

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Agenda

Thursday, 21 September 2017

7.00 pm

Committee Room 1

Civic Suite

Lewisham Town Hall

London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Katie Wood (Tel: 02083149446)

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

Part 1

Item	Pages
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2017	1 - 6
2. Declarations of interest	7 - 10
3. Response to Referrals from this Committee	
There are no response to referrals due at this meeting.	
4. Evidence Session - Provision for the LGBT Community in Lewisham	
Report to follow	
5. Local Police Service Update	11 - 16
6. Safer Lewisham Plan	17 - 26
7. Select Committee work programme	27 - 56
8. Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet	

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Thursday, 21 September 2017.

Barry Quirk, Chief Executive
Tuesday, 12 September 2017

Councillor Pauline Morrison (Chair)	
Councillor James-J Walsh (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Brenda Dacres	
Councillor Colin Elliott	
Councillor Sue Hordijkenko	
Councillor Joyce Jacca	
Councillor Jim Mallory	
Councillor David Michael	
Councillor Pat Raven	
Councillor Paul Upex	
Councillor Alan Hall (ex-Officio)	
Councillor Gareth Siddorn (ex-Officio)	

MINUTES OF THE SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 12 July 2017 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Pauline Morrison (Chair), James-J Walsh (Vice-Chair), Brenda Dacres, Colin Elliott, Sue Hordijkenko, Councillor Joyce Jacca, Jim Mallory and David Michael

APOLOGIES: None

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Joe Dromey (Cabinet Member Policy & Performance), Andrew Jacobs (Organisational Learning and Talent Manager), James Lee (Service Manager, Inclusion and Prevention and Head of Cultural and Community Development), Barrie Neal (Head of Corporate Policy and Governance), Antonio Rizzo (Library and Information Services Manager), Simone van Elk (Cabinet Officer) and Katie Wood (Scrutiny Manager)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2017

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 26 June 2017 be agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

2. Declarations of interest

Councillor Walsh declared a personal interest in item 5 as he was employed by the London Southbank University Students Union.

Councillor Mallory declared a personal interest in item 6 as he was Chair of Lee Green Lives.

3. Response to Referrals from this Committee

RESOLVED:

That the responses to referrals be agreed.

4. Poverty Commission Update

4.1 Councillor Joe Dromey, Executive Member for Policy and Performance, introduced the report to the Committee. During his introduction and in response to questions from members of the Committee the following key points were highlighted:

- The Poverty Commission had been set up in response to recommendations from the Poverty Review by the Safer Stronger Communities, Select Committee. The Commission included 4 members of the Safer, Stronger Communities, Select Committee.

- A Poverty Summit had taken place on the 12 July 2017. There had been 70 attendees including many local stakeholders. Members of the Committee who attended reported that it had been very interesting and valuable.
- The review focused on: Employment and Skills; Housing; Child Poverty; and Community Resilience.
- The draft report would be prepared by the end of August and the final report was on the Committee's work programme for November.
- Members of the Committee reported that presentations by the Commission to Local Assemblies had been interesting and very well received.
- Members of the Committee welcomed the collaborative approach between scrutiny and Executive Councillors that had taken place through the Commission.

4.2 **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

5. **Library and Information Service Annual Report**

5.1 Antonio Rizzo, Service Manager, Lewisham Library and Information Service, presented the report to the Committee and tabled a summary brochure of the DCMS paper "Libraries Deliver" and a sketch plan of the proposed ground floor at Catford Library. Copies of these documents would be included with the agenda documentation for the meeting. During the presentation the following key points were noted:

- LB Lewisham had one of the best library services in London and this was reflected in the usage data and satisfaction levels which were very high.
- Library opening hours had increased. There was a fall in numbers of book loans of 12.7% compared with the last year which was a concern, however the number of e-book loans had doubled in the same time period and online resources and e-newspapers access had also increased.
- The IT in libraries was used widely and users liked the WiFi access with usage increased by 11.7% and more than 19,000 sessions provided across the libraries last year and an average of 104 hours WiFi access per day.
- Lewisham had the eight largest population of any London borough and the third highest number of active borrowers. Libraries in Lewisham cost approximately £1.27 per month per resident.
- Two externally funded projects were taking place across the libraries: "Mi WiFi Project" which was testing the concept of enabling residents to borrow internet enabled tablet computers from the library; and "What's the Story" which was a summer school journalism project.

5.2 In the discussion that followed, the following key points were raised:

- Members of the Committee were very impressed with the work of Lewisham staff and volunteers in ensuring the success of the library provision in Lewisham.
- Councillor Morrison left the meeting between 7.30pm and 7.35pm during this time the Vice-Chair chaired the meeting.

- It could be useful to have infographics available on library usage statistics that were easily understandable by Councillors and the public.
- The Lewisham library service is unique and an example of excellent partnership with the local community in delivering an outstanding provision.
- Universities could be approached to see if they were interested in working collaboratively for free with Lewisham libraries. Universities spent large amounts on attracting students and therefore might see it as an interesting investment.
- The importance of good IT infrastructure and WiFi access was raised, it was important to ensure the Council was supporting libraries with this.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

That a referral to Mayor and Cabinet be made highlighting the following comments:

- 1) That the Committee highlighted the need to properly resource support for the changing role of libraries. In particular, Members acknowledged the growing need for WiFi and WiFi access.
- 2) That the Committee felt that the promotion, both internally and externally, of news stories connected to libraries, must be done in an accessible way (for example, a greater use of infographics).
- 3) That members emphasised the need to connect the importance of libraries to the work being undertaken by the Poverty Commission.

6. Update on Main Grants Programme

6.1 James Lee, Head of Service, Culture and Community Development, presented the report to the Committee. In the discussion that followed, the following key points were raised:

- There was positive feedback regarding the target criteria for the new infrastructure offer. The outcome based approach to performance monitoring was also welcomed by members of the Committee.
- The importance of data being transparent and accurate was stressed particularly in the context of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) coming into force in May 2018.
- The development of the new infrastructure offer had been a complex process and the Council had worked closely with Voluntary Action Lewisham (VAL). There could be further discussion with VAL as to whether more financial criteria could be used as part of the offer and whether this could be included as an addendum.
- Additional detail was requested by the committee on information sharing following the introduction of the GDPR.
- The Council was intending to submit a bid to the GLA for the title of London Borough of Culture. The closing date for entries was December 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

7. Council's Employment Profile

7.1 Andrew Jacobs, Organisational Learning and Talent Management Manager, gave a presentation to the Committee, a copy of which will be included in the agenda documentation and on the website. In the discussion that followed the following key points were raised:

- The figures in the report for “unknown” characteristics included people actively choosing not to declare.
- There had been a push to offer more training and development opportunities for staff and uptake was increasing.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

8. Select Committee work programme

8.1 Barrie Neal, Head of Corporate Policy and Performance introduced the report to the Committee, during this introduction and in the discussion that followed, the following key points were raised:

- The Local Police Service Update was now on the work programme for September and a request had been made to include information on School's Police as part of this.
- Following the last meeting, the Chair had made a request to Business Panel regarding disproportionality across service areas. Business Panel was happy for Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee to consider an item on this if they chose to.

8.2 **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That the Chair write to the Executive Director for Children and Young People highlighting concerns raised during the meeting regarding the potential loss of LGBT youth service provision.
- 3) That a position paper be prepared for Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Members highlighting the role of the committee in relation to disproportionality across service areas.

9. Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet

9.1 **RESOLVED:**

That a referral be made to Mayor and Cabinet on the Library and Information Service Annual Report as listed under the minutes for agenda item 5.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____

This page is intentionally left blank

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Declaration of interests	
Contributor	Chief Executive	Item 2
Class	Part 1 (open)	21 September 2017

Declaration of interests

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

1. Personal interests

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Other registerable interests

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

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

4. Non registerable interests

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

5. Declaration and Impact of interest on members' participation

- (a) Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take 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)

This page is intentionally left blank

SAFER STRONGER COMMITTEE SELECT COMMITTEE			
Title	Police Service Update		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	05
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services, Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, Head of Law, Chief Superintendent (Borough Commander) Lewisham Police		
Class	Part 1	Date:	21 September 2017

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The future plans for local policing are embedded within the MOPAC Police and Crime plan and the Met Commissioners overall strategy for delivering an efficient, effective service within the context of significant savings that need to be met across the Met police area. This report covers the proposed new One Met model, safer schools police and Public Access consultation upon request of the Committee.
- 1.2 The information contained in this report is open to the public.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Members are asked to note the contents of the report and receive further updates on the pending changes as appropriate.

3. One Met model – The Vision

- 3.1 The MPS ambition is to be the safest global city in the world
 - 3.1.1 Every Community Safer, through: accountable and visible policing at the most local level, a step-change in the effectiveness of our services and a focus on protecting the vulnerable
 - 3.1.2 A Safer London, through: tackling new and growing threats, freeing up 1,000 officers from existing services and better management of demand
 - 3.1.3 A Transformed, Modern and Efficient Met, that looks and feels more like London, with officers with the skills, tools and approach necessary to police London effectively,
 - 3.1.4 The strategic priorities emerging from the Police and Crime plan Delivering “real” Neighbourhood Policing
 - Protecting Children and Young People
 - Violence against women and girls
 - A criminal justice system for all Londoners
 - Hate crime, Terrorism and Extremism

3.2 The Strengthening Local Policing Programme responds to these strategic drivers

3.2.1 Police will deliver local policing in a way that is more personal and responsive. It will also tackle crime and disorder effectively and efficiently across London as a whole.

3.2.2 Police will deliver this change in a way that engages, involves and motivates our officers and staff and that prepares the way for future change across London.

3.2.3 Police will manage change in a way that empowers and devolves responsibility to our leaders - so that they own and drive the change and that will deliver benefits to London

3.3 How it will be delivered

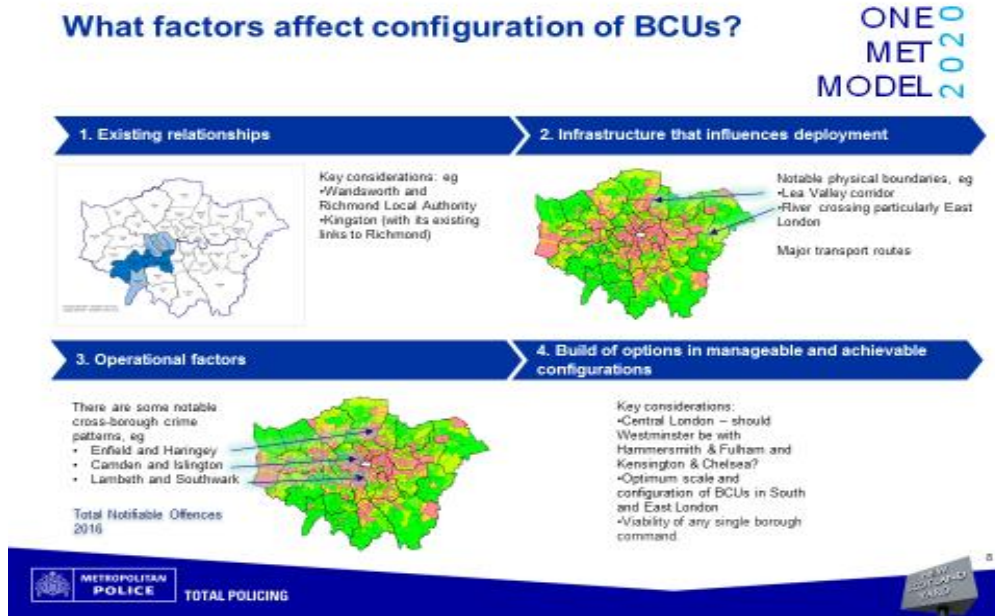
Neighbourhoods:

- A minimum of 2 Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) and one PCSO per ward that will be 'ring fenced' from abstraction.
- Additional DWOs to a total of over 1700 across London, allocated to higher demand wards through local consultation to address local priorities.
- 281 Youth and Schools Officers rising to 600 working full-time in schools, PRUs and other educational institutions to prevent crime and protect young people – again allocated through local consultation
- Partnership and Prevention teams in every BCU (approximately 300 officers in total) providing specialist crime prevention/problem solving advice in line with 'Prevention First', owning strategic problems affecting the BCU as a whole and working jointly closely with partners
- All staff will be locally based, and work to deliver on local priorities developed via local consultation

Protecting vulnerable people:

- This will bring together local and previously centrally managed services that have been dealing with child abuse, rape and domestic violence in one place
- Bringing these resources together will enable us to provide a more joined up, victim-focused service, by delivering larger, more resilient multi skilled teams
- A 'single front door' bringing together MASH and CAIT referral arrangements will offer more efficient referrals, support, and information sharing and effective partnership engagement
- Strengthened local accountability in delivering our joint safeguarding responsibilities

- Create a new, response functions to get the specialist skills straight to the scene of more serious crimes. Delivering immediate investigator – victim contact and reassurance at the earliest stage.



3.4 Pathfinder sites

3.4.1 There are currently 2 pathfinder areas in the Met. The lessons learnt from these will help shape the rest of London's approach.

4. Safer Schools Police

4.1 The current Safer Schools Partnership guidance outlines the following:

Aims: All Safer Schools Partnerships (SSPs) aim to ensure:

- The safety of pupils, staff and the school site and surrounding area;
- Help for young people to deal with situations that may put them at risk of becoming victims of crime, bullying or intimidation, and to provide support to those who do;
- Focused enforcement to demonstrate that those who do offend cannot do so without facing consequences;
- Early identification, support and where necessary challenge of pupils involved in or at risk of offending;
- Improved standards of pupil behaviour and attendance, and less need for exclusions;
- More positive relations between young people and the police and between young people and the wider community; and
- Effective approaches to issues beyond the school site that negatively impact on pupil safety and behaviour.

4.1.2 Desired outcomes

- All pupils reporting feeling safer because there are **positive relationships** between police, partners, and pupils.
- Reduced pupil or staff concern about **hotspots** on school site, school travel and school neighbourhood.
- Pupils most at risk of causing harm are challenged or supported through **early intervention** services tackling issues of behaviour, attendance and/or mental health.
- Pupils are more aware of risk factors to becoming victims and are more confident in how to avoid victimisation.
- Pupils feel safer and more secure at school.
- Pupils who become victims have support and advice on how to deal with it.
- Pupils have more confidence in how to get help if they need it.
- Reduction in pupil absence, particularly persistent absence
- Reduction in the need for exclusions.
- Police presence on school premises allows young people to become comfortable and familiar with police, and to build up trust.
- Reduced pupil or staff concern about **hotspots** on school site, school travel and school neighbourhood.

4.2 The following are areas supported by the role:

- Increasing personal safety of young people
- Engagement
- Safeguarding
- Tackling gangs and serious violence
- Tackling youth related ASB and crime
- Tackling violent extremism
- Tackling absenteeism

4.3 There is a commitment from the London Mayor's office for Policing and Crime to provide every secondary school with a schools officer by 2018. In addition there is a commitment to support schools in relation to the MOPAC Knife Crime Plan including things like knife wandering. The police will continue to support all schools.

5. Public Access consultation

5.1 The next Safer Neighbourhood Board is due to take place on 26 September 2017 will include a presentation by the Police on behalf of MOPAC on the proposed changes to Public Access in Lewisham – i.e. the consultation currently taking place around the potential closure of Police Station front counters. A member of MOPAC will also be present at the meeting to discuss the plans and assist with answering any questions from the public.

5.2 There are proposals that will impact on Lewisham and the Police are keen to hear views.

6. Next Steps

- Understand the lessons learnt from the pathfinder sites and how the model can work in Lewisham.
- Confirmation of the boroughs to link with Lewisham and review of opportunities, practical delivery, and implications and risks to Lewisham residents.
- Provide further information following the consultation on public access to the committee as appropriate.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 places an obligation upon Local Authorities to have a committee which scrutinises crime and disorder within its area.
- 7.2 Within the context of the powers of this committee, the section provides that it should have the power to “(a) review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities for example, police and other relevant partner agencies of their crime and disorder functions; (b) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.”
- 7.3 Further, where this committee makes a report or recommendations it shall provide a copy— (a) to each of the responsible authorities, and (b) to each of the persons with whom, and bodies with which, the responsible authorities have a duty to co-operate under section 5(2) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (“the co-operating persons and bodies”).
- 7.4 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the local authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to the combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 7.5 These statutory duties amongst others are relevant to the production of the council's Safer Lewisham Strategy.

8. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report for the Council, however there will be implications on Policing financial implications as outlined in the report.

9. Environmental Implications

Specific environmental implications of crime and disorder are reviewed annually through the strategic assessment process and appropriate action taken as required.

10. Equalities Implications

Equalities implications are considered throughout the delivery of this change.

11. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 11.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988, as amended places a duty upon Local Authorities to consider crime and disorder implications and in particular, “to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.” This statutory obligation is the same for the Authorities “responsible partners” too. The level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken through the day-to-day functions of local bodies and organisations.
- 11.2 Responsible authorities are required to provide a range of services in their community from policing, fire protection, planning, consumer and environmental protection, transport and highways. They each have a key statutory role in providing these services and, in carrying out their core activities, can significantly contribute to reducing crime and improving the quality of life in their area.

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

SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE			
Report Title	Safer Lewisham Plan 2017/18 - 6 Month Update		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	06
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services, Head of Crime Reduction and Supporting People		
Class	Part 1	Date	21 September 2017

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, places a requirement on Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) (In Lewisham, the Safer Lewisham Partnership) to develop a three year Crime and Disorder Strategy which sets out how crime and anti-social behaviour will be tackled – Safer Lewisham Strategy 2014-2017.
- 1.2 An additional responsibility is also placed on Community Safety Partnerships to produce a Strategic Assessment to ensure emerging community safety trends are captured, and priorities are refreshed where necessary.
- 1.3 The Annual Plan outlines the main priorities for the Safer Lewisham Partnership, which have been identified through the Strategic Assessment.
- 1.4 The accompanying **Strategic Action Plan** sets out how the Partnership will work together over the next year to tackle crime and disorder priorities building on best practice around effective crime reduction and clear objectives and outcomes to be achieved.
- 1.5 This report summarises activity carried out by Lewisham Council in partnership with other agencies relevant to ‘Safer’ strand, most of which are part of the Safer Lewisham Partnership (SLP) governance arrangement.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Members of the Committee note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 A further update be provided to the Committee at the end of the year so that they are sighted on 2018/19 Annual Plan.

3. Priorities set for 2017/18

- 3.1 Lewisham Council and the Safer Lewisham Partnership have a statutory obligation to analyse crime and disorder problems in the borough and agree priorities for a given financial year where the Partnership will focus most of its resources and activity.
- 3.2 The March 2017 meeting of the Safer Lewisham Partnership agreed the single priority of Violence:
- Gender based violence
 - Peer on peer abuse
 - All other violence Including organised crime
- 3.3 Appendix A outlines the agreed action plan with a number of areas completed and/or on track.

4. Performance

Violence with Injury

- 4.1 Overall, the main crime indicator for non-age restricted violent assaults – Violence with Injury – has risen by a statistically insignificant 3%.

Previous Quarter			Current Quarter		
01 Feb 17 - 30 Apr 17			01 May 17 - 31 Jul 17		
733			785		
<u>Feb 17</u>	<u>Mar 17</u>	<u>Apr 17</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>Jun 17</u>	<u>Jul 17</u>
219	272	242	250	273	262

Up 52 (7%)

Quarter Previous Year			Current Quarter		
01-May-16 - 31-Jul-16			01-May-17 - 31-Jul-17		
799			785		
<u>May 16</u>	<u>Jun 16</u>	<u>Jul 16</u>	<u>May 17</u>	<u>Jun 17</u>	<u>Jul 17</u>
302	264	233	250	273	262

Down 14 (2%)

Previous Year to Date		Year to Date	
01 Apr 16 - 31 Jul 16		01 Apr 17 - 31 Jul 17	
999		1,027	

Up 28 (3%)

- **Serious youth violence** has increased 33.4% from y 236 to 315 (R12 to July).
- **Knife crime (u25 non DA)** has increased 10% from 76 to 84 (R12 to July).
- **Domestic violence** with injury has increased by 10.5% from 979 to 1082 (R12 to June).

- 4.2 Serious Youth Violence and knife crime with injury has increased significantly across London. Current sub regional figures are included for comparative purpose

Borough	SYV	KCI (u25)	Domestic VWI
Southwark	439	123	1003
Croydon	473	103	1309
Lambeth	373	130	957
Lewisham	315	84	1082
Greenwich	266	78	842

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The SLP currently monitors the spend in relation to the MOPAC funding resource allocation in relation to tackling emerging issues. All other resources are delivered by individual agencies and monitored as appropriate.

6. Legal & Human Rights Implications

- 6.1 The Council is under a number of statutory obligations to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to formulate and implement a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder; the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 requires the Council as a local housing authority to have policies and procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places the Council under a duty to have, when carrying out its functions, due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between persons of different racial groups.
- 6.2 The Local Government Act 1999 places a duty on the local authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised having regard to the combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 6.3 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers the local authority to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of all or any persons within the local authority's area.
- 6.4 These statutory duties amongst others feed into the Council's Safer Lewisham Strategy.

7. Equalities Implications

- 7.1 Developing safe and secure communities is central to the work of the Council as a whole and in particular to the Community Services directorate. Reducing and

preventing crime, reducing fear of crime and supporting vulnerable communities is critical to the well-being of all our citizens.

8. Crime and Disorder Implications

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

9. Environmental Implications

- 9.1 Key decisions made which may have environmental implications. Environmental services are consulted about all agreed activity before proceeding.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 The SLP will continue to review its practice and that of the sub groups to ensure that all activity in relation to crime and disorder and drugs and alcohol is in line with the sustainable communities' strategy, and the Safer Lewisham Strategy as well as having links to children's and young person's board and the health and wellbeing board and safeguarding Boards.

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

Safer Lewisham Plan 2017-18 – Action Plan

Across all aspects the following will be the core of delivery:

- Inequalities/ disproportionality and how crime impacts disproportionately in geographical areas.
- Victims centred approach
- Consideration of trust and confidence in the partnership

VIOLENCE:

Peer on peer abuse

All strands of violence against women and girls within the defined strands of human trafficking, sexual violence, prostitution, domestic violence, stalking, forced marriage, ‘honour’-based violence and female genital mutilation (FGM). A specific and stated focus will be placed on raising awareness of VAWG, taking a zero-tolerance approach to VAWG, and using the coordinated community response (CCR) model to tackling VAWG.

What will be done?

	Actions	Time frame
Awareness raising	Borough wide campaign – “The Violence STOPS here” - communications strategy for professionals and residents	Begin July 17
	Open Day / Evening with the community – promoting safety measures such as Clare’s Law, local VAWG services etc.	Sept 17
	Conversation with leaders of all faiths and religious institutions.	July 17 / monthly
	VAWG & Arts – Drama productions about VAWG, and hosted in the community.	March 18
	Creation of a comprehensive VAWG Services directory	Sept 17

	<p>Establishing third party reporting sites at places like pubs and bars, where appropriate, to report incidents of VAWG.</p> <p>Launch of the VAWG Plan 2017-2021</p>	<p>March 18</p> <p>July 17</p>
Prevention	<p>Universal schools safety programme commissioned to include a focus on healthy relationships</p> <p>Work with Lewisham’s Safeguarding Children’s Board (LSCB) and the Adult Safeguarding Board to ensure that messages delivered through training are consistent. It will support practitioners to make the links between violence against women and girls, safeguarding children, child sexual exploitation, harmful behaviours, peer to peer abuse and vulnerable adults.</p>	<p>Sept 17</p> <p>Ongoing throughout the life of the Plan</p>
Action / intervention / enforcement	<p>Everyone taking an active stance of zero tolerance to gender based violence within organisations.</p> <p>Increased referrals to all agencies against the strands of gender based violence.</p> <p>Review of perpetrator programmes available and suitability for Lewisham</p> <p>Targeted practice in respect of the distinctions between intimate partner violence, familial violence and male victims.</p> <p>We will coordinate, monitor, review and aim to increase the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Domestic Violence Protection Orders b) Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare’s Law) c) FGM Protection Orders d) Forced Marriage Protection Orders. e) Stalking Protection Orders f) Modern Slavery Orders 	<p>March 18</p> <p>March 18</p> <p>Quarterly</p>

Analytical review	Deep dive of top DV victims and Deep dive of sexual violence linked to the Local Assessment profile on peer on peer domestic abuse	Sept 17
--------------------------	--	----------------

Peer on Peer abuse / Serious Violence

Focus on young people under Peer on Peer Abuse. This will include work in relation to identified serious youth violence, drugs markets, knives, firearms, trafficking, Child Sexual Exploitation, and cyber-crime. Particular focus on contextual violence and risk, harm and vulnerability will be essential.

What will be done?

	Actions	Timeframe
Awareness raising	A whole borough active stance on a zero tolerance approach to drug dealing in the community. Borough wide campaign – “The Violence STOPS here” - communications strategy for professionals and the wider Lewisham Community.	July 17
Prevention	Universal schools safety programme commissioned to include on line/bullying/ knife crime/ drug use/ healthy relationships. Imbed contextual risk understanding across all agencies and ensure assessments include this aspect	Sept 17 Review quarterly
Action / intervention / enforcement	Focused deterrence approach which ensures swift action by all in respect of peer on peer abuse. Implementation of a trauma informed model across services recognising the strong associations between victims, perpetrators, trauma, childhood conduct	Immediate – review quarterly March 18

	<p>disorders, and violent behaviour – increasing the level of people within the children’s workforce economy trained.</p> <p>Delivery against the Youth Justice Inspection Improvement Plan HMIP</p> <p>Continued use of the Serious Youth Violence Prevention Panel and Missing, exploited and trafficked panel to have a multi-agency management of identified cases</p>	<p>Quarterly review YJMB/ SLP</p> <p>Review 6 monthly for effectiveness</p>
Analytical review	<p>Improved understanding of the drivers and interdependencies across peer on peer abuse</p> <p>Develop the local assessment profile on on-line dangers and associated crime</p> <p>Develop understanding on the drug dealing / drug users / serious violence profile affecting Lewisham</p>	<p>6 month review</p> <p>Sept 17</p> <p>March 18</p>

All other forms of Violence

- Examples include:
- Aggravated burglary
 - Common assaults
 - Violence with injury
 - Hate crime where violence is a feature

What will be done?

	Actions	Timeframe
Awareness raising	Use of social media and bespoke communication to raise awareness of the risks and target at risk groups	July 17 – ongoing

	Advertising and advocate the use of the Hate crime reporting app	June 17
	Promoting the development of the MOPAC hub to tackle online Hate Crime	June 17 – ongoing
Prevention	Continued use of smart water in targeted areas	Review 6 monthly
	Broadening the remit of the Local Authority funded, Victim Support burglary target hardening initiative, to focus more on target hardening those deemed most vulnerable.	March 18
	Deliver on the community cohesion (Counter extremism) programme	Begin June 17
Action / intervention / enforcement	Targeted action on prolific offenders in these categories (Integrated Offender Management)	Review IOM – set up Board – weekly operational tasking
Analytical review	Through regular assessment, where other crime is identified requiring a different response this will be directed through a Partnership problem solving approach and agreed action	As required
	Drivers of violence will be identified and appropriated action taken I.e. alcohol	As required
	Development of a Profile of Organised crime as it affects Lewisham	March 18
	Assessing the scale of online/cyber-crime affecting Lewisham communities.	March 18

Appendix B

Priority Area	Performance Indicator	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17
Serious youth Violence	Rates of serious youth violence	222	229	216	236	237	235	244	244	257	260	264	272	284	292	318	315	N/A	N/A
Reduce the number of knife crimes by volume and of repeat victims	Rates of knife crime	70	81	76	77	71	71	67	74	75	74	78	87	87	79	82	84	N/A	N/A
Reduce the number of gun crimes	Rates of gun crime	10	10	10	10	13	13	11	11	12	11	13	12	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Violence with injury	Rates of violence with injury	149	206	174	160	185	168	167	159	158	136	129	176	153	158	168	178	N/A	N/A
Reduction in Common assault	Rates of common assault	185	208	206	210	171	195	206	200	217	205	196	207	217	242	233	232	N/A	N/A
Reduction in aggravated burglary	Rates of burglary	151	184	184	170	185	153	166	170	167	177	206	191	196	176	145	159	N/A	N/A
Reduction in violent injuries identified via the LAS and Hospital A and E data	Attendances by London Ambulance Service (LAS) to knife assaults (ages 1 - 24)	29	32	31	35	31	33	33	34	33	32	33	31	52	53	54	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reduction in repeat victimisation of VAWG offences	Repeat Victimization - Domestic Violence	109	147	116	151	119	151	116	107	140	N/A	141	176	176	140	158	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Note: The average London percentage of women affected by domestic violence is currently 86%	94	126	100	130	102	130	100	92	120	N/A	121	151	151	120	136	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non Domestic Violence	Rates of Violence Against the Person overall	684	797	806	776	719	725	742	762	759	678	690	821	742	833	844	850	N/A	N/A

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Select Committee work programme	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item 7
Class	Part 1 (open)	21 September 2017

1. Purpose

To advise Committee members of the work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year, and to decide on the agenda items for the next meeting. This report also includes the addition of **Appendix D**, to inform members of the policy and legislative intentions of the new Conservative government.

2. Summary

- 2.1 At the beginning of the new municipal year, each select committee drew up a draft work programme for submission to the Business Panel for consideration.
- 2.2 The Business Panel considered the proposed work programmes of each of the select committees on 22 May 2017 and agreed a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme. However, the work programme can be reviewed at each Select Committee meeting so that Members are able to include urgent, high priority items and remove items that are no longer a priority.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the work plan attached at **Appendix B** and discuss any issues arising from the programme;
- specify the information and analysis required in the report for each item on the agenda for the next meeting, based on desired outcomes, so that officers are clear about what they need to provide;
- review all forthcoming key decisions, attached at **Appendix C**, and consider any items for further scrutiny;

4. The work programme

4.1 The work programme for 2017/18 was agreed at the Committee's meeting on 26 April 2017.

4.2 The Committee is asked to consider if any urgent issues have arisen that require scrutiny and if any existing items are no longer a priority and can be removed from the work programme. Before adding additional items, each item should be considered against agreed criteria. The flow chart attached at **Appendix A** may help Members decide if proposed additional items should be added to the work programme. The Committee's work programme needs to be achievable in terms of the amount of meeting time available. If the Committee agrees to add additional

item(s) because they are urgent and high priority, Members will need to consider which medium/low priority item(s) should be removed in order to create sufficient capacity for the new item(s).

5. The next meeting

5.1 The following reports are scheduled for the meeting on Thursday 2 November 2017:

Agenda item	Review type	Link to Corporate Priority	Priority
Evidence Session – Provision for the LGBT Community	In-depth Review	Community leadership Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity.	High
Poverty Commission – Final Report	Policy Development	Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity.	High
Community Cohesion Report	Policy Development	Safety, security and a visible presence	High

5.2 The Committee is asked to specify the information and analysis it would like to see in the reports for these items, based on the outcomes the Committee would like to achieve, so that officers are clear about what they need to provide for the next meeting.

6. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

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

8. Equalities Implications

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

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

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

- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

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

9. Date of next meeting

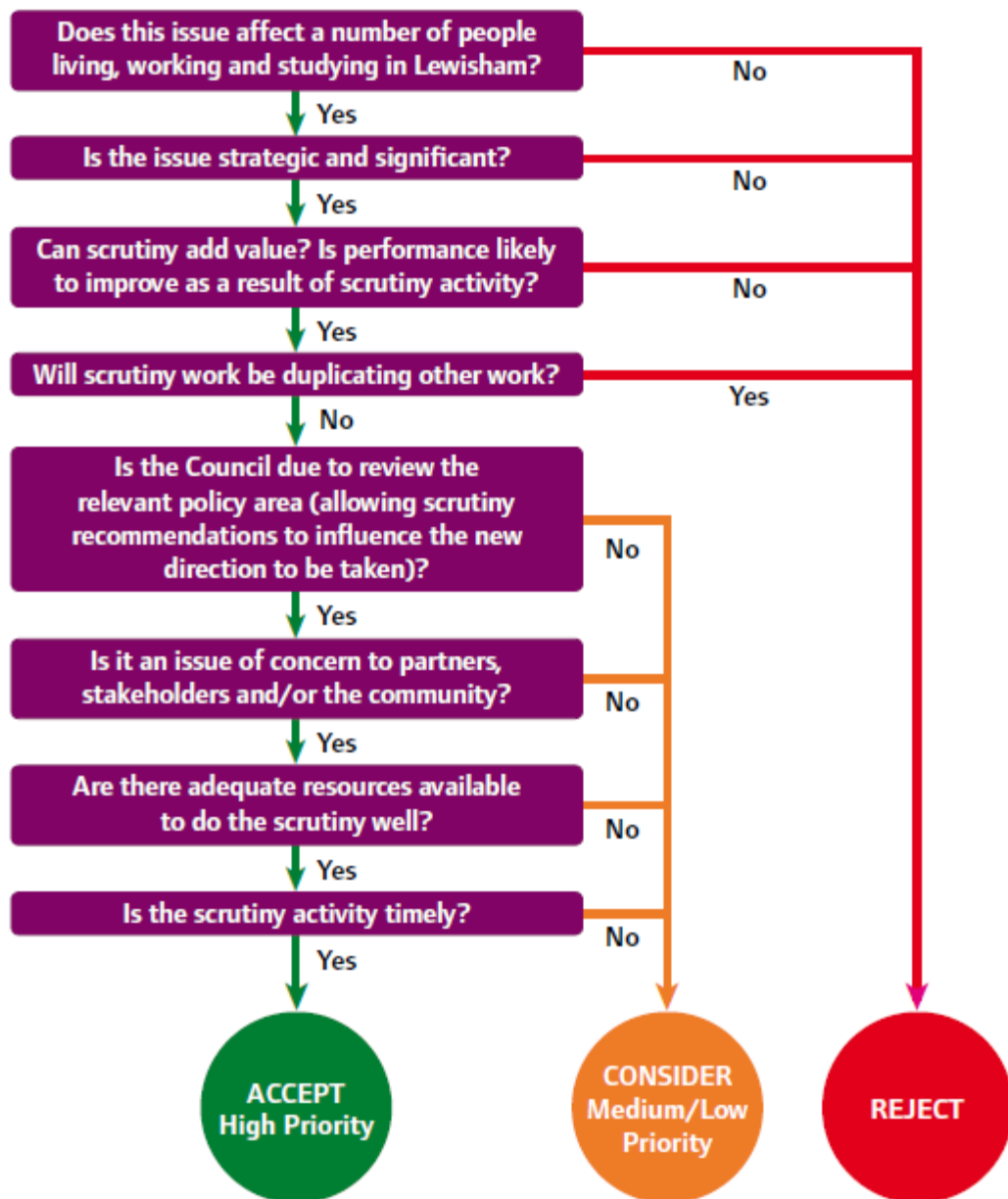
The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 13 December 2017.

Background Documents

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Centre for Public Scrutiny: the Good Scrutiny Guide

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



Work Item	Type of review	Priority	Strategic Priority	Delivery deadline	26-Apr	26-Jun	12-Jul	21-Sep	02-Nov	13-Dec	25-Jan	07-Mar
Lewisham Future Programme	Standard Item	High	CP10	Apr-17					SAVINGS			
Election of Chair and Vice-Chair	Constitutional requirement	High		Apr-17								
Select Committee Work Programme 2017/18	Constitutional requirement	High		Apr-17								
Demographic Change	Rapid Review	High	CP1	Apr-17	Evidence Ses	Final Report						
Capacity in the Voluntary Sector - response to recs	Response to recs	High	CP1	Apr-17		Response				6-month update		
Provision for the LGBT community	In-depth review	High	CP1 and CP10	Dec-17		Scope		Evidence	Evidence	Report		
Implementation of employee survey action plan	Policy Development	High	CP10	Jun-17								
YOS inspection action plan	Performance Monitoring	High	CP4	on-going								
Draft Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2017-2021	Policy Development	High	CP4	Jun-17								
Poverty Commission	Policy Development	High	CP10	Nov-17					Final Report			
Library and Information Service Annual Report.	Performance Monitoring	High	CP10	Jul-17								
Local Police Service Update	Performance Monitoring	High	CP4	Jul-17								
Council's Employment Profile	Performance Monitoring	High	CP10	Jul-17								
Update on Main Grants Programme	Performance Monitoring	High	CP10	Jul-17								
Community Cohesion (inc extremism strategy)	Policy Development	High	CP1,CP4 and CP10	Nov-18								
National Probation Service and community rehabilitation company	Standard Item	High	CP4	Jan-18								
disproportionality in the criminal justice system	Policy Development	High	CP4 and CP10	Jan-18								
Safer Lewisham Plan	Performance Monitoring	High	CP4	Mar-18								
Implementation of the CES	Performance Monitoring	High	CP1	Mar-18								
Local Assemblies	Performace Monitoring	High	CP1	Mar-18								

	Item completed
	Item on-going
	Item outstanding
	Proposed timeframe
	Item added

Meetings			
1)	26-Apr		5) 02-Nov
2)	26-Jun		6) 13 Dec
3)	12-Jul		7) 25-Jan
4)	21-Sep		8) 07-Mar

This page is intentionally left blank

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Forward Plan September 2017 - December 2017

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

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

A "key decision"* means an executive decision which is likely to:

- (a) result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates;
- (b) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.

	Blackheath Joint Events Policy 2017-2020	13/09/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Rachel Onikosi, Cabinet Member Public Realm		
	Housing Infrastructure Fund - Bids for Catford town centre, Lewisham Interchange and Lewisham Gateway	13/09/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith,		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS					
Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			Deputy Mayor		
	Fostering Strategy	13/09/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Sara Williams, Executive Director, Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
February 2017	Telephony re-procurement	13/09/17 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
August 2017	New Homes Programme	13/09/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
August 2017	Agreement to enter into a contract to deliver a Training and Work Experience Programme in Good Hope Cafes with For Jimmy	13/09/17 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
May 2017	Sangley and Sandhurst Road Highway Improvement Scheme Contract Award	13/09/17 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
April 2017	Proposed revision to the contract structure of the Downham Health & Leisure Centre PFI	13/09/17 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Joan Millbank, Cabinet Member Third Sector & Community		
	Foster Care Preferred Provider Framework Extension	13/09/17 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Sara Williams, Executive Director, Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
May 2017	Audited Accounts and Pension Fund Accounts 2016/17	20/09/17 Council	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
May 2017	Financial Regulations and Directorate Schemes of Delegation	20/09/17 Council	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
	Insurance Renewal Contracts	26/09/17 Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
March 2017	Achilles Street Regeneration Proposals	04/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
June 2017	Joint Strategic Depot Review	04/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Rachel Onikosi, Cabinet Member Public Realm		
June 2017	PLACE / Deptford: Precision Manufactured Temporary Accommodation	04/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
	Discretionary Business Rates Scheme 2017/2018 Revaluation Support	04/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
June 2017	Update and preferred provider position refurbishment of Ladywell Playtower.	04/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor		
	Debts write-off for Recoupment of Invoices	04/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Sara Williams, Executive Director, Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin,		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
	Response to Consultation regarding changes to Targeted Short Breaks Provision	04/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Sara Williams, Executive Director, Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
May 2017	Community Services Youth Theatre and Performing Arts Review	04/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)	Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Joan Millbank, Cabinet Member Third Sector & Community		
May 2017	Transfer of the Applications Support Function to the LB Brent Shared Service	25/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
	Lewisham Homes Business Plan	25/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Kevin Sheehan, Executive Director for Customer Services and Councillor Damien Egan, Cabinet Member Housing		
June 2017	Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Update	25/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Alan Smith,		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS					
Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			Deputy Mayor		
	School Improvement Partnership	25/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Sara Williams, Executive Director, Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People		
	Introduction of a new Public Space Protection Order	25/10/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Aileen Buckton, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Janet Daby, Cabinet Member Community Safety		
May 2017	Report of the Barriers to Participation Working Party	22/11/17 Council	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Suzannah Clarke, Chair Planning Committee C		
May 2017	Lewisham Future Programme 2018/19 Revenue Budget Savings	06/12/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Janet Senior, Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration and Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member Resources		
June 2017	Deptford Lounge & Tidemill School Facilities and Centre Management	06/12/17 Mayor and Cabinet	Sara Williams, Executive Director, Children and Young People and Councillor Paul Maslin, Cabinet Member for		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			Children and Young People		

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials

Overview and Scrutiny Committee			
Report Title	Conservative Party Manifesto, Conservative-DUP Agreement, Queen's Speech and Brexit Update		
Contributors	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration	Item	
Class	Part 1 (Open)	Date	11 July 2017

Introduction

1. This report sets out the policy and legislative programme of the new Conservative administration. The above mentioned programme reflects the commitments set out in the Conservative Party Election manifesto published in May as well as the contents of the Queen's Speech and the Conservative-Democratic Unionist Party Agreement, both of which were released in June 2017. In addition, this report includes an update on Brexit.

Background and context

2. The 2017 UK General Election was called just two months after the Government had triggered Article 50, signalling the UK's intention to leave the European Union. Citing the need for a clear mandate to commence the Brexit negotiations as a rationale, on 18 April 2017, the Prime Minister Theresa May announced she would seek an Election on 8 June.
3. The Prime Minister had previously indicated that she had no plans to call a snap poll. However, a House of Commons motion to allow this was passed on 19 April, with 522 votes for and 13 against (a majority of 509) meeting the required two-thirds majority to permit the early dissolution of Parliament as required by the Fixed Term Parliaments Act of 2011.
4. The Election result, saw the Conservative Party win the largest number of seats in Parliament (318) but short of the 326 required to form a majority Government. In total the Conservatives lost 13 seats compared to 2015. By contrast, Labour won 262 seats (up 30 compared to 2015), the Liberal Democrats 12 seats (up 4 on 2015), whilst the Scottish Nationalists won 35 seats (down 21 on the last General Election). The Green Party held on to the one seat secured in 2015.
5. Crucially in the context of this Election, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) won 10 seats. Following days of negotiation, it was to the DUP that the Conservatives turned to secure the working majority necessary to form a Government.

Policy programme

6. This section of the report covers the manifesto commitments made by the Conservative Party that specifically affect local government or the broader public

sector. Some of these manifesto commitments have made their way into the Government's legislative programme over the term of the new administration.

7. The Conservative Party manifesto set out, what it describes as, the five giant challenges as follows:
 - the need for a strong economy
 - Brexit and a changing world
 - enduring social divisions
 - an ageing society
 - fast-changing technology
8. Set out under the sub-headings below (taken directly from the manifesto text) is a summary of key elements of the broader policy programme of the new Government.

A strong economy that works for everyone

9. The manifesto sets out that a strong economy is the basis for everything the Conservatives want to achieve for the nation. Key commitments under this theme are as follows:

9.1 The economy

- increase the personal allowance to £12,500 and the higher rate to £50,000
- continue to ensure that local residents can veto high increases in Council Tax via a referendum
- make longer term reforms to the business rates system to address concerns about the way it currently works (to include a full review of the system to make sure that it is up to date for a world in which people increasingly shop online)
- simplify the tax system
- continue to increase the National Living Wage to 60 per cent of median earnings by 2020 and after that, by the rate of median earnings
- take steps to ensure that people working in the 'gig' economy are properly protected
- ask the independent Migration Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the Government about how the visa system can become better aligned with the administration's modern industrial strategy

A strong and united nation in a changing world

10. The manifesto pledges: an orderly and smooth exit from the European Union, to strengthen democracy and recognise the role played by the public sector. Key commitments under this theme are as follows:

10.1 Brexit legislation

- enact a Great Repeal Bill that will convert EU law into UK law, allowing Parliament the ability to pass legislation to amend, repeal or improve any piece of EU law that it chooses
- bring forward additional bills to ensure that when the UK has left the EU, there is a clear statutory basis for UK authorities to exercise powers that are currently exercised through EU law and institutions

10.2 Democratic institutions

- legislate to ensure that a form of identification must be presented before voting
- continue with the current boundary review, enshrining the principle of equal seats, while reducing the number of MPs to 600
- make sure that Councils receive help to deal with asylum seekers and refugees as they arrive and establish schemes to help individuals, charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to provide housing and other support for refugees
- take new powers to force Councils to remove roadside litter and prosecute offenders
- place new duties on Councils to consult when they wish to cut down street trees
- establish in law, the freedom for employees to mutualise, where appropriate within the public sector

The world's great meritocracy

11. The manifesto pledges to make Britain the world's Great Meritocracy, with "more" to be done to support millions of people who live in "ordinary working families". Key commitments under this theme are as follows:

11.1 Education and employment

- prohibit Councils from creating any new places in schools that have been rated either 'inadequate' or 'requires improvement' by Ofsted
- introduce new funding arrangements so that a specialist maths school can be opened in every major city in England
- lift the ban on the establishment of selective schools, subject to conditions, such as allowing pupils to join at other ages as well as eleven
- strengthen the teaching of literacy in the early years so that all pupils regardless of background get the best possible start in life
- make funding fairer and ensure that no school has its budget cut as a result of the new formula
- increase the overall schools budget by £4 billion by 2022 and continue to protect the Pupil Premium to support those who need it
- offer a free school breakfast to every child in every year of primary school, while children from low-income families will continue to receive free school lunches
- break down the barriers to public sector workers taking on more qualified roles because of their prior educational attainment (eg: teaching assistants)

can become qualified teachers and healthcare assistants can become qualified nurses via a degree apprenticeship route)

- offer a full-year National Insurance Contributions holiday to those employing former wards of the care system, ex-offenders, those with disabilities, people with chronic mental health problems and those who have been unemployed for a year

11.2 Communities and social integration

- bring forward a new integration strategy
- work with schools to ensure that those with intakes from one predominant racial, cultural or religious background teach their students about pluralistic British values
- take further steps to reduce immigration from outside the European Union

11.3 Tackling crime and criminal justice

- consider what new criminal offences and aggravated offences need to be established to defeat extremists
- takes steps to address pay gaps for gender and race as well as the experiences of those affected by mental health problems of who are disabled
- legislate to enshrine a definition of domestic violence and abuse in law, providing the legal underpinning for everything in the new act
- create a domestic violence and abuse commissioner in law to stand up for victims and survivors
- ensure that victims who have life-time tenancies and flee violence are able to secure a new lifetime tenancy automatically
- enshrine victims entitlements in law, making it clear what level of service they should expect from the police, courts and criminal justice system
- widen the role of police and crime commissioners to help them cut crime for their local communities
- create a national community sentencing framework that punishes offenders and focuses on the measures that have a better chance of turning people around and preventing crime such as curfews and orders to tackle drug and alcohol abuse

A restored contract between the generations

12. The manifesto sets out a commitment to restore the contract between generations, providing older people with security against ill health, whilst ensuring that the promise of opportunity and prosperity for young people is maintained. Key commitments under this theme are as follows:

12.1 Social care and health

- maintain the pensions triple lock until 2020, thereafter introduce a new double lock – meaning that pensions will rise with earnings or inflation
- align the future means-testing for domiciliary care with that for residential care so that people are looked after in the place that is best for them

- introduce a single capital floor, for care costs, set at £100,000 (more than four times the current means test threshold)
- extend freedom to defer payments for residential care to those receiving care at home, so that no-one will have to sell their home in their life-time to pay for care
- introduce a new statutory entitlement to carers leave – in recognition of the fact that the majority of care is informally provided mainly by families
- as part of Brexit negotiations, make it a priority that the 140,000 staff from EU countries can continue to work in the NHS
- enable more care to be delivered closer to home by building and upgrading primary care facilities, mental health clinics and hospitals
- increase the Immigration Health Surcharge to £600 for migrant workers and £450 for international students
- implement the recommendations of the Accelerated Access Review to make sure that patients get new drugs and treatments faster while the NHS gets better value for money and remains at the forefront of innovation
- retain the 95 per cent Accident & Emergency target, and the 18 week elective care standards, so that those needing care receive it in a timely fashion
- review the NHS' own internal market and, in time for the start of the 2018 financial year, make non-legislative changes to remove barriers to the integration of care
- extend the scope of the Care Quality Commission to cover the health-related services commissioned by local authorities
- legislate for an independent healthcare safety investigations body in the NHS
- recruit up to 10,000 more mental health professionals and require medical staff to have a deeper understanding of mental health

12.2 Housing

- deliver on the reforms proposed in the Housing White Paper to free up more land for new homes in the right places, speed up build-out by encouraging modern methods of construction and give Councils powers to intervene where developers do not act on their planning permissions
- enter into new Council Housing Deals with ambitious, pro-development local authorities to help them build more social housing
- reform Compulsory Purchase Orders to make them easier and less expensive for Councils to use and to make it easier to determine the true market value of sites
- give housing associations greater flexibility to increase their housing stock, building on their considerable track record in recent years
- reform and modernise the home-buying process so that it is more efficient and less costly

12.3 Children and families

- introduce, in 2017, thirty hours of free childcare for three and four year olds for working parents who find it difficult to manage the costs of childcare
- institute a capital fund to help primary schools to develop nurseries where they do not currently have the facilities to provide one

- publish a Green paper on young people’s mental health before the end of this year
- ensure that Councils provide consistency of care and cannot relocate vulnerable children far from their home when it is not in their best interests to do so
- demand all local authorities be commissioners of the highest quality family support and child protection services, removing these responsibilities from the weakest Councils and placing them in trust

Prosperity and security in a digital age

13. Responding to the opportunities, challenges and threats of the digital age, the manifesto commits to assure the British people of security and fairness and strengthen the UK’s position as one of the world’s leading digital economies. Key commitments under this theme are as follows:

- develop a digital charter, working with industry and charities to establish a new framework that balances freedom with protection for users and offers opportunities alongside obligations for businesses and platforms
- publish operational performance data of all public-facing services for open comparison as a matter of course – helping people to hold their local services to account or choose other better services if they prefer
- set out a strategy to rationalise the use of personal data within Government, so that the wider public services comply with the ‘once-only’ principle by 2025
- support new providers seeking to use digital technology to monitor long-term conditions better, deploy carers to patients or support domiciliary care away from hospitals

The Conservative- Democratic Unionist Agreement

14. Following the General Election, the Conservatives emerged as the party with the largest number of seats. Unable to meet the threshold of 326 seats (required to form a Government outright) the Conservatives approached the DUP in an effort to form a governing majority. As part of the agreement, that facilitated the deal, the DUP will support the Conservatives in Parliament in an arrangement commonly known as ‘confidence and supply’.

15. A confidence and supply agreement is one whereby a party or independent members of parliament will support the Government in motions of confidence and appropriation or budget (supply) votes, either by voting in favour or abstaining. However parties and independent members normally retain the right to otherwise vote in favour of their own policies or on conscience on legislative bills.

16. The main elements of the above-mentioned agreement, which were revealed on 26 June 2017 are as set out under the sub headers below.

confidence and supply agreement in the UK Parliament

17. The DUP agrees to support the Government on all motions of confidence; and on the Queen's Speech; the Budget; finance bills; money bills, supply and appropriation legislation and estimates.
18. In line with the parties' shared priorities for negotiating a successful exit from the European Union and protecting the country in the light of recent terrorist attacks, the DUP also agrees to support the Government on legislation pertaining to the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union; and legislation pertaining to national security. Support on other matters will be agreed on a case by case basis.
19. The DUP agrees to support the Government in votes in the UK Parliament, in line with this agreement.

policy agreement

20. Both parties have agreed that there will be no change to the Pensions Triple Lock and the universal nature of the Winter Fuel Payment. The parties agree to meet the NATO commitment of spending 2% of GDP on the armed forces. Both parties are committed to the Armed Forces Covenant and to its implementation throughout the United Kingdom.
21. Both parties agree to work together to consider options to support the highly successful reserve forces in Northern Ireland. The parties recognise the importance of the agriculture sector to Northern Ireland and the opportunities for growth that exist. Agriculture will be a critical policy area during the EU exit negotiations.
22. The parties agree to continue to commit the same cash total in funds for farm support until the end of the Parliament. Further discussions will take place on the future framework for farming support.

financial support

23. The UK government will allocate £200 million per year for 2 years and with sufficient flexibility as to the choice of project to ensure the Executive is able to deliver the York Street Interchange (infrastructure) Project and other priorities.
24. The UK government will contribute £75 million per year for 2 years to help provide ultra-fast broadband for Northern Ireland. In order to target pockets of severe deprivation, the UK government will provide £20 million per year for 5 years to support the Northern Ireland Executive to deliver this measure.
25. The UK government will, allocate an additional £50 million per year for 2 years to enable the Executive to address immediate pressure in health and education. The UK government will allocate £100 million per year for 2 years to support the Northern Ireland Executive's delivery of its priority of health service

transformation. The UK government will provide £10 million per year for 5 years to support the Northern Ireland Executive for mental health.

The Queen's Speech 2017

26. The Queen's Speech, which sets out the Government's legislative programme for the Parliamentary session, was delivered on 21 June 2017. A briefing paper circulated by the Cabinet Office set out that: *this Queen's Speech is about recognising and grasping the opportunities that lie ahead for the United Kingdom as we leave the European Union:*

- *delivering a Brexit deal that works for all parts of the United Kingdom;*
- *building a stronger, fairer country by strengthening our economy, tackling injustice and promoting opportunity and aspiration.*

27. In total the Government is proposing to bring forward 27 Bills in this Parliament. A number of these (eight in total) focus specifically on Brexit. Notable Bills in the Queen's Speech are as follows:

- **Repeal Bill** - this Bill will allow for a smooth and orderly transition as the UK leaves the EU, ensuring that, wherever practical, the same rules and laws apply after exit and therefore maximising certainty for individuals and businesses.
- **Customs Bill** - the Bill will ensure that the UK has a standalone UK customs regime on exit; provides flexibility to accommodate future trade agreements with the EU and others and ensures that changes can be made to the UK's VAT and excise regimes to ensure that the UK has standalone regimes on EU-exit.
- **Trade Bill** - the Bill will cement the United Kingdom's status as a leading trading nation, driving positive global change through trade, whilst ensuring UK businesses are protected from unfair trading practices.
- **Immigration Bill** - With the repeal of the European Communities Act, it will be necessary to establish new powers concerning the immigration status of EEA nationals. The Bill will allow the Government to control the number of people coming here from Europe while still allowing us to attract the brightest and the best.

28. A summary of other key Bills introduced in the Queen's Speech are attached to this report as an Appendix A, whilst a summary of relevant non-legislative measures is set out at Appendix B.

Brexit update

29. The following paragraphs summarise the legislative and policy and decision-making framework guiding Britain's exit from the European Union. These

summaries update the position, since the last briefing to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2017.

The United Kingdom's Exit from and New Partnership with the European Union: White Paper

30. In February 2017, the Government published a White Paper which set out the Government's broader vision for Brexit going forward. The document achieved three things; firstly it underlined the Government's commitment to follow through with plans to withdraw from the EU and honour the outcome of the EU Referendum; secondly, it set out the first stage in the legislative process for EU withdrawal and finally, it set out the 12 key priorities for the UK's exit.

European Union (notification of withdrawal) Act

31. The European Union (notification of withdrawal) Bill was introduced in Parliament on 31 January 2017 and sought to confer power on the Prime Minister to notify, under Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union, the United Kingdom's intention to withdraw from the EU. The Bill received Royal Assent and became an Act of Parliament on 16 March 2017.

Article 50

32. Article 50 of the EU Treaty is a basic five-point plan of action, should any country wish to leave the European Union. Once Article 50 is activated a nation state is cut out of EU decision-making at the highest level and there will be no way back unless by unanimous consent from all other member states. Article 50 was triggered on 29 March 2017.

Great Repeal Bill White Paper

33. Building on the formal triggering of Article 50 the day before, on 30 March 2017, the Great Repeal Bill White Paper was published. The Bill sets out the Government's proposals for ensuring a functioning statute book once the UK has left the EU. In simple terms, the Great Repeal Bill will convert the body of European legislation – into UK law at the moment the European Communities Act (the governing charter for EU law) is repealed.

Formal negotiation

34. Formal Brexit negotiations commenced on the 19 June 2017. The initial focus of the discussions has been the rights of some 3 million EU nationals living in the UK and the 1 million UK citizens living in the EU. On 26 June, the Government published a policy paper, which sets out proposals for addressing this issue specifically. As part of this, the paper makes clear that EU citizens looking to remain in the UK can do so. The paper also confirms the creation of a new 'settled status' for EU citizens who arrive before a cut-off date, which is yet to be specified and will be agreed as part of the negotiations with the EU.

35. Under the proposals, applicants who already have five years' continuous residence in the UK will be immediately eligible for settled status. Those who arrived before the specified date but do not yet meet the five year threshold by exit day will be allowed to stay until they reach that milestone and can also secure settled status. EU citizens who are granted settled status will be treated like a comparable UK national, entitled to broadly the same rights and benefits.
36. A grace period of up to two years will be in place for all EU citizens, including those who arrive after the cut-off date, allowing them to regularise their status to remain in the country.
37. In terms of the UK's wider negotiating stance, a statement to Parliament by Brexit Secretary David Davis, after the Queen's Speech, underlined the Government's commitment to exit both the Single Market and the Customs Union. Although in the same statement, the Secretary of State made clear that leaving the Single Market does not mean losing access to the Single Market.

Legal implications

38. At the time of writing, it is premature to be specific as to exact legal implications, save for noting that we will need to keep this under review. In any event, the obligations for us as a Local Authority pursuant to, for example, the provisions of the Equality Act, will continue.
39. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
40. 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.
41. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed above.
42. The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The Mayor

must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.

43. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has 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:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice>

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-technical-guidance>

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

- [The essential guide to the public sector equality duty](#)
- [Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making](#)
- [Engagement and the equality duty: A guide for public authorities](#)
- [Objectives and the equality duty. A guide for public authorities](#)
- [Equality Information and the Equality Duty: A Guide for Public Authorities](#)

45. 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:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance#h1>

Financial implications

46. There are no direct financial implications in noting this report.

Crime and disorder implications

47. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988, as amended, places a duty upon Local Authorities to consider crime and disorder implications and in particular, “to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of

those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.” This statutory obligation is the same for the Authorities “responsible partners” too. The level of crime and its impact is influenced by the decisions and activities taken through the day-to-day functions of local bodies and organisations.

48. The Queen’s Speech outlined that new legislation will be brought forward to protect the victims of domestic violence and abuse. This may have implications for a range of statutory services when the detail is laid out.

Information relied upon in the preparation of this report	
1.	Forward Together: Our Plan for a Stronger Britain and Prosperous Future; The Conservative and Unionist Party Manifesto, May 2017
2.	Standing Strong for Northern Ireland: the DUP Manifesto for the 2017 Westminster Election
3.	The United Kingdom’s Exit from and Partnership with the European Union, March 2017
4.	The Great Repeal Bill White Paper, UK Parliament, March 2017
5.	The Queen’s Speech and Associated Background Briefing, on the Occasion of the Opening of Parliament, June 2017
6.	Conservative-DUP Agreement, June 2017
7.	Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals living in the EU, June 2017

Appendix A: Queen's Speech - Key Bills

Repeal Bill

This Bill will allow for a smooth and orderly transition as the UK leaves the EU, ensuring that, wherever practical, the same rules and laws apply after exit and therefore maximising certainty for individuals and businesses.

Customs Bill

The Bill will ensure that the UK has a standalone UK customs regime on exit; provides flexibility to accommodate future trade agreements with the EU and others and ensures that changes can be made to the UK's VAT and excise regimes to ensure that the UK has standalone regimes on EU-exit.

Trade Bill

The Bill will cement the United Kingdom's status as a leading trading nation, driving positive global change through trade, whilst ensuring UK businesses are protected from unfair trading practices.

Immigration Bill

With the repeal of the European Communities Act, it will be necessary to establish new powers concerning the immigration status of EEA nationals. The Bill will allow the Government to control the number of people coming here from Europe while still allowing us to attract the brightest and the best.

Smart Meter Bill

In order to help deliver more transparent energy bills and allow households to monitor their use effectively.

National Insurance Contributions Bill

The Bill will legislate for National Insurance contributions (NICs) changes announced at previous fiscal events (Budget 2016 and Autumn Statement 2016).

Courts Bill

The Bill will reform the courts system in England and Wales to ensure it is more efficient and accessible, and in doing so utilise more modern technology.

Draft Tenants' Fees Bill

Tackling unfair fees on tenants will make the private rental market more affordable and competitive.

Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill

In line with the manifesto commitment, draft proposals will be published to update the law to help tackle the evil of domestic abuse and violence. Proposals will be published in draft for scrutiny by MPs and peers to help build a consensus and raise the profile of this issue.

Civil Liability Bill

This Bill will crack down on fraudulent whiplash claims and is expected to reduce motor insurance premiums by about £35 per year.

Financial Guidance and Claims Bill

The Bill will combine three financial advice bodies into one, ensuring that people across the UK are able to seek the help and advice they need to manage their finances.

Goods Mortgage Bill

The Bill will implement recommendations from the Law Commission to update Victorian era law on logbook loans.

Data Protection Bill

The Bill will fulfil a manifesto commitment to ensure the UK has a data protection regime that is fit for the 21st century.

Draft Patient Safety Bill

The draft Bill will set out a framework to help improve patient safety in the NHS and instil greater public confidence in the provision of healthcare services in England.

Appendix B: Queen's Speech - Non legislative measures

Counter Terrorism Review

This review of counter-terrorism legislation is part of a broader review of our whole approach to counter-terrorism. Urgent work is already underway which will ensure that Government is doing everything possible to address the threat from terrorism and keep the public safe, drawing on lessons from the recent attacks in London and Manchester.

Commission for Countering Extremism

This Government is committed to identifying and stamping out extremism across society, promoting pluralistic British values and reducing tolerance of extremism. To support this we will be establishing a statutory Commission for Countering Extremism that will play a key role in supporting communities and the public sector to identify and confront extremism wherever it exists.

Public Inquiry into the Grenfell Tower Fire

On 15 June 2017, the Prime Minister announced a full public inquiry would take place to look into the circumstances behind the tragic fire which broke out in Grenfell Tower in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Independent Public Advocate

The purpose of the Independent Public Advocate is to keep the bereaved and surviving victims of disasters informed of progress in any relevant investigation and make them fully aware how they can contribute to that investigation. The Public Advocate will be able to access information held by public bodies and will, where appropriate, report on or share that information with representatives of the victims.

Mental Health Reform

The Mental Health Act 1983 sets out the legal framework in England and Wales for the treatment and detention of people with mental ill health, including when such action may be compulsory. The Act has not been fully updated for 34 years, although the Mental Health Act 2007 made changes. The Government will now begin to consider what further reform of mental health legislation is necessary, including changes in how the Act is implemented on the ground.

Social Care

The Government will work to address the challenges of social care for our ageing population, bringing forward proposals for consultation to build widespread support.

Digital Charter

The Government will develop a Digital Charter that will create a new framework which balances users' and businesses' freedom and security online. The Charter will have two core objectives: making the UK the best place to start and run a digital business and the safest place in the world to be online.

Public Finances

The Government will reflect on the message voters sent at the General Election – while always remembering that we have to balance the books and eliminate the

deficit we inherited following the financial crisis. This is to ensure that future generations do not pay when we fail to live within our means. The Government values the important work that public sector workers do in delivering essential public services. We can only have well-funded public services and high standards of living if we deliver a stronger economy and increase our productivity.

Schools and Technical Education

The Government will continue to encourage more people, schools and institutions with something to offer to come forward and help deliver more good school places. To continue the growth of good or outstanding school places, we have made available to academies and maintained schools a £140 million Strategic School Improvement Fund. We will continue to convert failing maintained schools into academies so that they can benefit from the support of a strong sponsor, and we are focused on building capacity across the system to enable this, including through growing new multi academy trusts.

National Living Wage

We want to make sure employment rules and rights keep up to date to reflect new ways of working, and that is why in October we asked Matthew Taylor to conduct an independent review into modern employment practices. The Matthew Taylor Review of Employment Practices is an important step towards us ensuring fairness for everyone in work and we look forward to receiving the report shortly.

Tackling the Gender Pay Gap and Discrimination

The Government will make further progress to tackle the gender pay gap and discrimination against people on the basis of their race, faith, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Housing

The Government will deliver the reforms proposed in the White Paper to increase transparency around the control of land, to “free up more land for new homes in the right places, speed up build-out by encouraging modern methods of construction and diversify who builds homes in the country. The Government will consult and look to take action to promote transparency and fairness for leaseholders. We will look at the sale of leasehold houses and onerous ground rents, working with property developers, the Competition and Markets Authority and others as outlined in the Housing White Paper.

Consumer Markets, including the Energy Market

The Government will publish a green paper that will closely examine markets which are not working fairly for consumers, and is prepared to act where necessary.