

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Update from Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share)	
Key Decision	No	Item No. 4b
Ward	All	
Contributors	Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share)	
Class	Open	Date: 29 October 2019

Purpose

This report provides an update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee some of the key achievements in the Culture, Jobs and Skills portfolio.

Recommendation

Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note this report.

1. CULTURE

Borough of Culture bid

1.1 Since round two of the Mayor of London's Borough of Culture Programme was announced in May, the culture team have been busy developing our bid. Open consultation events held in June were well attended by Lewisham's creative and community sectors, leading to a wealth of ideas that were worked on over the summer. At the time of writing over 4,400 people have pledged their support for the bid at www.iamlewisham.uk which is due to be submitted on 28 October. A successful outcome would see £1.35m of GLA funding for a year of culture in either 2021 or 2023. We will find out the results in January 2020.

Improving access to the arts in Lewisham Schools

1.2 Our Borough of Culture bid includes an initiative to provide every Year 7 pupil with a creative careers intervention before they take their GCSE choices. This would ensure that all our young people understand the opportunities available to them in the creative industries, one of the largest sectors of London's economy. This builds on work taking place as part of the Deptford Creative Enterprise Zone led by Lewisham Education Arts Network (LEAN). LEAN are also collaborating with Adult Learning Lewisham and Lewisham Learning to develop a bid for the RSA Cities of Learning programme which is designed to encourage innovative approaches to creating pathways to training and employment for young people within the creative sector.

Broadway Theatre

1.3 Charcoal Blue have finished their work looking at the medium and long term capital requirements for the Broadway Theatre. As expected there are significant works needed to the Grade II listed building. This will be the subject of a Mayor & Cabinet report before Christmas with a view to works taking place during 2020. In the meantime the Broadway Bar will re-open for theatre performances in early November and Ignition Brewery are planning a series of pop-ups in the theatre with the first on 8th November. Ticket sales for this year's panto of Beauty and the Beast starring Mica Paris are double the same time last year.

Sports Development

1.4 The Playing Pitch Strategy has now been completed and provides an updated assessment of the condition of the borough's sports pitches along with assessment of supply and demand and priorities for development. This will provide a platform for negotiations with National Governing Bodies and other funders as we seek investment in our outdoor facilities. We anticipate that the strategy will go to Mayor & Cabinet in late November.

1.5 Main grant funded sports organisations are reaching the end of the first quarter of the new arrangements and are showing signs of good progress. Highlights over the summer have been a disability sports taster day in Ladywell Fields, organised in partnership with SE London Tennis and involving all of the funded organisations – except for Saxon Crown Swimming, for obvious reasons. Platform Cricket had very active summer programme across the borough and drawing children and young people from a large number of schools.

The talent bursary is currently live and we expect to begin making awards soon.

Leisure

1.6 The borough's leisure facilities are managed on behalf of the Council by two contractors, Fusion Lifestyle and 1Life. On 1 June 2011, Mayor & Cabinet approved the award of the Leisure Services Contract to Fusion Lifestyle for a period of fifteen years. The contract commenced on 15 October 2011 with immediate transfer of The Bridge Leisure Centre, Ladywell Arena and Wavelengths Leisure Centre.

1.7 In addition to these leisure centres the contract has since included the new centre on Loampit Vale (Glass Mill), Forest Hill Pools, and the Warren Avenue playing fields. Bellingham Leisure and Lifestyles Centre transferred to Fusion in February 2014.

Fusion is a registered charity and as such is required to demonstrate charitable objectives. According to their website their objective is "to deliver high quality sport, health and wellbeing services that are inclusive and accessible to all without stigma or inequity. In particular we overcome barriers to participation, including socio-economic, age, gender, disability, cultural and ethnicity."

1.8 Downham Health & Leisure Centre opened in March 2007, and is managed by 1Life operating through an Industrial and Provident Society (IPS) or trust,

Downham Lifestyles Limited. The centre includes health care facilities, library, community hall, and leisure services (including a 25m swimming pool, teaching pool, gym, studios, floodlit AstroTurf, multi use games area, and playing fields). Overall the Downham contract performs well but there have been performance issues with the Fusion contract for several months.

1.9 Officers continue to engage proactively with Fusion to improve performance and are currently discussing a package of investment to improve facilities and ensure that service delivery is of the required standard.

1.10 The Council has also recently appointed specialist consultants to work across department and with wider stakeholders to develop a Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyle Strategy that will help set the priorities for leisure provision (including built facilities) for the coming years.

London Youth Games

1.11 Although 2019 wasn't as successful as 2018 in terms of our position in the league table (28th overall) we finished 5th in the boys competition and 6th in the girls competition of the para games. We are currently in the process of recruiting a sport and leisure apprentice who will be able to give more dedicated time to the events.

Evening and Night Time Economy

1.12 The evening and night time economy vision was agreed earlier this year considering outcomes from a resident and business survey and dialogue across council and members. The vision is ambitious and sets out key elements which will thread through all future developments.

1.13 In June we were delighted to welcome the Mayor of London's night czar, Amy Lamé to tour some of the fantastic cultural venues we have. This included visits to the Albany, Deptford Market Yard, Deptford Does Art, Lewisham Model Market, Catford Broadway small businesses and Catford Mews.

1.14 We joined a number of other boroughs in signing and supporting the Women's Night Safety Charter and we appointed our first women's night safety champion in Cllr Octavia Holland.

1.15 The continued refresh of the offer in Catford is starting to reshape the area - with the opening of the Catford Mews cinema bringing increased visitors to the area and increasing interest and opportunities for businesses.

1.16 There is currently a review of the cumulative impact zones in response to licensing and a bespoke conversation with the Deptford Society is taking place to discuss concerns they have as well as opportunities to support the evening and night time economy.

2. JOBS AND SKILLS

Building an inclusive economy

2.1 Good work, with decent pay, security, and opportunities for progression is fundamental to a decent life and to strong communities. For those who are unable to work, our social security system should provide the support that they need to lead a decent life. Yet despite living in one of the wealthiest cities in the world, tens of thousands of our residents live in poverty.

2.2 In our manifesto, we set out a commitment to build a strong and vibrant local economy that works for the many. These commitments were enshrined in our Corporate Strategy. Below is an update on progress in delivering on these commitments over the last year.

Promoting the Living Wage

2.3 Most of our residents who are in poverty are in a household in which someone is in work. We were the joint first local authority to be accredited as a Living Wage employer in the UK. Yet one in four people working in Lewisham, and one in five of our residents, earn below the real Living Wage.

2.4 We are determined to tackle poverty pay in Lewisham, and to promote the Living Wage. We have a manifesto target of doubling the number of Living Wage employers from 47 to 94 by 2022. With less than 18 months gone, we have already reached 77 Living Wage employers, including recently accredited employers such as Catford Mews.

2.5 We will be continuing to promote the benefits of the Living Wage for employers - including our business rates incentive - during Living Wage Week which will run from 11th November.

The Creative Enterprise Zone

2.6 Lewisham has a fantastically creative community, and the creative, artistic and digital sector is growing rapidly in our borough.

2.7 In May we launched SHAPESLewisham, our Creative Enterprise Zone in Deptford and New Cross. We secured £500,000 of funding from the Mayor of London as part of the project, which aims to grow the creative, artistic and cultural sector in the area.

The Creative Enterprise Zone will support creative businesses to connect and collaborate, increase the availability of affordable workspaces in the borough, link creative enterprises to our educational and cultural institutions in the borough, and provide career pathways into further education, higher education, and a career in the sector.

Enterprise hubs and supporting SMEs

2.8 Lewisham is an entrepreneurial borough, and our economy is made up of thousands of small businesses. We want to ensure that Lewisham is a fantastic place to set up, run and grow a small business.

2.9 The Lewisham Deks continue to offer affordable workspaces for local SMEs. We worked flat out to re-open the Deks as soon as possible following one of the operators going into liquidation. We have recently agreed to extend the running of the Ladywell Dek to 2021, subject to discussions with housing colleagues on the timing of the PLACE/Ladywell development, and the Old Town Hall Dek to 2024. We will be converting the top floor of the Old Town Hall Dek to the sort of small business units which have proved so popular on the 4th floor.

2.10 We were delighted to help Goldsmiths University to secure £1.6m of funding from the Mayor of London for a new enterprise hub in New Cross. The hub will support students and local residents to set up and grow a small business, and it will focus in particular on BAME entrepreneurs.

2.11 We have signed up to the Federation of Small Business' small business charter, which includes a number of commitments to make the local area a fantastic place to run and grow a small business. We continue to work with the South East London Chamber of Commerce to engage with local small businesses. We will be recognising our outstanding local small businesses through our Mayor's Business Awards.

High quality apprenticeships

2.12 Apprenticeships can offer opportunities for our residents to earn while they learn, whether that be young people taking their first steps in their career, or older workers upskilling or retraining. We are seeking to boost the number of high quality apprenticeships available through the Mayor's Apprenticeship Scheme. We have enrolled 46 new apprentices since April 2018, and we are seeking to boost numbers both at the Council and through our partners.

2.13 We have set up the Lewisham Apprenticeship and Workforce Development Fund - worth £90,000 and funded through our apprenticeship levy funds - to support local employers to take on apprentices.

2.14 Through the Lewisham Construction Hub, we are seeking to ensure that residents can access apprenticeships and other employment and training opportunities as we build the homes that Lewisham needs.

Community Wealth Building and the Lewisham Deal

2.15 Despite the immense wealth of the capital, and the growth we have seen in recent years, too many of our residents have not benefitted. Community Wealth Building is a people-centred approach to economic development which aims to reorganise local economies to be fairer, and to place control of wealth into the hands of people and communities.

2.16 I am continuing to work with Cllr de Ryk on our approach to Community Wealth Building. We have been working with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to develop and expand our approach to community wealth building.

2.17 A key part of this work is the Lewisham Deal, a shared approach to economic development and tackling poverty across the major anchor institutions in Lewisham. Building on the recommendations of the Lewisham Poverty Commission, we formally signed the Lewisham Deal in July 2019 along with Goldsmiths University, Lewisham College, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, Lewisham Homes, and Phoenix Housing. We also released the first Lewisham Deal social value report.

2.18 We have been building a positive working relationship with the new Warden at Goldsmiths University and the new Principal at Lewisham College, and we look forward to working with them to ensure that our residents have access to high quality education, training, and employment opportunities.

Adult learning

2.19 We want to ensure all adults have access to education and training opportunities, and to boost participation in lifelong learning.

2.20 Adult Learning Lewisham (ALL) – our council-run adult education service – has established, with Lewisham College and CYP, a strategic learning partnership to develop pathways (a ‘Skills Highway’) from the south of Lewisham into qualifications and skills.

2.21 ALL has developed a partnership with the Horniman Museum to deliver ESOL and Family Learning courses to families arriving in Lewisham through the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement programme, to provide the skills needed to help those families flourish.

2.22 ALL has successfully piloted a new way of measuring outcomes, so that learners and teachers can better identify the progress made against long-term goals, including employment, health and integration. There is discussion with the Learning & Work Institute about using this approach to be piloted on a nationwide basis.

2.23 ALL has successfully won a bid to the Design Council to develop further the ‘Curriculum for Life’, built in partnership with the Young Mayor’s team. This will help us design a curriculum that will help young people develop the skills they need for adult living.

Universal Credit, Welfare Reform and Jobcentre Plus

2.24 The social security system should provide the support that people need to live free from poverty. However, recent cuts to welfare both for those out of work and those in work on low pay have led to an increase in poverty.

2.25 I welcome the Labour Party’s announcement of plans to overhaul Universal Credit, to scrap some of the most damaging aspects such as the five week wait, the two child limit, and the excessive use of sanctions, and to invest billions in our social security system.

2.26 On a local level, we are working closely with Jobcentre Plus to ensure that our residents are protected from the risks inherent with the move to Universal Credit. We

meet monthly with the DWP regional manager and the council's benefits team, and we recently held a briefing for Councillors to help them understand what Universal Credit means for their residents.

Inclusive Growth Strategy

2.27 In the next six months, we will be working to develop a new Inclusive Growth Strategy (name tbc!) to plan out our work for the remaining two years of the Council term. This will seek to set out how we can continue to deliver on our manifesto commitments, and ensure everyone in Lewisham can access the opportunities in our local economy, within the context of increasingly limited resources as a result of Government-enforced austerity.

2.28 Any councillors who want to get involved in shaping the Inclusive Growth Strategy would be very welcome to take part.

Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications from noting the contents of this report

Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications of relevance to this report.

Equalities implications

The information included in this reported makes a direct contribution to the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016-20. The five objectives of the Scheme are as follows:

- Tackle, victimisation, discrimination and harassment
- Increase access to services
- Close the gap in outcomes between citizens
- Increase mutual understanding and respect with and between communities
- Increase participation and engagement

Specifically, actions to increase access to the arts in Lewisham schools, increase apprenticeships, promote community wealth and support inclusive growth, will promote fairness, social mobility and help to close the gap in economic outcomes between citizens in the borough.

Similarly, the Council's existing leisure offer helps to tackle health inequalities (levels of obesity and diabetes diagnoses in Lewisham are significantly higher than the England average), whilst at the same time helping to create an environment for mutual understanding and respect between communities and increasing participation and engagement.

The information contained in this report affects all characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. However, specific reference is made to those of age, disability, gender and race. In addition, the wide-range of economic initiatives described in this

paper will also make a significant contribution towards socio-economic equality in the borough.