

Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Supplementary Agenda

Wednesday, 21 September 2022
7.00 pm, Council Chamber - Civic Suite
Civic Suite
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU

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This meeting is an open meeting and all items on the agenda may be audio recorded and/or filmed.

Part 1

Item	Pages
5. Establishing Task and Finish Groups	1 - 6

Task and Finish Group Proforma

<p>Proposed title <i>This should be written as a question. What is the main question that you are looking to answer? Ideally use “how” I.e. “How can we improve.....XXX?”</i></p>	<p>How can we maximise strategic opportunities for inclusive meanwhile, creative & community workspace in Lewisham, post Borough of Culture, to ensure that we grow and retain talent within the Borough and attract inward investment?</p>
<p>Overview <i>Provide 2-3 sentences explaining the proposed investigation in more detail including the key areas that you are proposing to look at.</i></p>	<p>The TFG will investigate: (A) Potential locations across the borough for inclusive meanwhile use/creative spaces/hubs (B) Potential partners and sources of funding (e.g. workspace developers, community architects, collaborating proximity landowners, grants schemes etc) (C) Potential locations for live music hubs to help establish these zones</p>
<p>Reason for proposal <i>Why do you think that a task and finish group is the most appropriate way to address this issue / answer this question? Where has the suggestion come from? (I.e. through resident engagement, casework, external inspection, performance information.)</i></p>	<p>Feedback from diverse stakeholders in the 2021 Borough of Culture Diversity Committee emphasised the Legacy need for ongoing space for creative practitioners, requiring effective partnerships in the Creative & Digital Industries sector & community sectors to develop workspace.</p> <p>This investigation will require a substantial number of site visits & meetings with practitioners, workspace developers/ architects, communities and further research of the Asset Register.</p>
<p>Policy Context <i>How does the proposal support delivery of the Lewisham Corporate Strategy; national/regional policies, initiatives; legislation etc.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ‘Future Lewisham – an economically sound future’ March 2022 Economic Development Strategy report (to O & S) ‘to encourage the continued development of local economic priorities to be reflected in the Council’s future strategies and plans’ - The (GLA supported) Economic Recovery Framework for London, which includes: the Creative Enterprise Zone (In 2018 the Mayor of London designated Deptford and New Cross as one of six Creative Enterprise Zones (CEZ), which is focussed on supporting local digital and creative sectors) - Manifesto/ upcoming Corporate Strategy commitment to “establish a post Borough of Culture ‘Creative Lewisham’ programme to drive ongoing cultural and economic development in the Borough.”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manifesto/upcoming Corporate Strategy commitment to “develop a ‘Live Music Strategy’ around existing key ‘creative quarters’ in the borough, such as New Cross, Deptford, Ladywell and Forest Hill.” - Lewisham’s 2017 Creative and Digital Industries (CDI) Strategy (by Regeneris), predating BoC and the CEZ, but with detailed typologies & site studies. - the BoC creative happenings grant scheme (which supports local creatives, including freelancers, who have been impacted by national and local COVID19 restrictions)
<p>Criteria for the investigation (Essential)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is the proposed investigation timely? Why?</i> • <i>Is it a strategic and significant issue? How?</i> • <i>Is it of concern to one or more sections of the population? Who?</i> <p>(Desirable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Is the issue of concern to partners or stakeholders? How?</i> • <i>Will the investigation add value in terms of improving the council’s or partner’s performance or service delivery? How?</i> • <i>Will the investigation be duplicating any other work? What?</i> • <i>What control or influence does the Council have in this area?</i> 	<p>This 3-6 month investigation will dovetail with the end of the Borough of Culture Year, which has thrown Lewisham into the spotlight in London and beyond as a diverse and creative borough, a reputation which needs an effective legacy to capitalise on opportunities for growth & inward and locally driven investment, post Covid. The investigation will feed into the Council’s Economic Development Strategy and the GLA’s Economic Recovery Framework & CEZ programme at a critical time.</p> <p>Finding places for local creativity to be more inherent in Lewisham’s identity will help to embed this character in the borough, leading to creativity & diversity becoming even more fundamental to what the borough is, what it does and who participates. Finding workspace and diversity of involvement are the necessary and time-limited next steps.</p> <p>Seeking a range of further partners and opportunities in workspace provision and in the community sector is critical to ensuring that workspace provision is inclusive and reciprocal to the diverse needs and talents of all Lewisham’s population.</p> <p>Exploring the availability of communal space for under-18’s and post-16’s students – especially in the shadow of Cost of Living/ energy crisis – is equally a resource issue for Lewisham’s younger creatives and their potential future, as it is for all our young people.</p>

<p>Sources of evidence <i>Do you have any thoughts/ideas on where you might gather evidence from? e.g. research or site visits. (Officers will be able to recommend suggestions and help with this.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use planning ‘charettes’ & Member Questionnaires in next steps of economic development and potential site aggregation for finding more workspace – <i>key role of ward councillor knowledge of local Council-owned sites & neighbouring land.</i> - Map & receive suggestions from Musicians’ Union members re a ‘live music strategy’ & the development of ‘cultural quarters’. - Interview community & CDI partners and workspace providers/ designers - Examine specifications for communal & workspace criteria in current Planning Gain dialogue & policy - Re-examine Asset Register & previous data & reports on workspace, including role of schools & community centres as both ‘homework-space’ hubs & creative hubs - Benchmark legacy works of other London Boroughs of Culture , eg Brent
<p>Co-optees / Technical advisors? <i>Would the task and finish group benefit from having expert input such as an academic or local expert?</i></p>	
<p>Suggested timeframe <i>Do you estimate / suggest that the investigation take 3, 6, 9 or 12 months? Outline your suggested timetable for evidence gathering.</i></p>	<p><u>3 - 6 months</u></p>
<p>Equalities Impact <i>Identify any equalities issues that might be applicable.</i></p>	<p>Proposals for meanwhile use & beyond must have the involvement of diverse local communities to serve local needs as well as retain & grow skills and jobs within the Borough, and the TFG will examine both desktop research on equalities in the creative & meanwhile use sector, as well as the potential role for local communities & schools. The challenge of ‘homework-space’ & communal space for young people is also critical to providing real opportunity for the future of all Lewisham’s young people, especially in the creative sector.</p>
<p>Councillor(s) submitting the proposal <i>Please list the names of the submitting councillor(s)</i></p>	<p><u>Cllr Rudi Schmidt, Cllr Liam Shrivastava, Cllr Billy Harding, Cllr Aliya Sheikh, Cllr Mark Ingleby</u></p>

Task and Finish Group Proforma

<p>Proposed title <i>This should be written as a question. What is the main question that you are looking to answer? Ideally use “how” I.e. “How can we improve.....XXX?”</i></p>	<p>How can Community Gardening and current Allotments practice be expanded & adapted to increase community participation and offer more opportunities for local interactions with schools, food banks, housing associations, the voluntary sector & social prescribing services?</p>
<p>Overview <i>Provide 2-3 sentences explaining the proposed investigation in more detail including the key areas that you are proposing to look at.</i></p>	<p>The TFG will consider current allotment and food growing practice in Lewisham and opportunities for expansion/adaptation to increase community participation, taking into account good practice and the role of other linked organisations and schemes, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allotment associations, community growing & Mental Health projects, community gardens, housing associations, schools, available/ under-used land on the Asset Register, and projects in other urban areas/ parks/ London Boroughs and cities.
<p>Reason for proposal <i>Why do you think that a task and finish group is the most appropriate way to address this issue / answer this question? Where has the suggestion come from? (I.e. through resident engagement, casework, external inspection, performance information.)</i></p>	<p>Lewisham is developing its Food Strategy and a Food Justice Network in the face of the Cost of Living Crisis, which includes acknowledging the wider structural causes of food poverty, ‘requiring the input of multiple stakeholders, decision & policy makers’. Considerable cross-cutting research and engagement of policies, resources and all stakeholders by a TFG will support this work, building on some informal investigations & interviewing of stakeholders & council assets in 21/22.</p> <p>Community growing groups - from external inspection/ site visits and recent dialogue - feel that the allotment allocation system could be more open to collective growing & community participation, to the benefit of all, and that better co-ordination between sectors & all stakeholders is possible both across Lewisham and in all local neighbourhoods.</p>
<p>Policy Context <i>How does the proposal support delivery of the Lewisham Corporate Strategy; national/regional policies, initiatives; legislation etc.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manifesto/ draft Corporate Strategy: “Work in partnership with local food banks, food growing groups, schools & communities, through our joint Lewisham Food Action Plan. This will develop an effective ‘circular economy’ using local supply chains through our procurement & catering contracts.” - The Council’s Climate Emergency declaration & ongoing actions from this. - Parks & Open Spaces Strategy 2020-25 - Social Prescribing strategies - <u>Lewisham Poverty Commission report 2017</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steps towards the Circular economy - Council's 2014 Community Gardening brochure
<p>Criteria for the investigation (Essential)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the proposed investigation timely? Why? • Is it a strategic and significant issue? How? • Is it of concern to one or more sections of the population? Who? <p>(Desirable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the issue of concern to partners or stakeholders? How? • Will the investigation add value in terms of improving the council's or partner's performance or service delivery? How? • Will the investigation be duplicating any other work? What? • What control or influence does the Council have in this area? 	<p>Current and previous work on the Cost of Living Crisis, Covid-19 and the Climate Emergency have highlighted the positive potential of local outdoor spaces for mental health, social cohesion and food growing right across the Borough. This TFG is therefore timely, but will only be considering the food-growing & associated networking aspects of the Borough's responses to both food poverty and Climate Emergency, helping to deliver local perspectives.</p> <p>The role of Lewisham financed greening projects and the potential for equitable access to all appropriate funding sources for all stakeholders are also significant lines of investigation.</p> <p>The oncoming and escalating Cost of Living Crisis and Climate Emergency affects those in poverty the worst, but the wider mental health benefits of community growing & green social prescribing are available to all.</p> <p>Community growing is a vehicle for social cohesion and practical expressions of cultural diversity and can therefore help to drive inclusion and tackle inequalities.</p> <p>The TFG's findings will feed into the strategic 'wider determinants' questions of the Council's Food Justice Network, and will provide recommendations, eg improvements to the Council's Allotments Policy, to fit with the current times.</p>
<p>Sources of evidence <i>Do you have any thoughts/ideas on where you might gather evidence from? e.g. research or site visits. (Officers will be able to recommend suggestions and help with this.)</i></p>	<p>Community Growing & Gardening Groups, Lewisham Self-Managed Allotment Association, Lewisham Local, Housing Associations, Lewisham schools, the Council's Asset Register, community sector groups working in this sector (eg AFRIL – Action for Refugees in Lewisham), Southwark, Acton, Hackney, Preston. LBL Allotments Policy & practice.</p>
<p>Co-optees / Technical advisors? <i>Would the task and finish group benefit from having expert input such as an academic or local expert?</i></p>	<p>Julia Edmondson & Duncan Cameron from University of Sheffield Institute of Sustainable Food Technology published a ground-breaking study in 2020 of the potential impact of maximising available urban spaces for food growing for 'Smart Food Cities'...</p> <p>https://news.mongabay.com/2020/03/study-finds-huge-potential-for-urban-gardens-to-feed-city-dwellers/</p>

<p>Suggested timeframe <i>Do you estimate / suggest that the investigation take 3, 6, 9 or 12 months? Outline your suggested timetable for evidence gathering.</i></p>	<p>6 months</p>
<p>Equalities Impact <i>Identify any equalities issues that might be applicable.</i></p>	<p>Cultural Diversity needs to be seen in both collective and other forms of growing, including expanding the incidence of culturally specific crops. How much does the individualised approach of current allotment applications facilitate any of this? Collective growing spaces need to be inclusive and to have strong equality/diversity/social policies. The TFG will work with groups already leading on examining inclusion and access to allotments, community gardens, food hubs and community kitchens to ensure access for all.</p>
<p>Councillor(s) submitting the proposal <i>Please list the names of the submitting councillor(s)</i></p>	<p>Cllr Laura Cunningham, Cllr Coral Howard, Cllr Sian Eiles, Cllr Will Cooper, Cllr Natasha Burgess</p>