date: 15/3/16

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

Mayor & Cabinet			
REPORT TITLE	Financial Forecasts 2015/16 as at 31 January 2016		
KEY DECISION	No	Item No.	
WARD	N/A		
CONTRIBUTORS	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration		
CLASS	Part 1	Date	23 March 2016

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the financial forecasts for 2015/16 as at 31 January 2016. Members should note that this report will be presented to the Public Accounts Select Committee and Mayor & Cabinet on 16th and 23rd March 2016, respectively. It compares the January 2016 position to the last publicly reported position which was the period to the end of November 2015. The key areas to note are as follows:
- i. There is a forecast overspend of £6.2m against the directorates' net general fund revenue budget as at 31 January 2016. This is set out in more detail in sections five to nine of this report. This compares to a forecast overspend of £6.9m as at the end of November 2015. It should be noted that the Council recorded a final outturn of £5.2m for 2014/15 which resulted after applying £3.9m of funding for 'risks and other budget pressures' against the directorates' year-end overspend of £9.1m for that year.
 - ii. For the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) there are three schools which are expected to report and apply for a licensed deficit by the year-end. There are a further five schools which are expected to be overspent by the year end and will need to apply for a licensed deficit in the future. This is set out in more detail in section 11 of this report.
 - iii. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is still projecting a £2.3m surplus which is expected to be transferred to reserves at the end of the year to ensure that there are sufficient resources available to fund the current housing programme over the medium term. This is set out in more detail in section 12 of this report.
 - iv. As at 31 January 2016, council tax collection is 0.4% lower than this year's profile and 0.3% higher than this time last year. Business rates collection is 1.2% lower than the same period last year and is 5.2% lower than the required profile collection to achieve the target of 99% for the year.
 - v. The overall spend on the capital programme to 31 January 2016 is £66.8m. This is 57% of the revised budget of £118.1m. Further details are given in section 14 of this report. The comparable figure last year was 62% of the revised budget of £139.8m, with the final outturn being 89% of the revised budget of £137.3m.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the financial forecasts for 2015/16 as at the end of January 2016, projected to the year end.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Mayor is asked to:
- 3.2 Note the current financial forecasts for the year ending 31 March 2016 and the action being taken by the Executive Directors to manage down the forecasted year-end overspend.

4. POLICY CONTEXT

- 4.1 Reporting financial results in a clear and meaningful format contributes directly to the council's tenth corporate priority: inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity.

5. DIRECTORATE FORECAST OUTTURN

- 5.1 The forecasts against the directorates' general fund revenue budgets are shown in Table 1 below. In summary, a forecast year end overspend of £6.2m is being reported as at 31 January 2016. At the same time last year, an overspend of some £9.1m was forecast. Members should note that for 2015/16 there is a sum of £3.2m held corporately for managing 'risks and other budget pressures' which emerge during the year. The Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration will give due consideration as to when it might be appropriate to apply this sum to alleviate budget pressures. This will happen towards the end of the financial year, after assessing the progress which has been made to manage down the current forecast overspend.

Table 1 – Overall Directorate position for 2015/16

Directorate	Gross budgeted spend	Gross budgeted income	Net budget	Forecast over/ (under) spend January 2016	Forecast over/ (under) spend November 2015
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children & Young People (1)	69.2	(17.8)	51.4	6.9	6.9
Community Services	174.4	(79.4)	95.0	(1.9)	(1.2)
Customer Services (2)	92.1	(48.2)	43.9	3.9	3.6
Resources & Regeneration	43.2	(13.6)	29.6	(2.7)	(2.4)
Directorate Totals	378.9	(159.0)	219.9	6.2	6.9
Corporate Items	26.3	0.0	26.3	0.0	0.0
Net Revenue Budget	405.2	(159.0)	246.2	6.2	6.9

(1) – gross figures exclude £279m Dedicated Schools' Grant expenditure, pupil premium expenditure £18m, Post 16 Funding £7m, and universal free meals expenditure £2m and all the matching grant income

(2) – gross figures exclude approximately £240m of matching income and expenditure for housing benefits.

- 5.2 Even as the end of the financial year approaches, the overall forecast overspend remains high for various reasons. Similar to the scale of the variances projected last year, the current overspending projections are significantly greater than those

in recent earlier years. The council continues to face significant budget pressures.

- 5.3 Directorate Expenditure Panels (DEPs) and the Corporate Expenditure Panel (CEP) have operated throughout 2015/16. Following a further review of the operation of these panels, it has been confirmed that the CEP will continue until at least the end of the financial year. This will ensure that the regular corporate oversight of the council's financial spending position remains.

Update on Lewisham Future Programme Board

- 5.4 The focus over the winter has been to conclude the work necessary to implement the savings proposals and set the budget for 2016/17. This is now largely done, with the budget for 2016/17 set at full Council on the 24 February. This work has identified that, in addition to the £17m of savings already proposed for 2017/18 (in September 2015), the council needs to bring forward proposals for a further £45m of savings by 2019/20, circa £15m per year for each of 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- 5.5 The Lewisham Future Programme Board (LFPB) has been meeting through February to review the progress by work strand and consider how to approach this additional £45m target. This is in the context that the Mayor, in setting the budget for 2016/17, requested a three year Medium Term Financial Strategy be prepared for the summer of 2016 and that this exemplify how the full £45m of savings could be delivered. The LFPB have set initial savings targets for each of the work strands.
- 5.6 The LFPB will work closely with the work strand leads for the larger budget areas. There are: social care - adults and children; assets; environmental services; and corporate overheads on an iterative basis for develop savings proposals. The remaining work strand leads will bring forward their proposals in the usual way. In addition, the LFPB is focusing on how best to bring forward proposals that support the four areas identified by members in the Lewisham 2020 paper – namely: community resilience; shared services; income generation; and digital transformation.
- 5.7 Officers' intention remains to bring forward savings proposals for scrutiny and decision as and when they are identified. However, it is also recognised that there is a natural annual cycle to this process. This cycle is likely to be more pronounced in 2016/17 with the need for a three year MTFs and support budget in the summer to serve as an efficiency plan and enable the council to consider whether to accept the government's offer of an indicative multi-year settlement for the level of revenue support grant to 2019/20 by the 14 October 2016. It is therefore likely that the bulk of detailed savings proposals, for 2017/18 at least, will be ready by July for publication in August, scrutiny in September, and decision in October. This will facilitate their timely implementation following any required consultation work and enable full year effects to be achieved to support the budget setting process for 2017/18.

6 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

- 6.1 As at the end of January 2016, the Children and Young People's directorate is forecasting an overspend of £6.9m. At the same time last year, the year-end

forecast was an overspend of £8.1m, with the actual year-end outturn being an overspend of £9.9m.

Table 2 – Children & Young People Directorate

Service Area	Gross Budgeted Spend	Gross Budgeted Income	Net Budget	Forecast over/ (under) spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children's Social Care Services	40.0	(1.1)	38.9	4.2
No Recourse to Public Funds	3.6	0.0	3.6	1.5
Standards & Achievements	2.8	(1.9)	0.9	0.0
Education Infrastructure	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Partnerships/Targeted Services	15.3	(3.1)	12.2	1.3
Resources & Performance	7.4	(10.4)	(3.0)	(0.1)
Schools	0.0	(1.3)	(1.3)	0.0
Total	69.2	(17.8)	51.4	6.9

* The government grants include the Adoption Reform Grant, SEND reform grant, Troubled Families grant and Music grant

- 6.2 The most significant cost pressures for the directorate fall within the *children's social care* and *no recourse to public funds* service areas and together amount to £5.7m. The key issues pertaining to the pressures are set out in the following paragraphs.
- 6.2.1 For clients with no recourse to public funds, there is a cost pressure of £1.5m. These are families who seek support from the local authority under Section 17 of the Children's Act because they claim to have no financial means of supporting themselves whilst they are in the process of attempting to regularise their stay in the UK with the Home Office. There are currently 185 clients with no recourse to public funds compared to a peak of 286 in June 2014. The estimated cost to the end of year of the current clients is £4.7m.
- 6.2.2 The pilot team has been working with the Home Office to get code 1a (entitlement to mainstream benefits) granted for cases the council is supporting. In total, 167 cases have been granted this status change since the pilot team began operating. The full year impact, once all of these cases have been transitioned is a cost reduction of £3.6m per annum. There are 62 clients, who have been changed to code 1a status which the council continue to make payments to. It is anticipated that on average it will take four to five months to ensure a comprehensive re-settlement process which will also reduce the likelihood of representations back to our housing needs service. In the past, the Home Office were making code changes decisions on between four to 10 cases per week on average. This has slowed considerably recently and now average two to three cases per week
- 6.2.3 The placement budget for *looked after children* is currently forecast to overspend by £2.1m with the current number of looked after children totalling 465. Total revenue budget savings on the placement budget of £1.5m were agreed by the Mayor for 2015/16. The work to implement these savings has been delayed due to staff changes. It is expected that some savings will be generated, but only toward the end of the financial year, with the full year effect likely to come through in 2016/17. The shortfall for 2015/16 is estimated to be in the region of £1.2m and this is included in the above overspend figure.

- i. *Children leaving care* is currently forecast to overspend by £1.3m. The number of clients is now 98, whereas the average for last year was 74.
- ii. There is an additional pressure on the *Section 17* unrelated to no recourse to public funds of £0.2m and on salaries and wages which show a forecast overspend of £0.6m. This has mainly been created by greater use of agency of the last three months.

6.3 The key unit costs and activity levels within children’s social care are summarised in the following table.

Table 3 – Fostering Client Numbers

Placement type	Average weekly unit costs		Client numbers
	January 2016 (£)	January 2015 (£)	January 2016
Local Authority fostering	414	377	205
Agency fostering	906	887	180
Residential homes	3,659	3,166	60

6.4 The unit cost information set out in the table above demonstrates the importance of the directorate’s strategy for shifting the balance of provision towards fostering, as well as reducing costs. As an example, every client moving from agency to local authority fostering results in a saving of around £26k per annum and around £143k for every movement from a residential placement to agency fostering.

6.5 The only other budget pressure in the rest of the directorate is on schools’ transport within the *partnerships and targeted services* area. The final outturn on schools’ transport at end of 2014/15 was an overspend of £1.1m. The number of children transported has stayed similar to last term, but the contract costs has increased as there has been a greater number of taxi journeys. The total extra costs being £0.3m. The forecast has been subsequently reduced to £1.3m and there has been progress on the increased use of independent travel and direct payments.

7 COMMUNITY SERVICES

7.1 As at the end of January 2016, the Community Services directorate is forecasting an underspend of £1.9m. At the same time last year, the year-end forecast was an underspend of £1.3m, with the actual year-end outturn being an underspend of £2.3m.

Table 4 – Community Services

Service Area	Gross Budgeted Spend	Gross Budgeted Income	Net Budget	Forecast over/ (under) spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Services Division	115.9	(44.9)	71.1	(0.8)
Cultural and Community Development	20.3	(7.4)	12.8	(0.5)
Public Health	16.2	(17.6)	(1.4)	0.3
Crime Reduction & Supporting	20.2	(9.3)	11.0	(0.3)

Service Area	Gross Budgeted Spend	Gross Budgeted Income	Net Budget	Forecast over/ (under) spend
People				
Strategy, Improvements and Partnerships	1.8	(0.2)	1.5	(0.3)
Community Reserves – transfers from reserves	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.3)
Total	174.4	(79.4)	95.0	(1.9)

- 7.2 These forecasts assume no community services spend on budgets transferred to other directorates as part of reorganisations of business support, strategy and performance. The overall position for Community Services now assumes the drawdown of £0.3m from earmarked reserves in respect of adult social care – health transfer section 256.
- 7.3 The *adult services* division is forecast to underspend by £0.8m (£0.2m overspend November 2015). Previous reports have referred to the underspend against growth awarded to the budget in 2015/16 to fund travel time for home care, London Living Wage for residential and nursing care etc. 2015/16 budgets have now been reduced by £1.7m to reflect these underspends. The 2016/17 budget assumes that a 2% precept will be levied to address adult social care pressures. If agreed, this will be used to fund the cost pressures associated with national living wage and the expectation that home care staff be paid for time spent travelling. The projected outturn assumes achievement later in the year of revenue budget savings of £0.3m in addition to savings already achieved and includes use of non-recurrent funding totalling £1.1m.
- 7.4 Projections this month include application of a further £1.4m of Better Care Fund to adult social care budgets. Additionally, £0.5m BCF income is projected against adult social care this month that was projected against Strategy, Improvements and & Partnerships in November.
- 7.5 Finally, there is a reduction in projected spend to reflect adjustment to projections on packages and placements
- 7.6 The *cultural and community development division* is now forecasting an overall underspend of £0.5m (up £0.2m on November monitoring position) This compares to an underspend of £1.6m at 2014/15 outturn.
- 7.7 The voluntary and community sector grants budget of £5m is still forecasting a balanced budget position for 2015/16. There is now a projected underspend of £0.5m on the leisure management budget covering the budget for the main leisure management contract and the associated dilapidations/repairs budget for leisure centres. There has been an increase of £0.2m in the reported underspend position on the Leisure Centre Dilapidations budget which totals £0.3m – this budget covers essential works under our landlord responsibly for the leisure centres and at this stage of the year we are only expecting to spend £0.1m subject to any new pressures arising during the remainder of the year.
- 7.8 There is a projected underspend of £0.1m on the Libraries budget which has resulted primarily from staff vacancies. The Community and Neighbourhood

Development budget team core staffing and operational budget will also be £0.1m underspent again primarily due to staff vacancies.

- 7.9 The underspends will be partially offset by the projected overspend of £0.25m on The Broadway Theatre budget which is marginally up on last month. This is a result of slippage against the delivery of 2014/15 and 2015/16 agreed savings and the need to fund essential equipment and technical works. This financial pressure is being contained within the overall divisional budget.
- 7.10 There is a projected underspend of £50k on the Local Assemblies devolved budget. Despite changes implemented to speed up the allocation of funding and payment process the current level of spend for 2015/16 is very low and it is now considered unlikely that the full budget will be spent in this financial year. An underspend of £50k is currently projected which will be subject to a carry forward request at year end. This will increase unless assemblies commit and spend their budgets in the next two months.
- 7.11 The Adult Learning Lewisham (formerly Community Education Lewisham) service is almost entirely funded from a combination of grant from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) and student fee income. The curriculum delivery plan for the 2015/16 academic year has been set in line with the available funding resources and the service is currently expected to spend to budget.
- 7.12 An underspend of £0.3m is forecast for *crime reduction and supporting people*, this is a movement of £0.3m against the November monitoring position which showed a nil variance. This compares to an underspend of £1.4m in 2014/15.
- 7.13 There is now expected to be a £0.1m underspend across the crime, enforcement and regulation, environmental Health and Youth Offending Services. This is made up of a range of small underspend on the budgets including Enforcement-legal action, Food Safety (inspection & scientific analysis). The budget for secure remand placements under the youth offending service has historically been highlighted as an area of risk, but due to relatively low levels of activity for the current year is currently projected to budget.
- 7.14 The prevention and inclusion service (incorporating drug and alcohol services and supporting people) is now expecting to underspend by £0.25m up £0.2m on last month. The prevention and inclusion staffing budget is projecting an underspend of £0.1m resulting from staff vacancies, secondments and recruitment drag. The Drug and Alcohol Service is also projecting an underspend of £0.1m which is primarily the result of the closure of the SLAM-Acute Assessment Unit. Clients have been redirected to other treatment pathways but overall costs are down resulting in the underspend. These variances, totalling £0.2m, relate 100% to services funded via Public Health grant, but there is sufficient eligible spend elsewhere for the grant to be retained in full. The supporting people programme of £6.9m (100% GF) is showing an underspend of £50k which has resulted from a combinations of minor reductions in contract costs and staff vacancies.
- 7.15 In the 2015/16 budget process, savings totalling £2.7m were agreed on the budgets for *public health* and funded by public health grant. Eligible spend has been identified elsewhere in the council, so the council can retain the grant. By January the necessary budget virements had been carried out for grant reallocations within Community Services (reducing the net Public Health credit

budget to £1.4m) but budget changes to other Council directorates had not yet been actioned.

7.16 Not all of the public health savings have yet been achieved with particular problems with renegotiation of contracts with LG Trust. So although at this stage an overspend is indicated, it is expected that these savings will be delivered in full in 2016/17, there is an overspend of £0.3m in 2015/16. The Public Health grant has been reduced, in year, by £1.47m (6.2%). It is now assumed that the Better Care Fund will offset this reduction in 2015/16 and this additional income is assumed in the January projections for Public Health. This is unlikely to be possible in 2016/17 however and savings options are being developed to address the reduced grant available in that financial year.

7.17 The *strategy, improvements and partnerships division* is projecting an underspend of £0.3m.

8. CUSTOMER SERVICES

8.1 As at the end of January 2016, the Customer Services directorate is forecasting an overspend of £3.9m, an increase of £0.3m from the reported position as at the end of November 2015. At the same time last year, the year-end forecast was an overspend of £3.1m, with the actual year-end outturn being an overspend of £3.6m.

Table 5 – Customer Services

Service Area	Gross Budgeted Spend	Gross Budgeted Income	Net Budget	Forecast over/ (under) spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Strategic Housing	13.9	(10.0)	3.9	2.5
Environment	38.0	(19.2)	18.8	0.9
Public Services*	31.4	(17.6)	13.8	0.6
Technology and Change	8.8	(1.4)	7.4	(0.1)
Total	92.1	(48.2)	43.9	3.9

* - excludes £240m of matching income and expenditure in respect of housing benefits

8.2 The *strategic housing service* is projecting an overspend of £2.5m, a reduction of £0.2m compared to the position as at the end of November 2015. This relates solely to nightly paid temporary accommodation, more commonly referred to as bed and breakfast.

8.3 The number of bed and breakfast tenancies as at end of January 2016 was 528, compared to 558 reported in November. This compares to 602 at the same time in 2015, and is an increase of 24 on the figure of 559 at the end of 2014/15.

8.4 The decrease in the overspend is as a result of work undertaken with the Housing Benefits team to clear arrears of HB awards to clients in nightly paid accommodation. There has also been a slight decrease in the level of contribution to the bad debt provision needed.

8.5 Numbers appear to have reached a relative level of stability compared to the sharp increases experienced during the last financial year, which saw numbers peak at 616 in February 2015

- 8.6 In recent months, a review of practices and a staffing reorganisation have led to a more rigorous approach to both prevention methods and decision making in respect of accepting a homelessness duty. As this settles down, numbers are expected to reduce, assuming that numbers of applications remain at their current levels.
- 8.7 Officers are now focusing on income collection, either by ensuring those that who are entitled to benefits have claimed them, as indicated in 8.4 above, or by improving rent collection from those that are not entitled. As indicated above, this leads to a reduction in the bad debt provision required and a subsequent reduction in the forecasted overspend.
- 8.8 In an effort to control accommodation costs, the council is participating in a pan London scheme intended to restrict the ability of providers to charge excessive rates to boroughs procuring accommodation across London. The impact this scheme is having will be reported through to members as part of the financial forecast report in due course.
- 8.9 Significant investment has also been made in procuring additional temporary accommodation units. The majority of these will not become available until early 2016, so will impact mainly on the 2016/17 position.
- 8.10 The projection assumes that resources will be identified to cover unachievable savings in respect of hostels income (£0.2m) and expected reduced costs in Housing Needs in respect of moving the service to Holbeach. The former did not get the required consent of the Secretary of State and the latter move did not take place after a revision of the accommodation plan.
- 8.11 The *environment division* is forecasting an overspend of £0.9m. This is an increase of £0.4m compared to the figure reported in November.
- 8.12 The overspend has arisen in the Green Scene and Strategic Waste Management and Bereavement departments within the division. The former relates to the savings proposal to increase community and voluntary sector engagement in the maintenance of small parks. When approving the proposal, members requested that additional consultation with park stakeholders should take place. This resulted in a later than planned implementation date which has subsequently slipped back further. This has resulted in a projected overspend of £0.2m.
- 8.13 As with the Council's previous dry recycling provider, some months into agreement, the current provider is claiming excessive levels of contamination and have invoiced the council for the additional costs of processing in disposal. The increased charges, significantly higher than those charged for the disposal of residual waste, will cost the council an estimated £0.5m in a full financial year. Officers are in the process of tendering for a new contractor and it is likely that the council will incur further cost increases in the next financial year.
- 8.14 Bereavement Service is forecast to be £0.2m under budget by the end of the financial year. The total income received is expected to be at similar level to last year. Mild winters and a competitive market for crematoria services are considered to be the main cause.

- 8.15 The division is also showing a £0.1m overspend in street management. Changes in contractual arrangements with JC Decaux have resulted in an increase in the cost of providing automated public conveniences. As the contract has produced savings elsewhere within the council, a request will be submitted for this overspend to be covered by corporate resources.
- 8.16 The *public services division* is forecasting an overspend of £0.6m. This mainly has arisen from delays in the implementation of the new business support service, agreed as a part of the 2015/16 budget savings process. The service is now operational, the effect of which is that only half of the proposed saving of £0.9m will be achieved in the current year.
- 8.17 An underachievement of £0.1m income is forecast in the Registrars service as a result of the non-realisation of a saving in respect of citizenship income.
- 8.18 An underspend of £0.1m is being forecast in the technology and change division. This is as a result of higher than anticipated savings arising from the new photocopying contract.

9. RESOURCES AND REGENERATION

- 9.1 As at the end of January 2016, the Resources and Regeneration directorate is forecasting an underspend of £2.7m. At the same time last year, the year-end forecast was an underspend of £0.8m, with the actual year-end outturn being an underspend of £2.1m.

Table 6 – Resources and Regeneration

Service Area	Gross Budgeted Spend	Gross Budgeted Income	Net Budget	Forecast over/ (under) spend
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Corporate Resources	5.0	(2.3)	2.7	(0.3)
Corporate Policy & Governance	3.8	0	3.8	(0.5)
Financial Services	5.2	(1.2)	4.0	(0.5)
Executive Office	0.2	0	0.2	0.0
Human Resources	3.0	(0.3)	2.7	(0.4)
Legal services	3.0	(0.4)	2.6	(0.1)
Strategy	2.5	(0.5)	2.0	(0.2)
Planning	3.3	(1.6)	1.7	(0.8)
Regeneration & Asset Management	17.2	(7.0)	10.2	0.1
Reserves	0.0	(0.3)	(0.3)	0.0
Total	43.2	(13.6)	29.6	(2.7)

- 9.2 The *corporate resources* division is forecasting an underspend of £0.3m. This is principally due to underspending against grant funded programmes within the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Team. A request will be made to carry forward funding into 2016/17 financial year.
- 9.3 The *corporate policy & governance* division is forecasting an underspend of £0.5m. This is mainly in respect of staffing costs where the outcome of the staffing reorganisation has resulted in a number of vacant posts plus a number of secondments to other areas of the council.

- 9.4 The *financial services* division is forecast to underspend by £0.5m. This partly relates to the contingency for the directorate that is held within this division. There is also underspending due to vacant posts, and additional income receivable from schools and the pension fund.
- 9.5 The *human resources* division is forecast to underspend by £0.4m. This is mainly due to vacant posts across the division. There is also reduced training forecasts where platform set up delays by the new learning provider has resulted in a reduction in commissioned training.
- 9.6 The *legal services* division is currently forecast to underspend by £0.1m. The underspend is mainly within the Procurement section and is due to vacant posts and underspending on supplies and services.
- 9.7 The *strategy* division is forecasting an underspend of £0.2m. This is mainly due to lower than anticipated recruitment of apprentices in this year's cohort, and a staffing underspend due to vacant posts in the communications unit.
- 9.8 The *planning* division is forecasting an underspend of £0.8m. The main areas of underspending are within Development Management (£0.4m), where very high levels of income are being partly offset by higher staffing and supplies and services expenditure to cope with the associated high workload; and Land Charges (£0.4m), where search fees income is forecast to exceed the budget by £150k and there have also been receipts of New Burdens grant in relation to previous restitution claims totalling £216k.
- 9.9 The *regeneration & asset management* division is forecasting an overspend of £0.1m. There are a number of under and overspends in this area, which include increased income from commercial rents and underspending on staffing costs being offset by reduced network management income from utility companies and the costs of managing the corporate estate.

10 CORPORATE PROVISIONS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 The Corporate financial provisions include working balances, *capital expenditure charged to the revenue account* (CERA), and interest on revenue balances. These provisions are not expected to overspend although, with the impact of continued reductions in service budgets, there is ever greater pressure on working balances. Certainty on their outturn only becomes clear towards the end of the financial year.
- 10.2 With continued concerns about the stability of the banking sector, the council's treasury management strategy continues to be focused on avoiding risk, wherever possible. With investment returns still at historically low levels, albeit with indications of modest rate rises possible early next year, there is little opportunity to seek higher returns. However, the council continues to keep its strategy under review and assess alternative investment strategies to find the appropriate balance in the trade-off between return and risk. Members should note that similar to last year, a sum of £3.2m is being held corporately to help manage 'risks and other pressures' during 2015/16.

11 DEDICATED SCHOOLS' GRANT

11.1 The current level of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is as follows:

Table 7 – Dedicated Schools Grant

DSG Area	Before Academy Recoupment £m	After Academy Recoupment £m
Schools block	214.607	188.140
Early years block	21.196	21.196
High needs block	43.588	42.624
Total additions for non-block funding	0.052	0.052
Total DSG allocation	279.443	252.012

Note: The above table excludes the Pupil Premium (£18m), Post 16 funding (£7m), and Universal Free School Meals Grant (£2m).

11.2 There are two secondary schools with deficit budgets. These are Sedgehill and Deptford Green schools. There is also one primary school, which is All Saints. The current budget monitoring returns indicate that a further four secondary schools and one primary school will have overspent their budget by the year end and will need to apply for a licensed deficit.

11.3 As at the end of last year, the overspend position on High Needs pupils was higher than expected. This was caused by more placements being made to providers outside of Lewisham. These placements were not in the independent sector but in further education colleges, other local authorities maintained schools and academies. The full year impact of these placements results in a shortfall in the funding this year of £2.9m. The fund set aside from previous year's carry forward was £2.5m. Some of this related to capital provision for 2 year olds with a balance of £2.2m available to cover the High Needs overspend. In order to bring the budget back into balance the devolved funding to secondary schools for attendance and welfare stopped from April 2015. This would have left a balance of £0.5m to be found. It was agreed by the Schools Forum to meet the £0.5m from the schools contingency.

12. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

12.1 The table below sets out the current budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in 2015/16. An underspend of £2.3m is being reported, no movement from position reported at the end of November 2015.

Table 8 – Housing Revenue Account

	Expenditure Budget £m	Income Budget £m	2015/16 Budget £m	Forecast over/ (under) spend £m
Customer Services - Housing	11.8	(3.0)	8.8	0
Lewisham Homes & R&M	36.0	0	36.0	(1.0)
Resources	2.1	0	2.1	0
Centrally Managed Budgets	50.8	(97.7)	(46.9)	(1.3)
Total	100.7	(100.7)	0	(2.3)

- 12.2 Lewisham Homes manages certain budgets on behalf of the council in addition to those formally delegated to them. Following two years of significant underspending, the repairs and maintenance budget is expected to underspend again this year. This in part reflects the continued investment in the decent homes programme, which has tended to reduce demand for day to day repairs and maintenance as properties are brought up to standard. An underspend of £1.0m is projected in the current year.
- 12.3 A review of asset management spending requirements has been undertaken and officers are currently considering the outcome. It is envisaged that any underspend in repairs and maintenance will be reinvested in revised asset management priorities arising from the review.
- 12.3 Overall, the HRA is expected to make a surplus on its activities during 2015/16. It will continue to build upon its reserves on an annual basis and this is mainly to ensure that there are sufficient resources available to fund the current 30 year business plan which seeks to continue to invest in decent homes and to significantly increase the supply of housing in the borough over the medium to long term.
- 12.4 In addition to the underspend in repairs and maintenance budgets, the current projected surplus of £2.3m includes £1.3m arising from increased tenants' rental and leaseholder service charge income. The former has arisen due to lower than budgeted void rates in respect of tenanted properties. The additional leaseholder income is as a result of major works income.
- 12.5 After transfers to reserves, the HRA is expected to report a balanced budget position.

13. COLLECTION FUND

- 13.1 As at 31 January 2016, £91.7m of council tax had been collected, 83.4% of the total amount due for the year of £110.0m. This is the slightly below the profiled rate required of 83.8% if the overall target of 96% is to be met. The rate being achieved at this time last year was 83.1%.
- 13.2 Business rates collection is at 91.7%, a reduction of 1.2% compared to the same period last year but 5.2% lower than the profiled collection rate required if the overall target rate for the year of 99% is to be achieved.

14. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

- 14.1 The overall spend to 31 January is £66.8m, which is 57% of the revised budget of £118.1m, and below the profile figure expected if the programme is to be delivered in full. The comparable expenditure figure last year was 62% of the revised budget of £139.8m, with the final outturn being 89% of the revised budget of £137.3m. The following table gives a breakdown of the budget and spend to date.

Table 9 – Capital Programme

2015/16 Capital Programme	2015/16 Revised Budget	2015/16 Forecast	Spend to 31 st Jan 16	Spend to Date (Revised Budget)
	£m	£m	£m	%
Community Services	0.7	0.7	0.4	57
Resources & Regeneration	13.2	13.2	5.5	42
CYP	45.9	45.9	38.1	83
Customer Services	0.8	0.8	0.4	50
Housing (Gen Fund)	18.7	18.6	8.0	43
Total General Fund	79.3	79.2	52.4	66
HRA - Council	6.8	6.8	0.4	6
HRA - Lewisham Homes	32.0	32.0	14.0	44
Total HRA	38.8	38.8	14.4	37
Total Expenditure	118.1	118.0	66.8	57

14.2 The table below shows the current position on the major projects in the 2015/16 general fund capital programme (i.e. those over £1m in 2015/16).

Table 10 – Major Capital Projects

2015/16 Capital Programme	2015/16 Revised Budget	2015/16 Forecast	Spend to 31 st Jan 16	Spend to Date (Revised Budget)
	£m	£m	£m	%
Housing Regeneration Schemes (Kender, Excalibur, Heathside and Lethbridge)	3.5	3.5	1.3	37
Primary Places Programme	28.2	28.2	30.3	107
BSF – Sydenham	4.9	4.9	3.6	73
BSF – Brent Knoll	1.7	1.7	1.5	88
Other Schools Capital Works	10.5	10.6	3.3	31
Disabled Facilities / Private Sector Grants	1.3	1.3	0.9	69
Asset Management Programme	1.1	1.1	0.4	36
Acquisition – Hostels Programme	4.5	4.5	2.8	62
Brookdale Club - Freehold Property Purchase	0.3	0.3	0.2	67
Property Acquisition – LH	7.0	7.0	2.0	29
Highways and Bridges (TfL)	4.4	4.4	0.9	20
Highways and Bridges (LBL)	3.5	3.5	2.8	80
Other Schemes less than £1m	8.4	8.2	2.4	29
Grand Total	79.3	79.2	52.4	66

14.3 The main sources of financing the programme include grants and contributions, and capital receipts from the sale of property assets. There is £13.6m of usable receipts have been received so far this year, comprising £2.8m in respect of previous year's Housing stock transfers, £7.5m (net) from Housing Right-To-Buy sales and £3.3m from other sales.

15 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1 This report concerns the financial forecasts for the 2015/16 financial year.

However, there are no direct financial implications in noting these.

16 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 16.1 The Council must act prudently in relation to the stewardship of Council taxpayers' funds. The Council must set and maintain a balanced budget.

17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS

- 17.1 There are no crime and disorder implications relevant to this report.

18 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 18.1 There are no equalities implications relevant to this report.

19 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 19.1 There are no environmental implications relevant to this report.

20 CONCLUSION

- 20.1 This report sets out the financial forecasts for 2015/16 as at 31 January 2016 and shows that officers have continued to apply sound financial controls. However, beyond the end of this financial year, the short and medium-term outlook remains difficult. Therefore, continued strong management and fiscal discipline will be required to enable the council to meet its financial targets for 2015/16 and beyond.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Short Title of Report	Date	Location	Contact
2016/17 Budget	10 February 2016 (M&C)	3 rd Floor Laurence House	Shola Ojo
Financial Forecasts 2015/16	11 November 2015 (M&C)	5 th Floor Laurence House	Selwyn Thompson
Financial Forecasts 2015/16	22 July 2015 (M&C)	5 th Floor Laurence House	Selwyn Thompson
Financial Outturn for 2014/15	3 June 2015 (M&C)	5 th Floor Laurence House	Selwyn Thompson
2015/16 Budget	25 February 2015 (Council)	3 rd Floor Laurence House	Shola Ojo

For further information on this report, please contact Selwyn Thompson, Head of Financial Services on 020 8314 6932

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission	
Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing	
Report for: Mayor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information <input type="checkbox"/> Part 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Key Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	

Date of Meeting	23 March 2016
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Title of Report	Responses of the Public Accounts Select Committee on the Select Committee Work Programme
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Originator of Report	Selwyn Thompson	Ext. 46932
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	✓	
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	✓	
Crime & Disorder Implications	✓	
Environmental Implications	✓	
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	✓	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	✓	
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed: *Kevin Emmins* Executive Member (nominee)

Date: 15/3/16

Signed: ~~_____~~ Director/Head of Service

Date: 15/3/16

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

Mayor & Cabinet			
Title	Responses of the Public Accounts Select Committee on the Select Committee Work Programme		
Key Decision	No	Item No	
Contributors	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration		
Class	Part 1	Date	23 March 2016

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report responds to the comments and views arising from the Public Accounts Select Committee on the Select Committee work programme.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to approve the proposed responses to the comments and views of the Public Accounts Select Committee as set out in Section 3 of this report and report these to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

3. Comments from the Public Accounts Select Committee

- 3.1 The Committee heard an update from the Head of Financial Services following the Comprehensive Spending Review and Autumn Statement announcements. The Committee was informed that, after the release of the provisional local government settlement, more details would be available which would be in time for the Committee's next meeting in January where it will be considering the annual budget. Following receiving the update, the Public Accounts Select Committee resolved to recommend the following to the Mayor and Cabinet:

- That given the demographic profile of the London Borough of Lewisham, the Committee felt there was a very big concern that changes proposed around Business Rates would have a disproportionately negative effect on the Borough. The Committee therefore recommended that the Mayor make representations to the Secretary of State to highlight these concerns.
- That the Committee had concerns around changes proposed to the Education Services Grant and that this could have a substantial impact on the services managed by the local authority. In addition to this the changes being considered as part of the review of the Dedicated Schools Grant were also likely to have a disproportionately negative effect on pupils in Lewisham. The Committee recommended that the Mayor make representations to the Secretary of State to highlight the potentially damaging effect these changes would have on pupils in Lewisham.

Response

- 3.2 There is no specific consultation on-going at the present time for business rates. However, Members should note that there was a general consultation launched back in late 2015 about 'how should business rates work' and a more detailed

specific consultation on the administration around valuations and appeals. This consultation closed in January 2016. However, at this stage officers have not been notified of any specific business rates consultation which would lead to a significant impact on the Council's financial position. Notwithstanding, it remains important for Lewisham to ensure its concerns are heard given the important the existing scheme its financial stability. The Mayor will seek to make such representations to government, as appropriate and in conjunction with the work officers are doing with colleagues at London Councils.

- 3.3 On 7th March 2016, the government launched a consultation on the schools national funding formula where views are being sought on the structure of the formula. The future of the Dedicated Schools Grant is the main focus of the funding reforms being proposed by government and this will have some impact on the working and distribution of the education services grant. An officer group (including teaching staff representatives) has recently been established to review the consultation documentation and to draft the response for submission to government by the deadline date of 17th April 2016. Once drafted, officers will seek the Mayor's involvement to ensure that appropriate representations are made to government which will highlight the potentially damaging effect reforms to the formula would have on pupils in Lewisham.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director and report back to the Committee within two months, not including recess.

6. Equalities and environmental Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific equalities or environmental implications arising from this report.

7. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 7.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Selwyn Thompson, Head of Financial Services on 020 8314 6932

Officer Confirmation of Report Submission			
Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing			
Report for: Mayor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayor and Cabinet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Executive Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	Part 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Part 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date of Meeting	23 March 2016
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Title of Report	Mayoral response to the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Modern Roads Review
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Originator of Report	Simon Moss	Ext 42269
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources		
Legal Comments from the Head of Law		
Crime & Disorder Implications		
Environmental Implications		
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)		
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework		
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed:  Executive Member

Date: 14/3/16

Signed:  Director/Head of Service

Date: 15/3/16

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

MAYOR & CABINET

Report Title	Mayoral response to the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Modern Roads Review.		
Key Decision	No		Item No.
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration		
Class	Part 1	Date: 23 March 2016	

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the response to Modern Roads Review undertaken by the Sustainable Development Select Committee and presented to the Mayor and Cabinet meeting on 13 January 2016.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Mayor:
- 2.2 Notes the response from the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to the Modern Roads Review undertaken by the Sustainable Development Select Committee as set out in section 2 of this report, and;
- 2.3 Agrees that this report be forwarded to the Sustainable Development Select Committee.

3 Policy Context

- 3.1 The Local Implementation Plan (LIP) sets out Lewisham's policy objectives for transport and has been developed within the framework provided by the Mayor's Transport Strategy.
- 3.2 Lewisham's second LIP was approved by the Lewisham Mayor and the London Mayor in 2011. The LIP was developed within the framework provided by the MTS and consists of an evidence base, objectives, targets and initial three year programme. The goals, objectives, and outcomes for the LIP reflect local policies and priorities and are aligned with the Council's Corporate Priorities and the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.3 As a major policy document, the LIP supports all six priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy and has particular relevance to the many economic, environmental and social improvements that rely on a modern transport system.

4 Background

- 4.1 The Modern Roads Review was scoped by the Sustainable Development Select Committee in October 2014 and three evidence gathering sessions were held in December 2014, January 2015 and April 2015. The Committee

agreed the report and the recommendations in September 2015, and these were presented to Mayor and Cabinet on 13 January 2016.

5 Sustainable Development Select Committee Recommendations

5.1 On 13 January 2016, the Committee made the following recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet:

1. That the implementation of the borough-wide 20mph zone be monitored with an emphasis on Council and borough police plans for enforcement and supported with a multi-platform publicity and education programme for residents and drivers.
2. That the Council considers the full range of different cycle-friendly road designs that radically improve the safety and environment for cyclists including, among other sources, the Sustrans 'Cycle Friendly Design Manual: Handbook for cycle-friendly design' and existing working schemes in other London boroughs.
3. That the Council engages with Living Streets to conduct a Community Street Audit in a specific area to improve the environment for cyclists and pedestrians.
4. That officers investigate some of the proposals outlined by Lewisham Cyclists in relation to improving cycling conditions in the borough (6.11-15).
5. That the Council facilitates a scheme that offers recycled bikes at a reasonable price to children in the borough.
6. That the Council investigates the possibility of having a similar 'cycle hub and bike hire scheme like LB Croydon's cycle hub and/or Brompton Bike Hire dock.
7. That any future re-design of the A205/Catford Gyratory incorporates the needs of cyclists and pedestrians from the beginning of the process and that that the Mayor pushes TfL and the Council to make a decision on the relocation of the A205 within the next few months.
8. That the Council take forward an expansion of the ultra low emissions zone, and look at how air quality issues are viewed in major developments in the borough (e.g. where schools are built in the borough, ensuring they are away from main roads).
9. That the Council reviews policy to increase the planting of street trees with a view to obtaining external funding wherever possible.
10. That the Mayor lobbies Transport for London to extend the Cycle Hire Scheme into Lewisham.

2 Mayoral Response to the Sustainable Development Select Committee

2.1 The recommendations of the Sustainable Development Select Committee are welcomed, and they reflect the ongoing work of LB Lewisham towards the development of a more sustainable transport system.

- 2.2 **Recommendation 1** – That the implementation of the borough-wide 20mph zone be monitored with an emphasis on Council and borough police plans for enforcement and supported with a multi-platform publicity and education programme for residents and drivers.
- 2.3 **Response 1** – In the 2014 the Mayors election manifesto gave a commitment to introduce a borough-wide 20mph was launched. 20mph zones have been introduced in residential areas throughout Lewisham over the last 12 years and 65% of the boroughs roads are now 20 mph roads.
- 2.4 The rationale of the borough-wide 20mph speed limit introduction is to reduce speeds and reduce the number and severity of casualties across the borough. The lower speed limit will also create a fairer balance between vulnerable road users and the motor vehicle. The borough-wide limit will ensure a consistent and fair approach to all residents and road users to engender a culture of driving at lower and safer speeds. For each 1mph reduction in speeds there is an estimated 6% reduction in casualties.
- 2.5 The Council recognises that some roads are better suited to 20mph limits than others, and a widespread monitoring exercise will identify those roads where compliance needs to be improved. Officers are working closely with the Met Police to identify areas of priority concern so we can deliver a joined up approach.
- 2.6 In recent years, there has been a change in the Police's approach to 20mph speed limits. The police will continue with speed enforcement in boroughs at the current levels. The main requirement is that boroughs work with the Police to ensure roads are suitable for a 20 mph speed limit, with clear and correct signing, and additional physical measures where appropriate. The main advice is to work with the Police at the planning stage and to make use of new initiatives such as Community Roadwatch. Existing speed cameras can now be re-calibrated to enforce 20mph limits. Driver rectification courses are also offered to any drivers exceeding the speed limit in a 20mph speed limit.
- 2.7 Preparations are also underway to inform drivers and residents, with information currently available on the website and widespread publicity, including Lewisham Life, planned for the launch date, which will provide details and reasons for the scheme. The online information is available at: <https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/transport/road-safety/Pages/20mph-borough-speed-limit.aspx>
- 2.8 Implementation is planned for the summer holidays, with a launch date in Sept to coincide with school return. A school competition is being launched to design posters for the roll out of the scheme, which will be used on the dust carts in the borough and for future campaigns.
- 2.9 Other day to day road safety work will be supporting the introduction of the speed limit – the older driver's course and the moped/two wheeler courses being planned at present will also be support the introduction of the new borough-wide 20mph limit.
- 2.10 **Recommendation 2** – That the Council considers the full range of different cycle-friendly road designs that radically improve the safety and environment for cyclists including, among other sources, the Sustrans

'Cycle Friendly Design Manual: Handbook for cycle-friendly design' and existing working schemes in other London boroughs.

- 2.11 **Response 2** – All highway and public realm designs led by the Council give full consideration to cyclists and pedestrians, and priority is given to sustainable modes wherever possible. All scheme designs take on board the very latest concepts in cycle friendly design, including the Sustrans design manual, and particularly the new London Cycling Design Standards which was heavily influenced by London's cycling public, interest groups, and Boroughs.
- 2.12 The Council is among the forefront of delivering the London Mayors Vision for Cycling, working with TfL to develop Cycle Superhighway 4 and implementing one of the first and highest quality Quietways which extends beyond Lewisham to Waterloo and to Greenwich. The Lewisham section includes a brand new section of cycling infrastructure near Surrey Canal Road, and the Council has been working with Sustrans to deliver this key part of the project.
- 2.13 **Recommendation 3** – That the Council engages with Living Streets to conduct a Community Street Audit in a specific area to improve the environment for cyclists and pedestrians.
- 2.14 **Response 3** – The Council welcomes the recent formation of a local Lewisham Group for Living Streets. Officers are in consultation with Living Streets representatives in relation to development of proposals for Crofton Park and discussions will include the best way for a street audit process to be built into the current stage of work.
- 2.15 **Recommendation 4** – That officers investigate some of the proposals outlined by Lewisham Cyclists in relation to improving cycling conditions in the borough (6.11-15).
- 2.16 **Response 4** – Officers have a good working relationship with Lewisham Cyclists, and consult the group on all transport-related projects. It is notable that many of the comments (6.11-15) are very positive on a wide range of issues, including cycle training, the Quietway, cycle parking, and improving streetscape. We will continue to work with Lewisham Cyclists on all our projects and seek opportunities to integrate their proposals. We will also continue to lobby TfL on those issues raised which are beyond the Council's direct control. The Council will be reviewing its cycling target as part of the next LIP review.
- 2.17 **Recommendation 5** – That the Council facilitates a scheme that offers recycled bikes at a reasonable price to children in the borough.
- 2.18 **Response 5** – In summer 2016 the Council is planning to pilot a "Peddle My Wheels" Bike Market to encourage the take-up of affordable recycled bicycles at four community locations in summer 2016. Peddle My Wheels is a business that works with London local authorities and schools to encourage re-cycling and help make cycling more accessible.
- 2.19 **Recommendation 6** – That the Council investigates the possibility of having a similar 'cycle hub and bike hire scheme like LB Croydon's cycle hub and/or Brompton Bike Hire dock.

- 2.20 **Response 6** – The Council supports the improvement of cycling facilities at rail stations, and the current approach is to prioritise cycle parking at a broad range of stations. Most recently we have been working with rail operators to introduce covered cycle parking facilities at Blackheath, Brockley and Honor Oak Stations, including public cycle-pump facilities. A cycle hub such as at LB Croydon would be appropriate for Lewisham Station and officers will investigate the opportunities and most appropriate timing in relation to the build-out of Lewisham Gateway and surrounding developments and potential changes to the station as part of the re-franchising of the South-Eastern network in 2018.
- 2.21 **Recommendation 7** – That any future re-design of the A205/Catford Gyratory incorporates the needs of cyclists and pedestrians from the beginning of the process and that that the Mayor pushes TfL and the Council to make a decision on the relocation of the A205 within the next few months.
- 2.22 **Response 7** – The Council is working with TfL towards a decision on whether to move the road. In either scenario, whether the road remains in its current location or is relocated, the Council will push for a balanced solution which gives priority to cycles, buses and pedestrians. The approach to highway improvements at Catford should be one which recognises the importance of the town centre and where vehicle priority is tempered by the need to create an attractive town centre environment.
- 2.23 **Recommendation 8** – That the Council take forward an expansion of the ultra low emissions zone, and look at how air quality issues are viewed in major developments in the borough (e.g. where schools are built in the borough, ensuring they are away from main roads).
- 2.24 **Response 8** – The Council is lobbying alongside other boroughs for a London-wide approach to encouraging ultra-low emissions. The Council is one of ten London Boroughs actively engaged in the roll-out of new Electric Vehicle Charging Points to encourage the take-up of electric vehicles. The Council has also successfully applied for Mayor's Air Quality Funding to ensure the best possible co-ordination of air quality issues related to the construction of major developments in the north of the borough. A new Air Quality Action Plan is being developed to tackle poor air quality in the highest priority areas of the borough.
- 2.25 **Recommendation 9** – That the Council reviews policy to increase the planting of street trees with a view to obtaining external funding wherever possible.
- 2.26 **Response 9** – Lewisham's trees are part of what makes the borough so green, compared to many other parts of London. Introducing new street trees can be challenging: with limited space available, it is also important to prioritise space for pedestrians and cyclists; the underground utilities can often make new trees too costly; and reducing revenue budgets can mean that damaged trees aren't always maintained. Despite these challenges, the Council seeks to maintain, protect and increase the number and quality of trees in the borough, and agrees that opportunities should be taken to obtain funding. As major schemes and developments are brought forward in the borough there will be clear opportunities to push developers to deliver high quality urban realm as part of their schemes, including the provision of street trees in appropriate locations.

- 2.27 **Recommendation 10** – That the Mayor lobbies Transport for London to extend the Cycle Hire Scheme into Lewisham.
- 2.28 **Response 10** – As part of proposed major developments at Convoys Wharf and Surrey Canal Road, the Council has secured safeguarded provision for an extension of the Central London Cycle Hire scheme. The Council will continue to seek future provision and continue to lobby TfL to make use of this provision as these developments progress.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this response. However, financial resources may be required in the future to develop aspects of the ideas and proposals set out in this report. Where new projects and funding gaps are identified requests for such resources will be considered at an appropriate time.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Constitution provides that the Executive respond to reports and or recommendations by the overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5 Crime and Disorder Implications

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

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The Council's Comprehensive Equality Scheme for 2012-16 will provide an overarching framework and focus for the Council's work on equalities and help ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.
- 6.2 An Equalities Analysis Assessment has been developed alongside the LIP to ensure that any potential adverse impacts were fully considered and, where necessary, appropriate changes made. The overall findings of the assessment were that the proposals within the LIP do not discriminate or have significant adverse impacts on any of the protected characteristics.
- 6.3 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this response, however, an assessment of differential impact on equalities would be required at such time as detailed proposals are considered.

7 Environmental Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this response.

8 Background Papers and originator

- 8.1 M&C Report, Matters referred by Sustainable Development Select Committee Select Committee – Modern Roads Review - Report and Recommendations, 13 January 2016
<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s40760/Referral%20by%20SCSC%20Modern%20Roads%20Review.pdf>

- 8.2 Sustainable Development Select Committee, Modern Roads Review, June 2015
<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s40761/Modern%20Roads%20Review%20Report.pdf>
- 8.3 For further details about the content of this report contact Simon Moss, Transport Policy and Development Manager, simon.moss@lewisham.gov.uk

Agenda Item 15

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission		
Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing		
Report for: Mayor		<input type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)		<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Director		<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Part 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Key Decision		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Date of Meeting	23 March 2016
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Title of Report	Creekside Copperas Street Depot disposal
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Originator of Report	Freddie Murray, Asset Strategy & Technical Support	X43914
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources		X
Legal Comments from the Head of Law		X
Crime & Disorder Implications	X	
Environmental Implications	X	
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	X	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	X	
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)		
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed:  Executive Member

Date: 14/3/16

Signed:  Director/Head of Service

Date: 15/3/16

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

MAYOR & CABINET			
Report Title	CREEKSIDE COPPERAS STREET DEPOT - DISPOSAL		
Key Decision	Yes		Item No.
Ward	New Cross		
Contributors	Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration & Head of Legal		
Class	Part 1	Date: 23 March 2016	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal and recommendation to dispose of Council owned land at Copperas St, Deptford SE8 to Kitewood Estates Limited, in return for new residential units, to be owned by the Council.
- 1.2 The report seeks authority from the Mayor to dispose of the land on the basis of the Heads of Terms set out in Part 2 of this report.
- 1.3 This report is divided into two parts. Part 1 sets out the summary and background to what is proposed. The Part 2 section of the report looks at the commercially sensitive issues around the Heads of Terms for the disposal.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The subject site comprises a development plot on Copperas St, Creekside, backing on to Deptford Creek (shown ?? on the plan at Appendix 1).
- 2.2 The site immediately adjacent to the west is effectively owned (by way of an option to purchase) by Kitewood. The land adjacent to that is owned by Trinity Laban. Kitewood are seeking to acquire the Council's land in order to bring about wholesale redevelopment of land owned by themselves, the Council and Trinity Laban.
- 2.3 The Council's site has long been identified by for disposal. However rather than take a capital receipt, officers have been able to negotiate a deal whereby the Council will receive a number of units within the finished development from which it can generate a long term income stream.

3. Purpose

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authority to dispose of the site to Kitewood by way of a long leasehold interest, in order to both bring forward

Council owned land for residential development and to generate a long term income stream.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Mayor gives authority to dispose of the Copperas St site to Kitewood Estates Limited on the terms set out in this report.

5. Policy Context

- 5.1 The content of this report are consistent with Lewisham's sustainable community strategy 2008-2020:

- Clean Green liveable – where people live in high quality housing and can care for and enjoy the environment
- Dynamic and prosperous – where people are part of vibrant communities and town centres, well connected to London and beyond

- 5.2 The contents of this report are also consistent with the Council's Community Strategy:

- Strengthening the local economy – gaining resources to regenerate key localities, strengthen employment skills and promote public transport.
- Clean, green and liveable – improving environmental management, the cleanliness and care for roads and pavements and promoting a sustainable environment.

- 5.3 Lewisham's Housing Strategy was approved at Full Council in May 2015. This strategy sets out the Council's ambition to address the challenges in the borough through the following objectives:

- Helping residents at times of severe and urgent housing need
- Building the homes our residents need
- Greater security and quality for private renters
- Promoting greater quality in the social and private rented sectors

- 5.4 Lewisham's Core Strategy has the objective to make provision for the completion of an additional 18,165 net new dwellings from all sources between 2009/10 and 2025/26, to meet local housing need and accommodate the borough's share of London's housing needs. This aims to exceed the London Plan target for the borough.

6. Background

- 6.1 The subject site comprises a development plot on Copperas St, Creekside, backing on to Deptford Creek (see plan at Appendix 1). The site is accessed from Copperas St via a narrow entrance way and widens out to a more regular shaped site to the rear.

- 6.2 Immediately adjacent to the west is another vacant development plot, owned freehold by Ampurius. Kitewood Developments are the beneficiary of an option to purchase that site. To the west of that is the Trinity Laban Building and associated surface car park.
- 6.3 In 2015, and in accordance with the terms of their option to purchase, Kitewood submitted an application for a 216 unit residential scheme on their site alone. It was agreed that this application would be placed in abeyance to allow negotiations on a revised scheme (see below), however Kitewood submitted an appeal against non-determination of the application in July 2015 which will be the subject of a public inquiry, a date for which has been set for late May 2016.
- 6.4 Concurrently, Kitewood have been in negotiations with both the Council and Trinity Laban with a view to bringing forward a more comprehensive scheme, including the Council's land and Trinity Laban's car park. In Spring 2015 Kitewood entered into a PPA with the Council's Planning department and have been taking that scheme design through the pre-application process. This process is entering into its final stages and it is envisaged that an application could be made by Summer 2016.
- 6.5 Negotiations between officers and Kitewood regarding the disposal of the Council's land have now been concluded, the end result of which are the heads of terms set out in Part 2 of this report.
- 6.6 Rather than sell vacant and/or development sites and taking a capital receipt, officers are seeking to agree either disposals or developments which can generate a long term income for the Council. In this case, officers have been able to agree in principle to dispose of its land to Kitewood for them to develop the site. In return the Council will receive a number of residential units in the finished scheme which it can lease on the open market.
- 6.7 Trinity Laban
- 6.8 The Council has a long standing and productive relationship with Trinity Laban, helping to realise development of the Laban Building on Copperas Street in the early 2000s. The Council recognises the importance of Trinity Laban to Deptford and the Borough, and as such has sought to ensure they are included in any redevelopment proposals. This will hopefully provide them with a new facility to add to their existing, and ensure their long term future in the area. As a result, Kitewood have been working to incorporate them into the development. Upon production of a design brief from Trinity Laban, and working with their architect, Kitewood have designed a facility that has been agreed and accepted by Trinity Laban. This will provide them with 6,000 sq m (gross internal area) of purpose built accommodation, together with underground car parking to replace that lost as part of the proposed development.

6.9 As this involves developing on Trinity Laban's land, Kitewood have been negotiating separately to agree terms on which the land transfer is to take place. Officers understand those negotiations are close to being concluded.

8. Proposal

8.1 Terms have been agreed in principle to dispose of the land to Kitewood by way of a long leasehold interest for them to deliver the consented scheme. This will involve the Council becoming freeholder of both sites, and granting subsequent 999 year leases on each site (its land and Kitewood's) to Kitewood. On practical completion the Council will receive residential units on a long leasehold basis. The overall structure of the agreement is set out below.

8.2 Overall Structure

8.3 Kitewood are continuing to develop their designs for the scheme and will submit a planning application for the whole site including the Trinity Laban land. The Council will have approval rights throughout various stages of this process, in particular upon any changes to the consent.

8.4 Upon grant of an acceptable planning permission and following the expiry of a judicial review period, Kitewood will transfer the freehold of the Kitewood Land to the Council for a consideration of £1. The Council will therefore have freehold for both its and Kitewood's land.

8.5 The Council will then grant Kitewood a 999 year Lease of its own land and a 999 year lease of the Kitewood Land.

8.6 Kitewood will develop out the scheme as consented. Upon completion they will transfer the units, chosen by the Council prior to commencement of development, on a long leasehold basis to the Council.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 The financial implications of the recommendation to dispose of the Copperas St site to Kitewood Developments are considered in part 2 of this report.

10. Legal Implications

10.1 Legal implications are contained in Part 2 of this report.

11. Crime and Disorder Implications

11.1 There are no implications.

12. Equalities Implications

12.1 There are no implications.

13. Environmental Implications

- 13.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the recommendations set out in this report. The design stages will address environmental issues through the planning process.

14. Conclusion

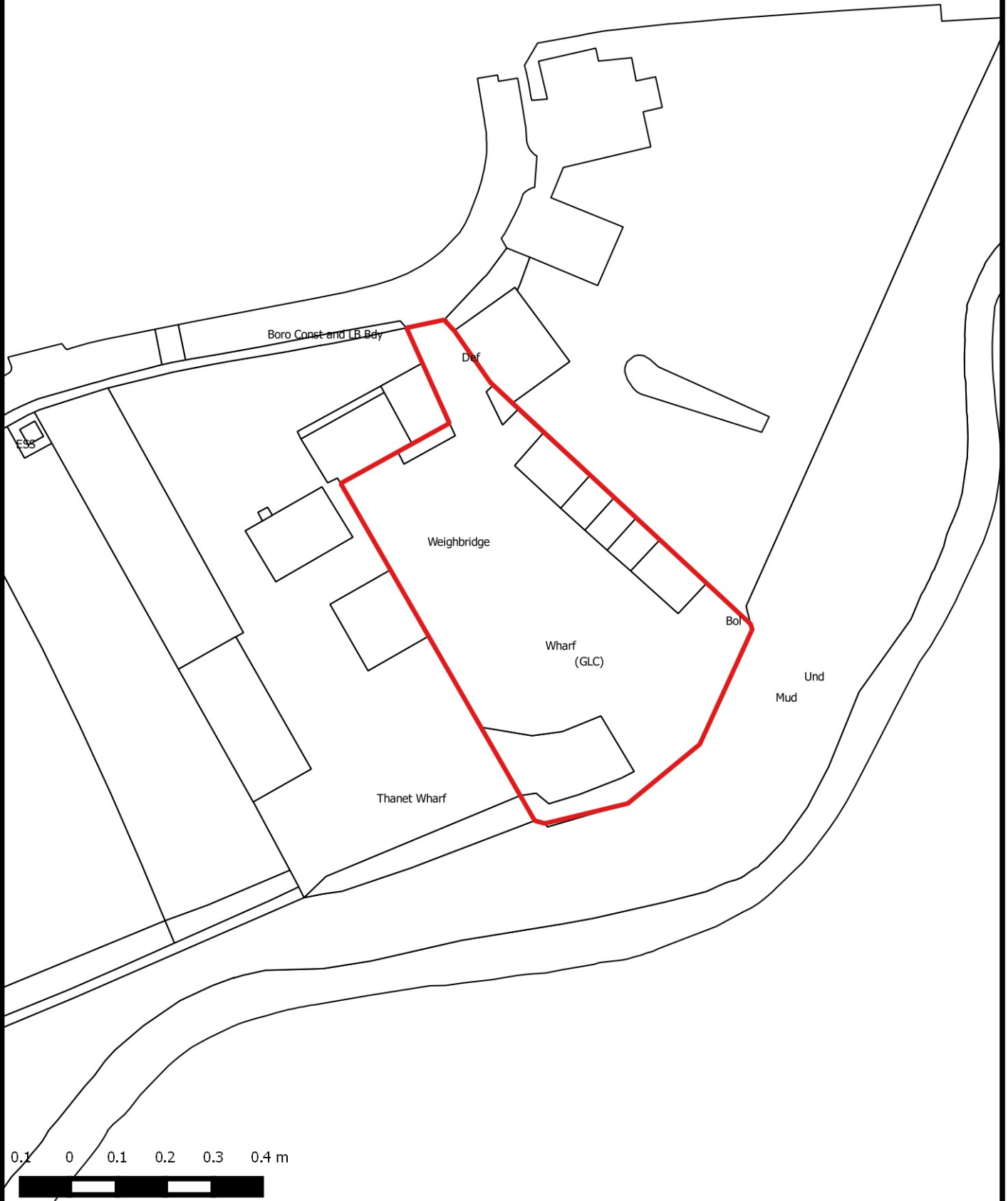
- 14.1 Mayor and Cabinet are recommended to proceed with the proposal as set out in these reports.

Appendix

Site plan

Contact details for the report author

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SCALE 1:1250

DATE: 15/03/16
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COPPERAS STREET WHARF PLOT

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MAYOR & CABINET		
Report Title	Exclusion of the Press and Public	
Key Decision	No	Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: March 23 2016

Recommendation

It is recommended that in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 and under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs [3, 4 and 5] of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

- 16. Creekside Copperas Street Depot Disposal Part 2

Agenda Item 17

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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