
Overview and Scrutiny

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee end of administration report

Spring 2018

Membership of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee 2014-18:

2014-15

Councillor Pauline Morrison (Chair)
Councillor David Michael (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Andre Bourne
Councillor Alicia Kennedy
Councillor Colin Elliott
Councillor Pat Raven
Councillor Luke Sorba
Councillor Eva Stamirowski
Councillor Paul Upex
Councillor James-J Walsh

2016-17

Councillor David Michael (Chair)
Councillor James-J Walsh (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Brenda Dacres
Councillor Colin Elliott
Councillor Joyce Jacca
Councillor Stella Jeffrey
Councillor Jim Mallory
Councillor John Paschoud
Councillor Luke Sorba
Councillor Paul Upex

2015-16

Councillor Pauline Morrison (Chair)
Councillor Pat Raven (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Andre Bourne
Councillor Brenda Dacres
Councillor Colin Elliott
Councillor Alicia Kennedy
Councillor David Michael
Councillor Luke Sorba
Councillor Paul Upex
Councillor James-J Walsh

2017-18

Councillor Pauline Morrison (Chair)
Councillor James-J Walsh (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Brenda Dacres
Councillor Colin Elliott
Councillor Sue Hordijkeno
Councillor Joyce Jacca
Councillor Jim Mallory
Councillor David Michael
Councillor Pat Raven
Councillor Paul Upex

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Introduction

- 1.1. Lewisham has 54 Councillors, representing 18 wards. Lewisham also has an executive mayor who is elected by the whole borough.
- 1.2. Nine of Lewisham's Councillors are chosen by the Mayor to form his Cabinet.
- 1.3. 45 non-executive councillors are all members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee usually met four times in each year of this administration to consider cross cutting issues of strategic importance. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee also form six select committees, which take on the responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for specific areas of work. In this administration, there have been six select committees, each has usually met eight times a year:
 - Children and Young People Select Committee
 - Healthier Communities Select Committee
 - Housing Select Committee
 - Public Accounts Select Committee
 - Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee
 - Sustainable Development Select Committee
- 1.4. This report provides a short summary the activities and achievements of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee in the 2014-18 administration.
- 1.5. The Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee has a responsibility for reviewing and developing policy in relation to crime and disorder, equality of opportunity within the borough and community development and the voluntary sector, as well as holding decision makers to account and monitoring the Council's performance. Throughout the course of this administration, the Committee has allocated time to respond to emerging issues and to review issues in depth. Each of the sections below sets out how the Committee has fulfilled its responsibilities over the past four years.
- 1.6. Over the course of the administration, the Committee has asked hundreds of questions of Council officers, guests and decision makers. It also has a formal option to send its views to the Council's executive Mayor and Cabinet through the use of referrals – to which the Executive is obliged to provide a written response. A summary of these referrals is included as an appendix to this report.



2. Overview

2.1. Meetings

- The Committee met six times in 2014-15.
- It met eight times in 15-16 & 16-17 and 7 times in 17-18.
- In all there were 29 Committee meetings in 2014-18.
- The Committee has considered more than 120 reports.
- The Committee made more than 18 referrals to Mayor and Cabinet and has undertaken five in-depth reviews.

2.2. Terms of reference

2.3. Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee's terms of reference are to exercise all the functions and roles of the overview and scrutiny committee in relation to the following matters:

- To fulfil all overview and scrutiny functions in relation to the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder function as set out in Sections 19 and 20 Police & Justice Act 2006, as amended from time to time, and all other relevant legislation. This shall include the power:
 - to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder function,
 - to make reports or recommendations to the local authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of those functions; and
 - to make reports and/or recommendations to the local authority with respect to any matter which is a local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member of the authority. A local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member means a matter concerning crime and disorder (including, in particular, forms of crime and disorder involving anti-social behaviour or other behaviour adversely affecting the environment), or the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, which affect all or part of the electoral area for which the member is elected or any person who lives or works there.
- make proposals to the Executive to promote equality of opportunity within the borough, including issues of discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, sexuality, age and/or class;
- to recommend to the Executive, the Council or an appropriate committee proposals for policy development in relation to equalities issues;
- to analyse policy options as necessary to inform the proposals to be made to the Executive or other appropriate committee;
- to advise the Executive or other committee on all matters relating to equality of opportunity both in terms of policy, service provision, employment and/or access to public services;

- to enhance and develop existing and innovative consultative and/or advisory work for equality of opportunity and to consider issues of inequality and discrimination across the borough;
- to consider and recommend to the Executive, ways in which participation by disadvantaged and under-represented sections of the community might be more effectively involved in the democratic processes of local government;
- to pilot methods of consultation and involvement and to report back to the Executive or appropriate committee on their effectiveness with recommendation if appropriate;
- to establish links with and liaise with external organisations in the borough which are concerned with the promotion of equality of opportunity.
- Overview & Scrutiny functions (excluding call-in) in relation to library provision.

2.4. Leadership

2.5. Councillor Pauline Morrison has been the Chair of the Select Committee for three of the past four years with Councillor David Michael Chair for the 2016/17 municipal year. There have been three Vice Chairs: Councillor David Michael, Cllr Pat Raven and Councillor James-J Walsh.

2.6. Deciding on the work programme

2.7. At the beginning of each year of the administration, the Committee considered a range of topics for its upcoming work programme. This was comprised of:

- items the Committee was required to consider by virtue of its terms of reference;
- issues of importance to residents;
- the capacity for adding items to each meeting;
- suggestions already put forward by Members;
- issues arising from previous scrutiny;
- follow up to Committee referrals and reviews.

2.8. The Committee considered, discussed and prioritised the work programme using:

- the context for setting the work programme and advice from officers;
- criteria for selecting and prioritising topics developed from best practice.

2.9. At the end of each meeting, the Committee reviewed the programme for upcoming meetings and decided on how the topics it had identified should be scrutinised. The Committee agreed at each meeting which items just required an information report to be provided to the Committee and which others required performance monitoring data or analysis to be presented. Typically, the majority of items took the form of single meeting items or in-depth reviews, where members:

- (a) agreed what information and analysis they wished to receive in order to achieve their desired outcomes;
- (b) received a report/s presenting that information and analysis;
- (c) asked questions of the presenting officer or guest;
- (d) agreed, following discussion of the report, whether the Committee would make recommendations or receive further information or analysis before summarising its views.

2.10. Issues of importance to residents:

- 2.11. Councillors have substantial knowledge of the issues of importance in their wards. They are also closely involved in their local assembly meetings and local groups. Each year, when deciding on its work programme, Committee members drew on their local knowledge to inform the development of the work plan for the year. Also, it is worth noting that the Committee closely monitored the Safer Lewisham Plan, residents' concerns fed into the plan to ensure objectives matched community concerns.

Guests at Committee meetings and visits by the Committee

- 2.12. There have been more than 35 guests, experts and witnesses for reviews at the Committee's meetings and evidence gathering sessions in this administration. They attended to give their views on issues of importance, or to provide the Committee with information or analysis about a specific topic. In addition to this, the cabinet members for Community Safety, Third Sector and Community, and Policy and Performance have attended meetings on numerous occasions to answer questions about the overarching vision for a policy - or to answer questions about the delivery of a service. The Committee also visited Manchester City Council and the LGBT+ Foundation in September 2017 to gather evidence for its LGBT+ review. They also held a conference call with Leicestershire County Council in October 2017 as part of the evidence gathering for the same review.

Date	Name	Organisation	Item attended in relation to
10-Sep-14	Ian Alderson	Met Police	VAWG
3-Feb-15	Russell Nyman	Met Police	Police and Fire Update
3-Feb-15	Keeley Smith	LFB	Police and Fire Update
3-Feb-15	Laura Butterworth	Safer London Foundation	VAWG
3-Feb-15	Anna Reilly	Safer London Foundation	VAWG
10-Mar-15	Graham Price	Met Police	Safer Lewisham Strategy Update
14-May-15	Becky Canning	National Probation Service	NPS and CRC Update
14-May-15	Rob Clarke	Community Rehabilitation Company	NPS and CRC Update
1-Jul-15	Kay Kelleher	Volunteer Centre Lewisham	Implementation of the Volunteering Strategy
1-Jul-15	Justus Mugbeh	Milton Court TRA	Voluntary Sector Accommodation Implementation Plan
1-Jul-15	Yvonne Peart	Honour Oak Community Association	Voluntary Sector Accommodation Implementation Plan
30-Nov-15	Tony Nickson	Voluntary Action Lewisham	Main Grants' Programme Equalities Update
19-Jan-16	Keeley Smith	LFB	Police and Fire Update
19-Jan-16	Rachel Leeser	GLA	Poverty Review
9-Mar-16	Roz Hardie	Lewisham Disability Commission	Lewisham Disability Commission Report
04-Jul-16	Kate Halpin	Met Police	Local Police Update
19-Oct-16	James Banks	Co-author "The Way Ahead"	Capacity in the Voluntary Sector
19-Oct-16	Andrew O'Brien	Charities Finance Group	Capacity in the Voluntary Sector
19-Oct-16	Philippe Granger	Rushey Green Timebank	Capacity in the Voluntary Sector
19-Oct-16	Roz Hardie	Lewisham Disability Coalition	Capacity in the Voluntary Sector
17-Jan-17	Andy Carter	Met Police	Local Police Update
17-Jan-17	Peter Vittles	Metro Charity	LGBT Provision in Lewisham
8-Mar-17	Becky Canning	National Probation Service	NPS and CRC Update
8-Mar-17	Cassie Newman	Community Rehabilitation Company	NPS and CRC Update
5-Sep-17	Cllr Bev Craig	Manchester City Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
5-Sep-17	Cllr Peter Cookson	Manchester City Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
5-Sep-17	Keiran Barnes	Manchester City Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
5-Sep-17	Kath Hanna	Manchester City Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
5-Sep-17	Helen Hassall	Manchester City Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham

5-Sep-17	Jude Millet	Manchester City Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
5-Sep-17	Zoe Robertson	Manchester City Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
5-Sep-17	Rob Cookson	LGBT+ Foundation	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
21-Sep-17	James Greenshields	Tonic Housing	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
21-Sep-17	Rob Jones	Metropolitan Police	Local Police Update
13-Nov-17	Gordon McFarlane	Leicestershire County Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
13-Nov-17	Caroline Fairchild	Leicestershire County Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
13-Nov-17	Liz Goodman	Leicestershire County Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham
13-Nov-17	Charlene Coates	Leicestershire County Council	LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham

3. Policy development and In-depth Reviews

3.1. One of the Committee's important functions is to lead on the development of emerging Council policy and to make recommendations to Mayor and Cabinet with Committee views, recommendations, concerns and endorsements. The Committee does this both by on-going monitoring of policy development and through its in-depth reviews. The Committee has scrutinised the development of a broad range of Council policies and strategies over the past four years, some notable examples include:

3.2. Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan

3.3. The Committee has spent a significant amount of time looking at and monitoring the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan. As part of the Committee's annual work programme at least two meetings a year have looked at the development and on-going review of the plan. At the developmental stage the process included incorporating priorities and suggestions from the Committee. The on-going review process allows the Committee to consider how the plan's targets are being met.

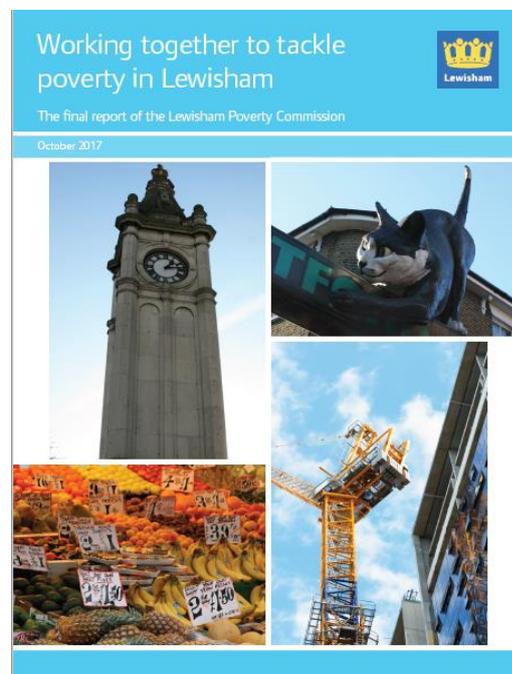


3.4. The focus of the Lewisham Partnership Plan has very much been around gender-based violence and peer on peer abuse. As a result of the partnership plan, the Council monitors associated targets closely and has a detailed and comprehensive view of serious youth violence, safeguarding and criminal justice.

3.5. Lewisham Poverty Commission

3.6. As part of the Committee's 2015/16 work programme, the committee undertook a review into poverty in Lewisham. The Committee took evidence from a range of sources and looked at experiences and challenges of Lewisham residents.

3.7. Some of the key recommendations of the Committee's finding were that the Council should set up a poverty task force and a poverty summit in the borough with the aims of understanding and tackling the poverty faced by some Lewisham residents. The committee's recommendation included suggesting that the taskforce should work in partnership with key stakeholders from community groups, think-tanks and local residents.



3.8. As a direct result of the Committee's recommendations the Lewisham Poverty Commission was set up incorporating the Executive Member for Policy and

Performance, members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, representatives from partner organisations and local stakeholders, and national experts in the field. Many of the recommendations were around childcare and extending opportunities for parents and lone parents by developing training and flexible working opportunities. Recommendations were also around affordability of housing and the private rental sector, supporting the community sector and increasing people's access to support.

3.9. In-depth Reviews carried out by the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee

3.10. Over the last administration the Committee has carried out five in-depth reviews with over 60 recommendations for consideration by the Mayor and Cabinet. Reviews carried out during this administration are:

- Violence Against Women and Girls;
- Poverty Review; (see paragraph 3.6 above)
- Capacity in the Voluntary Sector;
- Demographic Change;
- LGBT+ Provision in Lewisham.

3.11. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

3.12. The Committee had concerns about the prevalence of violence against women and girls and in particular the dangers faced by women and girls linked to gangs. The review focussed on preventative work, awareness raising and early intervention.

3.13. As part of the review the Committee heard from a number of Council and Police officers as well as representatives from the Safer London Foundation. Following the recommendations of the review, combatting violence against women and girls has continued to be an important priority for the committee and the Council. The Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee continued to receive reports and updates on VAWG throughout the administration. VAWG is also now a key part of the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan.

3.14. Capacity in the Voluntary Sector

3.15. The Committee were concerned about the increasingly challenging situation faced by many voluntary organisations with dramatic decreases in grant funding at a time of increasing need for services by local residents. As part of the Committee's 2016/17 work programme they decided to undertake an in-depth review into the challenges organisations in Lewisham were facing and how best the Council could support the sector with the limited funds available.

3.16. The review looked principally at small and medium-sized voluntary organisations and civil society support groups and heard evidence from a number of local community groups and local and London-wide civil support groups. In particular the review looked closely at "The Way Ahead – Civil Society in London" and heard evidence from the report author. The Committee used the techniques and analysis listed in the report to help them consider recommendations for how Lewisham Council could best support the voluntary sector in Lewisham.

- 3.17. The Committee’s findings and recommendations included a strong focus on the importance of collaborative work, consistent information, fair commissioning and sharing data and expertise. The Committee’s findings also highlighted the importance of a shared understanding of need in the community but suggest this be developed further to include a shared understanding of opportunities such as availability of volunteers and skills of local residents.
- 3.18. In their findings, the Committee recognised the role the Council plays in supporting infrastructure support organisations and providing infrastructure support itself. Many of the Committee’s recommendations strongly linked to this such as the recommendation to set up a liaison support network for Chief Executives in the Community and Voluntary Sector and investigating the potential to offer support with data sharing. The importance of infrastructure support organisations providing a voice for the sector was also highlighted by the report’s findings.
- 3.19. At the centre of this review and its findings was the role of civil society and the importance of engaging and working with volunteers. The Committee’s findings included recommendations to support this such as the Council supporting a “brokerage” system between voluntary sector organisations and employers and considering the role that could be played by local assemblies.
- 3.20. As a result of the committee’s recommendations a number of changes have been introduced. In particular has a support network for Chief Executives of local organisations was created and this role is now being carried out through Voluntary Action Lewisham. Other changes include work being undertaken to look at the commissioning process to improve access by local community groups.

3.21. Demographic Change

Overview and Scrutiny
 Demographic Change
 Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee
 June 2017

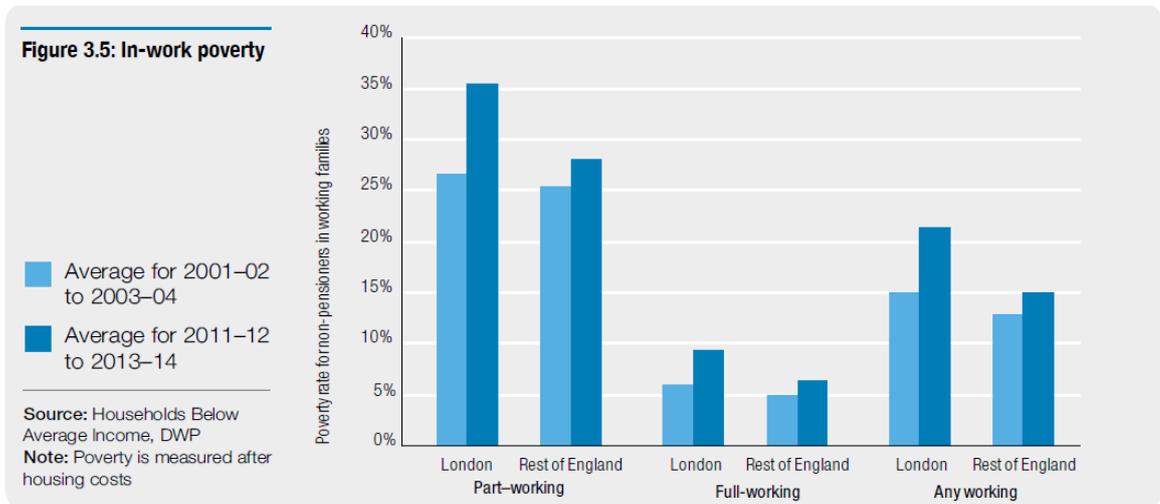


3.22. At the end of the 2016/17 work programme the Committee decided to look in detail at demographic change and started a review that went between the work programmes for 16/17 and 17/18. The review looked at key changes and predictions and projections for the future to consider the important service delivery and capacity questions the Council would need to address.

3.23. The review considered the reduction in comparative poverty in Lewisham but noted that Lewisham remains in the top 20% of most deprived boroughs nationally. In particular, income deprivation is higher in London than nationally and income deprivation affecting children and older people is comparatively very high in Lewisham.

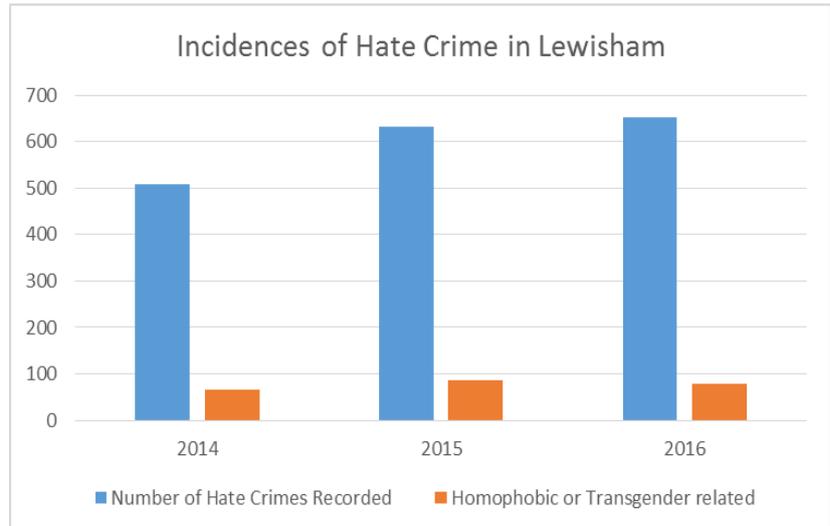
These factors coupled with concerns regarding the impact of welfare reforms, led the Committee to focus its recommendations on the effect of the high cost of living and how this could drive demographic change and deprivation. The Committee made a number of suggestions for mitigating negative

effects on residents. The review also considered the high cost of housing in Lewisham, the reduction in home ownership, and the increase in the private rental sector. This was reflected in the Committee’s recommendation on a joint housing venture.



- 3.24. The review also strongly stressed the importance of the Council continually monitoring data to ensure it is prepared for the future. This included work on being prepared for different scenarios around Britain leaving the EU and decisions being made taking into account long, medium, and short term projections for demographic change. These factors were also reflected in the review’s recommendations around planning and monitoring.
- 3.25. The review concluded that demographic change was a reality of living in London but ensuring that residents were supported and services were targeted affectively was vital to maintaining a strong and supported community. The Council’s role in ensuring it adapts to changes and supports residents as best as possible was seen as essential.
- 3.26. Provision for the LGBT+ Community in Lewisham
- 3.27. The Committee took a broad look at services and provision across the Council from the perspective of LGBT residents looking at challenges and opportunities and where inequalities existed. As part of the evidence gathering the Committee heard from a number of local and national experts and community groups and visited Manchester City Council.

3.28. The recommendations from the LGBT+ review recognised that inequalities faced by, and experiences within, those defining as LGBT+ are diverse and different groups and those within each group may face different challenges or may not face challenges at all. To this end, the



recommendations focused strongly on improving the evidence base and knowledge of the community in part through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process but also through equalities monitoring across Council provision.

3.29. The recommendations also included making more routine use of good practice and expertise from other public bodies and embedding this across the Council. The recommendations also included emulating innovative practice such as investigating the possibility of LGBT focussed extra care provision and embedding equalities policies across the Council's commissioning process to ensure providers are meeting high standards. Other areas of focus include HR improvements to ensure the Council provides an inclusive and supportive environment for all staff.

4. Holding decision makers to account – Performance Monitoring and Responding to Emerging issues

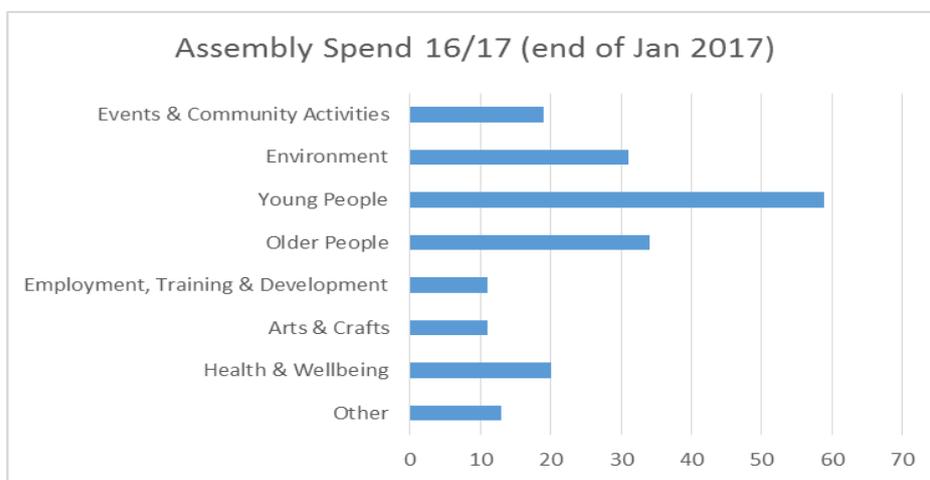
4.1. The Committee allocated significant time to performance monitoring scrutiny during the last administration. This can take a number of different forms. It might include challenging decision makers on the decisions they have taken or it might relate more closely to the development of policy and include scrutiny of the Council’s delivery of services in a particular area.

4.2. Scrutiny regularly uses performance information and data to examine the effectiveness of services. In this administration there have been a number of issues that required the Committee to review initial proposals as well as results of consultation (where appropriate) before a change was implemented- and then to review the implementation of a scheme once it a decision had been taken.

4.3. Comprehensive Equalities Scheme

4.4. The Committee has continued to monitor the Council’s Comprehensive Equalities Scheme over the course of the administration. The new scheme was updated in 2016 and the Committee’s views formed part of the consultation around it. As the Committee with the overarching responsibility for equalities the CES has been an important part of the committee’s work programme and is likely to continue to be over the next administration.

4.5. Local Assemblies Review



4.6. As part of the Committee’s work programme the Committee looks at the annual review of local assemblies. This includes details of their grant allocations, number of people attending, events held and other key statistics and information. The Committee has also been involved in considering the local assemblies handbook and how that can best help ward Councillors undertake their roles on Local Assemblies.

4.7. Youth Offending Service Action Plan

4.8. The Council underwent an HMI Probation inspection in December 2016 and a number of areas were found to be unsatisfactory. The subsequent action plan has

been reported to Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee and is now part of the regular reports to ensure they monitor targets and key performance indicators. The Committee has been impressed with progress and in particular the implementation of the “trauma-informed approach.” The Committee will likely want to continue monitoring the KPIs and overall performance on the action plan over the course of the forthcoming administration.

4.9. Savings

4.10. During the last 4 years the Committee has considered savings proposals and changes to service provision as part of the Lewisham Future Programme. This has included: changes to library services; reductions to the Main Grants Programme; and changes to community safety and crime prevention and the local assemblies budgets. As a result of a referral from the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, savings to the Local Assembly Budget were reconsidered and the grant allocations were maintained. Other areas have been closely monitored by the Committee following the reductions to ensure that there were no additional unpredicted consequences. For example, the Committee has continued to closely monitor the changes to the library service and the implications of the reductions in funding as part of the Main Grants Programme. As detailed in the paragraph below, additional savings are likely to be a part of the Committee’s work programme over the course of the next administration.

5. **Future challenges**

5.1. The Council has been on a decade long programme of reductions in resources as a result of ongoing government austerity. In order to deliver the scale of the savings required, and to give consideration to the broader implications of changes in services, the Council established the Lewisham Future Programme. The programme board has led on the identification and delivery of cross-cutting and thematic reviews to achieve the savings required. Since 2010, the Council has delivered savings of £160.6m whilst reorganising services and meeting increased demand.

5.2. An additional £4.8m of savings are proposed for 2018/9 and in the years to 2020 is estimated that further savings of £35m will be required, which will bring savings over the decade since 2010 to almost £200m. However, savings are becoming more difficult to achieve and the Council’s reserves have been used to balance to budget for the past four years.

5.3. Despite the level of savings already delivered and the Lewisham Future Programme’s systematic approach to identifying and delivering savings from cross cutting areas of activity, the Council’s progress with delivering savings has slowed. This has been combined with directorate overspends for a number of Council services. Projections for the end of the 2017/18 financial year are that the budget will be overspent by £13m, with more than half of this amount relating to savings that have been agreed but not delivered.

5.4. The medium term financial outlook for local government is one of uncertainty. In the summer of 2017 the Public Accounts Select Committee considered the Council’s medium term financial strategy, which identified a number of areas of uncertainty and

risk in the years to 2022. The Committee noted that the likelihood and impact of these risks remained uncertain:

- Government policy and funding changes;
- Development and changes for London via the London devolution agenda;
- Employment and business prospects impacting on the local tax take; and
- Demographic change and the wider social implications resulting from the above.

5.5. Officers project that into the next decade, beyond 2020, approximately £10m per year of savings will be required in order to balance the Council's budget. As scrutiny committees consider their programmes of work for the 2018-22 administration, they will need to give close consideration to the areas of Council spending which fall within their remit, for the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee this includes crime prevention, community services, local assemblies and libraries.

Appendix:

Appendix A – scrutiny committee terms of reference

Appendix B – committee referrals and responses from Mayor and Cabinet 2014-18

Appendix A

The following roles are common to all select committees:

(a) General functions

To review and scrutinise decisions made and actions taken in relation to executive and non-executive functions

To make reports and recommendations to the Council or the executive, arising out of such review and scrutiny in relation to any executive or non-executive function

To make reports or recommendations to the Council and/or Executive in relation to matters affecting the area or its residents

The right to require the attendance of members and officers to answer questions includes a right to require a member to attend to answer questions on up and coming decisions

(b) Policy development

To assist the executive in matters of policy development by in depth analysis of strategic policy issues facing the Council for report and/or recommendation to the Executive or Council or committee as appropriate

To conduct research, community and/or other consultation in the analysis of policy options available to the Council

To liaise with other public organisations operating in the borough – both national, regional and local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working in policy development wherever possible

(c) Scrutiny

To scrutinise the decisions made by and the performance of the Executive and other committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions made and over time

To scrutinise previous performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives/performance targets and/or particular service areas

To question members of the Executive or appropriate committees and executive directors personally about decisions

To question members of the Executive or appropriate committees and executive directors in relation to previous performance whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over time or in relation to particular initiatives which have been implemented

To scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the borough and to invite them to make reports to and/or address the select committee/Business Panel and local people about their activities and performance

To question and gather evidence from any person outside the Council (with their consent)

To make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process

(d) Community representation

To promote and put into effect closer links between overview and scrutiny members and the local community

To encourage and stimulate an enhanced community representative role for overview and scrutiny members including enhanced methods of consultation with local people

To liaise with the Council's ward assemblies so that the local community might participate in the democratic process and where it considers it appropriate to seek the views of the ward assemblies on matters that affect or are likely to affect the local areas, including accepting items for the agenda of the appropriate select committee from ward assemblies.

To keep the Council's local ward assemblies under review and to make recommendations to the Executive and/or Council as to how participation in the democratic process by local people can be enhanced

To receive petitions, deputations and representations from local people and other stakeholders about areas of concern within their overview and scrutiny remit, to refer them to the Executive, appropriate committee or officer for action, with a recommendation or report if the committee considers that necessary

To consider any referral within their remit referred to it by a member under the Councillor Call for Action, and if they consider it appropriate to scrutinise decisions and/or actions taken in relation to that matter, and/or make recommendations/report to the Executive (for executive matters) or the Council (non-executive matters)

(e) Finance

To exercise overall responsibility for finances made available to it for use in the performance of its overview and scrutiny function.

(f) Work programme

As far as possible to draw up a draft annual work programme in each municipal year for consideration by the overview and scrutiny Business Panel. Once approved by the Business Panel, the relevant select committee will implement the programme during that municipal year. Nothing in this arrangement inhibits the right of every member of a select committee (or the Business Panel) to place an item on the agenda of that select committee (or Business Panel respectively) for discussion.

The Council and the Executive will also be able to request that the overview and scrutiny select committee research and/or report on matters of concern and the select committee will consider whether the work can be carried out as requested. If it can be accommodated,

the select committee will perform it. If the committee has reservations about performing the requested work, it will refer the matter to the Business Panel for decision.

The Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee has these specific terms of reference:

(a) To fulfil all overview and scrutiny functions in relation to the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder function as set out in Sections 19 and 20 Police & Justice Act 2006, as amended from time to time, and all other relevant legislation. This shall include the power:

(i) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder function,

(ii) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of those functions; and

(iii) to make reports and/or recommendations to the local authority with respect to any matter which is a local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member of the authority. A local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member means a matter concerning crime and disorder (including, in particular, forms of crime and disorder involving anti-social behaviour or other behaviour adversely affecting the environment), or the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, which affect all or part of the electoral area for which the member is elected or any person who lives or works there.

(b) make proposals to the Executive to promote equality of opportunity within the borough, including issues of discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, sexuality, age and/or class;

(c) to recommend to the Executive, the Council or an appropriate committee proposals for policy development in relation to equalities issues;

(d) to analyse policy options as necessary to inform the proposals to be made to the Executive or other appropriate committee;

(e) to advise the Executive or other committee on all matters relating to equality of opportunity both in terms of policy, service provision, employment and/or access to public services;

(f) to enhance and develop existing and innovative consultative and/or advisory work for equality of opportunity and to consider issues of inequality and discrimination across the borough;

(g) to consider and recommend to the Executive, ways in which participation by disadvantaged and under-represented sections of the community might be more effectively involved in the democratic processes of local government;

(h) to pilot methods of consultation and involvement and to report back to the Executive or appropriate committee on their effectiveness with recommendation if appropriate;

(i) to establish links with and liaise with external organisations in the borough which are concerned with the promotion of equality of opportunity.

(j) Overview & Scrutiny functions (excluding call-in) in relation to library provision.

Appendix B – Referrals to Mayor and Cabinet from Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee

Date	Name of referral	Date to M and C	Response Date to M and C	Link to response report sent to Committee
20-Apr-15	Voluntary Sector Accommodation	22-Apr-15	03-Jun-15	Link to report
14-May-15	VAWG: awareness raising review report	03-Jun-15	Sep-15	Link to report
16-Sep-15	Lewisham Future Programme Savings Proposals	30-Sep-15	N/A	N/A
21-Oct-15	Voluntary Sector Accommodation Consultation Update	11-Nov-15	n/a	N/A
30-Nov-15	Library Consultation 2015 Update	09-Dec-15	n/a	N/A
19-Jan-16	Main Grants Programme 2016-17	10-Feb-16	18-May-16	Link to report
09-Mar-16	Comprehensive Equalities Scheme	23-Mar	No decision by M&C to respond	N/A
14-Apr-16	Crime, Enforcement and Regulatory Service (CER)	18-May	13-Jul-16	Link to report
11-May-16	Council's Employee Survey - Talkback 2015	01-Jun-16	07-Sep-16	Link to report
11-May-16	Poverty review - final report and recommendations	01-Jun-16	07-Sep-16	Link to report
04-Jul-16	Library savings programme update	13-Jul-16	19-Oct-16	Link to report
04-Jul-16	DBS checks for library staff	13-Jul-16	19-Oct-16	Link to report
04-Jul-16	Lewisham metropolitan police service update	13-Jul-16	28-Sep-16	Link to report
15-Sep-16	Lewisham future programme proposal M6 - handyperson service	28-Sep-16	28-Sep-16	N/A
15-Sep-16	Lewisham future programme proposal L9 - Removal of Assembly Fund	28-Sep-16	28-Sep-16	N/A
15-Sep-16	Lewisham future programme proposal B3 - Re-procure floating support services	28-Sep-16	28-Sep-16	N/A
15-Sep-16	Lewisham future programme proposal L8 - Review of Facilities Management Arrangements	28-Sep-16	28-Sep-16	N/A
28-Nov-16	Main Grants Programme 2016-17	07-Dec-16	08-Feb	Link to report
17-Jan-17	Capacity in the Voluntary Sector	15-Feb-17	10-May	Link to report
08-Mar-17	NPS and CRC update	22-Mar-17	07-Jun	Link to report
08-Mar-17	Local Assemblies Update	22-Mar-17	07-Jun	Link to report
26-Jun-17	Demographics Recs from indepth Review	13-Sep-17	November	Link to report
12-Jul-17	Library Service Annual Report	19-Jul-17	September	Link to report
13-Dec-17	In-depth review LGBT+ provision in Lewisham	07-Feb-18	April	Due June 2018