

Decisions taken by the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on Monday, 5 November 2018

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Part A – Items considered in public

A1	Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2018	That the minutes of the on the 19 September be agreed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.
A2	Declarations of interest	<p>Councillor Mallory declared a personal interest under item 4 "Budget Cuts" as he was Chair of Lee Green Lives which was in receipt of a Local Assembly Grant and a Main Grant.</p> <p>Councillor Morrison declared a personal interest in respect of Item 4 "Budget Cuts" and Item 6 "Main Grants Consultation Results" as she was a trustee and officer of a trust in receipt of a Main Grant.</p> <p>Councillor Rathbone declared a personal interest in item 4 "Budget Cuts" and item 6 "Main Grants Programme Consultation Results" as he was a member of Lewisham Citizens Advice Bureau and Voluntary Action Lewisham and he was a member of the Board of Lee Green Lives and Manor House Community Library.</p>
A3	Response to Referrals from this Committee	There were no responses to referrals discussed at this meeting.
A4	Budget Cut Proposals	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>The Committee resolved to advise the Public Accounts Select Committee of the following:</p> <p>COM 10: Crime Enforcement and Regulation Reorganisation</p> <p>The Committee stated that whilst they understood the severity of the budget situation, they felt a decision should not be made on the part of this saving proposal relating to the review of CCTV Service (£161k (20/21)), without a complete assessment of the full impact of this cut. This should include consideration of how often CCTV is used to stop crime taking place as it happens and retrospectively in prosecutions, as well as the extent to which the capacity being reduced would affect residents and partner organisations.</p>

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		<p>COM 11: Hubs Libraries Cuts to staffed opening hours</p> <p>The Committee felt the proposals in their current form were unacceptable and further consultation was necessary before a decision could be made. A full Equalities Impact Assessment should also be undertaken. The Committee highlighted that section 9 of the budget pro-forma stated that those affected included “some of the most vulnerable in our society (who) will have been signposted to the library service by other public sector bodies such as Job Centre Plus, Central Government Departments, council services, GP etc.”</p> <p>COM 12: Cuts to main grants budget</p> <p>The Committee were concerned that the proposed cut of 30% was too high and there should be further consideration as to whether the scale of the cut could be reduced before a final decision was made.</p> <p>COM 14: Local Assemblies Fund and COM 17: Ending the Small and Faith Fund</p> <p>The Committee felt that these two proposals should be considered together. The Committee stated that the retention of some form of small grant programme, accessible to community and neighbourhood groups, was essential to building strong communities. The Committee believed that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money could not achieve this and that not all wards would receive regular CIL money. As such the Committee felt a new scheme must be created that would provide funds for small groups/initiatives and that this funding should be subject to approval of Ward Assemblies to retain local democracy and accountability.</p>

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A5	Safe Lewisham Plan	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>
A6	Main Grants Programme Consultation Results	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>The Committee noted the importance for some Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups of receiving funding from the Council as an endorsement allowing them to more easily secure additional funding from other sources. The Committee also noted that many VCS groups and services worked across more than one of the four funding streams on the Main Grants Programme and that this needed to be acknowledged within the process of awarding of grants. The Committee therefore made the following recommendation to be considered by the Mayor and Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That emphasis should be placed on the ability of Voluntary and Community Sector Groups to access additional resources alongside any grants from the London Borough of Lewisham. 2. That emphasis should be placed on the ability of Voluntary and Community Sector Groups to meet more than one theme included in the Main Grants Programme. 3. That no decision should be made on Main Grants Funding periods until a decision has been reached on the budget cuts proposal COM 17 “Ending the Small and Faith Fund”.

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A7	Select Committee work programme	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p> <p>That comments on the NPS and CRC report be passed on to partners at the NPS and CRC.</p>
A8	Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet	Referrals were made as listed under Item 4 and Item 6.