



Public Accounts Select Committee

Report title: Comments of the Housing 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 Housing Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on Wednesday 18 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 Housing Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on Wednesday 18 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. ***Tackling the housing crisis*** - Ensuring everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.

4. Housing Select Committee views

- 4.1. At its meeting on Wednesday 18 November 2020, the Housing Select Committee received a report on proposed budget cuts. Following discussion the committee resolved to refer its views to Public Accounts Select Committee in the following terms:
- 4.2. Given that the additional round of budget cuts due to come to scrutiny in January 2021 is expected to be more severe than this round, please can the following information be included in the budget cuts reports to help committee members better understand and come to decisions about the proposals being brought forward:
 - *The impact of a proposed cut on the users of a service*
 - *The impact of a proposed cut on the staff of a service*
 - *The impact of the cut on the service overall*
 - *Which other options were explored and why is this the most viable?*
 - *The cumulative impact of the cut on LBL as a whole*

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 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:

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- 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. [Housing Select Committee Agenda, 18 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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