

# Public Document Pack

## Council Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 23 November 2022.

Kim Wright, Chief Executive

Mayor Damien Egan	
Councillor Yemisi Anifowose	Labour Party
Councillor Tauseef Anwar	
Councillor Chris Barnham	
Councillor Paul Bell	
Councillor Peter Bernards	
Councillor Chris Best	
Councillor Andre Bourne	
Councillor Bill Brown	
Councillor Natasha Burgess	Labour Party
Councillor Juliet Campbell	
Councillor Suzannah Clarke	
Councillor Will Cooper	Labour Party
Councillor Laura Cunningham	
Councillor Liam Curran	
Councillor Brenda Dacres	
Councillor Sophie Davis	
Councillor Amanda De Ryk	
Councillor Sian Eiles	Labour Party
Councillor Ese Erheriene	
Councillor Billy Harding	Labour and Co-operative Party
Councillor Stephen Hayes	Labour and Co-operative Party

Councillor Coral Howard	
Councillor Edison Huynh	
Councillor Mark Ingleby	
Councillor Mark Jackson	Labour Party
Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin	
Councillor Eva Kestner	
Councillor Louise Krupski	
Councillor Ayesha Lahai-Taylor	Labour Party
Councillor Jack Lavery	
Councillor Aisha Malik-Smith	
Councillor Joan Millbank	
Councillor Hilary Moore	
Councillor John Muldoon	
Councillor Oana Olaru	Labour Party
Councillor Rachel Onikosi	
Councillor Rosie Parry	Labour and Co-operative Party
Councillor Jacq Paschoud	
Councillor John Paschoud	
Councillor Stephen Penfold	
Councillor Kim Powell	
Councillor James Rathbone	
Councillor James Royston	
Councillor Rudi Schmidt	Labour Party
Councillor Aliya Sheikh	Labour Party
Councillor Sakina Sheikh	
Councillor Liam Shrivastava	
Councillor Luke Sorba	
Councillor Eva Stamirowski	

Councillor Hau-Yu Tam

Labour Party

Councillor James-J Walsh

Councillor Luke Warner

Labour Party

Councillor Carol Webley-Brown

Councillor Susan Wise





# Council Supplementary Agenda

Wednesday, 23 November 2022  
**7.30 pm**, Council Chamber - Civic Suite  
Civic Suite  
Lewisham Town Hall  
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Emma Aye-Kumi (Tel: 0208 314 9534)

## Part 1

<b>Item</b>	<b>Pages</b>
6. Lewisham Corporate Strategy (2022-2026) Report	1 - 22



## Council

### **Report title: Lewisham Council Corporate Strategy (2022-2026)**

**Date:** 23 November 2022

**Class:** Part 1 (open)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Chief Executive & Assistant Chief Executive

### **Outline and recommendations**

*This report provides an overview of the rationale for the introduction of a Corporate Strategy. This report also provides a draft Corporate Strategy for the Council to adopt.*

### **Timeline of engagement and decision-making**

- Consultation on the Local Plan
- Voices of Lewisham
- Residents Survey
- Staff Survey (2022)
- LGA Corporate Peer Challenge
- Feedback from the Mayor and Cabinet
- Feedback from the Senior Leadership Team
- Feedback from the Executive Management Team
- Mayor and Cabinet

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the rationale for introducing a new Corporate Strategy (2022-2026), to replace the current Lewisham Council Corporate Strategy (2018-2022).

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Council is recommended to:

- Review the draft Corporate Strategy
- Agree the adoption of the Corporate Strategy and that this replace the 2018-2022 Corporate Strategy
- Agree to delegate any further updates and amendments to the Corporate Strategy to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor.

### **3. Policy Context**

- 3.1 The Corporate Strategy is a core document in the Council's Budget and Policy Framework designed to guide future decision making. Once the Corporate Strategy is agreed, future decision making reports will set out how they accord with it.
- 3.2 Whilst the priorities of the Corporate Strategy will endure, the document is based in the context of its time. In order to assist the Council in acting as a responsive organisation, other aspects of the strategy may be updated during the lifecycle of the document. The emergence of Covid during the lifecycle of the Council's previous Corporate Strategy shows the importance of maintaining flexibility when outlining our vision for the next four years.

### **4. Background**

- 4.1 Lewisham Council's Corporate Strategy (2018-2022) was adopted by Full Council as a primary document in the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. It articulated Lewisham's values, corporate priorities, how we intended to work with partners and how we would deliver for residents.
- 4.2 The Strategy has been developed in regular consultation with the Executive Management Team and Senior Leadership Team of the Council, as well as the Mayor of Lewisham and his Cabinet. It has also incorporated information from the Residents Survey 2022, Local Plan, LGA Peer Challenge and Voices of Lewisham.
- 4.3 Damien Egan was elected Mayor of Lewisham in May 2022. 54 Labour Councillors were also elected and together with the Mayor they form the Full Council of Lewisham. Following the election, the Council now needs to agree a new set of priorities for the Council to seek to deliver for Lewisham, building on the Manifesto on which they stood for election.
- 4.4 Since the publication of this Strategy for Mayor and Cabinet on 2 November a number of minor grammatical changes have been made, as well as a number of changes to the design, including editing of photos and infographics. The following amendments have also been made:
- 1) Under the heading 'Open Lewisham', the phrase 'Culture and Live Music Strategy' has replaced 'Live Music Strategy'.
  - 2) Under the heading 'Health and Wellbeing', a commitment to create the Lewisham Health Care and Wellbeing Charter has been added.
  - 3) Under the heading 'Housing', a commitment to 'encourage retro-fitting as part of our drive to be carbon-neutral by 2030' has been added.

### **5. Priorities for Lewisham**

- 5.1 The mandate for the elected Mayor and councillor's vision, principles and priorities for Lewisham provides a clear basis for the development of all future priorities and plans for action for the Council and its partners.
- 5.2 It is proposed that the Council adopts the following priorities:
- Cleaner and Greener

- Strong Local Economy
- Quality Housing
- Children and Young People
- Safer Communities
- Open Lewisham
- Health and Wellbeing

5.3 It is further proposed that the Council takes account of the 'Mayor's pledges', as outlined in the 2022 Labour Manifesto. These pledges are as follows:

- **Place** - We want Lewisham to be a place for everyone.
- **Community** - We will be relentlessly focused on local.
- **Diversity** - We will celebrate Lewisham's diversity.
- **Inward investment and Opportunity** - We will work to attract inward investment.
- **Innovation and New Ideas** – We will take risks to innovate and seize new opportunities

## 6. Values

6.1 It is proposed that the Council retains the longstanding values, most recently outlined in the current Corporate Strategy (2018-2022). However, as outlined in the draft Corporate Strategy, we intend to build on the results of the Democracy review, the Residents' Survey (2021) our 2022 staff survey, and review the Council's values with an intention to refresh them before 2026. In the event that they are refreshed, the Corporate Strategy (2022-2026) will be updated to reflect any changes to the values.

6.2 The Council's current values are as follows:

- **We put service to the public first** - We exist to serve and support the residents of Lewisham, and everything we do must always have residents' interests first and foremost.
- **We respect all people and communities** - We have a proud history of actively working to tackle inequalities, both across the borough and within the Council, and we will continue to build on this in everything we do.
- **We invest in our employees** - We want to be considered a top employer in local government. We will always ensure we provide opportunities for all staff to learn new skills and progress their career.
- **We are open, honest and fair in everything that we do** - We will be transparent in the decisions that we take, both with each other and with the residents of Lewisham. Robust governance procedures will ensure that our decisions are open, honest and fair.

## 7. Delivery and Performance

7.1 Once the Corporate Strategy is adopted, we will work with our members, officers, communities and partners to co-produce detailed plans, where appropriate, for how we are going to work together, and what more we all need to do, to address our priorities and deliver for residents.

7.2 All Council services will review their plans for service delivery in the coming year to ensure they are aligned to delivery of the priorities as outlined in this Strategy. All future Council plans and strategies will be required to set out how they are contributing to the delivery of the Corporate Strategy.

### Is this report easy to understand?

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Page 3

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- 7.3 In order to ensure that we are transparent, and able to effectively deliver on the priorities outlined in the Corporate Strategy, the Strategy also sets out how we will monitor our performance, and how this performance monitoring will be published, so it is accessible to Councillors, Officers and the public.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this strategy.

## **9. Legal implications**

- 9.1 The Council holds the power to adopt a Corporate Strategy to guide its future decision making.
- 9.2 Whilst the proposed strategy, once agreed, sets out the direction for the Council over the next four years, there will be a need for the Council to make decisions relating to the particular elements of it on the basis of detailed reports containing all relevant considerations, including the legal, financial, corporate and service implications pertaining to the issue. Those decisions must reflect the prevailing circumstances at the time and be taken in accordance with the general principles of administrative law applying to local government decision making.
- 9.3 Implementation of the aspirations and commitments set out in the Corporate Strategy must be consistent with, and subject to, the Council's legal and fiduciary duties and budgetary constraints. The nature of these duties and constraints will vary according to the matter under consideration and may change over time.

## **10. Equalities implications**

- 10.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty. It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 10.2 In summary, 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.
- 10.3 It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed in the paragraph above.
- 10.4 The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for members, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. They must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.

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

- 11.1 There are no direct climate change and environmental implications arising from the contents of this report.
- 11.2 The creation of 'Cleaner and Greener' as a priority for the Council will ensure that the Council seeks to continue tackling climate change.

## **12. Crime and disorder implications**

- 12.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the contents of this report.
- 12.2 The creation of 'Safer Communities' as a priority for the Council will ensure that the Council seeks to continue aiming to reduce crime and disorder.

## **13. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 13.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the contents of this report.
- 13.2 The creation of 'Health and Wellbeing' as a priority for the Council will ensure that the Council continues to seek better health outcomes for its residents.

## **14. Background papers**

- 14.1 Draft Corporate Strategy (2022-2026).

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## **18. Appendices**

- *Appendix A – Corporate Strategy (2022-2026)*



# Corporate Strategy 2022–2026







## Foreword

As anyone who lives or works in Lewisham knows, our borough is a unique and special place. We have a proud shared history of standing up for equalities, of being pioneering, creative and ambitious and we are driven by our sense of community.

These qualities were heightened during the pandemic, as the Council, our partners and residents across the borough worked together to help and support each other, with kindness and like never before. Over the coming months and years, we know that we will again face steep challenges. The cost of living and housing crises as well as ongoing cuts and increasing demand for our services mean that we must again pool our resources and work together to adapt, respond and support our community during this unsettling time.

Our Corporate Strategy explains how the Council will do this by working with residents and partners to deliver excellent public services alongside the ambitious manifesto that I, and 54 Labour councillors, were elected on in May 2022.

In the short months between the election and writing this foreword, much has happened in both national and international politics that will have a profound impact on our community. The resilience and dedication of our staff and partners has never been more critical.

So far, we have managed some of the highest cuts in the country, but sadly we know there is more to come, making it vital that we maintain a balanced





and robust budget in the face of financial uncertainty in the public sector.

However, as our Corporate Strategy sets out, it's also important that we remain ambitious for Lewisham and compassionate for the people we serve.

We must retain our focus on delivering high quality services that make life better for people; of the benefits and importance of attracting investment, jobs and opportunities into the borough; of building new social homes; of making our borough cleaner, greener and safer and of continuing to fight for equalities.

To do this we must continue to work together - with our partners, including our brilliant local community groups, businesses and other organisations - with renewed energy and focus, and we must live by our Council's values: putting service to the public first; respecting all people and communities; investing in our employees and being honest, open and fair in everything we do.

In delivering our corporate strategy, we are committed to involving, listening to and working with local residents, staff, partners and businesses and we will keep you involved and updated on our progress. In Lewisham, our people are our greatest asset, and they are at the heart of this strategy.

**Damien Egan**  
**Mayor of Lewisham**



# Introduction

Our corporate strategy sets out the Council's ambitions for Lewisham and how we will achieve them.

The strategy explains our values, priorities and focus for the next four years, our learning from how the borough worked together in response to the pandemic, and how we plan to continue improving our services for our residents, businesses and partners in an ever more challenging environment.

Above all, this strategy outlines the principles that showcase who we are as an organisation; our focus on equality, putting our residents at the centre of everything we do and ensuring transparency and sound financial management are embedded within all key decisions the council makes.

It is informed by several other key strategies and plans that guide how we work, alongside detailed service plans.



# Our values

Our values will shape and guide our priorities and decision making; they will underpin how we work and what we do.



## We put service to the public first

We exist to serve and support the residents of Lewisham, and everything we do must always have residents' interests first and foremost.



## We respect all people and communities

We have a proud history of actively working to tackle inequalities, both across the borough and within the Council, and we will continue to build on this in everything we do.



## We invest in our employees

We want to be considered a top employer in local government. We will always ensure we provide opportunities for staff at all levels to learn new skills and progress their career.



## We are open, honest and fair in everything that we do

We will be transparent in the decisions that we take, both with each other and with the residents of Lewisham. Robust governance procedures will ensure that our decisions are honest and fair.





# Our challenges

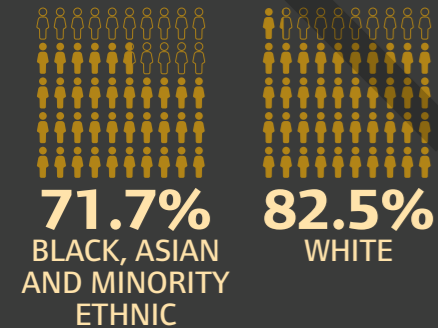
## BUDGET CUT



## HOUSE PRICES



## AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT RATE



Like all public sector bodies – particularly local authorities – we face ongoing challenges to make sure we can deliver the services our residents expect and deserve. Increasing demand for vital services like social care and social housing, alongside ever decreasing funding from central government, means we all face unprecedented challenges to deliver what our residents need and balance the books.

However, Lewisham also faces some more specific local challenges and, alongside ensuring we meet our statutory duties, our priorities aim to tackle these as well.

## Financial challenges

After over a decade of austerity, the financial challenge to local government remains acute. Over the last 12 years, the Government has cut Lewisham Council's budget by £137 million. This is equivalent to £1,055 less per household per year. This has happened whilst demand for our services has continued to increase.

We must be realistic about the scale of the challenge we face and acknowledge that the current ways of providing services may not be sustainable over the next four years.

Over the next four years we will need to balance delivery of our exciting and ambitious agenda against the wide range of services, many of them statutory, which residents and businesses expect on a day-to-day basis. Some of these services will need to stop, change and reduce in the context of the vastly reduced resources available. There will be tough decisions for us to make, and we want to make them transparently, in consultation with residents and based on the best possible evidence available to us.

## Inequalities

Lewisham is one of the country's most diverse boroughs, but systemic issues faced by our diverse communities create inequality. We need to work with the borough's businesses, ensuring they have the tools and support they need to succeed, and remove the barriers faced by the two thirds of our independent businesses which are owned by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic entrepreneurs.

Lewisham schools have a diverse population, with Black Caribbean heritage pupils making up 19% of primary pupils and 25% of secondary pupils – compared to 3% nationally (2019 data). As a result of the structural discrimination faced by this group, we need to work specifically to tackle the inequality within education, remove the barriers children face and create an environment where they can reach their full potential.

We also know that the health system does not take enough notice of the needs and issues affecting Black African and Black Caribbean people as communities of identity in the UK. As a Council, we must work with health partners to deliver those needs; including fairness, inclusion and respect, trust and transparency, better data, early interventions, health checks and campaigns, and healthier behaviours. It is only through doing this that we can recognise, identify, address and mitigate structural racism and discrimination as a driver of health inequalities.

As a Council, we will adopt the social model of disability, working to make our services accessible to all our residents.

## Climate emergency

No one local authority can tackle the climate emergency alone, but we have a duty to do everything we can to make a difference, support regional, national and international efforts and to support our residents, local businesses and partners to make a difference too. In 2019 we declared a Climate Emergency, producing a Climate Emergency Action Plan that sets out our priorities in this area.

Air pollution threatens the health of our residents. Half of Lewisham residents don't own a car, and we will continue to encourage greater use of public transport and sustainable travel.

We continue to strive towards being a net zero borough by 2030, and will continue to lobby the government and work with our partners to achieve this.

We will lead by example, by using 100% renewable energy, retrofitting public buildings where possible to make them more energy efficient, and supporting residents to make their homes warmer and more efficient.

Our parks and green spaces are a lifeline to the health and wellbeing of our residents, and provide important resilience against the climate emergency. We will continue to invest in them, and continue to plant more trees – adding to the 25,000 we've planted since 2018.

The progress of our Climate Emergency Action Plan will be reviewed annually by our Executive Management Team and through our scrutiny committee process, including reporting annually to the Mayor and Cabinet. We will publish a public update once a year setting out what has been done in that year and updating our set of actions going forward.

## Cost of living

The Cost of Living Crisis is beginning to be felt across the country. Rising energy and food costs, spiralling interest rates and the subsequent increase in rents and mortgages, are affecting everyone. The impact is felt particularly hard in Lewisham, where the new pressures are combining with existing inequalities, including the housing crisis, to create a significant risk to the wellbeing of some of our residents.

This is something we know we have to address over the next four years. Given the financial challenges outlined within this strategy, we know we cannot simply expand the support services we already provide – we need to do things differently to provide a short and long-term response.

We have already worked rapidly to collaborate with partners across the borough and develop our 'warm welcomes', as well as a comprehensive plan of support for the Lewisham staff and residents who are facing challenging circumstances throughout winter and beyond.





In the last four years:



**25,000**  
TREES PLANTED



**100%**  
CORPORATE ELECTRICITY  
CONTRACTS COME FROM  
**RENEWABLE**  
**SOURCES**



**24**  
GREEN FLAG AWARDS  
FOR OUR PARKS



## What do we want to achieve?

As we look ahead to the next four years, we set out below what we want to achieve, as we take Lewisham forward together.

### Place

We want Lewisham to be a place for everyone. This will mean creating visible improvements in our parks and high streets, and providing the space and opportunities for local businesses and people to thrive.

Over the last four years we've planted 25,000 trees, switched the Council's energy usage to 100% renewable and been recognised for delivering the best parks in London. Over the coming years we will support biodiversity across the borough, and advise and support residents to help make Lewisham's streets cleaner. We'll continue to invest in our much-loved parks, utilising our new Play Strategy to create exciting, healthy environments for children, and we'll introduce new walking paths, connecting our borough and enhancing the spaces within it, making it easier and more pleasant to get about Lewisham by foot or bike.

We'll maintain our status as a Borough of Sanctuary and a leader for local authorities across the country in our approach to refugee resettlement. By focusing on building good quality social homes, regulating private landlords and supporting our homeless residents, we'll work to ensure that everyone has a place to stay in Lewisham.

We'll create the space for local businesses to succeed, pedestrianising more of our high streets where possible and offering practical support to help make Lewisham the best place in London to start or grow a business. We will work with investors to make sure that developments are right for our borough and sensitive to our history, and that residents feel the benefits via jobs and investment in local amenities.





## Community

In Lewisham, community is about safer neighbourhoods, good schools, thriving businesses, active community groups, responsible stewardship of the environment and services that are designed for the convenience of those who use them. We want to ensure that everyone who lives, studies and works in the borough feels empowered to contribute and have their say about the things they care about.

We want to work more closely with community groups and others with reach and influence in the local area; using learning from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Council's wide-ranging Resident Experience programme to change the way we do things and improve outcomes for all those who use services in the borough.

Across Lewisham, we recognise that there are communities whose voices are seldom heard and others who may feel as if they are not heard at all. We will develop an approach to engage our community that is fairer, accessible and even more inclusive, acting as a listening organisation and working in tandem with our residents to improve the services we deliver for them.

We all have a part in Lewisham's future, and by creating the spaces and opportunities for residents and businesses to engage with us and each other, we will deliver more for the borough together than we could alone.

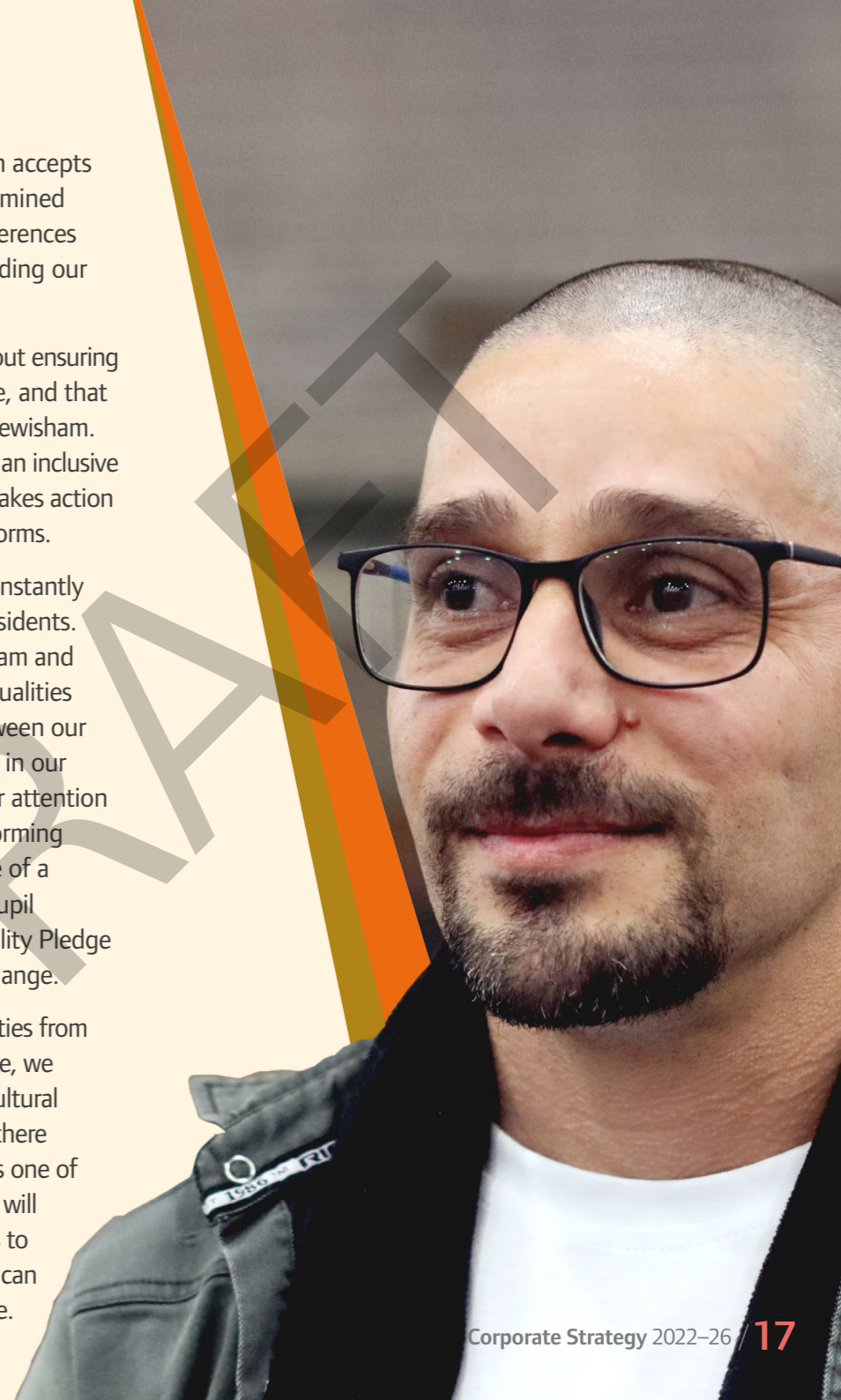
## Diversity

We will adopt the social model of race, which accepts that race is more culturally and socially determined than biological. Responsibility to resolve differences in life chances therefore lies with us all, including our institutions.

Our focus on diversity as an organisation is about ensuring we are a representative council and workforce, and that we celebrate the diversity that exists within Lewisham. We are determined to ensure that Lewisham is an inclusive and welcoming place; one where the council takes action to address inequality and unfairness in all its forms.

For Lewisham, celebrating diversity means constantly mindful of the different life experiences of residents. We will utilise our ground-breaking Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review to tackle the disparities that exist between our communities. In schools, we will be relentless in our focus on pupil achievement, paying particular attention to raising the attainment levels of underperforming pupils. We will continue to promote the value of a curriculum that reflects the diversity of our pupil population as well as focus on our Race Equality Pledge for schools, to bring about real and lasting change.

Building on the significant learning opportunities from Lewisham's year as London Borough of Culture, we will support the growth of existing and new cultural venues and organisations and identify where there may be further scope to promote Lewisham as one of London's most pre-eminent cultural hubs. We will use this collective momentum to explore ways to attract new investment into the borough that can provide jobs and opportunities for local people.







## Inward investment and opportunity

We cannot bring about these ambitious pledges alone. The financial challenges we face mean we must work to attract inward investment.

Our year as London Borough of Culture has been one of the most exciting in Lewisham's history, and we don't want it to end when the year comes to a close. We'll be looking to cultivate a lasting legacy that promotes our borough's rich history, culture and community spirit, bringing in more economic opportunities and inviting both private partners and visitors to see what Lewisham has to offer. By the end of this administration, we'll be able to showcase our newly renovated Broadway Theatre, have developed a live music strategy and expanded our apprenticeship programme into the arts sector, cementing Lewisham's place as a cultural hub within London.

We will build relationships across the capital and work with business leaders to create more opportunities in growth sectors for Lewisham's young people.

We want the rest of London to take notice of what Lewisham has to offer and that means showcasing more of our achievements and making it clear that over the next four years, our borough the place to be for starting a business or investing in one.

## Innovation and new ideas

Our shared experience of living through the COVID-19 pandemic has given us a unique insight into what is possible when we work together with partners towards a shared goal.

Over the next four years, we want to unlock that same spirit of innovation as we prepare to seize new opportunities and break new ground. Our experience has shown us that the energy for innovation exists within our workforce, across the multi-agency partnership, within the local community and beyond borough boundaries. Now more than ever, we need to harness this knowledge and put it to the most effective use on the big challenges and difficult issues that we need to confront together.

We will actively seek out the insights of those who are experts by experience such as disabled residents, older people, young people and those able to offer a unique first-person perspective on how to improve the services we provide. We are committed to providing our staff with the capacity and resources they need to innovate, and will continue encouraging them to utilise funding bids, take risks and bring forward bold ideas. We want staff from across the organisation to have the opportunities to put their suggestions to senior managers.





# Our priorities

## Cleaner and greener

We will do everything we can to ensure that over the next four years we make the borough cleaner and greener for our residents. Working to tackle the climate crisis through every area of council policy, we will ensure Lewisham is rated as a 'top tier' council for our work on climate action.

We will continue the excellent work we have done over the last four years on tree planting. By 2026 we will have planted more street trees, tiny forests and community orchards across our borough.

We will strive to maintain our status as having the best parks in London, continuing to invest in our much-loved parks and using our upcoming Play Strategy to create exciting environments for children within them.

We will enable more active travel, and aim to reduce reliance on cars, introducing new walking paths to connect our borough, making it easier and more pleasant to get about Lewisham by foot or bike.

We will keep our high streets cleaner by supporting residents to do what they can, and increasing our prosecutions for fly-tipping and street littering.



## A strong local economy

We will continue to expand our apprenticeship programme into new areas of work, building on the 260 apprentices that we placed during the 2018–2022 administration.

We will invest in our high streets and create more pedestrianised spaces, doing what we can to ensure our borough is the best place in London for entrepreneurs to start their businesses.

We will continue to promote Lewisham's Shop Local Campaign, providing support for our independent businesses as well as protecting and improving our local street markets.

We will actively work to attract jobs and businesses to Lewisham, building on the success of Lewisham Works and creating more spaces for pop-up stores and markets in shops that are temporarily empty.

We will continue to work with businesses across the borough, encouraging them to become London Living Wage employers.





# Our priorities

## Quality Housing

We will deliver more social homes for Lewisham residents, working to provide as many people as possible with safe, comfortable accommodation that they can be proud of and happy living in.

We will aim to improve the conditions in the borough's housing stock, working with all housing providers to encourage retro-fitting as part of our drive to be carbon-neutral by 2030, and to develop a Lewisham Rent Repairs Charter that improves the quality and timeliness of repairs.

We will provide more support to renters through further landlord licensing and enforcement of poorly managed homes, holding landlords to account and giving a voice to renters across the borough.

We will safeguard our heritage by preserving and restoring our historic buildings and landmarks, ensuring Lewisham's history is preserved and maintained for future generations.



## Children and Young People

We will continue the fantastic work of the last four years, supporting our schools to improve and increasing the opportunities for young people in Lewisham.

We will relentlessly focus on pupil achievement, working with our schools and communities to build on our inclusive and high-achieving system of local comprehensive schools.

We will ensure the most vulnerable children are protected from harm, driving improvement in children's social care and aiming to reduce the number of children coming into care through earlier targeted support for families in crisis.

We will help to create new breakfast clubs at schools and continue to lobby the government to expand their free school meals programme.





# Our priorities

## Safer Communities

We will work with the police to implement our Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. This will include developing a new reporting tool that allows residents to map areas where they don't feel safe, and feed that back to the Council and police.

We will continue to support the Mayor of London's Have a Word campaign, which encourages men to reflect on their own behaviour and the way they see, treat and talk about women.

We will reduce the number of young people who enter the criminal justice system, focusing on prevention and expanding our trauma-informed approach, championed by our Youth Offending Service.

We will continue to focus and develop our successful public health approach to youth violence, aiming to tackle knife crime and reduce sexual exploitation across the borough.



## Open Lewisham

We will celebrate Lewisham's diversity, ensuring we are a representative and inclusive council and workforce.

We will maintain our status as a Borough of Sanctuary and London's leading borough for refugee resettlement.

We will develop plans to build on our legacy as London's Borough of Culture, celebrating the diverse and creative communities within Lewisham. This will include creating a new Culture and Live Music Strategy and bringing artists, community groups and businesses together to launch a Black Arts Festival.

We will maintain and strengthen the Lewisham Way of working in collaboration with our voluntary and community sectors and seek new areas where we can partner together. We will actively listen to our residents, being responsive to their concerns and communicative in our approach.

We will co-design services with those affected by them and ensure strong consultation processes that reach out to people whose voices are seldom heard.





# Our priorities

## Health and Wellbeing

We will partner with local food banks, food growing groups, schools and communities, through our joint Lewisham Food Action Plan. Together, we will ensure that everyone can access food and other essentials.

We will learn from our Birmingham and Lewisham African and Caribbean Health Inequalities Review, aiming to mitigate and ultimately end, structural racism and discrimination as a driver of health inequalities.

We will progress towards a fairer social care system, improving conditions for care workers to ensure they feel valued and that Lewisham is known as an exemplary employer.

We will work with the local NHS to deliver the services Lewisham residents need and create the Lewisham Health Care and Wellbeing Charter.

We will collaborate with other organisations to deliver the places, activities and programmes our residents need to feel empowered to live a physically active lifestyle.

# Lewisham in numbers



LEWISHAM'S POPULATION  
**300,600**  
(CENSUS 2021)



HOUSEHOLDS  
**122,400**



RESIDENTS SATISFIED  
LIVING IN LEWISHAM  
**79%**

**18%**  
POPULATION  
UNDER 15



**9.5%**  
POPULATION  
OVER 64

# How will we achieve our ambitions?

## Our Finances

### Effective management of finance

Our finances are managed to comply with regulations, to support the delivery of a wide range of statutory obligations and to provide value for money for our residents and businesses. Sound financial management is not only about ensuring our spending remains within budget. It is our responsibility to ensure good decision making, as set out in the Constitution, and appropriate risk taking, based on professional requirements and advice.

As well as first and foremost maintaining a balanced budget, we will develop our financial monitoring to better inform risk-based decision making, improve debt collection, enhance the considerations of social value and cost with partners, progress commercial opportunities, and seek inward investment to the borough. This will enable and enhance service outcomes by maximising the value of the resources applied for the benefit of Lewisham residents and businesses.

## Our staff

### A flexible workforce we invest in

To achieve everything that we want to in Lewisham, we need to have the right workforce in place. This means recruiting, retaining, and developing talented and committed staff to provide the best services for residents. In the challenging environment we face, we need to ensure we get the best out of our most valuable asset, our employees.

In order to remain an attractive employer, we've placed an emphasis on hybrid working as part of our Future Working programme. The days of always working 9-5 at the office may be gone, but it is important to retain a connection between our staff and the communities they serve. Our staff will continue to come into Lewisham to work on a regular basis. We'll utilise other buildings and spaces within the community, not just at Laurence House, ensuring staff can work in the way that best suits them, whilst staying connected to each other and the borough. Rolling out hybrid technology, improving our digital infrastructure and supplying staff with the right equipment means we can support staff to do their best for our residents.

Developing our existing workforce is as important as recruiting new staff, and as such we'll be focused on ensuring staff at all levels of the organisation get the training and development they need to help them progress in their career. Building on the success of our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Leadership Programme, we'll continue to develop the next generation of senior staff from our diverse and talented workforce.

## How we work

Our Organisational Development Strategy sets out how we will change our ways of working to meet our ambitions for the Council.

### Collaborative working, including in partnerships

Every project we take on will begin with a focus on what we can achieve alone, and what we can achieve working with others. Over the last four years, partnerships such as the Civic University Agreement and The Lewisham Deal saw us come together with key public sector partners to support growth in the borough and work with others to tackle the big issues we face. Building on the success we've had with these partnerships, we are determined to go further in what we achieve through collaboration over the next four years.

Utilising the influence of our elected Mayor within the borough, we will convene a Local Strategic Partnership, focused on tackling the issues that matter most to our residents. This partnership will bring together key organisations from across the borough to work with one another, sharing a single strategic vision to improve outcomes for our residents.

Our focus on partnerships won't just stop at organisations. We want to create a culture of working collaboratively with our residents, acting as a facilitator to ensure that the fantastic community spirit we saw during the pandemic can continue, and people can support one another when they need to.

### Evidence-based decision making

Given some of the difficult choices that we will inevitably have to make during this administration, we want to ensure that we have access to the best possible data to base our decisions on. We will be expanding both the capability and functionality of our Knowledge Observatory, adding our newly created [Ward Profiles](#) to allow staff and councillors to assess the needs of their ward and ensure that we're targeting our resources on the people who need them most.

We will be utilising new census data, our Residents' Survey results and staff surveys to make sure we have the capacity and insight to achieve our aims. Our



newly created Data Team will work with staff across the organisation and with our partners to ensure that residents in Lewisham get the best service they can from us, and from institutions across the local area.

### **Strong and effective governance**

Our recent LGA Corporate Peer Challenge provided us with a clear recommendation to *“Review the constitution to align it to the ambition of the Mayor and his Administration”*. We’ve taken this feedback on board and have commissioned a full review of our constitution, ensuring our governance processes reflect the modern council we want to be.

Since the publication of our last corporate strategy, we have also reviewed our approach to managing risk. We know that in order to achieve what we want to, whilst operating under tight financial controls, we will need to take some managed and measured risks. We want staff to feel empowered to do this, and create a culture where big ideas, no matter where they come from, can be heard and acted on.

### **How we stay on track and measure success**

Over the course of the next four years, we will entirely revamp the way we measure and manage our performance as an organisation.

Our priorities in this Corporate Strategy will form our top objectives. For each objective, we will identify key results and take measurements quarterly, or as appropriate, feeding into directorate service plans and quarterly performance monitoring, which we will make publicly available.

All our performance monitoring will culminate in an annual report to Full Council, where our progress as an organisation against our external and internal priorities will be reported on. Through the use of data and insight, as well as transparent public reporting against our objectives, we will provide ourselves with the best possible tools to continue to improve year-on-year, and to help us focus on the areas that need it most.







[www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk)

