



## Mayor and Cabinet

### Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Final Reports

**Date:** 19 July 2023

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All (none specific)

**Contributors:** Scrutiny Team

### Outline and recommendations

This report asks Mayor and Cabinet to consider the final reports and recommendations of the Workspaces and Community Food Growing Task and Finish Groups.

### Timeline of engagement and decision-making

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received two proposals for task and finish groups focusing on the topics of workspaces and community food growing.

The subjects and memberships of the groups were agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 September 2022.

The scope and key lines of enquiry for the review were agreed at meetings on 16 November (Workspaces) and 30 November 2022 (Community Food Growing).

Between November 2022 and June 2023, the groups carried out a range of evidence gathering and engagement sessions (as detailed in each of the reports).

The Community Food Growing Task and Finish Group met on 4 July 2023 to agree its final report and recommendations.

The Workspaces Task and Finish Group met on 5 July 2023 to agree its final report and recommendations.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The reports attached at appendix A and B set out the key findings of each of the Task and Finish Groups.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1. Mayor and Cabinet is asked to:

- Consider the final report and recommendations of the Workspaces Task and Finish Group
- Consider the final report and recommendations of the Community Food Growing Task and Finish Group
- Ask the relevant executive directors to provide a response.

## 3. Policy context

3.1. The Council's 2022 to 2026 Corporate Strategy identifies seven corporate priorities and four core values which are the driving force behind what Lewisham Council does as an organisation. It sets out a vision for the borough and the priority outcomes that organisations, communities and individuals can work towards to make this vision a reality.

3.2. The work of Overview and Scrutiny is in alignment with the Council's four core values:

- We put service to the public first.
- We respect all people and all communities.
- We invest in employees.
- We are open, honest and fair in all we do.

3.3. These core values support with the Council's seven corporate priorities namely:

- Cleaner and greener
- A strong local economy
- Quality Housing
- Children and Young People
- Safer Communities
- Open Lewisham
- Health and Wellbeing

3.4. The work of Task and Finish Groups cuts across all these priorities – with the Workspaces TFG linking most closely with the 'strong local economy' and 'open Lewisham' priorities and the Community Food Growing TFG linking most closely with the 'cleaner and greener' and 'health and wellbeing' priorities.

## 4. Background

4.1. The subjects of the Task and Finish Groups were agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 September 2022. Each of the groups has received evidence from a range of sources and activities and they have produced reports summarising their findings. These are attached at appendix A and B.

4.2. Task and Finish Group members agreed the final report and recommendations at meetings on 4 July 2023 (Community Food Growing) and 5 July 2023 (Workspaces).

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## **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Recommendations from the Task and Finish Groups have financial implications, and these will need to be considered in the responses.

## **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1. The Council's Constitution provides at paragraph 6.11, Article 6 that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may from time to time appoint sub-committees, to be known as task and finish groups which will exist for a period of no less than 3 months, nor more than 12 months from the date of their creation. It further adds that 'Any task and finish group shall consist of 5 members and be established for the purpose of examining a particular issue in depth. The terms of reference of any task and finish group shall be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which shall also appoint members to it.'
- 6.2. The Constitution provides for committees to refer reports to Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

## **7. Equalities implications**

- 7.1. The Equality Act 2010 covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. There may be equalities implications arising from recommendations made by the task and finish groups and these will need to be considered in the responses.

## **8. Climate change and environmental implications**

- 8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Recommendations considered by the Task and Finish Groups may have climate change implications and these will need to be given due consideration in the responses.

## **9. Crime and disorder implications**

- 9.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Matters considered by

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the Task and Finish Groups may have crime and disorder implications and these will need to be given due consideration in the responses.

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Matters considered by the Task and Finish Groups have health and wellbeing implications and these will need to be considered in the responses.

## **11. Report author and contact**

- 11.1. If you have any questions about this report, please contact Scrutiny Managers:

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Appendix A: Final report of the Workspaces Task and Finish Group

Appendix B: Final report of the Community Food Growing Task and Finish Group

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