

Mini-scoping reports for Sustainable Development Select Committee – 9 September 2014

The Committee is asked to consider the brief outlines of the topic areas set out below, discuss the key areas that the Committee would like to focus on and decide the best method and timetable for conducting scrutiny into these topics.

Waste Strategy

Background

Waste & recycling is governed by a number of legislative requirements at an EU and National level, including the revised Waste Framework Directive, the Government's Waste Review and the Waste Strategy for England. The EU's Waste Hierarchy makes waste prevention key. Lewisham is also required to have general conformity with the Mayor of London's Waste Strategy, which includes targets for recycling, reuse and waste prevention as well as dealing with waste in ways that mitigate against the effects of climate change. Lewisham Council's approach to Waste Management feeds into the Lewisham Sustainable Communities Strategy and contributes towards delivering the 'clean, green and liveable' priority outcome.

The Sustainable Development Select Committee last considered the Waste Strategy in January 2011, where the Committee was informed that two of the major strategies highlighted above were in the process of being developed, the Greater London Authority waste strategy and the national waste strategy. Due to the need for the Lewisham strategy to fit within these the Council has waited for the outcome of these before starting a new waste strategy. The London Mayor's Waste Management Strategy was published in November 2011 and the Waste Management Plan was introduced in December 2013. Therefore Lewisham is preparing to develop a new waste strategy.

Key considerations for the Council include the need to take account of the quality & design of services, the financial implications and environmental consequences of the approach taken to waste management.

Scrutiny

Officers have started to develop ideas and suggestions for a new waste strategy. As part of the development of this major new strategy, officers will be consulting with the Sustainable Development Select Committee. Officers have proposed that this is done in a number of stages, with a first report coming to the Committee so the Committee can have input on the strategy at the early stages before a further, more developed strategy is brought back to the Committee to consider later in the year.

Timetable

Officers will bring a first report highlighting potential options to the Committee's 30 October meeting. Input from the Committee will then be used to shape a more developed strategy that will come to the Committee later in the year, before it goes to Mayor & Cabinet.

Background Documents

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

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies/Documents/Sustainable%20Community%20Strategy%202008-2020.pdf>

Recycling – Report to Sustainable Development Select Committee, 10 September 2013

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MID=2931>

Waste Strategy – Report to Sustainable Development Select Committee, 25 January 2011

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MID=1905>

Enforcement

Background

As a local authority, the London Borough of Lewisham has a legal duty to enforce regulations relating to a number of laws and across a number of service areas.

These include:

- Environmental Health
- Health and Safety
- Licensing
- Planning (including Building Control)
- Trading Standards

Local authorities can also carry out enforcement action in relation to other functions they carry out, including:

- Business rate collection
- Council tax collection
- Housing
- Parking

Enforcement action is permitted by a number of different pieces of legislation. In 2014 the Environment Team has carried out enforcement actions under the following acts:

- Environmental Protection Act (including prosecutions and/or fines for flytipping as well as Noise Abatement Notices)
- Public Health Act (including fire hazards and rodent infestations)
- Building Act (including leaking sewage and drainage pipes)
- Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act (Alarms) (including a nuisance house alarm)
- Control of Pollution Act (including failure to produce authority to transport controlled waste)

The Sustainable Development Select Committee has taken an interest in parking over the last 4 years and on 4 February 2014 received a report on the Council's response to the Department for Transport's 'Consultation on local authority parking', which included a response by the Council on enforcement powers. It also receives the Annual Parking Report, which includes information on parking enforcement via the enforcement contractor NSL Services.

The Public Accounts Select Committee regularly receives financial monitoring reports which includes information on Business Rate and Council Tax collection rates and enforcement actions taken in relation to this.

In the last year, the management of some enforcement services has moved, with services such as licensing and trading standards now under the management of the Head of Crime & Supporting People.

Scrutiny

Key areas for the Committee to consider will include:

- How enforcement is used to respond to complaints and how successful enforcement reduces the occurrence of violations
- Where the management of enforcement services now sit
- Changes in legislation effecting enforcement services
- How clear and concise decision making and enforcement of decisions takes place
- How any proposed changes will affect the provision of enforcement services
- The role of enforcement services in the reputation of the Council

As proposals for savings and service re-design emerge as part of the Lewisham Future Programme, the Committee will be able to gather a clearer picture of Lewisham's future plans for enforcement services.

Timetable

Proposals under the Lewisham Future Programme will be put forward to the Committee at the 30 October meeting. Proposals are likely to include changes to enforcement services as part of cost-cutting and service redesign. The Committee will have the opportunity to scrutinise proposals here and decide if further scrutiny is required and what form this scrutiny should take.

Background Documents

Enforcement action – Lewisham Council website

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/Pages/Enforcement-action.aspx>

Government parking consultation – Report to Sustainable Development Select Committee, 4 February 2014

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=2934&Ver=4>

Parking – Report to Sustainable Development Select Committee, 1 November 2012

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=2385>

High Streets

Background

The Sustainable Development Select Committee carried out a review of Business Development in 2013, with the final report sent to the Mayor in July 2013 and a response in October 2013. In the review the Committee recommended that the Council and its partners should continue to be responsive to requests from the community to support with developing neighbourhoods and local high streets as well as other recommendations around working with developers and partners to create incubation space for new businesses and to identify, explore and develop, new 'business clusters' in the borough. In the response it is noted that the Council has adopted the Lewisham Core Strategy which sets out policy at a strategic level for Lewisham and Catford Town Centres, District Centres and other local centre and small shopping parades in the borough.

The Lewisham Business Growth Strategy 2013-2023 was presented to the Sustainable Development Select Committee in December 2013 and was approved by Mayor & cabinet in January 2014. The Business Growth Strategy has three aims:

- To boost Lewisham's contribution to the London economy by enhancing the ability of new and existing businesses to thrive and grow.
- To accelerate the expansion of the Lewisham economy by capitalising on major physical regeneration in the borough to create the right environment for business growth.
- To diversify and expand the Lewisham economy by inspiring, nurturing and promoting the creativity and entrepreneurship of Lewisham residents.

The strategy identifies that Lewisham is revitalising and transforming a number of its key town centres. The Council is attracting developer interest and investment which will upgrade the borough's major town centres (Lewisham, Catford and Deptford), strengthen and diversify the retail offer, develop the leisure economy, the night time economy and other non-retail uses. The strategy also identifies that the influx of new more affluent populations into the borough is creating new consumer demands to which town centre businesses can respond. The success of the Strategy will be measured in terms of Lewisham's ability to attract a more diverse range of businesses, increase inward investment, increase the survivability of local businesses and maximise job creation potential.

The Lewisham Regeneration Strategy also sets out the high level approach to encouraging and supporting local businesses, including high streets. The Implementation Plan 2011-2014 Monitoring Report received by the Sustainable Development Select Committee highlighted a number of achievements in improvements to high streets, such as:

- Highway and footway improvements in Ladywell Village including road narrowing and creating parking for shoppers

- Works to Sydenham high street during 2012 and early 2013 to create a more pleasant environment for pedestrians and shoppers, without adversely affecting the flow of traffic

Current plans for the borough include initiatives to redevelop Catford and Deptford high streets as well as the provision of new business space in the north of the borough.

In addition, the Sustainable Development Select Committee received a report examining local shops and parades in May 2011, which outlined the Council's approach to supporting local shops and parades as well as the powers that local Councils do and don't have in shaping shops. The Sustainable Development Select Committee also carried out a review looking at street trading in March 2010.

The decline of the local high street was recently reviewed by Mary Portas, on behalf of the government. The overarching premise of the review was the need to renew the high street and the town centre as social as well as economic spaces. The review identified the need to put the heart back into the centre of high streets, re-imagined as destinations for socialising, culture, health, well-being, creativity and learning as well as places that will develop and sustain new and existing markets and businesses. High Streets should become places where people go to engage with other people in our communities, where shopping is just one part of a rich mix of activities. A key precursor to the Portas Review was the New Economics Foundation's major campaign entitled 'Clone Town Britain', which tracked the increasing dominance of chain stores in the town centre retail mix and ranked high streets according to the uniqueness of their retail offer.

In Lewisham, a group of volunteers working together across Sydenham, Forest Hill and Kirkdale bid for and won one of 27 Portas Pilot grants in the second round of bidding. The pilot, known as SEE3, has a vision of a high-street where established independent traders are an integral part of the community, new traders bring innovation and further quality, boundaries between retail, culture and community blur, energy of active citizens is harnessed, new ideas are championed and space that is secured for start-up enterprises to develop is readily accessible. SEE3 has five key objectives, which are:

- to test a coherent approach to High Street development in an area of urban sprawl where one neighbourhood merges into another.
- to increase the sustainability of the High Street through layering uses.
- to build on the existing blending of retail and community use to enhance the High Street as a Hub Street and cultural destination.
- to create a fit, agile High Street that can successfully adapt to changing needs.
- to harness and build on our strong active citizenship to enhance the High Street

The SEE3 pilot comprises of three key projects:

- Jack and Jill, where two high street shops (one in Sydenham, the other in Forest Hill) will be renovated for creative community engagement via exhibitions, showcasing local products, business workshops, pop up events and use as a Town Team base.
- The Shop Revolution, will introduce landlords and leaseholders to the concept of 'meanwhile' use – short term leases which keep the unit in use between tenants.
- Market Makers, which will build on the success of the Girton Road car boot sale and the Forest Hill Food Fair to pilot offerings in Sydenham, Forest Hill and Kirkdale with the aim of finding long term tenants for vacant units. By giving traders the opportunity to test market demand for their offering, they will be able to refine their business plan before committing to a long term lease.

In addition to these main projects, the pilot also seeks to improve signage, encourage people to shop locally and provide support to get more businesses online

Scrutiny

Key areas that the Committee could consider as part of the review include:

- Clarifying the Council's and other partner roles in relation to high streets. Is the role of the council in supporting local high streets clearly defined, and communicated effectively to local businesses.
- Local development management policies for high streets and how are these being implemented.
- How is the public realm being shaped to promote high streets and better access to high streets for the public
- Is the council making the most of opportunities provided to bring vacant shops back into use
- Are markets and local high streets being supported to operate in a way that is mutually beneficial
- Are the Council and other partners effectively taking on board lesson from the SEE3 Portas Pilot in Sydenham, Forest Hill and Kirkdale
- How are businesses, traders and local residents involved in the development of high streets

Before starting the review, the Committee should be clear on what it means by high streets and narrow down the areas it wishes to look at. The Committee should consider whether it wishes to look at larger town centre high streets such as Lewisham or Catford, medium sized high streets such as Blackheath or Forest Hill, or smaller high streets such as at Honor Oak or Brockley.

The review also offers the opportunity for Committee Members to gather evidence themselves by visiting their local high streets, talking to businesses and residents and feeding this information back to the Committee.

Timetable

This topic would be suited to either a rapid review with a single evidence session occupying the majority of the meeting, or an in-depth review with a number of evidence sessions. Both approaches would produce a report with recommendations that will be sent to Mayor & Cabinet.

Depending on what the Committee decides, a more detailed scoping report can be produced for the 30 October meeting, with an evidence session at the 9 December (and possibly the 20 January 2015 meeting) and a report at the following meeting.

Background Documents

People, prosperity, place: Lewisham Regeneration Strategy 2008-2020

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/Pages/People-Prosperity-Place.aspx>

Lewisham Business Growth Strategy 2013-2023

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s26534/Lewisham%20Business%20Growth%20Strategy%202013-2023.pdf>

The Portas Review: An independent review into the future of our high streets

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6292/2081646.pdf

Implementation of the regeneration strategy – Report to Sustainable Development Select Committee, 12 March 2014

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MID=2935>

Matters raised by Sustainable Development Select Committee: Business Development Review – Report to Mayor & Cabinet, 10 July 2013

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s23599/Appendix%20A%20-%20SDSC%20Business%20development%20review.pdf>

Local shops and parades – Report to Sustainable Development Select Committee, 10 May 2011

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=1973&Ver=4>

Street trading review - Sustainable Development Select Committee, March 2010

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/overview-scrutiny/Documents/StreetTradingReview.pdf>

Modern roads

Background

At its previous meeting, the Committee discussed carrying out a review during the 2014/15 municipal year entitled “Modern Roads”. The focus would be around improving the road infrastructure in the borough for local residents and would look at three related strands:

- Introducing a borough-wide 20 mph speed limit
- Improving the borough for cyclists
- Improving air quality

Lewisham Labour Party’s 2014 election manifesto included a pledge to ‘build on the success of the 20mph zones which targeted local problems by adopting a 20mph speed limit across the borough’. The introduction of a borough wide 20mph zone was recently carried out by Islington Council and has been considered by a number of other boroughs across London, including Camden, Haringey and Southwark. Key challenges to the Council in implementing this could include the impact on journey times across the borough, the enforcement of the speed limit and the costs associated with changing the speed limit.

Lewisham Labour Party’s 2014 election manifesto included a pledge to develop a programme of cycling safety measures, increase the number of cycle racks across the borough and work with schools and local businesses to develop green commuter strategies. Measures set out in the manifesto include a potential bid for a Cycle Super-Hub at a key railway station, increasing the number of cycle racks and continuing to promote the local cycle-hire scheme, cycling training to allow new cyclists to gain more confidence on the roads and lobbying for cycling infrastructure improvements.

The Borough sets out its transport policies, programme and aspirations in its Local Implementation Plan (LIP), a statutory document which supports the delivery of the Mayor’s Transport Strategy (MTS) within Lewisham. The LIP enables the borough to plan strategically for transport, helping achieve broader goals for safer and healthier communities, a better urban and natural environment, a dynamic, prosperous local economy, and greater opportunities for all. The LIP includes measures to promote cycling, including through the cycle superhighways and extending the cycle hire scheme, and walking and integrate these objectives with wider travel opportunities to make physical activity an everyday choice. The Committee will receive an update on the LIP at its 9 September meeting.

The Sustainable Development Select Committee recently received a report on Road Safety and Cycling at its February 2014 meeting. The report highlighted a number of cycling initiatives being carried out in the borough:

- Cycle Super Highways 4 & 5 (CS4/CS5), part of the wider TfL Cycle Super

- Highway programme, both routes are in early stages of design and are proposed to run down the A200 and A2 respectively.
The Quietway programme, drawing on funding from the Mayor of London's financial commitment of £980m to improve all aspects of cycling in London, the Quietway Programme aims to provide quiet back street cycle routes that less confident or new cyclists will be able to use comfortably.
- Borough cycling programme. TfL has provided the opportunity for boroughs to bid for funding to deliver a range of cycling initiatives. Lewisham has bid to the programme to fund extra cycling initiatives on top of what is delivered through the boroughs LIP allocation.
- Adult and child cycle training. Through the Boroughs LIP allocation Lewisham offers cycle training to adults and children from fully nationally accredited cycling instructors.
- Borough cycle hire scheme- The Lewisham Road Safety Team have been working in partnership with the cycling charity London Cycling Campaign (LCC) to run a project to offer short term bike hire to local residents. The main driver behind the project is the fact that many Lewisham residents would like to try cycling either to get to work or for leisure but are put off by the initial financial outlay of buying the equipment.

Lewisham Labour Party's 2014 election manifesto included a pledge to launch a Low Emission strategy for vehicles in Lewisham by improving the Council's fleet through greater use of electric vehicles and encouraging drivers to reduce their emissions. As mentioned above, Lewisham sets out its transport policies, programme and aspirations in its Local Implementation Plan (LIP). Within the LIP includes the aim to promote better health by addressing poor air quality, particularly at AQMAs, such as through Low Emission Zone enhancements as well as modal shift.

The Sustainable Development Select Committee received a report on 1 May 2013 entitled Development of an Air Quality Action Plan. The report highlighted that EU Directives have been issued which set Limit Values for a number of pollutants that occur in ambient air and which can impact on health. Under the Environment Act 1995, Local Authorities have legal duties for Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). This means that each local authority has to review the air quality in its area and assess it against objectives set by the UK government for each pollutant. These objectives can be stricter, but no less strict, than the EU Limit Values. An area where the objectives are not being met must be declared as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). There will then be an Air Quality Action Plan developed for that area.

Scrutiny

A review would need to consider each of the three strands laid out here and look for linkages between them all when considering recommendations and key findings.

Under each strand the Committee could consider the following questions and lines of enquiry:

20 mph speed limit

- The potential benefits in introducing the 20 mph limit in the borough
- The potential limitations in introducing the 20 mph limit (such as TfL controlled roads)
- How the new speed limit will be enforced
- How local people will be informed about the 20 mph limit
- The costs in introducing a new 20 mph limit
- The experiences of other London Boroughs in implementing the 20 mph limit

Improving the borough for cyclists

- What cycling infrastructure is present in the borough and who it is provided by (i.e. TfL or Council provided and maintained)
- What initiatives are in place to promote cycling in the borough
- How have initiatives improved cycling safety and cycling numbers in the borough
- How can the Council further improve cycling safety and cycling numbers to make cycling an everyday occurrence
- How can the Council further secure funding for improved cycling infrastructure

Improving air quality

- The impact of traffic upon road pollution
- How improved roads could reduce air pollution
- Ways to reduce traffic to potentially decrease air pollution and ways to mitigate air pollution
- How the new AQMA action plan is progressing and whether this is impacting on air quality
- How Lewisham is reducing the emissions of its own fleet of vehicles

Timetable

Because of the potential size and scope of the review topic, this review would be suited to an in-depth review carried out over a number of meetings with a report and recommendations produced to go to Mayor & Cabinet.

A more detailed scoping report could be produced to go to 20 January 2015 meeting, with evidence sessions at the 3 March meeting and the first meeting of the following municipal year, with a report and recommendations agreed at the second meeting of the next municipal year.

Background Documents

London Borough of Lewisham: Local Implementation Plan 2011-2031

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies/Documents/Local%20Implementation%20Plan%202011-31.pdf>

Road safety and cycling – Report to Sustainable Development Select Committee, 4 February 2014

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=2934&Ver=4>

Development of an Air Quality Action Plan – Report to Sustainable Development Select Committee, 1 May 2013

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s22310/06%20Air%20quality%20010513.pdf>

Lewisham Together: Labour's Manifesto for the 2014 Mayoral and Local Elections on 22 May 2014

http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/stevebullock/pages/15/attachments/original/1396979527/Lewisham_Labour_Manifesto_2014_FINAL.pdf?1396979527

Employment

Background

Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy contains a number of elements covering employment within Lewisham. The Ambitious and Achieving strand includes the objective 'encourage and facilitate access to education, training and employment opportunities for all our citizens'. The Dynamic and Prosperous strand includes the objective 'increase access to the number, quality and range of employment opportunities'.

Lewisham's vision for work and skills focuses, in particular, on those seeking and preparing to enter the workforce for the first time (such as young people and those who have never worked), those who have might need help to re-enter the labour market (such as the long term unemployed including over 50's Jobseekers Allowance claimants) and those most likely to be impacted by reforms to the welfare benefits system (such as lone parents). Lewisham's Work & Skills Strategy was approved by Mayor & Cabinet in July 2013 and works together with the Business Growth Strategy to form part of Lewisham's approach to promoting greater economic wellbeing for all Lewisham residents.

The strategy sets out how the Council and the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) will work with partners to reduce the overall claimant count in Lewisham. Lewisham and the DWP work alongside partners in the borough, such as key skills providers like LeSoCo as well as housing providers, to offer employment training and opportunities. The strategy outlines that Lewisham Council spent approximately £2 million during 2012/13 with a further £2 million spent during 2013/14 on initiatives to support residents to gain skills and experience that will lead to sustainable employment.

Analysis in the strategy of current jobseekers allowance data shows that there are a number of groups who have disproportionately high levels of unemployment, or long term unemployment and experience particular barriers to work. Data shows that these are:

- JSA claimants aged 16-24
- Residents with learning difficulties and disabilities
- Residents impacted by welfare reform (predominately lone parent families)
- JSA claimants aged 50 and over

These are the groups that are targeted most in the Action Plan that accompanies the Work and Skills Strategy.

Current work is focussed around increased joint working between Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark on employment, including bids to the London Enterprise Panel for improved apprenticeship provision. A new employment service across

Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark utilising the Local Support Services Framework will launch on 29th September.

Scrutiny

Partnership working would be a key area for the Committee to focus on if conducting a review looking at employment, including joint working with DWP and Jobcentre Plus, as well as how Lewisham works with skills providers such as LeSoCo and housing associations. In addition there is the chance for the Committee to look at the cross-borough working between Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark.

Timetable

This topic would be suited to a rapid review with a single evidence session occupying the majority of the meeting, followed at the next meeting by a report with recommendations that will be sent to Mayor & Cabinet. This would allow witnesses from outside organisations to attend and give evidence.

Guidance from officers indicates that this topic would be best suited to the start of 2015, as projects and programmes being put in place now will have had time to bed in and produce performance information. Depending on what the Committee decides, a more detailed scoping report can be produced for the 20 January meeting, with an evidence session at the 3 March meeting, followed by a report with recommendations at the start of the 2015/16 municipal year.

Background documents

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

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies/Documents/Sustainable%20Community%20Strategy%202008-2020.pdf>

Work and Skills Strategy – Mayor & Cabinet, 10 July 2013

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=139&MID=2841#A16334>