

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Tuesday, 11 June 2019

7.00 pm, Committee Rooms 1 & 2 - Civic Suite

Civic Suite

Lewisham Town Hall

London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Charlotte Dale (020 8314 8286)

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

Part 1

Item		Pages
1.	Minutes of the meetings held on 7 March 2019 and 3 April 2019	1 - 11
2.	Response to Referrals - Procurement Process and Legal Advice	
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Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Tuesday, 11 June 2019.

Janet Senior, Acting Chief Executive
Monday 3 June 2019

Councillor Bill Brown (Chair)

Councillor Sakina Sheikh (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye

Councillor Abdeslam Amrani

Councillor Tauseef Anwar

Councillor Peter Bernards

Councillor Juliet Campbell

Councillor Suzannah Clarke

Councillor Patrick Codd

Councillor Tom Copley

Councillor Liam Curran

Councillor Sophie Davis

Councillor Colin Elliott

Councillor Aisling Gallagher

Councillor Leo Gibbons

Councillor Alan Hall

Councillor Carl Handley

Councillor Octavia Holland

Councillor Sue Hordijkeno

Councillor Coral Howard

Councillor Mark Ingleby

Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin

Councillor Caroline Kalu

Councillor Silvana Kelleher

Councillor Louise Krupski

Councillor Jim Mallory

Councillor Paul Maslin

Councillor Joan Millbank

Councillor Hilary Moore

Councillor Pauline Morrison

Councillor John Muldoon

Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa

Councillor Lionel Openshaw

Councillor Jacq Paschoud

Councillor John Paschoud

Councillor Stephen Penfold

Councillor Kim Powell

Councillor James Rathbone

Councillor Alan Smith

Councillor Luke Sorba

Councillor Eva Stamirowski

Councillor James-J Walsh

Councillor Susan Wise

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 7 March 2019 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Bill Brown (Chair), Juliet Campbell (Vice-Chair), Abdeslam Amrani, Andre Bourne, Patrick Codd, Aisling Gallagher, Leo Gibbons, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Octavia Holland, Sue Hordijkeno, Coral Howard, Mark Ingleby, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Silvana Kelleher, Louise Krupski, Jim Mallory, John Muldoon, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Stephen Penfold, James Rathbone, Alan Smith, Luke Sorba and James-J Walsh

APOLOGIES: Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye, Peter Bernards, Tom Copley, Liam Curran, Colin Elliott, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa and Susan Wise

ALSO PRESENT: Stephanie Fleck, Councillor Chris Barnham (Cabinet Member for School Performance), Councillor Chris Best (Deputy Mayor), Councillor Brenda Dacres (Cabinet Member for Parks, Neighbourhoods and Transport (job share)), Charlotte Dale (Interim Overview and Scrutiny Manager), Mayor Damien Egan (Mayor) and Councillor Joani Reid (Cabinet Member for Safer Communities)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2019

- 1.1 The minutes of the last meeting referred to an inclusive toilet. Councillor Walsh commented that it was important that the proposed toilet was a gender neutral toilet and not a disabled toilet, labelled inclusive.
- 1.2 The Chair reported that the corporate strategy had been amended in line with the referral made by the Committee at the last meeting; and had now been agreed by full Council.
- 1.3 Updates on Cabinet Member actions agreed at the last meeting, were tabled.
- 1.4 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2019 be agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Councillor Hall declared a non-prejudicial interest as a Member of the Lewisham Trade Union Council.

3. Referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel on the Council's Procurement Procedures

- 3.1 The Vice-Chair introduced the referral from Business Panel. It was reported that on 29 January 2019, Business Panel had considered a Mayor and Cabinet report on the Award of a contract for the Carer Information Advice and Support Service and had decided to call the decision in. On 6 February 2019, Mayor and Cabinet considered the Call-In but were satisfied that due

diligence had been undertaken and that the correct decision had been delivered. The decision was upheld although it was agreed that the contract would be closely monitored. On 19 February 2019 Business Panel agreed to make a referral to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee asking it to support a review of the Council's Procurement Procedures, as it was not satisfied that its concerns regarding underlying issues with the way in which procurement was being carried out, had been addressed.

3.2 The committee discussed current procurement procedures and the following views were expressed:

- The ranking system was simplistic and should be more complex to allow better analysis.
- Contracts were sometimes underbid in order to win the contract, but then not fulfilled at a cost to the council. There needed to be a thorough interrogation of the prices put forward in bids.
- Contract reports were usually entirely exempt, whereas a better approach might be to redact the truly exempt information or put this information in a part 2 appendix with the main report being part 1. This would better accord with the Administration's stated aims of openness and transparency.

3.3 It was agreed that the referral from Business Panel requesting a review of the Council's procurement procedures would be endorsed, with one amendment regarding best practice, and forwarded to Mayor and Cabinet.

3.4 **RESOLVED:** That the following referral be forwarded to Mayor and Cabinet:

Business Panel:

1. *Notes that the scoring system and the balance between quality and price is not robust nor transparent when awarding contract to organisations.*
2. *Calls for the Council to re-examine its process of quality versus cost, and ensure there is a thorough examination of the factors within both price and quality.*
3. *Is not convinced continuity or proximity of provision are given sufficient thought in the transition period as part of the evaluation and that needs to be weighted accordingly.*
4. *In accordance with the Administration's Manifesto commitments to use an in-house provider and secure services locally whenever possible, prominent sections of the process should examine the advantages and disadvantages of in-house and local provision.*

It is proposed that:

- *The scoring system should be very clear and easy to understand.*
- *Mayor and Cabinet should take time to consider proposals from officers before making a decision.*

- *Sufficient time and consideration must be given to responses to scrutiny in recognition of the need for parity of esteem.*
- *In future: quality, location, continuity and in-house consideration should feature largely when awarding contracts.*

The Committee also asks that Mayor & Cabinet asks officers to consider best practice, including with regard to social value, from other local authorities and report back to Mayor & Cabinet and the Public Accounts Select Committee. Salford City Council is cited as a potential example of good practice.

4. Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session

4.1 The part of this item pertaining to legal advice (paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3) was considered directly after item 1, *Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2019.*

4.2 The Committee noted that written reports had not be provided by the Cabinet Members present as requested; the letters sent to the Cabinet Members who attended the last Question and Answer Session had not been published; and formal responses from those Cabinet Members had not been received and published. It was noted that the receipt of legal advice pertaining to Cabinet Member Question and Answer sessions had prevented this from happening in time for the meeting, but that a procedure would be developed to allow written reports to be received for future meetings, with legal and financial implications as required. Letters sent to Cabinet Members and their responses would also be published.

4.3 The Committee requested that a report be prepared by the Head of Law explaining what had happened and the procedure going forward.

4.4. Councillor Best gave a short presentation and the following key points were noted:

- Managing a tight budget against a backdrop of rising demand and complex needs was difficult, but officers were trying to work in innovative ways and to manage demand.
- The Care at Home Model had been approved by Mayor and Cabinet in November 2018 and it involved the integration of a number of health and social care services via a Section 75 agreement between the Council and the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust.
- Lewisham was the first local authority to become sugar smart and it was also taking part in the childhood obesity trailblazer programme. 11,000 children in 35 Lewisham schools were taking part in the daily mile initiative.
- The borough had achieved UNICEF baby friendly accreditation.
- A new Sexual Health Strategy was about to be launched and the Council was working closely with Southwark and Lambeth in this regard, including jointly procuring some services.
- The Council had signed the UNISON Ethical Care Charter.

4.4 In response to questions from Members, the following points were noted:

- The Director of Public Health was retiring after ten years' service, having changed the landscape of public health.
- Although cafés in parks were generally successful, the selected bidder had pulled out of Mountsfield Park. A report to the Executive Director of Customer Services was expected shortly on the fresh procurement exercise and the Friends of Mountsfield Park and other stakeholders would be consulted. The Cabinet Member would arrange a meeting with ward councillors to discuss this issue further.
- Vacant posts were always reviewed before they were advertised and recruitment of a new Director of Public Health and a new Executive Director for Community Services was underway.
- The Cabinet Member would raise the issue of people with learning disabilities not understanding how their money and benefits were being managed, with officers. The advocacy service *Speaking Up* could be helpful in this regard.
- Although not aware of anyone being unable to get through to the Council to report safeguarding issues, The Cabinet Member would ask officers to make sure that members of the public could get through to the appropriate team in a timely manner.
- The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care and the Cabinet Member for School Performance and Children's Services liaised regularly on public health matters affecting children (the budget for which fell within the portfolio of the former).
- Responsibility for the Early Years Review lay with the Cabinet Member for School Performance and Children's Services.

4.5 Councillor Barnham, gave a short presentation and the following key points were noted:

- The two areas of upmost priority were Children's Social Care (keeping children safe) and Education (giving children a good chance in life).
- The overspend in Children's Social Care was an ongoing issue but management action to stabilise the budget was addressing this, and the Cabinet Member was attending monthly budget meetings. It was hoped that the overspend would be down to £6.9m this year and would be eliminated next year.
- Improvements to Children's Social Care practice needed to take place, as recognised by OFSTED. An improvement plan was in place to drive the changes required, with fortnightly meetings of the improvement board taking place.
- The image of Lewisham schools had historically been an issue of concern, although applications to Lewisham schools were up this year.
- The Cabinet Member was supporting the school led programme of improvement; efforts to reduce permanent exclusions; and a review of early help services.
- Attainment at age 11 had improved and was above the national average and GCSE performance had also improved considerably, although more improvement was required.

4.6 In response to questions from Members, the following points were noted:

- The Early Years Review would look at how different services work together and assess how further integration might lead to better outcomes. It would also assist in an assessment of where cuts might be made with as minimal impact as possible.
- Work would commence on a new CYP Strategy and Plan via a reinvigorated CYP Partnership. The strategy would be considered by Full Council in the summer following consideration by scrutiny.
- Serious youth violence had to be tackled in partnership with different directorates and organisations working together. Silo working had to end.
- Agency social workers cost more than in-house social workers and one of the improvement plan's targets was to get to 90% permanent, well-qualified children's social care staff, but this would take time.
- There had been a concerted communications effort last autumn to get parents to consider those Lewisham schools with an, often unwarranted, poor image. This had paid off with only 25 secondary school places currently un-offered.
- Progression to higher education was high amongst Lewisham young people, although they were not always progressing from Lewisham secondary schools.
- The Cabinet Member would look into a potential insufficiency in childcare places in the borough.
- Any members with information on parents being asked to fund things that were traditionally funded by schools (e.g. text books) should alert the Cabinet Member. Funding for schools was more or less frozen, although Lewisham schools were still highly funded compared to the national average.
- Although reducing the budget was not an explicit part of the Early Years Review, it would help Members assess where cuts that have to be made might be made with as minimal impact as possible. A £0.8m cut was pencilled into the General Fund. Scrutiny would be involved in the review from the earliest stage.
- More information would be provided on social worker pay and its role in the recruitment and retention of staff.
- Although not aware of foster carers being provided with insufficient background information on the children they were being asked to look after, the Cabinet Member would look into the level of information that was being provided.
- Ofsted had assessed Lewisham's PRU as doing a good job, although the aim was to help children before they got to the point of permanent exclusion from a mainstream setting.
- The Cabinet Member would look into reports of some schools pulling out of the service level agreement with Lewisham for payroll services.
- Deciding to become an Academy was a decision for schools, although the Council did try to ensure that schools had alternatives to the support and financial incentives that came with academisation. Lewisham Learning offered a free menu of support to schools which many schools, especially primaries, were very positive about. Some schools were looking towards joining a federation as an alternative to becoming an academy.

- The Cabinet Member would clarify whether pupils with no recourse to public funds were eligible for free school meals.
- The Council was expecting the children's social care service to be the subject of an OFSTED inspection shortly, the self-assessment had indicated that the service was moving in the right direction, although the quality of social work was only 40% and needed to be over 50% for the judgement to improve.

4.7 Councillor Reid, gave a short presentation and the following key points were noted:

- The anti-social behaviour teams were due to be restructured again but there would be no forced redundancies and the teams were performing well against key performance indicators, with the exception of the 28 day limit for environmental health input into planning applications.
- The Youth Offending Service had been found to be unsatisfactory in a few areas when it was inspected in 2016 but it had improved significantly since then. Re-offending was down to 16.5%, the biggest reduction in London.
- The trauma informed and restorative justice approach to serious youth violence was very important and officers were looking at the Glasgow model.

4.8 In response to questions from Members, the following points were noted:

- A strategy on the public health approach to youth violence would be launched in April, following comprehensive, multi-agency collaborative work.
- The Cabinet Members for Safer Communities and for School Performance and Children's Services worked closely together on youth offending.
- The Cabinet Member would look into the support offered to young people who witness serious crime, in light of a recent incident.
- The Cabinet Member would liaise with the Police and see if a six monthly update on serious cases of crime could be provided to councillors.
- The provision of additional security at council meetings had been achieved without needing to divert staff from their usual tasks.
- The Cabinet Member would look into reports that some young people did not feel safe in the council's secure estate (the three types of secure accommodation reserved for children and young people in custody - youth offender institutions, secure training centres and secure children's homes).

4.9 Councillor Dacres, gave a short presentation and the following key points were noted:

- The new Local Implementation Plan was an important document looking at the medium and long term infrastructure of the borough, including comprehensive walking and cycling support.
- Support for the Bakerloo Line extension was a priority.

- Funding had been provided by Transport for London towards 31 bikehangars across 9 wards with 30 more to be in place by the spring.
- A new parking strategy which would favour low emission vehicles would be coming to Mayor and Cabinet soon.

4.10 The Cabinet Member thanked the Council's Air Quality and Night Time Economy Champions for the important work that they had been carrying out in support of her portfolio. In response to questions from Members, the following points were noted:

- Ward members would be consulted on Healthy Neighbourhood Partnerships including on ideas around resident engagement.
- Visits were planned to schools in relation to sustainable travel and idling, including schools in superzones (zones around schools where work is carried out to create healthier and safer places for children and young people to live, learn and play). The schools in areas of high pollution would be prioritised. The Cabinet Member agreed to circulate further information on this, and on any upcoming air quality events, to the Committee.
- London's Low Emission Zone was due to be expanded to the whole of London in October 2020, with strict emission standards applying to buses, coaches and lorries across the whole of London, including Lewisham. The Ultra Low Emission Zone would begin in central London on 8 April 2019 and be expanded up to the North and South circular roads on 25 October 2021. The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a note on this matter.
- The Cabinet Member agreed to meet Councillor Gibbons to discuss a pedestrianised school zone in Forest Hill.

4.11 Councillor Best provided an update on Councillor McGeevor's part of the portfolio, which she was covering whilst Councillor McGeevor was on maternity leave. It was noted that recycling rates were the highest they had ever been in Lewisham, in part due to new food waste collections; that a briefing on fly tipping had been provided to Members; that a survey of London Local Authority parks in 2018 had ranked Lewisham first (the Good Parks for London Report 2018) and that Beckenham Place Park had benefitted from nearly £7m of investment in recent years; and that a new Air Quality app had been launched. In response to questions from Members it was noted that:

- The investment in Beckenham Place Park was linked to projects located in specific areas of the park. The Eastern side of the Park had been set to benefit from investment from the Environment Agency but their proposed flood scheme was no longer going ahead. The Council would re-assess how to improve this section of the park and was developing designs and looking to secure funding for the east side of the park.
- The aim was to keep ward members informed about developments in the park and it was noted that ward councillors had not be consulted on the Naked City Festival on 27 June 2019. The Cabinet Member agreed to consult officers on any plans for pre-decision scrutiny of the report planned for Mayor and Cabinet on the re-development of the park.

- The Cabinet Member agreed to discuss the information being provided to residents on reporting fly-tipping, with officers.

4.12 **RESOLVED:** That the updates be noted and that a referral be sent to Mayor and Cabinet requesting that a report be prepared by the Head of Law explaining why written reports had not been prepared for this meeting, including a timeline of events; outlining the current legal advice pertaining to Cabinet Member Question and Answer Sessions; and explaining the procedure going forward.

5. Items to be referred to Mayor and Cabinet

RESOLVED: That two referrals be made to Mayor and Cabinet as outlined above in sections 3 and 4.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm

Chair:

Date:

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 3 April 2019 at 9.10pm

PRESENT: Councillors Bill Brown (Chair), Juliet Campbell, Obajimi Adefiranye, Abdeslam Amrani, Tauseef Anwar, Peter Bernards, Suzannah Clarke, Patrick Codd, Tom Copley, Liam Curran, Sophie Davis, Colin Elliott, Aisling Gallagher, Leo Gibbons, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Sue Hordijenko, Coral Howard, Mark Ingleby, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Caroline Kalu, Silvana Kelleher, Louise Krupski, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Stephen Penfold, James Rathbone, Sakina Sheikh (Vice-Chair), Alan Smith, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Octavia Holland and Jim Mallory.

1. OSC Election of Chair

RESOLVED: that Councillor Bill Brown be elected as Chair and Councillor Sakina Sheikh be elected as Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2019-20.

2. OSC Composition

RESOLVED: that the proposed current proportional allocation of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Select Committees be approved.

3. OSC Select Committees

RESOLVED: that the following appointments be made:

<i>Overview & Scrutiny Committee (all 43 non executive councillors)</i>	Councillor Bill Brown (Chair) Councillor Sakina Sheikh (Vice-Chair)
Business Panel & O&S (Education) Business Panel (10)	Councillor Bill Brown(Chair) Councillor Sakina Sheikh (Vice-Chair) Councillor Liam Curran Councillor Jim Mallory Councillor Juliet Campbell Councillor John Muldoon Councillor Luke Sorba Councillor Peter Bernards Councillor Joan Millbank Councillor Patrick Codd
<i>Public Accounts (10)</i>	Councillor Jim Mallory (Chair) Councillor Louise Krupski (Vice-chair) Councillor Alan Hall Councillor Mark Ingleby Councillor Paul Maslin Councillor Joan Millbank Councillor James Rathbone Councillor Patrick Codd

	Councillor Juliet Campbell Councillor Tauseef Anwar
<i>Healthier Communities</i> (10)	Councillor John Muldoon (Chair) Councillor Coral Howard (Vice-Chair) Councillor Tauseef Anwar Councillor Peter Bernards Councillor Aisling Gallagher Councillor Colin Elliott Councillor Octavia Holland Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa Councillor Jacq Paschoud 1 vacancy
<i>Children & Young People</i> (10)	Councillor Luke Sorba (Chair) Councillor Caroline Kalu (Vice-Chair) Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin Councillor Octavia Holland Councillor Coral Howard Councillor Colin Elliott Councillor Hilary Moore Councillor Jacq Paschoud Councillor John Paschoud Councillor Paul Maslin
<i>Safer & Stronger Communities</i> (10)	Councillor Juliet Campbell(Chair) Councillor James Rathbone (Vice-Chair) Councillor Sophie Davis Councillor Stephen Penfold Councillor Liam Curran Councillor Eva Stamirowski Councillor Jim Mallory Councillor Carl Handley Councillor James Walsh 1 vacancy
<i>Sustainable Development</i> (10)	Councillor Liam Curran (Chair) Councillor Patrick Codd (Vice-Chair) Councillor Jimi Adefiranye Councillor Skip Amrani Councillor Suzannah Clarke Councillor Mark Ingleby Councillor Louise Krupski Councillor Alan Smith Councillor James Walsh Councillor Pauline Morrison
<i>Housing</i> (10)	Councillor Peter Bernards (Chair) Councillor Stephen Penfold (Vice-Chair) Councillor Susan Wise Councillor Tom Copley Councillor Aisling Gallagher Councillor Leo Gibbons

	Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa Councillor Sue Hordijenko Councillor Silvana Kelleher Councillor Alan Smith
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The meeting ended at 9.11pm

Chair:

Date:

Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE			
Report Title	Questions raised with Cabinet Members at previous meetings of Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
Key Decision	No		Item No. 3
Ward	All		
Contributors	Chief Executive		
Class	Open	Date: 11 June 2019	

Purpose

1. This report provides responses to questions raised with Cabinet Members at previous meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation

2. Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the responses to questions raised with Cabinet Members at previous meetings.

Further information

3. On 30 October 2018, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked the Mayor to circulate examples of progress in relation to manifesto commitments.
4. Mayor & Cabinet adopted a new Corporate Strategy on 13 February 2019. The new Corporate Strategy was endorsed by Full Council on 27 February 2019. The new Corporate Strategy sets the Council's commitments up to 2022. Across all areas of our work, the Council has made good progress delivering on Corporate Strategy commitments, despite a 63% cut in our funding, including:
 - We have started bringing council services in house, with the in-sourcing of the facilities management contract from Kier.
 - 50 agency staff have been given permanent Council staff contracts. The Mayor has set a new target of 50 more staff by the Council AGM in 2020.
 - We have secured £37 million from the Mayor of London to support the delivery of 284 new council homes.
 - Following the success of PLACE/Ladywell, we have confirmed three more innovative pop-up housing developments to lift 112 homeless families out of emergency accommodation.

- We published our first annual Modern Slavery statement.
 - We have declared a climate emergency, and are working on a new strategy to make Lewisham zero carbon by 2030.
 - We have expanded our refugee resettlement programme to welcome 100 new refugee families and are getting ready to welcome the first of our new refugee families this summer
 - We held the first Lewisham Learning conference to support our schools to work together in partnership
 - Our GCSE results are improving faster than the national average and more parents are choosing a Lewisham school as the first choice for the children.
 - We have signed-up 23 new London Living Wage employers in Lewisham
 - We have enrolled 35 new apprentices on the Mayor's Apprenticeship scheme.
 - We have announced a ban on junk food advertising, becoming the first Council in the country to do so.
 - We have now signed-up 10,000 young people to the Daily Mile challenge
 - Lewisham's parks and green spaces were ranked best in London by 'Parks for London'
 - We have continued to make huge improvements to Beckenham Place Park, South East London's biggest park, and are planning to relaunch the park this summer so it becomes a thriving green space for current and future generations, as well as home to South London's first wild swimming pond from this summer.
 - We have successfully campaigned for the Ultra Low Emission Zone to be extended to Lewisham,
 - We have welcomed over 3,000 clean buses as part of the Mayor of London's Low Emissions Bus Zones.
 - We have supported four local youth projects in their successful £282,000 bid from the Mayor of London.
5. On 30 October 2018, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr de Ryk for more information on the proposal for an in-house agency for agency staff.
 6. Officers are looking into this proposal and will be in a position to provide more information later this year.
 7. On 30 October 2018, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr de Ryk to confirm that the changes to business rates announced in the government's 2018 Budget will be fully funded.
 8. The changes to the business rates regime (as opposed to any specific property, valuation, bad debt or appeals giving rise to changes) in the Council's 2019-20 budget were the continuation of the London 75% pilot pool (compared to 100% in 2018-19); continuation of discount for certain smaller businesses (for example pubs); continuation of Consumer Price Inflation (CPI rather than RPI) increases; and the end of the transitional relief for business

rate payers following the 2017 reset. All of these were accounted for in the Council's budget through both retained income and the top up as part of the Council's Settlement Funding Assessment. The first and fourth are not about being fully funded, these are part of the calculation of rates to be collected and how they are distributed nationally, regionally and locally. The second and third changes were fully compensated for in the Council grant income from government to correct for the forgone income arising from these national policies.

9. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell about the links between HMOs and migrant workers.
10. Whilst there is not enough evidence as yet to establish a link between HMOs and migrant workers, research has been undertaken into migration and the private rented sector (PRS) both in Lewisham and more generally. As part of the work to better understand the PRS in Lewisham, and is detailed in the evidence base to support the application for a Boroughwide licensing scheme, it was established that there is a link between the registration of new National Insurance Numbers (often taken as an indicator of increased migration of foreign nationals into an area) and wards in which there was a high concentration of PRS stock. This relationship was not present in areas with a high prevalence of Owner Occupiers or Social Rented accommodation, and is corroborated by research undertaken by the GLA, the Chartered Institute for Housing and the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford.
11. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell whether he would attend a TRA meeting at Brockley PFI.
12. The next resident engagement panel to take place in RB3 stock is on 28 May, an invitation can be extended to Cllr Bell if required. These meetings take place roughly every quarter. There are currently no established TRAs in the RB3 stock, although RB3 are working to support the establishment of 6 new TRAs at the following locations: 99-113 Ermine Road, Viney Road, Lilac House, Tresillian Road Street Properties, Almond House & Geoffrey Court.
13. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell about plans for the ground floor of PLACE/Ladywell.
14. With Dek going into administration, officers are working closely with Meanwhile Space (who occupy some of the other ground floor units onsite at PLACE/Ladywell) to ensure disruption to the current businesses in Dek is kept to a minimum. 'For Jimmy' have given up their lease on the café but will retain office space to the rear. Officers are currently seeking a new tenant to run the café. Once, PLACE/Ladywell is relocated, proposals for the Ladywell site will include commercial floorspace and priority should be given to existing businesses.

15. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell whether there are any instances of unauthorised sub-division of Council housing stock in Lewisham.
16. Officers are exploring this further, but it is believed that this either has not occurred as yet (that officers have been made aware of) or that it is extremely rare.
17. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell whether there are any instances of landbanking in Lewisham
18. The Council has no evidence to suggest that landbanking is a prevalent practice in Lewisham. Since the adoption of Lewisham's Core Strategy in 2011 and the Site allocation Local Plan in 2013, the majority of allocated sites within these documents have been delivered or are within the planning process to be delivered in the future. Due to the complex nature of large allocated sites they can take many years after allocation to be approved for planning, and then several more for construction to commence on site. This is typical across all London boroughs. The planning department annually, as part of the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), monitors housing delivery and the status of allocated sites. Officers continue to work proactively with landowners and developers on bringing forward development in a timely manner. Small (windfall) sites which are not allocated through the Local Plan are not monitored to the same degree by the planning department however over the last 10 years the borough has delivered a substantial number of residential units through windfall sites.
19. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell to investigate the use of Interim Management Orders in Lewisham.
20. Work is ongoing to establish a framework for the appropriate circumstances in which to use Interim Management Orders, and to find an appropriate partner with the appropriate knowledge to manage such properties if this becomes necessary. The Council will seek to use widely-used enforcement and engagement tactics in the first instance to achieve the desired outcomes without taking on management responsibility for the stock.
21. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell to provide more information on the 28 sites provisionally identified for new social housing, including the proposed numbers and types of new homes that would be included.
22. This work is currently in development. Cllr Bell will be presenting this to ward councillors in June 2019. This tranche of work should yield between 200 and 300 units of infill on underutilised space on Council land. The design work for

this has yet to be undertaken but officers expect that the new homes could be a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bedroomed houses and flats, with the possibility of some 4 bedroomed properties.

23. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell for a list of TRAs to help ward councillors engage with their local associations.
24. The Council does not hold a central list of all Tenant and Resident Associations (TRAs), as many of these groups are not in Council properties. The following is a list of TRAs at Lewisham Homes properties:

- Crofton Park
- Fairfields
- Waverley Court
- Welland Court
- Argosy & Lanyard House
- Bampton Estate
- Bence House
- The Colonnade & Terrace
- Crossfields
- Daubeney Tower
- Eddystone Tower
- Evelyn
- Forest Estate
- Hatfield Close
- Hazelwood & Pomona House
- Honor Oak
- Jerningham Court
- Kender
- Lewisham Hill
- Pond, Paragon & Ryculff
- Somerville United
- Tanners Hill
- Winslade

RB3 are in the process of setting up and supporting a number of new TRAs in the stock that they manage. These are at the following locations:

- 99-113 Ermine Road
- Viney Road
- Lilac House
- Tressillian Road Street Properties
- Almond House
- Geoffrey Court

25. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell to provide a briefing on the implications of the removal of the housing borrowing cap.
26. Officers in the finance and housing teams have been working closely to understand the impact of the removal of the HRA borrowing cap and what this means for Lewisham. Whilst theoretically there is no longer a hard limit placed on the level of debt which the HRA can now accumulate, it must still operate within the broader rules of the authority around prudential borrowing and other rules. This places an effective cap on the level of borrowing which the HRA can sustain. A more detailed review of this is being undertaken to stress test various situations and what that might enable.
27. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell to provide information on how councillors can participate in street surveys of rough sleepers.
28. Street surveys usually take place on the evening of the last Thursday (and into Friday early morning) of every other month. The last street survey took place on 23 May 2019 and surveys will then take place in July, September, November and January 2020. Councillors can contact John Barker in the housing team to enquire around participating in street surveys.
29. On 28 January 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Bell to provide information on the budget for repairs and maintenance within the HRA.
30. The repairs and maintenance budget for Lewisham Homes has been uplifted by 2% per annum in recent years and the intention is to continue with this increase in coming years. In 2019-20, £15.9m is allocated for repairs (of which £15.465m is for General Needs stock and £0.398m for Hostels) with the overall allocation projected to increase to £16.044m in 2020-21 and £16.267m in 2021-22. Lewisham Homes are then responsible for the management of this budget as appropriate. Repairs & maintenance in the PFI contract is covered in the Unitary Charge.
31. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked the Deputy Mayor to raise with officers the issue of people with learning disabilities not understanding how their money and benefits are being managed.
32. The Deputy Mayor has raised this with officers. The service and the Council send out numerous standard and individual letters/notifications to residents and businesses in the borough. Wherever possible, the Council makes the communications as clear as possible and where services are aware of special needs, officers do their best to meet those needs.

33. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked the Deputy Mayor to ask officers to make sure that members of the public can get through to the safeguarding team in a timely manner.
34. Casework has been raised in relation to the specific case raised at Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
35. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked the Deputy Mayor, who was covering Cllr McGeevor's cabinet responsibilities while she was on maternity leave, to arrange a meeting with ward councillors to discuss efforts to secure a provider for the café in Mountsfield Park.
36. This is the second time in recent years that officers have attempted to deliver a new café with toilet facilities at Mountsfield Park. Unfortunately the previous attempt concluded before the café was delivered due to the successful bidder pulling out, stating that "the cost of the building has exceeded our budget to the extent that this café project is not feasible anymore with the current plans". The Council is aware that a new café with toilet facilities has been a long term aspiration of the Friends of Mountsfield Park, therefore a further attempt to meet this aspiration is currently underway. A Project Manager has been assigned and a draft report, setting out the business case for a new café, is being prepared. The report will seek permission for officers to go out to the market to offer the opportunity for interested parties to design, build and operate a new café with toilet facilities at Mountsfield Park. Officers will ensure that Friends of Mountsfield Park are informed of progress. When the Council is in a position to proceed to the next stage of the project, officers will also gather their views on the interested parties' proposals during the contract evaluation process. Officers would be pleased to meet with local ward councillors to discuss the project in more detail if they believe this will be helpful in dealing with enquires received from the constituents.
37. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked the Deputy Mayor, who was covering Cllr McGeevor's cabinet responsibilities while she was on maternity leave, to discuss with officers the information being provided to residents on reporting fly-tipping.
38. The Deputy Mayor has circulated a briefing note to all councillors on fly-tipping. The update included information on how residents can report fly tipping.
39. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked the Deputy Mayor, who was covering Cllr McGeevor's cabinet responsibilities while she was on maternity leave, to consult officers on any plans for pre-decision scrutiny of the report planned for Mayor and Cabinet on the redevelopment of Beckenham Place Park.

40. Reports on progress of the improvement of Beckenham Place Park are regularly scrutinised by both the Sustainable Development Select Committee and the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel. In addition to the formal scrutiny processes, regular meetings are held between the project team and ward councillors for Beckenham Place Park and the surrounding area to keep them updated of progress and to provide a further opportunity to answer any questions. The latest report was considered by Mayor & Cabinet on 24 April 2019. In advance of this meeting, the content of the report was discussed with ward councillors on 14 January 2019 and considered formally by the Sustainable Development Select Committee on 30 January 2019. The report considered by SDSC in advance of Mayor & Cabinet can be accessed here: <http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s62261/08%20Beckenham%20Place%20Park%20update%20300119.pdf>.
41. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Barnham to look into a potential insufficiency in childcare places in the borough.
42. Our most recent Early Years Provider Audit, in February 2019, found overall sufficient childcare to meet our duty to secure free entitlement for 2,3,& 4 year olds, including the 30 hours free childcare. It did however find that there may be pressures in specific geographical areas. The audit recommended that we explore this further, which officers are taking forward. The Council is commissioning a full childcare sufficiency review by Coram Childcare and Family Trust in summer 2019. The audit will explore change in demand and greater understanding of the local market and demand to inform sufficiency planning.
43. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Barnham to provide more information on social worker pay and its role in the recruitment and retention of staff.
44. This is an issue receiving significant scrutiny as part of our current programme to improve children's social care. The position on social worker pay, and its role in the recruitment and retention of staff, will be fully covered in the Children's Social Care Workforce Strategy, scheduled to be published later this summer. The key strands of activity are:
 - Recruitment of Newly Qualified Social Workers in a different way, supported by a strong ASYE (supported year) programme
 - Create and deliver a core training offer to social workers
 - Develop and deliver a frontline managers and aspiring managers programme
 - Benchmarking suggests that pay is largely comparable with other local authorities, except for senior social workers and Service Managers/Head of Service. This is where we need to target pay issues.
 - Refresh and update of all practice guidance, standards and procedures.

45. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Barnham to look into the level of information that is being provided to foster carers on the children they were being asked to look after, although the Committee noted that the Council is not aware of any foster carers being provided with insufficient information.
46. The Council has a detailed process for sharing all relevant information with foster carers. The Council undertakes liaison and consultation with foster carers to improve and adjust our approach. Practice in the placements team is being adjusted to support better matching of children and placements. The child's profile on our Liquidlogic Children's System (LCS) has been redesigned to provide better information to carers and will be going live in June 2019.
47. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Barnham to look into reports of some schools pulling out of the service level agreement with Lewisham Council for payroll services.
48. Schools are at liberty to purchase payroll services from sources outside the Council, although the Council promotes the Lewisham payroll service through our Traded Services offer. As with all traded services, there is some movement both in and out of local authority contracts each year. Although a small number of schools have raised queries, no schools have confirmed to us that they will not renew payroll SLAs this year. The buy-back period for SLAs finished on 31 May 2019 so the Council will have a full picture of traded services buy-in, including payroll, in the coming months. We are working with schools to support the transfer of payroll services to Oracle in the coming months. Oracle will enable us to market a much more appropriate up-to-date offer to schools and we will prioritise this in our marketing to schools.
49. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Barnham to clarify whether pupils with No Recourse to Public Funds are eligible for free school meals.
50. There is a potential gap, in that a family assessed as having no recourse to public funds (NRPF) would not technically be eligible for free school meals (since eligibility for free school meals is "passported" by receipt of means-tested benefits, which NRPF status precludes). In practice, we are aware of no cases where children from NRPF families miss out. Free school meals can and have been awarded on a discretionary basis. Individual schools also find ways of providing food to children (lunch, breakfast and after school) where there is identified need. If cases do arise, where children are at risk of missing out, we will continue to use such discretion. Cllr Barnham will be able to report on further developments later this year.

51. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Reid to look into the support being offered to young people who witness serious crime.
52. Support offered to young people who witness serious crime is a key part of the Council's public health approach to youth violence. It is important that we build capacity to support children among our statutory partners and community organisations, particularly schools and youth services, which will enable the ability to support young people to grow. Following an incident, the Youth Offending Service and the Violence Reduction Team work with agencies and schools to support young people. Supportive advice is provided to schools by the Council's Educational Psychologist and through a document called "Critical Support - Early Years settings, Schools, Colleges and out of School provisions". The Youth Offending Service has also put together an aid for parents following a traumatic incident. For example, following the tragic murder in Bellingham last year, Sydenham Girls and Forest Hill Schools stopped main curriculum work to focus on trauma recovery. In addition, Youth First officers were supported through this difficult period who in turn were able to support young people. Bereavement support information is also provided as required. As part of the Council's public health approach to youth violence, we are currently developing a Youth Council which will further support peer mentoring and mental health first aiders. Several schools are investing in these resources themselves but this could be applied more consistently. As part of the Council's public health approach to youth violence, whilst specifically addressing incidents of problematic behaviour within the dynamic of the school community, there is an imperative to ensure that interventions in such situations ensure that quality learning takes place for those involved, with gains made in terms of understanding of their own and other's feelings, and the development of a capacity to address harm and reach resolution. Incidents of conflict and relationship stress directly impact the child's capacity to learn and undermine their sense of safety and self-worth.
53. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Reid to ask officers to liaise with the Police and see if a six monthly update on serious cases of crime can be provided to councillors.
54. Police have confirmed to officers that following a critical incident there will be an update provided monthly to the Mayor and Cabinet Member for Safer Communities. Ward councillors can request updates on serious cases at any time by contacting the Director of Public Protection & Safety.
55. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Reid to look into reports that some young people do not feel safe in the council's secure accommodation for children and young people in custody.
56. Lewisham promotes on a consortia approach to safety and approaches in and out of custody, as outlined in the South London Resettlement Consortium

Final Evaluative Report – Restorative Justice and Resettlement in June 2017. Safety in the secure estate is challenging and always has been – inevitably if you put the most serious young people who offend together in a punitive environment there is going to be conflict and the prison estate struggles with maintaining care and control. Following the Medway Review, Lewisham Youth Offending Service reviewed all cases and ensured that all children and families knew how to disclose concerns. We aim to safeguard our children and young people in custody in a variety of ways:

- Close and frequent dialogue with Independent Advocates who are based in custodial establishments and are available for children to speak to at any time.
- YOS ensures there are meetings and conversations with the children aside of formal meetings so that there is a space to share concerns.
- Joint work with children social care social workers ensuring looked after children reviews are completed and sentence planning supports welfare and not further punishment
- Ensuring protocols are followed when there is an incident and professionals and families are informed in good time
- Use of transfer request policy and multi-agency meetings when there is an on-going concern about safety or risk to others
- Close working arrangements with the secure staff and team around the child approaches
- Facilitating restorative approaches to addressing of behaviour and relationship distress across the secure establishment community and specifically the addressing of incidents where actions have caused harm.

57. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Dacres to circulate further information on visits planned to schools in relation to sustainable travel and idling, superzones and any upcoming air quality events.
58. Cllr Dacres circulated a briefing note to all councillors on 15 May 2019 which included dates for anti-idling and air quality events, and an update on school superzones.
59. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Dacres to provide a briefing note on the introduction of the Ultra Low Emission Zone in central London in April 2019, the expansion of the Ultra Low Emission Zone to the whole of London in October 2020, and the expansion to the North and South circulars in October 2021.
60. Cllr Dacres circulated a briefing note to all councillors on 1 April 2019, one week before the introduction of the ULEZ which included two briefings from Transport for London (TfL) that addressed these three issues. Cllr Dacres also commissioned a webpage for residents explaining the introduction of the ULEZ, which can be accessed here:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/ultra-low-emission-zone>

61. On 7 March 2019, Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked Cllr Dacres to meet with Cllr Gibbons to discuss a pedestrianised school zone in Forest Hill.
62. Cllr Dacres met with Cllr Gibbons to discuss pedestrianised school zones.

Financial implications

63. There are no financial implications arising from the updates in this report at this time. However, there may be financial implications in relation to the range of issues, proposals and plans referred to in this composite report as they are worked through and decisions made to put them into action. Financial implications will be provided individually on these specific matters at the appropriate time in line with the Council's constitution and control framework for committing spend.

Legal implications

64. There will be legal implications in relation to the diverse issues referred to in this composite report by way of update. Legal implications will be provided on those specific matters at the appropriate time.

Equalities implications

65. There are no specific equalities implications relevant to this report.

Environmental implications

66. There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

Crime and disorder implications

67. There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

If there are any queries on this report please contact James Noble on 020 8314 9258.

Agenda Item 4

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE			
Report Title	Update for Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
Key Decision	No		Item No. 4
Ward	All		
Contributors	The Mayor		
Class	Open	Date: 11 June 2019	

Purpose

This report provides an update to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on my first year in office and outlines some of the Council's key achievements over the past year.

Recommendation

Overview & Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note this report.

Further information

I am pleased to update Overview and Scrutiny Committee on my first year in office and to outline some of the Council's key achievements over the past year.

Since my previous report to the Committee on 30 October 2018, the Council's Corporate Strategy has been agreed and adopted, setting out this administration's bold vision for a Lewisham that works for all our residents. The commitments of our Corporate Strategy now feed into every Council department, so that all staff understand the role they have to play in delivering that vision.

The manifesto on which we all stood during the local elections last May offered a bold, radical and socialist alternative that set out what we wanted to do to make life better for everyone in Lewisham. With almost a decade of austerity hitting our borough and residents hard, we acknowledged that this would certainly not be easy but was more important than ever. We are in a fight to protect services for vulnerable residents on a scale we have never seen before. We promised to be open and honest with residents, which is why we are not using terms like 'savings' and 'efficiencies' when talking about cuts and job losses that the government is forcing us to make.

That is why I have repeatedly voiced my opposition to government austerity and the effect it is having on our communities. I also ensured that in my Council Tax letter to all residents, I made clear that austerity is hitting Lewisham hard and included information about the 63% cut in our central government funding. It is vital that we communicate the impact of austerity to our residents in the years ahead.

I will continue to work with the communications team and Cllr Bonavia to ensure we are more proactively sharing good news and getting the Council's message across to the community. This includes by bolstering our communications team with two new senior appointments who can lead the strategic culture change we need. I will also continue to raise the Council's profile by writing for and speaking to media outlets to communicate our positive vision for Lewisham.

I want to thank all councillors for their hard work ensuring we focus on delivering for Lewisham. As the committee knows, it is a priority for me that we work collectively and collaboratively to deliver the priorities we all share.

Open Lewisham

We have made significant progress on welcoming an additional 100 refugee families and becoming a Borough of Sanctuary. We will have the first three of our families arriving in June and we are challenging the government's hostile environment to show that Lewisham is a place that welcomes people fleeing persecution. We have removed the Home Office official in the No Recourse to Public Funds service and have set up the Lewisham Migration Forum to ensure our refugee community is listened to.

In response to the growing uncertainty that Brexit has caused our EU staff and residents, the Council has set up three walk in services for EU Settled Status applications. We have also set up a new [web page](#) on the Council website providing guidance to EU Citizens on their rights.

As part of our commitment to an Open Lewisham, we are working hard to strengthen our interfaith events. We held our first Chanukah event last year, which was very well attended, and will be holding a celebration of Islam in the Autumn.

Working hand in hand with scrutiny Councillors, we have completed the first stage of our Local Democracy Review and have recognised the areas that need change and how we have to further engage with hard to reach groups in Lewisham. At the Council AGM we agreed to continue the work of the democracy review working group to oversee the implementation of the 57 recommendations.

Tackling the housing crisis

We are making progress on our commitment to deliver 1,000 new social homes. In the past year we have increased the number of new social homes from 91 to 175 and following the success of PLACE/Ladywell, we have confirmed four more innovative pop-up housing developments, including in Deptford, Sydenham and Lee. These schemes will help 112 families who would otherwise be in emergency accommodation but could provide more homes in the future.

We have received £37.7 million from the GLA to help build the next generation of Council homes in Lewisham and have also received £500,000 to build up our staffing so that we have the in-house capacity to deliver them. We have identified 28 sites where we can build Council homes and will be releasing more information shortly.

There has been a focus in the first year of this administration to achieve more social and genuinely affordable homes in private developments through the planning system. We are already seeing progress, with an 11% increase in the number of social homes coming through planning applications, compared to last year. There is however a long way to go to achieve our target of 50% genuinely affordable homes in developer-led projects. I am clear that developers should be challenged at every stage of the planning process and beyond and have spoken publically recently about this.

We have launched the consultation that will form part of our application for a boroughwide landlord license to crackdown on rogue landlords and improve standards in the private rented sector, and we are improving the offer housing associations make to social housing tenants by asking them to deliver lifetime tenancies in Lewisham.

Giving children and young people the best start in life

We want to ensure that every child has access to an outstanding education and the work that we have done so far through the Lewisham Learning Partnership has been encouraging.

We have seen continued improvement in attainment for 11-year-olds, faster than the national average. Our recon diary schools are showing good improvements with GCSEs improving faster than the national average on every indicator, as illustrated by the below tables:

GCSE and EBAC attainment:

Attainment	2017	2018	Latest change
Lewisham	44.2	44.9	+0.7
National	46.4	46.6	+0.2

Progress between primary and secondary school:

Progress	2017	2018	Latest change
Lewisham	-0.28	-0.2	+0.06
National	-0.03	-0.02	+0.01

I am particularly pleased that Prendergast Ladywell received a Good rating from Ofsted. This is welcome news for the school, which was listed two years ago as one of the 130 'stuck' intractable schools in England that had not been rated 'Good' at any point over the previous decade. New Woodlands School also achieved an Ofsted Good rating, and we recently approved the second stage of the remodelling works of the school which will increase provision for children with special educational needs by meeting a wider range of learning difficulties that children experience.

Our children's social care service has been an area of significant focus as we work to improve the level of care we provide to our most vulnerable children and to stabilise our budget. Our improvement plan aims to improve outcomes for children so they are less likely to need to go into care. Like 91% of councils, we are overspent in children's social care, with the biggest pressures in residential placements and SEND transport. Work is ongoing through the CYP Improvement Board to address service and financial challenges but this is not a quick fix and we are determined to adequately support our vulnerable young people in the meantime.

Making Lewisham Greener

We have just launched our new Greening Fund, a significant manifesto commitment which will allow community groups to bid for up to £40,000 each to improve local green spaces. Beckenham Place Park will be officially opened later this summer and will host its first public festival.

Our work to clean up the air we breathe continues, as air pollution is a growing health crisis facing Lewisham and the whole of London. Councillors declared a climate emergency at February's Full Council, redoubling our efforts to work towards a carbon neutral borough and minimise our environmental impact. We are also tackling pollutants from car engines, which contribute significantly to our air quality. We campaigned successfully for the Ultra Low Emission Zone to be extended to Lewisham and are building up our anti-idling programme to protect our most polluted playgrounds and installing more electric vehicle charging points. We are also consulting on changes to our parking policy that would see it cost more to park vehicles that produce higher emissions.

Our Liveable Neighbourhood programme will change our streets to encourage more people to walk and cycle rather than drive. Subject to securing funding from the GLA, there will be a range of measures such as traffic management and road closures that will help to make our communities greener and healthier. I'm pleased that the first Liveable Neighbourhood recently launched in Lee and Lewisham town centre.

Our consultation on barriers to recycling recently closed and its findings will inform the development of a new recycling strategy, which will improve our recycling rates even further. We have also successfully lobbied Transport for London to introduce over 3,000 clean buses as part of the Mayor of London's Low Emissions Bus Zones.

Building an inclusive local economy

We have insourced our first council service, bringing council maintenance services in-house from Kier, and we have taken 50 staff off agency contracts and into Council employment.

We are working with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to expand our community wealth building model, and we have increased the number of living wage employers from 47 to 77 in the last year. This means we are on target to more than double the number of living wage employers in Lewisham.

Our Mayor's Apprenticeship Scheme is expanding so we can support more residents into high quality apprenticeships. Since April 2018, 36 new apprentices have been enrolled on the scheme.

With new funding of £500,000 from the GLA we have launched a new Creative Enterprise Zone in Deptford that will support our artistic and cultural sector.

Delivering and defending health, social care and support

Under this government, the NHS has seen the longest funding squeeze in its history and more people are struggling to access the support services they need. Our local elections manifesto pledged to protect our NHS and social care by investing in the life chances for all our community.

As we struggle with continued budget cuts to our adult social care budget I am proud that we have signed UNISON's Ethical Care Charter. The charter improves workers' rights for care workers in Lewisham so that they can deliver the care our residents deserve.

We are bringing forward our new 'Care at Home' model, which will create a new publicly-owned community based care service to provide compassionate care.

We continue to expand our whole systems approach to obesity by having over 10,000 children taking part in the Daily Mile and by becoming the first council to ban junk food advertising from Council billboards.

Lewisham is one of the most diverse places in the world and that is one of our greatest strengths. However, we know that Lewisham residents experience stark inequalities and we must do more to break down the barriers that mean not all our residents currently have access to the same opportunities and support. The Health and Wellbeing Board, which I chair, has prioritised Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) health inequalities to deepen our understanding of the barriers residents from our BAME communities face.

I also appointed two new advisers at the Council AGM in April. Barbara Gray is our Mayor and Council Adviser on BAME health inequalities, and Royston John is our Mayor and Council Adviser on BAME career progression. Both Barbara and Royston are experts in their fields and will support and challenge us, and have already been meeting with council officers to see how we can better support our diverse communities. As I said in my AGM speech, Barbara and Royston should be seen as resources for all of us.

Building safer communities

We have launched the framework for our public health approach to tackle the root causes of youth violence and knife crime. We have held several community events to share this framework, and will continue to work with residents to implement and deliver our crime reduction strategy.

We secured £282,000 from the Mayor of London for four local youth projects that are doing vital work in the community to support young people to make the best choices and deter them from crime.

We have committed to the Co-operative Party's Modern Slavery Charter and published our first annual Modern Slavery Transparency Statement, and will continue to work hard to ensure we eliminate exploitation in our supply chains.

Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications

Equalities implications are contained within the body of this report.

Environmental implications

Environmental implications are contained within the body of this report.

Crime and disorder implications

Crime and disorder implications are contained within the body of this report.