

<b>Public Accounts Select Committee</b>		
<b>Title</b>	Lewisham Future Programme – 2017/18 Revenue Budget Savings Report – Select Committee views	
<b>Contributors</b>	All select committees	Item. Supplement
<b>Class</b>	Part 1 (open)	22 September 2016

Reasons for lateness: The report is late because Select Committees had not held their meetings before the agenda despatch date for the Public Accounts Select Committee meeting.

Reasons for urgency: The report is urgent because the views of the Select Committees need to be considered alongside the report from officers on the Lewisham Future Programme.

## **1 Summary**

- 1.1 This report informs the Public Accounts Select Committee of the comments and views of the Select Committees (which met in September 2016) on the Lewisham Future Programme – 2017/18 Revenue Budget Savings report.

## **2 Recommendation**

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

## **3 Select committee views**

- 3.1 On 7 September 2016, the **Housing Select Committee** considered the Lewisham Future Programme 2017/18 Revenue Budget Savings Report. The Committee resolved to advise the Public Accounts Select Committee of the following:

M6 – reorganise provision of the handypersons service

- 3.2 The Committee welcomed officers' plans to consult on the proposed savings to the handypersons service with service users and other stakeholders, but asked to be provided with more information about the final questions being asked, in particular those about the possible charging structure for the service. The Committee also welcomed the opportunity to scrutinise the proposals again in November, in light of the results of the consultation, before any decision is made about the future of the service.
- 3.3 On 13 September 2016, the **Healthier Communities Select Committee** considered the Lewisham Future Programme 2017/18 Revenue Budget Savings Report. The Committee resolved to advise the Public Accounts Select Committee of the following:

#### A18 – widening the scope of charging for social care services

- 3.4 The Committee expressed concern about the possibility of vulnerable people choosing not to use services like this as a result of increased charges – the Linkline alarm services in particular. The Committee recommended, should this proposal be accepted, that the Mayor and Cabinet make sure that any decrease in use by vulnerable people is closely monitored.

#### A19 – reduction in the staffing costs for assessment and care management

- 3.5 The Committee expressed concern about possible increases in delays for assessments, and decreases in the quality of assessments, as a result of deleting 10% of posts in the assessment and care management teams. The Committee recommended, should this proposal be accepted, that the Mayor and Cabinet make sure any negative consequences are closely monitored.
- 3.6 On 14 September 2016, the **Children and Young People Select Committee** considered the Lewisham Future Programme 2017/18 Revenue Budget Savings Report. The Committee resolved to advise the Public Accounts Select Committee of the following:

#### Q6a-f: Developing alternative pathways

- 3.7 The Committee noted the savings and requested that, should they be agreed by the Mayor and Cabinet, the Children and Young People Select Committee should receive feedback on progress post implementation so that the effect could be monitored and tracked.

#### Q7a and b: Redesign of Lewisham CAMHS

- 3.8 The Committee noted the savings but was concerned about the potential for negative impact on young people. The Committee requested that, should these savings be agreed by Mayor and Cabinet, the Children and Young People Select Committee should receive feedback on progress post implementation so that the effect could be monitored and tracked and any negative impacts could be mitigated.

#### Q8: Develop in-house fostering and specialist carers.

- 3.9 The Committee felt this proposal was positive and the initiative delivered an improvement to services as well as savings.

#### Q9: Enhance support for children on the edge of care.

- 3.10 The Committee felt this proposal was positive and the initiative would deliver an improvement to service as well as savings. The Committee requested that, should this saving be agreed by the Mayor and Cabinet, the Children and Young People Select Committee should receive feedback on progress post implementation so that the effect could be monitored and tracked.

Q10: Enhance family finding capacity for step down.

- 3.11 The Committee noted the savings and requested that, should this saving be agreed by the Mayor and Cabinet, the Children and Young People Select Committee should receive feedback on progress post implementation so that the effect could be monitored and tracked.

Q11a and b: Redesign of Meliot Centre

- 3.12 The Committee was concerned regarding the potential effects of changing staffing structures and requested that should this proposal be agreed by Mayor and Cabinet, the full report for Mayor and Cabinet on the proposed service change be provided to the Children and Young People Select Committee for scrutiny prior to it going to Mayor and Cabinet.

- 3.13 On 14 September 2016, the **Sustainable Development Select Committee** considered the Lewisham Future Programme 2017/18 Revenue Budget Savings Report. The Committee resolved to advise the Public Accounts Select Committee of the following:

- The Committee recommends that action be taken to improve the IT used by the borough's planning teams. Members recognise that planning officers could provide substantially improved services and make more efficient use of resources if the IT offer was brought up to industry standards.
- The Committee recommends that the proposal to cut or reduce the assemblies fund be rejected.
- The Committee would welcome further proposals about the potential to generate revenue from the use of the Council's assets.
- The Committee is concerned about the lack of information provided about the equalities dimension of a number of the savings proposals. It asks that officers pay close attention to areas in which there may be a cumulative negative impact on protected groups.

- 3.14 On 15 September 2016, the **Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee** considered the Lewisham Future Programme 2017/18 Revenue Budget Savings Report. The Committee resolved to advise the Public Accounts Select Committee of the following:

B3: Re-procure floating support services

- 3.15 That the proposal be endorsed.

L8: Review of facilities management arrangements

- 3.16 The Committee accepted the proposal, but expressed the view that any groups or organisations taking on management contracts must uphold the council's values and be committed to enabling access to the wider community. Staff should be

safeguarded as much as practicable and the London Living Wage should be used as a minimum standard.

#### L9: Removal of the Assembly Fund

- 3.17 The Committee unanimously rejected the proposal. It was felt that the removal of the fund would have a negative impact on community cohesion, participation and engagement, and that the impact would be disproportionate to the relatively modest level of saving that would be achieved. The Committee was of the majority view that a partial saving would be similarly unacceptable.

#### M6: Handyperson Service

The Committee endorsed the views of the Housing Select Committee.

### **4. Financial implications**

- 4.1 Should the Committees' referrals 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 2017/18 Budget Savings Report, considered at all select committees, September 2016: <http://tinyurl.com/hwan4d8>

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Timothy Andrew, Interim Overview and Scrutiny Manager (02083147916).