Reasons for Urgency

Consideration of the report cannot wait until the next meeting of Mayor and Cabinet as whether the recommendations are agreed or not, there is a significant work programme that falls out from either decision which will be severely impacted on as the delay will be further affected by the Christmas break and the availability of officers and the managers of other affected organisations.

1. Summary

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of a call-in and associated comments by the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel on 12 November 2019 in accordance with Paragraph 14 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

2. Purpose of the Report

To inform the Mayor and Cabinet of the reason agreed for the call-in, and to ask them to reconsider a decision made on “Re-commissioning of Building Based Day Services for Older Adults”.

3. Recommendation

The Mayor and Cabinet is requested to respond to the call-in made by the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel as described in paragraph 5 below.

4. Background

4.1 At a meeting of the Mayor and Cabinet held on 30 October 2019, the Mayor and Cabinet considered an officer report entitled “Re-commissioning of Building Based Day Services for Older Adults”. In accordance with the Constitution, this decision was notified to Members of the Business Panel within 2 days of being made. A copy of that report and the decision notice appears at Appendix 1.

4.2 Following oral presentations from the Director of Adult Joint Commissioning and the Public Health Commissioning Manager at the meeting of Overview
and Scrutiny Business Panel (OSBP) on 12 November 2019, Members of the Panel noted that the proposal to the Mayor and Cabinet was necessary because the existing contract in relation to adults’ day care service provision was coming to an end. Thus, a contract review exercise was required to meet the needs of residents who have had their care and support needs assessed under the Care Act 2014.

4.3 Also at the OSBP meeting on 12 November 2019, Members of the Panel recognised that the review exercise took into account constraints on councils’ budgets due to austerity measures by the government, and the need to ensure efficiency. Thus, the proposal agreed by the Mayor and Cabinet would result in savings of £139,000 for re-investment into Lewisham’s adult social care services to deliver to a diverse client group. The Business Panel fully appreciated the need to make budget savings and that this would have to be part of the consideration when resolving the matter.

5. Reason for Call-in of Decision by Mayor and Cabinet

5.1 Members of the Business Panel resolved to call in the Mayor and Cabinet decision, in order to enable Mayor and Cabinet to re-consider appraisal by officers of the consultation exercise, and reason for Recommendation 2, in view of:

“A clash between the purpose of the report – namely to deal with the contract for adult day care services provision – and the wider purpose and use of the Calabash Centre as a venue for Black and Ethnic Minority residents in Lewisham”.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The Council’s Constitution provides that where the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel requests that the Mayor & Cabinet reconsider a decision it shall not become effective until it has been done. There may be no further call-in of the decision.

6.2 It is essential that a decision is made on the consideration of all relevant information and ignoring irrelevancies. On this basis a decision must not be one which no reasonable authority could come to. In addition to the reason for referral back as set out in 5.1, Members’ attention is also drawn to the contents of the report appearing at Appendix 1.

7. Financial implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Minutes of Mayor and Cabinet of 10 & 30 October 2019.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Jasmine Kassim, Senior Committee Manager, 0208 314 8577 or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business and Committee on 0208 314 9327