

Mayor and Cabinet		
Title	Comments of the Public Accounts Select Committee on the financial out-turn for 2016-17	
Contributor	Public Accounts Select Committee	Item x
Class	Part 1 (open)	19 July 2017

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Public Accounts Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the financial out-turn for 2016-17 at the meeting on 28 June 2017.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the views of the Select Committee as set out in this report and ask the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to provide a response.

3. Public Accounts Select Committee views

- 3.1 On 28 June 2017, the Public Accounts Select Committee reviewed the Council's financial out-turn for 2016-17.
- 3.2 The Committee asks for additional information about the level of the Council's reserves. It would like to better understand the different types of financial reserves held by the Council.
- 3.3 The Committee recommends that the contingency put aside in the budget should more closely relate to the level of risk of achieving savings put forward each year in the Lewisham Future Programme.
- 3.4 The Committee also requests further information about school deficits. Specifically, it would like to know how many primary and secondary schools are in deficit, how many are projected to be in deficit in the future and whether or not Lewisham is an outlier in London and in England, in relation to the number of schools in financial difficulty.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there are financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

5. Legal implications

5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

6. Further implications

6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

Background papers

Public Accounts Select Committee agenda 28 June 2017: [link](#)

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Timothy Andrew, Scrutiny Manager (timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk)