



## Public Accounts Select Committee

### **Report title: Comments of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on budget cuts**

**Date:** 2 February 2021

**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 Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on Thursday 14 January 2021 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 Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on Thursday 14 January 2021 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 three of this referral and include these in its referral to Mayor and Cabinet.

## **3. Views of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee**

- 3.1. The Committee recommend the following:
- 3.2. That Lewisham Council agree in principle the proposed cuts to close the budget gap created by the Government, subject to the completion of Equalities Impact Assessments and feasibility studies as necessary. Where possible we would urge the Council to provide additional income generation support to partner organisations and in particular charitable, voluntary and community organisations.

## **4. Financial implications**

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

## **5. Legal implications**

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

## **6. Equalities implications**

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. 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.

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

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

## **8. Crime and disorder implications**

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

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## **9. Health and wellbeing implications**

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

## **10. Background papers**

- 10.1. [Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Agenda, 14 January 2021](#)

## **11. Report contact**

- 11.1. *Katie Wood*, [katie.wood@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:katie.wood@lewisham.gov.uk) 020 8314 9446

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