

Overview and Scrutiny Committee			
Title	Public Spending in Lewisham	Item No	3
Contributors	Overview and Scrutiny Manager		
Class	Part 1	Date	13 July 2015

1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1 A Public Spending Working Group was established at Full Council on 24 June 2015. The Working Group is examining how public money is being spent across the borough. Evidence from the Police, London Ambulance Service and London Fire Brigade, considered at this meeting, will be fed back to the Working Group.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to note the content of the report and consider the information presented from the witnesses at the meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1 The work of other public sector organisations, alongside that of the Council, is critical to the wellbeing of local people; and the Council often works in partnership with these organisations to achieve the best possible outcomes for those who live and work in the borough. Particularly in times of austerity it is critical that the Council understands how resources are deployed by other public organisations in the borough. This enables the Council to make its views known to those organisations and make informed choices about the nature of its own service provision.
- 3.2 Following a request from the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel, a working group was set up to investigate the way in which other public sector organisations deploy expenditure across the borough.

4. The Timetable

- 4.1 The timetable for the working group is as follows:

7 July 2015 – meeting of the working group to receive data on public spending in Lewisham.

13 July 2015 – meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive verbal evidence from the Metropolitan Police Service, the London Ambulance Service and the London Fire Brigade on the implications of any reductions in spending that have taken place or are due to take place, and the mitigation being put in place to combat the worst effects.

28 July 2015 - meeting of the working group to receive verbal evidence from a further two organisations – Goldsmiths and the Lewisham and Southwark College and to receive the evidence collated at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 July 2015.

22 September 2015 - meeting of the working group to consider a final report presenting all the evidence taken and agreeing recommendations for submission to Mayor & Cabinet / Full Council / relevant public organisations operating in Lewisham.

5. Public Spending in Lewisham

5.1 The following witnesses have agreed to attend the meeting:

- **Kate Halpin, the Borough Commander – London Metropolitan Police Service**
- **Graham Norton, Assistant Director of Operations (South East) and Andrew Bell, Deputy Director of Finance – London Ambulance Service**
- **Keeley Smith, the Borough Commander for Lewisham - London Fire Brigade**

5.2 Information on the budgets of these organisations is attached at Appendix A. Representatives from these organisations have been invited to attend this meeting to comment on:

- The implications of the figures.
- Their spending plans for the future, especially given any further savings which they might be expected to make.
- Any areas of collaboration or interdependencies with Lewisham Council services (and in particular on any plans in the next three years to stop / change service arrangements in these areas) so that any direct impact on the Council arising from reductions in spending can be assessed.

5.3 Further evidence will be taken from Goldsmiths and Lewisham Southwark College at a meeting of the Working Group on 28 July 2015. Information on the budgets of these organisations was provided to the meeting of the Working Group held on 7 July 2015.

6. Further Implications

6.1. Specific financial, legal, environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications arising from this evidence will be addressed as part of the review.

For further information please contact Charlotte Dale, Interim Overview and Scrutiny Manager on 020-8314-9534