

Mayor and Cabinet		
Title	Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the proposals for neighbourhood community infrastructure levy (NCIL).	
Contributor	Sustainable Development Select Committee	
Class	Part 1 (open)	5 June 2019

Reasons for lateness and urgency

This report is late due to the short time period between the meeting of the Committee and that of Mayor and Cabinet.

The report is urgent and cannot wait until the next meeting of Mayor and Cabinet because a key decision on NCIL is due to be taken at the meeting on 5 June.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, arising from discussions about proposals for spending NCIL levy funds.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is asked to consider the views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee when making its decision about the proposals for NCIL. The decision will be reported to the Committee.

3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views

- 3.1 On Tuesday 4 June, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered an officer report on proposals for neighbourhood community infrastructure levy (NCIL). This followed from the Committee's previous consideration of proposals on 12 December 2018, which resulted in a referral to Mayor and Cabinet.
- 3.2 The Committee welcomed the proposals and Members were appreciative of the time and thought that had been given to addressing the issues raised in the Committee's previous referral. Nonetheless, in the Committee discussion, further questions were raised about: communications with residents about the new proposals; the governance and management arrangements for local assemblies; the role of councillors in the allocation of NCIL; the guidance relating to the types of proposals that are eligible to be funded and - the availability of funding for important projects that lack popular appeal.
- 3.3 The Committee recommends that -in advance of making its decision- Mayor and Cabinet should ensure that it has sufficient details from officers about:
- The framework for making decisions, with specific reference to the role of local councillors. This follows from Members' concern about the availability of funding

for important projects that lack popular appeal. And in addition - how appropriate consideration will be given to funding projects for minority and/or marginalised groups.

- The types of projects that can and cannot be funded. This is in reference to Members' concerns that the funding could focus on infrastructure to the detriment of community projects and services.
- How communication with residents will be carried out to raise awareness of what the funds are designed to achieve - as well as to help residents understand their important role in the process and to increase participation from all sections of the community.
- How the voting system is intended to work in practice - in order to ensure wide participation and the security of the ballot.

3.4 The Committee intends to revisit these issues as part of its future work programme. In addition, it will propose a workshop for councillors to develop a consistent approach to NCIL and to share ideas about best practice.

4. Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there may be 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

Sustainable Development Select Committee agenda, 12 December 2018:

<https://tinyurl.com/SDSC121218>

Sustainable Development Select Committee agenda, 4 June 2019:

<https://tinyurl.com/SDSC040619>

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