

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Promoting a Sense of Belonging: update	
Contributors	Executive Directors for Community Services and Customer Services	Item: 4
Class	Part 1 (open)	21 January 2014

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report updates the information provided in April 2013, in response to the recommendations from the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee review - Promoting a Sense of Belonging.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Safer Stronger Select Committee note the updates to the review's recommendations.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The Promoting a Sense of Belonging review links closely to the following strategic priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy:

- Ambitious and achieving – where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential.
- Safer – where people feel safe and live free from crime, antisocial behaviour and abuse.
- Empowered and responsible – where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.
- Clean, green and liveable – where people live in high quality housing and can care for and enjoy their environment.
- Dynamic and prosperous – where people are part of vibrant communities and town centres, well connected

- 3.3 Additionally it relates to the following corporate priorities:

- Community Leadership and Empowerment
- Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity

4. Background

- 4.1 At the 11th April 2012 meeting of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, Members agreed to carry out a short review into social cohesion in Lewisham. The aim of the review was to gather evidence about Lewisham's approach to promoting cohesion and belonging.

- 4.2 Evidence-taking sessions were held in July and September 2012.

- 4.3 Members looked at the range of services currently being delivered by the Council and its partners and decided to focus on local democracy and decision-making;

events and celebrations; citizenship and intergenerational collaboration. The Committee concluded its review and agreed its recommendations in November 2012.

- 4.4 In January 2013 the Safer Stronger Select Committee made a referral to the Mayor which was responded to at the April meeting of Mayor and Cabinet

5. Update on Recommendations

- 5.1 All recommendations were responded to in April 2013, detailing work that either had been completed, was being undertaken or was planned to address the review's recommendations. Much of the work is ongoing and the activities detailed in the April 2013 report will continue to be built upon and developed by officers.

- 5.2 Some work in response to the recommendations is still to be further developed and this is detailed in the following paragraphs.

5.3 Recommendations 5 and 9

Both these recommendations included a request that information given at citizenship ceremonies should include details of how residents can get involved in their local assemblies. This information has recently been refreshed and updated information on assemblies and details of their dates and times will be provided for the next round of ceremonies.

5.4 Recommendation 8

This recommendation requested that officers encourage all Councillors to attend and take part in citizenship ceremonies. Following the review the Mayor's Office contacted all Councillors about the ceremonies and as a result a number of newer Councillors expressed an interest and have subsequently acted as dignitaries. Feedback from both the Councillors and the new citizens has been positive.

Additionally officers were asked to consider how to involve other local people who have made a difference in the community as presiding dignitaries. This remains an area for development, which officers in Community Services and Customer Services will review.

5.5 Recommendation 10

This recommendation asked officers to commission an article on citizenship ceremonies for Lewisham Life. As reported in April, articles on citizenship ceremonies have appeared in previous editions of Lewisham Life. A new article has been prepared for publication and it is hoped that this article will appear either in the November edition or in the spring edition.

5.6 Recommendation 11

This recommendation focused on the formal recognition of the important work of the Positive Ageing Council and of other older people's groups in the borough. As

reported in April the Positive Ageing Council (POSAC) is formally enshrined in the Council's constitution, recognised as a forum through which older people can influence decisions and has the opportunity to place items on the Mayor and Cabinet agenda. The work of the POSAC continues as does their influence and partnership approach. Additionally representatives from Positive Ageing Council are meeting with the Mayor on 7 Nov to discuss their work and how they could be involved even more in service redesign and policy development.

5.7 **Recommendation 12**

This recommendation asked the Council and its partners to encourage younger and older peoples' groups to explore further options for intergenerational activities and initiatives. The Positive Ageing Council and Young Mayor have worked together to deliver highly successful intergenerational activities at Peoples Day in July 2013 and Intergenerational projects continue to be an important strand of their work.

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this response.

7. **Legal Implications**

7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this response, save for noting that the Council's Constitution provides that the Executive may respond to reports and or recommendations by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8. **Crime and Disorder Implications**

8.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this response.

9. **Equalities Implications**

9.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising out of this report although the individual recommendations from the review support Lewisham's commitment to promote equality of opportunity, inclusion and wellbeing for all its citizens.

Background Papers

1. [Promoting a sense of belonging: social cohesion in Lewisham](#)
2. [Mayor and Cabinet Report - Matters referred by Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee – promoting a sense of belonging review - 16/1/13](#)
3. [Mayor and Cabinet Report - Mayoral response to the recommendations of the Safer Stronger Select Committee review - Promoting a Sense of Belonging - 10 April 2013](#)

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