

<b>Public Accounts Select Committee</b>			
<b>Title</b>	Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Lewisham Future Programme – 2015/16 Revenue Budget Savings		
<b>Contributors</b>	Sustainable Development Select Committee	<b>Item No.</b>	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	<b>Date</b>	5 February 2015

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report informs the Public Accounts Select Committee of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Lewisham Future Programme – 2015/16 Revenue Budget Savings report.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Public Accounts Select Committee is recommended to note the views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee as set out in this report.

## **3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views**

- 3.1 On 20 January 2015, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered a report entitled Lewisham Future Programme. They considered four Budget Savings proposals that had been referred back to the Committee after its meeting on 29 October 2014. The four Budget Savings were as follows:

- E1: Structural re-organisation of the Regeneration & Asset Management division
- H1: Restructuring of enforcement & regulatory services
- N1: Reorganise environmental services, close and cease to maintain a number of small parks
- N2: Street sweeping

- 3.2 The Committee resolved to advise the Public Accounts Select Committee of the following:

**N1: Reorganise environmental services, close and cease to maintain a number of small parks**

- a) If the borough's parks are not properly maintained there might be a reduction in play-space.
- b) The risks associated with alternative management options should be considered as part of the consultation.
- c) The results of the consultation should be presented to the Select Committee for further scrutiny.
- d) The consultation should be communicated more widely across the borough. Furthermore, there needs to be broader public engagement, beyond the proposed user groups.

Therefore, the Select Committee recommends that:

- a) The consultation on N1 should be considered by all Local Assemblies, to increase public engagement.
- b) The results of the consultation on N1, plus any proposals derived from the consultation, must be presented to the Select Committee for consideration and scrutiny.
- c) There should be no closure of any of the borough's parks.

#### N2: Street sweeping

- a) An improvement in enforcement in areas such as trade waste could increase revenue for the Council, and lessen the need for budget savings in future years.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Should the Committee's referral result in the budget being changed, this may affect the amount of savings achieved, potentially resulting in a savings shortfall that would mean that alternative proposals would have to be identified and built into the budget planning process. However, as these decisions are ultimately for the Mayor (in recommending his budget), and then the Council, there are no direct or immediate financial implications arising from this report.

### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

### **Background papers**

Lewisham Future Programme – 2015/16 Revenue Budget Savings – Officer Report to the Select Committees (October and November 2014)

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s31821/03LFP201516RevenueBudgetSavings30102014.pdf>

Sustainable Development Select Committee – Agenda of 20 January 2015

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=3447&Ver=4>

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Roger Raymond, Scrutiny Manager (ext. 49976).