

Mayor and Cabinet			
Title	Response to Sustainable Development Committee - Catford Regeneration	Item No	
Contributors	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration		
Class	Part 1	Date	7 September 2016

1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1 At its meeting on 29 June 2016, the Sustainable Development Select Committee held discussions on the Catford Regeneration Programme Interim Report and discussed the recommendations of the Creative Lewisham 2001 report.
- 1.2 Mayor and Cabinet was advised of the views of Sustainable Development Select Committee on 13th of July and a response was requested from the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to the issues raised. This paper sets out the response.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to:

- note the content of the report

3. Sustainable Development Select Committee's Views and Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration's response.

- 3.1 The Committee commended the Creative Lewisham 2001 report to Mayor and Cabinet and particularly its call for a vision for urban developments in the borough and its call for high ambitions.
- 3.2 The Committee endorses the comments from the Lewisham Culture & Urban Development Commission's report about the benefits of a piazza in the centre of Catford:
- 3.3 *"The square's main café will be a central meeting point and the library will put on events, often outside, which give a sense that libraries are innovative. The Council's offices, as a consequence, will become for citizens 'our place' and the interactions between ordinary people and officials will happen often by chance encounter. St Modwen's shopping centre will have had a dramatic overhaul having decided that, with these new developments, it can no longer hang back. The market will wind itself round into the square by putting on niche markets to appeal to varied tastes. The route down from the station will feel processional engender a sense of expectation of what is to come. The setting of the Catford stations will be vastly improved so making arrival a joyful experience and the open spaces will not feel cut off by fencing, and will at special moments become an entertainments venue relating well to what is going on in the square. At night*

the lighting of major civic buildings will create a feeling of drama.” (Creative Lewisham: the report of the Lewisham Culture & Urban Development Commission, page 39).

3.4 **Executive Director’s response -**

- 3.5 Although the Creative Lewisham report is now 15 years old, many of the aspirations outlined for Catford in 2001 remain highly relevant today. Our recent work with Allies and Morrison looks at creating something unique and interesting from the redevelopment of Catford. The process of understanding what is already great about the area, or could become great with the right approach, is fundamental to creating a place with its own appeal and identity.
- 3.6 Although the buildings themselves are important, it is often the places in between the buildings which make or break an area. This is why we have applied for and secured funds to improve the arrival spaces at Catford’s stations so that first impressions of the area can be vastly improved. We are also working intensively with TfL on options for improving their network, with a particular focus on creating an attractive route between the stations and the town centre. In the town centre itself we are working with TfL on alternative options, all of which seek to rebalance the public realm, giving greater consideration to pedestrians and cyclists and creating attractive public space in key locations like outside the theatre. We do believe that some buildings are critical to the success of the town centre though, and we think that the Broadway Theatre is one of these. It is central to the success of Catford as a place and is one of the unique features which can take Catford’s offer to the community to a completely different level. We aim to revitalise the building as part of the wider vision to make sure this happens.
- 3.7 Redevelopment of Lewisham Town Hall site will also create the opportunity to reinforce the importance of Catford Broadway and create greater activity on this currently one sided street. The improved public offer on this site will act to draw visitors into Catford Broadway, the revamped theatre and redeveloped shopping centre (which the Council has since acquired from St Modwen). The street will then become a livelier place where activity can spill from the buildings along its length and the street market can flourish.
- 3.8 These are just a few examples of where there are synergies between the creative Lewisham report and the current vision. High aspirations are central to the vision for Catford town centre and officers in planning and regeneration will set out a new programme for progressing these plans in the autumn.

For further information please contact: Kplom Lotsu, SGM Capital Programme Delivery Ext: 49283