

MAYOR & CABINET			
Report Title	Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee - requests for further information		
Key Decision	No		Item No.
Ward	All		
Contributors	The Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Environment		
Class	Open	Date: 18 September 2019	

Purpose

1. This report provides responses to requests for further information at the meeting of Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 11 June 2019.

Recommendation

2. Mayor & Cabinet is asked to note the responses from officers and agree that they be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Further information

3. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on whether the web-casting support hours that have been purchased by the Council can be used later this year once webcasting comes into practice (i.e. if the timeframe for using the purchased support can be extended).
4. In April 2018, the Council purchased 140 hours of webcast support time from Public-i as part of a pilot for webcasting Council meetings. A very limited number of hours were used during the course of the year 2018-19 due in part to technical difficulties with the system. Officers have agreed with the provider that any unused hours from 2018 will be rolled into the 2019-20 contract at no extra cost.
5. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on the maintenance of the under 5 base on Bellingham Green by Eco Communities.
6. The Bellingham Green Playclub was previously let to Eco Communities, but they vacated in late 2017. Since then, it has been used as a storage facility by various parties, including the Council's Public Realm CCTV department, the

Bellingham Leisure Centre and Glendale. Officers are happy to consider other uses of the building, such as a playgroup, subject to a suitable viability assessment being carried out and the above parties vacating. A site inspection is being arranged with the CCTV team to begin this process.

7. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on the arrangements for plastic recycling processing, and assurances on how and where it is processed.
8. Recycling in Lewisham is collected co-mingled. Once tipped at our interim contractor Bywaters, it is processed in to single streams (for example paper, card, plastic etc.) Plastic is then broken down into six categories: HDPE; clear plastic film; PET; mixed rigid; PP/HD mixed plastic; and hard plastic crates. There are strict guidelines on the processing and transporting of waste enforced through the Environment Agency. Where any Lewisham recyclate is sent abroad, the contractor will only work with Environment Agency-accredited and licensed facilities. The contractor has a robust system of traceability and is able to demonstrate that reprocessing has taken place. Bywaters provide officers with monthly information detailing the end destination of all the recycling they receive from Lewisham, including the end destination of plastics. All waste data is available in the public domain at www.wastedataflow.org, the web based system for municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government.
9. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on progress in establishing a Private Renters Union.
10. Work to establish a Private Renters Union will commence following the outcome of the application for Lewisham Council's proposed new landlord licensing scheme, which could potentially impact all private sector properties in Lewisham. The Council's Private Sector Housing Agency (PSHA) is leading the work to deliver the commitment for a borough-wide license scheme for landlords as outlined in the Corporate Strategy. Plans have been prepared to introduce two new licensing schemes; together these will ensure all private rented properties in the borough will be required to obtain a license. If approved following submission to the Secretary of State in November 2019, this will require a significant increase in resource and activity to ensure a successful implementation of the scheme. As part of this, officers will work to develop a Private Renters Union to help give a voice to tenants living in the private rented sector.
11. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for a timeline for the early phase of the Catford regeneration programme, including plans for the building that was formerly the Catford Conservative Club.

12. The masterplan framework for Catford Town Centre is due to be completed later this year, with the aim of adoption by Mayor & Cabinet in early 2020. The Council-owned elements of Catford Town Centre will likely come forward in phases over a projected 15 year development period. The proposed first element of this will be the realignment of the A205 South Circular, working in partnership with Transport for London, and potential early development sites could include a temporary re-use of part of the Milford Towers Car Park to improve the shopping centre experience, and restoration works to the Catford Constitutional Club. TfL's current programme is aiming to start construction of the road in 2022, with a projected two year construction period. The car park and Catford Constitutional Club projects could come forward sooner, subject to approval by the Council and required planning permissions. Any plans for the Catford Constitutional Club and wider site will include redevelopment of land to deliver new homes, with a minimum of 50% of those at affordable levels, and the re-provision of a pub.
13. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on why green and food waste is currently being collected together and when this interim phase might end and clearer separation put in place.
14. Currently, green and food waste is collected together because both types of waste are sent to be recycled into compost. This is an interim solution as officers are looking at ways to send organic material for anaerobic digestion, a natural process in which microorganisms break down organic materials. Only organic materials (such as animal manures, food scraps, fats oils and greases etc) can be sent for anaerobic digestion meaning that in the future, green and food waste will be processed separately. As soon as the Council is able to send waste for anaerobic digestion, we want residents to be in the habit of handling green and food waste separately. It should also be noted that only around 12.5% of eligible residents have a brown bin, so joint or separate collection of food waste will not be relevant for them.
15. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on any plans for the Willow Way site and options for its future use.
16. Willow Way is currently vacant following its most recent use as the temporary Adamsrill School. Officers have been trying to rent the site out for storage or other purposes but unfortunately none of the interest to date has come to fruition. Officers believe the site has development potential and, although it is not part of Council's current social homes programme, officers have started to look at potential redevelopment options which would provide new homes and employment space. In due course this will form part of a development programme for delivery.
17. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on the establishment of a comprehensive digital register of council owned assets.

18. Following extensive work on the Council's register of all of its non-housing assets over the past several years, the Council holds the comprehensive asset register both in Excel format and on the Council's asset management software system. Councillors can inspect the register on request to officers.

Financial implications

19. There are no financial implications arising from the updates in this report at this time. However, there may be financial implications in relation to the range of issues, proposals and plans referred to in this composite report as they are worked through and decisions made to put them into action. Financial implications will be provided individually on these specific matters at the appropriate time in line with the Council's constitution and control framework for committing spend.

Legal implications

20. There are no specific legal implications arising from the updates in this report at this time. However, there may be legal implications in relation to the range of issues, proposals and plans referred to in this composite report as they are worked through and decisions made to put them into action. Legal implications will be provided individually on those specific matters at the appropriate time.

Equalities implications

21. There are a range of equalities implications arising from the various responses provided for this report. Specifically, the report makes reference to the use of technology, regeneration activity, housing development and the engagement of communities – which may impact on protected characteristics. In addition to this, socio-economic implications may arise for those who face disadvantage as a result of their income status. In due course, relevant implications will be provided as specific proposals are developed. As appropriate, any proposals that are taken forward will also be considered in light of the objectives of the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme:
 - Tackling victimisation, discrimination and harassment
 - Improving access to services
 - Closing the gap in outcomes for our citizens
 - Increasing mutual understanding and respect within and between communities
 - Increasing participation and engagement

Environmental implications

22. There are no specific environmental implications arising from the updates in this report at this time. However, there may be environmental implications in relation to the range of issues, proposals and plans referred to in this composite report as they are worked through and decisions made to put them into action. Environmental implications will be provided individually on these specific matters at the appropriate time.

Crime and disorder implications

23. There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

If there are any queries relating to this report please contact James Noble on 020 8314 9258.