



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### **Report title: Cabinet Member Question & Answer Session**

**Date:** 27 January 2020

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Executive Director for Corporate Services (Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

### **Outline and recommendations**

The purpose of this item is to allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to question Executive Decision Makers on their portfolios.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Note the Cabinet Member updates appended at Appendix B.
- Ask the Cabinet Members questions.

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. This report provides an update to the Committee on the portfolios of the invited Cabinet Members.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Note the Cabinet Member updates appended at Appendix B.
- Ask the Cabinet Members questions.

## **3. Policy Context**

- 3.1. The Council's Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022 was approved at full council in February 2019.
- 3.2. The strategic priorities of the [Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022](#) are:

[Open Lewisham](#) - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.

[Tackling the housing crisis](#) - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.

[Giving children and young people the best start in life](#) - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.

[Building an inclusive local economy](#) - Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.

[Delivering and defending: health, social care and support](#) - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.

[Making Lewisham greener](#) - Everyone enjoys our green spaces, and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.

[Building safer communities](#) - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

- 3.3. The work carried out by Cabinet Members directly contributes to the Council's corporate priorities.

## 4. Scrutinising the Executive

- 4.1 Part of the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to hold the Council's Executive to account. Therefore, during the course of each year it will hold Question & Answer sessions with the Mayor and each Cabinet Member.
- 4.2 Each Question & Answer session will explore the work the Mayor and Cabinet Members have done in relation to their portfolio, looking at priorities, actions, achievements and impact.
- 4.3 The areas that fall within the portfolio of the Cabinet Members attending the meeting are outlined at Appendix A.
- 4.4 Brief written updates from the Cabinet Members can be found at Appendix B.
- 4.5 The Committee may wish to focus questions on:
- Notable activities and achievements
  - Current priorities
  - Current challenges
  - Any key decisions going to Mayor & Cabinet over the next 6 months
- 4.6 Following the session the Committee may choose to make a referral to Mayor and Cabinet in relation to what the Committee has heard, including any actions it would like the Cabinet Members to consider.
- 4.7 Those Cabinet Members who have not yet attended a question and answer session this municipal year, will be asked to attend the Committee on 5 March 2020.

## 5. Appendices

- *Appendix A* – The areas falling within the portfolio of the Cabinet Members attending the meeting are outlined
- *Appendix B* – Cabinet Member Updates

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## **6. Financial implications**

6.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **7. Legal implications**

7.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## **8. Equalities implications**

8.1. The Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

8.2. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

## **9. Climate change and environmental implications**

9.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

## **10. Crime and disorder implications**

10.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## **11. Health and wellbeing implications**

11.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

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## ***Appendix A***

### **Cabinet Member Portfolios**

#### **Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability**

- Corporate Strategy implementation
- Policy development
- Refugee resettlement and migrant support
- Customer services and complaints
- Digital strategy
- Local Democracy Review
- Governance
- Legal services
- Democratic and electoral services
- Communications
- Trade unions
- Armed Forces Covenant.

#### **Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing**

- Social housing building programme
- Housing need, including lettings and allocations policy
- Homelessness and temporary accommodation
- Landlord licensing
- Private rented sector regulation
- Gypsies and Travellers.

#### **Councillor Amanda de Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources**

- Council budget
- Human resources and organisational development
- Transformation
- Internal audit
- Efficiency
- Revenue collection and benefits
- Pensions
- Income generation
- Council contracting
- Ethical procurement and modern slavery.

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