



Public Accounts Select Committee

Report title: Comments of the Healthier Communities Select Committee on budget cuts

Date: 3 December 2020

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Assistant Chief Executive (Scrutiny Manager)

Outline and recommendation

This report informs Public Accounts Select Committee of the views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on Wednesday 11 November 2020 on proposed budget cuts.

- The Public Accounts Select Committee is recommended to note the views of the committee and include these in its referral to Mayor and Cabinet.

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report informs the Public Accounts Select Committee of the views of Healthier Communities Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on Wednesday 11 November 2020 on the proposed budget cuts.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Public Accounts Select Committee is recommended to note the views of the committee as set out in section four of this referral and include these in its referral to Mayor and Cabinet.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. The Council's *Corporate Strategy 2018-2022* outlines the Council's vision to deliver for residents and includes the following priority relevant to this item:
 1. ***Delivering and defending: health, social care and support*** - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.

4. Healthier Communities Select Committee views

- 4.1. At its meeting on Wednesday 11 November 2020, the Healthier Communities Select Committee received a report on proposed budget cuts. Following discussion the committee resolved to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet in the following terms:
- 4.2. *Given that a number of the proposed budget cuts considered by this committee involve outsourcing services to external providers, the committee seeks assurances that the council has the capacity and ability to manage and monitor these outsourced contracts effectively and ensure services are being provided to the agreed standards.*
- 4.3. *The committee would also welcome more information about the market for the proposed outsourced services so that members can better understand the quality of services available and feel more confident in supporting these changes.*
- 4.4. *The committee also seeks assurances that good engagement and coproduction with service users and stakeholders will be themes that run through all the proposed changes, so that we can have as clear as possible understanding of the effects of the changes on residents. It is important that there is evidence that we are engaging with residents, using multiple channels, and listening to their concerns and suggestions.*

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. 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

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maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

7.2. 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.

8. Climate change and environmental implications

8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

9. Crime and disorder implications

9.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

11. Background papers

11.1. [Healthier Communities Select Committee Agenda, 11 November 2020 \(see item 4\)](#)

12. Report contact

12.1. *John Bardens, Scrutiny Manager, john.bardens@lewisham.gov.uk 020 8314 9976*

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