

Mayor and Cabinet		
Report Title:	Response To Referral From Sustainable Development Select Committee – Catford Town Centre Quarterly Update	
Key decision:	Yes	
Ward:	Rushey Green	
Contributors:	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration	
Class:	Part 1	Date: 6 th December, 2017

1. Purpose:

- 1.1 This report sets out the response to the referral made by the Sustainable Development Select Committee to the Mayor on 4th October 2017 following their consideration of the Catford Programme Quarterly Update report presented by officers at the Sustainable Development Select Committee on 13th September 2017.

2. Recommendations:

The Mayor is asked to:

- 2.1 Approve the officer response to the referral by the Sustainable Development Select Committee, and
- 2.2 Agree that this report should be forwarded to the Select Committee.

3. Background:

- 3.1 On 13th September 2017, the Sustainable Development Select Committee held a meeting at which an officer paper on The Catford Regeneration Programme Quarterly Update was considered (Appendix 1). The purpose of the paper was to provide a general update on progress of the Catford Regeneration programme
- 3.2 Having considered the report, the Select Committees resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of their views (attached as Appendix 2 of this report). The Select Committees' referral was considered by Mayor and Cabinet on 4th October 2017 and officers were asked to respond. The referral and subsequent response are detailed below.

4. Referral and Officer Response:

4.1 *Referral:* The Committee welcomes the sense of coherence and direction provided by the masterplanning process. The Committee commends the work of the Catford regeneration programme team and reiterates its appreciation for the careful consideration that officers are giving to all elements of the programme.

Response: Officers thank the Committee for their continued support and direction with regards to the Catford programme.

4.2 *Referral:* The Committee believes that the process of masterplanning has reached a point at which all councillors would benefit from the opportunity to be involved in discussions. The Committee asks that opportunities be provided for all elected members to be involved in the next stages of development of the Catford town centre masterplan.

Response: Officers have noted and acted upon the Committee's request. Monthly drop-in sessions are now available to all Members, where officers from the Catford programme team are available to discuss any issues Members wish to raise. These sessions are held from 6:30pm, prior to the regular Labour Group meetings. Officers have also recently helped facilitate an all Member workshop on sustainability held 21st November, 7-9pm. All Members are able to make comments on the Catford online engagement platform at: <https://catfordtowncentre.commonplace.is/about>, which also contains information about upcoming public engagement events, and links to Team Catford's Twitter and Facebook pages for the latest news.

4.3 *Referral:* The Committee recommends that proposals for the future of the Councils offices and civic facilities retain a connection between civic functions, office space and the public. The Committee believes that the Council's offices should be open and accessible to the community so that there are opportunities for all residents to engage in the civic life of the borough.

Response: Officers note the Committees recommendation and will ensure that their aspirations are communicated to the successful masterplanner for Catford once appointed.

4.4 *Referral:* The Committee recommends that officers' future discussions with Transport for London and the Greater London Authority should emphasise the connection between the delivery of housing action zone targets and improvements in transport connections. The Committee is concerned about current plans to stop the extension of the Bakerloo line in Lewisham, rather than extending it to Hayes (via Catford).

Response: Officers note the views of the Committee and thus will ensure that the relevant connections are made in any future discussions with TfL in relation with the realignment of the South Circular as well as the Bakerloo Line extension programme.

4.5 *Referral:* The Committee reiterates the importance of incorporating quality cycling and walking routes on the key arterial routes into Catford.

Response: Officers note the Committee's continued commitment to improving the cycling and pedestrian environment in Catford. TfL's work to date on the re-alignment of the South Circular through Catford, has been very much focused on improvements of this nature, in line with their Healthy Streets Agenda. The masterplanner for Catford will be informed of the importance of this element of the scheme and will be expected to work closely with TfL and our internal Highways and Transport team to deliver the best possible experience for cyclists and pedestrians.

- 4.6 Referral: The Committee Recommends that as part of the master planning process officers should consider the potential for the development of an education campus with further and higher education providers.

Response: Officers recognise the potential benefits that a further education campus could bring to the town centre, and will request that the masterplanner considers potential locations within the town centre for uses of this type as part of the masterplanning process.

- 4.7 Referral: The Committee highlights the importance of Catford's varied and unique collection of businesses. The Committee recommends that consideration be given to options for provision of affordable premises for local businesses and organisations with a social purpose. This might include changes to the business rate system which enable innovation, encourage a social purpose and support community participation.

Response: Officers note and agree the importance of Catford's businesses to the local economy and will ensure that the masterplan seeks to provide a range of options for business premises which caters for various business types including those of local businesses. Currently, officers are looking at innovative ways, within the Catford Regeneration Programme, to encourage successful local businesses, with a social purpose, to operate within the town centre, a case in point being the recent leasing of the derelict Thomas Lane Depot to a local film and theatre set-building company, who have crowdfunded to contribute towards extra provision such as a children's beach-play area, among other community initiatives.

5. Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this response.

6. Legal Implications:

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this response, save for noting that the Council's 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).

7. Crime and Disorder Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this response.

8. Equalities Implications:

8.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this response.

9. Environmental Implications:

9.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this response.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Catford Regeneration Programme Quarterly Update Report to Sustainable Development Select Committee 13th September 2017

Appendix 2: Sustainable Development Select Committee Decisions for referral to Mayor and Cabinet, from 13th September 2017

If you would like further information on this report please contact Jessie Lea, Senior Programme Manager – Catford Regeneration on ext: **49256**