

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Tuesday, 29 October 2019  
**7.00 pm**, Committee Rooms 1 & 2  
Civic Suite  
Lewisham Town Hall  
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Charlotte Dale (020 8314 8286)

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

## Part 1

<b>Item</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019	1 - 6
2. Declarations of Interest	7 - 9
3. Response to the Committee's referral	10 - 16
4. Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session	17 - 37
5. Referrals to Mayor & Cabinet	

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Tuesday, 29 October 2019.

Kim Wright, Chief Executive  
21 October 2019

Councillor Bill Brown (Chair)

Councillor Sakina Sheikh (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye

Councillor Abdeslam Amrani

Councillor Tauseef Anwar

Councillor Peter Bernards

Councillor Juliet Campbell

Councillor Suzannah Clarke

Councillor Patrick Codd

Councillor Tom Copley

Councillor Liam Curran

Councillor Sophie Davis

Councillor Colin Elliott

Councillor Aisling Gallagher

Councillor Leo Gibbons

Councillor Alan Hall

Councillor Carl Handley

Councillor Octavia Holland

Councillor Sue Hordijkeno

Councillor Coral Howard

Councillor Mark Ingleby

Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin

Councillor Caroline Kalu

Councillor Silvana Kelleher

Councillor Louise Krupski

Councillor Jim Mallory

Councillor Paul Maslin

Councillor Joan Millbank

Councillor Hilary Moore

Councillor Pauline Morrison

Councillor John Muldoon

Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa

Councillor Lionel Openshaw

Councillor Jacq Paschoud

Councillor John Paschoud

Councillor Stephen Penfold

Councillor Kim Powell

Councillor James Rathbone

Councillor Alan Smith

Councillor Luke Sorba

Councillor Eva Stamirowski

Councillor James-J Walsh

Councillor Susan Wise

## MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 11 June 2019 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Bill Brown (Chair), Sakina Sheikh (Vice-Chair), Abdeslam Amrani, Tauseef Anwar, Peter Bernards, Patrick Codd, Liam Curran, Sophie Davis, Colin Elliott, Aisling Gallagher, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Sue Hordijkeno, Coral Howard, Mark Ingleby, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Silvana Kelleher, Jim Mallory, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Stephen Penfold, Kim Powell, James Rathbone, Luke Sorba and Eva Stamirowski

APOLOGIES: Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye, Juliet Campbell, Suzannah Clarke, Tom Copley, Leo Gibbons, Octavia Holland, Louise Krupski, Lionel Openshaw, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise

ALSO PRESENT: Charlotte Dale (Interim Overview and Scrutiny Manager), Mayor Damien Egan (Mayor), Barrie Neal (Director of Corporate Policy and Governance), Katharine Nidd (Strategic Procurement and Commercial Services Manager) (LBL), Georgina Nunney (Principal Lawyer) and Janet Senior (Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration)

### 1. Minutes of the meetings held on 7 March 2019 and 3 April 2019

1.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes be approved as accurate records of the meetings.

### 2. Declarations of interest

2.1 There were none.

### 3. Response to Referrals - Procurement Process and Legal Advice

3.1 In relation to the procurement referral response, the Chair reminded Members that there would be a procurement all-member briefing on Monday 17 June.

3.2 In relation to the legal advice referral response, the Chair commented that he was unhappy with the time it had taken to agree an acceptable process for managing Q&A sessions and had asked if all future legal advice to scrutiny could come directly from the Head of Law. In response to comments from a member of the Committee it was noted that parity of esteem with the Executive was of paramount importance and that legal advice should aim to facilitate what Members want to do, whilst ensuring it was legally and constitutionally acceptable.

3.3 **RESOLVED:** That the responses be noted.

#### **4. Responses to questions raised with Cabinet Members at previous meetings of Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

4.1 **RESOLVED:** That the responses be noted.

#### **5. Q&A Session with the Mayor**

5.1 The Mayor introduced his report and ran through some of the notable achievements of the administration to date:

- The new corporate strategy
- Being open about austerity
- Becoming a sanctuary borough and welcoming more refugee families
- Improving school results with the Lewisham Learning Partnership
- The Greening Fund
- Insourcing contracts
- The public health approach to serious youth violence
- Establishing corporate values.

5.2 The following responses to questions were heard:

##### **1. Insourcing**

The decision on the future of Youth First would be taken by Members and in line with the commitment to consider insourcing wherever possible. The relevant report would include an exploration of this option. The buildings used by Youth First remain council owned and Youth First pays a lease and running costs. Youth First was also being looked at as part of the Early Help Review.

##### **2. Cycle Routes and the Catford Masterplan**

Cycling provision is a key part of the Catford masterplanning process, including the Bromley Road cycle route. The Catford masterplan has highlighted the benefits of taking a place based approach and there have been calls for masterplans in other parts of the borough.

##### **3. Webcasting**

One of the recommendations of the Local Democracy Review is to start webcasting meetings and this is likely to come in during the course of the municipal year. The 26k paid to public-i thus far for support should still be able to be used; and an update on whether the timeframe for using the purchased support can be extended would be provided.

##### **4. Modern Slavery**

The Council was pioneering in terms of modern slavery and had revised procurement procedures to address this issue. However, it was accepted that whilst trying to procure more from small and medium sized businesses was positive, these organisations often lacked the resources to fully analyse their supply chains. The Council had chosen to focus initially on high risk areas and had signed up to “Electronics

Watch” run by a Dutch organisation that provided recommended suppliers for electronics.

**5. Workforce development**

5 staff from Kier had become council employees, alongside another 45 that had also been brought in. HR was also working on a leadership programme which would have a particular focus on the recruitment and progression of BAME staff.

**6. Plastic waste**

Although assurances had been received about how our plastic recycling was processed, the Mayor would confirm the current arrangements for plastic recycling processing and seek assurances on how and where it is processed. He would also look into the potential for shredding plastic waste and turning it into bricks.

**7. Lewisham Learning**

The Interim Director of Lewisham Learning was leaving in September but recruitment for his replacement was underway.

**8. Under 5 Base, Bellingham Green**

The maintenance of the under 5 base on Bellingham Green by Eco Communities would be investigated.

**9. Tidemill**

All legal avenues open to the protesters had been exhausted. It was believed that the local campaign groups would now be leaving the site. Work to build out the site and provide social housing would start shortly, with more than 100 families expected to be taken off the housing register as a result of the development. The costs incurred by the council as a result of the meanwhile users of the site not leaving the site as agreed, was in the region of £1m.

**10. Affordable and temporary housing**

Three pop up temporary accommodation developments were in the pipeline. The Ladywell site was due to be built out to provide more housing. The target was for 50% genuinely affordable housing. In terms of affordable housing, the Council wanted London Living rent or below, with lifetime tenancies. Developers were getting the message that the Council had high expectation regarding percentages of genuinely affordable housing on new developments (at London Living rent levels or below). There were some legacy developments that already had some planning permissions agreed but where possible, percentages would be renegotiated.

**11. Private Renters Union**

An update on progress in establishing a Private Renters Union would be provided. There was no reason why the Lewisham branch of the London Renters Union would not be consulted on plans.

**12. Sanctuary Borough**

The Council held a range of civic events to welcome refugees and work was very much focussed on involving the community and gaining the trust of local community groups working with migrants.

### **13. Lewisham Town Centre/ S106 and CIL**

The Council wanted to ensure that all section 106 funding and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding was spent in a way which maximised its positive effects and involved the community and councillors, as part of a long-term sustainable approach. The Greening fund was making use of S106 funding. The approach for spending neighbourhood CIL funding was due to be agreed at the next Council meeting. Local Assemblies would be involved and areas without a lot of development but high on the deprivation index would still benefit from funding under the proposed formula for its allocation.

### **14. HMOs**

There was a cartel of landlords buying up properties to turn into HMOs on the edge of the inner London (to benefit from higher housing payments). Where this impacted on Lewisham, Phoenix Housing Association was offering to buy properties which was a more preferable option to rogue landlords. The Council had imposed article 4 directions in Bellingham, Downham, Grove Park and Whitefoot (withdrawing permitted development rights for HMOs). The borough wide licensing scheme had to be consulted on for one year prior to imposition or the Council would be liable to pay compensation to landlords affected by the scheme. Councillors should encourage residents to take part in the consultation.

### **15. Catford Conservative Club building**

There were no plans not to have a pub on the site of the former Catford Conservative Club building. The building was of historical significance and the restoration of the building was estimated to cost in the region of £1.5m. Potentially a mixed development with housing might be possible. A timeline for the early phase of the Catford regeneration programme, including plans for the building that was formerly the Catford Conservative Club, would be provided. It was noted that the owners of the pub operating from the site, who paid a peppercorn rent, did not pay the London Living Wage and were not maintaining the building very well as per their rental agreement.

### **16. Communications**

It was accepted that the Council needed to communicate its successes better and that communications could have more of a political edge. A new Head of Strategy and a new Head of Communications were now in place. It was clear that officers with press experience and digital skills were needed. There had been a number of recent positive communication examples including the council tax letter, the communications around the proposed landlord licensing scheme, parking charges communications and the use of hoarding to promote positive messages around development sites. Councillors must be kept

in the loop so they could promote communications messages via social media.

### **17. Asset Management**

The Mayor would provide an update on any plans for the Willow Way site and options for its future use; in addition to an update on the establishment of a comprehensive digital register of council owned assets.

5.3 **RESOLVED:** That a referral to Mayor and Cabinet be made, outlining the further information requested by the Committee:

- ***Webcasting meetings***

To provide an update on whether the web-casting support hours that have been purchased by the Council can be used later this year once webcasting comes into practice (i.e. if the timeframe for using the purchased support can be extended).

- ***Under 5 Base***

To provide an update on the maintenance of the under 5 base on Bellingham Green by Eco Communities.

- ***Plastic recycling***

To confirm the arrangements for plastic recycling processing and seek assurances on how and where it is processed.

- ***Private Renters union***

To provide an update on progress in establishing a Private Renters Union.

- ***Catford Masterplan***

To provide a timeline for the early phase of the regeneration programme, including plans for the building that was formerly the Catford Conservative Club.

- ***Green and food waste***

To provide an update on why this is currently being collected together and when this interim phase might end and clearer separation put in place.

- ***Willow Way site***

To provide an update on any plans for the Willow Way site and options for its future use.

- ***Asset Register***

To provide an update on the establishment of a comprehensive digital register of council owned assets.

**6. Referrals to Mayor & Cabinet**

6.1 A referral was made in relation to the item on the agenda entitled "Q&A Session with the Mayor".

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Chair:

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Date:

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<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>			
<b>Title</b>	Declarations of Interest	<b>Item No.</b>	2
<b>Contributor</b>	Chief Executive		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1 (open)	29 October 2019	

## Declaration of interests

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

### 1 Personal interests

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

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

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

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

(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or

(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person\* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **(5) Declaration and impact of interest on members' participation**

- (a) Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take not part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**
- (b) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the

matter and vote on it unless paragraph (c) below applies.

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

## **(6) Sensitive information**

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

## **(7) Exempt categories**

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

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

# Agenda Item 3

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Questions to the Mayor.	
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	Item No. 3
<b>Ward</b>	All	
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Corporate Services (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 29 October 2019

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the response given at Mayor and Cabinet on 18 September 2019 to a referral made by the Committee at its meeting held on 11 June 2019.

## 2. Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To report to Members the response given at Mayor and Cabinet to requests for further information made by the Committee regarding the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's questions to the Mayor.

## 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The Committee is recommended to receive the Mayor & Cabinet response to its comments on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's questions to the Mayor.

## 4. Background

- 4.1 The Mayor and Cabinet considered the attached report at the Mayor & Cabinet meeting held on 18 September 2019.

## 5. Mayor & Cabinet Response

- 5.1 The Mayor and Cabinet received an officer report on the referral and a presentation from the Mayor.
- 5.2 The Mayor and Cabinet unanimously resolved that the response be approved and forwarded to the Committee.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Jasmine Kassim, Senior Committee Manager on 0208 314 8577

<b>MAYOR &amp; CABINET</b>			
Report Title	Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee - requests for further information		
Key Decision	No		Item No.
Ward	All		
Contributors	The Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Environment		
Class	Open	Date: 18 September 2019	

### **Purpose**

1. This report provides responses to requests for further information at the meeting of Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 11 June 2019.

### **Recommendation**

2. Mayor & Cabinet is asked to note the responses from officers and agree that they be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Further information**

3. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on whether the web-casting support hours that have been purchased by the Council can be used later this year once webcasting comes into practice (i.e. if the timeframe for using the purchased support can be extended).
4. In April 2018, the Council purchased 140 hours of webcast support time from Public-i as part of a pilot for webcasting Council meetings. A very limited number of hours were used during the course of the year 2018-19 due in part to technical difficulties with the system. Officers have agreed with the provider that any unused hours from 2018 will be rolled into the 2019-20 contract at no extra cost.
5. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on the maintenance of the under 5 base on Bellingham Green by Eco Communities.
6. The Bellingham Green Playclub was previously let to Eco Communities, but they vacated in late 2017. Since then, it has been used as a storage facility by various parties, including the Council's Public Realm CCTV department, the

Bellingham Leisure Centre and Glendale. Officers are happy to consider other uses of the building, such as a playgroup, subject to a suitable viability assessment being carried out and the above parties vacating. A site inspection is being arranged with the CCTV team to begin this process.

7. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on the arrangements for plastic recycling processing, and assurances on how and where it is processed.
8. Recycling in Lewisham is collected co-mingled. Once tipped at our interim contractor Bywaters, it is processed in to single streams (for example paper, card, plastic etc.) Plastic is then broken down into six categories: HDPE; clear plastic film; PET; mixed rigid; PP/HD mixed plastic; and hard plastic crates. There are strict guidelines on the processing and transporting of waste enforced through the Environment Agency. Where any Lewisham recyclate is sent abroad, the contractor will only work with Environment Agency-accredited and licensed facilities. The contractor has a robust system of traceability and is able to demonstrate that reprocessing has taken place. Bywaters provide officers with monthly information detailing the end destination of all the recycling they receive from Lewisham, including the end destination of plastics. All waste data is available in the public domain at [www.wastedataflow.org](http://www.wastedataflow.org), the web based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government.
9. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on progress in establishing a Private Renters Union.
10. Work to establish a Private Renters Union will commence following the outcome of the application for Lewisham Council's proposed new landlord licensing scheme, which could potentially impact all private sector properties in Lewisham. The Council's Private Sector Housing Agency (PSHA) is leading the work to deliver the commitment for a borough-wide license scheme for landlords as outlined in the Corporate Strategy. Plans have been prepared to introduce two new licensing schemes; together these will ensure all private rented properties in the borough will be required to obtain a license. If approved following submission to the Secretary of State in November 2019, this will require a significant increase in resource and activity to ensure a successful implementation of the scheme. As part of this, officers will work to develop a Private Renters Union to help give a voice to tenants living in the private rented sector.
11. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for a timeline for the early phase of the Catford regeneration programme, including plans for the building that was formerly the Catford Conservative Club.

12. The masterplan framework for Catford Town Centre is due to be completed later this year, with the aim of adoption by Mayor & Cabinet in early 2020. The Council-owned elements of Catford Town Centre will likely come forward in phases over a projected 15 year development period. The proposed first element of this will be the realignment of the A205 South Circular, working in partnership with Transport for London, and potential early development sites could include a temporary re-use of part of the Milford Towers Car Park to improve the shopping centre experience, and restoration works to the Catford Constitutional Club. TfL's current programme is aiming to start construction of the road in 2022, with a projected two year construction period. The car park and Catford Constitutional Club projects could come forward sooner, subject to approval by the Council and required planning permissions. Any plans for the Catford Constitutional Club and wider site will include redevelopment of land to deliver new homes, with a minimum of 50% of those at affordable levels, and the re-provision of a pub.
13. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on why green and food waste is currently being collected together and when this interim phase might end and clearer separation put in place.
14. Currently, green and food waste is collected together because both types of waste are sent to be recycled into compost. This is an interim solution as officers are looking at ways to send organic material for anaerobic digestion, a natural process in which microorganisms break down organic materials. Only organic materials (such as animal manures, food scraps, fats oils and greases etc) can be sent for anaerobic digestion meaning that in the future, green and food waste will be processed separately. As soon as the Council is able to send waste for anaerobic digestion, we want residents to be in the habit of handling green and food waste separately. It should also be noted that only around 12.5% of eligible residents have a brown bin, so joint or separate collection of food waste will not be relevant for them.
15. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on any plans for the Willow Way site and options for its future use.
16. Willow Way is currently vacant following its most recent use as the temporary Adamsrill School. Officers have been trying to rent the site out for storage or other purposes but unfortunately none of the interest to date has come to fruition. Officers believe the site has development potential and, although it is not part of Council's current social homes programme, officers have started to look at potential redevelopment options which would provide new homes and employment space. In due course this will form part of a development programme for delivery.
17. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on the establishment of a comprehensive digital register of council owned assets.

18. Following extensive work on the Council's register of all of its non-housing assets over the past several years, the Council holds the comprehensive asset register both in Excel format and on the Council's asset management software system. Councillors can inspect the register on request to officers.

### **Financial implications**

19. There are no financial implications arising from the updates in this report at this time. However, there may be financial implications in relation to the range of issues, proposals and plans referred to in this composite report as they are worked through and decisions made to put them into action. Financial implications will be provided individually on these specific matters at the appropriate time in line with the Council's constitution and control framework for committing spend.

### **Legal implications**

20. There are no specific legal implications arising from the updates in this report at this time. However, there may be legal implications in relation to the range of issues, proposals and plans referred to in this composite report as they are worked through and decisions made to put them into action. Legal implications will be provided individually on those specific matters at the appropriate time.

### **Equalities implications**

21. There are a range of equalities implications arising from the various responses provided for this report. Specifically, the report makes reference to the use of technology, regeneration activity, housing development and the engagement of communities – which may impact on protected characteristics. In addition to this, socio-economic implications may arise for those who face disadvantage as a result of their income status. In due course, relevant implications will be provided as specific proposals are developed. As appropriate, any proposals that are taken forward will also be considered in light of the objectives of the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme:
  - Tackling victimisation, discrimination and harassment
  - Improving access to services
  - Closing the gap in outcomes for our citizens
  - Increasing mutual understanding and respect within and between communities
  - Increasing participation and engagement

### **Environmental implications**

22. There are no specific environmental implications arising from the updates in this report at this time. However, there may be environmental implications in relation to the range of issues, proposals and plans referred to in this composite report as they are worked through and decisions made to put them into action. Environmental implications will be provided individually on these specific matters at the appropriate time.

**Crime and disorder implications**

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

If there are any queries relating to this report please contact James Noble on 020 8314 9258.

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
Title	Cabinet Member Question & Answer Session	
Contributor	Executive Director for Corporate Services (Overview and Scrutiny Manager)	Item 4
Class	Part 1 (open)	29 October 2019

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to question Executive Decision Makers on their portfolios.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Note the Cabinet Member updates appended at Appendix B.
- Ask the Cabinet Members to summarise their recent work and outline their priorities for the next six months and beyond.

## 3. Further information

- 3.1 Part of the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to hold the Council's Executive to account. Therefore, during the course of each year it will hold Question & Answer sessions with the Mayor and each Cabinet Member.
- 3.2 Each Question & Answer session will explore the work the Mayor and Cabinet Members have done in relation to their portfolio, looking at priorities, actions, achievements and impact.
- 3.3 The areas that fall within the portfolio of the Cabinet Members attending the meeting are outlined at Appendix A.
- 3.4 Brief written updates from the Cabinet Members can be found at Appendix B.
- 3.5 The Committee may wish to focus questions on:
- Notable activities and achievements
  - Current priorities
  - Current challenges
  - Any key decisions going to Mayor & Cabinet over the next 6 months.
- 3.6 Following the session the Committee may choose to make a referral to Mayor and Cabinet in relation to what the Committee has heard, including any actions it would like the Cabinet Members to consider.

3.7 Those Cabinet Members who have not yet attended a question and answer session this municipal year, will be asked to attend one of the remaining meetings (27 January 2020 or 5 March 2020)

*For further information, contact Charlotte Dale on 0208 314 8286*

**Cabinet Member Portfolios**

**Councillor Brenda Dacres and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport (job share)**

Within the portfolio, Cllr Dacres leads on:

- Highways
- Transport
- Bakerloo Line Extension
- Parking strategy and enforcement
- Liveable neighbourhoods

Within the portfolio, Cllr McGeevor leads on:

- Air quality
- Environment and climate change
- Parks and green spaces
- Recycling and waste reduction
- Street cleaning and fly tipping
- Street markets
- Bereavement services

**Councillor Joe Dromey and Cllr André Bourne, Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share)**

Within the portfolio, Cllr Dromey leads on:

- Local economic development and inclusive growth
- Youth employment
- Apprenticeship programme
- Social enterprise
- Business and retail support
- Adult education, HE and FE

- Welfare reform

Within the portfolio, Cllr Bourne leads on:

- Leisure centres
- Culture
- Arts
- Broadway Theatre
- Sports development and London Youth Games
- Evening and night time economy

**Councillor Jonathan Slater, Cabinet Member for the Community Sector**

- Libraries
- Local Assemblies
- Community development
- Volunteering
- Council events including People's Day and Blackheath Fireworks
- Community centres
- Equalities
- Accessibility Commission
- Child poverty
- Grants
- Community energy

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Update from Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport (job share)	
Key Decision	No	Item No: 4a
Ward	All	
Contributors	Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport (job share)	
Class		Date: 29 October 2019

### Purpose

1. This report provides an update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport (job share), Cllr Sophie McGeevor and Cllr Brenda Dacres.

### Recommendation

2. Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note this report.

### Environment

3. Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019. The Council has committed to do everything within its power to become carbon neutral by 2030. Lewisham is emerging as one of the lead local authorities when it comes to action against a climate catastrophe. This declaration has led to a flurry of activity across the Council.
4. Lewisham's existing greenhouse gas emission target was to reduce carbon emissions by 44% by 2020, from a 2005 baseline. The Council is on track to meet this target. According to the latest data from Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Council has reduced emissions by 38% by 2017 and has the second lowest greenhouse gas emissions per capita of any local authority in England.
5. Lewisham Council has commissioned expert research to provide an evidence base for compiling a comprehensive Climate Emergency Action Plan. The evidence base will:
  - Establish the basis for defining and measuring the carbon neutral target
  - Identify the 'business as usual' trajectory for carbon emissions in Lewisham
  - Identify and cost the additional actions required to reach the target

This Action Plan is due to be presented to Mayor and Cabinet in March 2020.

6. The Council removed single use plastic cups and stirrers from Council buildings in 2019.
7. The Council successfully launched the Greening Fund this year. The Greening Fund makes accessing Section 106 agreements easier for local community groups for improvements to green spaces. 45 applications were received, of which 32 have been provisionally allocated funding. Overall £360,000 has been allocated in total to the projects currently approved. Projects in this funding include 113 extra bins, 8 water fountains and 3 outdoor gym equipment.
8. 4 water fountains were installed in 2019 and 8 further fountains have been given provisionally approval via the Greening Fund.

9. On air pollution, Lewisham Council continues to be a leading borough in tackling air pollution. For London's first Car Free Day, Lewisham had the third highest number of road closures by borough, with 34 play streets taking place. This is in addition to the 4 play streets that have taken place in 2019.
10. In 2019, the Council has supported 3 schools in installing Green Screens. These 3 schools were awarded £10,000 in funding from the GLA, each award was match-funded by £10,000 from the Council. These three schools were Deptford Park Primary School, Haseltine Primary School and St James Hatcham Primary School.
11. To tackle air pollution, in September 2019, Mayor and Cabinet approved a Traffic Management Order to be put in place across the borough to allow Penalty Charge Notices to be issued when a driver refuses to stop idling, under the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended by section 87 of the Environment Act 1995). This will see people who refused to turn off their engines be fined up to £80. This will hopefully act as an effective deterrent to idling, which causes increased particulate matter pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, Lewisham is continuing to run an anti-idling awareness campaign with our schools. This has seen a banner competition using school children's winning designs to raise awareness with parents about the dangers of idling.
12. Lewisham's parks continue to be some of the best in London with 15 Green Flags and a further 3 Community Green Flags. This summer saw the launch of the restored Beckenham Place Park. The Park has already seen unprecedented use by residents. The Council responded quickly to health and safety concerns over the paddling area in the lake by shutting off the lake to the public. The lake was then quickly reopened with additional safety restrictions to ensure the enjoyment of the lake for all users. The use of the lake over the autumn and winter months are currently in discussion. Additionally, improvements to the eastern side of the park remain a key priority.
13. On 10 October 2019, Mayor and Cabinet made the decision in principle to insource Lewisham's parks and open spaces services on 1 November 2021. The current contract will be extended on the existing terms and conditions with Glendale Grounds Management for 20 months from 29 February 2020 until 31 October 2021. Officers are developing a detailed evaluation of the option to establish a wider divisional Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo).
14. The Council ran our Barriers to Waste Disposal consultation from 18 February 2019 to 8 April 2019. The aim of the consultation was to understand the barriers that are stopping residents from disposing of their household rubbish appropriately. The consultation included 11 talks at Local Ward Assembly Meetings and 11 drop in sessions. In total 5,528 responses were recorded to the consultation. Findings found that over three quarters of residents were either very or fairly happy with refuse and recycling services provided by the Council and over two thirds were either very or fairly happy with food waste services. However, two thirds of respondents were unaware that Lewisham collected commercial waste, over half were unaware that the Council will collect and recycle an old mattress for free and around a fifth of respondents were either not or not at all confident about what can and can't be recycled. In response new communal bin stickers are being promoted and a number of events have been held on increasing awareness of recycling.

## **Transport**

15. Progress on working with Transport for London (TfL) to secure funding for the Bakerloo Line Upgrade and Extension (BLE) is very promising, with officers working closely and effectively with the London Borough of Southwark.
16. Over 19,000 residents have signed the Back the Bakerloo campaign. A joint open letter to the Prime Minister was compiled by Lewisham and Southwark Councils which was signed by the leaders of Lewisham, Southwark, Westminster, and Brent councils, 8 MPs, and

many prominent businesses. Additionally, promotion of the BLE has taken place at high level conferences, such as the London Infrastructure Summit. The Council has also completed the New Cross Area Framework, which incorporates BLE into the local draft plan, and we have commissioned a Local Economic Impact Assessment. The Council has also worked to support and promote TfL's public consultation that went live on 14 October 2019. Alongside this work, the borough is working in partnership with Network Rail and TfL to develop proposals for Lewisham interchange, which will be integrated with the BLE proposals. The above work will all be reflected in an updated Rail Vision for the borough.

17. Lewisham is one of the most pro-cycling boroughs in London. On 5 June 2019, Mayor & Cabinet agreed to begin the implementation of Cycleway 4 along Evelyn Street, in conjunction with TfL. It is planned that construction of this segregated cycle path will commence in Lewisham from April 2020, and be completed by spring 2021, transforming cycling in the borough. Officers are also working closely with TfL to develop a number of other Cycleways throughout the borough.
18. The £2.9 million Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhood scheme is continuing with its innovative community led design and engagement. A further round of consultation on the design will commence on 29 October 2019, after which the results will be analysed and the scheme will move into the detailed design phase. The project will include a new world-class traffic-free walking and cycling facility, road closures, traffic reduction, improved public realm and healthier routes to schools. The project is due to be delivered by spring 2021.
19. The Council launched its Healthy Neighbourhood programme in 2019. This traffic reduction scheme will help the Council reach the target of 80% of all journeys in the borough to be taken by sustainable modes of transport, such as walking, cycling and public transport by 2041. There are 18 neighbourhoods across the borough that are bounded by key transport corridors, such as main roads and railway lines. Community consultation on project designs began in May 2019 in Lewisham & Lee Green, and in June 2019 in East Sydenham. The next two healthy neighbourhood areas will be Telegraph Hill and Bellingham.
20. The Council continues working with local schools to encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Lewisham has been developing a school street pilot with two schools in each of the Healthy Neighbourhood Areas in 2019 and 2020. There are also plans to extend this to other schools outside of the Healthy Neighbourhood Areas from 2020.
21. Cycle storage across the borough continues to grow with 78 hangars across 13 wards in the borough. 11 new hangars are set to be installed by the end of November 2019. The borough has submitted an ambitious bid to TfL for further funding for more cycle hangars, as well as new visitor cycle parking facilities at key locations.
22. There has been positive movement in working with TfL over a segregated cycle route connecting Downham to Deptford. TfL are currently working on a jointly funded outcome definition study, with input from LBL officers. This report is expected by spring 2020.
23. The UK has proved to be a very challenging market for dockless bike schemes and many international companies are reviewing their strategy. However, the Council remains committed to supporting dockless bike hire in Lewisham. The borough hopes to be able to sign up to a pan-London bylaw in the coming months. This puts us on a strong footing to work closely with operators to manage any schemes that we decide to trial in 2020.
24. On 10 July 2019, Mayor & Cabinet approved the Low Emission Vehicle Charging Strategy. This strategy will ensure all Lewisham residents, businesses and visitors are within 500meters of an electric vehicle charge point by 2021. On public consultation of this strategy, 84% of the respondents supported or strongly supported the proposal. To provide

this level of coverage, by 2021 there will need to be at least 70 electric vehicle charging locations. There are currently 38 7-kilowatt points installed, across 22 locations. A further 8 locations are currently in the planning stage. There are currently 3 existing rapid chargers in the borough with site selection beginning for the next phase of installation.

25. Lewisham has been effective in lobbying for low emission buses. Of the 12 Low Emission Bus Zones across London, two are within Lewisham and all will be in place by the end of 2019. The Lewisham to Catford bus zone will clean up more than 470 buses, while the Camberwell to New Cross bus zone will clean up more than 380 buses. Additionally TfL have confirmed that by 2020 the entire fleet will be Euro 6+ engines.
26. Lewisham continues to meet with TfL to support the Ultra Low Emission Zone Extension (ULEZ). We have been clear that the borough's aspiration is to see the entire borough covered by the zone, although TfL has advised that this is not feasible at present. We are working closely with TfL to raise awareness of the scheme, identify any supporting measures that may be required and to support residents in this transition.
27. In 2019, the Council undertook an extensive consultation on a number of updates to the Council's parking policy. The key changes are to parking permits, which proposes the introduction of emission based charging. This would help reduce both air pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging residents to adopt cleaner vehicles. With over 3,500 comments, the consultation comments are currently being analysed, with a decision due later this year.
28. Lewisham has an annual maintenance programme for responsive highway works along with its capital programme for resurfacing and footway major maintenance works. This helps the Council provide safer conditions for all road users and fulfil its highway statutory duties for such maintenance of the network. A borough-wide highway condition survey has been completed which enables an update of the Highways Asset Management Strategy, currently being progressed. In addition the Winter Maintenance Strategy is annually updated prior to the winter season. These documents are to ensure that resources are prioritised and targeted towards the highway assets most in need of improvements. The prioritisation for major maintenance works includes those carrying the highest volumes of traffic eg; vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. Additionally we are proposing to enhance the highways enforcement of road works, to optimise the network capacity for road users.

### **Financial implications**

29. There are no direct financial implications from noting the contents of this report.

### **Legal implications**

30. There are no specific legal implications of relevance to this report.

### **Equalities implications**

31. The information included in this reported makes a direct contribution to the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016-20. The five objectives of the Scheme are as follows:
  - Tackle, victimisation, discrimination and harassment
  - Increase access to services
  - Close the gap in outcomes between citizens
  - Increase mutual understanding and respect with and between communities
  - Increase participation and engagement

Specifically, by tackling the harmful impacts of climate change on future generations' and maintaining the local environment, this report shows how the Council is helping to close the gap in life chances between current and future residents of the borough. Similarly, work undertaken to improve transport links will help improve access to services and create socio-economic opportunities for Lewisham residents, some 60% of whom travel outside the borough each day to work. In addition, action being taken to increase the number of bicycle storage spaces and promote Low Emission Vehicles, will help tackle health inequality and reduce the number of Lewisham residents who contract preventable illnesses (Lewisham performs significantly worse than the England average for diabetes diagnosis and childhood obesity).

The information contained in this report affects all characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010, but in particular those relating to age and disability.

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>		
Report Title	Update from Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share)	
Key Decision	No	Item No. 4b
Ward	All	
Contributors	Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share)	
Class	Open	Date: 29 October 2019

## **Purpose**

This report provides an update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee some of the key achievements in the Culture, Jobs and Skills portfolio.

## **Recommendation**

Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note this report.

### **1. CULTURE**

#### **Borough of Culture bid**

1.1 Since round two of the Mayor of London's Borough of Culture Programme was announced in May, the culture team have been busy developing our bid. Open consultation events held in June were well attended by Lewisham's creative and community sectors, leading to a wealth of ideas that were worked on over the summer. At the time of writing over 4,400 people have pledged their support for the bid at [www.iamlewisham.uk](http://www.iamlewisham.uk) which is due to be submitted on 28 October. A successful outcome would see £1.35m of GLA funding for a year of culture in either 2021 or 2023. We will find out the results in January 2020.

#### **Improving access to the arts in Lewisham Schools**

1.2 Our Borough of Culture bid includes an initiative to provide every Year 7 pupil with a creative careers intervention before they take their GCSE choices. This would ensure that all our young people understand the opportunities available to them in the creative industries, one of the largest sectors of London's economy. This builds on work taking place as part of the Deptford Creative Enterprise Zone led by Lewisham Education Arts Network (LEAN). LEAN are also collaborating with Adult Learning Lewisham and Lewisham Learning to develop a bid for the RSA Cities of Learning programme which is designed to encourage innovative approaches to creating pathways to training and employment for young people within the creative sector.

## **Broadway Theatre**

1.3 Charcoal Blue have finished their work looking at the medium and long term capital requirements for the Broadway Theatre. As expected there are significant works needed to the Grade II listed building. This will be the subject of a Mayor & Cabinet report before Christmas with a view to works taking place during 2020. In the meantime the Broadway Bar will re-open for theatre performances in early November and Ignition Brewery are planning a series of pop-ups in the theatre with the first on 8th November. Ticket sales for this year's panto of Beauty and the Beast starring Mica Paris are double the same time last year.

## **Sports Development**

1.4 The Playing Pitch Strategy has now been completed and provides an updated assessment of the condition of the borough's sports pitches along with assessment of supply and demand and priorities for development. This will provide a platform for negotiations with National Governing Bodies and other funders as we seek investment in our outdoor facilities. We anticipate that the strategy will go to Mayor & Cabinet in late November.

1.5 Main grant funded sports organisations are reaching the end of the first quarter of the new arrangements and are showing signs of good progress. Highlights over the summer have been a disability sports taster day in Ladywell Fields, organised in partnership with SE London Tennis and involving all of the funded organisations – except for Saxon Crown Swimming, for obvious reasons. Platform Cricket had very active summer programme across the borough and drawing children and young people from a large number of schools.

The talent bursary is currently live and we expect to begin making awards soon.

## **Leisure**

1.6 The borough's leisure facilities are managed on behalf of the Council by two contractors, Fusion Lifestyle and 1Life. On 1 June 2011, Mayor & Cabinet approved the award of the Leisure Services Contract to Fusion Lifestyle for a period of fifteen years. The contract commenced on 15 October 2011 with immediate transfer of The Bridge Leisure Centre, Ladywell Arena and Wavelengths Leisure Centre.

1.7 In addition to these leisure centres the contract has since included the new centre on Loampit Vale (Glass Mill), Forest Hill Pools, and the Warren Avenue playing fields. Bellingham Leisure and Lifestyles Centre transferred to Fusion in February 2014.

Fusion is a registered charity and as such is required to demonstrate charitable objectives. According to their website their objective is "to deliver high quality sport, health and wellbeing services that are inclusive and accessible to all without stigma or inequity. In particular we overcome barriers to participation, including socio-economic, age, gender, disability, cultural and ethnicity."

1.8 Downham Health & Leisure Centre opened in March 2007, and is managed by 1Life operating through an Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) or trust,

Downham Lifestyles Limited. The centre includes health care facilities, library, community hall, and leisure services (including a 25m swimming pool, teaching pool, gym, studios, floodlit AstroTurf, multi use games area, and playing fields). Overall the Downham contract performs well but there have been performance issues with the Fusion contract for several months.

1.9 Officers continue to engage proactively with Fusion to improve performance and are currently discussing a package of investment to improve facilities and ensure that service delivery is of the required standard.

1.10 The Council has also recently appointed specialist consultants to work across department and with wider stakeholders to develop a Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyle Strategy that will help set the priorities for leisure provision (including built facilities) for the coming years.

### **London Youth Games**

1.11 Although 2019 wasn't as successful as 2018 in terms of our position in the league table (28<sup>th</sup> overall) we finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the boys competition and 6<sup>th</sup> in the girls competition of the para games. We are currently in the process of recruiting a sport and leisure apprentice who will be able to give more dedicated time to the events.

### **Evening and Night Time Economy**

1.12 The evening and night time economy vision was agreed earlier this year considering outcomes from a resident and business survey and dialogue across council and members. The vision is ambitious and sets out key elements which will thread through all future developments.

1.13 In June we were delighted to welcome the Mayor of London's night czar, Amy Lamé to tour some of the fantastic cultural venues we have. This included visits to the Albany, Deptford Market Yard, Deptford Does Art, Lewisham Model Market, Catford Broadway small businesses and Catford Mews.

1.14 We joined a number of other boroughs in signing and supporting the Women's Night Safety Charter and we appointed our first women's night safety champion in Cllr Octavia Holland.

1.15 The continued refresh of the offer in Catford is starting to reshape the area - with the opening of the Catford Mews cinema bringing increased visitors to the area and increasing interest and opportunities for businesses.

1.16 There is currently a review of the cumulative impact zones in response to licensing and a bespoke conversation with the Deptford Society is taking place to discuss concerns they have as well as opportunities to support the evening and night time economy.

## **2. JOBS AND SKILLS**

### **Building an inclusive economy**

2.1 Good work, with decent pay, security, and opportunities for progression is fundamental to a decent life and to strong communities. For those who are unable to work, our social security system should provide the support that they need to lead a decent life. Yet despite living in one of the wealthiest cities in the world, tens of thousands of our residents live in poverty.

2.2 In our manifesto, we set out a commitment to build a strong and vibrant local economy that works for the many. These commitments were enshrined in our Corporate Strategy. Below is an update on progress in delivering on these commitments over the last year.

### **Promoting the Living Wage**

2.3 Most of our residents who are in poverty are in a household in which someone is in work. We were the joint first local authority to be accredited as a Living Wage employer in the UK. Yet one in four people working in Lewisham, and one in five of our residents, earn below the real Living Wage.

2.4 We are determined to tackle poverty pay in Lewisham, and to promote the Living Wage. We have a manifesto target of doubling the number of Living Wage employers from 47 to 94 by 2022. With less than 18 months gone, we have already reached 77 Living Wage employers, including recently accredited employers such as Catford Mews.

2.5 We will be continuing to promote the benefits of the Living Wage for employers - including our business rates incentive - during Living Wage Week which will run from 11th November.

### **The Creative Enterprise Zone**

2.6 Lewisham has a fantastically creative community, and the creative, artistic and digital sector is growing rapidly in our borough.

2.7 In May we launched SHAPESLewisham, our Creative Enterprise Zone in Deptford and New Cross. We secured £500,000 of funding from the Mayor of London as part of the project, which aims to grow the creative, artistic and cultural sector in the area.

The Creative Enterprise Zone will support creative businesses to connect and collaborate, increase the availability of affordable workspaces in the borough, link creative enterprises to our educational and cultural institutions in the borough, and provide career pathways into further education, higher education, and a career in the sector.

### **Enterprise hubs and supporting SMEs**

2.8 Lewisham is an entrepreneurial borough, and our economy is made up of thousands of small businesses. We want to ensure that Lewisham is a fantastic place to set up, run and grow a small business.

2.9 The Lewisham Deks continue to offer affordable workspaces for local SMEs. We worked flat out to re-open the Deks as soon as possible following one of the operators going into liquidation. We have recently agreed to extend the running of the Ladywell Dek to 2021, subject to discussions with housing colleagues on the timing of the PLACE/Ladywell development, and the Old Town Hall Dek to 2024. We will be converting the top floor of the Old Town Hall Dek to the sort of small business units which have proved so popular on the 4th floor.

2.10 We were delighted to help Goldsmiths University to secure £1.6m of funding from the Mayor of London for a new enterprise hub in New Cross. The hub will support students and local residents to set up and grow a small business, and it will focus in particular on BAME entrepreneurs.

2.11 We have signed up to the Federation of Small Business' small business charter, which includes a number of commitments to make the local area a fantastic place to run and grow a small business. We continue to work with the South East London Chamber of Commerce to engage with local small businesses. We will be recognising our outstanding local small businesses through our Mayor's Business Awards.

### **High quality apprenticeships**

2.12 Apprenticeships can offer opportunities for our residents to earn while they learn, whether that be young people taking their first steps in their career, or older workers upskilling or retraining. We are seeking to boost the number of high quality apprenticeships available through the Mayor's Apprenticeship Scheme. We have enrolled 46 new apprentices since April 2018, and we are seeking to boost numbers both at the Council and through our partners.

2.13 We have set up the Lewisham Apprenticeship and Workforce Development Fund - worth £90,000 and funded through our apprenticeship levy funds - to support local employers to take on apprentices.

2.14 Through the Lewisham Construction Hub, we are seeking to ensure that residents can access apprenticeships and other employment and training opportunities as we build the homes that Lewisham needs.

### **Community Wealth Building and the Lewisham Deal**

2.15 Despite the immense wealth of the capital, and the growth we have seen in recent years, too many of our residents have not benefitted. Community Wealth Building is a people-centred approach to economic development which aims to reorganise local economies to be fairer, and to place control of wealth into the hands of people and communities.

2.16 I am continuing to work with Cllr de Ryk on our approach to Community Wealth Building. We have been working with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to develop and expand our approach to community wealth building.

2.17 A key part of this work is the Lewisham Deal, a shared approach to economic development and tackling poverty across the major anchor institutions in Lewisham. Building on the recommendations of the Lewisham Poverty Commission, we formally signed the Lewisham Deal in July 2019 along with Goldsmiths University, Lewisham College, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Lewisham Homes, and Phoenix Housing. We also released the first Lewisham Deal social value report.

2.18 We have been building a positive working relationship with the new Warden at Goldsmiths University and the new Principal at Lewisham College, and we look forward to working with them to ensure that our residents have access to high quality education, training, and employment opportunities.

### **Adult learning**

2.19 We want to ensure all adults have access to education and training opportunities, and to boost participation in lifelong learning.

2.20 Adult Learning Lewisham (ALL) – our council-run adult education service – has established, with Lewisham College and CYP, a strategic learning partnership to develop pathways (a ‘Skills Highway’) from the south of Lewisham into qualifications and skills.

2.21 ALL has developed a partnership with the Horniman Museum to deliver ESOL and Family Learning courses to families arriving in Lewisham through the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement programme, to provide the skills needed to help those families flourish.

2.22 ALL has successfully piloted a new way of measuring outcomes, so that learners and teachers can better identify the progress made against long-term goals, including employment, health and integration. There is discussion with the Learning & Work Institute about using this approach to be piloted on a nationwide basis.

2.23 ALL has successfully won a bid to the Design Council to develop further the ‘Curriculum for Life’, built in partnership with the Young Mayor’s team. This will help us design a curriculum that will help young people develop the skills they need for adult living.

### **Universal Credit, Welfare Reform and Jobcentre Plus**

2.24 The social security system should provide the support that people need to live free from poverty. However, recent cuts to welfare both for those out of work and those in work on low pay have led to an increase in poverty.

2.25 I welcome the Labour Party’s announcement of plans to overhaul Universal Credit, to scrap some of the most damaging aspects such as the five week wait, the two child limit, and the excessive use of sanctions, and to invest billions in our social security system.

2.26 On a local level, we are working closely with Jobcentre Plus to ensure that our residents are protected from the risks inherent with the move to Universal Credit. We

meet monthly with the DWP regional manager and the council's benefits team, and we recently held a briefing for Councillors to help them understand what Universal Credit means for their residents.

### **Inclusive Growth Strategy**

2.27 In the next six months, we will be working to develop a new Inclusive Growth Strategy (name tbc!) to plan out our work for the remaining two years of the Council term. This will seek to set out how we can continue to deliver on our manifesto commitments, and ensure everyone in Lewisham can access the opportunities in our local economy, within the context of increasingly limited resources as a result of Government-enforced austerity.

2.28 Any councillors who want to get involved in shaping the Inclusive Growth Strategy would be very welcome to take part.

### **Financial implications**

There are no direct financial implications from noting the contents of this report

### **Legal implications**

There are no specific legal implications of relevance to this report.

### **Equalities implications**

The information included in this reported makes a direct contribution to the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016-20. The five objectives of the Scheme are as follows:

- Tackle, victimisation, discrimination and harassment
- Increase access to services
- Close the gap in outcomes between citizens
- Increase mutual understanding and respect with and between communities
- Increase participation and engagement

Specifically, actions to increase access to the arts in Lewisham schools, increase apprenticeships, promote community wealth and support inclusive growth, will promote fairness, social mobility and help to close the gap in economic outcomes between citizens in the borough.

Similarly, the Council's existing leisure offer helps to tackle health inequalities (levels of obesity and diabetes diagnoses in Lewisham are significantly higher than the England average), whilst at the same time helping to create an environment for mutual understanding and respect between communities and increasing participation and engagement.

The information contained in this report affects all characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. However, specific reference is made to those of age, disability, gender and race. In addition, the wide-range of economic initiatives described in this

paper will also make a significant contribution towards socio-economic equality in the borough.

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>			
Report Title	Update from Cabinet Member for the Community Sector		
Key Decision	No		Item No. 4c
Ward	All		
Contributors	Cabinet Member for the Community Sector		
Class	Open	Date: 29 October 2019	

### **Purpose**

1. This report provides an update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on some of the achievements in the Community Sector portfolio.

### **Recommendation**

2. Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note this report.

### **Open Lewisham**

3. Work is continuing on the development of Lewisham's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme for 2020-24 and its supplementary data digest. The Scheme, which is the vehicle used to carry the Council's equality objectives, will be used as a framework for testing the robustness of the Council's business system. Feeding into the development of the new Comprehensive Equalities Scheme will be analysis from the recently published Indices of Multiple Deprivation, which officers are also preparing and which is scheduled to be presented to members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee at the end of October. In addition to the above, officers are supporting the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee's in-depth review of equalities in Lewisham. As part of this, officers provided written evidence to the Committee at its second evidence session on 9th October 2019.
4. Other areas of work being progressed in this area include a review of the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index (SWEI). The Council is looking at aspects of the Index that can be adopted at low or no cost and incorporated into existing business systems and processes. In addition a trans review is in progress, which is looking to update the Council's knowledge and understanding of issues affecting Lewisham's trans community.

### **Disabled People's Commission**

5. I am delighted Lewisham Council will establish a Disabled Peoples Commission led by disabled people that will make public services more accessible and make it easier to get around our borough.

6. The timetable to the launch of the Commission on the International Day of Disabled People is as follows:
  - a. 9 September - 7th October - Advert for Chair
  - b. Week commencing 7th October selection process
  - c. 21st October - 18th November advert for commission members
  - d. 18 - 27 November selection of Commission members
  - e. 3 December - Commission launch

### **Bringing our community together**

7. Age Against the Machine, the Festival of Creative Aging, funded as part of Lewisham's 2018 bid to become Borough of Culture, took place in September 2019. Blackheath Fireworks will take place in the autumn and People's Day (or similar free festival) will return for Summer 2020. In addition there are numerous local events organised via the Local Assemblies e.g. Lark in the Park and as part of our award winning parks e.g. Beckenham Place Park Flower Show.

### **Community Energy**

8. Officers are investigating the various 'white label' not-for-profit energy supply models introduced by the GLA (London Power), Islington Council (Angelic Energy), Hackney Council and others to assess the potential benefits and costs to Lewisham. These 'white label' energy companies seek to offer lower tariffs and green energy to domestic customers using Council branding to offer assurance to potential customers. Any offer the Council wanted to promote would need to be procured and would require some degree of administrative support.
9. Lewisham Council has been awarded grant funding by the GLA to expand its existing fuel poverty advice service to the whole of south London, covering 12 boroughs with targets to support 1,600 households this winter. In 2018/19 Lewisham's South East London Fuel Poverty Project delivered practical advice to 875 low income and vulnerable residents and brought in over £600,000 funding for heating, insulation and ventilation improvements.
10. Lewisham Council launched a new Community Energy Fund in September offering grants of up to £15,000 to local community initiatives supporting fuel poverty and carbon reduction work.

### **Libraries**

11. During the last year visits to libraries grew back past the 2 million mark (2,012,709 +1.65%) and issues increased by 6.5% (579,812).
12. These achievements are more remarkable if we consider that the library service, as a member of the Board of the London Libraries Consortium, implemented the largest migration of a Library Management System in the world! Across the year, Lewisham worked with colleagues to procure and implement the migration from the old library

catalogue to a new one. This meant that in March, all 16 members of the Consortium switched from the old to the new library catalogue. The achievement is significant also because it brings the opportunity borrow books from across London and to develop a shared London Library Platform. In time, the latter will introduce new functionalities and technological innovations that will make libraries more and more accessible to Londoners.

13. The Service is therefore energized and proud of its standing. It is working at its physical collections in the Hub and Community libraries and it is developing its online offer – which is continuing to be an area of growth. In the last 12 months, eLibrary issues increased from 21,492 to 66,237 (+208). Online newspapers, comics, and magazines have been promoted, through taster sessions, social media and staff promotion to users, and show 45.9% increase over the previous year.
14. We are having to reduce the opening hours of some of our community libraries but this situation remains under review ahead of a long term strategy for the library service which is currently in development.

### **Voluntary Sector Infrastructure**

15. Following the re-letting of the Main Grants Programme earlier in the year Rushey Green Timebank, working under the banner of Lewisham Local, receives funding as the strategic voluntary and community sector support organisation delivering support to organisations and encouraging greater collaboration across the sector; working with individuals to increase volunteering and the giving and exchanging of time and skills; engaging with business in promoting giving to local communities and causes.
16. The approach builds on existing good work undertaken through this initiative and is favoured due to its positive a radical approach to capacity building

### **Black History Month**

17. Black History Month is again celebrated through a range of activities coordinated through the Library Service. The Month was launched with an inclusive event at the Civic Suite and continues to be one of the highlights of the year.

### **Financial implications**

18. There are no direct financial implications from noting the contents of this report

### **Legal implications**

19. There are no specific legal implications of relevance to this report.

### **Equalities implications**

20. The information included in this reported makes a direct contribution to the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016-20. The five objectives of the Scheme are as follows:

- Tackle, victimisation, discrimination and harassment
- Increase access to services
- Close the gap in outcomes between citizens
- Increase mutual understanding and respect with and between communities
- Increase participation and engagement

21. The specific equalities implications are contained in the main body of this report.

22. The information contained in this report affects all characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. However, specific reference is made to those of sexual orientation, race, and disability. It should also be noted, that action to promote community energy, will have a particular socio-economic impact for low income households in the borough.