

Public Document Pack

Lewisham Council Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 3 March 2021.



Kim Wright, Chief Executive
February 23 2021

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Mayor Damien Egan | |
| Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye | |
| Councillor Tauseef Anwar | |
| Councillor Chris Barnham | |
| Councillor Paul Bell | |
| Councillor Peter Bernards | |
| Councillor Chris Best | |
| Councillor Kevin Bonavia | |
| Councillor Andre Bourne | |
| Councillor Bill Brown | |
| Councillor Juliet Campbell | |
| Councillor Suzannah Clarke | |
| Councillor Patrick Codd | |
| Councillor Liam Curran | |
| Councillor Brenda Dacres | |
| Councillor Sophie Davis | |
| Councillor Amanda De Ryk | |
| Councillor Joe Dromey | |

Councillor Colin Elliott
Councillor Aisling Gallagher
Councillor Leo Gibbons
Councillor Alan Hall
Councillor Carl Handley
Councillor Octavia Holland
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 Sophie McGeevor
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 Joani Reid
Councillor Sakina Sheikh

Councillor Jonathan Slater

Councillor Alan Smith

Councillor Luke Sorba

Councillor Eva Stamirowski

Councillor James-J Walsh

Councillor Susan Wise

Council Agenda

Wednesday, 3 March 2021
7.30 pm, Microsoft Office Teams
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Kevin Flaherty 02083149327 (Tel: 0208 314 9327)

Part 1

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Members of the public are welcome to attend committee meetings. However, occasionally, committees may have to consider some business in private. Copies of agendas, minutes and reports are available on request in Braille, in large print, on audio tape, on computer disk or in other languages.

Agenda Item 1

| COUNCIL | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Report Title | Minutes | |
| Key Decision | | Item No.1 |
| Ward | | |
| Contributors | Chief Executive | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: March 3 2021 |

Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the meeting of the Council which was open to the press and public, held on January 20 2021 be confirmed and signed (copy previously circulated).

Agenda Item 2

| COUNCIL | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Report Title | Declarations of Interests | |
| Key Decision | | Item No. 1 |
| Ward | | |
| Contributors | Chief Executive | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: March 3 2021 |

Declaration of interests

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

1 Personal interests

There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct :-

- (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (2) Other registerable interests
- (3) Non-registerable interests

2 Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined by regulation as:-

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship – payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).
- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member's knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:-

- (a) that body to the member's knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough; and
- (b) either
 - (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

*A relevant person is the member, their spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom they live as spouse or civil partner.

(3) Other registerable interests

The Lewisham Member Code of Conduct requires members also to register the following interests:-

- (a) Membership or position of control or management in a body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) Any body exercising functions of a public nature or directed to charitable purposes, or whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party
- (c) Any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25

(4) Non registerable interests

Occasions may arise when a matter under consideration would or would be likely to affect the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect the wellbeing of those in the local area generally, but which is not required to be registered in the Register of Members' Interests (for example a matter concerning the closure of a school at which a Member's child attends).

(5) Declaration and Impact of interest on members' participation

- (a) Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take no part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine**

of up to £5000

- (b) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph (c) below applies.
- (c) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- (d) If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- (e) Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

(6) Sensitive information

There are special provisions relating to sensitive interests. These are interests the disclosure of which would be likely to expose the member to risk of violence or intimidation where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that such interest need not be registered. Members with such an interest are referred to the Code and advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance.

(7) Exempt categories

There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-

- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
- (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor;
- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception)

Agenda Item 3

| COUNCIL | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Report Title | Announcements or Communications | |
| Key Decision | | Item No. |
| Ward | | |
| Contributors | Chief Executive | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: March 3 2021 |

Recommendation

The Council is invited to receive any announcements or communications from the Speaker, the Mayor, members of the Executive or the Chief Executive

Councillor Sue Hordijenko RIP

The Council notes with great sadness the death of Councillor Sue Hordijenko. Councillor Hordijenko was elected to Lewisham Council in a by-election in 2016 and represented the Bellingham ward.

Councillor Hordijenko dedicated herself to her community, working tirelessly to make it a better place. She will be remembered for her warmth, friendly smile and support for the people she represented.

Councillor Hordijenko was a popular and respected figure at the Council who contributed to the Licensing Committee in a well-considered and measured way. She served on the Healthier Communities Select Committee and was concerned about the well-being of rough sleepers and the homeless. Her belief that everyone should have a decent home led to her enthusiastic work on the board of Phoenix Community Housing Association.

Lewisham has lost a kind and compassionate councillor who always found the time and effort to help residents. Our thoughts are with Councillor Hordijenko's family at this difficult time.

A JustGiving page has been set up in her memory, to support a cause close to her heart: the Marcus Rashford charity 'FareShare', which fights hunger in the nation's most vulnerable communities. Donations can be made to: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sue-hordijenko

The Council has also opened an online book of condolences for friends, family and colleagues of Councillor Hordijenko to share their thoughts and tributes: councillorsuehordijenko.muchloved.com/.

Councillor Joe Dromey

Councillor Joe Dromey has announced he is to resign from the Council to take on a new full time role as Director of Central London Forward (CLF). Cllr Dromey,

who is one of three councillors representing New Cross ward, was first elected to Lewisham Council in 2014 and served as Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share) from 2018. He also served as Cabinet Member for Policy, Performance and Communications between 2014 and 2018.

Councillor Dromey led the Council's work on employment, skills and economic development, including the Council's business support response to the pandemic, and has been a champion for Lewisham's small businesses. A by-election in New Cross will take place at the same time as the London Mayoral election in May 2021.

London Mayoral and Assembly Member elections – May 2021

The 2021 London Mayoral and Assembly Member elections will be held on Thursday 6 May 2021. The Council is encouraging residents to register to vote by post to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The last date to register to vote is midnight 19 April. For more information visit lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/elections/mayor-of-london-and-london-assembly-election-2021

Census

The census happens every ten years and the next Census Day is Sunday 21 March 2021. The ONS will send a letter to all properties shortly with details for how to complete your census form, with the majority being asked to complete their form online. The information households provide will help decide how services are planned and funded in the area. For more information or support on how to complete the form visit <https://lewisham.gov.uk/census2021>

International Women's Day

International Women's Day takes place on Monday 8 March, with this year's theme being 'Choose to Challenge'. Lewisham Council will be hosting a wide range of events and materials to celebrate the day. Details of the programme will be announced in due course at <https://www.iamlewisham.uk/>

Lewisham Council AGM

Lewisham Council's AGM has been rescheduled to Wednesday 26 May.

Agenda Item 4

| COUNCIL | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| Report Title | Petitions | |
| Key Decision | no | Item No. |
| Ward | n/a | |
| Contributors | Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee) | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: March 3 2021 |

1. The Council is invited to receive petitions (if any) from members of the Council or the public. There is no requirement for Councillors to give prior notice of any petitions that might be presented.
2. The Council welcomes petitions from the public and recognises that petitions are one way in which people can let us know their concerns. All petitions sent or presented to the Council will receive an acknowledgement from the Council within 14 days of receipt. This acknowledgement will set out what we plan to do with the petition.
3. Paper petitions can be sent to :-

Governance Support, Town Hall, Catford, SE6 4RU

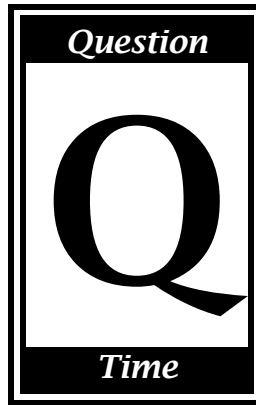
Or be created, signed and submitted on line by following this link

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ielogon.aspx?lp=1&RPID=49729383&HPI D=49729383&Forms=1>
4. Petitions can also be presented to a meeting of the Council. Anyone who would like to present a petition at a Council meeting, or would like a Councillor to present it on their behalf, should contact the Governance Support Unit on 0208 3149327 at least 5 working days before the meeting.
5. Public petitions that meet the conditions described in the Council's published petitions scheme and which have been notified in advance, will be accepted and may be presented from the public gallery at the meeting.
6. No public petitions have been notified for this meeting.

Agenda Item 5

| COUNCIL | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| Report Title | Public Questions | |
| Key Decision | | Item No. |
| Ward | | |
| Contributors | Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee) | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: March 3 2021 |

- . Questions received from members of the public will be published together with written answers on March 2. Questioners will be entitled to attend a Virtual Microsoft Teams meeting and ask a supplementary question.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 1

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Howard Kanini

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

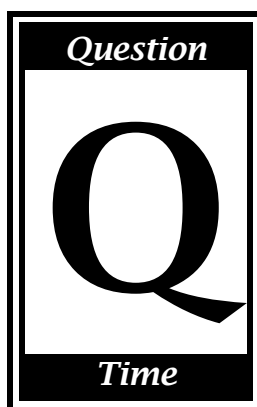
Question

Given the low traffic neighbourhood on the South Circular and the introduction of the ULEZ which will exacerbate through the Catford gyrator, what is the council doing to speed up the South Circular re-alignment so as to avoid worsening air quality along the route?

Reply

The realignment of the A205 is a shared objective of the Council, TfL and the GLA and all parties are working in collaboration to make this happen. All organisations have recently restarted working collaboratively to progress this project following a long period of TfL staff being furloughed. TfL are currently undertaking strategic modelling of their concept designs to assess the potential impact of realigning the road.

The Council are very keen to progress the road realignment project as soon as possible. However, TfL are the highway authority for this strategic route and there are many steps and internal processes that TfL are required to go through to obtain approval for this major project.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 2

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Margot Wilson

Member to reply: Councillor Bourne

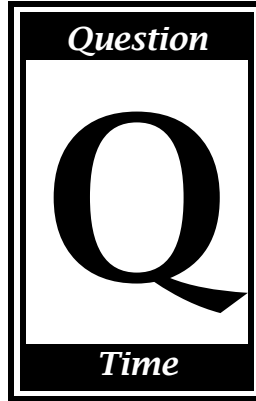
Question

I understand from the report on Leisure Management Arrangements to Mayor and Cabinet that Officers recommend that the Indoor Bowls Centre, an ancillary site of the Bridge Leisure Centre, could re-open 'in the forthcoming period' as its running costs are relatively low. Will the Council continue to support the Blind Bowls Club, particularly in the form of transport to and from the centre, provision of a helper, and recruitment of new members? Will they keep the organisers of the Indoor Bowls Club informed as to what is happening and consult with them?

Reply

The Council is committed to working with all users of the Indoor Bowls Centre, including the Blind Bowlers, on the future of the site.

To this end, a meeting has been set up in early March with users, including representatives from the Blind Bowlers, to discuss the best way forward.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 3

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: David Peet

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

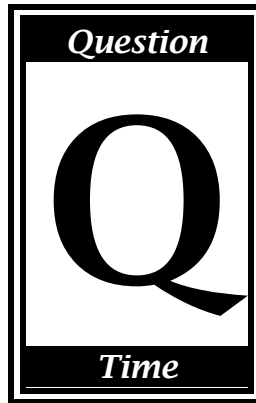
A group of residents on Leahurst Road have got together to sponsor the planting of a tree. Leahurst is in the middle of the LTN and has few trees. We have been told that the council will not permit trees to be sponsored on streets where there is pavement parking. How can the council justify giving cars preferential treatment having declared a climate emergency?

Reply

It is encouraging to hear that a group of residents have engaged with our partners Street Trees for Living (STfL) and have made contributions to sponsor tree planting in the Lee Green Ward.

We have in the past supported trees being planted in areas where pavement parking is permitted and have found that they are at much greater risk of damage from cars.

In line with Council policies that enable walking and cycling, and encourage tree planting, we recognise that pavement parking in the borough should be reviewed. Our intention is to remove pavement parking where possible with the roll out of new controlled parking zones (CPZs) and the review of existing CPZs. The Council has recently committed to rolling out CPZs across the borough where they are supported.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 4

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Sarah McCusker

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

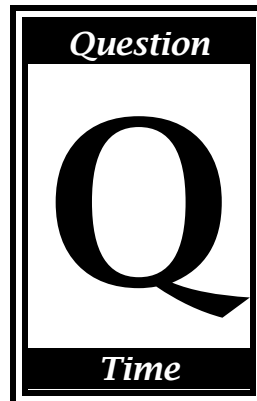
Question

Why have Lewisham Council implemented traffic road counters on many roads in Lee at this time? Traffic is at a fraction of what it usually is due to lockdown. Data collected will most definitely not reflect usual traffic levels out of lockdown which would be much higher. Please could you explain the decision to measure it now and not when lockdown has eased?

Reply

It is recognised that the traffic data that has recently been collected is at a time when national lockdown restrictions apply. However, even when lockdown restrictions are eased it is not known when, or if, traffic patterns will return to pre-pandemic levels. It was therefore considered helpful to collect monitoring data to inform the review of the Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood, and before any potential further changes aimed at making children's journeys to school within the low traffic

neighbourhood safer and healthier are implemented. We will also have access to strategic data from TfL which will enable us to set the data collected in a wider context.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 5

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Susan Wardlow

Member to reply: Councillor Barnham

Question

In what form will youth services be provided in Lewisham's Adventure Playgrounds, including if the facilities will continue to be free and open access for 8-19 year olds, 25 years old if the child has additional needs?

Reply

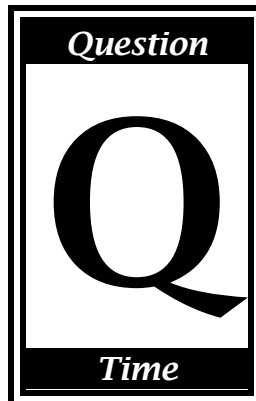
Lewisham is committed to ensuring young people in Lewisham have access to youth services and play activities – this includes universal services that anyone can enjoy and targeted services for our most vulnerable young people

We are still in the process of agreeing a delivery model for our five Adventure Playgrounds over the next 12 months, with free access for children and young people aged 8-19, and up to 25 for young people with additional needs.

We plan to spend the next 12 months working with residents to produce a play strategy for our borough that makes sure our children and young people have fair access to play areas and equipment, while acknowledging the massive financial pressures the Council is under.

This may involve considering other management and funding models for the adventure playgrounds to make them more sustainable and safe in the longer term.

There will be lots of opportunity for the local community and those who know the APGs best, to help to shape the new play strategy over the coming year.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 6

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Jane Alaszewski

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Exempt drivers have been told they will receive a PCN for driving through Leahurst Road due to it being "dangerous to allow other vehicles to drive through due to emergency vehicles driving through the location at speed".

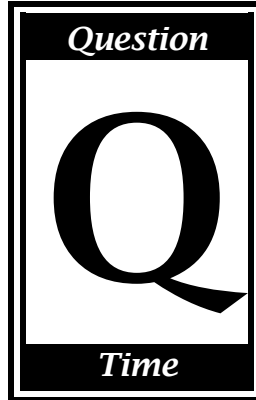
Given that One Lewisham warned the Council back in November that Leahurst was dangerous for exempt drivers, why has it taken 4 months for the council to act, leaving exempt drivers in a situation which the council now admits is unsafe. Is this a breach of health and safety and duty of care to the borough's residents with protected characteristics?

To follow on from this, why are the council prohibiting Blue Badge holders from accessing the Leahurst road restriction both ways rather than removing the planters

and closing the emergency gate, which would allow safe access to Leahurst bi-directionally?

Reply

We understand the confusion at this location and can clarify. Currently warning notices have been issued in error to Lewisham Blue Badge holders at this location. As previously agreed all Lewisham Blue Badge Holders are exempt from camera enforced locations within the LTN, subject to application. Officers are reviewing the modal filter at Leahurst Road to see if any adjustments need to be made to reduce the potential for conflict and reduce speeds along the street.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 7

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Hayley Atwere

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

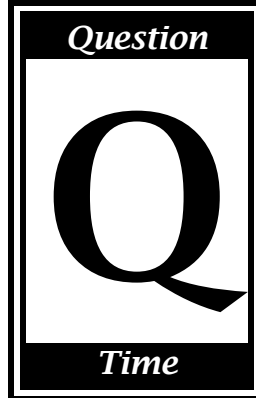
In the Mayor's October statement, he said that School Streets would be coming soon. I am particularly concerned about Trinity Primary and Brindishe Manor both of which have been massively negatively affected by the changes to the LTN. Please advise what is causing the delay and when the school streets already promised around the Lee / Hither Green area will happen?

Reply

We are working to deliver measures aimed at making children's journeys to school within the low traffic neighbourhood safer and healthier as quickly as possible.

Officers have been considering options to achieve this and undertaking a technical assessment to ensure what is proposed is deliverable. All schools within the LTN have been given consideration as part of this work.

We will be engaging with stakeholders and the public on this in March, and subject to views expressed, we will design and implement in May.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 8

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Adam Syed

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

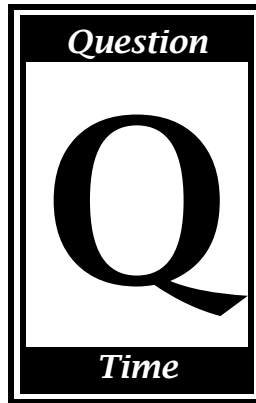
As per the "Lewisham & Lee Green LTN - monitoring data summary" report, there were clearly a number of contributing factors for the increase in traffic on roads surrounding the LTN - e.g end of first lockdown with traffic increasing across London, numerous utilities works etc. Were you able to determine what percentage of this increase was due to the LTN? And if not, how and why was it decided that it was enough of a contributing factor to remove/revise the LTN, rather than expanding it to Hither Green West? Bus journey times were actually on a downward trend through October, prior to the LTN removal/revision. Was this considered in the decision-making process?

Reply

Prior to implementing the changes introduced in November 2020 officers engaged with TfL to seek advice on how to extrapolate the LTN changes from the general background traffic picture, a similar question was being asked by many boroughs across London. However, it was not possible to do this as there were too many varying factors involved. The decision was therefore taken to amend the LTN based on the data available at the time and advice from TfL. Lewisham worked collaboratively with TfL on what changes would have the greatest benefits in terms of reducing bus journey times.

Consideration was also given to progressing a scheme in Hither Green West, but it was considered that this was not the appropriate time to do this. The changes made to the LTN at the time were considered the best short term option, but ones that would be kept under regular review.

Lewisham has previously committed to reviewing the Lewisham and Lee Green LTN and this will be undertaken in May 2021. In addition we remain committed to low traffic neighbourhoods and the principles they set out to achieve and are currently considering how they are progressed in the future LTNs so that the benefits can be experienced more widely across the borough.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 9

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

The traffic movements have almost never been measured in Manor Lane Terrace SE13, in living memory. The imposition of the LTN was based on little data for this, or pollution levels. Subsequently the council decided to measure traffic at the north end of MLT and the Lochabar Hall section. So, there was still no data.

In addition most measurements have been taken during various levels of Lockdown, so there was no true measure to level results against. In the past few days the cable at the north end of MLT has completely disappeared. The other one near Lochabar Hall had been damaged, re-instated and today is damaged again.

Can the council explain exactly what it is trying to achieve by such erratic cabling?
When did the council last measure traffic in the area, in normal times? Where did the measuring take place? Please may we have a table of those results?

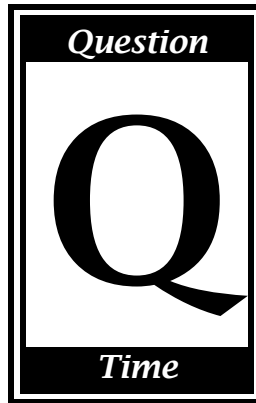
Reply

The traffic monitoring data was not intended to monitor each and every street within and around the LTN, but with over 70 counters in total, it is considered this provides sufficient coverage.

It is important to acknowledge that any transport related monitoring carried out within a pandemic will always need to be considered within this context before drawing any conclusions. The tightening and easing of restrictions during the pandemic have had an impact on travel behaviour and as a result traffic levels during this period have been volatile. The monitoring period is covering conditions that are not normal and even when lockdown restrictions are eased it is not known when, or if, traffic patterns will return to pre-pandemic levels. However, it is considered helpful to collect monitoring data to inform the review of the Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood.

As part of the 'before' monitoring undertaken for the development of the healthy Neighbourhood scheme, counts were undertaken in March 2019. The results of this exercise are included in the monitoring report which are available online at <https://lewishamcovidresidentialstreets.commonplace.is/proposals/lewisham-lee-green-ltn-monitoring>. The raw data will also be uploaded to the Council website.

Unfortunately traffic counters do suffer damage on occasions and are also sometimes vandalised. The survey company, working on behalf of the Council, will always seek to reinstate these as quickly as possible once notified.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 10

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

In relation to the publication of key performance information by Lewisham Council will the Mayor please state:

- (a) Why is no council performance information published on Lewisham Council's website more recently than March 2018?
- (b) Has no resident survey been undertaken by Lewisham Council since 2015, or if surveys have been undertaken why have they not been published?
- (c) Why has Lewisham's annual monitoring report on planning decisions not yet been published, despite the repeated claim on Lewisham Council's website that it will be published each year in December?

(d) Why in general is such outdated and seemingly inaccurate information published by Lewisham Council? At the very least if there are delays for the publication in information why is it not possible that the reasons for the delays to be provided to the public

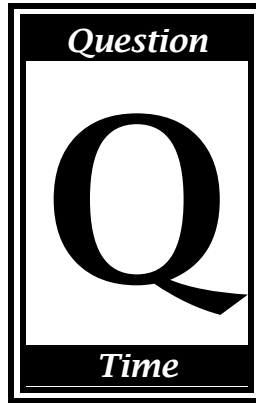
Reply

Work was underway to consider how we can improve the presentation and content of corporate performance information we publish, after the introduction of our new corporate priorities, adopted within our new Corporate Strategy in September 2018, and given limited engagement with it in its previous format. This was also part of the focus of the work carried out as part of the Local Democracy review in 2018/2019 into how residents wanted to receive information from and engage with the Council, and was specifically a focus in the recommendations regarding open data. Unfortunately the pressures of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic understandably means that this has been delayed; however to ensure transparency and accountability throughout this period of emergency, relevant data and information is regularly published and scrutinised at the Council's Business Panel.

The last residents' survey was carried out in 2015. We were planning to conduct one last year but again, this has been delayed as a result of the pandemic. Residents' surveys provide a snapshot of residents' feelings and experiences at a particular moment in time, so consideration will be given as to when the most useful time to conduct the next survey will be. However, we of course understand the importance and value in speaking to residents to understand their experiences and views – particularly as the pandemic is affecting us all in different ways. This is why we launched the Voices of Lewisham project, to capture a wide range of voices, experiences and opinions. Elsewhere, the Council continues to consult and engage with residents on a wide range of issues to understand local concerns and priorities and, despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, we have carried out 22 consultations via Commonplace in the last year alone.

The Council's annual monitoring report is a significant piece of work to collate and prepare. This has been delayed due to resourcing pressures within the planning service as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the report is now complete and is due to be published imminently.

Whilst some delays in providing information are the result of individual oversight as with any Council service from time to time, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the organisation has been immense, and I appreciate the understanding and patience of the public in this unusual time. I remain keen to deliver on our plans to provide more and clearer performance information as soon as possible.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 11

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Mary McKernan

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

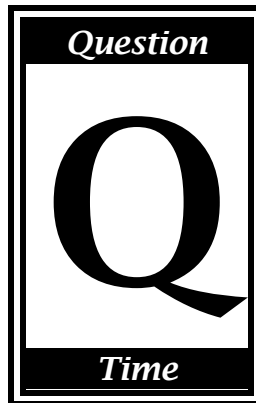
Please can you tell me how long I should expect to wait for Lewisham to fulfil a Freedom of Information Request for information that was held on the Council's public system? Do you consider it acceptable that I have been waiting since October 2020 for my FOI request to be actioned?

Reply

The Council would normally respond to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request within 20 days.

In relation to the FOI request to which you refer, I understand that the information has now been provided and the Council offers its sincere apologies for the delay.

I expect all FOI requests to be replied to within 20 days even if the response is that the information requested cannot be quickly supplied or should not be supplied for legitimate legal reasons. However, I recognise that the Council is currently under immense strain in responding to the Covid 19 pandemic and unfortunately this has meant some delays in responding especially where the information is sensitive or complex.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 12

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Karen Pratt

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

If the figures reported on the OneLewisham website are correct (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/453504975580693/permalink/781977409400113/>) then Lewisham Council has spent £276K to date on the Lee Green LTN when the budget was £184K.

What caused the overspend?

Which budget was the additional money taken from?

Could this money not have been better spent on proper Covid-related traffic arrangements, and on enforcing speed limits, installing additional pedestrian crossings, improving pavements and cycle lanes, etc.

Why did Lewisham Council not tackle the problem of polluting through-traffic during rush hour rather than inflicting draconian measures on us all?

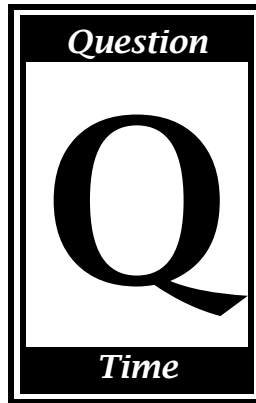
Reply

Lewisham has consistently stated that the Council would make changes to the LTN if necessary and we have introduced changes in response to feedback from residents and TfL. Any changes made has cost implications. All costs have been funded from TfL London Streetspace Plan (LSP) Funding and the DfT Active Travel Emergency Fund.

LSP funding was made available to boroughs specifically for the implementation of temporary low traffic neighbourhoods, school streets, the creation of more pedestrian space on high streets and the creation of pop-up cycle lanes. There was no scope to use this funding for measures such as pedestrian crossings or pavement resurfacing. The Metropolitan Police Service are responsible for speeding enforcement in London, not local authorities.

Initial feasibility work on a number of pop-up cycle lane schemes was undertaken, as shown on the Commonplace website. However, at the time of assessment, none were considered to be viable under the strict criteria stipulated by TfL, which included ensuring a minimum width of continuous cycle lane, and no civil works such as kerb realignments.

If there was no intervention, information from TfL issued at the start of the pandemic showed that there would be a doubling of car use, assuming a third of pre-lockdown journeys returned and those who cannot get on to public transport shift to their cars. This would result in increased car journeys. To support this we acted on advice from central government and TfL, by rolling out a series of schemes to create safer conditions for walking and cycling whilst socially distancing. By supporting people to walk and cycle more rather than drive, this will help keep traffic volumes lower than they might otherwise be, reducing congestion and improving air quality. The initial monitoring data on the website shows that the measures have not had an adverse impact on air quality. However, the measures will be kept under review.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 13

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

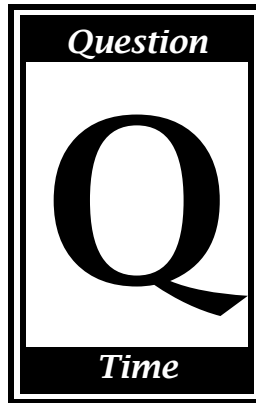
I understand the current Gross Development Value of the Council's interest in Kitewood Creekside East Development is £8.793m for 16 units. If this turns out to be correct at practical completion and if the Council were to sell its entire interest for £8.793m, based on current rules how much of the realised capital would the Council be allowed to invest in building or buying homes for the socially rented sector?

Reply

Should the Council decide to sell the residential units then it will utilise any proportion of the receipt towards the funding of affordable social rented homes. In doing so, however, the Council would need also to find a route to replacing the revenue funding

that it would be foregoing – which has already been incorporated in the Council's budget.

Therefore, we have no plans at this time to sell our interest. We are also making excellent progress on the delivery of 1,000 new social homes. We need more and we have also bought new developments such as 1 Creekside to deliver on our corporate plan.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 14

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Julia Webb

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

The Ladywell Playtower has been allowed to deteriorate, and there is no end in sight of this situation. Lewisham Council's record with historic buildings is not good; they are understandably not the council's top priority at the moment.

Given this, is Lewisham Council prepared to consider transferring the building to a community trust, to allow the people who care about it to take action?

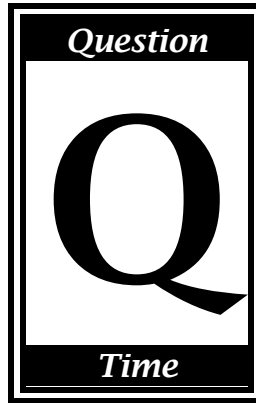
Reply

We appreciate that there are concerns for the much-loved Playtower building and I can assure the questioner, fellow Councillors and the Community that the protection and restoration of this landmark building remains a priority.

Officers continue to meet with the intended developer – Guildmore – to advance the scheme that we all want to see refurbish the Playtower. The Mayor and I shall be stressing to Guildmore that we want to see progress in 2021.

We have no plans to transfer the building to a community trust. In the last administration, the previous Mayor and Cabinet agreed to enter into the agreement with Guildmore. Work is underway to meet those commitments. Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on many parts of the Council's work.

The Mayor and I are committed to securing the future of the Playtower.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 15

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Annie Kirby

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Is Lewisham council considering any other alternatives to the current healthy streets plans other than Low Traffic Neighbourhoods?

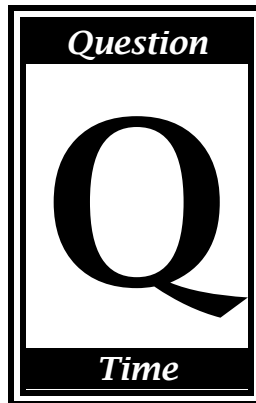
- If so, will these be presented to the community for consultation?
- If so, which groups are you speaking with and / or successful schemes are you following?
- If not, why wouldn't you?

Reply

Following suspension of the funding that the Council usually receives from Transport for London (TfL) to deliver the majority of our transport programme, last year, TfL started to reinstate a limited amount of this funding. Using this funding we are seeking to progress a range of schemes that are in alignment with our [transport strategy and local implementation plan 2019–2041 \(LIP3\)](#). This includes additional school streets, pedestrian improvements, the re-starting of the 20mph compliance programme, a cycle route link, further cycle hangars, further Electric Vehicle Charging Points, proposals aimed at making children's journeys to school safer and healthier within the LTN and other complementary measures, some interim measures as part of the Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhoods programme, and a range of road safety education initiatives.

TfL will be seeking to reinstate LIP funding in full from 2021/22, subject to the DfT agreeing a funding deal. This would enable the Council to return to its intended LIP3 programme, but with adjustments to take account of the schemes that have been delivered over the past year and any lessons learnt. This programme is currently being refined and will be taken to Mayor & Cabinet for approval.

We will be consulting and engaging with the community in relation to these schemes and the extent of that consultation and engagement will be proportionate to the scheme being developed. For instance with some schemes, such as with future LTNs, pre-engagement will be undertaken prior to advancing the scheme, whereas smaller interventions, such as amendments to double yellow lines, may only involve the statutory notification/consultation on the associated Traffic Management Order.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 16

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Etienne de Villiers

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

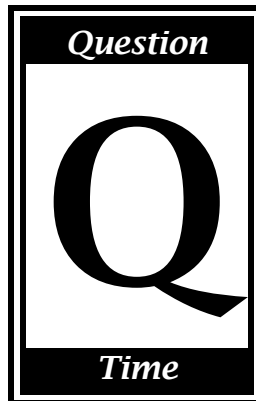
Recently the Government announced that the Green Homes Grant scheme of £1.5bn is, from the end of this financial year, to be reduced to £350m to continue till year end 2022. Difficulties with administration and the availability of the requisite technical skill seems to be behind this regrettable decision. Whilst we can only hope that the Council's application for a Green Grant is successful, will there be a similar capacity issue in Lewisham as well? What measures have been put in place to train contractors' staff to a level of skill, in the numbers required? No doubt, building up a workforce skilled in Green Technologies will take time to achieve. Will there be collaboration

between the Boroughs of S.E London, so as to attract contractors to this part of the UK?

Reply

Delivery of Lewisham Council's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030 is reliant on sustained and significant action at a national level to drive decarbonisation of our economy and housing. The Council will continue to lobby Government for the consistent and long-term approach to funding and policy required to create jobs and build the supply chain to meet the scale of challenge that exists. It is hoped that today's Budget Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer will provide clarification on the future of the Green Homes Grant scheme and the Government's plans to invest in housing retrofit.

Lewisham Council's Green Homes Grant application was for funding under the Local Authority Delivery element, which is separate from the voucher scheme that has been the focus of concerns on administration and supply chain capacity. The bid is intended to extend Lewisham Homes' investment programme to include a wider range of energy efficiency retrofit works and will be delivered through the contractors in place under Lewisham Homes' framework. These contractors meet the required standards of accreditation. Looking forward we will work with partners locally and sub-regionally to ensure Lewisham can make the most of the economic opportunities that a long-term programme of investment could bring.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 17

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Gerard Ambrose

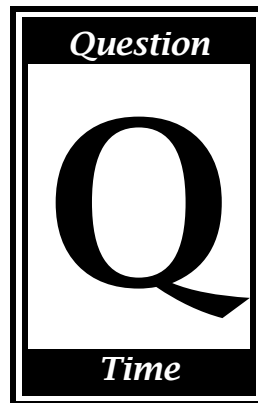
Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

In Manor Lane Terrace we have large vans that are parked. Could you tell me how much you charge vans for parking permits to enable them to park wherever they want?

Reply

Residents Permits charges are based on emission charges and a yearly permit can cost from £70 to £300 depending on carbon dioxide gas it produces.
Manor Lane Terrace is within zone MH controlled parking zone which is enforced 10am to 12 noon, therefore outside the enforcement times any vehicle can park free of charge.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 18

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Slater

Question

The Borough of Lewisham's website, under the heading 'Services' and 'Libraries' now states "All Lewisham's Libraries are now closed due to Covid-19 Restrictions".
An added statement shows this will be reviewed every two weeks during Lockdown.

However, I am old enough to know that in most areas of Governance, precedence generally ends up as a Rule - especially if applied to a Service which does not make any money.

So what guarantee do I have that when Lockdown is lifted (if ever) normal service may be resumed to the Public Library Service in Lewisham and readers may be able to hold and read a printed book rather than be confined to an e-service?

Please be aware that not all citizens in the borough have a device in their homes which enables them to read an e-book - or listen to a 'audio book' for that matter- facilities which are normally available in library buildings, including those managed by outsourced organisations.

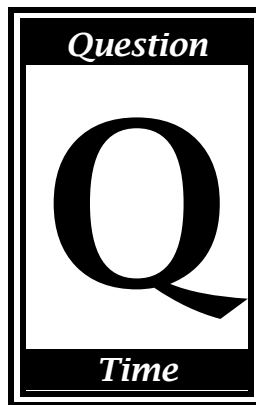
Reply

Nothing has changed to the statutory duty that the local authority has to provide library services. Therefore, the council will look to restore as much of the library service as possible, as quickly as possible.

There are factors that the council needs to consider as it deploys staff to library (and other) services, including the continued need to support the resident population and other critical services at a time of unprecedented need. Indeed, many library staff have been supporting Befriending, Test & Trace, and more throughout the pandemic, where I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the vital contribution that they have made to Lewisham's Covid response.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have offered a Click & Collect service at Deptford and Downham libraries, and have continued operating a [Home Library Service](#) during the temporary closure of our library buildings to support our residents who do not have access to, or prefer not to use, our popular and greatly enhanced e-Library service.

In addition to this, I am pleased to inform you that Lewisham has been successful in attracting additional funds to support the Reading Agency's "Reading Friends" project that specifically reaches out to residents who suffer from loneliness, offering books, discussion groups, and internet enabled iPads. The latter will contribute to bridging the gap that stops citizens who do not have a device in their homes which enables them to read an eBook or listen to an audio book.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 19

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Caroline Kurup

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

The air quality monitoring report ("Air quality Monitoring Report: Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) ") states: "Due to the speed at which Transport for London and the Department for Transport have asked boroughs to

work at, the borough does not have the full baseline of air quality data it would do in normal circumstances”. If it has no appropriate baseline data, how can the Council objectively determine the impact of the LTN measures on the air quality of the surrounding roads?

How can the Council accurately assess the impact of the LTN on the air quality of the roads surrounding the LTN, given the significant changes to traffic levels and pollution levels as a result of the various stages of lockdown?

How has the Council satisfied itself that appropriate monitoring of the surrounding roads, to which traffic will be displaced as a result of the LTN, is accurately monitored?

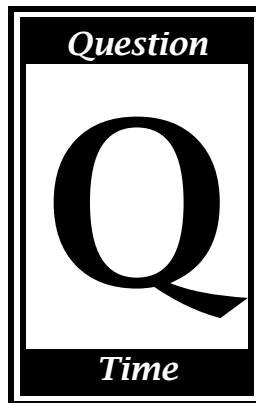
Does the Council agree that the priority for air quality monitoring must be on the surrounding roads, rather than the roads inside the LTN, which will inevitably benefit from lower traffic?

Reply

The Council undertakes air quality monitoring in accordance with the GLA/DEFRA prescribed guidance and collects data on a monthly basis and will use this to compare how well the scheme has been operating taking into consideration the traffic conditions in the surrounding area. This is an ongoing study of air quality and we continue to monitor as we review the LTN.

It is important to acknowledge that any transport related monitoring carried out within a pandemic will always need to be considered within this context before drawing any conclusions. The tightening and easing of restrictions during the pandemic have had an impact on travel behaviour and as a result traffic levels during this period have been volatile. The monitoring period is covering conditions that are not normal and even when lockdown restrictions are eased it is not known when, or if, traffic patterns will return to pre-pandemic levels. However, it is considered helpful to collect monitoring data to inform the review of the Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood.

As outlined in the monitoring strategy we have looked to capture impacts of the LTN within the LTN area on the surrounding road network to monitor the extent to which traffic may be displaced to other routes, particularly the distributor road network.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 20

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

We are seeing more and more telecom cabinets on our streets but some look neglected and others have been vandalised. This may mean they are no longer needed. Does the Council have any authority over installers to remove redundant cabinets?

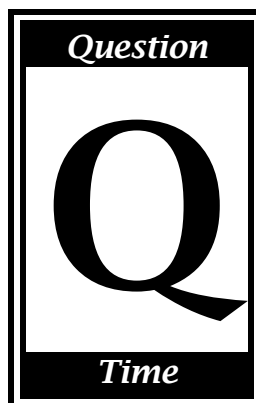
Reply

Permitted Development regulations include a condition which require cabinet installations are removed once they are no longer required for telecommunications purposes. The Council's planning policies also require the removal of redundant equipment from sites when new telecommunications proposals come forward.

However, cabinets that are poorly maintained by the operator may still be required for telecommunication purposes. If a cabinet contains equipment, it is generally deemed to be in use.

In cases where there are empty 'shell' cabinets that do not contain equipment situated on Lewisham's Highway Network, their removal would need to be undertaken by the operator, rather than the Council.

We will continue working to ensure telecommunications operators fulfil their obligations in this regard. Residents can email the council at planning@lewisham.gov.uk if they see such an empty cabinet. We will then determine what action is needed.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 21

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: David Lewis

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

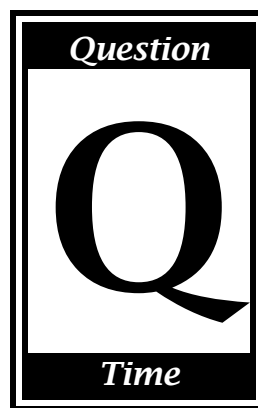
Question

I'm a resident in Horn Park Lane and as a family the implementation of the barrier in Upwood Road has had an adverse effect on our lives with the Doctors, station and local shops now a problem to get to as well as the main roads at gridlock for hours on end. At a meeting held for residents in November 2019 by Greenwich council the

possible closing of Upwood Road by Lewisham council was discussed and out of just over 100 residents present only 2 were in favour of the proposal. At closure the representatives of Greenwich said they would put this to Lewisham council as the numbers were so overwhelming. So could you please tell me did Greenwich consult with Lewisham about the almost unanimous anti LTN feeling of the residents and if so why were our opinions not considered.

Reply

Greenwich Council did advise Lewisham Council of the outcome of the meeting with residents. However, the concerns raised were taken on board alongside many other ways we have been consulting with residents on the LTNs.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 22

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: John Hamilton

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

I know you and the Council are keen to show that you understand the need to reduce carbon emissions in Lewisham to help slow global warming.

During the recent discussions you had with members of the Extinction Rebellion group it became apparent that you have done very little in the 2 years since declaring a climate emergency and that you explain that lack of progress by referring to a shortage of funding and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Are you planning to employ additional staff to encourage low carbon domestic heating (the greatest contributor to carbon emissions in Lewisham).

Extinction Rebellion's second demand is: Act Now - not when funding permits. We rely on you to press Central government for funding to put in place the measures so well laid out in your plan to reach net zero by 2030.

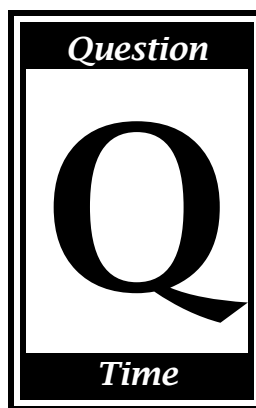
Reply

Lewisham Council was the second local authority in London to declare a Climate Emergency and in 2020 was one of the first to publish its Action Plan.

We respectfully disagree with your assertion about the actions taken by the Council since February 2019. At the meeting you are referring to which took place on 2nd December 2020, a number of proposals were put forward by Extinction Rebellion Lewisham. The meeting was predominantly spent discussing these proposals and not the actions taken by the Council in response to our Climate Emergency declaration. The majority of the proposals put forward by Extinction Rebellion Lewisham members were felt by myself and officers to be impractical, with some presenting a financial risk to the Council and, in one instance, a risk to existing protected habitats.

Despite the significant disruption caused by the COVID19 pandemic the Council has continued to pursue an ambitious and active agenda to meet our aim of a carbon neutral Lewisham by 2030.

Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan was clear that this urgent issue is not the Council's alone to respond to, and requires sustained and significant investment and action by Government, business and all of us as individuals and communities. The Council is committed to lobbying Government and working with partners regionally and locally to galvanise that collective effort but it is not the Council's responsibility to take on all aspects of the work needed to reach the target and so we will always need to make decisions about priorities. A report giving an update on progress in delivering on Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan and our priorities for the coming year is due to be considered by Mayor and Cabinet on the 10 March 2021.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 23

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Barbara Veale

Member to reply: Councillor Barnham

Question

On behalf of the voiceless young people in Lewisham, and in the light of the overwhelming evidence pointing to a coming tsunami of mental health needs, will the

Mayor/Council reconsider, even at this late stage, the decision to hold back the £250,000 of the Lewisham CAMHS contribution in 2021/2022 financial year?

The Council will be aware of the concerns raised by many Lewisham residents, and especially the parents/carers of young people with mental health needs. Over 1,300 people have signed a petition published by the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign and have seen the documents produced which argues persuasively against the case for doing this. Will the Mayor/Council respond to the community concern and reinstate the £250,000 to the Lewisham CAMHS budget?

Reply

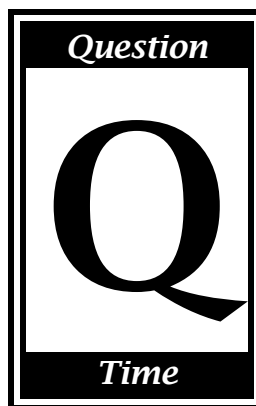
CAMHS is an NHS service, provided by the South London and Maudsley Hospital. The Council contributes to it as a minor partner, and also supports a wide range of other services dedicated to supporting the emotional wellbeing and health of our children and young people. I strongly agree on the importance of this work, to which the Council has given a high priority under this administration since 2018.

It is widely acknowledged that the NHS has not always given sufficient priority to mental health. I am however pleased that in recent years our partnership with the local NHS has improved funding and waiting times. The overall funding for children and young people's emotional and mental health services in Lewisham this year is £7.1m. This is an increase of £1,127m compared to the previous year, and a rise of 36% in three years. We expect funding to continue to improve: NHS England are increasing national funding levels to support children's mental health annually up to 2023/24, although local allocations have not yet been confirmed.

Lewisham Council's budget has unfortunately been cut by central government in real terms from over £400 million to £240 million. Given the scale of the funding crisis we face, it would be shortsighted to use the Council's very limited funds to top up NHS funding for an NHS service. Instead, we aim to ensure that our young people have a better range of local services that offer support early, to avoid problems escalating and prevent more young people needing acute specialist interventions.

We have not in fact seen an increase in referrals to CAMHS over this year, but we have committed to a £250,000 contingency, in response to concerns about the impact the pandemic might have on children's mental health. This money can be spent on mental health and wellbeing services if needed.

Looking ahead, we will continue to give young people's mental health and wellbeing the highest priority, and campaign for better central government funding for NHS mental health services. We welcome the support of the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign in that.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 24

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Chris Maines

Member to reply: Councillor Barnham

Question

Digital poverty will have affected many Lewisham pupils during the epidemic, reducing learning opportunities for children from the poorest families. What support has been provided for individual pupils while the Catford hub and libraries have been forced to close during the current lockdown?

Has there been an audit of the number of pupils who do not have access to IT equipment at home and the number of homes without broadband. Can the Council give assurances that all these pupils have been considered vulnerable and have continued to attend school or college during the current lockdown

Reply

Throughout the pandemic, the government has failed to support schools, children and families as it should, with late and unclear guidance, rapidly-changing decisions and a consistent failure to anticipate and prepare for the difficulties that the emergency poses for vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

In these challenging circumstances, I am proud that Lewisham schools have worked tirelessly to support children, both in school and when they have to learn at home. In order to support remote learning, during the first “lockdown”, between April and July 2020, Lewisham Council worked with schools, academies and colleges to distribute over 1700 digital devices including laptops, notebooks and 4G internet connectivity. All Lewisham education providers were involved with the allocation of devices and the Council undertook the role of liaison between the Department for Education (DfE) and distribution to Lewisham education providers. All those devices were allocated to:

- Looked after children, care leavers and children with social worker involvement.
- Disadvantaged Year 10 pupils in maintained schools (this includes voluntary aided schools)

Under the current lockdown Lewisham is expecting more digital devices and the DfE is increasing the help available through its '[get help with technology](#) programme'. This includes providing hundreds of thousands more laptops and tablets – reaching a total of more than one million and supporting disadvantaged 16 to 19 year olds in further education, in particular to:

- disadvantaged children in years 3 to 11 who do not have access to a device and whose face-to-face education is disrupted
- disadvantaged children in any year group who have been [advised to shield](#) because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable
- disadvantaged children in any year group attending a hospital school

This offer applies to maintained schools, pupil referral units, academy trusts and hospital schools, as well as sixth-form colleges who have enrolled 14 to 16 year olds.

DfE is in direct contact with schools, colleges, trusts and local authorities when they're able to order these devices during the spring term 2021. This is already happening for Lewisham education providers with over 2750 laptops and notebooks ordered and /or delivered. There is still a small number of devices unclaimed and Lewisham education is following up with schools to ensure access to all available devices.

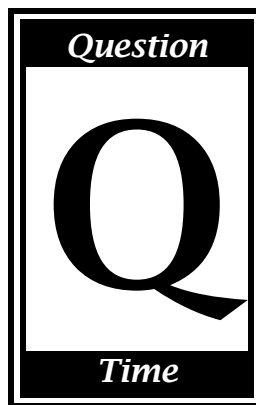
Lewisham education is currently in dialogue with the DfE '[get help with technology](#) programme' to ensure that children and young people who attend alternative provision and 14-16 provision at Lewisham College are not digitally disadvantaged during this lockdown.

More recently, our schools-led partnership, Lewisham Learning, undertook a survey with Lewisham primary, secondary and special schools and it is estimated that 99 per cent of children now have access to a device, but there is still significant inequality between families. Some children have a laptop or desktop for their own exclusive use while other children are sharing a mobile phone with parents and siblings. The quality of Wi-Fi / connectivity varies greatly between families as does the appropriateness of the space and environment children from different families are working in.

In order to address this, Lewisham Learning has set up a [crowd funding page](#) to raise financial resource for schools to purchase additional digital devices and connectivity for the most vulnerable children and families.

Lewisham Learning is also working with Lewisham schools to improve remote learning by encouraging:

- Schools to support each other by providing coaching and modelling good practice where needed.
- Compliance checks on school websites to ensure Lewisham schools are meeting new remote learning Department for Education requirements.
- School / peer review teams to use the new Department for Education toolkit to evaluate the quality of schools offers.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 25

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Chris Francis

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

What substantive quantitative outcomes were expected from the changes to the Lee Green LTN that were enacted on the 9th Nov and what were the predicted timescales for said expectations to emerge.

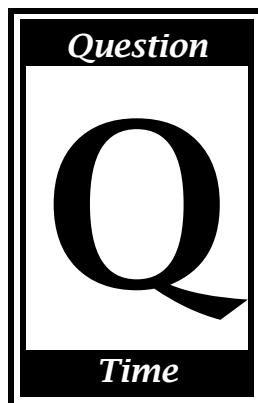
What metrics are under consideration and what is the expected changes to the value of said metrics in what timescales?

Reply

Lewisham have previously committed to making changes to the low traffic neighbourhood scheme if necessary and the changes that were introduced in November 2020 were in response to resident feedback and discussions with TfL about the impact on bus journey times.

However, we have ensured that a comprehensive monitoring programme is in place to help us understand the impact of the scheme. This includes undertaking traffic counts and air quality monitoring, as well as considering the views of residents. The monitoring is being carried out in neighbouring areas, as well as within the LTN itself. We will work collaboratively with Transport for London and the emergency services to understand the impact on the TfL Route Network, on bus journey times and on emergency services.

Traffic patterns are dynamic and traffic levels and travel behaviour are impacted by a variety of factors. The outcomes expected by the changes and the success criteria have not been quantified. The review of the scheme will be based on a balanced assessment of the above datasets.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 26

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Paul Lomax

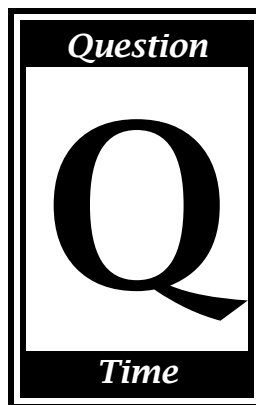
Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

What is the status of travel for registered Blue Badge holders in the Lee Green LTN? The council website says "Lewisham blue badge holders can apply for a vehicle exemption to drive through our Low Traffic Neighbourhoods road closures", and in the Mayor's statement on 23rd October it said that "Lewisham Blue Badge holders who register their vehicles can travel freely". Since the camera enforcement started on the Leahurst Road gate, Leahurst Road has been omitted from the list of roads allowed in communication to blue badge holders who registered. Some disabled drivers have now received penalty notices for driving through the Leahurst gate. On appeal, they have been told by parking enforcement that the gate is "for emergency services only" and that "emergency vehicles will be driving through the location at speed in both directions, and it would therefore be dangerous to allow other vehicles to drive through". Does that warning apply to all drivers in both directions? If safety is a concern, why not simply move the planters at the width restrictions, rather than forcing drivers through the old emergency gate? Or has the decision been made not to allow Lewisham Blue Badge holders to travel freely?

Reply

We understand the confusion at this location and can clarify. Currently warning notices have been issued in error to Lewisham Blue Badge holders at this location. As previously agreed all Lewisham Blue Badge Holders are exempt from camera enforced locations within the LTN, subject to application. Officers are reviewing the modal filter at Leahurst Road to see if any adjustments need to be made to reduce the potential for conflict and reduce speeds along the street.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 27

Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Praveena Fernandes

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

I am expecting a baby (my first) this year - I often see so many single use plastics being discarded all around my estate and I am sad what kind of future I will be leaving behind for my future generation. I promised I will try and make greener choices in my life. I researched Reusable nappies, being from India this is a common feature in my home country. My husband and I are preparing to take the time and upfront cost investment this would involve. Overall it looks like it will save a lot of single-use plastic being discarded (Most parents go through 4000 to 6000 nappies per child from birth to about age three)

Other councils (Real nappies for London) have set up a budget for vouchers for parents who want to try reusable nappies. It is part of your Lewisham Mayor manifesto to reduce the use of single-use plastics in Lewisham, especially since we incinerate our rubbish in the council. It currently costs the council to collect, separate and recycle these household waste - Could we please take some care towards reducing the usage of single-use plastic in the first place.

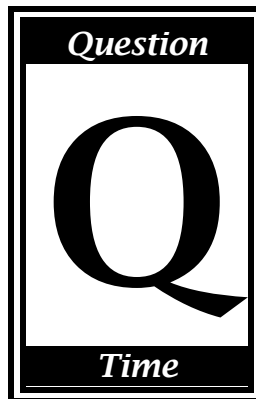
Can Lewisham council too support a similar initiative?

Reply

During 2019/20, the Council subscribed to the Real Nappies for London scheme for a year, in which we had four bespoke events, though we did not subscribe to the voucher element of this service. Nappy Neighbours now run their own sessions with new parents, encouraging them to try real nappies. Advice and assistance can be achieved by emailing nappy.neighbours@gmail.com.

Nappies represent a significant proportion of non-recyclable rubbish by weight, and so we will look again at what more we can do as a local authority to encourage the use of re-usable nappies as part of the internal reviews and external consultations taking place in 2021.

We have implemented several schemes which aim to reduce the amount of single use plastic. Schemes such as stopping the use of plastic cups within the Council complex buildings and providing a majority of front line staff with reusable bottles to prevent the purchase of plastic water bottles. Prior to COVID 19, the Council were in the process of rolling out a Plastic Pledge for businesses—which involved working with local businesses to try and reduce the amount of single use plastic in use, but COVID has delayed the roll out of this scheme and will now be launched later this year.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 28

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Adam Syed

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

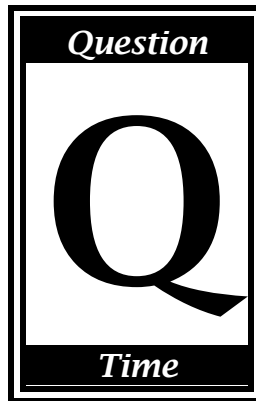
Question

Since the LTN revision, speeding from one-way traffic down Leahurst Road is a major issue. Due to pavement-parking, the road is made wide enough for drivers to feel they can speed, with the knowledge that oncoming traffic is unlikely (although residents, blue-badge holders and cars with purposefully-covered plates often are coming the other way). Pavement-parking also makes it impossible for pedestrians to socially distance on the pavement, meaning the road itself needs to be used, which compounds the danger of speeding cars.

Since the LTN revisions appear to have actively encouraged speeding, what measures are in the pipeline to negate this issue?

Reply

Further amendments to the scheme are currently being progressed, to help reduce traffic volumes on streets outside schools. We will be engaging with residents and other stakeholders on these proposed measures in early March. Alongside this work, officers are reviewing the modal filter at Leahurst Road to see if any adjustments need to be made to reduce the potential for conflict and reduce speeds along the street. In addition, we will contact TfL to report the community concerns regarding speeding at this location. TfL will review the speeds at this location and if there is an issue the road will be added to their enforcement programme.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 29

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

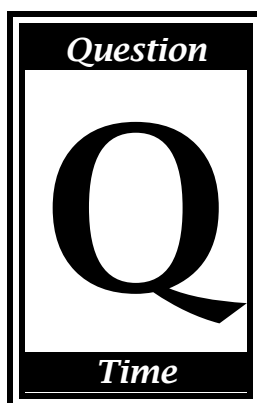
Question

Has Lewisham Council received a planning application from Network Rail for step free access provision at Catford station or received any information about Network Rail's intention to submit a planning application during 2021?

Reply

The Council have not received a planning application for step-free access and are not aware of any planned submission.

I would welcome action from Network Rail to improve step-free access at Catford station. I would urge Network Rail and Thameslink to get this done ASAP. It is unacceptable that any stations in 2021 do not have step free access. People living with disabilities, older people and those with children should not be turned away from accessing public transport.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 30

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

What proportion of the housing capital budget for 2020/21 has the Council spent and how does that compare with 2019/20? What work scheduled for 2019/20 was not delayed or unfinished in that year and how many of the delayed or incomplete projects were finished in 2020/21?

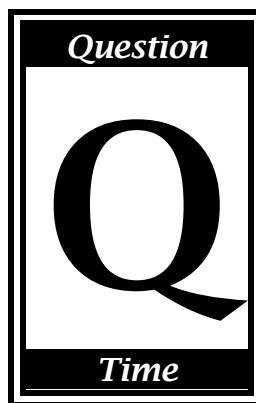
Reply

The table below shows the capital budget, expenditure and slippage for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

| LEWISHAM HOMES - CAPITAL EXPENDITURE | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | 2019/20 | | | 2020/21 | | | | |
| Project Main Heading | Budget | Actual | Slippage | Budget | Slippage | Full Year Budget | YTD Spend | Total Forecast Spend |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| External & Communal Works | 6,911,284 | 4,832,087 | 2,079,197 | 5,500,103 | 1,470,718 | 6,970,821 | 740,561 | 771,207 |
| Internal Works | 10,700,000 | 8,815,766 | 1,884,234 | 5,050,000 | 1,725,000 | 6,775,000 | 3,704,004 | 4,704,473 |
| Planned Works & Improvements (Major Works) | 18,888,294 | 16,411,527 | 2,476,767 | 12,915,209 | 3,157,258 | 16,072,467 | 9,379,178 | 11,783,178 |
| Fire Programme | 12,163,772 | 10,437,060 | 1,726,712 | 13,871,000 | 1,913,934 | 15,784,934 | 12,055,393 | 18,731,919 |
| Unallocated Budgets | 578,609 | 0 | 0 | 2,200,000 | (100,000) | 2,100,000 | 1,655,494 | 2,680,494 |
| Total | 49,241,959 | 40,496,440 | 8,166,910 | 39,536,312 | 8,166,910 | 47,703,222 | 27,534,630 | 38,671,272 |

As part of the 2019/20 works programme, there was a total of £8.2m of works that were not completed and slipped into 2020/21. During 2019/20, there were 54 work streams of which 25 experienced slippage into 2020/21.

In 2020/21 there were also 54 work streams. The majority of these work streams have elements of work that will move into 2021/22. Over this period, slippage has occurred predominantly due to Covid-19 and contractual delays with developers.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 31

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Julia Webb

Member to reply: Councillor Reid

Question

The Ladywell Playtower and the Catford Constitutional are in dire need of consolidation to protect them from further deterioration. At the same time, Lewisham is promoting apprenticeships, to create job opportunities for young people.

Would the council consider exploring the possibility of apprenticeships in historic building techniques, in association with one of the heritage charities? The apprentices could work on the Playtower, and consolidate it as they learn the skills.

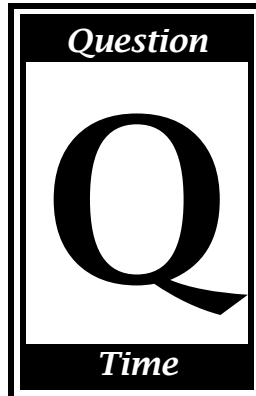
Reply

I can confirm that the Council is seeking to play its part fully in tackling the massive increase in youth unemployment. The Council has secured a new DWP funded Youth Hub as the first part of a new employment support offer in Central Catford, within the former Town Hall. We have also given and received strong support for the Mayors '100 in 100' Apprentices programme – resulting in 186 placements being made available by local employers and advertised to local residents.

You will be aware that - with several Phase 1 workstreams about to commence in central Catford – we are seeking to refurbish the Catford Constitutional Club, the former Town Hall for new tenants and undertake a range of public realm and associated improvements at the Station Approach and at Holbeach. Across these various works and investments we will actively seek to maximise opportunities for skills acquisition and paid work at London Living Wage, including apprenticeships in a range of vocational areas, making these accessible to our local residents including crucially, those young people currently not in education or employment.

In terms of working in partnership with a heritage specialist, the opportunity to refurbish both Ladywell Playtower and the Catford Constitutional will require some level of expertise in restoration of heritage buildings. As part of the refurbishment process the Council will seek the development of a social value commitment which will likely include skills and training opportunities for local residents.

The nature of any apprenticeships or specialist training offered by the successful contractor will depend on the skills required to deliver the project and the availability of relevant training. In the case of a heritage refurbishment project it is likely that the apprenticeship training opportunity will be a generic Multi-Skills Construction Apprenticeship delivered ideally by a local construction training provider. Specialist training in heritage restoration skills would need to be commissioned separately as there is no apprenticeship standard that covers this niche area available at present. Our Employment and Skills team is available to broker partnerships with relevant organisations including specialist training providers if required by the successful contractor.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 32

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Karen Pratt

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

Is vandalism the only reason for replacing fixed barriers with camera-operated modal filters in Manor Lane North, Woodyates Road and Upwood Road? Is Lewisham Council planning to introduce more flexibility into the system and allow more exemptions, which respondents to a 2020 political party sponsored LTN survey would largely welcome?

Why has nothing been done about the Manor Lane Terrace barrier and distress caused to its residents?

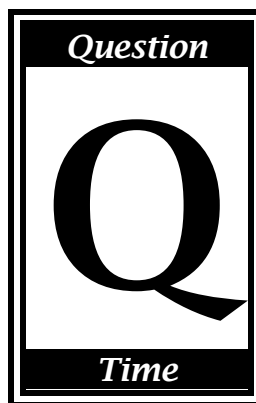
Reply

The installation of cameras is to discourage vandalism at the bollard and planter enforced filters. However, this could also benefit the emergency services as they will have direct access at these locations.

A mixture of bollard and planters were used at the outset as TfL had advised that there was insufficient funding for all modal filters to be enforced by camera. This position has since changed as TfL recognises that in some locations there are benefits of camera enforcement.

The transition to camera enforcement will enable the exemptions that apply to other camera enforced locations to be replicated. Such exemptions will be kept under regular review to ensure that the LTN objectives of improving pedestrian and cycle safety by reducing traffic flows continue to be met.

As further funding becomes available further locations could be considered for conversion to camera enforcement, subject to the outcome of any scheme review.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 33

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Etienne de Villiers

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

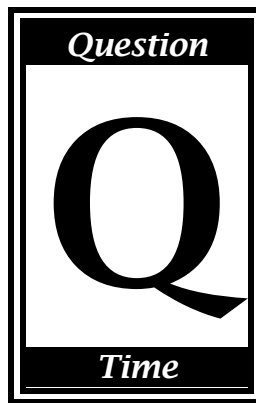
A careful reading of the Council's recent Climate Emergency Action Tracker shows that there are eight plans to communicate with the residents of Lewisham.

As there is most likely to be an overlap within these communications, (and even if this isn't the case), it would make administrative sense to send one letter/pamphlet/leaflet

from the Mayor to all LBL households. Such a leaflet should seek to inform Residents about Global Warming and about the behavioural changes that must be made if we are to meet the +/-7% reduction in our Carbon Footprint this year, and for each of the forthcoming nine years, and beyond. The annual Council Tax Invoice letter to Households may be a practical means to communicate to Householders. The council's own magazine could also carry more detailed information about Global Warming. Simple "Low hanging fruit" suggestions might be appropriate in the first instance. In addition to communications to households, the Council could adopt, without great cost, a public information campaign employing Banners over public buildings, banners attached to lamp-posts, signs painted on roads, and posters on bus-shelters. If there could be a publicity campaign about Covid 19, surely we need one for Global Warming too?

Reply

This past year the majority of our communication efforts have been focussed on the pandemic. We recently appointed a Climate Emergency Officer to lead on our climate communications. In spring we aim to have a clear guide for residents on our website setting out what actions or changes individuals can make. This will be supported by social media posts, newsletter content and Lewisham Life articles. Furthermore, we will be embedding the climate crisis into communications of other council departments within the website. Given one of our key messages is around use of resources there are no plans as yet to print banners but we are always open to ideas.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 34

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

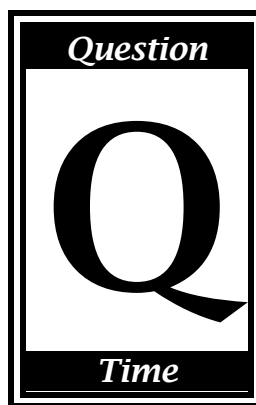
Can the council explain how some roads, turned into dead ends in the Lee LTN area, can be opened by unlocking the barriers by members of the public, and allowing free flow of traffic? This ability is not available to emergency services in Manor Lane

Terrace, and residents are still experiencing police and emergency vehicles (ambulances) blocked therefore causing considerable obstruction/noise/delay. Why has this public nuisance not been effectively dealt with by the council and/or the emergency services involved since 29th June 2020?

Reply

Unfortunately there has been some abuse of the bollard locking mechanisms meaning that the bollards are sometimes left lowered. The Council is in the process of converting some of these modal filters to camera enforced filters, which means that only those granted exemptions will be permitted to pass through. As further funding becomes available further modal filters could be converted to camera enforcement, subject to the outcome of any scheme review.

The issue of access by emergency services is discussed at regular meetings between Lewisham officers and the emergency services, where they have the opportunity to raise any issues or concerns. To date no significant concerns in relation to response times have been raised. Local London Ambulance Service crews have been equipped with bollard keys.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 35

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

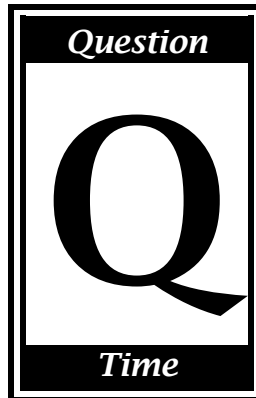
Given the widely-reported decline in London's population of 700,000 is the Council pressing the Mayor for lowering his imposed housing targets for Lewisham?

Reply

We will continue to work with the Greater London Authority (GLA) around population projections as we begin to understand more about any medium to long-term implications caused by COVID-19 and/or Brexit.

However, the government housing target is significantly higher than that of the GLA. Furthermore, the housing challenge facing Lewisham remains significant, with over 10,000 households on the Council's housing waiting list in Lewisham. As a result, there is no indication that housing targets will reduce at this time.

While the overall population of London could reduce, the reality of genuinely affordable housing means there is a housing crisis for many of our fellow residents. Therefore, we still do need new council and social homes as a matter of urgency.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 36

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Mary McKernan

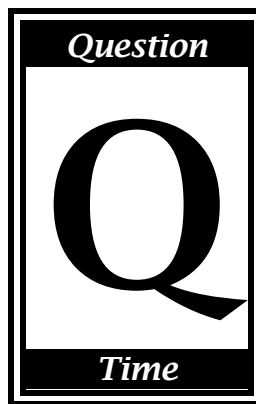
Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

As to applications for discharge of Planning Conditions: please explain what the Statement of Community of Involvement's stance on this. I find it worrying that there is no public or amenity society consultation on applications to discharge planning conditions.

Reply

The Statement of Community Involvement (2006) does not require public consultation to be undertaken on submissions seeking to discharge planning conditions.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 37

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Caroline Kurup

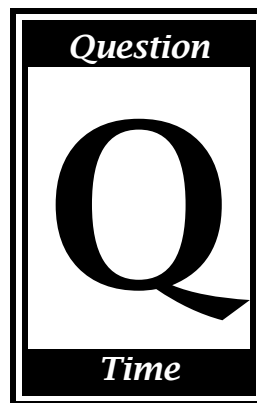
Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

In circumstances where there has been no adjustment made for the season, the impact of lockdown on traffic, and critical missing data, is it misleading to suggest in the air quality monitoring report "In view of the current assessment presented in this report, the current results show that the Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood have had very little to no impact on the surrounding air quality"?

Reply

The tightening and easing of restrictions during the pandemic have had an impact on travel behaviour and as a result traffic levels during this period have been volatile. The monitoring period is covering conditions that are not normal and even when lockdown restrictions are eased it is not known when, or if, traffic patterns will return to pre-pandemic levels. We have used the best available data and information to assess air quality as outlined in the LTN air quality monitoring report.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 38

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Chris Maines

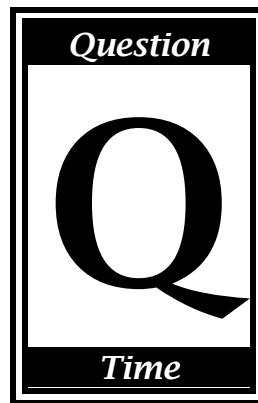
Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Were all known rough sleepers in Lewisham offered accommodation over Christmas and during the recent cold weather?

Reply

Yes. All known rough sleepers in Lewisham were offered accommodation under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP). All rough sleepers verified and supported by Street Outreach were made an offer during the periods that SWEP was activated. SWEP has been activated on nine occasions since December 2020, for a total of 31 days.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 39

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Chris Francis

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

On the 4th August Councillor McGeevor was quoted in the press as saying:
"We know that traffic has moved to busier trunk roads and this was an expected short-term consequence of the introduction of these measures."

However a recent answer to an FOI response (Reference No: 6951737) has stated that:

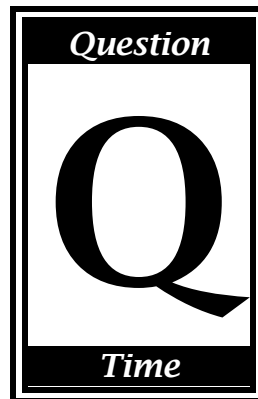
"As the traffic modelling processes ... was not completed the conclusions were not presented to Councillors" and only offers supposition of the basis of the Councillor's remarks.

Therefore I ask what exactly led the Councillor to 'expect' the move of traffic from one set of residential roads to another and what is the Councillor's exact meaning of 'short term'.

Reply

When a road closure is put in place, motorists will respond in different ways. Some will re-route onto alternative routes, some will change the time at which they travel, some will switch to more sustainable modes such as walking or cycling, some will change their destination, or others won't travel at all. It is therefore reasonable to expect that initially some traffic will move to other roads. We have also learned from other boroughs, such as Waltham Forest, that there has been an overall reduction in traffic as a result of the borough making residential streets safer for walking and cycling by eliminating rat-runs.

Typically short term would mean three to six months, however, the current context is complicated as a result of a volatile background of traffic patterns, the easing and tightening of lockdown restrictions and people having reduced confidence in using public transport. This means that the initial settling period may be longer than under normal circumstances.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 40

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

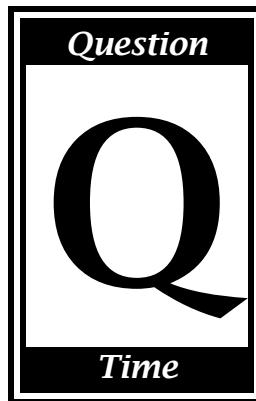
Question

During the week the Lee High Road was closed both ways due to a tree falling. It occurred to me that if, in the future, the road was closed, for any reason, from Eastdown Park to Old Road residents in the LTN, who can only leave their area via the Lee High Road by car, would be trapped. Does the council have any emergency plans ready should this occur?

Reply

Should there be an occasion when residents within sections of the LTN are unable access/egress to their streets, as a result of an extensive emergency road closure in Lee High Road, the enforcement camera at Manor Park, which prohibits southbound movements, could be de-activated, thus allowing both north and southbound movements at this point.

In tandem with this the one way working in Old Road could be suspended if it was considered necessary and safe to do so.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 41

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Gerard Ambrose

Member to reply: Cllr De Ryk

Question

Please advise what the increase in the forthcoming council tax will be. How much will the council tax increase be and what is the total sum that you and the council will increase this tax by, namely the council's percentage increase and the Mayor of London percentage increase?

Reply

While the Government claims to have increased the spending power of local authorities for 2021/22, that relies on us raising Council Tax. In order to ensure we can continue to provide crucial local services, we will need to raise Council Tax by 4.99% this year – the maximum possible amount.

The proposed overall Council Tax increase on a Band D property for 2021/22 in the Budget report before Council on the 3 March is 5.9%. This comprises a 4.99% increase for the Council's element and a 9.5% increase for the Greater London Authority precept.

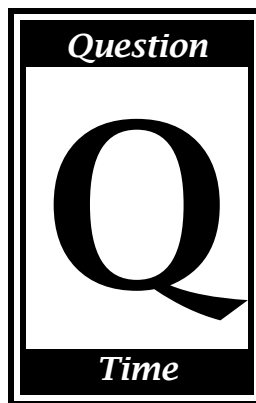
In cash terms, subject the Council's decision on the 2021/22 Budget, these increases convert to:

Proposed 2021/22 Council Tax bands

| Band | Fraction | Lewisham Council Tax £ | GLA Precept £ | Total Council Tax £ |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| A | 6/9 | 919.97 | 242.44 | 1,162.41 |
| B | 7/9 | 1,073.30 | 282.85 | 1,356.15 |
| C | 8/9 | 1,226.63 | 323.25 | 1,549.88 |
| D | 9/9 | 1,379.96 | 363.66 | 1,743.62 |
| E | 11/9 | 1,686.62 | 444.47 | 2,131.09 |
| F | 13/9 | 1,993.27 | 525.29 | 2,518.56 |
| G | 15/9 | 2,299.93 | 606.10 | 2,906.03 |
| H | 18/9 | 2,759.92 | 727.32 | 3,487.24 |

Current 2020/21 Council Tax bands

| Band | Fraction | Lewisham Council Tax £ | GLA Precept £ | Total Council Tax £ |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| A | 6/9 | 876.24 | 221.38 | 1,097.62 |
| B | 7/9 | 1,022.29 | 258.28 | 1,280.57 |
| C | 8/9 | 1,168.33 | 295.17 | 1,463.50 |
| D | 9/9 | 1,314.37 | 332.07 | 1,646.44 |
| E | 11/9 | 1,606.45 | 405.86 | 2,012.31 |
| F | 13/9 | 1,898.53 | 479.66 | 2,378.19 |
| G | 15/9 | 2,190.61 | 553.45 | 2,744.06 |
| H | 18/9 | 2,628.74 | 664.14 | 3,292.88 |



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 42

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Paul Lomax

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

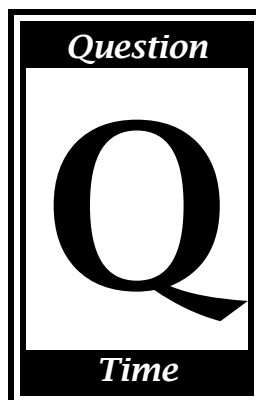
In light of the High Court ruling that TfL's Streetspace Plan and Bishopsgate Traffic Order was unlawful, what changes will you be making to the Lewisham Lee Green LTN? Given it was uncontested that hackney carriages are public transport, and to restrict them would be a failure of public sector equality duty, will Black Cabs be given an exemption through ANPR gates? Will you extend the dial-a-ride exemption to all gates, not just Manor Park? Will you be correcting the signage to note the exemptions?

Reply

Following a hearing on 25th and 26th November 2020, on 20 January 2021 a judgement was handed down in relation to the two conjoined claims for judicial review brought by two trade bodies representing the 'Black Cab' industry against TfL and the Mayor of London to challenge the Mayor of London's Streetspace Plan and Guidance, and a Traffic Management Order prohibiting the use of motorised vehicles, including Hackney Carriages, on Bishopsgate in the City of London.

Our understanding is that TfL are seeking permission to appeal the judgement. As the effects of the judgment have been stayed, TfL has no immediate plans to remove any of the existing schemes pending an appeal and at present, the schemes implemented as part of the London Streetspace Plan and in response to the Guidance are still lawful.

Lewisham has previously committed to reviewing the Lewisham and Lee Green low traffic neighbourhood, which will consider whether any amendments should be made in relation to taxi access.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 43

Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Jane Alaszewski

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

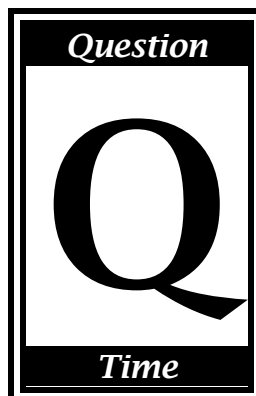
Which current ANPRs can exempt drivers' access?

The council has stated it will install cameras on Upwood, Manor Lane north and Woodyates. Will exempt drivers be able to access these roads once the physical planters are removed?

Reply

The current policy, as stated on the Council [website](#), is that Lewisham blue badge holders can apply for a vehicle exemption to drive through our Low Traffic Neighbourhoods camera enforced road closures. This includes Dermody Road, Ennersdale Road, Manor Park, Manor Lane and Leahurst Road.

The same exemptions that apply to the existing camera enforced locations in the LTN will be extended to apply at the new locations of Upwood, Manor Lane north and Woodyates Road, when fully operational. These exemptions will be kept under regular review.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 44

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

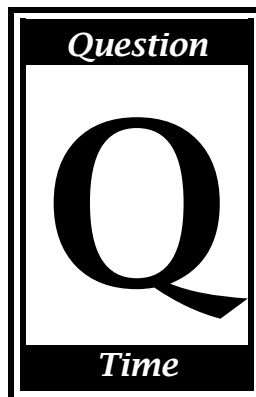
Member to reply: Councillor Bell

Question

Who is responsible for adding a consultation to the Consultation Hub on the Council's website and at what point in the consultation process is a consultation supposed to appear in the hub? The Housing Allocation Scheme Policy Review was opened on 27.11.2020 and is scheduled to close on 14.03.2021. On what date was it publicly available in the hub?

Reply

The consultation can only begin once it is available on the Consultation Hub. It was made publicly available on the Hub at 6pm on 27.11.2020. The Policy and Governance team is responsible for adding a consultation to the Hub.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 45

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Julia Webb

Member to reply: Councillor Bourne

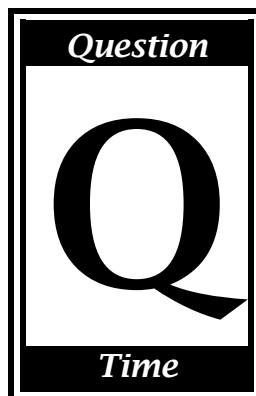
Question

Given that Lewisham cannot afford to reopen The Bridge Leisure Centre after lockdown, it is important to secure the building and prevent deterioration while we search for funding.

Is the council considering meanwhile use for the site, to cover the next two years? That would keep the building heated and ventilated, and secure from intruders. It would work as a decant site for OLSPN school, or for Sydenham Green Group Practice, when they redevelop their surgery. It would make an excellent covid-19 screening venue, or an astonishing facility for organisations like St Andrew's Amateur Boxing Club, currently operating from the bowls pavilion at the Livesey Hall. Please don't waste this useful building while the long term decisions are on the back burner.

Reply

The Council is committed to exploring all options for the building in the future and is already in contact with several local sports groups to explore whether they could access the building during the period of closure. However, there are extremely high fixed costs when opening a building of the age of the Bridge and these may be prohibitive for the majority of users. Notwithstanding this Officers will consider any reasonable proposals that come forward and activity explore other options.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 46

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor Bonavia

Question

CommonPlace seems to be taking a greater and greater part in Lewisham council affairs.

Would the council please explain what departments of the council it is part of? Does it have statutory and/or legal powers to enact policy and who at the council decides what that policy should be before being passed on to CommonPlace to deal with it? Can it be held to account through the democratic process, if so, how? Is the staff at CommonPlace regarded as local authority staff, by employment, salary, pensions? Or, is the employer regarded as another body?

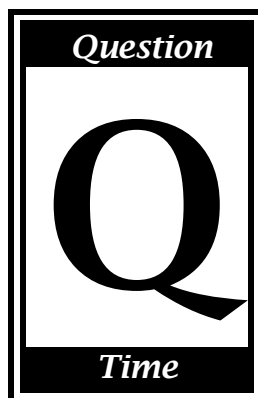
As CommonPlace appears part of the local authority level of government how is it funded and can the council admit what are its costs for using CommonPlace?

Reply

Commonplace is a consultation tool which allows local residents to submit their views and feedback via a website and in map format.

The tool is used across a range of Council departments including Communities, Transport, Planning and Regeneration but it has no policy input and no power or influence over any decisions. It is simply a tool that the Council uses for collecting the views of its residents.

The cost for unlimited use of Commonplace across the Council is £50,000 per year.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 47

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Paul Lomax

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

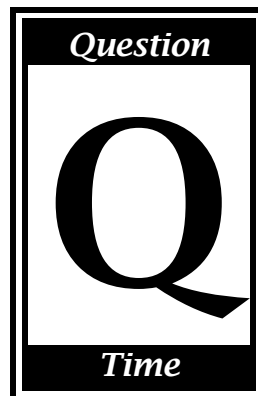
Question

It has been reported in Private Eye that the barriers are causing delays to London Ambulance Services, and the letter from a paramedic says somebody may have died of cardiac arrest following such a delay in Lewisham. In previous meetings councillors asserted that emergency services carry keys to the bollards. We now know from FOI requests that this was not true and LAS do not carry keys, and that they do not approve of any physical barriers. Will these issues be properly investigated? Would you consider a public enquiry before you propose making this scheme permanent?

Reply

The issue of access by emergency services is discussed at regular meetings between Lewisham officers and the emergency services, where they have the opportunity to raise any issues or concerns. To date no significant concerns in relation to response times have been raised. In addition there is a London liaison meeting between TfL, the emergency services and borough representatives and we have requested that the issue relating to Paramedics' ability to report issues is raised at the next meeting.

Lewisham has previously committed to reviewing the Lewisham and Lee Green low traffic neighbourhood and access by emergency services and the impact on response times will be part of the review.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 48

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

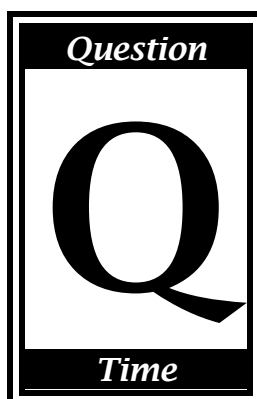
Member to reply: Cllr Bonavia

Question

30 minutes are allocated to public questions at Council meetings. How can the person chairing the meeting ensure Councillors answering a question do not speak at length unnecessarily and thus waste time? Can the chair add time to the allocated 30 minutes to compensate for the time wasted by Councillors waffling?

Reply

The Speaker has the authority to manage the meeting subject to the arrangements prescribed by the Council's Constitution, which sets a time limit of 30 minutes for any supplementary questions. Within that timeframe, should the Speaker consider a Councillor or questioner to be taking unreasonable time to answer or ask a question, he can take appropriate action to ensure the prompt and effective delivery of the meeting.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 49

Priority 4

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Chris Francis

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

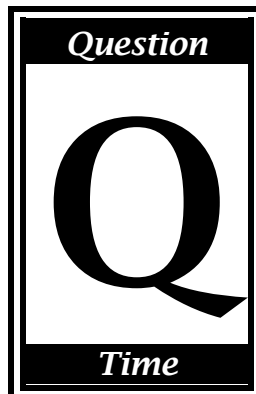
Question

FOI response Reference No: 6951737 states in response to the request of 'Any minutes covering the decision to impose said congestion and pollution on members of the electorate as an acceptable cost for the LTN.' that the information is 'not held'.

I therefore ask the Councillors who made that decision for the record.

Reply

The decision to implement the Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) was taken under delegated powers by the Executive Director (Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm) and the Head of Highways and Transport.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 50

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Chris Francis

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

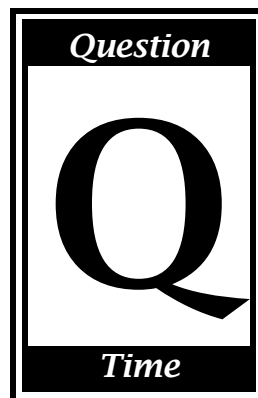
FOI response Reference No: 6951737 states that in response to the request for any information on 'Any debate on the ethics and legality of imposing such impact on the surrounding populations without consultation' only answers with details of the Legal Implications and consideration of consultation not the decision itself.

I therefore ask the Council if they are willing to host an independently moderated public debate on the ethics of displacing congestion and pollution from one part of the borough to another before any decision are made on the future of the Lee Green LTN.

FOI response referenced is here https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/data_and_decisions_on_imposing_a_incoming-1718089

Reply

Lewisham has previously committed to reviewing the Lewisham and Lee Green low traffic neighbourhood and as part of this a public consultation will be undertaken in May 2021. This will enable residents from inside and outside of the low traffic neighbourhood and other interested stakeholders to express their views on the scheme. The feedback from this consultation will be used to inform a decision on the future of the scheme.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 51

Priority 5

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

This evening (16 February 2021) at about 7.20 pm 2 police vehicle with blue flashing lights were blocking Manor Lane Terrace as they could not get out of the dead end, yet again.

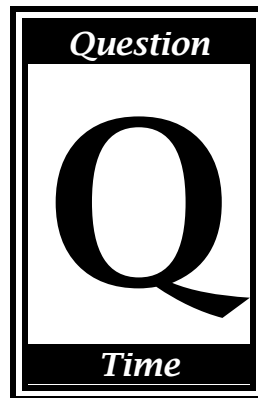
Since 29th June 2020 this has been a regular occurrence, sometimes it is ambulances. Over the past month there have been more occurrences than ever. This is regularly reported to the council, officers and councillors by residents but is met with utter disregard.

Can the council explain why this is allowed to happen? Does it keep records of these events? Do the emergency services involved keep records? Have they informed the council what is happening? Do they inform their own managers what has happened? If records are kept can we see them?

Reply

The issue of access by emergency services is discussed at regular meetings between Lewisham officers and the emergency services, where they have the opportunity to raise any issues or concerns. To date no significant concerns in relation to response times have been raised.

Lewisham has previously committed to reviewing the Lewisham and Lee Green low traffic neighbourhood and access by emergency services and the impact on response times will be part of the review.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 52

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Caroline Kurup

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

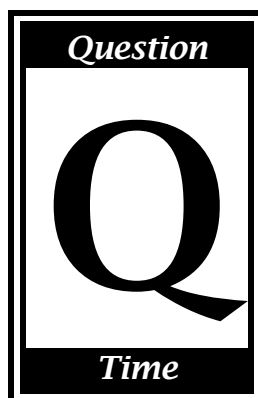
Question

Why is the data from September, at the L51 site on the South Circular marked as “missing” in the Air quality Monitoring Report: Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN)?

Reply

The locations marked as “missing” in the LTN Air Quality Monitoring report are locations noted to have been vandalised during the site visit undertaken for the replacement of diffusion tubes.

Unfortunately, vandalism of diffusion tubes have occurred frequently during this year’s monitoring regime and this was especially pronounced across London during the lockdown as confirmed by most London Local Authorities officers during the recent South London air quality steering group meeting.



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 53

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Mary McKernan

Member to reply: Councillor John Paschoud

Question

Does the Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee consider that the committee "acts out a charade" when it meets? This is the full quote from a recent public statement by Cllr Leo Gibbons-Plowright "I am sitting in Lewisham Council's planning committee. On a usual night, I would sit in faint bemusement as colleagues act out a charade".

Reply

No.

But I'm grateful to Ms McKernan for her interest in my personal opinions and my own subjective feelings about the experience of meetings of the Strategic Planning Committee, so to possibly save her the trouble of asking me a supplementary question on this topic (although one is of course always welcome), I offer the following fuller insight - formed by sitting as a member of various Planning Committees of Lewisham Council for most of the years since 1994.

I find many aspects of the role of a councillor in Lewisham really worthwhile and fulfilling. Being part of the processes of Urban Planning of our borough and our environment is one of the best bits of that, for me, because it's a way of directly influencing how that changes - and trying to make it better for people. It's one of the best ways I know of working "For the Many, not the Few". But it's also one of the most responsible and scary bits - because what we allow someone to build, or demolish, or change can go on dominating the environment of those who live or work or play around them for years or even lifetimes to come. I've been doing it for long enough that I can walk around most parts of the borough of Lewisham and think, "That looks just as nice now it's built, with dozens of families enjoying their homes in it, as the artist's impression that convinced us to permit it"; or, "I'm really glad we stopped the developer adding another ten stories onto that, it would have been really oppressive but now it fits in rather well"; or, sometimes, "However were we persuaded to let someone build that?". It's also one of the best illustrations of that old adage, "You can't please all of the people, all of the time". There's a lot of subjectivity about the architecture different people like or dislike, whether they have to live, work or go to school in it or just see it every day.

Councillors have to adopt different roles and different mindsets to do different parts of our jobs. Making Planning decisions is one of those where we act in a much less unified and collective way than for many others. We have to each make up our own minds. We may help in the process of persuading each other to reach a point of view and a decision, but we are strictly forbidden from following any political party whip, or reaching a judgement before we have seen and heard all of the reasonably available evidence - and then separated out the issues that are allowed to influence a Planning decision from all of those that are not, and thought of how we can explain the reasons why we've reached that decision, to anyone who wants to challenge it.

I'm sure Councillor Leo Gibbons (whom I happen to have first met when he was quite a small boy) has thought just as deeply and carefully about his role in the Urban Planning process as I have, even at this relatively earlier stage of his career in it. He has reached his own, different conclusions and personal opinions about some parts of it. I enjoy debating the differences between us with him, and I can respect his opinions without having to agree with them all. I read the whole of the article by Cllr Gibbons to which you refer, some time before your question was passed to me. I thought that some of it was really interesting and insightful; but I disagreed strongly with the parts that (I thought) were supporting the 'algorithmic' approach now being aimed at by the current Tory Government, described in their "Planning for the Future" white paper of Autumn 2020. I was involved in drafting and completely endorse [the Council's formal and detailed response to that, a copy of which I have appended to this answer for you.](#)

The current Government Secretary of State responsible for Planning, Robert Jenrick MP, might believe that there is little or no value in local authorities - arguably more in touch with local people than he is - spending so much time and effort carefully reaching each of these decisions. Reading (or quoting) parts of the article by Cllr Gibbons, out of context of the whole of it, might lead you to believe he feels the same way as Robert Jenrick about Planning, and thinks some of his time at Planning Committees, often far too late into the night, is wasted. But I'm as sure as I can be that Cllr Gibbons has never sat next to someone at a Conservative Party fundraising dinner, had a conversation about a multi-million pound property development in which that person is involved in a London borough, accepted a large cash donation to his own political party from that person, and then personally granted Planning permission to that property development. (Neither, for the record, have I.)

I'm also absolutely sure that Leo Gibbons feels passionate about Urban Planning, as I do. If we didn't, neither of us would bother to think or write about it. The fact that we are comrades in the same party group of the same Council doesn't mean we have to think the same things about it; nor that disagreeing about it has to make us enemies. I may have a great deal more faith (despite being notoriously cynical about many things) than Leo does, that locally elected representatives *should* play a significant role in regulating development and our environment. But I also think it's important that they (we) strive to be as good at it as we possibly can be. And of course, whatever the forms of words he uses, he does not speak for anyone except himself, and he may not be very good at detecting the thought processes behind the faces of others - either around a committee table or on a computer screen. I think I may have seen the behaviour he describes a few times - and I may even have been guilty of it once or twice over so many years. As Chair of Lewisham's Strategic

Planning Committee I have made several changes to procedure and I am discussing with Council officers more ways in which we could inform, improve and structure the decision-making process by councillors - who are not meant to be Planning or architectural professionals - to minimise the formal constitutional procedural 'performance' needed and reach robust and well-reasoned decisions that are demonstrably democratic. I have high hopes that I can help to inspire Leo in the future to have as much enthusiasm for that part of his role as I do; and what we discuss and what he writes can be a valuable sounding-board of how the process works - and which parts of it don't work so well.

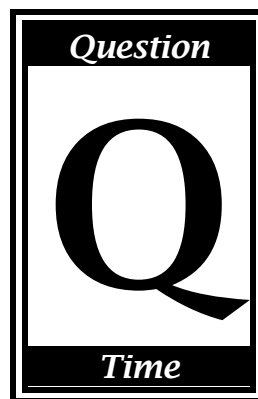
But I genuinely think that what we do in Lewisham's Planning committee meetings - informed by our impartial, professional officers and by the written and verbal evidence from those people who bravely approach us - has made countless developments better than they would have otherwise been. Sometimes by us rejecting them or deferring decisions so developers 'get the message' and can have the opportunity to negotiate substantial changes, and sometimes simply by adding conditions that either legally bind a developer to really deliver what they hint they might, or to carry out the work in a way that reduces the inevitable nuisance to neighbours, to something more tolerable. When you're talking about something that may be there, as a landmark or an eyesore, for the next 100 years, it pays to take your time.

I am awfully glad that the circumstances of my life, and the support of so many people around me have allowed me to do something like this: The family members and friends who have put up with all the time I've spent on it - and probably my grumpiness when a decision hasn't gone the way I thought it should. The Labour Party comrades who have selected me to be one of their candidates to stand for election. The voters of Perry Vale ward, and Forest Hill ward before that, who have voted to have me as one of their councillors, every time I have stood for election. The fellow councillors who have voted for me to take on the even more awesome responsibility of being Chair of one of their Planning Committees. The dedicated and really hard-working officers in our Planning Team (and the committee clerks and lawyers and IT technicians and Civic Suite attendants and all the rest who are needed too).

And most especially the many applicants and objectors who have come to make each of their cases at "the scary end of the table" - with trepidation, with enthusiasm, with passion, with anger, with homemade visual aids to show councillors just how high a wall will look, from their house. And sometimes with compelling and convincing arguments which change the minds of me, and enough of my fellow councillors, so that we see good reasons to vote against the rational and reasoned recommendations of our advisers, and explain why. And then the world is changed. Just a little bit, for the better.

I think that's far from a charade, and I'm glad I'm privileged to play such a part in it.

Appendix: [London Borough of Lewisham response to the Planning for the Future White Paper](#)



PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 54

Priority 3

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question asked by: Chris Francis

Member to reply: Councillor McGeevor

Question

On the 10th August Councillor Rathbone publicly stated

We always anticipated short term increases in the surrounding area whilst the scheme was constructed and established. The data, traffic modelling and experience from elsewhere suggests that this isn't permanent and goes away once traffic has adjusted.

Similarly I ask what exact data and modelling the Councillor is referring to that led him to 'anticipate' the move of traffic from one set of residential roads to another and what is the Councillor's exact meaning of 'short term' noting that that, according to FOI response (Reference No: 6951737) , "No 'evaluation of the validity of the comparison' was undertaken"

Reply

When a road closure is put in place, motorists will respond in different ways. Some will re-route onto alternative routes, some will change the time at which they travel, some will switch to more sustainable modes such as walking or cycling, some will change their destination, or others won't travel at all. It is therefore reasonable to expect that initially some traffic will move to other roads. We have also learned from other boroughs, such as Waltham Forest, that there has been an overall reduction in traffic as a result of the borough making residential streets safer for walking and cycling by eliminating rat-runs.

Typically short term would mean three to six months, however, the current context is complicated as a result of a volatile background of traffic patterns, the easing and tightening of lockdown restrictions and people having reduced confidence in using public transport. This means that the initial settling period may be longer than under normal circumstances.

Agenda Item 6

| COUNCIL | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| Report Title | Member Questions | |
| Key Decision | | Item No. |
| Ward | | |
| Contributors | Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee) | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: March 3 2021 |

Questions from Members of the Council

Section C, paragraph 14 of the Constitution, provides for questions relevant to the general work or procedure of the Council to be asked by Members of the Council. Copies of the questions received and the replies to them will be published as an attachment to this document on March 2 2021.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Kalu
of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Question

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement to update local residents on the future plans for Plot 21 of the Convoys Wharf development?

Reply

Plot 21 is a safeguarded wharf. The Council have consistently outlined that the safeguarded wharf status and London Plan and Local Plan policies would resist residential development on the wharf.

The developer has been advised by the Council that if they wish to consider alternative uses for the wharf, they must first present a clear and robust policy-based argument for such – this justification has not been provided and officers have therefore declined to meet to discuss the detail of a housing scheme for Plot 21.

Officers continue to encourage the developer to put forward a realistic programme of engagement, both with the Council and with the public.

QUESTION No. 2
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Curran
of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (jobshare)

Question

What possibility is there for the Council to seek a Co-operative solution to prevent the closure of The Bridge Leisure Centre in Lower Sydenham?

Reply

The Council is committed to exploring all options for the building in the future. However, there are extremely high fixed costs when opening a building of the age of the Bridge and these may be prohibitive for a co-operative solution which, presumably, would not be able to meet these costs given the lack of income to the site. Notwithstanding this Officers will consider any reasonable proposals that come forward and actively explore other options.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Ingleby
of the Cabinet Member for Children Services and School Performance

Question

Following the motion passed in November by the Council concerning 'decolonising the curriculum' which predicated the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education to call for an urgent review of the current curriculum with regard to Black and minority ethnic history, civil rights and contributions to world history, is the Council aware of LB Hackney's 'Hackney's Diverse Curriculum – the Black Contribution', which has been made available for free to all UK Boroughs?

Is Lewisham similarly exporting best practice, such as its - jointly produced with LB Greenwich in the 1990's - music teaching packs on the life, times and music of Ignatius Sancho, and any more recent materials on Olaudah Equiano more widely in the UK? How will these and other Lewisham black and minority ethnic historical and cultural resources be further highlighted and celebrated in schools and communities in the Lewisham Borough of Culture Year 2022?

Reply

I'm pleased to report that our school-led improvement partnership, Lewisham Learning, is leading on a project to embed racial equality in all our schools. Decolonising the curriculum is a key strand in this work. The project leaders are aware of the Hackney resources and are raising awareness of them in our schools alongside other high quality resources produced by other organisations.

I look forward – post-Lockdown – to a proper launch to showcase this exciting project. But already several schools in Lewisham have been developing similar resources localised to Lewisham and have been sharing them with other schools. The steering group believes that these resources should be properly curated and uploaded to our resources page as soon as possible and they are working on this now. The embedding

racial equality project is also developing training packages and resources and we will ensure that the best of these are published for others to benefit from.

Three significant initiatives currently underway around the theme of decolonising the curriculum for this year are;

- A decolonising the curriculum conference for Lewisham schools
- A large-scale drama project based on the migration stories of Lewisham residents
- The development of an audit tool to help schools identify the strengths and areas to develop in decolonising the curriculum.

The project has representatives on the borough of culture planning group and these ideas are being fed into that.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Holland
of the Cabinet Member for Children Services and School Performance

Question

Following national secondary offer day on 1st March please could we have update on the numbers of families choosing Lewisham schools and how this compares to previous years?

Reply

In a year like no other, it's been disappointing that circumstances have made it difficult for parents and children to see first-hand what Lewisham's schools have to offer, by visiting as would normally be the case.

Nevertheless, with secondary National Offer Day fast approaching, I'm pleased to see a modest increase in the number of 1st preferences made by Lewisham families for Lewisham secondary schools. As the table below shows, for September 2021 there are currently 1650 first preference applications, This increases to 1819 when we include Out of Borough and late for good reason applications. It is also encouraging that eight secondary schools have had their first preference numbers increase year on year and that on National Offer Day 12 out of the 14 schools will have places fully allocated.

Looking at all six preferences, there is however a dip in the number of overall preferences.

| Applications for intake year | 1st Preference | 2nd Preference | 3rd Preference | 4th Preference | 5th Preference | 6th Preference | Grand Total |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 2020 (Lewisham residents only) | 1618 | 1393 | 1280 | 963 | 796 | 637 | 6744 |
| 2021 (Lewisham resident only) | 1650 | 1336 | 1183 | 901 | 695 | 572 | 6337 |
| 2021 (including Out of Borough) | 1819 | 1514 | 1400 | 1127 | 888 | 727 | 7475 |

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Elliott
of the Cabinet Member for Children Services and School Performance

Question

The 2018 Timpson review of School exclusions, commissioned by the Secretary of State for Education, found that children from certain ethnic groups, as well as children with special educational needs (SEN), or those eligible for free school meals (FSM), were more likely to experience exclusion.

The Department for Education's commissioned independent literature review - Schools exclusions: a literature review on the continued disproportionate exclusion of certain children, published in 2019, also found that Black Caribbean boys, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children are 'more likely to be excluded...' It also included those eligible for free school meals.

Can you provide an update on the number of permanent and temporary exclusions for all Lewisham schools, from 2016 to date, along with a breakdown of their ethnicity, gender, those identified as having SEN and those eligible for free school meals?

Reply

Exclusion from school is a serious sanction. Only the headteacher of a school can exclude a child and this must be on disciplinary grounds. The number of permanent exclusions in recent years has been a concern, both in Lewisham and nationally. That is why the Council's Corporate Strategy includes as a priority working with schools and parents to reduce exclusions.

We are encouraged by the progress schools have made in recent years in reducing permanent exclusions – in school year 2015/16 there were 78 permanent exclusions from Lewisham schools, the highest in London. In 2018/19 (the last published DfE figures), this had fallen to 22. Local data for 2019/20 shows a further reduction to 17, a fall of 78 per cent since 2015/16.

The table below provides detailed figures from annual figures published by the Department for Education on Lewisham's:

- Fixed term exclusions (numbers)
- Permanent exclusions (numbers)
- Ethnicity (numbers)
- Gender (numbers)
- Special education need (numbers) – with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or SEN support.
- Free school meal (FSM) eligibility (numbers)

The table includes data for the academic year 2015-16 and up to 2018-19 (last published data).

| Academic Year | | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total | Permanent exclusions | 78 | 64 | 50 | 22 |
| | Fixed period exclusions | 1,670 | 1,832 | 1,603 | 1,847 |
| Ethnicity | | | | | |
| Any Other Ethnic Group | Fixed period exclusions | 32 | 25 | 17 | 15 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Any other Asian background | Fixed period exclusions | 13 | 12 | 7 | 18 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Any other Mixed background | Fixed period exclusions | 64 | 69 | 75 | 91 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 5 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Any other black background | Fixed period exclusions | 108 | 113 | 117 | 110 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other white background | Fixed period exclusions | 50 | 60 | 50 | 78 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 0 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| Bangladeshi | Fixed period exclusions | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Black African | Fixed period exclusions | 384 | 395 | 269 | 351 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 15 | 9 | 10 | 5 |
| Black Caribbean | Fixed period exclusions | 491 | 581 | 448 | 520 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 28 | 25 | 15 | 6 |
| Chinese | Fixed period exclusions | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gypsy Roma | Fixed period exclusions | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Indian | Fixed period exclusions | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Irish | Fixed period exclusions | 9 | 10 | 4 | 5 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Pakistani | Fixed period exclusions | 3 | 11 | 2 | 2 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Permanent exclusions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Traveller of Irish heritage | Fixed period exclusions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| White British | Fixed period exclusions | 276 | 255 | 325 | 320 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 14 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| White and Asian | Fixed period exclusions | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| White and Black African | Fixed period exclusions | 32 | 43 | 52 | 56 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| White and Black Caribbean | Fixed period exclusions | 98 | 159 | 150 | 156 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| Free school meals | | | | | |
| FSM – Eligible | Fixed period exclusions | 631 | 636 | 561 | 663 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 28 | 22 | 18 | 6 |
| Gender | | | | | |
| Gender female | Fixed period exclusions | 451 | 561 | 535 | 530 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 18 | 15 | 16 | 10 |
| Gender male | Fixed period exclusions | 1,219 | 1,271 | 1,068 | 1,317 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 60 | 49 | 34 | 12 |
| SEN and SEN support | | | | | |
| SEN provision - SEN with EHCP | Fixed period exclusions | 119 | 120 | 139 | 180 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| SEN provision - SEN Support | Fixed period exclusions | 641 | 634 | 523 | 573 |
| | Permanent exclusions | 27 | 17 | 9 | 6 |

QUESTION No. 6
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Jacq Paschoud
of the Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability

Question

Can the Cabinet Member outline the actions taking place to ensure that the May elections will be as safe as possible for both our residents and our polling day staff?

Reply

The Returning Officer and her electoral services team have made the following preparations:

- Participated in the review of 'normal' electoral practices in light of the pandemic, with the Electoral Commission, the Cabinet Office and the Association of Electoral Administrators
- Risk assessment of the polling station voting process and polling places
- Consultation with PHE and health & safety officers
- Large scale postal vote encouragement campaign – reaching out to all electors to recommend voting by post
- Procurement of thousands of items of PPE, sanitiser fluid and Perspex screens
- Early production of postal vote materials to enable us to meet the expected demand of postal votes

A number of practical changes in the set-up and management of the voting process in polling stations are currently being developed to focus on resident and staff safety, including:

- Compulsory face coverings, unless exempt
- Limit on number of voters and staff inside a station at any time (exact number dependent on the size and layout of the polling station)
- Socially distanced and one-way system inside the station

- Socially distanced markers outside polling places and staff to manage the queues
- Sanitiser stations at the entrance and exit of polling places
- Single-use pencils for all voters
- Regular cleaning of all touchpoints
- Staff sat at individual desks, with screens, medical grade masks and visors
- Masks available for voters who forget to bring their own
- Teams of mobile staff to assist at stations where large queues develop

We will also be changing the staffing and management of the opening of postal votes, including:

- Separation of the team into 4 separate bubbles that will be kept apart throughout the whole election, to enable resilience
- Increase in number of staff and number of sessions, to cope with a greater number of postal votes
- Regular testing of all staff – twice a week

Notwithstanding all these safety precautions, we still believe postal voting is the safest way for residents to participate in these elections. All electors are entitled to vote by post and can download an application at <https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/elections/voting/how-to-vote-by-post-or-proxy>

The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Tuesday 20 April.

QUESTION No. 7
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Campbell
of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Question

I'm pleased to note that Lewisham now has five Covid-19 testing centres in operation across the borough, with plenty of volunteer support. Would you let me know what challenges and learning you have on the roll out or opening the five testing centres?

How many people in Lewisham have received the vaccine across the borough: I'd be interested to note the numbers that fall into the four priority categories?

There have been some concerns raised that people from African, African Caribbean and Asian communities have been reluctant to take the vaccine; has the Council identified strategies to increase the uptake of the vaccine across these and other demographics including disabled people?

How does Lewisham's vaccine uptake compare to the boroughs within the same Integrated Care System?

Reply

The public test centres open across the borough are a mix of test centres for symptomatic individuals, and rapid test centres for members of the public who are not displaying symptoms and need to leave home for work or to volunteer in the community.

The rapid test centres have been set up by Lewisham Council under the community testing programme. Since opening the first site on the 6th January, over 10,000 tests have been conducted. The success of the test centres is testament to the hard work of staff who have been redeployed from across the Council to run and manage the test centres.

There have been many learnings from the experience of setting up and running the centres. Early on, we had to quickly adapt our approach to rapid testing in light of the

national lockdown, responding to new guidelines and adjusting our communications appropriately.

The largest challenge has been mobilising in a very short period of time. The first test centre was opened 12 working days following confirmation of the rapid test roll-out. There have been logistical challenges of setting up multiple centres to run safely and within clinical guidelines. We have also had to mobilise, train and sustain a workforce. This has meant the creation of 21 new jobs, and the redeployment of 18 council staff (10 FTE).

The rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination programme is being led by the NHS with the Council offering support where possible. Over 45,000 people registered with a Lewisham GP have now been vaccinated.

Percentage uptake by age/priority group in Lewisham was as follows, as of 22 February:

| Lewisham | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 80+ | 77.5% |
| 75-79 | 78.3% |
| 70-74 | 76.4% |
| Clinically extremely vulnerable | 50.37% |
| 65-69 | 64.98% |

This data changes on a daily basis as more vaccinations are administered.

Percentage uptake by age/priority group (segmented by ethnicity) across South East London as a whole was as follows, as of 22 February:

| Cohort | Ethnic Group | Eligible Individuals (cohort 1-4) | First Dose | % Vaccinated / Eligible First Dose |
|--------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 80+ | African | 1,992 | 961 | 48% |
| | Asian | 3,058 | 2,354 | 77% |
| | Caribbean | 4,358 | 2,303 | 53% |
| | Mixed | 760 | 492 | 65% |
| | White | 44,819 | 39,636 | 88% |
| | Other | 6,471 | 3,948 | 61% |
| | Total | 61,458 | 49,694 | 81% |
| 70-74 | African | 2,749 | 1,262 | 46% |
| | Asian | 3,525 | 2,658 | 75% |
| | Caribbean | 2,092 | 960 | 46% |
| | Mixed | 711 | 405 | 57% |
| | White | 42,338 | 36,450 | 86% |
| | Other | 7,592 | 4,740 | 62% |
| | Total | 59,007 | 46,475 | 79% |
| 75-79 | African | 1,847 | 903 | 49% |
| | Asian | 2,433 | 1,905 | 78% |
| | Caribbean | 2,101 | 1,117 | 53% |
| | Mixed | 554 | 359 | 65% |
| | White | 29,607 | 26,108 | 88% |
| | Other | 5,002 | 3,333 | 67% |
| | Total | 41,544 | 33,725 | 81% |
| CEV | African | 5,843 | 2,509 | 43% |
| | Asian | 3,416 | 2,457 | 72% |
| | Caribbean | 4,226 | 1,708 | 40% |
| | Mixed | 1,496 | 769 | 51% |
| | White | 37,880 | 30,213 | 80% |
| | Other | 6,419 | 3,543 | 55% |
| | Total | 59,280 | 41,199 | 69% |

South East London CCG colleagues have worked with Lewisham Council to produce a borough vaccination plan, which includes work to ensure that vaccination uptake is maximised across all priority groups. To inform the plan, a specific review of existing

evidence to increase COVID-19 vaccination uptake in Black and Asian ethnic groups was performed and specific actions on this have been included in the borough plan.

The table below shows how vaccination uptake in Lewisham compares to other South East London boroughs, as of 22 February.

| | 80 and over | 75-79 | 70-74 | CEV | 65-69 |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bexley | 92.4% | 91.7% | 90.6% | 70.40% | 79.97% |
| Bromley | 92.0% | 91.7% | 90.3% | 76.16% | 80.81% |
| Greenwich | 85.7% | 84.6% | 83.1% | 56.48% | 73.33% |
| Lambeth | 72.9% | 74.1% | 72.5% | 47.67% | 61.49% |
| Lewisham | 77.5% | 78.3% | 76.4% | 50.37% | 64.98% |
| Southwark | 72.4% | 73.3% | 74.5% | 45.56% | 63.04% |
| SEL | 84.6% | 84.4% | 83.0% | 56.1% | 71.4% |

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Krupski
of the Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability

Question

In March 2020 due to the Covid-19 crisis the refugee resettlement programme was stopped. There was due to be a new scheme starting this year to settle a further 5,000 refugees that has also been put on hold. Please can you inform us as to how Lewisham is addressing this and what we intend to do to continue to welcome refugees into our borough, something that has been done so successfully up until last year?

Reply

Lewisham has so far welcomed 30 refugee families since 2017 under the existing UK resettlement scheme (with 27 still remaining in borough). This is currently the highest number welcomed by any London borough and before the Covid-19 pandemic stuck last year we were on track to meet our commitment to welcome 100 additional families by 2022.

Our families have arrived as part of the Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), a Home Office scheme which aims to resettle 20,000 refugees of the Syrian conflict in the UK. The VPRS was due to be completed in 2020 to be followed with a replacement global resettlement scheme

Due to suspension of new arrivals in March 2020, the target of welcoming 20,000 refugees under the VPRS was not achieved.

We had seven families waiting to be resettled in Lewisham when Home Office suspended new arrivals.

During the suspension of arrivals we have focused on:

1. Supporting families already living in Lewisham stay safe, continue to integrate into their community and are encouraged towards independence;
2. Making improvements to Lewisham's Refugee Resettlement programme;

3. Lobbying Home Office and wider UK Government to begin new arrivals.

Throughout we have held regular meetings with Home Office to better understand the criteria for re-starting resettlement, however, we became increasingly frustrated as other countries began resume their respective resettlement schemes and more people were attempting dangerous crossings to the UK.

On 6 November 2020, we authored and coordinated a pan-London letter to the Home Secretary, emphasising the willingness and capacity of London local authorities to continue to resettle refugees and the humanitarian case for doing so.

This has resulted in some qualified success. Within days of receiving our letter, November 2020 Home Office committed to resettling 232 families in the UK, in order to reach the 20,000 target for resettling victims of the Syrian conflict.

Of these 232 families, four families were previously referred to Lewisham Council as part of the seven families due for arrival in March 2020. These four families are being resettled in Yorkshire.

On 3rd February 2021, three families were referred to Lewisham for resettlement. We have accepted these cases and are aiming to house them in Lewisham in week commencing 12th April.

Next steps

We are currently completing the logistics to ensure that we can welcome the three families, including organising accommodation and making sure arrivals can be Covid-safe.

The Home Office has so far committed only to reaching its target of settling 20,000 people via VPRS and resettling those it had already referred in March 2020. Any other form of refugee resettlement remains suspended pending the Government's general review of refugee resettlement apparently due to start later this year.

This is unacceptable. The success of VPRS has shown that refugee resettlement can and should continue while the general review is undertaken. We continue to lobby Home Office strongly in this regard.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Rathbone
of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Question

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the allocation of TfL LIP funding for Lewisham and how this can be used to build a greener borough?

Reply

Transport for London (TfL) suspended the usual Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding for all boroughs in spring 2020. Lewisham Council are reliant on this funding to deliver the majority of our transport programme. Instead funding was only available to deliver schemes as part of the London Streetspace Plan.

Late last year, TfL started to reinstate a limited amount of this funding, however, the Council did not receive notification of its full allocations until January 2021. This makes delivering the remainder of the programme within a short space of time incredibly challenging. Using this funding we are seeking to progress a range of schemes that are in alignment with our [transport strategy and local implementation plan 2019–2041 \(LIP3\)](#). This includes additional school streets, pedestrian improvements, the re-starting of the 20mph compliance programme, a cycle route link, further cycle hangars, further Electric Vehicle Charging Points, proposals aimed at making children's journeys to school safer and healthier within the LTN and other complementary measures, some interim measures as part of the Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhoods programme, and a range of road safety education initiatives. All of these measures contribute to encouraging people to use sustainable and active travel and making Lewisham greener.

TfL will be seeking to reinstate LIP funding in full from 2021/22, subject to the DfT agreeing a funding deal. This would enable the Council to return to its intended LIP3 programme, but with adjustments to take account of the schemes that have been delivered over the past year and any lessons learnt.

QUESTION No. 10
Priority 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Question

How many public health funerals, known as paupers' funerals, has the Council conducted and what is the total cost for the last three years that figures are available?

Reply

The total costs requested are in the middle column (expenditure) however some are offset against income we are able to find subsequently through property searches and the deceased person's estate therefore the net costs column highlights the actual annual costs to the Council.

| | Funerals - Number | Expenditure | Income | Net costs |
|----------|----------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| YEAR | | | | |
| 2017-18 | 69 | £54,675 | £40,296 | £14,379 |
| 2018-19 | 67 | £45,013 | £29,728 | £15,285 |
| 2019-20 | 83 | £68,617 | £50,041 | £18,576 |
| 2021 T/D | 74 | £68,013 | £35,257 | £32,756 |

QUESTION No. 11
Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Campbell
of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Question

How are we using Environmental Health Officers to support the contact tracing as they'd have experience of this type of work?

Reply

A number of Environmental Health Officers with previous experience of Infectious Disease investigation and control have been trained and are available as a 'surge capacity' for contract tracing if needed. This arrangement was agreed between the Director of Public Health and Head of Environmental Health. Officers within Environmental Health and still undertaking other statutory duties including providing advice and enforcement around the Coronavirus legislation. Officers within Environmental Health are also assisting the Public Health team around complex situations and where workplaces have COVID-19 confirmed cases.

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Krupski
of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

Question

In comparison to other neighbouring boroughs we are lagging behind in terms of our segregated cycle lane provision. Not including TfL controlled roads, since the last London Mayoral election we have only built 300m, whereas Lambeth has built just over 4km, Southwark 5km and Greenwich just under 2km. While the distances of the other boroughs are not awe inspiring, to say the least, they are significantly better than Lewisham's and it is startling that we have not built anything to completion since 2016. Please can you give us some indication as to how this is going to be remedied into the future and we show a proper commitment to safe segregated cycling where it is desperately needed. Thank you.

Reply

Since 2016, the borough has delivered a programme of Cycleways in conjunction with TfL. The route alignments are agreed with TfL based on an analysis of cycling demand, with priority given to those routes that have the highest demand. Each route then goes through a process where interventions are developed in alignment with the London Cycling Design Standards. Routes with relatively low traffic volumes will not require a dedicated cycle lanes.

Pre-lockdown officers had been working in conjunction with TfL to bring forward further safer cycleway schemes through the emerging Healthy Neighbourhood programme. However, this component of the work was subsequently put on hold. Similarly, officers had been progressing work on Cycleway 4 along Evelyn Street, a route along the A21 and the A2 pre COVID, but this work had all been put on hold based on TfL guidance at the time. Officers will be looking to restart this work in conjunction with TfL when TfL budgets allow for this.

As part of the London Streetspace programme officers undertook initial feasibility work on a number of pop up cycle lane schemes, as shown on the Commonplace website. However, at the time of assessment, none were considered to be viable under the strict criteria stipulated by TfL, which included ensuring a minimum width of continuous cycle lane, and no civil works such as kerb realignments. However, this work can be revisited as part of the Cycleways/LIP programme with a view to increasing cycling provision in the borough. However, this will need to be assessed against competing priorities within the budget available.

QUESTION No. 13
Priority 2

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Question

How much is the Repairs and Maintenance budget for Lewisham Homes? Please give the last five years figures and include the projected budget for 2021/2.

Reply

The repairs and maintenance budget and expenditure for 2015/16 to 2020/21 is outlined in the below table. Also included is the projected budget for 2021/22.

| <u>Housing Revenue Account Budget and Actuals</u> | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
| Budget Allocation | | | | | | | |
| Lewisham Homes properties | 16,249,000.00 | 15,003,000.00 | 15,162,000.00 | 15,303,000.00 | 15,174,397.00 | 15,379,800.00 | 14,687,000.00 |
| HRA Hostel accommodation | 360,000.00 | 375,000.00 | 383,000.00 | 390,000.00 | 691,603.00 | 715,200.00 | 408,000.00 |
| Total Allocation | 16,609,000.00 | 15,378,000.00 | 15,545,000.00 | 15,693,000.00 | 15,866,000.00 | 16,095,000.00 | 15,095,000.00 |
| Actual Expenditure | | | | | | | |
| Lewisham Homes properties | 13,703,113.60 | 13,410,563.12 | 14,891,132.32 | 18,063,810.10 | 13,578,425.50 | 14,379,800.00 | |
| HRA Hostel accommodation | 459,190.20 | 580,923.83 | 534,260.09 | 728,163.16 | 425,241.48 | 715,200.00 | |
| Total Expenditure | 14,162,303.80 | 13,991,486.95 | 15,425,392.41 | 18,791,973.26 | 14,003,666.98 | 15,095,000.00 | |

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

Question

How does the Council discharge its duties in relation to Best Value?

Reply

The Council fulfils and discharges this duty in a number of ways. These include, but are not limited to:

- The use of a clear decision-making framework, set out in the Constitution, to ensure all policy and service changes are considered and consulted on – for example, the current three year voluntary sector main grants programme;
- The adoption of a framework for fairly and openly assessing social value as part of all contracting and commissioning activity;
- Our registration under the Ethical Care charter, the Co-operative Party Charter against Modern Slavery and our publication of a Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement to ensure good practice contracting with all suppliers and partners;
- In considering service configuration, the Corporate Strategy has a presumption to insource as a required option;
- Tendering activity is published in advance on the national Contracts Finder site and locally via the key decision plan to ensure all potential bidders can access Council opportunities;
- All key decision reports, for the Executive or under delegation, include options and risks for the decision maker supported with legal, financial, equalities, and environmental implications; and
- The Council has an identified member of Cabinet responsible for overseeing relations with the Voluntary and Community Sectors.

There will be many other examples across the wide range of services the Council provides and for which, in line with the corporate strategy, the Council is proud and continues to work closely with its partners, including those in the voluntary and community sectors, to secure continuous improvement.

Best Value is also considered by the Council's external auditors in determining their value for money conclusion on the Council's activities as part of their opinion on the financial statements. The Council received an unqualified value for money conclusion on its latest audited accounts (2019/20).

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Question

Can the Cabinet Member publish the Covid-19 vaccination data - uptake figures - for Lewisham and/or the SE London area?

Reply

The rollout of the Covid-19 vaccination programme is being led by the NHS with the Council offering support where possible. Over 45,000 people registered with a Lewisham GP have now been vaccinated.

Percentage uptake by age/priority group in Lewisham as of 22 February was as follows:

| Lewisham | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 80+ | 77.5% |
| 75-79 | 78.3% |
| 70-74 | 76.4% |
| Clinically extremely vulnerable | 50.37% |
| 65-69 | 64.98% |

This data changes on a daily basis as more vaccinations are administered.

The table below shows how vaccination uptake in Lewisham compares to other South East London boroughs, as of 22 February.

| | 80 and over | 75-79 | 70-74 | CEV | 65-69 |
|------------|-------------|-------|-------|--------|--------------|
| Bexley | 92.4% | 91.7% | 90.6% | 70.40% | 79.97% |
| Bromley | 92.0% | 91.7% | 90.3% | 76.16% | 80.81% |
| Greenwich | 85.7% | 84.6% | 83.1% | 56.48% | 73.33% |
| Lambeth | 72.9% | 74.1% | 72.5% | 47.67% | 61.49% |
| Lewisham | 77.5% | 78.3% | 76.4% | 50.37% | 64.98% |
| Southwark | 72.4% | 73.3% | 74.5% | 45.56% | 63.04% |
| SEL | 84.6% | 84.4% | 83.0% | 56.1% | 71.4% |

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

3 MARCH 2021

Question by Councillor Hall
of the Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refuges and Accountability

Question

Following the consultation on the Lewisham Characterisation Study the responses were considered, a separate document 'Responses to the Characterisation' is mentioned on the Council's website, will the document be uploaded to the relevant page?

Reply

Following the public consultation in 2019 on the Lewisham Characterisation Study the Council collated all responses and prepared a consultation response to outline how those responses had been considered in the final document.

As part of the reorganisation of evidence base documents on our website for the Local Plan, this document appears to have been missed. We will seek to upload this as soon as possible.



Council

Report title: 2021/22 Budget Report

Date: 03 March 2021

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Executive Director for Corporate Resources

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to set out the overall financial position of the Council in relation to 2020/21 and to set the Budget for 2021/22. This report allows the Council Tax to be agreed and housing rents to be set for 2021/22. It sets the Capital Programme for the next three years and the Council's Treasury Strategy for 2021/22.

The report also provides summary information on the revenue budget cut proposals that were presented at Mayor & Cabinet on the 9 December 2020 and the 3 February 2021. The approval and successful delivery of these cuts is required in order to help balance the budget for 2021/22 and prepare to address the budget requirement for 2022/23.

Council is asked to consider the recommendations listed in this report at section 2.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

The 2021/22 Budget Report was presented to Mayor and Cabinet on the 3 February 2021 and the Budget Update Report on the 10 February.

The first round of 2021/22 Revenue Budget cuts were approved by Mayor and Cabinet on the 9 December 2020.

The second round of 2021/22 Revenue Budget cuts were presented to Mayor and Cabinet on the 3 February 2021.

The Council Tax Base was approved by Council on the 20 January 2021,

1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out the context and range of budget assumptions which Council is required to agree to enable it set a balanced budget for 2021/22. These include the following:

1.2 General Fund

- In respect of the General Fund, the assumed net revenue expenditure budget is £243.100m. This is made up of provisional Settlement Funding from government of £123.304m (revenue support grant and business rates), forecast Council Tax receipts including an increase in Council Tax of 4.99%, an estimated deficit in the Collection Fund from a reduction in the eligible Council Tax base and lower collection rates (both due to the impacts of Covid-19), and similar deficits in business rates collection offset by including a share of the growth from the pilot London Business Rates Pool retained in prior years.
- The changes to the prior year General Fund position to meet the 2021/22 net revenue budget of £243.100m are proposed on the basis of the following assumptions:
 - £28.016m of revenue budget cuts have been agreed for 2021/22, of which £10.000m are to address persistent service overspending pressures and £18.016m will be a reduction in Directorate cash limits;
 - £6.500m of corporate budget for risks and pressures in 2020/21 and the £1.500 gain from the reduced cost of concessionary fares, of which it is being recommended that the full £8.000m of specific identified budget pressures be funded from the start of the year;
 - An assumed 4.99% increase in Band D Council Tax for Lewisham's services for 2021/22; including the 1.99% increase in the core Council Tax as announced in the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and 3% increase for the Social Care precept.

1.3 Grants

- In addition to the Public Health grant, the Council will continue to receive the other main grants - New Homes Bonus, Better Care Fund, improved Better Care Fund (including winter pressures), and Social Care Grant as part of the one year settlement for 2021/22. In respect of the £2.4m of additional social care grant it is proposed this is put towards the recognised risks and pressures for 2021/22 in Children Social Care.

1.4 Medium Term Financial Outlook

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- The report looks to the medium term financial outlook and notes the prospects for the budget in 2021/22, cuts required, and the continued work by officers to meet identified potential budget shortfalls in future years. These are estimated at circa £26m over the following three years, 2022/23 to 2024/25. Against this target £13m of cuts have been identified as part of the cuts being considered for this budget. The report provides an update on the Government's review of relative needs and resources which now has the revised later implementation date of 1 April 2022.

1.5 Schools

- Schools Funding - The provisional 2021/22 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation is £313.60m, an increase of £17.32m on the 2020/21 budget. However, circa £9.06m of this increase relates to the Teachers' Pension and Pay Award grant (TPPG), which has been streamlined into the DSG, and is not additional funding, meaning that the net growth is £8.26m or 2.8%.
- Special Needs Funding - Net increase in High Needs Block of £5.99m for 2021/22 following additional funding from government, but that this remains under extreme pressure and a £1.068m transfer from the DSG was agreed by Schools Forum.
- Early Years Funding - Increase of 6p per hour for 3 and 4 year olds, and 8p per hours for 2 year olds, and supplementary funding to support the two Lewisham nursery schools for September 2021 to March 2022 is subject to change and has not yet been finalised.
- Pupil Premium - funding rates will remain the same as at present and the final allocation will be advised following the 2020 January Census. For reference the allocation for 2020/21 was £14.624m

1.6 Housing

- A proposed rent increase of 1.5% (an average of £1.46 per week) in respect of dwelling rents, 1.5% (average £0.53 per week) in respect of hostels, and a range of other proposed changes to service charges. The proposed annual expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account is £269.9m, including the capital and new build programme, for 2021/22;

1.7 Treasury

- The report updates the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for both borrowing and investments. The proposed approach and levels of risk the Council takes in its Treasury functions remain prudent in line with last year, and officers continue to explore alternative investment options and further opportunities to undertake debt restructuring in order to reduce balance sheet risk and best fund the capital plans set out. As noted in the capital plans, these are being reviewed in light of the Council's recovery planning from Covid-19 and the treasury requirements will be updated in-line with any revisions to the capital programme.

1.8 Capital

- The proposed Capital Programme (General Fund and Housing Revenue Account) budget for 2021/22 to 2023/24 of £556.3m, of which £223.0m is for 2021/22;

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council approves the recommendations shown below in respect of the 2021/22 Budget;
- 2.2 That, having considered the views of those consulted on the budget, and subject to proper process, as required, Council:

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- 2.3 note the projected overall variance of £3.2m (or 1.3%) against the agreed 2020/21 revenue budget of £248.714m as set out in section 6 of this report and that any year-end overspend will be met from corporate reserves and provisions;
- 2.4 endorse the budget cut proposals of £28.016m as per the Mayor and Cabinet meetings of the 9 December 2020 and 3 February 2020, as set out in section 6 of the report and summarised in Appendix Y1 and Y2;
- 2.5 agree the allocation of £6.500m in 2021/22 be set aside and use of £1.500m reduced contribution for concessionary fares for corporate risks and pressures;
- 2.6 agree the allocation of £19.685m of corporate risks and pressures, social care precept, new homes bonus, social care grant, lower tier grant and legacy s31 monies in 2021/22 to be invested in funding quantified budget pressures and opportunities, both recurring and once-off as set out in section 6;
- 2.7 agrees a General Fund Budget Requirement of £243.100m for 2021/22 be approved;
- 2.8 agree to a 4.99% increase in Lewisham's Council Tax element. This will result in a Band D equivalent Council Tax level of £1,379.96 for Lewisham's services and £1,743.62 overall. This represents an overall increase in Council Tax for 2021/22 of 5.91% and is subject to the GLA precept for 2021/22 being increased by £31.59 (i.e. 9.5%) from £332.07 to £363.66, in line with the GLA's draft budget proposals;
- 2.9 note the Council Tax Ready Reckoner which for illustrative purposes sets out the Band D equivalent Council Tax at various levels of increase. This is explained in section 6 of the report and is set out in more detail in Appendix Y4;
- 2.10 approve the Executive Director for Corporate Resources Section 25 Statement at Appendix Y5;
- 2.11 agree the draft statutory calculations for 2021/22 as set out at Appendix Y6;
- 2.12 note the prospects for the revenue budget for 2021/22 and future years as set out in section 6;

Other Grants (within the General Fund)

- 2.13 note the adjustments to and impact of various specific grants for 2021/22 on the General Fund as set out in section 7 of this report;

Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium

Schools Block

- 2.14 notes that the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation of £222.769m be the Schools' Budget (Schools Block) for 2021/22;
- 2.15 agrees, (as recommended by Schools Forum) the once-off transfer £1.068m of Dedicated Schools Grant to the High Needs Block and the set aside of £1.24m to support schools through measures such as the growth fund and the falling rolls fund;

Central Schools Services Block (CSSB)

- 2.16 note the construct and allocation of £4.261m for the CSSB block allocation for 2021/22;

High Needs Block (HNB)

- 2.17 note the provisional High Needs Block £62.4m to support the Council's statutory duty with regards Special Education Needs. This is a net increase of £5.99m relative to 2020/21;

Early Years Block (EYB)

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- 2.18 notes the provisional Dedicated Schools Grant allocation of £24.17m to the block;
Pupil Premium
- 2.19 notes that the pupil premium will continue in the 2021/22 financial year. The funding rates in the year will be same as 2020/21 but the census date has changed to January.

Housing Revenue Account

- 2.20 notes the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders in the Brockley area, presented to area panel members on 16 December 2020, as attached at Appendix X2;
- 2.21 notes the consultation report on service charges to tenants' and leaseholders and the Lewisham Homes budget strategy presented to area panel members on 17 December 2020 as attached at Appendix X3;
- 2.22 sets an increase in dwelling rents of 1.5% (an average of £1.46 per week) – as per the formula rent calculations outlined in section 9 of this report;
- 2.23 sets an increase in the hostels accommodation charge by 1.5% (or £0.53 per week), in accordance with formula rent calculations;
- 2.24 approves the following average weekly increases/decreases for dwellings for:
- 2.24.1 service charges to non-Lewisham Homes managed dwellings (Brockley) to ensure full cost recovery and 2.1% inflationary uplift for 2021/22;
- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|
| • caretaking | 2.10% | (£0.66) |
| • grounds | 2.10% | (£0.80) |
| • communal lighting | 2.10% | (£0.06) |
| • bulk waste collection | 2.10% | (£0.03) |
| • window cleaning | 2.10% | (£0.00) |
| • tenants' levy | 0% | (£0.00) |
- 2.24.2 service charges to Lewisham Homes managed dwellings:
- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| • caretaking | 1.99% | (£0.13) |
| • grounds | 1.94% | (£0.04) |
| • window cleaning | 26.00% | (£0.02) |
| • communal lighting | 2.55% | (£0.03) |
| • block pest control | 2.20% | (£0.04) |
| • waste collection | 23.20% | (£0.11) |
| • heating & hot water | 1.62% | (£0.17) |
| • tenants' levy | 0% | (£0.00) |
| • bulk waste disposal | 0.00% | (£0.00) |
| • sheltered housing | 0.00% | (£0.00) |
- 2.25 approves the following average weekly percentage changes for hostels and shared temporary units for;
- service charges (hostels) – caretaking etc.; no change

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- energy cost increases for heat, light & power; no change
 - water charges increase; no change
- 2.26 approves an increase in garage rents by 1.1% (£0.17 per week) for Brockley and Lewisham Homes residents;
- 2.27 notes that the budgeted expenditure for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2021/22 is £269.9m, split £117.1m revenue and £152.8m capital, which includes the decent homes and new build programmes;
- 2.28 agrees the HRA budget strategy cut proposals in order to achieve a balanced budget in 2021/21, as attached at Appendix X1;

Treasury Management Strategy

- 2.29 approves the prudential indicators and treasury indicators, as set out in section 10 of this report;
- 2.30 approves the Annual Investment Strategy and Creditworthiness Policy, set out in further detail at Appendix Z2;
- 2.31 approves the update to the Investment Strategy as set out in section 10 of this report, namely to allow investment in UK building societies with a minimum credit rating of BBB- from Fitch (or equivalent) for up to 3 months, and no more than £10m per institution;
- 2.32 note that the Capital Strategy 2021/22 will be brought forward during the year;
- 2.33 approves the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy as set out in section 10 of this report;
- 2.34 agrees to delegate to the Executive Director of Corporate Resources authority during 2021/22 to make amendments to borrowing and investment limits provided they are consistent with the strategy and there is no change to the Council's authorised limit for borrowing;
- 2.35 approves the overall credit and counterparty risk management criteria, as set out at Appendix Z2, the proposed countries for investment at Appendix Z3, and that it formally delegates responsibility for managing transactions with those institutions which meet the criteria to the Executive Director for Corporate Resources;
- 2.36 approves a minimum sovereign rating of AA- for non-UK investments;

Capital Programme

- 2.37 notes the 2020/21 Quarter 3 Capital Programme monitoring position and the Capital Programme potential future schemes and resources as set out in section 11 of this report;
- 2.38 notes the significant proposed rise in prudential borrowing of more than £308m by 2023/24, primarily to fund the Building for Lewisham programme capital plans;
- 2.39 approves the 2021/22 to 2023/24 Capital Programme of £556.3m, as set out in section 11 of this report and attached at Appendices W1 and W2.

3. Policy Context

3.1 The Council's strategy and priorities drive the Budget with changes in resource allocation determined in accordance with policies and strategy. The Council launched its new Corporate Strategy in 2019, with seven corporate priorities as stated below:

Corporate Priorities

- **Open Lewisham** - Lewisham will be a place where diversity and cultural heritage is recognised as a strength and is celebrated.
- **Tackling the housing crisis** - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.
- **Giving children and young people the best start in life** - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.
- **Building and inclusive local economy** - Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.
- **Delivering and defending health, social care and support** - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.
- **Making Lewisham greener** - Everyone enjoys our green spaces, and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.
- **Building safer communities** - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

Values

3.2 Values are critical to the Council's role as an employer, regulator, and securer of services and steward of public funds. The Council's values shape interactions and behaviours across the organisational hierarchy, between officers, and members, between the council and partners and between the council and citizens. In taking forward the Council's Budget Strategy, we are guided by the Council's four core values:

- We put service to the public first.
- We respect all people and all communities.
- We invest in employees.
- We are open, honest, and fair in all we do.

3.3 As noted in the 2020/21 budget, the Council's strong and resilient framework for prioritising action has served the organisation well in the face of austerity and on-going cuts to local government spending. This continues to mean, that even in the face of the most daunting financial challenges facing the Council and its partners, we continue to work alongside our communities to achieve more than we could by simply working alone.

3.4 This joint endeavour helps work through complex challenges, such as the pressures faced by health and social care services, and to secure investment in the borough, for new homes, school improvements, regenerating town centres, renewed leisure opportunities and improvement in the wider environment. This work has and continues to contribute much to improve life chances and life opportunities across the borough through improved education opportunities, skills development and employment. Of

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course, there is still much more that can be done to realise our ambitions for the future of the borough; ranging from our work to support housing supply and business growth, through to our programmes of care and support to some of our most vulnerable and troubled families.

- 3.5 It remains clear that the Council cannot do all that it once did, nor meet all those expectations that might once have been met, for we are in a very different financial position than just a decade ago. Severe financial constraints have been imposed on Council services with cuts to be made year on year on year, and this on-going pressure is addressed in this report, incorporating further budget cuts for 2021/22 and noting the continued outlook for austerity to at least 2023/24. This is pending the Fair Funding Review (FFR) and Business Rates Retention (BRR) consultations now due to conclude for 2022/23 at the earliest.
- 3.6 Over the past eleven months, the Council's business, and the day to day lives of Lewisham's residents, has been turned on its head. In March 2020, Council activity simultaneously ground to a halt and ramped up in equal measure. With "non-critical" services wound down almost overnight and a new, urgent focus on "critical services", the Council's leadership team, members and vast range of services faced new demands, challenges, pressures and opportunities.
- 3.7 The pace, scope and scale of change has been immense: the pandemic has demanded agility, creativity, pace, leadership, organisational and personal resilience, strong communications and an unerring focus on the right priorities. Within the Council, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is felt acutely across all of our service areas and we are grappling with real challenges in how we keep services running for our residents and how we protect the most vulnerable. Across the borough, residents are looking afresh at our borough, their neighbourhoods, and seeing where they live through new eyes.
- 3.8 While we do not yet fully understand what all of the long-term implications of COVID-19 will mean for the borough, there have been many clear and visible impacts of the pandemic on our residents, Lewisham the place and also the Council. We know that coronavirus has disproportionately affected certain population groups in Lewisham, matching patterns that have been identified nationally and internationally: older residents, residents born in the Americas & the Caribbean, Africa or the Middle East & Asia, and residents in the most deprived areas of the borough have considerably higher death rates. We know that more Lewisham residents are claiming unemployment benefits compared to the beginning of this year and that food insecurity has increased in the borough.
- 3.9 The Council's finances have also been severely affected by the ongoing pandemic. The cost of coronavirus for Lewisham is estimated to be over £60m this year and rising. Despite government promises early in the pandemic, up to £20m remains unfunded in this financial year with further budget pressures for future years. Officers have taken management action to make in-year savings of £5.4m as well as introducing additional spending controls. During the latter half of the year we began the long, difficult process of identifying cuts of over £40m for the next three years (to April 2024) with £28m identified to be cut in 2021/22, which includes identified action to address the persistent overspend estimated at £10m.
- 3.10 At the same time, as set out at section 6 of the report, the use of resources to address risks and pressures through positive investments is an opportunity. These investments are also supported via the capital programme at section 11. This spending deals with existing pressures and supports the Council in refocusing and changing services where new opportunities and expectations for how the Council can better deliver them to support the community are identified. Being forward looking will support Lewisham's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and help the Borough thrive again.

- 3.11 Infection rates continue to remain high (in our borough, across London and the UK as a whole) and the whole country is again enduring severe restrictions with new national lockdown measures now in place and possibly to remain so until at least the 31 March 2021, subject to review. We now face the challenge of needing to simultaneously respond to the pandemic, plan for the long-term recovery of the place, set a balanced budget for next year, and set the financial basis for the internal recovery of the Council in the coming years.

4. Structure Of The Report, Policy Context, And Background

- 4.1 The 2020/21 Budget Report is structured as follows:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Section 1 | Summary |
| Section 2 | Recommendations |
| Section 3 | Policy Context |
| Section 4 | Structure of the Report, Policy Context, and Background |
| Section 5 | Background |
| Section 6 | General Fund Revenue Budget and Council Tax |
| Section 7 | Other Grants and Future Years' Budget Strategy |
| Section 8 | Dedicated Schools Grant and Pupil Premium |
| Section 9 | Housing Revenue Account |
| Section 10 | Treasury Management Strategy |
| Section 11 | Capital Programme |
| Section 12 | Consultation on the Budget |
| Section 13 | Financial Implications |
| Section 14 | Legal Implications |
| Section 15 | Equalities Implications |
| Section 16 | Climate Change and Environmental Implications |
| Section 17 | Crime and Disorder Implications |
| Section 18 | Health and Wellbeing Implications |
| Section 19 | Background Papers |
| Section 20 | Glossary |
| Section 21 | Report Author and Contact |
| Section 22 | Appendices |

5. Background

- 5.1 This section sets out the main national macro-economic and public spending position, the current position in respect of local government finance, the impact of Covid-19 on the Council and its recovery plans, and some of the key Council services as context for the Budget spending details.

National Context

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- 5.2 This year all underlying assumptions have been put on hold due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic that has hit the global and UK economy hard. The government has had to borrow extensively to meet the costs of supporting businesses and individuals through the pandemic.
- 5.3 Looking forward this backdrop will be carried into and continue deep into 2021/22 and beyond from the current position of economic recession. The recovery plan for how the public finances will be stabilised and debt repaid is yet to be set out by the Chancellor. These decisions will impact how local government is financed in the future but for now planned funding changes have been deferred until at least 2022/23. This uncertainty makes it very difficult for the Council to plan effectively for the medium term.
- 5.4 The Bank of England December 2020 figures confirmed interest rates at 0.1%, quantitative easing totalling £895bn, and inflation at 0.6%. The office of budget responsibility forecasts were for £280bn of borrowing, but this was before the current lockdown was announced. The UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 25% in the first months of the pandemic and, while this position has improved since, is now expected to be 11% lower for the year 2020/21. In this period and despite considerable support to businesses, including via the furlough scheme which is currently in place until April 2021, there are now over 700,000 fewer people in employment than at the start of the year.
- 5.5 The UK has now left the European Union. In the face of global economic uncertainty and as the understanding of the new economic relations between the UK and Europe emerge there remain further challenges to the UK economic outlook.

Local Government

- 5.6 The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was announced on 17 December 2020, with the final settlement expected around the 11 February 2021. This is another one year settlement only pending with the fair funding review, business rates reset and other local government finance changes pushed back again until at least 2022/23.
- 5.7 Along with the settlement announcement, the Government confirmed the continuation and an increase to 3% of the Social Care (SC) precept on Council Tax in 2021/22, created to give local authorities who are responsible for social care the ability to raise new funding to spend exclusively on Adult Social Care. In 2020/21, the Council applied a SC precept of 2%. In 2021/22, the Council is permitted to apply a maximum precept of 3% which will generate an extra £3.5m of revenue for Adult Social Care.
- 5.8 The Government also announced that the limit by which Councils can increase their core Council Tax (inclusive of levies) without a referendum, remains at the maximum level of 2%. This will generate approximately £2.3m of revenue for the Council.
- 5.9 The Government decided not to continue with the 75% Business Rates Pilot Pools, including the London pool for 2020/21. London Government through decisions made collectively by the London Councils Leaders Committee and the London Mayor agreed to extend its business rates retention pool in 2020/21 covering the GLA and the 33 London billing authorities. However, with the current uncertainties in the business rates base across London and without any 'no detriment' guarantees from government, London Government has confirmed it will stop the pooling arrangement for 2021/22.
- 5.10 The Mayor is asked to note that Lewisham will not continue its involvement in the London pool for 2021/22 and ask Council to endorse this.
- 5.11 With 2021/22 effectively being another roll forward year, the Government has deferred the fundamental review of the way local government is financed until at least 2022/23.

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The fair funding review will set new baseline funding allocations for local authorities by delivering an up-to-date assessment of their relative needs and resources, using the best available evidence. Sitting alongside this is a review of the Business Rates retention arrangements, which aims to reform the elements of the business rates retention system in England.

- 5.12 Last year the Council was able to set its budget without needing to use reserves. This year again, the Council has identified the £18m of cuts necessary to set a balanced budget and reduce the £10m of persistent service overspending witnessed in some areas over recent years. This is on top of the £7m of cuts agreed for 2020/21 the delivery of which has been pushed back to 2021/22 due to the need to address Covid-19 priorities this year.
- 5.13 While this position is confirmed for one year only, officer's medium term assumptions are that this recognises this higher funding baseline, including the housing, health and social care grants, as the starting point for the fair funding review. Nonetheless, due to the uncertainty surrounding the public finances overall and the local government fair funding review in particular, combined with the expectation that there still remains significant pressure in future years on the Council's limited resources to meet the growing demands of the people it serves; the Council fully expected to have to continue to seek further cuts for future year's budgets. The use of reserves will need to be considered in 2021/22 to meet any cost of recovery from Covid-19 and from 2022/23 if sufficient measures are not found to set a balanced budget each year.
- 5.14 Budget cuts of £28m have so far been identified for 2021/22 under a thematic approach sponsored by Members and led by the Executive Management Team. Assuming the measures proposed and the 2021/22 budget as set out in this report are agreed, the Council can set a balanced budget for the next financial year.

Covid-19 and the Council

- 5.15 With the third wave lockdown restrictions in place in Lewisham, realistically expected to extend into 2021/22 in some form, the Council is now acting once again to protect critical services and support vulnerable residents through another very challenging period. This in addition to supporting the scaling up of the national vaccination and track and trace programmes. While the Council may have to rely on its reserves for some of the impact of COVID-19, reserves by their nature once used are gone. They cannot therefore also be relied on to delay or avoid the difficult budget task of bringing spending into line with available resources.
- 5.16 Lewisham's recovery from coronavirus will be underpinned by the following anchoring principles which will continue to be at the heart of all decision-making, planning and action over the coming months:
- Tackling widening social, economic and health inequalities;
 - Protecting and empowering our most vulnerable residents;
 - Ensuring the Council's continued resilience, stability and sustainability;
 - Enabling residents to make the most of Lewisham the place; and
 - Collaborating and working together with our communities and partnership across the borough.
- 5.17 Recovery will mirror the Council's successful response structure, with two perspectives: internal (the Council's recovery) and external (the Borough's recovery).
- 5.18 The Council's internal recovery is to be driven by the lessons learned from responding to COVID-19, the known and emerging impacts on our communities and the need to

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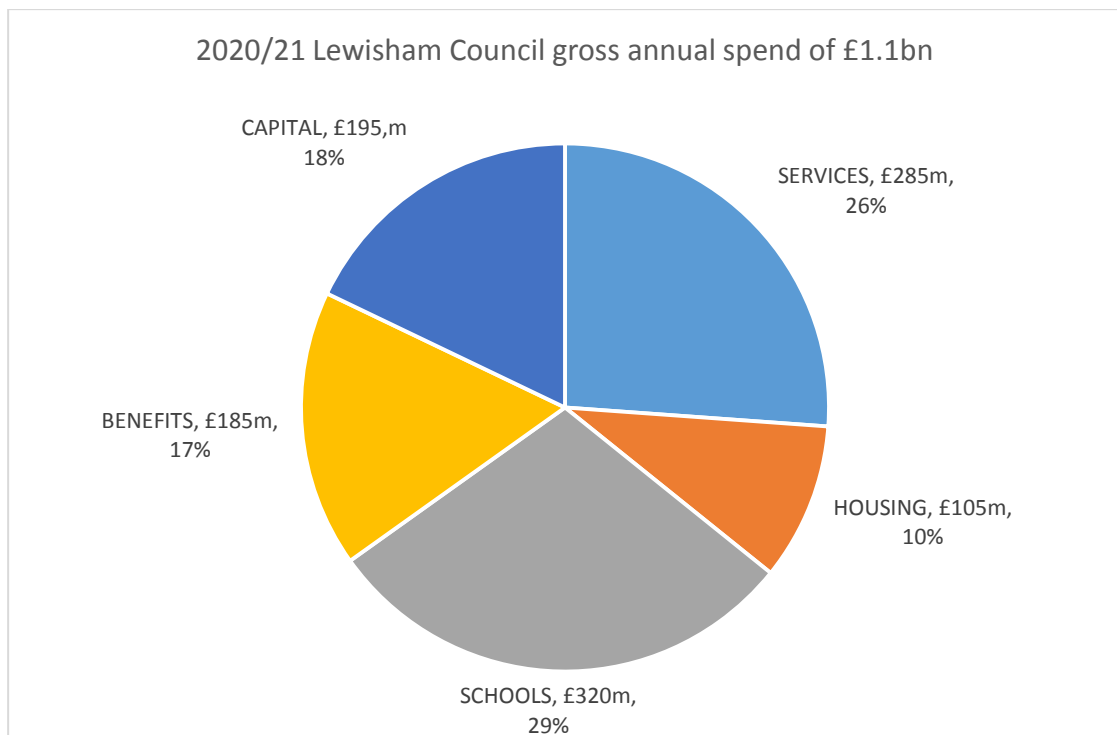
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deliver transformation at the scale needed to meet the current financial challenge. The 2021/22 budget-setting process is the first step in a three-year internal transformation programme to deliver cuts as set out on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

- 5.19 Officers will be applying a programme management approach to deliver the strategic budget proposals as set out in this report and the accompanying cuts reports, if agreed. Officers will be supported to ensure that the proposals identified are realistic and taken through the new Programme Management Office (PMO) assurance and governance processes, giving rigour to the structure and delivery of the individual projects including the important financial, legal, equalities and other implications.
- 5.20 This internal recovery approach is inherently linked to the 'external' recovery of the borough, the recovery of Lewisham the place. For Lewisham, a post-pandemic future could bring opportunities and it is vital our communities are able to make the most of what's on their doorstep. We look ahead to a huge opportunity to recover positively in partnership with our communities and partners and neighbours, to support community development and resilience, to nurture and develop Lewisham's vibrant cultural scene using the platform of Borough of Culture, to promote a sustainable and thriving local economy, to tackle health inequalities, to achieve a fairer zero-carbon future, and to support our borough's children and young people. The borough's long-term recovery will be led by the Mayor along with Councillors, as the borough's community leaders, who will shape and drive priorities for recovery across Lewisham.

Budget context

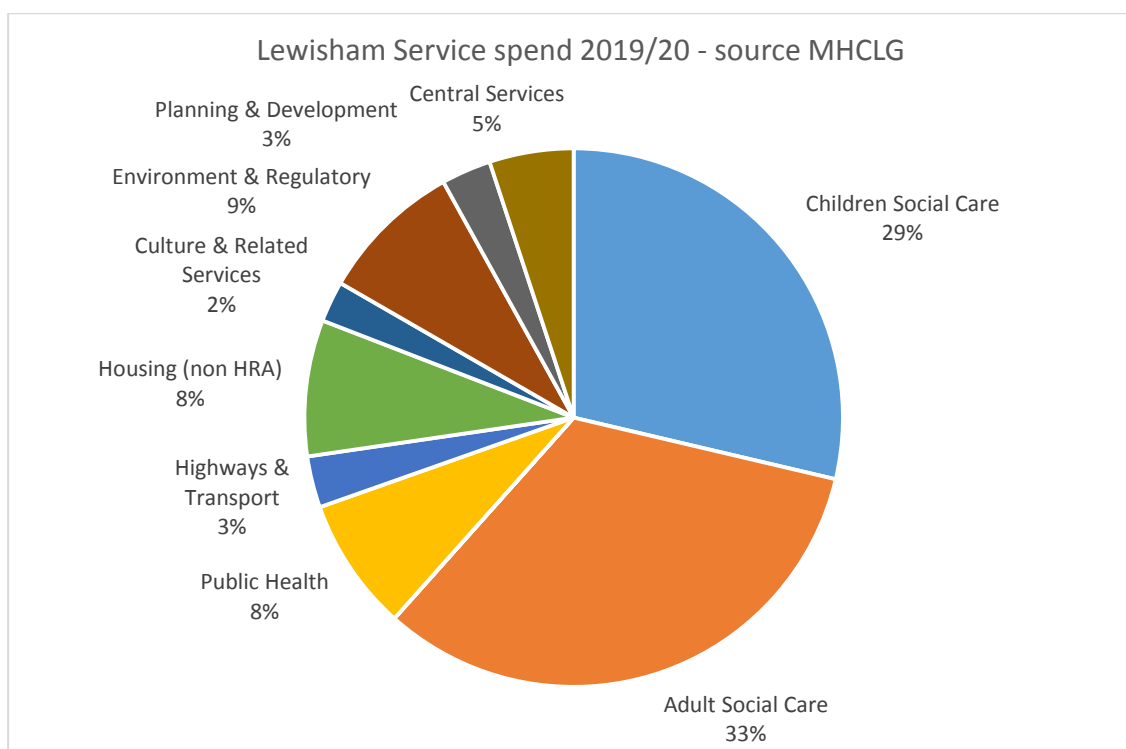
- 5.21 The Council spends over £1.1bn annually on services for residents. In broad terms this splits as follows:



- 5.22 In respect of the £285m Services element of this annual spend, this is the gross spend built from the £248m general fund budget and income from grants, fees and charges, the money is directed as follows:

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- 5.23 The Council serves an estimated population of 305,000 people who live in 130,000 households. Residents of Lewisham are diverse, with people of more than 70 nationalities speaking over 170 languages. The number of residents is also growing; over 12% since the last census in 2011 and growth is forecast to continue with the population rising by 55,000 to 360,000 (or 18%) by 2041. These numbers will be reassessed with the 2021 census being undertaken this calendar year.
- 5.24 The Council works hard to be available for residents when they need it. Through the Customer Services access point, the Council responds to over 500,000 items of correspondence and receives over 18,000 visits a year. In addition, through the registry office, the Council processes over 7,500 births, deaths and marriages. While these activities have had to move on-line for 2020/21 due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Council has continued to support residents with these core services while also handling a significant rise in other customer services needs for businesses and residents in these challenging times.
- 5.25 In addition to supporting a diverse and growing population, the budget contributes to the Council's commitment to extend local democracy. With the Covid-19 pandemic the Council is jointly sponsoring research with the University of Birmingham into the impact on BAME communities alongside wider socio-economic factors. While the resettlement of refugees was paused due to the pandemic in 2020/21, in line with the corporate strategy Lewisham remains committed to resuming this work and welcoming more of those seeking asylum in the UK.
- 5.26 The budget supports a wide range of age groups across more than 600 individual services.
- 5.27 For young people, the schools' budget provides for 77 maintained schools from nursery level through to secondary. This means 85% (30,500) of all school age children attend one of our maintained schools.
- 5.28 Our Strategic Housing service benefits a large number of residents. The work done with partners to deliver Social Housing and Temporary Accommodation helps provide for the accommodation needs of a quarter of our households with 30,800 households

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in social housing and 2,500 in temporary accommodation. The numbers in temporary accommodation has been supplemented in 2020/21 through the pandemic to ensure everyone on the street was offered a place to stay.

- 5.29 The Borough has over 9,000 businesses registered and, in line with our corporate priority to assist with access to high-quality job opportunities, the budget funds adult education and apprenticeships. During 2020/21 over £50m of grants have been administered by the Council and passed to businesses along with a further £34m of business rates relief. At the same time the Council established a Business Taskforce with Member, partner, and senior officer representation to lead on improving and planning for economic recovery and employment as the Borough recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes support for kick start programmes and extending the opportunities for local apprenticeships.
- 5.30 The Adult Social Care service provides a range of support to vulnerable users that helps them remain active and independent: 2,350 (or 8%) of those over 65 and 1,265 (or 1%) of the 18-64 population received a service from Lewisham in 2019/20. As well as physical care needs, these services provide support to those with mental health or disability needs. The work of these services has been under particular scrutiny with the Covid-19 pandemic and the Council has worked closely with the NHS to help manage pressures in the system (in particular hospital discharges), as well as working with care providers in the Borough to support the safety of patients and workers, provision of protective equipment, guidance on infection control, and financially where needed to ensure the stability of the market.
- 5.31 The budget also maintains key universal services such as libraries; arts and entertainment centres and sports and recreation facilities. For much of 2020/21 these services have been closed or had their services reduced due to the pandemic. In these cases staff have redeployed to support the critical services response. At the same time recovery planning is being undertaken. For example, the Council moved its large leisure contract to GLL during the year, has maintained a click and collect library service, and agreed investment of £7m in the theatre as the Council looks forward to being the Borough of Culture next year.
- 5.32 Maintaining a clean and green environment is beneficial for all. The amount of waste recycled, composted or re-used is growing year on year. Each week Lewisham waste services collect 2,500 tonnes of waste from households. And thanks to the efforts of residents, the Council are currently able to keep 25% of that waste from being incinerated. These efforts have also resulted in over 18,000 tonnes of waste to be recycled this year. The level of waste collected in the Borough has risen in 2020/21 with lockdown and more working from home with the service responding and continuing despite the pandemic.
- 5.33 The Council is also responsible for maintaining 397km of roads and 12km of footpaths. The Environment service sweeps the town centres daily and main residential streets weekly. The Council also manages the parking service, including permits and enforcement. These are service areas which will play a significant part in supporting the delivery of a zero-carbon borough. Through the Covid-19 pandemic the Council has continued to support key workers by offering parking permits in response to health needs.
- 5.34 Residents enjoy the Borough's green spaces and the budget supports the work that the Green Scene service does to maintain the high standard of Lewisham's parks. There are 47 parks in the borough and 15 of these have the coveted 'Green Flag' rating. Our achievements in this service area have been recognised by our residents with 74% of residents who responded to the 2018 'Parks and Open Spaces survey' felt the standard of the parks in Lewisham has been maintained at a good or fair level. The Council also ranked first in the recent "Good Parks for London" group. These outdoor

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spaces have proved a valued lifeline for exercise and wellbeing activities for residents through the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020/21.

5.35 The rest of the report sets out the position of the financial settlements as they impact on the Council's overall resources:

- General Fund Revenue Budget for 2020/21;
- Council Tax level for 2020/21;
- Other Grants for 2020/21;
- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2020/21;
- Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and level of rents for 2020/21;
- Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21; and
- Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2022/23.

6. General Fund Revenue Budget And Council Tax

6.1. This section considers the General Fund revenue budget and Council Tax. The General Fund budget for 2021/22, assuming a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, is £243.100m. Details of the cuts approved for 2021/22 are provided at Appendices Y1 and Y2.

6.2. It is structured as follows:

- Update on 2020/21 Revenue Budget;
- The Budget Model;
- Budget Cuts;
- Council Tax for 2021/22; and
- Overall Budget Position for 2021/22.

Update on 2020/21 Revenue Budget

6.3. The Council's revenue budget for 2020/21 was agreed at Council on 26 February 2020. The general fund budget requirement was set at £248.714m.

6.4. During the financial year, monthly monitoring is undertaken by officers and these monitoring reports have been presented quarterly to Mayor and Cabinet and scrutinised by the Public Accounts Select Committee. Significant attention continues to be directed towards volatile budget areas. These are those areas where small changes in activity levels can drive large cost implications. They include, for example: Looked After Children; Nightly Paid Accommodation; and Children's Social Care. Continuing pressures also exist in Environment Services, magnified since the inception of the new service model in 2016/17, and is subject to ongoing scrutiny and management action.

6.5. Budget holders are challenged to maintain a tight control on spending throughout the year. The Council operates a devolved system of financial accountability with clear delegations and responsibility set out in the financial and procurement regulations and schemes of delegation in the Constitution.

6.6. An initial projected overspend was reported at the end of May 2020, post the application of the monies received to date from government to support the Council's

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response to Covid. Officers undertook management action to make in-year savings of £5.4m as well as introducing additional spending controls, and in the August monitoring report this overspend had reduced to £10.4m. The forecast non-Covid overspend had again further reduced to £3.6m in the October 2020 monitoring report.

- 6.7. In spite of the continued management action and temporary spending controls in place the persistent overspending projection and underlying service demands remain and therefore £10m has been included as part of the budget cuts proposals for 2021/22 to ensure that the Council can set a balanced budget for 2021/22.

Directorates

- 6.8. Table A1 sets out the latest forecast budget variances on the General Fund by Directorate, separately identifying the Covid pressures from the non Covid directorate pressures, totalling £3.6m.

Table A1: Forecast outturn for 2020/21 as at end of October 2020

| Directorate | Net budget 2020/21 | Forecast Outturn 2020/21 As at end of October 2020 | Forecast Variance Over/ (Under) Spend October 2020 | Covid-19 Related Variance October 2020 | Non Covid-19 Service Variance October 2020 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | £m | £m | £m | £m | |
| Children & Young People (1) | 60.3 | 71.7 | 11.4 | 4.5 | 6.9 |
| Community Services | 89.3 | 102.6 | 13.3 | 16.8 | (3.5) |
| Housing, Regen' & Public Realm | 23.2 | 32.7 | 9.5 | 9.7 | (0.2) |
| Corporate Resources (2) | 35.3 | 39.4 | 4.1 | 3.4 | 0.7 |
| Chief Executive | 12.2 | 12.3 | 0.1 | 0.4 | (0.3) |
| Directorate Totals | 220.3 | 258.7 | 38.4 | 34.8 | 3.6 |
| Covid Grant Funding | N/A | N/A | (36.6) | (36.6) | 0.0 |
| Corporate Items | 28.3 | 28.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 0.0 |
| Net Revenue Budget | 248.6 | 287.0 | 3.2 | (0.4) | 3.6 |

(1) – gross figures exclude £180m Dedicated Schools' Grant expenditure and matching grant income

(2) – gross figures exclude approximately £213m of matching income and expenditure for housing benefits.

Corporate Financial Provisions

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- 6.9. Corporate Financial Provisions are budgets that are held centrally for corporate purposes and which do not form part of the controllable expenditure of the service directorates. They include Capital Expenditure charged to the Revenue Account (CERA), Treasury Management budgets such as Interest on Revenue Balances (IRB) and Debt Charges, Corporate Working Balances and various provisions for items such as early retirement and voluntary severance. Spend of the Corporate Financial Provisions is expected to be contained within budget by the year-end.
- 6.10. Consideration is now being given to employing the use of corporate measures to balance the budget at year end. This will be to address any shortfall in support for Covid-19 costs as well as underlying service overspending. It is proposed to meet the 2020/21 budget overspend from provisions and reserves, with the final position declared in the outturn report to Members.

The Budget Model

- 6.11. This section of the report sets out the construction of the 2021/22 base budget. This section is structured as follows:
- Budget assumptions, including: Cuts, Council Tax, and Inflation;
 - New Homes Bonus;
 - Budget pressures to be funded; and
 - Risks and other potential budget pressures to be managed.

Budget assumptions, including: Cuts, Council Tax, and Inflation

- 6.12. The Council has made substantial reductions to its expenditure over the last ten years. Subject to the outcome of the multi-year Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) now expected in 2021 for 2021/22 and the outcome of the government's fair funding review, the Council expects to continue to need to make further reductions for at least the next three to four years. This section of the report summarises a series of proposals that would enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 2021/22 as part of a sustainable financial strategy to 2024/25.

Council Tax

- 6.13. Since 2016/17, the government has allowed councils with social care responsibilities to apply a percentage increase on council tax (the Social Care precept), the funds of which are ring-fenced to Adult Social Care (ASC) services. To date, Lewisham has applied a 10% increase over the five year period. The government is once again allowing councils to apply a precept for 2021/22, up to a maximum of 3%. For 2021/22 this will generate £3.494m of additional income for ASC services. This report proposes that the Mayor recommends that Council approve the 3% ASC precept for 2021/22 to obtain the maximum benefit permitted.
- 6.14. The assumption used in the model for preparing the 2021/22 budget, subject to confirmation by Council, is for a total Council Tax increase (Lewisham element) of 4.99%. A 3% increase for the social care precept and a 1.99% increase in the core element under the revised referendum principle announced along with the provisional Finance Settlement on 17 December 2020.
- 6.15. Should Council choose to set a different Council Tax increase, Members will need to be mindful that any increase below this recommendation will result in additional budget pressures, resulting in greater use of resources in the short term and a higher cuts requirement going forward. Any increase in the core element above this

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recommendation would require support in a local referendum due to the limit set by the Secretary of State.

- 6.16. Further information on the options for Council when setting the Council Tax is set out in more detail towards the end of this section.

Inflation

- 6.17. The Government's inflation target for the United Kingdom is defined in terms of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation which excludes mortgage interest payments. Since April 2011, the CPI has also been used for the indexation of benefits, tax credits, and public service pensions.
- 6.18. For financial planning purposes, the Council has previously assumed an average pay inflation of 2% per annum, which equates to approximately £2.5m. 2020/21 is the last year of the current pay settlement via the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government which saw an increase of 2.75%. The government has frozen public sector wages other than for health services for 2021/22.
- 6.19. Lewisham's lowest pay band exceeds the national and London living wage amounts. A provision of 2% (£2.6m) had been made to cover 2021/22 pay inflation in the MTFS which, due to the pay freeze, now forms part of the productivity cuts for the budget.
- 6.20. The Council budgets for a non-pay inflation rate budget of 1.5% per annum. This is higher than the forecast CPI inflation rates for 2021 to reflect the underlying commitments in Council contracts. This equates to approximately £1.3m (net) in 2020/21.
- 6.21. Unless pre-defined by statute or otherwise agreed, all services are expected to uplift their fees and charges annually in line with the Council's inflation assumptions, or for full cost recovery if this is higher, to allow for stability in real terms.

New Homes Bonus

- 6.22. The New Homes Bonus (NHB) sits alongside the Council's planning system and is designed to create a fiscal incentive to encourage housing growth. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has been paying the NHB as un-ringfenced grant to enable local authorities to decide how to spend the funding. The scheme design sets some guidance about the priorities that spend should be focused on, in that it is being provided to 'help deliver the vision and objectives of the community and the spatial strategy for the area and in line with local community wishes'.
- 6.23. In the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement statement, the Secretary of State announced that for 2021/22 the NHB would 'roll forward' for one more year but without legacy payments.
- 6.24. The provisional allocation for 2021/22 in Lewisham is £2.652m. This is a reduction on the £6.176m received in 2020/21 as a result of the loss of legacy payments. Given the reducing and uncertain nature of this funding the NHB is being treated as one off monies to be used to support 'task and finish' activities, not recurring spend. For 2021/22 this will be for supporting Covid recovery work to make the most of the opportunities to deliver the place and community support needed in the Borough.

Budget Pressures to be funded

2020/21

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- 6.25. In 2020/21, the funds set aside in the budget model to meet specific identified budget pressures and potential budget risks was £6.5m. This was allocated in full to identified risks and pressures.

2021/22

- 6.26. The MTFs for 2021/22 sets aside a further £6.5m for budget pressures and risks. To this it is recommended the saving of £1.5m is added from reduced contributions required to the London concessionary fares scheme as a result of reduced demand through 2020/21. In addition, it is recommended that the £2.339m of additional social care grant (on top of the £8.434m received in 2020/21 and continuing for 2021/22) be used to address current pressures. These actions will provide £10.339m to be allocated to selected budget pressure and growth areas that will present as challenges in future budgets if not corrected.
- 6.27. In terms of accounting for these, it is proposed that these investments and pressures are allocated in line with the decisions of this budget from the corporate risk and pressures monies and £3.5m from the Social Care precept to the relevant Directorates when determining their cash limits for 2020/21.
- 6.28. To the funding of these pressures can be added the NHB of £2.652m, lower tier baseline grant of £0.700m, and corporate items to support one-off pressures identified as needing funding in 2021/22.
- 6.29. Using cash budgets (in particular grants such as the Social Care Grant) presents a risk for future years although the medium planning assumptions are that this level of funding for 2021/22 from government is in recognition of the pressures faced by local authorities and will effectively form the baseline pending fair funding review.
- 6.30. The budget pressures anticipated in 2021/22 have been reviewed and it is recommended that the following identified pressures are funded now, set against the Corporate Strategy priorities. These exclude pressures associated with services experiencing persistent overspends as these have been addressed via the cuts process.
- 6.31. Table A2 provides a summary of the corporate risk and pressures budget and those pressures and risks that are being recommended to be funded.

Table A2: Summary of 2021/22 budget pressures to be funded

| Description | £'000 | £'000 |
|---|-------|---------------|
| Social Care precept | 3,494 | 3,494 |
| <u>Ongoing</u> | | |
| Risk & Pressures budget available in 2021/22 | 6,500 | |
| Reduction in Concessionary Fares budget | 1,500 | |
| Social care grant (additional) | 2,339 | 10,339 |
| <u>Once-off</u> | | |
| New Homes Bonus | 2,652 | |
| Lower tier grant | 700 | |
| Corporate items (legacy s31 grant) | 2,500 | 5,852 |
| Total Resources Available for Risks and Pressures in 2021/22 | | 19,685 |
| Recommended Allocations | | |

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| Description | £'000 | £'000 |
|---|--------|----------------|
| Corporate Strategy priorities | | |
| <i>Open Lewisham</i> | -1,870 | |
| Leisure | | |
| Planning | | |
| <i>Tackling the Housing Crisis</i> | -200 | |
| Review of strategic housing | | |
| <i>Giving Children the best start</i> | -4,040 | |
| Children Social Care | | |
| School Transport | | |
| School catering contract | | |
| Troubled Families | | |
| <i>Building an inclusive economy</i> | -50 | |
| Economy and partnerships | | |
| <i>Defending health & social care</i> | -3,494 | |
| Social Care precept from Council Tax | | |
| <i>Making Lewisham greener</i> | -2,632 | |
| Environment Services - waste | | |
| Tree safety | | |
| Energy | | |
| Fleet replacement (build capital fund) | | |
| <i>Building a safer community</i> | -82 | |
| Bereavement | | |
| Total Corporate Strategy priorities | | -12,368 |
| Organisational value for money | | -3,220 |
| Corporate Services | | |
| Technology and Digital | | |
| Estate compliance | | |
| Transformation investment and potential unachieved savings | | 4,097 |
| Grand Total Funded Pressures | | -19,685 |

Open Lewisham – £1,870m

- 6.32. The commitments to this priority include additional resource to support the new leisure contract for the initial two years of operation to ensure that the Council can provide a leisure offering that supports its residents' health and wellbeing. Linked to the emerging leisure strategy this will enable Lewisham's residents to access quality leisure facilities. There is also resources to support the Council in the preparation of neighbourhood plans to ensure that these come forward and best meet local needs.

Tackling the housing crisis – £0.200m

- 6.33. This is directed to an emerging pressure on the housing service budget, to enable a review of the delivery of strategic housing within the borough.

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Giving Children the best start - £4,040m

- 6.34. There is a statutory requirement to provide home to school transport for children with Educational Health & Care Plan where the plan specifies a transport service. From 2015 to 2019 the number of EHCPs in Lewisham increased by 65.5% from 1,408 to 2,344. The number of ECHPs in Lewisham now stands at 2,873, representing a further 22.5% increase since the January 2020 SEN2 census date. The service has committed to reduce the persistent overspend in this service, but it is proposed that this is part funded to enable a base budget that better reflects the increased level of need. In addition, new proposals for the schools catering contract and the reversal of a previous saving not achieved in the work with Troubled Families are proposed to be funded to enable these services to start the year with the correct budget and focus on changes for the future.

Building an inclusive economy - £0.005m

- 6.35. The long term impact of Covid on the economy and its residents and businesses has meant that it's vital that we increase the investment in the economy and partnerships team to promote employment and take up of the Kickstart scheme as part of the Council's inclusive growth strategy in 2021/22. This work, with the support of the Business Taskforce established in 2020, will be over seen by the expanded economy and partnerships team with £0.5m of Covid grant funding their work in 2021/22 and subject to review of the outcomes and ability to support this investment for future years.

Defending Health & Social Care - £3.494m

- 6.36. This proposed budget increase applies the Social Care precept to support the work of Adult Social Care services. This will enable the service to continue to work constructively with the health sector and private care market given the continued demand and cost pressures faced with a growing elderly population, work on earlier discharges from hospital into care, and rising costs in a fragile market for care services.

Making Lewisham Greener - £2.632m

- 6.37. The risk and pressures to be invested against this priority aim to support the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030 in line with the declared climate emergency. This includes investing in the Council's infrastructure, in particular its vehicles, to be compliant with low emission requirements, address the additional costs arising from separating waste to compost, re-use, and recycle more waste with less to land fill, and ensuring that the boroughs trees remain safe for residents and continue to contribute to residents' health and wellbeing.

Building a Safer Community - £0.008m

- 6.38. This funding for 2021/22 will be invested in our bereavement services to ensure that we not only meet our statutory duties but provide quality services that meet the needs of our communities.

Organisational value for money - £3.220m

- 6.39. In addition to the corporate strategy the Council is a large and complex organisation. Through the decade of austerity to 2021 the Council's support services have borne a

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significant proportion of the budget cuts. This was recognised in the 2019/20 budget round and this investment is to reverse some previously agreed cuts and enhance the resourcing for some of these services. In particular; finance and technology – which has underpinned the Council’s ability to continue to work effectively during the pandemic. In addition work as part of the capital strategy (section 11) is underway to assess the level of capital investment required to sustain the Council’s technology infrastructure in a secure, resilient, and optimal state. There is also the need to permanently fund the additional salary inflation as 2.0% was budgeted for in 2020/21 but 2.75% awarded.

Transformation investment - £4,097m

- 6.40. Lewisham’s recovery from coronavirus will be underpinned by the following anchoring principles which will be at the heart of all decision-making, planning and action over the coming months:
- Tackling widening social, economic and health inequalities;
 - Protecting and empowering our most vulnerable residents;
 - Ensuring the Council’s continued resilience, stability and sustainability;
 - Enabling residents to make the most of Lewisham the place; and
 - Collaborating and working together with our communities and partnership across the borough.
- 6.41. Recovery will mirror the Council’s successful response structure, with two perspectives: internal (the Council’s recovery) and external (the Borough’s recovery).
- 6.42. The Council’s internal recovery is to be driven by the lessons learned from responding to COVID-19, the known and emerging impacts on our communities and the need to deliver transformation at the scale needed to meet the current financial challenge. This transformation will require investment and the continued (albeit reduced) availability of the New Homes Bonus to be invested to support improvement and change work.
- 6.43. This transformation investment is needed to improve the Council’s effectiveness and efficiency going forward. This transformation will enable; a better critical mass of key services to be marshalled together, inject some capacity where it can have the most impact; and enable different approaches to be adopted to tackle key issues.
- 6.44. Some of this allocation may be required in the event of unachieved savings or, if more significant in value the use of corporate provisions and reserves will be required pending the service identifying sufficient alternative cuts.

Risks and other potential budget pressures to be managed

- 6.45. Following the review of budget pressures within Directorates, there are a number of other risks and issues which, although difficult to quantify with absolute certainty, could prove significant should they materialise.
- 6.46. Officers continue to undertake work to fully assess and monitor these risks. These risks and other potential budget pressures are discussed in more detail below:
- Adult Social Care and Transition;
 - National / London Living Wage;
 - Temporary Accommodation / Homelessness;
 - Redundancy;

- Unwinding Covid-19 critical response and recovery; and
- Unachieved cuts.

Adult Social Care, including Transition demands

- 6.47. As noted above this is an area of continuing pressure for the Council. This is expected to continue into future years. However, the impact of service configuration changes, national policy priorities, the additional funding committed to these services for 2021/22 through the Adult Social Care precept and improved Better Care Fund, and the changes arising from transformation cuts are not yet known or assessed so it is not possible to fully evaluate the risk at this time. This will form part of the service review being commissioned to report by the summer of 2021.

National / London Living Wage

- 6.48. The Council has for some years now ensured it pays the London Living Wage to staff and contractors where this has been possible to contract for. However, there have remained some areas where this has not always been possible – for example; sub-contractors on some works contracts and contracting for some care services. The recent increases in living wage and focus on modern slavery and ethical charter considerations in procurement rules go some way to closing this remaining gap to ensure all employees are paid a fair wage.
- 6.49. The budget impact of these changes is a risk of additional contract costs to the Council. These will vary according to the contract and areas of spend depending on past practice and how suppliers elect to pass on some or all of these costs. The risk cannot therefore be easily quantified at this time.

Temporary Accommodation / Homelessness

- 6.50. Government welfare changes, economic pressures on families and individuals, and the chronic supply shortage of affordable housing in London are pressures that directly impact the Council's housing services. From 2020/21 to this has been added the impact of Covid-19. These are recognised nationally, by the London Mayor and locally, of course, in Lewisham's strategies and plans. Some monies (e.g. homelessness trailblazer scheme), some policy changes (e.g. changes to the way Universal Credit is being introduced and powers against rogue landlords), and actions the Council are taking to develop and procure more and better accommodation are all being progressed. These should help reduce the risks and service pressures that arise from the growth in temporary accommodation and homelessness in Lewisham. These risks are being carefully monitored but remain significant and cannot be easily quantified in budgetary terms at this time.

Redundancy

- 6.51. The Council will seek to minimise the impact of cuts on services and jobs. However, a significant proportion of the Council's budget goes on staff salaries and wages, so it will not always be possible to make significant investments in service transformation and redesign to achieve budget cuts over the next four years without an impact on jobs. The cost of redundancy depends on age, seniority, and length of service of the individuals affected, and it is not possible to calculate the overall financial impact at this stage. With the introduction of the £95k cap in 2020 such costs may be reduced but further guidance and regulations are pending in respect of the local government pension's scheme. For these reasons the risk cannot be easily quantified at this time.

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Unwinding Covid-19 critical response and recovery

- 6.52. The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the Council's finances and continues to change service priorities to enable resources to focus on critical services. The estimates for 2020/21 are for cost implications and forgone income estimates of over £60m. Against these there are a range of government funding streams to offset the losses, with new ones (e.g. track and trace, tier funding) being added and others (such as compensation for forgone income) still being worked through. These financial implications along with the operational challenges and opportunities to focus the recovery work in the Borough on community needs and improvements to the place are complete, will involve the whole Council, and take time. As such the risks and associated costs and investments cannot be easily quantified at this time.

Unachieved Cuts

- 6.53. The delivery of the budget savings proposals will be through a strategic PMO approach. This will ensure robust management of delivery through the use of a newly developed Lewisham PMO framework and tools, and each directorate will have the support of a dedicated Strategic Transformation and OD Business Partner who will provide assurance, challenge and direction on delivery, and support to ensure the most suitable approach to delivery is being taken for each proposal. Specifically in relation to ensuring that equalities implications are considered in the delivery of every cut the Business Partners will work closely with the policy and communications team to ensure that both engagement and assessment of impact in the planning of delivery is timely, meaningful and considered across the programme. This will provide join up and assurance and identify any further compounding factors that have not yet been identified at the proposal stage.
- 6.54. The new strategic governance process through Thematic Boards and overseen by EMT will provide visibility of progress, risks, challenges and robust governance of the programme as a whole. Alongside, the PMO will be monitoring and reporting on programme-wide delivery of cuts, risks and equalities impact. Clear roles and responsibilities (between the PMO and service Directors) are being drawn up in order to ensure there are clear lines of accountability.
- 6.55. Staff will be further involved in the delivery of the cuts directly through discussions with managers in impacted services, but also strategically through our wider forums and staff engagement. Led directly by staff members in the Change Network, there is a project being developed to ensure that staff are involved strategically as well as directly in identifying further ways to change and deliver services in light of our financial challenges. Staff will be supported and empowered to bring forward ideas and develop them into specific change/cut proposals over the coming months. This will feed into both delivery of cuts proposals already identified, as well as the identification of additional proposals for the coming years
- 6.56. In the event that this approach cannot ensure the full delivery of the budget cuts and pressures arise in the year and are not able to be contained with Directorate budgets, they may become an additional call on corporate provisions and reserves until alternative cuts are agreed and implemented.

Summary of Budget Pressures and Investment

- 6.57. In conclusion, it is a matter of good budgeting to make a general allowance for risk and uncertainty, particularly at such a time of rapid change in the local government sector.

- 6.58. There are some pressures to be funded, which can be quantified within a reasonable range. These fully commit the available £6.5m allocation and additional resources received for 2021/22. Including the use of some funding to invest in change and support the transformation work necessary to redesign services and improve the Council's culture to further collaborative working.
- 6.59. There are also a number of other risks and potential budget pressures to consider which are less easy to quantify with any certainty which may become an additional call on reserves through the year if they arise. These will be regularly monitored and reported.

2021/22 Budget Cut Proposals

- 6.60. On the 9 December 2020, the Mayor and Cabinet agreed £15.051m of budget cut proposals for 2021/22. A summary of these cuts is attached as Appendix Y1 to this report.
- 6.61. In addition, on the 3 February 2021, the Mayor and Cabinet agreed a further £12.965m worth of budget cuts for 2021/22. A summary of these cuts is attached as Appendix Y2 to this report.
- 6.62. These cuts totalling £28.016m have been included in the 2021/22 budget calculation. They must be achieved in order to maintain a balanced budget and manage the persistent overspend. The delivery of these cuts will be monitored, any shortfall will have to be covered, in the short term pending services offering alternative proposals, through the use of reserves.
- 6.63. No estimates for Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) in 2022/23 have been provided by the Government. 2021/22 is effectively a roll forward year for the SFA, and the outcome of the fair funding review is due later on in 2021. The prospects for future funding remain uncertain.

2020/21 Council Tax

- 6.64. In setting the Council's annual budget, Members need to make decisions in respect of the Council Tax.

Collection Fund

- 6.65. Collection Fund surpluses or deficits reflect whether the Council over or under achieves its Council Tax collection targets. Therefore, this requires a calculation to be made of how much the Council has already received for the Council Tax in the current and past years and how much of the outstanding debt it expects to collect.
- 6.66. The statutory calculation was carried out for the 15 January (date prescribed by the relevant statutory instrument). This calculation showed there is an estimated deficit on the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax, for the years to 2020/21 of £3,129,000. This reflects the ongoing work of the Public Services team to carefully collect all monies owing to the Council but also the impact of Covid-19 to collection and rise in those eligible for the Council Tax Reduction scheme.
- 6.67. This deficit is shared with the precepting authority, the Greater London Authority (GLA), in proportion to relative shares of budgeted Council Tax income in the current financial year. This means that £2,498,000 of the total deficit has to be included in the calculation of Lewisham's budget as the additional Council Tax owed and collected in year. The remaining balance of £631,000 is allocated to the GLA.

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Council Tax Reduction Scheme

- 6.68. Members should note that the Council agreed on the 20 January 2021 that no changes are to be made to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for 2021/22 and that the Council should continue to pass on the government cuts in funding to working age claimants. Members agreed that the fixed percentage reduction in liability for the working age claimants of the scheme should remain at 25% for 2021/22. This means that everyone of working-age has to continue to pay a minimum of 25% of their council tax liability.

Council Tax Levels

- 6.69. In the 2021/22 Local Government Finance Settlement, the Government announced a 2% limit to the amount by which Councils can increase their Council Tax (inclusive of levies) without a referendum. In addition, there is also the opportunity to increase Council Tax by up to a further 3%, for the Social Care Precept in 2021/22. The government's assumptions in the local government finance settlement 2021/22 include the raising of both Council Tax and the Social Care precept in each and every year to meet the recognised funding pressures faced by the sector.
- 6.70. In 2021/22, the recommendation is that the Council approve a 3% Social Care precept which will provide additional funding of £3.5m, ring fenced for Adult Social Care spend. If implemented this charge has to be identified on the face of the Council Tax bill and made clear in the accompanying guidance for rate payers.
- 6.71. At the same time an increase in core Council Tax of 1.99% (i.e. within the limit of the 2% referendum threshold) would provide additional funding of approximately £2.3m.
- 6.72. In considering cut proposals and the level of Council Tax, Members make political judgements, balancing these with their specific legal responsibilities to set a balanced budget for 2021/22 and their general responsibilities to steward the Council's finances over the medium term.
- 6.73. In 2020/21, the Band D Council Tax in Lewisham is £1,646.44 on a base of 90,099.3 Band D equivalent properties. Of this, £332.07 relates to the activities of the GLA which the Council pays over to them on collection, Lewisham's element is £1,314.37.
- 6.74. The GLA is consulting on a precept of £363.66 (Band D equivalent) for 2021/22, an increase of £31.59 or 9.51%, and a final decision is expected from them on or after the 25 February 2021.
- 6.75. For 2021/22, the Band D Council Tax in Lewisham is recommended to be £1,743.62 on a base of 88,614.3 Band D equivalent properties (the base was approved by Council on the 20 January). Of this, £363.66 relates to the activities of the GLA which the Council will pay over to them on collection. Lewisham's element will therefore be £1,379.95, which includes a 2021/22 increase of £65.59 (4.99%).
- 6.76. Table D5 below shows, for illustrative purposes, the Council Tax payable by a Lewisham resident in a Band D property in 2021/22 under a range of possible Council Tax increases, and the financial implications of this for the Council. A full Council Tax Ready Reckoner is attached at Appendix Y4.
- 6.77. The starting point is for an assumed 4.99% increase in Lewisham's Council Tax for 2021/22, which includes the maximum core increase permissible without a referendum. Any reduction from this level of increase will reduce the level of income the Council collects and will increase the draw on reserves for 2021/22 and the budget gap in future years.

Table A3 – Band D Council Tax Levels for 2021/22

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| Amounts payable by residents - Band D | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Change in Lewisham Council Tax | Lewisham element | GLA element | Total Council Tax | Increase in overall Council Tax | Lewisham Annual income forgone |
| | £ | £ | £ | % | £m |
| 4.99% increase | 1,379.96 | 363.66 | 1,743.62 | 5.90 | - |
| 4.50% increase | 1,373.52 | 363.66 | 1,737.18 | 5.51 | -0.57 |
| 3.99% increase | 1,366.95 | 363.66 | 1,730.61 | 5.11 | -1.15 |
| 3.50% increase | 1,360.38 | 363.66 | 1,724.04 | 4.71 | -1.74 |
| 3.00% increase | 1,353.80 | 363.66 | 1,717.46 | 4.31 | -2.32 |
| 2.50% increase | 1,347.23 | 363.66 | 1,710.89 | 3.91 | -2.90 |
| 2.00% increase | 1,340.66 | 363.66 | 1,704.32 | 3.52 | -3.48 |
| 1.50% increase | 1,334.09 | 363.66 | 1,697.75 | 3.12 | -4.06 |
| 1.00% increase | 1,327.52 | 363.66 | 1,691.18 | 2.72 | -4.65 |
| 0.50% increase | 1,320.94 | 363.66 | 1,684.60 | 2.32 | -5.23 |
| Council Tax Freeze | 1,314.37 | 363.66 | 1,678.03 | 1.92 | -5.81 |

6.78. In January 2021 at the Council meeting, Council set the Council Tax base for 2021/22 and agreed the maximum incentives available to bring properties back into use, charge for second homes, and complete works in the shortest possible time. Council also agreed to continue the Council Tax exemption for Care Leavers up to the age of 25 in the Borough.

Overall Budget Position for 2021/22

6.79. For 2021/22, the overall budget position for the Council is an assumed General Fund Budget Requirement of £243.100m, as set out in Table D6 below:

Table A4 - Overall Budget Position for 2020/21

| Detail | Expenditure/ (Income) £m | Expenditure/ (Income) £m |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) for 2021/22 | (123.304) | |
| Council Tax 2021/22 at 4.99% increase | (122.285) | |
| Deficit on Collection Fund | 2.498 | |
| NNDR pressure | 1.000 | |
| Business Rates S31 and Growth | (1.009) | |

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| Detail | Expenditure/ (Income) £m | Expenditure/ (Income) £m |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Assumed Budget Requirement for 2020/21 | | (243.100) |
| | | |
| Base Budget for 2020/21 | 248.714 | |
| Plus: Additional Pay inflation | 2.657 | |
| Plus: Non-pay Inflation | 1.251 | |
| Plus: Budget pressures to be funded from 20/21 fund | 6.500 | |
| Plus: Adult Social Care Precept | 3.494 | |
| Less: Concessionary fares contribution | (1,500) | |
| Plus: Persistent overspend to be removed via cuts | 10.000 | |
| Less: Cuts proposed for 2021/22 | (28.016) | |
| Total | | 243.100 |

- 6.80. The statutory calculation for the 2021/22 budget requirement is attached to this report at Appendix Y6.
- 6.81. At this time, on the budget assumptions for the General Fund set out above, no use of reserves is required for 2021/22 to enable the Council to set a balanced budget.

Use of Provisions and Reserves

- 6.82. If the need should arise to balance the budget for any in-year pressures using reserves, the Executive Director for Corporate Resources advises that ongoing measures should be identified to rectify this position as quickly as possible and in any event, by the following year. The use of once off resources is therefore just delaying the need to make an equivalent level of saving in the following year.
- 6.83. In addition to the above, as part of the accounts closing process, the ability for the Council to replenish reserves for ongoing work planned for over more than one year and the impact of any risks will be reviewed and assessed and reported on. These risks include:
- Government funding support for the impact of Covid-19 may be insufficient;
 - Agreed cuts experience delays or are not delivered;
 - Service pressures cause overspends;
 - Transformation and change projects overrun;
 - Capital programme overruns hit revenue;
 - Service disruption costs arising from the UK leaving the EU; and

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- Further cuts are not identified, putting strain on future budgets.
- 6.84. Further discussion of the use of reserves and planning for future budgets will be reviewed and brought back for Member consideration as part of the next Medium Term Financial Strategy update in July 2021.

7. Other grants and future years' budget strategy

- 7.1. This section of the report considers the other funding streams which the Council currently receives and implications for future years. The critical point for the budget is that spend of these grants is managed by the services to ensure commitments are maintained within the resources available. This is to avoid putting pressure on the General Fund.
- 7.2. These other funding streams are Public Health, Better Care Fund, and various other grants. This section of the report is structured as follows:
- Better Care Fund and improved Better Care Fund 2020/21;
 - Public Health Grant 2020/21;
 - Social Care Grant; and
 - Adult Social Care Precept;

Better Care Fund and improved Better Care Fund

- 7.3. The national Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced by the Government in the June 2013 Spending Round, to support transformation and integration of health and social care services to ensure local people receive better care. The BCF is a pooled budget paid to the National Health Service (NHS) that shifts resources into social care and community services for the benefit of the NHS and local government. The BCF does not represent an increase in funding but rather a realignment of existing funding streams with new conditions attached.
- 7.4. For Lewisham the value in 2020/21 is £23.287m. The allocation for 2021/22 is expected to be at least the same although local allocations have yet to be confirmed. The local plan must be agreed with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and will require the approval of NHS England.
- 7.5. The Fund must be used in accordance with the final approved plan and through a section 75 pooled fund agreement. The full value of the element of the Fund linked to non-elective admissions reduction target is to be paid over to Lewisham CCG at the start of the financial year. However, the CCG may only release the full value of this funding into the pool if the proposed admissions reduction target is met. If the target is not met, the CCG may only release into the pool a part of that funding proportionate to the partial achievement of the target. Any part of this funding that is not released into the pool due to the target not being met must be dealt with in accordance with NHS England requirements. The partners have agreed contingency arrangements to address this risk and they will continue into 2021/22.
- 7.6. In 2017/18, the government also introduced the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) to work alongside the BCF. The iBCF in 2020/21 is £14.502m with the formerly separate winter pressures funding included and the grant is expected to continue at the same level in 2021/22. This is intended to fund adult social care activity. Plans for its use in 2021/22 will also require the agreement of local CCG. The grant is likely to be spent in substantially the same way as in 2020/21.

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Public Health Grant

- 7.7. In 2020/21, the Council's allocation for Public Health Grant is £24.8m. Indications are that there will be a small real terms increase in 2021/22 but allocations have not yet been published.
- 7.8. The grant remains ring-fenced and the agreed commitment of these funds will therefore need to be reviewed annually.

Social Care Grant

- 7.9. The provisional Local Government finance settlement in December 2020 committed £300m more for Social Care grant nationally for 2021/22. This has increased Lewisham's grant from £8.434m in 2020/21 to £10.773m in 2021/22 (a 27.7% increase) with the discretion to spend this on both adults and children social care. The budget proposes the increase of £2.339 for 2021/22 will mainly be allocated to Children's Social Care to ease the pressure on placements spend during the year. This is consistent with the approach taken with the £8.4m in 2020/21. The detail is set out in the allocation of resources to pressures in section 6 above.

Social Care Precept

- 7.10. The 3% precept on Council Tax for social care (expected to be £3.5m in 2021/22) will be used to address the increase in fees paid to providers of Adult Social Care and growth in demand from transitions. Fees are expected to increase above the general rate of inflation and in line with London Living Wage (LLW) / National Living Wage (NLW) rates. An indicative increase of 3.5% in the market would represent a cost pressure of approximately £3m on the Council's contracts.

8. Dedicated schools grant and pupil premium

Update on 2020/21 Dedicated Schools Grant

- 8.1. The gross level of the Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG) for 2020/21 is £296.28m. After the adjustment undertaken by the DfE to recoup funding for Academy Schools and the adjustment necessary for the inter-borough use of high needs places, this is £259.93m. The Early Years' element will be revised later in the year to take account of the pupil count which, for early years children, is undertaken in January 2021. The outcome will not be known until June 2021 and for this reason carries risk.
- 8.2. Overall, the 2020/21 DSG outturn is currently expected to be overspent by between £4m to £5m as a consequence of the pressure on the High Needs Block. Officers within the CYP directorate are progressing a detailed mitigation plan, the basis of which will be used to develop a Management Action Plan for submission to the DfE, this is a requirement where an overspend is forecast. The mitigation plan is being progressed in partnership with the Schools Forum, and this includes a working group of Head teacher representatives and Officers.
- 8.3. In 2020/21 there are 11 schools with deficits, and five schools with loans from the Council, totalling £1.4m. In addition to the 11 schools with deficits, there are 13 schools with balances that are within 8% of their delegated budget share, and 53 schools with balances in excess of 9%. In light of this, Schools have been asked to submit Budget Plans during the year. Review of these plans indicates that a significant number of

schools expect to need to draw on their reserves to varying degrees in order to be able to set the required balanced 3 year budget plans. The use of reserves is needed to be able to meet the expected financial challenges arising from staffing restructures, movement in pupil numbers, and other unfunded pressures such as the higher than expected pay award in 2020/21.

- 8.4. Schools have faced enormous challenges this year to deliver the Schools Curriculum whilst complying with the necessary Covid regulations. It was noted with extreme disappointment that very limited funding support has been provided to schools. Schools Forum will be expressing their disappointment to the Secretary of State by a direct letter of concern.
- 8.5. The Schools Finance Team (SFT) will continue to work with schools in developing sustainable budget plans. These plans now incorporate management metrics which have been developed to enable schools to be more strategic in their approach to setting and managing budgets. For example, these metrics allow schools to compare and benchmark their resource deployment on leadership, teaching, support administration, and contact time to name a few. For 2020/21, the SFT has launched a process known as Deficit Prevention Plans which enable schools to work effectively towards a 3 year balanced budget position, and the feedback from schools has been very positive.

Dedicated Schools' Grant and Pupil Premium for 2021/22

- 8.6. This section of the report considers the Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG) and the Pupil Premium Grant for 2021/22.
- 8.7. The Dedicated Schools Grant is the main source of funding for Schools and Early Year Providers. The grant is constituted of four parts, the Schools Block, Central Services Schools Block (CSSB), High Needs Block (HNB), and the Early Years Block (EYB). There is a national funding formula which determines each of the blocks and collectively determines the overall DSG. The provisional allocation of DSG for 2021/22 is £313.60m, an increase of £17.32m on the 2020/21 budget. However, circa £9.06m of this increase relates to the Teachers' Pension and Pay Award grant (TPPG), which has been streamlined into the DSG, and therefore is not additional funding, meaning that the net growth is £8.26m or approximately 2.8%.
- 8.8. It should be noted that this is the gross DSG allocation before the adjustment undertaken by the DfE to recoup funding for Academy Schools and the adjustment necessary for the inter-borough use of high needs places.
- 8.9. The Schools Block is the main basis to support the Schools Delegated budget share and following agreement from Schools Forum on the 19th January 2021, a submission has been made to the Department for Education (DfE) proposing funding at National Funding Formula including a 2% uplift in funding. This is the maximum that can be allocated to schools.
- 8.10. The High Needs Block which supports SEND is now under financial strain, despite the net increase in funding of circa £6m. For this reason, the Schools Block has supported a transfer of £1.068m has been agreed with forum to support the High Needs Block to meet pressures arising from meeting Statutory SEND requirements whilst services are reviewed as part of a mitigation plan. A further £1.243m remains which can be used to support schools pressures, e.g. Falling rolls Fund/Growth Fund.
- 8.11. The Central School Services Block has again been reduced in 2021/22 which reduces the funding available to support Local Authority Statutory functions. The service is currently working with Schools to consider how the delivery of Statutory and Regulatory services can be met within the reduced funding levels.

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- 8.12. Early Years Funding – the funding for this area remains provisional subject to the finalisation of the January Census Count Date. The impact of Covid is likely to have a downward impact on the pupil numbers and therefore the associated funding. The final allocation will not be known until June/July of 2022. A very small increase of 6p, equivalent to approximately £34 for a pupil on universal entitlement of 15 hours, has been allocated to Lewisham. The protection funding for Nursery schools is also not confirmed but remains provisional.
- 8.13. The pupil premium will continue in the 2021/22 financial year. Funding rates for the Pupil Premium in financial year 2021/22 will stay the same as for 2020/21, which is effectively and real term reduction in funding, the 2020/21 allocation was £14.624m. However, for 2021/22, the DfE has also confirmed that the methodology for distribution will change from the January schools census to the October 2020 school census. At this stage, it is not clear if there will be any transitional support should there be any significant changes arising from this change in methodology. Further information is expected in the near future.
- 8.14. Whilst there is extra funding in the settlement, many costs are rising by more than funding, exasperated further where pupil numbers are falling, and the ongoing impact of Covid cannot be accurately forecast. Schools continue to face pressures in their budgets, for example, salary increments, non-teaching pay increase, contract price increases including utilities, and the Apprenticeship Levy.
- 8.15. Table B1 below sets out the gross DSG provisional allocation.

Table B1: DSG Allocation

| | Schools block (£m) | Central school services block (£m) | High needs block (£m) | Early years block (£m) | Total DSG allocation (£m) |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| | A | B | C | D | E=A+B+C+D |
| 2021/22 | 222.769 | 4.261 | 62.399 | 24.166 | 313.595 |
| 2020/21 | 212.135 | 4.645 | 55.586 | 23.914 | 296.279 |
| Movement | 10.634 | -0.384 | 6.814 | 0.252 | 17.316 |

Pupil Numbers

- 8.16. The total changes in pupil numbers are as shown in table B2 below. Overall there is a reduction in numbers of 608 which, whilst relatively small at present, is the third consecutive year of falls and a risk for the schools concerned as funding for schools is driven by pupil numbers and associated characteristics (e.g. Free School Meals). This reduction in numbers could potentially have implications for those schools directly affected.

Table B2: Pupil Numbers

| | Oct-20 | Oct-19 | Change No | Change % |
|----------------|--------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Primary | 24,000 | 24,635 | -635 | -2.58% |

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Secondary | 11,356 | 11,330 | 27 | 0.23% |
| Net | 35,356 | 35,964 | -608 | -1.69% |

High Needs Block

- 8.17. In recognition of the pressures facing high needs, the Government has increased funding to Local Authorities to support high needs. The 2021/22 allocation for Lewisham is an overall net increase of £5.987m, which against the 2020/21 allocation of £55.585m is an 11% increase. This is partially due to an increase of 285 funded pupils.
- 8.18. It is expected that the High Needs Block will overspend for 2020/21 by up to £4m which will be the first call on this budget. It is further expected (assuming 2021/22 continues at the current levels of increase in EHCP) that 2021/22 will see an overspend position of approximately £4m to £5m. Schools Forum at its meeting of the 19th January 2021, agreed to support the High Needs Block with £1.068m. Additionally, there is a mitigation plan in place that is being progressed with Schools Forum. Recognising the funding pressure on Local Authorities, the Department for Education has now placed a new requirement on Local Authorities to submit Management Action Plans in the event of an overspend position. It is likely that Lewisham will need to submit this formally based on the scale of these projections.

Potential Risks

- 8.19. As set out in this section, there remain a number of risks in respect of funding for schools. These include:
- Impact of any overspends and the resultant requirement to establish a deficit recovery plan if the overspend is greater than 1%. In the event that the deficit cannot be contained, this pressure could potentially fall on the Schools Block, or potentially the General Fund triggering a review of services within CYP;
 - In 2019, the DfE introduced changes which now mean that where schools have deficits, these must be held against the overall schools reserves not exceeding 40%. However, if, on conversion to an academy, a school has a deficit this must be supported by the local authority;
 - Schools continue to face pressures arising from changes in policy. Examples include teachers' pay awards, support staff pay award, and pension's changes. This could have varying degree of impact for Schools;
 - Budget plans from Schools suggest that some are operating with a structural deficit dependent on reserves. Schools Finance are working with these schools to mitigate this risk; and
 - Risk of Covid-19 on schools balances; recognising that very limited funding has been made available to schools in terms of dealing with the associated costs of delivering the Schools' Curriculum during the pandemic.

9. Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 9.1. This section of the report considers the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The budgeted expenditure for the HRA in 2021/22 is £269.9m, including the capital and new build programme.

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- 9.2. It is structured as follows:
- Update on the HRA financial position for 2020/21;
 - Update on the HRA Business Plan; and
 - Future Years' Forecast.

Update on the HRA financial position for 2020/21

- 9.3. The HRA is budgeted to spend over £100m in 2020/21. The latest forecast on the HRA for 2020/21, is that net expenditure can be contained within budget by the year end. There are currently minimal reported pressures which can, if necessary, be mitigated by the use of once-off contingencies, reserves and revenue working balances. Expenditure against repairs & maintenance budgets is expected to be contained within the sums allocated.

Update on the HRA Business Plan

- 9.4. The Housing self-financing system was implemented on 1 April 2012 when the HRA subsidy scheme was abolished. The 30 year financial model has been developed based on current management arrangements and rental income estimates, updated for efficiencies and cost pressures. In addition, policy objectives such as sheltered housing and new build plans are incorporated into the modelling.
- 9.5. The plan underwent a major revision in 2015 for a 1% reduction in social rents applied each year for four years from 2016/17 to 2019/20. The impact of the change overall was assessed at £374.0m of resources lost over the life of the 30 year business plan.
- 9.6. The HRA financial model has been further updated for current guidance that from April 2020 government allows councils with social housing stock to return to the previous formula rent method of rent increase calculations until at least 2025. This method of rent increase is based on prior September's CPI + 1%. This has been implemented in Lewisham and become effective for rental increases applied from April 2020 onwards. For financial year 2021/22, as the September 2020 CPI was 0.5%, the overall increase will be 1.5% (0.5% + 1.0%).
- 9.7. In order to protect the business plan and provide the same level of investment and services, any reduction in income will need to be off-set though increased efficiencies and reprioritisation of investment requirements across stock condition and/or development plans.
- 9.8. A review of current investment needs and priorities has been undertaken, based on updated surveys and inflation estimates. This includes assumptions on future liabilities, programmes, cuts, and other requirements. These assumptions will be used to inform the resource need and identify potential gaps in funding and opportunities for additional income and grants.
- 9.9. The plan also contains costs associated with the new build programme currently being implemented by the authority. Table B1 provides an illustration of the expected HRA budget for the next five years, which includes the current 1.5% rent increase estimates for 2021/22. The HRA debt cap which was imposed when the self-financing regime was implemented (£127.3m) has now been abolished. The HRA will now be subject to prudential borrowing rules (as per General Fund and as described more fully in the Treasury Strategy at section 10 below).

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Table C1: Update on the HRA Business Plan

| HRA Income & Expenditure Estimates - 5 year Forecast | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| Income | | | | | |
| Rental income | (71.8) | (75.1) | (80.7) | (82.9) | (86.1) |
| Tenants service charge income | (6.3) | (6.4) | (6.5) | (6.6) | (6.7) |
| Leasehold service charge income | (5.1) | (5.3) | (5.4) | (5.5) | (5.7) |
| Hostel charges and grant income | (1.3) | (1.4) | (1.4) | (1.4) | (1.4) |
| Major Works recoveries | (9.9) | (6.2) | (6.0) | (6.1) | (6.1) |
| Other income | (1.6) | (1.6) | (1.6) | (1.6) | (1.6) |
| Interest earned on balances | (1.0) | (0.6) | (0.6) | (0.6) | (0.1) |
| Total Income | (97.0) | (96.6) | (102.2) | (104.7) | (107.7) |
| | | | | | |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Management costs | 37.5 | 38.3 | 39.8 | 40.5 | 41.5 |
| Repairs & maintenance | 15.1 | 15.1 | 15.3 | 15.5 | 15.7 |
| PFI Costs | 7.3 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 8.5 | 8.7 |
| Interest & other finance costs | 3.8 | 7.3 | 11.4 | 15.3 | 17.5 |
| Depreciation | 23.7 | 24.1 | 24.6 | 25.0 | 25.5 |
| Revenue Contribution to Capital | 29.7 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Total Expenditure | 117.1 | 96.4 | 101.7 | 104.8 | 108.9 |
| | | | | | |

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| | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Surplus/(deficit) | (20.1) | 0.2 | 0.5 | (0.1) | (1.2) |
| | | | | | |
| Opening HRA reserves | 28.5 | 8.4 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 9.0 |
| Contribution to/(Drawdown) from reserves | (20.1) | 0.2 | 0.5 | (0.1) | (1.2) |
| Closing HRA Reserves | 8.4 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 9.0 | 7.8 |
| | | | | | |
| Forecast Capital Programme & Funding | | | | | |
| Capital programme (including decent Homes) | 74.0 | 46.7 | 45.8 | 46.4 | 46.0 |
| New Build construction & on-going costs (Net) | 78.8 | 102.8 | 106.5 | 70.8 | 60.0 |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 152.8 | 149.5 | 152.3 | 117.2 | 106.0 |
| | | | | | |
| Capital Programme Funded By: | | | | | |
| MRR Opening Balance | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | (0.2) |
| Revenue Contribution to Capital | (29.7) | (3.8) | (2.4) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Depreciation | (23.7) | (24.1) | (24.6) | (25.0) | (25.5) |
| Grants, Capital Receipts & Sales | (21.1) | (27.3) | (13.7) | (10.0) | (53.1) |
| Borrowing | (78.3) | (94.1) | (111.7) | (82.5) | (27.8) |
| Total Capital Funding | (152.8) | (149.3) | (152.2) | (117.4) | (106.6) |
| | | | | | |
| Capital shortfall | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | (0.2) | (0.6) |
| | | | | | |

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| | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| HRA Actual Debt Level (Forecast) | 101.3 | 195.8 | 307.3 | 389.6 | 417.5 |
| HRA Self-financing Settlement Debt Level (was £127.3m) | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |

- 9.10. As can be seen from the above table, the expected total expenditure, before financing, for the HRA in 2021/22 is £269.9m, comprising £117.1m operational costs and £152.8m capital and new build costs.

Future Years' Forecast

- 9.11. The key purpose of the proposed HRA budget is to ensure that there are sufficient resources to support lifecycle works, such as; repairs and maintenance, the Decent Homes programme and, a key priority for the current administration, delivery of new social homes in the borough.
- 9.12. There is an ongoing process to identify opportunities for efficiencies to deliver services for improved value for money and this is described in Appendix X1. Although no direct savings have been identified so far for 2021/22, any savings and efficiencies delivered against the HRA business model and future budgets can be re-invested to off-set constrained rent rises or to help bridge any investment gap identified. Discussions are ongoing to identify appropriate savings and 'target' management and maintenance costs per unit. For example, there is already an assumed reduction in the Lewisham Homes fee in 2021/22 to reflect stock losses through Right to Buy Sales.
- 9.13. Separate reports which set out in detail the proposals relating to service charges for Brockley and Lewisham Homes residents are attached at Appendix X2 and Appendix X3, respectively.

Rental Income and allowances

- 9.14. Following completion of the legislative requirements for 4 years of rental contraction, Government have confirmed rents will return to the previous method of rent increase calculations for 2020/21 onwards. This is based on the previous formula rent calculation of CPI + 1%. This will be for a minimum 5 year period to financial year 2025/26. For the purpose of business and financial planning, it is assumed that that rental charges will be increased in line with this guidance.
- 9.15. At the present time, the financial models used by the council forecast CPI to be within the range of 0.5% to 2.0% annually over this period (in line with the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts). It should be noted that any variation to this could put additional pressure on the financial forecasts for the HRA. Each 0.5% will cost approximately £0.35m in the first year and represent a loss of £33m compounded over a 40 year period (the development lifecycle being considered for assets).
- 9.16. CPI at September 2020 was 0.5%, therefore rents are expected to increase by 1.5% for 2021/22 (0.5% + 1%), and rise by CPI + 1% for at least the next 4 years to 2025.
- 9.17. A 1.5% increase in average rents for 2021/22 will equate to an average increase of £1.46pw over a 52 week period. This will increase the full year average dwelling rent for the London Borough of Lewisham from £97.72 to £99.18 per week (pw). The proposed increase will result in additional income of £1.020m to the HRA when compared to 2020/21 income levels.

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- 9.18. A rent rise higher than the rent limit calculation, set by Government, will result in additional recharges to the HRA via the Housing Benefit (HB) subsidy limitation charges. Any rise above this level will be lost through additional limitation recharges and therefore result in no benefit to the HRA.
- 9.19. Tenants were asked to provide comments and feedback on the proposed rent changes and illustration for inclusion in the Mayor & Cabinet budget report at meetings held with Brockley PFI and Lewisham Homes tenants (see Appendix X2).
- 9.20. The main comments received from Lewisham Homes' residents concerning the proposals for rents and garages was that there are issues of affordability given the current pandemic and increase in unemployment. The main comments regarding service charges were questioning value for money as charges are increasing but service delivery is not improving.
- 9.21. There were no specific comments received from RB3 Brockley residents concerning the proposals for rents, garages and service charges.
- 9.22. Details of the options for the rent & service charge changes for 2021/22 will be presented to the Housing Select Committee on 28 January 2021 and feedback, if any, will be reported in the Budget Update report.
- 9.23. Having regard to the outcomes of the consultations held in December 2020 as set out above (and with more detail in Appendices X1, X2, and X3), the Mayor is asked to make a recommendation to full Council that a 1.5% rent increase be agreed as per the rent calculation formula. The new average rent for 2021/22 is likely to be in the region of £99.18pw, an increase of approximately £1.46pw from 2020/21 levels.

Other Associated Charges

- 9.24. There are a range of other associated charges. These include: garage rents, tenants levy, hostels, Linkline, private sector leasing, heating and hot water. These charges and any proposed changes to them for 2021/22 are set out in detail in Appendix X4.

Summary

- 9.25. The gross budgeted expenditure for the HRA in 2021/22 is £269.9m, £117.1m revenue and £152.9m capital. Council is asked to approve a rent increase of 1.5% having considered tenant's feedback following consultation held in December 2020. The current average weekly rent is £97.72 in 2020/21. This will increase to £99.18pw in 2021/22.

10. Treasury Management Strategy

Background

- 10.1. The Council is required to operate a balanced budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Surplus monies are invested in low risk counterparties or instruments commensurate with the Council's low risk appetite, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering investment return.

- 10.2. The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer-term cash flow surpluses. On occasion, when it is prudent and economic, any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 10.3. The contribution the treasury management function makes to the authority is critical, as the balance of debt and investment operations ensure liquidity and the ability to meet spending commitments as they fall due, either for day-to-day revenue purposes or for larger capital projects. Treasury operations will see a balance of the interest costs of debt and the investment income arising from cash deposits affecting the available budget. Since cash balances generally result from reserves and balances, it is paramount to ensure adequate security of the sums invested, as a loss of principal will in effect result in a loss to the General Fund.
- 10.4. Whilst any commercial initiatives or loans to third parties will impact on the treasury function, these activities are generally classed as non-treasury activities, arising usually from capital expenditure, and are separate from the day to day treasury management activities.

Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/2022

- 10.5. The Strategy for 2021/22 covers two main areas:
- i Capital Issues:
 - Capital Investment Plans
 - Capital Strategy
 - Prudential Indicators
 - Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy
 - ii Treasury Management Issues:
 - Borrowing Strategy & Treasury Indicators
 - Debt Rescheduling
 - Investment Strategy
 - Creditworthiness Policy
 - Updates to Investment Strategy
 - Prospects for Investment Returns

The Strategy will also summarise the Council's non-treasury investments, which are expanded on in the separate Capital Strategy.

- 10.6. These elements cover the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the CIPFA Prudential Code, the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government's (MHCLG) guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and Investments, and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code.

Capital Investment Plans

- 10.7. The Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 incorporates the capital plans of the Council, as set out in section 6 of this Budget Report, which are a key driver of treasury

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management activity. The output of capital expenditure plans is reflected in the prudential indicators, which are designed to assist Members' overview and confirm capital expenditure plans.

- 10.8. The treasury management function ensures that the Council's cash is organised in accordance with the relevant professional codes so that sufficient cash is available to meet service activity and the Council's Capital Strategy. This involves both the management and monitoring of cash flows and, where capital plans require, the arrangement of appropriate borrowing facilities.

Capital Strategy

- 10.9. The CIPFA 2017 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require all local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy, which will provide the following:
- A high-level long-term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services;
 - An overview of how the associated risk is managed; and
 - The implications for future financial sustainability.
- 10.10. The aim of the strategy is to ensure that all elected Members on full Council fully understand the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting Capital Strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite.
- 10.11. The Capital Strategy is reported separately from the Treasury Management Strategy; non-treasury investments will be reported through the former. This ensures the separation of the core treasury function under security, liquidity and yield principles, and the policy and commercialism investments usually driven by expenditure on an asset. The Capital Strategy shows:
- The corporate governance arrangements for these types of activities;
 - Any service objectives relating to the investments;
 - The expected income, costs and resulting contribution;
 - The debt related to the activity and the associated interest costs;
 - The payback period (MRP policy);
 - For non-loan type investments, the cost against the current market value; and
 - The risks associated with each activity.
- 10.12. The 2021/22 Capital Strategy will be presented to Members later in 2021.

Prudential Indicators

- 10.13. Forward projections for borrowing as at 31 March 2021 are summarised below in Table E1, which shows the actual external debt from treasury management operations and other long-term liabilities against the underlying capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement - CFR) which is simply the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's indebtedness, and its underlying borrowing need; any increase to capital expenditure which has not immediately been paid for through a revenue or capital resource will increase the CFR.
- 10.14. The CFR does not increase indefinitely, as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is a statutory annual revenue charge which broadly reduces the indebtedness in line with each asset's life, and so charges the economic consumption of capital assets as they are used.

- 10.15. The CFR includes any other long-term liabilities (e.g. PFI liabilities). Whilst these increase the CFR and therefore the Council's borrowing requirement, these types of scheme include a borrowing facility by the PFI or PPP provider and so the Council is not required to separately borrow for these schemes.
- 10.16. Changes in external debt incorporate upcoming loan maturities and projected prudential borrowing requirements in both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
- 10.17. Table D1 below illustrates over/ (under) borrowing relative to the combined CFR for the General Fund and HRA.

Table D1: External Debt Projections

| | 2019/20 Actual £m | 2020/21 Forecast £m | 2021/22 Forecast £m | 2022/23 Forecast £m | 2023/24 Forecast £m |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| External Debt at 1 April | 217.2 | 217.0 | 230.3 | 327.1 | 421.6 |
| Change in External Debt | (0.2) | 13.3 | 96.8 | 94.5 | 116.5 |
| Other Long-Term Liabilities | 228.1 | 219.1 | 209.8 | 218.9 | 207.3 |
| Gross Debt at 31 March | 445.1 | 449.4 | 536.9 | 640.5 | 745.4 |
| CFR - HRA | 55.5 | 55.5 | 133.8 | 225.9 | 333.3 |
| CFR – General Fund and Other Long-Term Liabilities | 464.3 | 468.5 | 473.4 | 478.9 | 468.7 |
| Total Capital Financing Requirement at 31 March* | 519.8 | 524.0 | 607.2 | 704.8 | 802.0 |
| Borrowing – over / (under) | (74.7) | (74.6) | (70.3) | (64.3) | (56.6) |

*The Capital Financing Requirement includes the prudential borrowing figures shown in Table E2 of Section 11 - Capital Programme in the 2021/22 Budget Report. The previous year's forecast prudential borrowing for capital did not materialise as expected and there is a risk that this recurs. This will be monitored during the year and reported back. This is a more acute risk given the scale and ambition of the capital programme, particularly in the HRA. We will ensure that we only borrow as the need arises.

- 10.18. Within the prudential indicators, there are a number of key indicators to ensure that the Council operates its activities within well-defined limits. One of these is that the Council needs to ensure that its gross debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for the current and following two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years, but ensures that borrowing is not undertaken for revenue or speculative purposes.
- 10.19. To put the cost of borrowing into context, it represents 3% of the net general fund budget, or as a share of the Lewisham element of a band D property is £44 per year. This proportion has remained broadly flat, reducing slightly, over the past five years.
- 10.20. The Executive Director for Corporate Resources officer reports that the Council has complied with this prudential indicator in the current year to date and does not envisage difficulties for the future. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in this report.

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Limits to Borrowing Activity

10.21. There are two measures of limiting external debt; the 'operational boundary' and 'authorised limit for external debt', which the Council reports on as part of its prudential indicators. Both are described in further detail in the following paragraphs.

The Operational Boundary for External Debt

10.22. This is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed. In most cases, this would be a similar figure to the CFR, but may be lower or higher depending on the levels of actual debt and the ability to fund under-borrowing by other cash resources. The Council's operational boundary is set out in Table D2.

Table D2: Operational Boundary

| | 2020/21 £m | 2021/22 £m | 2022/23 £m | 2023/24 £m |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Maximum External Debt at 31 March | 230.3 | 327.1 | 421.6 | 538.1 |
| Other Long-Term Liabilities | 219.1 | 209.8 | 218.9 | 207.3 |
| Operational Boundary for Year | 449.4 | 536.9 | 640.5 | 745.4 |

The Authorised Limit for External Debt

10.23. This key indicator represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing, and provides a limit beyond which external debt is prohibited. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term but is not sustainable in the longer term.

10.24. This is a statutory limit determined under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003, and needs to be set and revised by full Council. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all Councils' plans, or those of a specific Council, although this power has not yet been exercised.

10.25. The authorised limits are as set out in Table D3.

Table D3: Authorised Limits for External Debt

| | 2020/21 £m | 2021/22 £m | 2022/23 £m | 2023/24 £m |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Operational Boundary for Year | 449.4 | 536.9 | 640.5 | 745.4 |
| Provision for Non Receipt of Expected Income | 56.0 | 56.0 | 56.0 | 56.0 |
| Additional 10% Margin | 44.9 | 53.7 | 64.1 | 74.5 |
| Authorised Limit for Year | 550.3 | 646.6 | 760.6 | 875.9 |

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

10.26. The Council is required to pay off an element of the accumulated General Fund capital spend each year (the CFR) through a revenue charge (the MRP), although it is also

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allowed to undertake additional voluntary payments if required (Voluntary Revenue Provision – VRP). The MRP must be determined by the Council as being a prudent provision having regard to the MHCLG Statutory Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision.

- 10.27. The MRP is the amount the Council charges to the revenue account and does not correspond to the actual amount of debt repaid, which is determined by treasury related issues. Historically the Council has applied a consistent MRP policy which comprises prudential borrowing being repaid over the useful life of the asset concerned and previous borrowing being repaid at the rate of 4% (equivalent to 25 years) of the outstanding balance.
- 10.28. In 2016/17, this policy was changed to reflect the useful lives of the specific asset classes on the Council's balance sheet. It moved to:
- A straight line MRP of 14% equivalent to seven years for plant and equipment (such as IT and vehicles); and
 - A straight line MRP of 2.5% equivalent to forty years for property (such as land and buildings).
- 10.29. In 2017/18 a third element was added to the Council's MRP policy, whereby no MRP need be charged on capital expenditure where the Council has assessed that sufficient collateral is held at a current valuation to meet the outstanding CFR liability, and that should it be determined at any point that insufficient collateral is held to match the Council's CFR liability a prudent MRP charge will commence.
- 10.30. In 2019/20 the Council, on independent advice and as audited in the accounts, adjusted the MRP for an historic overcharge dating back to 2003/04. The details were set out in the 2020/21 budget report. The value of the overcharge has been calculated as £10.1m, which will be recovered from 2019/20 over a 10 year period via an annual reduction to MRP. The outstanding value of the overcharge to be recovered as at 31 March 2021 is £8.1m.

Borrowing Strategy

- 10.31. The Council's external debt as at 31 March 2021, gross borrowing plus long term liabilities, is expected to be £449m. The Council's borrowing strategy is consistent with last year's strategy. The Council is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position in that the CFR is not fully funded with loan debt, as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as an alternative funding measure. In the current economic climate, this strategy is considered prudent while investment returns are low and counterparty risk remains an issue to be considered.
- 10.32. The Executive Director for Corporate Resources will continue to monitor interest rates in the financial markets and adopt a pragmatic and cautious approach to changing circumstances. For instance, if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp fall in long and short term rates then long term borrowing will be postponed and potential rescheduling from fixed rate funding into short-term borrowing considered. Any such decisions would be reported to Mayor and Cabinet and subsequently Council, at the next available opportunity.
- 10.33. Alternatively, if it was felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper rise in long and short term rates than that currently forecast (perhaps arising from an acceleration in rate of increase in central rates in the USA and UK, an increase in world economic

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activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks) then the portfolio position will be re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding will be drawn whilst interest rates are lower than they are projected to be in future years. Once again, any such decisions would be reported to Mayor and Cabinet and subsequently Council, at the next available opportunity.

Policy on Borrowing in Advance of Need

10.34. Members should note that the Council's policy is not to borrow more than or in advance of its needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance will be within the approved forward CFR estimates, and will be considered carefully to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated and that the Council can ensure the security of such funds.

Treasury Indicators

10.35. There are three debt-related treasury activity limits. The purpose of these are to restrain the activity of the treasury function within certain limits, thereby managing risk and reducing the impact of any adverse movement in interest rates. These limits need to be balanced against the requirement for the treasury function to retain some flexibility to enable it to respond quickly to opportunities to reduce costs and improve performance.

10.36. The debt related indicators are:

- Upper limits on variable interest rate exposure. This identifies a maximum limit for variable interest rates based upon the debt position net of investments;
- Upper limits on fixed interest rate exposure. This is similar to the previous indicator and covers a maximum limit on fixed interest rates; and
- Maturity structure of borrowing. These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing and are required for upper and lower limits.

10.37. The treasury indicators and limits are set out in Table D4 below:

Table D4: Treasury Indicators and Limits

| Limits on Interest Rate Exposures | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| | Upper | Upper | Upper |
| Limits on fixed interest rates: | | | |
| • Debt only | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| • Investments only: | | | |
| When total portfolio >£400m | 90% | 90% | 90% |
| When total portfolio <£400m | 85% | 85% | 85% |
| Limits on variable interest rates | | | |
| • Debt only | 15% | 15% | 15% |
| • Investments only | 75% | 75% | 75% |
| Limits on Maturity Structure of Fixed Interest Rate Borrowing 2021/22 | | | |
| | | Lower | Upper |
| Under 12 months | | 0% | 10% |

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 12 months to 2 years | 0% | 10% |
| 2 years to 5 years | 0% | 10% |
| 5 years to 10 years | 0% | 25% |
| 10 years to 20 years | 0% | 20% |
| 20 years to 30 years | 0% | 25% |
| 30 years to 40 years | 0% | 50% |
| 40 years to 50 years | 0% | 60% |
| Limits on Maturity Structure of Variable Interest Rate Borrowing 2021/22 | | |
| | Lower | Upper |
| 30 years to 40 years | 0% | 60% |
| 40 years to 50 years | 0% | 40% |

Long Term Investments Indicator

- 10.38. This indicator sets a limit on the total principal funds invested for greater than 365 days. This limit is set with regard to the Council's liquidity requirements and to manage the risks associated with the possibility of loss which may arise as a result of having to seek early repayment, or redemption of, principal sums invested.
- 10.39. The indicator is set out in Table D5 below. As at 31 March 2021, the Council is not expected to hold any investments for longer than 365 days.

Table D5: Treasury Indicators and Limits

| Maximum Principal Sums Invested for Longer than 365 days | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 |
| | £m | £m | £m |
| Limit on principal sums invested for longer than 365 days | 50.0 | 50.0 | 50.0 |

Debt Rescheduling

- 10.40. As short-term borrowing rates will be considerably cheaper than longer term fixed interest rates, there may be potential opportunities to generate efficiencies by switching from long-term debt to short-term debt. However, these efficiencies will need to be considered in light of the current treasury position and the size of the cost of debt repayment (premiums incurred).
- 10.41. The reasons for any rescheduling to take place will include:
- The generation of cash savings and/or discounted cash flow savings;
 - Helping to fulfil the Treasury Strategy;
 - Enhancing the balance of the portfolio (to amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).

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- 10.42. The Council will continue to explore rescheduling opportunities as appropriate in respect of the financing of its PFIs and external loans.
- 10.43. The Council has £120m of LOBO loans at nominal value as at 31 March 2021 of which £47.5m will be in their call period in 2021/22. In the event that the lender exercises the option to change the rate or terms of the loans within their call period, the Council will consider the terms being provided and also the option of repayment of the loan without penalty.
- 10.44. The Council continuously reviews its debt position to optimise its cash flow. Any consideration of debt rescheduling will be reported to Mayor and Cabinet and subsequently to Council at the earliest meeting possible.

Annual Investment Strategy

Investment Policy – Management of Risk

- 10.45. The MHCLG and CIPFA have extended the meaning of ‘investments’ to include both financial and non-financial investments. This report deals predominantly with financial instruments (as managed by the Strategic Finance – Treasury Team); non-financial investments, essentially the purchase of income yielding assets, are summarised at the end of this report and covered in detail within the separate Capital Strategy.
- 10.46. The Council’s investment policy has regard to MHCLG’s Guidance on Local Government Investments (“the Guidance”), the CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes (“the CIPFA TM Code”), and CIPFA’s Treasury Management Guidance Notes 2018.
- 10.47. The Council’s investment priorities will be security first, liquidity second, then return. The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and within the Council’s risk appetite. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs. However, where appropriate (from an internal as well as external perspective), the Council will also consider the value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, as well as wider range fund options.
- 10.48. The Council uses Link Group, Treasury Solutions as its external treasury management advisor. The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the Council at all times and will ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon our external service providers. All decisions will be undertaken with regards to all available information including, but not solely, our treasury advisors. It also recognises that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The Council will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented, and subjected to regular review.
- 10.49. The Guidance and CIPFA TM Code place a high priority on the management of risk. The Council has adopted a prudent approach to managing risk and defines its risk appetite by the following means:
1. Minimum acceptable **credit criteria** are applied in order to generate a list of highly creditworthy counterparties which also enables diversification and thus avoidance of concentration risk. The key ratings used to monitor counterparties are the short term and long term ratings.

2. **Other information**; ratings will not be the sole determinant of the quality of an institution; it is important to continually assess and monitor the financial sector on both a micro and macro basis and in relation to the economic and political environments in which institutions operate. The assessment will also take account of information that reflects the opinion of the markets. To this end, the Council will engage with its advisors to maintain a monitor on market pricing such as “credit default swaps” and overlay that information on top of the credit ratings, as well as information on outlooks and watches. This is fully integrated into the credit methodology provided by the advisors in producing its colour codings which show the varying degrees of suggested institution creditworthiness. This has been set out in more detail at Appendix Z2.
3. **Other information sources** used will include the financial press, share prices and other such information pertaining to the financial sector in order to establish the most robust scrutiny process on the suitability of potential investment counterparties.
4. The Council has defined the list of **types of investment instruments** that the treasury team are authorised to use in the financial year, and these are listed in Appendix Z2 under the categories of “specified” and “non-specified” investments
 - **Specified investments** are those with a high level of credit quality and subject to a maturity limit of one year.
 - **Non-specified investments** are those with less high credit quality, may be for periods in excess of one year, and/or are more complex instruments which require greater consideration by Members and officers before being authorised for use.
5. **Lending limits** (amounts and maturity) for each counterparty will be set through applying the credit criteria provided by advisors, and are set out in Appendix Z2.
6. **Interest rate limits** are set out in paragraph 11.36 and Table E4 and place restrictions on the exposure to variable and fixed rate investments.
7. The Council has placed a limit on the amount of its investments which are invested for **longer than 365 days** (see paragraph 11.38 and Table E5).
8. Investments will only be placed with counterparties from countries with a specified minimum **sovereign rating** (see paragraph 11.53).
9. All investments will be denominated in **sterling**.
10. As a result of the change in accounting standards for 2018/19 under IFRS 9, the Council will, on an ongoing basis, consider the implications of investment instruments which could result in an adverse movement in the value of the amount invested and resultant changes at the end of the year to the General Fund. The MHCLG enacted a statutory override in 2018/19 for a five year period over the requirement for any unrealised capital gains or losses on marketable pooled funds to be chargeable in year, giving local authorities time to initiate an orderly withdrawal of funds if required. The Council does not at present have any pooled investments, though has scope to do so as per the creditworthiness policy in Appendix Z2.

10.50. Investments will be made with reference to the core balances and cash flow requirements and the outlook for short-term interest rates (i.e. rates for investments up

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to 12 months). In order to maintain sufficient liquidity, the Council will seek to utilise its notice accounts, money market funds and short-dated deposits (overnight to three months). The remainder of its investments will be placed in fixed term deposits of up to 24 months to generate improved returns, depending on prevailing market conditions.

Creditworthiness Policy

10.51. The Council's Treasury Team applies the creditworthiness service provided by its advisors Link Group. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach utilising credit ratings from the three main credit rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays:

- Credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies;
- CDS spreads that may give early warning of changes in credit ratings; and
- Sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

10.52. This modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches and credit outlooks in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS spreads for which the end product is a series of colour coded bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These colour codes are used by the Council to determine the suggested duration for investments. The Council will therefore use counterparties within the following durational bands:

- Yellow 5 years*
- Purple 2 years
- Blue 1 year (only applies to nationalised or semi nationalised UK Banks)
- Orange 1 year
- Red 6 months
- Green 100 days
- No colour Not to be used**

*for UK Government debt, or its equivalent, money market funds and collateralised deposits where the collateral is UK Government debt.

**apart from exceptions where relevant and as set out in the policy.

10.53. The Council's creditworthiness policy has been set out at Appendix Z2.

Country limits

10.54. The Council has determined that it will only use approved counterparties from the UK and from other countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AA- from Fitch. The list of countries that qualify using this credit criteria as at the date of this report are shown in Appendix Z3. This list will be added to, or deducted from, by officers should country ratings change in accordance with this policy.

Updates to Investment Strategy

10.55. For the 2021/22 strategy an additional unspecified investment has been added to the creditworthiness policy at Appendix Z2, namely the ability to invest in UK building societies with a minimum credit rating of BBB- from Fitch (or equivalent), specifically those that are shown on Link Group's lending list only (but which may be rated 'No colour') for a maximum of three months and limited to £10m per institution.

10.56. Very few building societies have credit ratings assigned to them due to the lack of large

ticket funding transactions that would warrant a formal credit rating being issued by one of the three main ratings agencies, and only a select few within the top ten by asset size have been issued with one. A credit rating of BBB- remains within the 'investment grade' category, subject to moderate credit risk, which is reflected by the monetary and duration limits as set out above.

- 10.57. This addition to the strategy has been made as a result of current economic conditions (described further from paragraph 11.57 onwards) and the reduced options available for investing at positive yields; in practice it opens up a limited number of two-three additional counterparties for consideration. Officers will continue to monitor the rating movements against these counterparties to ensure that any investments fall within the set criteria.

Prospects for Investment Returns

- 10.58. Investment returns are likely to remain exceptionally low during 2021/22 with little increase in the following two years. The coronavirus outbreak has caused huge economic damage to the UK and economies around the world. After the Bank of England took emergency action in March 2020 to cut the Bank Rate to first 0.25%, and then to 0.10%, it has left the Bank Rate unchanged in subsequent meetings although some forecasters had suggested that a cut into negative territory could happen. However, the Governor of the Bank of England has made it clear that he currently thinks that such a move would do more damage than good and that more quantitative easing is the favoured tool if further action becomes necessary.
- 10.59. Despite this, some deposit accounts are already offering negative rates for shorter periods, including the Government's Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF). Money market yields have continued to drift lower and some managers have resorted to trimming fee levels to ensure that net yields for investors remain in positive territory, or zero, where possible. Investor cash flow uncertainty, and the need to maintain liquidity in these unprecedented times, has resulted in a surplus of cash swilling around at the very short end of the market with only marginally positive returns.
- 10.60. The Council uses the services of its advisor, Link Group, to formulate a view on interest rates; their view is that there will be no increase in the Bank Rate in the immediate short-term up to at least March 2024 as economic recovery is expected to be gradual and therefore prolonged. Given this uncertainty, suggested investment returns are expected to remain low and money market related instruments will be sub 0.50% for the foreseeable future.
- 10.61. In light of these predictions for low returns the Council continues to assess, with support from its advisors, the potential risk and return offered by investing for longer (five or more years) in pooled asset funds. This policy is set with regard to the Council's liquidity requirements and to reduce the risk of a forced sub-optimal early sale of an investment; any investments entered into will be on the advice of the Council's advisors and will continue to meet the objectives of security, liquidity and return.
- 10.62. The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is probably now skewed to the upside, but is subject to some uncertainty due to the coronavirus, the effect of any mutations, and how quick vaccines are in enabling a relaxation of restrictions. There is relatively little UK domestic risk of increases or decreases in the Bank Rate and significant changes in shorter term PWLB rates. The Bank of England has effectively ruled out the use of negative interest rates in the near term and increases in the Bank Rate are likely to be some years away given the underlying economic expectations. However, it is always possible that safe haven flows, due to unexpected domestic developments and those in other major economies, or a return of investor confidence

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in equities, could impact gilt yields (and so PWLB rates) in the UK.

10.63. A more extensive table of interest rate forecasts for 2021 onwards, including Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing rate forecasts, is set out in Appendix Z1.

Non-Treasury Investments

10.64. Treasury management investments represent the placement of cash in relation to the S12 Local Government Act 2003 investment powers, i.e. they represent investments using the residual cash available to the authority from its day to day activities, under security, liquidity and yield principles.

10.65. The Council recognises that non-treasury investments in other financial assets and property primarily for financial return, taken for non-treasury management purposes, requires careful management. Such investments tend to be either:

- Policy type investments; whereby capital or revenue cash is advanced for a specific Council objective and will be approved directly through Committee. This may be an advance to a third party for economic regeneration, investments in subsidiaries and joint ventures, etc.
- Commercial type investments; whereby the objective is primarily to generate capital or revenue resources to help facilitate Council services.

10.66. The Council's risk appetite for these investments is reviewed on a case-by-case basis depending on the scale and nature, and strategic fit, of the proposed investment. Where such non-treasury investments exist, they will be identified and summarised at high level within this strategy. The detail and rationale for non-treasury investments are covered in the separate Capital Strategy.

Subsidiary Companies

10.67. The Council has two wholly owned subsidiary companies, Lewisham Homes Limited and Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited (CRPL). It has invested in these subsidiaries as summarised below.

Lewisham Homes Limited

10.68. Lewisham Homes is an arms-length management organisation (ALMO) set up in 2007 as part of the Council's initiative to deliver better housing services and achieve the Decent Homes Standard. The company manages approximately 18,000 homes.

10.69. The Council has to date agreed two separate loan facilities with Lewisham Homes, the first on proxy commercial terms financed from internal borrowing and the second on cost-neutral terms financed through the PWLB. Both loans allow Lewisham Homes to purchase properties to address temporary accommodation needs in the borough, and will be repaid on set maturity dates.

10.70. Agreement of the property acquisition programme and relevant loan agreements was obtained from Mayor and Cabinet. State Aid issues and other risks and mitigations were considered in the approval of the loan facilities, including for the second loan the requirement for collateral against the loan in order to obtain MRP exemption.

10.71. As at 31 March 2021 the Council expects to have advanced £17m of the available £20m commercial loan facility, and all £20m of the agreed facility financed from PWLB debt.

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Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited (CRPL)

- 10.72. The CRPL is a property investment company created in January 2010 which owns the Catford Shopping Centre and several neighbouring properties used to generate income whilst driving forward a regeneration programme for the town centre and surrounding area.
- 10.73. The Council has existing loan agreements in place with the CRPL, currently on an interest only basis. As at 31 March 2021 the Council expects the outstanding loan principal to be approximately £14.5m.
- 10.74. The state aid compliant loans were advanced as part of the company's initial establishment and to finance new acquisitions as the company grew, approved through reports presented to Mayor and Cabinet. In 2020/21 a further £1.15m was advanced to the company as part of agreed loan commitments, and to support the company's cash flows through the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus outbreak; the debt is secured against the value of the company's assets.

Other Non-Treasury Investments

Besson Street Joint Venture

- 10.75. The Council is an equal equity partner in a joint venture with Grainger Plc. to bring forward the development of the currently vacant Besson Street site to provide properties for the Private Rented Sector on long term tenancies. The Council has invested land at this stage and will be required to put forward an estimated £20m – 25m of cash to make up its share (50%) of the 40% equity, with 60% external long term borrowing, to be invested once the the scheme is built. This is currently forecast to be in early 2025.
- 10.76. The Council also holds minority stakes in the following:
- 10% in Lewisham Schools for the Future LEP Limited, a Local Education Partnership established under the Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme to rebuild and refurbish secondary schools within the borough.
 - Less than 1% in South-East London Combined Heat and Power Ltd (SELCHP), a joint venture with the London Borough of Greenwich for the provision of waste disposal and waste to energy processes.
 - A minority share in Newable Ltd (formerly Greater London Enterprise Ltd) which provides property management and consultancy services.
 - Less than 1% in the London Collective Investment Vehicle the pension fund pool vehicle for London local government pension funds.
 - Less than 1% in the Municipal Bonds Agency, a national body established by local authorities as a potential alternative source of borrowing to the PWLB.

11. Capital Programme

- 11.1. In reviewing the Council's overall financial position the Capital Programme has to be considered to ensure that any revenue implications of capital decisions are taken into account in building the revenue budget. The Capital Programme budget for 2021/22 to 2023/24 is proposed at £517.5m of which £184.2m is for 2021/22.
- 11.2. This section of the report is structured as follows:
- Update on 2020/21 Capital Programme

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- Proposed Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24
- Future schemes and resources

Update on 2020/21 Capital Programme

- 11.3. Progress in delivering the 2020/21 Capital Programme has been reported to Mayor & Cabinet and the Public Accounts Select Committee throughout the year. The latest forecast projection was that the revised budget allocated for the year of £163.6m, and reported to Mayor and Cabinet on 11 November 2020, would be delivered this year. Since November the revised budget shows a slight net increase of £0.4m to the last reported budget figure due to the re-profiling of some budgets.
- 11.4. Overall spend to date on the re-profiled budget suggests at least 46% of the plan will be delivered in 2020/21. This significant under-delivery is mainly due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic where sites and works were paused at stages through the lockdowns of 2020. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in particular is behind plan. The Building for Lewisham programme and stock condition survey for the HRA capital programme are being reviewed. Assuming affordability and viability these delays in planned works will be rolled forward to future years and the plan updated to recover the delivery ambition.
- 11.5. The scale of the capital programme is growing in line with the Corporate Strategy priority for more homes. This is a significant and ambitious commitment and officers are working to improve their profiling of this work as schemes and timing of their delivery change.

Current position on the major projects in the 2020/21 Capital Programme i.e. those over £0.5m in 2020/21

| 2020/21 Capital Programme | Revised Budget (M&C 11/11/20) | Revised Budget- Dec 2020 | Spend to 31 Dec 2020 | Spent to Date (Revised Budget) |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | £m | % |
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| Schools - School Places Programme | 4.7 | 3.4 | 1.3 | 38% |
| Schools - Other (Inc. Minor) Capital Works | 5.7 | 5.7 | 3.5 | 61% |
| Highways & Bridges - LBL | 3.0 | 3.0 | 1.7 | 57% |
| Highways & Bridges – TfL | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.6 | 46% |
| Highways & Bridges - Others | 1.5 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 13% |
| Catford town centre | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 70% |
| Asset Management Programme | 1.3 | 1.5 | 0.6 | 40% |
| Other AMP Schemes | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 14% |
| Broadway Theatre – Works | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 50% |
| Lewisham Gateway (Phase 2) | 14.8 | 14.8 | 13.4 | 91% |
| Private Sector Grants and Loans (Inc. DFG) | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 100% |
| Achilles St. Development | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 50% |
| Edward St. Development | 9.0 | 9.0 | 2.9 | 32% |
| Deptford Southern Sites Regeneration | 0.4 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 100% |
| Residential Portfolio Acquisition – Hyde Housing Association | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.1 | 72% |
| Fleet Replacement Programme | 7.8 | 7.0 | 5.1 | 73% |

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| 2020/21 Capital Programme | Revised Budget (M&C 11/11/20) | Revised Budget- Dec 2020 | Spend to 31 Dec 2020 | Spent to Date (Revised Budget) |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | £m | % |
| Other General Fund schemes | 7.4 | 7.4 | 1.8 | 24% |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND | 63.2 | 63.6 | 37.8 | 59% |
| HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT | | | | |
| Building for Lewisham Programme | 36.5 | 33.6 | 10.1 | 30% |
| HRA Capital Programme (Decent Works) | 47.7 | 47.7 | 21.0 | 44% |
| Creekside Acquisition | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 98% |
| Ladywell Leisure Centre Development Site | 4.5 | 4.5 | 0.4 | 9% |
| Achilles St. Development | 4.3 | 4.3 | 0.1 | 2% |
| Mayow Rd Development | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0% |
| Other HRA schemes | 0.6 | 3.5 | 0.3 | 9% |
| TOTAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT | 100.4 | 100.4 | 37.5 | 37% |
| TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME | 163.6 | 164.0 | 75.3 | 46% |

Proposed Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

- 11.6. The Council's proposed Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24 is currently £556.3m, as set out in Table E1:

Table E1: Proposed Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2023/24

| Major Projects over £1m | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 3 year Total |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| GENERAL FUND | | | | | |
| Schools - School Places Programme | 3.4 | 10.4 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 12.8 |
| Schools – Minor Works Capital Programme | 3.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Schools - Other Capital Works | 1.7 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| Highways & Bridges - TfL | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Highways & Bridges - LBL | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 5.0 |
| Highways - Others | 1.5 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| Catford town centre | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 3.4 | 4.0 |
| Asset Management Programme | 1.5 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 5.3 |
| Other AMP Schemes | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| Broadway Theatre - Works | 0.4 | 4.8 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 6.5 |
| Catford Phase 1 – Thomas Lane Yard / Catford Constitution Club' | 0.1 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 3.2 |

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| Major Projects over £1m | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 3 year Total |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| Catford Station Improvements | 0.1 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 1.4 |
| Lewisham Gateway (Phase 2) | 14.8 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 4.8 | 8.3 |
| Beckenham Place Park | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Beckenham Place Park (Eastern Part) | 0.2 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.7 |
| Lewisham Homes – Property Acquisition | 0.0 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| Residential Portfolio Acquisition – Hyde Housing Ass. | 2.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Disabled Facilities Grant | 0.4 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| Private Sector Grants and Loans | 0.2 | 2.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| Edward St. Development | 9.0 | 8.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 8.4 |
| Achilles St. Development | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 3.6 | 4.6 |
| Mayow Rd Development | 0.6 | 6.6 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 7.8 |
| Canonbie Rd Development | 0.8 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 1.7 |
| Ladywell Leisure Centre Development site (1,000 Homes Prog.) | 0.1 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 2.7 |
| Deptford Southern Sites Regeneration | 2.6 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| Acquisition of Sydney Arms | 0.0 | 3.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.8 |
| Fleet Replacement Programme | 7.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 2.4 |
| Travellers Site Relocation | 0.2 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.6 |
| Other Schemes | 4.9 | 4.1 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 5.4 |
| | | | | | |
| TOTAL GENERAL FUND | 63.6 | 70.2 | 16.6 | 14.9 | 101.7 |

| HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Building For Lewisham Programme | 33.6 | 48.3 | 56.4 | 57.2 | 161.9 |
| Creekside Acquisition | 5.7 | 13.9 | 2.0 | - | 15.9 |
| Ladywell Leisure Centre Development | 4.5 | 15.4 | 43.4 | 27.7 | 86.5 |
| Achilles St. Development | 4.3 | 0.4 | 1.0 | 21.6 | 23.0 |
| Mayow Rd Development | 1.1 | 0.8 | - | - | 0.8 |
| Decent Homes Programme | 47.7 | 70.4 | 42.3 | 41.3 | 154.0 |
| Other Schemes | 3.5 | 3.6 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 12.5 |
| | | | | | |
| | 100.4 | 152.8 | 149.5 | 152.3 | 454.6 |

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| | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | | | |
| TOTAL PROGRAMME | 164.0 | 223.0 | 166.1 | 167.2 | 556.3 |

11.7. The resources available to finance the proposed Capital Programme are as set out in Table E2 below:

Table E2: Proposed Capital Programme Resources for 2021/22 to 2023/24

| | 20/21 | 21/22 | 22/23 | 23/24 | 3 Year Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| General Fund | | | | | |
| Prudential Borrowing | 17.3 | 18.7 | 1.5 | 6.5 | 26.7 |
| Grants and Contributions | 29.4 | 24.5 | 4.1 | 4.9 | 33.5 |
| Capital Receipts | 7.6 | 7.4 | 0.8 | 2.7 | 10.9 |
| Reserves / Revenue | 9.3 | 19.6 | 10.2 | 0.8 | 30.6 |
| | 63.6 | 70.2 | 16.6 | 14.9 | 101.7 |
| Housing Revenue Account | | | | | |
| Prudential Borrowing | 0.0 | 78.3 | 94.1 | 111.7 | 284.1 |
| Grants | 8.6 | 14.8 | 16.2 | 5.2 | 36.2 |
| Specific Capital Receipts | 0.0 | 6.3 | 11.1 | 8.5 | 25.9 |
| Reserves / Revenue | 91.8 | 53.4 | 27.9 | 27.0 | 108.3 |
| | 100.4 | 152.8 | 149.5 | 152.3 | 454.5 |
| Total Resources | 164.0 | 223.0 | 166.1 | 167.2 | 556.3 |

- 11.8. A table of major projects can be found at Appendix W1 and a full list of changes to the Programme since last year's budget report is shown in Appendix W2.
- 11.9. Members will note that the General Fund resources available to finance capital projects decrease over the term of the Programme. This reflects the Council's prudent approach to long-term planning, with grants for later years not taken into account until they have been confirmed, and capital receipts only being taken into account when they have been received or are reasonably certain of being received. The Council prudently avoids entering into long-term expenditure commitments until there is more certainty as to how they can be financed.
- 11.10. Detailed proposals, specific scheme funding arrangements, and procurement approach will be brought forward to Members for decision as individual projects are worked up and brought forward. Should this lead to changes being required to the plan these will be reported as part of the regular monitoring information provided.
- 11.11. Members will also note the significant proposed rise in prudential borrowing of £308m, primarily to fund the Building for Lewisham Capital plans.
- 11.12. No changes are proposed at this stage to the existing General Fund revenue contributions to capital (CERA) of £2.0m per year from General Fund. The revenue

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funding line also includes amounts transferred to reserves in previous years for schemes which at that time, had not been delivered. Some of these may be at risk if the associated grants to support them are time limited, this is a particular risk to the use of right to buy receipts and government or GLA grants.

- 11.13. The Capital Programme will be further updated to include future grants, once these are known and will also include the year-end outturn expenditure and resourcing. This is expected to be reported to Members before the summer recess and will not impact on delivery of the Programme for 2021/22.
- 11.14. The 2020/21 capital programme experienced significant disruption due to Covid-19 with less than 50% of the plan delivered. As the Council plans and builds for recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic there are a number of new or competing demands on the capital programme. New strategies are in development for key service areas such as waste management, libraries, leisure services, and others. These in turn inform the thematic review of use of Council assets, including the stock condition surveys currently concluding for the Council's housing and corporate assets. Alongside this the government funding mechanisms may be changing to meet policy objectives, in particular in respect of support for bringing forward more housing supply. In addition, while school rolls are falling, work is underway to assess the need in schools and related transition social care settings to consider whether the provision of dedicated suitable specialist places would be beneficial to those in need of these services.
- 11.15. These competing demands are expected to include significant capital requirements in both the short and medium term. If they are over and above the funding available above, they may require the Council to look at borrowing more (requiring further revenue savings cuts), re-profiling the current programme, stopping or amending certain schemes, and/or selling non-strategic assets to fund the programme. This work is ongoing and, as noted above, will be reported to Members for decision as the detail becomes known and recommendations can be made with regard to the Council's statutory obligations and corporate strategy priorities.
- 11.16. The paragraphs below summarise the key projects currently underway and major scheme plans with more detailed narrative provided in Appendix W1. They include:
- Schools**
- 11.17. Places programme currently has four schemes, three for schools catering for children with special needs, currently in development and delivery over the next three years. They are:
- Expanding Ashmead Primary to two forms of entry
 - New satellite facility at the former Brent Knoll site for 93 students of Greenvale school, Lewisham's community special school
 - Remodelling and refurbishment of the New Woodlands school, a special school
 - Review of plans for new teaching block at Watergate, Lewisham's primary special school, to accommodate 59 places.
- 11.18. Minor works programme is an ongoing programme of minor capital works to existing community school buildings, primarily relating to mechanical and electrical infrastructure and building fabric needs. The programme is grant funded by central government.

Highways & Bridges

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- 11.19. The Council continues to invest resources in maintaining its 397km of highway borough roads, most notably through its annual programme of carriageway and footway resurfacing works.
- 11.20. The footway resurfacing programme aims to bring improvements to 17 roads where the Condition Index classifies as “Red” and thus in need of future works. Footways if the focus now the priority highway works have been completed.
- 11.21. For both highways and footways, once the red works are completed work will focus on the ‘Amber’ index alongside delivery of responsive repairs.
- 11.22. The replacement of the span for the Sydenham Park footbridge is in planning and the Council is working to secure a delivery plan agreement with Network Rail.

Regeneration and Place making

Catford Town Centre

- 11.23. The non-statutory public consultation process on the town centre framework commenced in November 2020. The Catford Town Centre Framework document will then be used as an evidence base for the emerging Local Plan.
- 11.24. Work with TfL has recommenced on the proposal to realign the South Circular A205. The Greater London Authority (GLA) Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) of £10m has been secured on condition that the road is delivered by TfL.
- 11.25. A series of public realm improvements to the areas around Catford stations aims to provide a better environment for movement around the stations in preparation for the recovery from the pandemic. Also with funding from the GLA in the form of the Good Growth Grant the refurbishment of the Catford Constitution Club (CCC) and the development of a mixed-use scheme up to Planning stage on the T/Lane car park site to provide a mix of business units and up to 100 homes that would realise multiple regeneration benefits including: jobs retention, business creation and potential early housing delivery and can also support the Post-Covid19 recovery plan.
- 11.26. Officers are in further negotiations with the GLA on additional funding following a successful bid to the GLA for Get Building Funding of just under £1m to secure additional town centre improvement schemes including public realm improvements to the pedestrian area on Holbeach Road and a partnership project to provide a public sector hub in the Old Town Hall.

Old Town Hall

- 11.27. Officers are developing a programme of investment works for the Old Town Hall. This is part of proposals to convert the Old Town Hall into a public sector hub for a number of public sector partners. There is currently no allocation in the capital programme to support this project so this is part of the ongoing re-prioritisation of the programme.

Broadway Theatre

- 11.28. Urgent work is required to address key risk areas and the proposed works include a rewire of the theatre, replacement fire detection equipment, new emergency lighting, new central heating and domestic water system, damp proofing and decorations, improvements to support disabled access, toilet expansion and external improvements. The theatre will be closed to enable the work to be carried out effectively and efficiently. The works are proposed to complete late 2022

Lewisham Gateway Development

- 11.29. The Council is supporting the delivery of Phase 2 of the Lewisham Gateway development by the provision of:

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- (a) £9,558,850 of grant from its own resources being a commuted sum earmarked for affordable housing under a section 106 agreement relating to the Loampit Vale development.
 - (b) £13,500,000 of housing infrastructure fund (HIF) grant that comes from government via government's delivery partner, The Greater London Authority (GLA).
- 11.30. Phase 1 was completed in 2019 providing construction of the new highway layout and pedestrian crossings (including re-location of River Ravensbourne and Quaggy), 362 residential units, commercial café and retail space, Confluence Place Park: a public space connecting the river, station and public realm as well as a number of commercial food and beverage units
- 11.31. Phase 2 of the project will deliver four buildings to provide 530 residential apartments, 119 co-living units, retail units, a gym space and a cinema together with associated public realm (including hard and soft landscaping). A basement energy centre will also be provided in the building known as building block E.

Beckenham Place Park

- 11.32. The restoration of Beckenham Place Park (to the western side of the railway) has been completed. The listed stable block is now home to the new park café and environmental education centre, and the long anticipated restored landscape, with its reinstated lake, is being enjoyed by thousands of local people. The stable yard itself will become an arrival and visitor's hub, as new tenants take up occupation of the cottages over the next year. The new play facilities are much loved, as part of the restored pleasure grounds, and the previously derelict Gardener's cottage is now fully restored and re-purposed as a hub for volunteer activity in the park, in the midst of the new community garden. Open water swimming now takes place on the lake, and visitors will be encouraged to explore the breadth and nature of Lewisham's largest park on new paths and trails.
- 11.33. Work is now underway to develop the scope of works to the eastern side of the park and it is hoped that this allocation could be used to lever in further support from the GLA and GLA and the Environment Agency.

Corporate and Service delivery priorities

Asset Management Programme

- 11.34. A full condition survey of the corporate estate was completed in 2020 and is helping define the future investment need of the estate, the Asset Review, and underpin the use of the AMP capital programme funding for future years. A comprehensive Corporate Estate Maintenance Programme is being developed to start in 2021/22 (with some urgent health and safety works already underway).

Lewisham Library

- 11.35. There is currently no allocation in the capital programme to support this project. Mayor and Cabinet agreed that officers look at options that will sustain the library service provision into the future. A number of options are currently being explored

Fleet vehicle replacement

- 11.36. As agreed in the 2020/21 budget a sinking fund to procure future fleet as capital will be built at 800k per annum.

Smart Working Programme

- 11.37. The Smarter Working programme seeks to consolidate offices and release sites for future redevelopment in Catford town centre, as well as the refurbishment of the council's main office site, Laurence House, to ensure it is fit for purpose until new

council offices can be built. Options are being considered to deliver improvements to the ground floor and the civic suite.

Housing

Lewisham Homes – Property Acquisition

- 11.38. This funding supports the delivery of the Lewisham Homes acquisitions programme that secures properties for temporary accommodation for homeless households, making a saving on the Council's spend on bed & breakfast accommodation.

Edward Street

- 11.39. Edward St will provide 34 new high-quality temporary accommodation homes for local families in housing need. The tender and contract award has been completed.

Residential Portfolio Acquisition – Hyde Housing Association

- 11.40. The Council completed on the acquisition of a portfolio of 120 homes from Hyde Housing Association. Hyde Housing Association have offered the option of further acquisitions. The Council are currently considering this option and carrying out due diligence in relation to this.

Achilles Street

- 11.41. Residents on the Achilles Street Estate have voted for the redevelopment of the estate to go ahead. Work is underway to carry out due diligence and the procurement of the design team has commenced with estate residents. The scheme will deliver new homes for all existing residents as well as a significant number of new council owned homes for social rent.

Acquisition of Sydney Arms

- 11.42. In response to COVID-19 local authorities were instructed by the government to bring 'Everyone In' the acquisition and refurbishment of the Sydney Arms will allow up to 16 rough sleepers, or other households, to be accommodated in affordable accommodation with support available to meet their needs.

Ladywell Leisure Centre Development site

- 11.43. This mixed-use development will see approximately 69 new homes come forward in addition to retaining the 24 homes that are in the PLACE building. The Council, through Lewisham Homes, will directly deliver these new homes.

Mayow Road Development Site

- 11.44. The Mayow Road site we will deliver 26 family-sized homes for homeless families. These will consist of self-contained flats with two and three bedrooms, all with their own private amenity space. The homes will provide much-needed temporary accommodation, supporting residents to remain in their local community. We will also deliver six supported living homes for residents with learning disabilities or autism, helping them to remain in borough and live more independent lives.

Traveller's site relocation

- 11.45. The latest site search for a Gypsy and Traveller site has identified a site at Pool Court as the most appropriate location to develop a new Gypsy and Traveller site for the borough. The construction cost of the 6-pitch site is estimated at £1.8m including design fees and other costs. The acquisition cost of the Network Rail section of the site is estimated at up to £2m.

Building for Lewisham Programme update

- 11.46. The Building for Lewisham (BfL) supersedes the Housing Matters Programme. In January 2020, the Mayor and Cabinet approved recommendations to advance and

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expand the Council's housebuilding programme to meet the corporate objectives set for the period between 2018 and 2022.

- 11.47. The BfL programme will deliver a significant proportion of new council housing for the borough. Funding has currently been agreed for the continuation of the former New Homes Better Places programme and for a series of additional infill sites. In addition, funding for feasibility and preparation of planning and tender information for major strategic projects at Ladywell, Achilles Street Estate and Catford has been allocated; as well as funding for wider feasibility studies for sites across the borough.
- 11.48. The Council, via its development agent, Lewisham Homes, is also investigating acquisition opportunities on land and sites from the market. These schemes may offer an opportunity to deliver more homes on an expedited timescale.
- 11.49. The current consolidation of the BfL programme notes funding for 1,686 new homes across a mix of tenures. This has been modelled over a 40 year period and has been inflation-adjusted accordingly. However, the assumptions used in this report represent an over-programming of developments and not all developments modelled will necessarily come forward. Therefore, this represents the most budget-intensive scenario. The financial and programme risk associated with the BfL programme will be monitored closely and mitigations implemented accordingly. Should any material changes to this budget be required, approval from Members will be sought.
- 11.50. Around 458 new social homes are forecast to achieve planning permission or start on site in 2021.

HRA Capital Programme

- 11.51. Lewisham Homes are responsible for ensuring council owned stock under their management is brought up to and maintained to a decent homes level, covering both internal and external works. Lewisham Homes are leading on the delivery of the decent programme (under delegated powers) in consultation and agreement with the Council. This needs to incorporate fire safety works and the priorities on stock condition identified in 2020/21. The increase of £38.8m in 2021/22 (£31.6m to £70.4m) from the draft budget to M&C on the 3 February is proposed to ensure that the priorities identified from the stock condition survey undertaken in 2020/21 can be fully delivered.
- 11.52. To be able to accommodate this additional capital expenditure within the HRA Business Plan and accompanying 30 year financial model, it has been necessary to reduce the repairs and maintenance revenue budget by £1m in 2021/22. Lewisham Homes will need to make this revenue spend reduction from the R&M budget or by equivalent alternative savings in the year.

Future schemes and resources

- 11.53. The Regeneration and Capital Programme Delivery Board comprises key officers involved in the planning and delivery of the capital programme. This Board has responsibility and accountability for the delivery of all regeneration and capital projects and programmes of the built environment and is also responsible for ensuring that all projects and programmes are adequately and appropriately resourced.
- 11.54. The key objectives of the Board are to ensure that a consistent and corporate approach is taken to the development and authorisation of all project and programme initiation documents and the associated financing and funding of projects and programmes. It meets every two months and ensures that a corporate approach is taken to the monitoring, management and delivery of all projects and programmes. It

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reports through to the Regeneration and Capital Programme Board which is chaired by the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment.

- 11.55. The General Fund Capital Programme is financed by a number of sources, including capital receipts, central government grants, developer's contributions, the revenue budget and Prudential Borrowing. There is very limited scope to commit any further amounts of revenue budget to finance capital spend, and there is also a finite amount of capital receipts forecast. This means the Council will have to look to finance any new schemes going forward from either grant monies or Prudential Borrowing. Also contributions from developers via s106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) may be an increasingly important source of finance for the Council's plans.
- 11.56. During 2021/22, updates on the Capital Programme will be reported to Mayor & Cabinet and the Public Accounts Select Committee on a regular basis. As capital receipts and other resources come into the Council, it may be possible to bring new schemes onto the programme. These additions to the programme will be put forward for approval by members as part of the Capital Programme update reports.

Summary

- 11.57. The proposed 2021/22 to 2023/24 Capital Programme totals £556.3m (General Fund £101.7m and HRA £454.5m) and includes all the Council's capital projects. It sets out the key priorities for the Council over the next three financial years and will be reviewed regularly. The Capital Programme is set out in more detail in Appendices W1 and W2.

12. Consultation on the budget

- 12.1. In setting the various budgets, it is important to have extensive engagement with citizens to consider the overarching challenge facing public services in Lewisham over the next few years. To this end, the Council has undertaken a range of engagement and specific consultation exercises. The specific consultation exercises were:

Rent Setting and Housing Panel

- 12.2. As in previous years, tenants' consultation was undertaken via Housing Panel meetings. This provided tenant representatives of Lewisham Homes with an opportunity on 17 December 2020 at the joint Housing Panel meeting to consider the positions and to feedback any views to Mayor & Cabinet. Tenant representatives of Brockley convened their Brockley Residents' Board on 16 December 2020 to hear the proposals and feedback.
- 12.3. Details of comments from the residents' meetings have been set out in Appendix X2 and X3.

Business Ratepayers

- 12.4. The Council is required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to ensure that Business Ratepayers are consulted on the proposed budget. This is to allow businesses to review the changes in the budget for 2021/22 and respond with any comments that they may have.
- 12.5. The consultation ran from the 11 January to the 1 February 2021. There were no responses received back.

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13. Financial implications

- 13.1. This entire report deals with the Council's Budget. Therefore, the financial implications are explained throughout.

14. Legal implications

- 14.1. Many legal implications are referred to in the body of the report. Particular attention is drawn to the following:

Capital Programme

- 14.2. Generally, only expenditure relating to tangible assets (e.g. roads, buildings or other structures, plant, machinery, apparatus and vehicles) can be regarded as capital expenditure. (Section 16 Local Government Act 2003 and regulations made under it).
- 14.3. The Local Government Act 2003 introduced a prudential system of financial control, replacing a system of credit approvals with a system whereby local authorities are free to borrow or invest so long as their capital spending plans are affordable, prudent, and sustainable. Authorities are required to determine and keep under review how much they can afford to borrow having regard to CIPFA's Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Code requires that in making borrowing and investment decisions, the Council is to take account of affordability, prudence, and sustainability, value for money, stewardship of assets, service objectives, and practicality.
- 14.4. Section 11 Local Government Act 2003 allows for regulations to be made requiring an amount equal to the whole or any part of a capital receipt to be paid to the Secretary of State. Since April 2013, there has been no requirement to set aside capital receipts on housing land (SI2013/476). For right to buy receipts, the Council can retain 25% of the net receipt (after taking off transaction costs) and is then entitled to enter an agreement with the Secretary of State to fund replacement homes with the balance. Conditions on the use of the balance of the receipts are that spending has to happen within three years and that 70% of the funding needs to come from Council revenue or borrowing. If the funding is not used within three years, it has to be paid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, with interest. In London, the monies are then transferred to the GLA. However, the Council has entered into an agreement with the GLA where the GLA has agreed in principle that all monies received from central government arising from right to buy disposals in Lewisham will be ring fenced and made available to the Council as social housing grant.

Housing Revenue Account

- 14.5. Section 24 of the Housing Act 1985 provides that a local authority may make such reasonable charges as they determine for the tenancy or occupation of their houses. The Council must review rents from time to time and make such charges as circumstances require.
- 14.6. Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council is obliged to maintain a separate HRA (Section 74) and by Section 76 must prevent a debit balance on that account. Rents must therefore be set to avoid such a debit.
- 14.7. By Schedule 4 of the same Act where benefits or amenities arising out of a housing authority functions are provided for persons housed by the authority but are shared by the community, the Authority must make such contribution to the HRA from their other revenues to properly reflect the community's share of the benefits/amenities.

- 14.8. The process for varying the terms of a secure tenancy is set out in Sections 102 and 103 of the Housing Act 1985. It requires the Council to serve notice of variation at least four weeks before the effective date; the provision of sufficient information to explain the variation; and an opportunity for the tenant to serve a Notice to Quit ending their tenancy.
- 14.9. Where the outcome of the rent setting process involves significant changes to housing management practice or policy, further consultation may be required with the tenants' affected in accordance with section 105 of the Housing Act 1985.
- 14.10. Part 7 of the Localism Act 2011 abolished HRA subsidy and moved to a system of self financing in which Councils are allowed to keep the rents received locally to support their housing stock. Section 174 of the same Act provides for agreements between the Secretary of State and Councils to allow Councils not to have to pay a proportion of their capital receipts to the Secretary of State if he/she approves the purpose to which it would be put.

Balanced Budget

- 14.11. In accordance with the Local Government Act 1992 the Council must set its Council Tax for 2021/2022 before 11 March 2021. By law it may not set the Council Tax before receipt of confirmation of the precept from the precepting authority, the GLA which is anticipated on 26 February. A report will be prepared for the Council meeting on 3 March 2021 on the basis of indications from the GLA but the report will be despatched before their final decision. The Executive Director for Corporate Resources will update the Council accordingly before it makes its decision.
- 14.12. Following the introduction of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(Amendment) Regulations 2014 the Council's Constitution was amended to require that when the Council votes on key budget and Council Tax decisions, the vote must be recorded. This requirement will apply when the Council meets to set the Council Tax.
- 14.13. Members have a duty to ensure that the Council acts lawfully. It must set and maintain a balanced budget each year. The Council must take steps to deal with any projected overspends and identify cuts or other measures to bring the budget under control. If the Capital Programme is overspending, this may be brought back into line through cuts, slippage, or contributions from revenue. The proposals in this report are designed to produce a balanced budget in 2021/22.
- 14.14. In this context, Members are reminded of their fiduciary duty to the Council Tax payer, effectively to act as trustee of the Council's resources and to ensure proper custodianship of Council funds.

An annual budget

- 14.15. By law, the setting of the Council's budget is an annual process. However, to enable meaningful planning, a number of cuts proposals for 2021/22 were anticipated in the course of the budget process. The first round of cuts were approved by Mayor and Cabinet on 9 December 2020. The second round is on the same agenda as this report and will be considered by Mayor and Cabinet before consideration of the recommendations in this report. They are listed in Appendix Y1 and Appendix Y2 respectively of this report. This report is predicated on taking all of the agreed and proposed budget cuts and those budget cuts being successfully implemented. If not, any shortfall will have to be met through adjustments to the annual budget in this report with the use of reserves.
- 14.16. The body of the report refers to the various consultation exercises (for example with tenants and businesses) which the Council has carried out/is carrying out in

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accordance with statutory requirements relating to this budget process. Mayor and Cabinet must consider the outcome of that consultation with an open mind before reaching a decision about the final proposals to Council. It is noted that the outcome of consultation with business rate payers will only be available from the 2 February 2021 and any decisions about the Mayor and Cabinet's proposals on the budget are subject to consideration of that consultation response which will be reported to Mayor and Cabinet in the budget update report scheduled for the 10 February. Until the outcome of the consultation and any relevant matters are considered by M&C, the decisions sought in this report cannot be final.

Referendum

- 14.17. Sections 72 of the Localism Act 2011 and Schedules 5 to 7 amended the provisions governing the calculation of Council Tax. They provide that if a Council seeks to impose a Council Tax increase in excess of limits fixed by the Secretary of State, then a Council Tax referendum must be held, the results of which are binding. The Council may not implement an increase which exceeds the Secretary of State's limits without holding the referendum. Were the Council to seek to exceed the threshold, substitute calculations which do not exceed the threshold would also have to be drawn up. These would apply in the event that the result of the referendum is not to approve the "excessive" rise in Council Tax. Attention is drawn to the statement of the Secretary of State that the Council may impose a precept of 3% on the Council Tax, ring-fenced for social care provision, and may impose an additional increase of less than 2% without the need for a referendum. The maximum proposed Council Tax increase is 4.99% and therefore below the combined limit.
- 14.18. In relation to each year the Council, as billing authority, must calculate the Council Tax requirement and basic amount of tax as set out in Section 31A and 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. These statutory calculations appear in Appendix Y6.

Robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves

- 14.19. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires, when the authority is making its calculations under s31 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the Chief Finance Officer to report to it on:-
- (a) the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the Calculations; and
 - (b) the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 14.20. The Chief Financial Officer's section 25 statement will be appended to the Budget Report update to Mayor & Cabinet on 10 February 2021 when the Mayor & Cabinet will be asked to agree their final recommendations to the Council in respect of the 2021/22 budget.

Treasury Strategy

- 14.21. Authorities are also required to produce and keep under review for the forthcoming year a range of indicators based on actual figures. These are set out in the report. The CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice says that movement may be made between the various indicators during the year by an Authority's Chief Finance Officer as long as the indicators for the total Authorised Limit and the total Operational Boundary for external debt remain unchanged. Any such changes are to be reported to the next meeting of the Council.
- 14.22. Under Section 5 of the 2003 Act, the prudential indicator for the total Authorised Limit for external debt is deemed to be increased by an amount of any unforeseen payment

which becomes due to the Authority within the period to which the limit relates which would include for example additional external funding becoming available but not taken into account by the Authority when determining the Authorised Limit. Where Section 5 of the Act is relied upon to borrow above the Authorised Limit, the Code requires that this fact is reported to the next meeting of the Council.

- 14.23. Authority is delegated to the Executive Director for Corporate Resources to make amendments to the limits on the Council's counterparty list and to undertake Treasury Management in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice and the Council's Treasury Policy Statement.

Constitutional provisions

- 14.24. Legislation provides that it is the responsibility of the full Council to set the Council's budget. Once the budget has been set, save for those decisions which they are precluded from, it is for the Mayor and Cabinet to make decisions in accordance with the statutory policy framework and that are not wholly inconsistent with the budget. It is for the Mayor and Cabinet to have overall responsibility for preparing the draft budget for submission to the Council to consider. If the Council does not accept the Mayor and Cabinet's proposals, it may object to them and ask them to reconsider. The Mayor and Cabinet must then reconsider and submit proposals (amended or unamended) back to the Council which may only overturn them by a two-thirds majority.
- 14.25. For these purposes the term "budget" means the "budget requirement (as provided for in the Local Government Finance Act 1992) all the components of the budgetary allocations to different services and projects, proposed taxation levels, contingency funds (reserves and balances) and any plan or strategy for the control of the local authority's borrowing or capital expenditure." (Chapter 2 statutory guidance).
- 14.26. Authorities are advised by the statutory guidance to adopt an inclusive approach to preparing the draft budget, to ensure that councillors in general have the opportunity to be involved in the process. However, it is clear that it is for the Mayor and Cabinet to take the lead in that process and proposals to be considered should come from them. The preparation of the proposals in this report has involved the Mayor and Cabinet, the Council's select committees and the Public Accounts Select Committee in particular, thereby complying with the statutory guidance.

Statutory duties and powers

- 14.27. The Council has a number of statutory duties which it must fulfil by law. It cannot lawfully decide not to carry out those duties. However, even where there is a statutory duty, the Council often has discretion about the level of service provision. Where a service is provided by virtue of a Council power rather than a duty, the Council is not bound to carry out those activities, though decisions about them must be taken in accordance with the decision making requirements of administrative law.

Reasonableness and proper process

- 14.28. Decisions must be made reasonably taking into account all relevant considerations and ignoring irrelevancies. Members will see that in relation to the proposed budget cuts there is a summary at Appendix Y1 and Y2. If the Mayor and Cabinet decides that the budget for that service must be reduced, the Council's reorganisation procedure applies if staffing numbers would reduce. Staff consultation in accordance with that procedure will be conducted and in accordance with normal Council practice, the final decision would be made by the relevant Executive Director under delegated authority.
- 14.29. It is also imperative that decisions are taken following proper process. Depending on the particular service concerned, this may be set down in statute, though not all legal

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requirements are set down in legislation.

- 14.30. For example, depending on the service, there may need to be a need to consult with service users and/or others. The requirement to consult may arise by statute or there may be a legitimate expectation of consultation. A legitimate expectation will arise if a specific promise has been made to do something (for example as in the Lewisham Compact with the voluntary sector) or if it has become practice to consult on particular matters. Where there is a requirement to consult, any proposals in this report must remain proposals unless and until that consultation is complete and the responses have been brought back in a further report for consideration with an open mind before any decision is made.

Staff consultation

- 14.31. Where proposals, if accepted, would result in 100 redundancies or more within a 90 day period, an employer is required by Section 188 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 as amended, to consult with the representatives of those who may be affected by the proposals. The consultation period is at least 45 days. Where the number is 20 or more, but 99 or less the consultation period is 30 days. This requirement is in addition to the consultation with individuals affected by redundancy and/or reorganisation under the Council's own procedure.

Best Value

- 14.32. Under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council is under a best value duty to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. It must have regard to this duty in making decisions in relation to this report.

Integration with health

- 14.33. Members are reminded that provisions under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 require local authorities in the exercise of their functions to have regard to the need to integrate their services with health. See "[Legal implications in the guidance](#) for more information.

15. Equalities implications

- 15.1. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced the public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 15.2. 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.

- 15.3. The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor and Cabinet, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations. Assessing the potential impact on equality of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is one of the key ways in which the Council can demonstrate that they have had ‘due regard’.
- 15.4. The Equality and Human Rights Commission issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with services and public functions. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>
- 15.5. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:
1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
 2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
 3. Engagement and the equality duty
 4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
 5. Equality information and the equality duty
- 15.6. The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties, and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>
- 15.7. The EHRC has also issued Guidance entitled “Making Fair Financial Decisions”. It appears at Appendix Y9 and attention is drawn to its contents.
- 15.8. Assessing impact on equality is not an end to itself and it should be tailored to, and be proportionate to, the decision being made. Whether it is proportionate for the Council to conduct an Equalities Analysis Assessment of the impact on equality of a financial decision or not depends on its relevance to the Authority’s particular function and its likely impact on people from protected groups, including staff.
- 15.9. Where proposals are anticipated to have an impact on staffing levels, it will be subject to consultation as stipulated within the Council’s Employment/Change Management policies, and services will be required to undertake an Equalities Analysis Assessment (EAA) as part of their restructuring process.
- 15.10. It is also important to note that the Council is subject to the Human Rights Act, and should therefore, also consider the potential impact their particular decisions could have on human rights. Where particular cuts have such implications, they must be dealt with and considered in relation to those particular proposals before any final decision is made.

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16. Climate change and environmental implications

- 16.1. Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 states that: 'every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity'.
- 16.2. Overall there are limited changes to the budget structure and service funded either from agreed reductions or pressures funded. The environment considerations for any cuts were specifically considered as part of those proposals agreed by M&C. The environment considerations for the pressures to be funded in 2020/21, for example air quality, home energy, and healthier neighbourhood initiatives are positive.

17. Crime and disorder implications

- 17.1. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council when it exercises its functions to have regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.
- 17.2. There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

18. Health and wellbeing implications

- 18.1. There are no specific health and well being implications arising from this report.

19. Background papers

| Short Title of Report | Date | Location | Contact |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Financial stabilisation - budget update and medium term plan | 7 October 2020 (M&C) | 1st Floor Laurence House | David Austin |
| Budget Cuts Proposal 2020/21 – round 1 | 9 December 2020 (M&C) | 1st Floor Laurence House | David Austin |
| Budget Cuts Proposal 2020/21 – round 2 | 3 February 2020 (M&C) | 1st Floor Laurence House | David Austin |
| Council Tax Base | 20 January 2021 (Council) | 1st Floor Laurence House | David Austin |
| Budget Report 2021/22 | 3 February 2021 (M&C) | 1st Floor Laurence House | David Austin |
| Budget Update Report 2021/22 | 10 February 2021 (M&C) | 1st Floor Laurence House | David Austin |

20. Glossary

| Term | Definition |
|------|------------|
|------|------------|

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|---------------------------|--|
| Collection Fund | A statement that shows the transactions of the billing authority in relation to non-domestic rates and the Council Tax, and illustrates the way in which these have been distributed to preceptors and the General Fund. |
| General Fund | This is the main revenue account which summarises the cost of all services (except those related to Council Housing and Locally Managed Schools) provided by the Council. |
| Housing Revenue Account | Reflects a statutory obligation to account separately for local authority housing provision. It shows the major elements of housing revenue expenditure and how this is met by rents, subsidy and other income. |
| Minimum Revenue Provision | The minimum revenue provision (MRP) is the minimum amount that must be charged to an authority's revenue account each year and set aside as a provision for debt repayment or other credit liabilities. |
| Reserves | Amounts set aside for purposes falling outside the definition of provisions made above are considered as reserves. |
| Revenue Support Grant | A general grant paid by Central Government to local authorities to help them finance the cost of their services, distributed on the basis of government relative needs formulas. |

21. Report author and contact

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Katharine Nidd – Strategic Finance and Procurement katharine.nidd@lewisham.gov.uk

Financial implications on behalf of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources were provided by the report authors.

Legal implications on behalf of the Monitoring Officer were provided by Katherine Kazantzis.

22. Appendices

Capital Programme

W1 2020/21 to 2023/24 Capital Programme – Major Projects

W2 Proposed Capital Programme – Original to latest Budget

Housing Revenue Account

X1 Proposed Housing Revenue Account Cuts 2021/22

X2 Leasehold and Tenants charges consultation 2021/22

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- X3 Leasehold and Tenants Charges 2021/22 Lewisham Homes
- X4 Other Associated Housing Charges for 2021/22
- X5 Garage Rent Increase Report 2021/22
- X6 Tenants' rent consultation 2021/22

General Fund

- Y1 Summary of previously agreed budget cuts for 2021/22 (Approved 2020)
- Y2 Summary of previously agreed budget cuts for 2021/22 (Approved 2021)
- Y3 Cuts Allocation to Base Budget and Overspend
- Y4 Ready Reckoner for Council Tax 2021/22
- Y5 Chief Financial Officer's Section 25 Statement
- Y6 Council Tax and Statutory Calculations
- Y7 Summary of risks and pressures to be funded
- Y8 Making Fair Financial Decisions

Treasury Management

- Z1 Interest Rate Forecasts
- Z2 Credit Worthiness Policy (Linked to Treasury Management Practice (TMP1) – Credit and Counterparty Risk Management)
- Z3 Approved countries for investments
- Z4 Requirement of the CIPFA Management Code of Practice

APPENDICES W1 to Z4 2021/22 BUDGET REPORT

APPENDIX W1

2020/21 TO 2023/24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME - MAJOR PROJECTS

| Major Projects over £2m | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | Total |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| GENERAL FUND | | | | | |
| Schools - School Places Programme | 3.4 | 10.4 | 2.4 | - | 16.2 |
| Schools – Minor Works Capital Programme | 3.9 | 0.1 | - | - | 4.0 |
| Schools - Other Capital Works | 1.7 | 1.6 | - | - | 3.3 |
| Highways & Bridges - TfL | 1.3 | - | - | - | 1.3 |
| Highways & Bridges - LBL | 3 | 2.5 | 2.5 | - | 8.0 |
| Highways - Others | 1.5 | 0.8 | 0.1 | - | 2.4 |
| Catford town centre | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 3.4 | 5.0 |
| Asset Management Programme | 1.5 | 2.8 | 2.5 | - | 6.8 |
| Other AMP Schemes | 0.7 | 0.9 | - | - | 1.6 |
| Broadway Theatre - Works | 0.4 | 4.8 | 1.7 | - | 6.9 |
| Catford Phase 1 – Thomas Lane Yard / Catford Constitution Club' | 0.1 | 0.6 | 2.6 | - | 3.3 |
| Lewisham Gateway (Phase 2) | 14.8 | 3.5 | - | 4.8 | 23.1 |
| Beckenham Place Park | 0.5 | - | - | - | 0.5 |
| Beckenham Place Park (Eastern Part) | 0.2 | 1.7 | | | 1.9 |
| Lewisham Homes – Property Acquisition | - | 3.0 | - | - | 3.0 |
| Residential Portfolio Acquisition – Hyde Housing Ass. | 2.9 | - | - | - | 2.9 |
| Disabled Facilities Grant | 0.4 | 2.1 | - | - | 2.5 |
| Private Sector Grants and Loans | 0.2 | 2.1 | - | - | 2.3 |
| Edward St. Development | 9.0 | 8.4 | - | - | 17.4 |
| Achilles St. Development | 0.8 | 1.0 | - | 3.6 | 5.4 |
| Mayow Rd Development | 0.6 | 6.6 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 8.4 |
| Canonbie Rd Development | 0.8 | 1.4 | 0.3 | - | 2.5 |
| Ladywell Leisure Centre Development site (1,000 Homes Prog.) | 0.1 | 2.7 | - | - | 2.8 |
| Deptford Southern Sites Regeneration | 2.6 | 0.3 | - | 2.1 | 5.0 |
| Acquisition of Sydney Arms | 0.0 | 3.8 | - | - | 3.8 |
| Fleet Replacement Programme | 7.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 9.4 |
| Travellers Site Relocation | 0.2 | 3.6 | - | - | 3.8 |
| Other Schemes | 5.0 | 4.4 | 2.3 | 0.1 | 11.8 |
| | 63.6 | 70.2 | 16.6 | 14.9 | 165.3 |
| HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT | | | | | |
| Building for Lewisham Programme | 33.6 | 48.3 | 56.4 | 57.2 | 195.5 |
| Creekside Acquisition | 5.7 | 13.9 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 21.6 |
| Ladywell Leisure Centre Development | 4.5 | 15.4 | 43.4 | 27.7 | 91.0 |
| Achilles St. Development | | 0.4 | 1.0 | 21.6 | 27.3 |
| Mayow Rd Development | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.9 |

APPENDICES W1 to Z4 2021/22 BUDGET REPORT

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| General Capital & Decent Homes Programme | 47.7 | 70.4 | 42.3 | 41.3 | 201.7 |
| Other Schemes (Hostels etc.) | 3.5 | 3.6 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 16.0 |
| | 100.4 | 152.8 | 149.5 | 152.3 | 555.0 |
| TOTAL PROGRAMME | 164.0 | 223.0 | 166.1 | 167.2 | 720.3 |

The paragraphs below set out a descriptive overview of the key delivery objectives of the capital programme major schemes. Appendix W2 sets out the changes in these schemes from original budget.

Schools – School Places Programme

Primary place demand has levelled off recently across London and the priority for school place delivery has shifted mainly to Special Educational Need and Disability provision. Four schemes are currently in development and delivery over the next 3 years to 2024. They include:

- Works to Ashmead Primary in Brockley to expand from one to two forms of entry. Works commenced in April 2019 and are due to be completed by February 2021. The project will deliver a new standalone block adjacent to Lewisham Way, improved landscaping within the site and a new entrance and enhanced public realm area to the South of the site.
- Greenvale School, in Whitefoot ward, is Lewisham’s community special school for children and young people between the ages of 11 and 19 years who have significant learning difficulties. A new satellite facility to accommodate an additional 93 students will be constructed on the site of the former Brent Knoll building in Perry Vale. The design stage is now complete, and works are expected to commence onsite in early 2021.
- New Woodlands, in Downham Ward, is a special school which supports children from 5 to 16 who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) special educational needs. The school recently began admitting Key Stage 4 students, and works to expand the facility took place over the summer holidays last year, ensuring that the school can provide a full curriculum. The works included minor remodelling and refurbishment of the existing building, provision of a new food technology practical room, and improvements to existing landscaping and external play areas. The final works to the boundary treatment were completed last summer, and final snagging works will be completed in February 2021.
- Watergate is Lewisham’s primary special school for children between the ages of three and eleven years who have severe learning difficulties, located in Bellingham Ward. Approval has been granted to expand the school by 59 places through the construction of a new teaching block on the existing site, although further feasibility studies are currently being conducted to confirm whether this approach would cater for the need or if a different design solution is required.

Schools – Minor Works Capital Programme

The School Minor Works Programme (SMWP) is an ongoing programme of minor capital works to existing community school buildings, primarily relating to mechanical and electrical infrastructure and building fabric needs. The programme is grant funded by central government.

Highways & Bridges

The Council continues to invest resources in maintaining its 397km of highway borough roads, most notably through its annual programme of carriageway and footway resurfacing works. The budget for highways has allowed 70 roads (or part of a road) to

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be resurfaced each year. Until 2017, the majority of these roads were those in the worst condition and categorised as “Red” – lengths of road in poor overall condition and in need of immediate further engineering assessment with a planned maintenance soon.

In 2020/21, the carriageway resurfacing programme is to be carried out on up to 32 roads (or part of road) funded from the Council’s Capital programme. At the time of this report (November 2020) over 90% of the carriageway resurfacing programme has been completed. This programme is on course to deliver in time and within budget

Future carriageway resurfacing works will focus on roads classified with the Condition Index of “Amber” (lengths of road which, without a planned early intervention could result in further severe defects and move the Condition Index to “Red”). The Council also carries out ongoing responsive carriageway maintenance works that remedies localised hazards and defects caused through accidents and deterioration of the asset from wear, age, excavations and failures

The footway resurfacing programme aims to bring improvements to 17 roads where the Condition Index classifies as “Red” and thus in need of future works. At the time of this report (November 2020) approximately 75% of the current footway resurfacing programme has been completed, with an expectation to complete the full programme on time and within budget by February 2021.

Future Council Capital investment is to be aimed at the borough’s footways as over 20% of this asset requires essential maintenance works. Such works to the footways potentially will reduce future insurance claims.

The replacement of the span for the Sydenham Park footbridge is planning, and with active discussions about bridge design, method of construction, risk management and approvals underway, the Council in its client capacity is working closely with consultants to secure a delivery plan agreement with Network Rail. Subject to a Network Rail track possession agreement, the span replacement and associated works for the Sydenham Park Footbridge is scheduled for winter 2021.

Catford Town Centre

On 16 September 2020 M & C approved the draft Catford Town Centre Framework document and the next steps to commence with a non-statutory public consultation process. Architects Studio Egret West have been retained in the event that any amendments are required to the Framework. The consultation began on 17 November 2020 and encompasses an invitation for the public to give feedback on the Catford consultation activities over the past four years that provided significant foundation to the document. Consultation is being delivered via various platforms including: a pull-out section within the Catford Chronicle magazine that is sent to 18,000 homes in Catford with a freepost return for comments, a series of Zoom presentation sessions with questions answered, visual displays at shop 24 Catford Precinct, feedback via phone, an email and via a website address. Officers plan to return to M&C in spring 2021 to provide the consultation results and to request endorsement of the final version of the Framework document. The Catford Town Centre Framework document will then be used as an evidence base for the emerging Local Plan.

Work with TfL has just recommenced following a temporary postponement of the programme due to the impact of Covid-19 and the furlough of the Transformation Team. There is an agreed proposal to realign the South Circular A205 through the Town Centre. The Greater London Authority (GLA) Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) of £10m has been secured on condition that the road is delivered by TfL. Officers have been seeking an extension to the grant agreement to accommodate the time lost on the project. TfL have confirmed that they are awaiting a new programme to begin extensive modelling of the preferred design option for the road. DfT require completion of this activity in order to confirm the provisional funding in the sum of £40M. Subject to an approved design, early works are expected to start in 2021/22.

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Meanwhile, at the same meeting of M&C on 16 September 2020 officers received approval to commence with two projects in Catford town centre. The first will provide a series of public realm improvements to the areas around Catford stations to be funded from S.106 funding from the Catford Green development by Barratt's. This scheme aims to provide a better environment for movement around the stations in preparation for the recovery from the pandemic with an aim to be on site in early 2022. The second scheme has been enabled by successful funding from the GLA in the form of the Good Growth Grant that has been match funded by the Capital Programme. This will see the refurbishment of the Catford Constitution Club (CCC) and the development of a mixed-use scheme up to Planning stage on the T/Lane car park site to provide a mix of business units and up to 100 homes that would realise multiple regeneration benefits including: jobs retention, business creation and potential early housing delivery and can also support the Post-Covid19 recovery plan. This early investment proposal can be delivered independently but also corresponds fully with the vision set out in the draft Catford Framework document endorsed by Mayor & Cabinet on 16th September 2020, providing fundamental improvements to the public realm for Catford and meeting social and economic integration objectives, opportunities for town centre. The objective is to obtain Planning consent for both schemes by the end of summer 2021 and to deliver the CCC refurbishment in 2022.

Officers are in further negotiations with the GLA on additional funding following a successful bid to the GLA for Get Building Funding of just under £1m. The funding aims to secure additional town centre improvement schemes including public realm improvements to the pedestrian area on Holbeach Road and a partnership project to provide a public sector hub in the Old Town Hall.

Lewisham Gateway Development

The Council is supporting the delivery of Phase 2 of the Lewisham Gateway development by the provision of:

- (a) £9,558,850 of grant from its own resources being a commuted sum earmarked for affordable housing under a section 106 agreement relating to the Loampit Vale development.
- (b) £13,500,000 of housing infrastructure fund (HIF) grant that comes from government via government's delivery partner, The Greater London Authority (GLA).

The Lewisham Gateway is a long-term regeneration project which is being delivered by Lewisham Gateway Developments Limited (**LGDL**), a special purpose vehicle which is a subsidiary of Muse Developments Limited. The project is being delivered via a development agreement dated 19th December 2006 between LBL, various public sector partners and LGDL. Amendments to this development agreement agreed by the parties in 2020. Phase 1 was completed in 2019 providing construction of the new highway layout and pedestrian crossings (including re-location of River Ravensbourne and Quaggy), 362 residential units, commercial café and retail space, Confluence Place Park: a public space connecting the river, station and public realm as well as a number of commercial food and beverage units

Phase 2 of the project will deliver four buildings to provide 530 residential apartments, 119 co-living units, retail units, a gym space and a cinema together with associated public realm (including hard and soft landscaping). A basement energy centre will also be provided in the building known as building block E

Asset Management Programme

Funding from the Asset Management Programme (AMP) has continued to support reactive and much needed capital works across the operational corporate estate. This has included fabric works such as roof replacement and mechanical works; including, boiler replacements and lift repairs across the estate of approximately 90 buildings and sites. More recently, the programme has funded works to the Civic Suite, Registry

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Office and some essential works as part of the main Laurence House refurbishment programme. A full condition survey of the corporate estate was completed in 2020 and is helping define the future investment need of the estate, the Asset Review, and underpin the use of the AMP capital programme funding for future years. A comprehensive Corporate Estate Maintenance Programme is being developed to start in 2021/22 (with some urgent health and safety works already underway).

Broadway Theatre

The Broadway Theatre building is not fully complaint in a number of areas, and is long overdue investment in its mechanical, electrical and fabric elements. Urgent work is required to address key risk areas of building failure.

The proposed works include rewire of the theatre, replacement fire detection equipment, new emergency lighting, new central heating and domestic water system, damp proofing and decorations, improvements to support disabled access and get-in, toilet expansion and external improvements

Given the significant amount of investment needed the theatre will be closed to enable the work to be carried out effectively and efficiently. The works are proposed to complete late 2022

Lewisham Library

The roof of the library is in urgent need of repair. This was identified as part of recent condition survey of the building which also highlighted a number of key areas of failing across the building structure and M&E services. The roof's condition puts the entire building fabric and services at risk.

The report also found the mechanical and public health services (MEPH) within the building are generally at or past their life expectancy. The general condition of all elements is poor with some obvious signs of deterioration and failures including hot water plant and ventilation systems. In addition, the two lifts serving the building requires major overhaul. There is currently no allocation in the capital programme to support this project.

Mayor and Cabinet agreed that officers look at options that will sustain the library service provision into the future. A number of options are currently being explored

Old Town Hall

Officers are developing a programme of investment works for the Old Town Hall. This is part of proposals to convert the Old Town Hall into a public sector hub for a number of public sector partners. Some of the investment will address immediate health and safety as well as compliance requirements of the building. It will aim to secure a new use for the building as a public sector hub supporting a number of public sector partners such as the NHS and DWP.

Lewisham Homes – Property Acquisition

This funding supports the delivery of the Lewisham Homes acquisitions programme that secures properties for temporary accommodation for homeless households, making a saving on the Council's spend on bed & breakfast accommodation.

Fleet vehicle replacement

The current year's budget is to finance the replacement of 65 vehicles in the Council's fleet in order to meet the approaching Low Emissions Zone (LEZ) changes in October 2020. As of the end of December 2020 all 65 vehicles have been delivered and are in service at a total cost of £7,022.536.

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Future fleet replacement capital budget for the years 2021 - 2024 of 800k per annum has been allocated.

Smart Working Programme

The Smarter Working programme seeks to consolidate offices and release sites for future redevelopment in Catford town centre, as well as the refurbishment of the council's main office site, Laurence House, to ensure it is fit for purpose until new council offices can be built. The ground floor was refurbished in 2018 to provide a modern, welcoming and better functioning reception for the council and refurbishment work on floors 1 to 5 was completed in 2019. The works included improved welfare provision, delivering new meeting rooms and kitchens, improving the heating and ventilation system, new energy efficient LED lighting, decoration and a layout and furniture which supports and encourages agile working. Options are being considered to deliver improvements to the ground floor and the civic suite.

Edward Street

Edward St will provide 34 new high-quality temporary accommodation homes for local families in housing need. The tender and contractor appointment has been completed following Mayor and Cabinet approval. The manufacturing of the homes has commenced in the factory.

Residential Portfolio Acquisition – Hyde Housing Association

The acquisition of a portfolio currently comprising 120 residential properties from Hyde Housing Association, as per a report to Mayor & Cabinet on 13 March 2019.

The Council completed on the acquisition of a portfolio of homes from Hyde Housing Association earlier this financial year. Hyde Housing Association have offered the option of further acquisitions. The Council are currently considering this option and carrying out due diligence in relation to this.

Achilles Street

Residents on the Achilles Street Estate have voted for the redevelopment of the estate to go ahead. Work is underway to carry out due diligence and the procurement of the design team has commenced with estate residents. The scheme will deliver new homes for all existing residents as well as a significant number of new council owned homes for social rent.

Acquisition of Sydney Arms

In response to COVID-19 local authorities were instructed by the government to bring 'Everyone In'. The initial approach was to find and accommodate all rough sleepers, and those sleeping in night shelters, to minimise their potential risk to COVID-19. This approach ended in the summer, and authorities have been working with the government and the GLA to find permanent move on accommodation for those it has temporarily housed.

There has been an increase in rough sleeping. Since the start of the pandemic the Council has worked with nearly 200 rough sleepers, whereas over the entirety of 2019/20 there were 229 rough sleepers that services engaged with in Lewisham. The pandemic continues to pose a substantial health risk to residents, particularly rough sleepers, and the impact on homelessness of a severe economic shock is yet to be fully realised.

In response to the above pressures the council has been using temporary accommodation to house rough sleepers it has identified. However, such

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accommodation is often expensive and does not come with support provision included. The council is projecting an expenditure of £800k during the course of 20/21 that it would not have spent in previous years, although a grant of £300k from government has been made available to cover some of that cost.

The acquisition and refurbishment of the Sydney Arms will allow up to 16 rough sleepers, or other households, to be accommodated in affordable accommodation with support available to meet their needs. The purpose of this accommodation will be to provide accommodation and support on a short to medium term basis whilst staff work with those accommodated to find secure longer-term homes for households to move into.”

Ladywell Leisure Centre Development site

The redevelopment of the former Ladywell Leisure Centre Site continues to progress with planning applications due later in the summer of 2021. This mixed-use development will see approximately 69 new homes come forward in addition to retaining the 24 homes that are in the PLACE building. The Council, through Lewisham Homes, will directly deliver these new homes. In 2019, a budget of £2.55m was approved by Mayor and Cabinet to take the scheme forward to planning and to fund the feasibility of the relocation of PLACE/Ladywell

Mayow Road Development Site

At the Mayow Road site we will deliver 26 family-sized homes for homeless families. These will consist of self-contained flats with two and three bedrooms, all with their own private amenity space. The homes will provide much-needed temporary accommodation, supporting residents to remain in their local community. We will also deliver six supported living homes for residents with learning disabilities or autism, helping them to remain in borough and live more independent lives. This will be supported by 24-hour on-site care and support staff. We are supporting these aims in partnership with NHS England’s transforming care Programme.

Planning has been secured and funding agreed for construction. A contractor has been appointed and a start on site has been achieved for this scheme. Work is ongoing.

Traveller’s site relocation

The latest site search for a Gypsy and Traveller site has identified a site at Pool Court as the most appropriate location to develop a new Gypsy and Traveller site for the borough. The construction cost of the 6-pitch site is estimated at £1.8m including design fees and other costs.

A section of the identified site is owned by Network Rail and the rest by the Council. The acquisition cost of the Network Rail section of the site is estimated at up to £2m. The Capital programme already has an allocation of circa £1.1m, including historic GLA grant, to support the scheme. The total cost for the development of the Pool Court site to provide 6 pitches to meet the Gypsy and Traveller Housing need is approximately £3.8m, with additional budget of £2.7m now allocated in the plan.

Beckenham Place Park

The restoration of Beckenham Place Park (to the western side of the railway) has been completed.

The listed stable block is now home to the new park café and environmental education centre, and the long anticipated restored landscape, with its reinstated lake, is being enjoyed by thousands of local people. The stable yard itself will become an arrival and visitor’s hub, as new tenants take occupation of the cottages over the next year.

The new play facilities are much loved, as part of the restored pleasure grounds, and

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the previously derelict Gardener's cottage is now fully restored and re-purposed as a hub for volunteer activity in the park, in the midst of the new community garden. Open water swimming now takes place on the lake, and visitors will be encouraged to explore the breadth and nature of Lewisham's largest park on new paths and trails.

Mayor & Cabinet on 24 April 2019 approved an additional capital contribution of up to £1.936m towards works on the eastern side of the park. Work is now underway to develop the scope of works to the eastern side of the park and it is hoped that this allocation could be used to lever in further support from the GLA and GLA and the Environment Agency.

Meanwhile, work has just begun to look at options on a route to secure the future of the other assets mainly in the western side of the park. These include the Mansion House and Foxgrove Club. A paper will be taken to Mayor & Cabinet in due cause setting out the options and next steps on a route to secure beneficial use of those assets.

Building for Lewisham Programme update

The Building for Lewisham (BfL) supersedes the Housing Matters Programme. In January 2020, the Mayor and Cabinet approved recommendations to advance and expand the Council's housebuilding programme to meet the corporate objectives set for the period between 2018 and 2022. The M&C paper sets much of the context for the budget identified in this paper

The BfL programme will deliver a significant proportion of new council housing for the borough. Funding has currently been agreed for the continuation of the former New Homes Better Places programme and for a series of additional infill sites. In addition, funding for feasibility and preparation of planning and tender information for major strategic projects at Ladywell, Achilles Street Estate and Catford has been allocated; as well as funding for wider feasibility studies for sites across the borough.

The Council, via its development agent, Lewisham Homes, is also investigating acquisition opportunities on land and sites from the market. These schemes may offer an opportunity to deliver more homes on an expedited timescale.

The current consolidation of the BfL programme notes funding for 1,686 new homes across a mix of tenures. This has been modelled over a 40 year period and has been inflation-adjusted accordingly. However, the assumptions used in this report represent an over-programming of developments and not all developments modelled will necessarily come forward. Therefore, this represents the most budget-intensive scenario. The financial and programme risk associated with the BfL programme will be monitored closely and mitigations implemented accordingly. Should any material changes to this budget be required, approval from Members will be sought.

The programme is supported by grant funding from the GLA via the Building Council Homes for London Programme. This provides £37.7m at a rate of around £100,000 per social unit. In addition to this the Council have secured funding from the GLA through their Small Sites Small Builders Fund, Housing Capacity Fund and Accelerated Construction Fund. The NHS have also provide grant support for Supported Housing. In addition to this, the Council will continue to subsidise the programme with the use of Right to Buy 1-4-1 receipts.

The majority of spend for the remainder of 2020/21 relates to feasibility and planning application preparation for the new homes programme and delivery of a number of schemes by Lewisham Homes on site. Around 458 new social homes are forecast to achieve planning permission or start on site in 2021.

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APPENDIX W2

PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME – ORIGINAL TO LATEST BUDGET

| | Total | | Total |
|--|--------------|--|----------------|
| | £'000 | | £'000 |
| GENERAL FUND | | | |
| | | | |
| Original Budget (Mayor & Cabinet 9 July 2020) | | | 210,947 |
| | | | |
| New Schemes | | | |
| Lewisham Market Scheme | 322 | | |
| 2020/21 LIP Programme | 1,300 | | |
| Lewisham Gateway Phase 2 | 14,812 | | |
| 82, Newland Park | 176 | | |
| Holbeach Road Public Realm & Catford Hub | 245 | | |
| Catford Station Improvements | 82 | | |
| Catford Phase 1 – Thomas Lane Yard / Catford Constitution Club | 49 | | |
| Brockley Rise Adult Learning Centre Frontage Works | 146 | | |
| Improvements to the Calabash Centre | 45 | | |
| Beckenham Place Park (Eastern Part) | 200 | | |
| | | | 17,377 |
| Approved variations on existing schemes | | | |
| Excalibur (Phase 3) | 200 | | |
| Canonbie Road Development | 677 | | |
| | | | 877 |
| Re-allocated Budgets | | | |
| Lewisham Library – repairs and refurb | -1000 | | |
| | | | -1000 |
| Re-profiled Budgets | | | |
| CYP CERA (capital charged to revenue account) | -500 | | |
| Achilles St. Development (Design Work) | -401 | | |
| Achilles St. Development | -4,764 | | |
| Ladywell Leisure Centre Development | 3,290 | | |
| Unallocated AMP | -792 | | |
| Excalibur (Phases 4&5) | -1,265 | | |
| Milford Towers Decant | -2,769 | | |
| Creekside Acquisition | 5,711 | | |
| 19, Yeoman St. Improvements | 7 | | |
| Deptford Southern Sites | 1,826 | | |
| Lewisham homes property acquisition | -3,000 | | |
| Schools Pupils Places Programme | -5,794 | | |

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| | | | | |
|---|--|--------|--|----------------|
| 2020 Schools Minor Works Capital Programme | | -79 | | |
| Heathside & Lethbridge | | -244 | | |
| Milford Towers Decant | | -100 | | |
| DFG & Disc Grants | | -1,040 | | |
| Fleet Vehicle Replacement | | -800 | | |
| 9-19 Rushey Green | | -250 | | |
| Deptford Park Improvements | | -40 | | |
| Sydenham park footbridge | | -489 | | |
| Broadway Theatre - Works | | -1,594 | | |
| Acquisition of homes in inner LHA Area | | -75 | | |
| Watson Street Streetscape Improvements | | -120 | | |
| Refurbishment of 43-45 Bromley Road | | -235 | | |
| Essential footpath resurfacing parks | | -7 | | |
| Catford Broadway - Phase 2 | | -5 | | |
| | | | | -13,529 |
| Re-phasing Budgets | | | | |
| HRA | | | | -50,585 |
| | | | | |
| Revised Capital Programme Budget 2020/21 | | | | 164,087 |

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APPENDIX X1: Proposed Housing Revenue Account Savings 2021/22

X1.1 The HRA strategy and self-financing assessments are continually updated and developed with the view to ensuring resources are available to meet costs and investment needs and are funded for 2021/22 and future years.

X1.2 Savings and efficiencies delivered in the 2021/22 budget can be re-invested to off-set constrained rent rises or to help bridge any investment gap identified. As a prudent measure the original financial model was developed with no savings identified. Subsequently, discussions have taken place regarding appropriate savings and 'target' management and maintenance costs per unit. For example, there is already an assumed reduction in the Lewisham Homes fee in 2021/22 to reflect stock losses through Right to Buy Sales. Although no direct efficiencies/savings are currently being considered for 2021/22, work continues to identify opportunities for cost reductions and efficiencies relating to the HRA business model. Where identified, these savings would be available to off-set future rental losses due to a constrained uplift to protect investment in stock or services.

X1.3 An update of the HRA Strategy, Savings Proposals, proposed rent & service charge increases and comments from consultation with tenant representatives will be reported to Mayor & Cabinet as part of the HRA Rents and budget strategy report. Mayor & Cabinet will make the final budget decisions in the New Year.

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APPENDIX X2: Leasehold and Tenants Charges Consultation 2021/22

| | | | | |
|--------------|--|------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Committee | Brockley Residents Panel | | Item No | |
| Report Title | Leasehold and Tenant Charges Consultation | | | |
| Contributor | Regenter Brockley Operations Manager | | | |
| Class | Decision | Date | 16th December 2020 | |

1 Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out proposals to increase service charges to ensure full cost recovery in line with Lewisham Council's budget strategy.
- 1.2 The report requests Brockley Residents Panel members to consider the proposals to increase service charges based on an uplift of **2.1%** for **2021/22** on specific elements. This is based on full cost recovery in line with previous years' proposals.

2 Policy Context

- 2.1 The policy context for leasehold and tenant service charges is a mixture of statutory and Council Policy.
- 2.2 The Council's Housing Revenue Account is a ring-fenced revenue account. The account is required to contain only those charges directly related to the management of the Council's Housing stock. This requires that leaseholder charges reflect the true cost of maintaining their properties where the provision of their lease allows. This prevents the situation occurring where tenants are subsidising the cost of leaseholders who have purchased their properties.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Brockley Residents Panel is requested to consider and comment on the proposals contained in this report and the feedback from the residents will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet as part of the wider rent setting report.

4. Purpose

- 4.1 The purpose of the report is to:
 - outline the proposals for increases in service charges in line with the contract arrangements for leaseholders and tenants to recover costs incurred for providing these services

5. Housing Revenue Account Charges

- 5.1 There are several charges made to residents which are not covered through rents. These charges are principally:

- Leasehold Service Charges
- Tenant Service Charges

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- 5.1 A service charge levy is applied to Tenants for caretaking, grounds maintenance, communal lighting, bulk waste collection and window cleaning. Tenants also pay a Tenants Fund Levy which is passed onto the Tenants Fund as a grant.
- 5.2 The key principles that should be considered when setting service charges are that:
- The charge should be fair and be no more or less than the cost of providing the service
 - The charge can be easily explained
 - The charge represents value for money
 - The charging basis allocates costs fairly amongst those receiving the service
 - The charge to all residents living in a block will be the same
- 5.3 The principle of full cost recovery ensures that residents pay for services consumed and minimises any pressures in the Housing Revenue Account in providing these services. This is in line with the current budget strategy.

In the current economic environment, it must however be recognised that for some residents this may represent a significant financial strain. Those in receipt of housing benefit will receive housing benefit on increased service charges. There are approximately 444 council tenants in receipt of housing benefit and 287 tenants on Universal Credit.

6. Analysis of full cost recovery

- 6.1 The following section provides analysis on the impact on individuals of increasing charges to the level required to ensure full cost recovery. The tables indicate the overall level of increases.

6.2 Leasehold service charges

The basis of the leasehold management charge has been reviewed and externally audited this summer to reflect the actual cost of the service. The management charge now incorporates Resident Engagement and Customer Service charges which makes this combination £86.22 for street properties and £183.05 for blocks, which is unchanged from the current year.

- 6.2.1 The uplift in leaseholder charges should reflect full cost recovery for the type of service undertaken. It is proposed that any uplift is applied at 2.1% [RPI (September 2020 being 1.1%) +1.00%].
- 6.2.2 The following table sets out the post audited current average weekly charge and the proposed increase for the current services provided by Regenter Brockley:

6.3 Leasehold service charges

| Service | Leasehold No. | Current Weekly Charge | Weekly Increase | New Weekly Amount | Increase (2.1%) |
|----------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Page 214 | | | | | |

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| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Caretaking | 397 | £5.96 | £0.13 | £6.09 | 2.1% |
| Grounds Maintenance | 397 | £3.11 | £0.07 | £3.18 | 2.1% |
| Communal Lighting | 397 | £1.80 | £0.04 | £1.84 | 2.1% |
| Bulk Waste | 397 | £1.43 | £0.03 | £1.46 | 2.1% |
| Window Cleaning | 222 | £0.16 | £0.00 | £0.16 | 2.1% |
| Resident Involvement | 563 | £0.24 | £0.01 | £0.25 | 2.1% |
| Customer Services | 563 | £0.39 | £0.01 | £0.40 | 2.1% |
| Ground Rent | 563 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | set at £10 per annum |
| General Repairs | 563 | £3.62 | £0.08 | £3.70 | 2.1% |
| Technical Repairs | 401 | £0.71 | £0.01 | £0.72 | 2.1% |
| Entry Phone | 140 | £0.05 | £0.00 | £0.05 | 2.1% |
| Lift | 236 | £2.48 | £0.05 | £2.53 | 2.1% |
| Management Fee | 563 | £3.05 | £0.06 | £3.11 | 2.1% |
| Total | | £23.00 | £0.49 | £23.49 | |

6.3.1 Tenant service charges were separated out from rent (unpooled) in 2003/04 and have been increased by inflation since then. RB3 took over the provision of the caretaking and grounds maintenance services in 2007/08. Both tenants and leaseholders pay caretaking, grounds maintenance, communal lighting, bulk waste collection and window cleaning service charges.

6.3.2 In addition, tenants pay a contribution of £0.15pw to the Lewisham Tenants Fund. At present there are no plans to increase the Tenants Fund charges.

6.3.3 As outlined in this report, the principle to be applied to service charges is that full cost recovery should be maintained wherever possible. The service charge increase applied for 2020/21 was set in November 2019 to be applied from 6th April 2020. However, in the period between these dates an increase in hourly rates (moving to London Living Wage) and increase in working hours was introduced within the services where there was a staffing element. This is not currently reflected within the service charge amounts currently being paid by tenants, as the changes were too late to be incorporated into the charges to be applied.

6.3.4 Therefore, the data in the tables have been reworked to reflect the charge applied for 2020/21 and amended to show what the charge rate should be based on the updated rates and working hours. Inflation has then been applied to this revised charge, as allowed for within the contract at a rate of 2.1% (RPI of 1.1% + 1.0)

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Overall, charges are suggested to be increased by an average of £1.55 per week which would move the current average weekly charge from £11.37 to £12.92.

6.3.5 The effect of increases in tenant service charges to a level that covers the full cost of providing the service is set out in the table below.

| Service | Current Weekly Charge | Adjustment Required (see 6.3.4) | Revised Weekly Charge | Increase @ 2.10% | New Weekly Amount |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Caretaking | £5.43 | £0.53 | £5.96 | £0.13 | £6.09 |
| Grounds Maintenance | £2.38 | £0.73 | £3.11 | £0.07 | £3.18 |
| Communal Lighting | £1.78 | £0.02 | £1.80 | £0.04 | £1.84 |
| Bulk Waste | £1.43 | £0.00 | £1.43 | £0.03 | £1.46 |
| Window Cleaning | £0.20 | £0.00 | £0.20 | £0.00 | £0.20 |
| Tenants fund | £0.15 | £0.00 | £0.15 | £0.00 | £0.15 |
| Total | £11.37 | £1.28 | £12.65 | £0.27 | £12.92 |

6.3.6 The RB3 Board is asked for their views on these charges from April 2021 to March 2022. Results of the consultation will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet for approval in Spring 2021.

7. Financial implications

7.1 The main financial implications are set out in the body of the report.

7.2 The principle of full cost recovery ensures that residents pay for services consumed and minimises any pressures in the Housing Revenue Account in providing these services. This is in line with the current budget strategy.

7.3 Those in receipt of housing benefit will receive housing benefit on increased service charges. There are approximately 444 council tenants in receipt of housing benefit and 287 tenants on Universal Credit.

8. Legal implications

8.1 Section 24 of the Housing Act 1985 provides that a local housing authority may make such reasonable charges as they determine for the tenancy or occupation of their houses. The Authority must review rents from time to time and make such changes as circumstances require. Within this discretion there is no one lawful option and any reasonable option may be looked at. The consequences of each

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option must be explained fully so that Members understand the implications of their decisions.

8.2 Section 76 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that local housing authorities are under a duty to prevent a debit balance in the HRA. Rents must therefore be set to avoid such a debit.

8.3 Section 103 of the Housing Act 1985 sets out the terms under which secure tenancies may be varied. This requires: -

- the Council to serve a Notice of Variation at least 4 weeks before the effective date.
- the provision of enough information to explain the variation.
- an opportunity for the tenant to serve a Notice to Quit terminating their tenancy.

8.4 The timetable for the consideration of the 2021/22 rent levels provides an adequate period to ensure that legislative requirements are met.

8.5 Part III of Schedule 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 provides that where benefits or amenities arising out of the exercise of a Housing Authority's functions, are provided for persons housed by the authority, but are shared by the community as a whole, the authority shall make such contribution to their HRA from their other revenue accounts to properly reflect the community's share of the benefits or amenities.

8.6 Whereas an outcome of the rent setting process, there are to be significant changes in housing management practice or policy, further consultation may be required with the tenants affected in accordance with section 105 of the Housing Act 1985.

9. **Crime and disorder implications**

There are no specific crime and disorder implications in respect of this report paragraph.

10. **Equalities implications**

The general principle of ensuring that residents pay the same charge for the same service is promoting the principle that services are provided to residents in a fair and equal manner.

11. **Environmental implications**

There are no specific environmental implications in respect of this report.

12. **Conclusion**

12.1 Revising the level of charges ensures that the charges are fair, and residents are paying for the services they use.

12.2 The additional resources generated will relieve some of the current pressures within Housing Revenue Account and will contribute to the funding of the PFI contract which is contained within the authorities Housing Revenue Account.

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Kate Donovan
Area Manager
or
Sandra Simpson
Project Manager

Brockley.customerservice@pinnaclegroup.co.uk

Or on 0207 635 1200.

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APPENDIX X3: Leasehold and Tenants Charges 2021/22 Lewisham Homes

| | | | |
|--------------|--|----------|------------------|
| Meeting | Resident Engagement Panel | Item No. | X |
| Report Title | Service Charges 2021/22 | | |
| Report Of | Director of Finance and Technology - Rowann Limond | | |
| Class | Information | Date | 17 December 2020 |

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals for residents service charges in 2021/22. Residents are invited to comment on the proposals which will be fed back to the Mayor as part of the Council's budget setting process.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To consult residents on the service charge proposals and provide feedback to the Mayor.

3. Background of the Report

- 3.1 The Council's Housing Revenue Account is a ring-fenced account. The account can only contain those charges directly related to the management of the Council's housing stock. By implication leaseholders must be charged the true cost of maintaining their properties, where the provision of their lease allows. This prevents tenants subsidising the cost to leaseholders, who have purchased their properties.
- 3.2 Each year a review of the actual costs is undertaken as part of the budget setting process and recommendations made to the council in respect of proposed charges.
- 3.3 Where possible we aim to keep these charges within the inflation rates. It should be noted that the inflation rates as at September 2020 were CPI 0.5% and RPI 2.4%. The overall increase to the weekly service charge is 2.07%.

4. Tenant and Leasehold service charges 2021/22

- 4.1 The proposed 2021/22 charges as compared with 2020/21 are shown in Appendix 1
- 4.2 Changes to repairs and maintenance charges have been modelled on the last 3 years actual costs. These charges are estimates and leaseholders will receive a charge adjustment based on actual costs incurred. This charge adjustment will take place in September 2021.
- 4.3 A proposed increase in communal heating of 17p per week is due to an increase in energy costs.

If you require further information on this report please contact Rowann Limond on 020 3889 0650 or email rowann.limond@lewishamhomes.org.uk

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Appendix 1

| Existing Service | Tenant (T)/Leaseholders (LH) | Estimate (per week charge) | Estimate (per week charge) | Change in weekly charge | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | | | |
| | | £ | £ | £ | % | |
| Caretaking | T & LH | 6.36 | 6.49 | 0.13 | 1.99% | Increase |
| Ground Maintenance | T & LH | 2.07 | 2.11 | 0.04 | 1.94% | Increase |
| Repairs and Maintenance - Building | LH | 2.92 | 2.98 | 0.06 | 2.19% | Increase |
| Repairs and Maintenance Technical | LH | 1.03 | 1.05 | 0.02 | 2.09% | Increase |
| Lifts | LH | 2.69 | 2.69 | 0.00 | 0.00% | No change |
| Entry Phone | LH | 0.74 | 0.75 | 0.01 | 1.79% | Increase |
| Block Pest Control | T & LH | 1.79 | 1.83 | 0.04 | 2.20% | Increase |
| Ground Rent | LH | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.00 | 0.00% | No change |
| Sweeping | LH | 1.02 | 1.04 | 0.02 | 2.33% | Increase |
| Management | LH | 2.45 | 2.50 | 0.05 | 2.14% | Increase |
| Window Cleaning | T & LH | 0.10 | 0.12 | 0.02 | 26.01% | Increase |
| Bulky House Hold Waste Collection Service | T & LH | 0.47 | 0.58 | 0.11 | 23.20% | Increase |
| Bulk Waste Disposal | T & LH | 0.85 | 0.85 | 0.00 | 0.00% | No change |
| Insurance | LH | 0.94 | 0.96 | 0.02 | 1.92% | Increase |
| Total excluding energy charges | | 23.61 | 24.14 | 0.53 | 2.24% | |
| Communal Lighting | T & LH | 1.07 | 1.10 | 0.03 | 2.55% | Increase |
| Communal Heating and Hot Water | T & LH | 10.29 | 10.46 | 0.17 | 1.62% | Increase |
| Total energy charges | | 11.37 | 11.56 | 0.19 | 1.71% | |
| Grand Total | | 34.98 | 35.70 | 0.72 | 2.07% | |

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APPENDIX X4: Other Associated Housing Charges for 2021/22

Garage Rents

1. The detail of these charges and the changes are as set out in appendix X5 below.

Tenants Levy

2. As part of the budget and rent setting proposals for 2005/6, a sum of £0.13 per week was 'unpooled' from rent as a tenants service charge in respect of the Lewisham Tenants Fund. The current charge is £0.15pw.
3. No proposals have been put forward by Lewisham Tenants Fund (LTF) to vary this levy for 2021/22. Therefore the charge will remain at £0.15pw for 2021/22.

Hostel charges

4. Hostel accommodation charges are set based on current Government requirements and will increase by 1.5% (£0.53 per week).
5. Hostel service charges are set to achieve full cost recovery, following the implementation of self-financing. For 2021/22, the charge for Caretaking/management and Grounds Maintenance will remain at current levels. This will leave the average charge at £72.96 per unit per week.
6. In addition, the charge for Heat, Light & Power will also be held at current levels and will remain at £5.98pw. Water charges will not be increased and will remain at £0.20pw. The charge for Council Tax will be based on the total recharged received from Council Tax section. All charges will be based on the total number of hostel units and is forecast to remain unchanged for 2021/22.
7. Hostel residents were consulted on these proposals via individual letters. Officers also invited hostel residents to meet them to discuss the changes and how these may affect them. However, no comments or representations were received.

Linkline Charges

8. The delivery of the service to a 'full visiting service' to better reflect service need was implemented in 2018/19. The resulting annual charge to the HRA for 2020/21 was increased to £420k. Current indications are that an inflationary increase of 2.5% will be applied for 2021/22, increasing the HRA charge by £11k (to £431k for 2021/22). The current linkline charge to HRA residents is £6.10 per week, and does not fully recover the full charge applied to the HRA.

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9. Consultation with HRA residents/current users of the service is due to be undertaken in the New Year. The results of any consultation will be reported to Mayor & Cabinet. Consultation would need to be completed by mid-February 2021 to comply with the 28 day statutory notice of charge increases and allow increased charges to be applied from April 2021. However, if consultation is delayed, the charge increase can only be applied from April 2022. There are no proposals to increase the maintenance charge, which will remain at £0.94 per week.

Private Sector Leasing (PSL & PMA)

10. Rent income for properties used in the Private Sector Leasing (PSL) and Privately Managed Accommodation (PMA) scheme are General Fund resources. From April 2021, rents for homes let under these schemes will be charged at the applicable Local Housing Allowance (LHA) for private rented sector (PRA) properties. This will support the schemes to remain viable in the longer-term and reduce the General Fund subsidy that is presently required to keep them in operation.

Heating & Hot Water Charges

11. As part of last year's rent setting process the Mayor agreed to continue with the current formula methodology for calculating increases in Heating & Hot Water charges to tenants and leaseholders. This formula was originally approved by Mayor & Cabinet in December 2004.
12. The current charging methodology allows a limited inflationary price increase plus a maximum of £2 per week per property increase on the previous year's charge. Consumption levels are also updated and included in the formula calculation.
13. The existing corporate contract for the supply of electricity is let by the property services team with Crown Commercial Services; an Executive Agency of the Cabinet Office. The contract frameworks have been designed to comply with the findings of the Pan Government Energy Project, which recommends that all public sector organisations adopt aggregated, flexible and risk-managed energy procurement with public sector buying organisations.
14. The proposal for 2021/22 is for an increase of £0.17pw or 1.62%. This will move the current charge from £10.29pw to £10.46pw. This is based on the latest available unit rates and consumption data.

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15. The proposal for communal lighting is for an increase of 2.55% or £0.03 per week. This will move the current average charge from £1.07pw to £1.10pw. The increase is due to updated consumption rates.

16. Officers will review the costs, actual energy usage and new contact prices in both 2020/21 and 2021/22 as part of the monitoring regime. Once the new long-term energy supply contracts are in place, recommendations for changes to charges will be brought forward as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

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APPENDIX X5: Garage Rent Increase Report 2021/22

| INCLUSIVE REGENERATION Estates Team Report | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Report Title | Rental Increases for Garages from April 2021 – Lewisham Homes and Regenter RB3 | |
| Key Decision | Yes | Item No. |
| Contributors | Directorate of Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm | |
| Class | | Date: November 2020 |

1. Purpose and Summary of the report

The purpose of this report is to advise the resident panel of the proposed increase in the rent paid by tenants for domestic garages owned by the Council for the next financial year. As is our usual practice, the rents for next year will be increased in line with the Retail Price Index.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council approves, in principle, an increase in rent for the garage portfolio of 1.1%, to be effective from April 2021. This increase is in line with the increase in the Retail Price Index for the current year.

Blue Badge holders will continue to receive a 50% deduction on the weekly rent.

3. Policy Context

The contents of this report are consistent with the Council's policy framework. It supports the achievements of the following corporate strategy objectives:

- Building an inclusive local economy – Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.
- Making Lewisham greener – Everyone enjoys our green spaces and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.

4. Background

For the forthcoming financial year from April 2021 it is intended that the increase imposed is an inflationary one only, in line with the Retail Prices Index, as is our usual practice.

There are approximately 134 Council garage sites in the borough, comprising 182 garage blocks. There are approximately 2,379 individual garages. Approximately 1,801 of the

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garages are let to Lewisham Homes and Brockley social tenants and 578 are let to non-Lewisham Homes or Brockley social tenants.

The current waiting list for garages is over 2,000 applicants.

A housing tenant with LB Lewisham pays the basic price for a garage (subject to any specific discounts agreed) and a non-housing tenant pays the basic price with the addition of 20% VAT. Blue Badge holders receive a 50% deduction on the weekly rent.

The application of a discount is entirely a discretionary decision on behalf of the Council; garages are not a core social dwelling provision and all could be charged at a higher level, although there is some logic in offering some abatement to housing customers to help mitigate parking issues and neighbourhood management problems.

The highest rent charged is £23.48 per week and the lowest is £5.80 per week. However, some garages are charged at less than the lowest rate per week. These are discounted rates (50% of the full charge) for tenants with blue badges.

5. Financial Implications

The current annual rent roll for the garage portfolio is £1.403M, based on a basic average standard charge of £15.68 per week per garage (i.e. before discounts are applied).

If the rents are increased by RPI as proposed in April 2021, the revised annual rent roll will increase to approximately £1.419M, or £15.85 per week per garage, an uplift of 1.1%, or £0.17 per week on average, and a total increase of approximately £20,000 on the annual rent roll.

6. Legal Implications

The Council's duties in relation to the consultation of tenants on matters of housing management, as set-out in Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985, do not apply to rent levels, nor to charges for services or facilities provided by the authority. There is therefore no requirement to consult with secure tenants regarding the proposed increase in charges. The Council still needs to act reasonably and the decision maker should therefore be satisfied that the increase is reasonable and justified. The general principle is that the Council should be seeking best value.

The Equality Act 2012 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

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.

The duty continues to be a "have regard duty", and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

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The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled "Practice". The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

- The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
- Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
- Engagement and the equality duty
- Equality objectives and the equality duty
- Equality information and the equality duty

The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sectorequality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

7. Crime and Disorder Implications

There are no specific crime and disorder implications in this report. However, levels of voids could increase in the future if there is a lack of investment. Poorly maintained garages with high vacancy rates can in turn lead to increased levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

8. Equalities Implications

The proposed 1.1% increase will be applied across the portfolio to residents and non-residents. Blue badge holders will continue to receive a 50% discount on the weekly rent as existing.

9. Environmental Implications

There are no specific environmental implications in this report.

10. Conclusion

The proposed rental increase is considered to reflect market rent and be sustainable, and will raise additional revenue from the portfolio of approximately £20k.

11. Further Information

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If there are any queries on this report, please contact David Lee on extension 49823, david.lee@lewisham.gov.uk

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Appendix X6: Tenants' rent consultation 2021/22

The Tenants' rent consultation meetings took place on 16th December 2020 with Regenter B3 (Brockley) managed tenants and 17th December 2020 with Lewisham Homes managed tenants.

Views of representatives on rent and service charge changes & savings proposals.

| | Lewisham Homes | Brockley PFI |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| No of representatives (excl Cllrs) | 14 | 10+ |
| Rent Increase @ 1.5% | See Below | No direct comments |
| Savings Proposals:- | | |
| No Savings proposed | n/a | n/a |
| Service Charges inc: | | |
| Heating & Hot Water Charges | See Below | No direct comments |
| Garage Rents | See Below | No direct comments |
| Tenants Fund | n/a – no increase proposed | n/a – no increase proposed |

Summary of comments made by representatives;

The Lewisham Homes panel requested additional time to consider the proposals and provide feedback.

This was agreed and a deadline of 31st December 2020 was given for all responses to Lewisham Homes, who would then forward the feedback to the Council.

The following table provided a summary of the comments received on the night and general feedback.

A transcript of the meeting and comments received are contained at the end of this summary. There was no further feedback received from residents up to the extended deadline of 31st December 2020.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <p>Lewisham Homes Panel</p> | <p>Rent increase:</p> <p>Panel members felt that there are issues of affordability given the</p> <p>There was questioning relating to whether a rise in rents is needed at all and could this be changed.</p> <p>Officers responded by informing the panel that the authority is bound by legislation to ensure that the HRA does not fall into a deficit and that the rent rise would off-set increasing costs and provide resources for investment.</p> <p>Tenants Service Charges & Heating & Hot water Charge:</p> <p>A presentation was given on the proposals.</p> <p>A discussion was held on the issue of service standards and costs.</p> <p>There were questions of value for money as charges are increasing but service delivery is not improving.</p> <p>Lewisham Homes officers responded by requesting panel members to contact them with specific service queries, that they will note and respond to specific issues.</p> <p>Garage Charges:</p> <p>Panel members queried the need for the rise and questioned what is happening with all the void garage units which need to be brought back into use.</p> <p>Officers responded by requesting the details of the specific garages panel members referring to.</p> |
|------------------------------------|---|

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| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Members also queried if the additional income raised would be reinvested into the garage stock to bring them back into use.</p> <p>Officers responded by informing panel members that there is an investment programme in place for garages.</p> <p>Tenants Fund:</p> <p>n/a – no increase proposed</p> <p>Savings Proposals:</p> <p>n/a</p> |
|--|---|

The following is a full transcript of the panel meeting, comments and responses. No further comments/responses were received by Lewisham Homes by the agreed 31st December 2020 deadline;

Rent setting and service charge meeting. 17 December 2020 via Zoom

Staff attending: Jon Kanareck (Lewisham Homes' Director of Resident Services), Simon Williams (Lewisham Homes' Head of Finance), Alys Exley-Smith (Lewisham Homes' Community Relations Manager), Fenella Beckman (Director of Housing Services), Rachel Dunn (Senior Group Manager - Housing Partnerships and Service Improvement), Tony Riordan (Lewisham council Principal accountant), David Lee (Lewisham council, garages), Gloria Biggs (Administrator, Lewisham Tenant's Fund)

14 residents attended

General update (Lewisham Homes and Lewisham council)

- Decision made by Mayor and Cabinet. This feedback will form the feedback to mayor and cabinet
- Rent setting and rental for the financial year. Last year was the first year for a couple of years that there was rent rise. We continue to use this method of rent rise consumer price index +1%. Equates to 1.5% this year for 2021/21 financial year £1.46 per week over a 52 week period. The report shows the average rise per bed six
- We used to have discussions at REP about these things. Part of the framework is this change. Only 6 people came last year. 5 people voted against of the 6 for the increase but it happened anyway. The reason for this meeting is for these comms to go to Mayor and Cabinet.
- Comments will be fed in to the budget process. It depends on the decision that's made by mayor and cabinet on rent and service charge for this year. This meeting doesn't have any direct impact but comments are fed back and considered by the Mayor.

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- As part of the decision making process which takes place further down the line. The Mayor and cabinet will be looking at the input from this meeting.
- Council has an obligation to balance its books. Inflationary costs affecting budgets

General resident feedback:

- Why increase on rent at this time, we are all facing crisis at the moment, some are not working, businesses are down. Why could this not wait till everything is settled and know where we are heading?
- This was far too short notice for what is meant to be a public meeting for all residents.
- There should be a follow up meeting discussing the issues with more tenants and residents.

Rent setting

- Concerns the £50pw rent increase per year. It will take tenants over the threshold. Rent increase could put them over the threshold so they're charged more.
- **Lewisham council:** Confirmed housing benefit will raise to cover the increase.
- Resident stated they felt there was no justification for rent increase.

Garage rent setting

- **Lewisham Council:** Similar to last year. Rate going up RPI, which this year is 1.1%. Last year it was 2.4%. The average uplift works about 17p a week a garage. Blue badge holders receive 50% discount at the moment and that will continue. The overall impact to the council is modest. Increases rents by about £20,000 per annum.
- **Resident:** asked if all void are used to maximise income.
- **Lewisham council:** Yes, some are too expensive to maintain (e.g., asbestos). Some may be potential development sites.
- **Resident:** Final point is on garages. £20,000 revenue for garages per year. Will it be invested in garages? Can you make them look ok and repair broken doors. Need electric points for cars

Lewisham Tenant's Fund

- **LTF Administrator;** Residents association and training. Very little action this year. Last month this has picked up. We're not going to increase the 15p a week. Any money of underspend, will use it to fund new resident engagement structure. Jane will work with new TRA panel, she will be in contact with chairs 3-4 weeks before meeting to help set the agenda. Any other surplus for tenants and residents association for more IT equipment. Still a problem with broadband and cost implication. Any comments?
- **Resident:** One of the issues that comes up is that tenants get the money taken out of their rent directly. Much harder to get leaseholders contributions. Tenants associations deal with leaseholders too. Is there any progress on this to get leaseholders to pay through service charges.

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- **LTF administrator:** There's nothing we can do at LTF. It's not written in to their leases so can't put it in to charges. The reason we fund leaseholders as active TRA members, there are lots of leaseholders on TRAS, but they do represent the TRAs and not just leaseholders. Building communities and caretaking, etc. which is why we also fund leaseholders, but we wouldn't fund leaseholder panel

Service charges

- **Head of Finance:** Increase of 2.7%. Average of 72p for weekly service charges. They were audited over the summer. We've been looking at costs whilst working out what to pay for. Staffing element 2.5% increase in staff this year. CPI was 0/5%

Looking at caretaking and grounds maintenance. Big cost is staffing, cost of living has increased, have tried not to put this on to residents as much as possible, whilst still delivering services we've committed to delivering. Lifts kept the same. Entry phones 1p increase, we're incurring additional costs for contracts there, but trying to limit costs. Ground rent same. Sweeping has gone up, which is the staffing element. Window cleaning up by 2p per week. Bulk household waste has gone up, we've seen an increase here, has gone up by 11p. Disposal is the same. Insurance has gone up, affected by the insurance we're charged.

- **Resident:** Still getting complaints that caretaking isn't done properly. Same with grounds maintenance. Window cleaning has been done some blocks for over a year, should be twice a year. Bulk waste not paladin bins. Paying for service we're not receiving
- **Resident:** Maintenance is cheaper when buildings are maintained to good high quality.
- **Resident:** We also have problems with deep cleaning which does not seem to happen as charged.
- **Resident:** For repairs, it seems that management at LH knows how the job should be done well, but that doesn't translate into the operatives that carry out the job unfortunately. We have a case at Bence of a leak only recently repaired and still holes in the panel were not filled before painting. The resident was unhappy but said that they would do it themselves as the case was hopeless.
- **Resident:** Coordination between LH departments needs to be better - especially between Repairs and Major Works for example.
- **Lewisham Homes:** Bulk waste fly-tipping has been an increase. If there are service failures then you need to contact us and tell us you're not happy and why. Some of the day to day service affected by increase work by COVID. Increase itself is staff.
- **Resident:** Linkline. Call for help and there's nobody to help. Cleaning needs to be looked in to. Why is this poor?
- **Lewisham Homes:** Current linkline system is Tunstall, run on analogue, we are due to upgrade them, and are out to contract, hope to let it in early January. Will upgrade hardware so it works better. Work in some area at the

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moment is picking up that new fibre arrangement. Post summer, new system that works better.

- **Resident:** Some charges were duplicates. Operatives came back several times to do the same job. Model used by LH is that they are billed on current market value of what job will cost. LH staff charge 2-3 times for same jobs. On market value this isn't fair. In house staff and those associated with this, but costs are market value. We want to pay but want the building to be maintained. System isn't working well. We are charged quite large amounts but our external areas have many patches that are bare. Ground maintenance charges need to be more precise. It's not obvious where it's all happening.
- **Lewisham Homes:** Repair point, currently looking at this (modernisation) we use commercial spec at moment, will move to a more formula arrangement at property costs per annum. Moved away from individual bills to now on salaries for operatives, so not paid extra money for jobs they do. Working with council for potential new model. Modernisation program will stop billing being manual, sometimes there is a duplicate. Grounds maintenance contact with Glendale was maintenance only. We have been reinvesting. Talk to Grounds Maintenance team about whether some areas have been replanted. Looking at reviewing how we charge service charges and will need to revisit this.
- **Resident:** Street sweeping service wasn't being done. Recently it has been done. Jackie came and visited. Concerned what is estate sweeping and grounds maintenance? It can be a blurred line. Repairs aren't being done properly. Damp problems in one home and have been told LH can do anything, happened since decent homes. Repairs reported several times with different job numbers and repairs are terrible. Costs rising slowly, but cuts in service. Hope there is some investment in maintenance to keep properties up to scratch
- **Lewisham Homes:** Modernisation program because repairs program wasn't doing what it should, but will take a few months. Difficult at moment due to COVID and taking longer than they should. You should escalate if there are ongoing issues.
- **Resident:** Liaising with waste collection at Lewisham council and impact on repairs charges. Bins weren't emptied by waste collection team and we're charged for unblocking it. Can be expensive when not working with council. They're under quite a lot of pressure at the moment. Will continue to work on the relationship. Caretakers also frustrated.
- **Resident:** Separated in to different parts. Deep clean, etc. Is there a system of tracking? Are you refunding money for services not done? Am talking about communal windows
- **Lewisham Homes:** Cost went up slightly. David Tutt is lead on this contract please contact us if there are concerns with this service. That's a service failure
- **Resident:** Bins on street needs additional caretaking duties. Does rent impact on private sector leasing
- **Lewisham Homes:** Purely private sector through the landlord
- **Resident:** Paying for service not receiving. Can we provide the service ourselves? Have evidence of this complaining since last year.

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- **Lewisham Homes:** We'll need to discuss that. Council likes to deliver direct services and politicians like that, so unlikely it will be outsourced.
- **Resident:** Lighting isn't good. If a cleaner can't see then how can know where to clean.

Other feedback

-**Resident:** A lot of complaints in block on water charges. Can we look for another provider? Not happy with services.

-**Lewisham Homes:** Thames Water taken back responsibility for water. Not sure if you can with water.

-**Lewisham council:** Will look in to this.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <p>Brockley PFI Area</p> | <p>Rent increase:</p> <p>No direct comments received at the meeting.</p> <p>Tenants and Leaseholders Service Charges:</p> <p>No direct comments received at the meeting.</p> <p>Garage Charges:</p> <p>No direct comments received at the meeting.</p> <p>Tenants Fund:</p> <p>n/a – no increase proposed</p> <p>Savings Proposals:</p> <p>n/a</p> |
|---------------------------------|---|

APPENDICES W1 to Z4 2021/22 BUDGET REPORT

APPENDIX Y1 2021/22 Budget Cuts – Round 1 December 2020

| Ref | Proposal | 2021/22 £'000 | 2022/23 £'000 | 2023/24 £'000 | TOTAL |
|--|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Theme A - Productivity | | | | | |
| A-01 | Staff productivity - arising from new ways of working (including learning from the Covid 19 pandemic), better collaboration and a return on IT investment | 3,000 | 3,000 | - | 6,000 |
| A-02 | Hybrid roles - enforcement | - | 50 | 50 | 100 |
| A-03 | Corporate Transport arrangements | 100 | 150 | 50 | 300 |
| A-04 | Process automation in Revs and Bens | 60 | 100 | - | 160 |
| A-05 | Revs and Bens - additional process automation | 400 | - | - | 400 |
| A-06 | Revs and Bens - Generic roles | - | 400 | - | 400 |
| A-07 | Housing - Productivity gains | 202 | - | - | 202 |
| A-08 | Reduction in paper usage | 35 | - | - | 35 |
| Total for Theme A - Productivity | | 3,797 | 3,700 | 100 | 7,597 |
| Theme B – Joint working | | | | | |
| B-02 | Strategic recharging - improve partner contributions to the placement costs for children | 600 | 600 | - | 1,200 |
| B-04 | Smoking cessation service | 221 | - | - | 221 |
| B-05 | Recharge OT and housing officer costs to the Disabled Facilities Grant | 425 | - | - | 425 |
| B-06 | Cuts to the main grants programme | - | 800 | - | 800 |
| B-07 | Review of Council run events | 70 | 30 | - | 100 |
| B-08 | Review the Power of Attorney service | 160 | - | - | 160 |
| B-10 | Reduction in local assemblies service | 45 | 178 | - | 223 |
| Total for Theme B – Joint working | | 1,821 | 1,608 | - | 3,429 |
| Theme C – Service Reconfiguration | | | | | |
| C-01 | Redesign of the CYP Joint Commissioning service. | 140 | - | - | 140 |
| C-02 | Adult Learning and Day Opportunities | 50 | 100 | - | 150 |
| C-03 | Reduction in the use of agency social workers. | 215 | 215 | - | 430 |
| C-05 | Housing needs and procurement service review | 127 | - | - | 127 |
| C-07 | Review Short breaks provision. | 65 | 50 | 50 | 165 |
| C-08 | IT - mobile telephony review | 80 | 10 | 10 | 100 |
| Total for Theme C – Service Reconfiguration | | 677 | 375 | 60 | 1,112 |
| Theme D – Asset Realisation | | | | | |
| D-01 | Generating greater value from Lewisham's asset base | - | - | 500 | 500 |

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| | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| D-02 | Business Rates Revaluation for the estate | 40 | 40 | 20 | 100 |
| D-03 | Facilities management general cost reduction | 50 | - | - | 50 |
| D-04 | Operational estate - security | 100 | - | - | 100 |
| D-05 | Operational estate - mothballing premises | - | 50 | - | 50 |
| D-06 | Catford Campus - Estate Consolidation | 674 | 11 | 12 | 697 |
| D-07 | Meanwhile use - Temporary Accommodation | 25 | 25 | 25 | 75 |
| D-08 | Miscellaneous - income generation | - | 25 | - | 25 |
| Total for Theme D – Asset Realisation | | 889 | 151 | 557 | 1,597 |
| Theme E – Commercial Approach | | | | | |
| E-01 | Improved Debt collection | 250 | 250 | - | 500 |
| E-02 | Income from building control | 15 | 15 | 20 | 50 |
| E-03 | Review discretionary sales, fees and charges and increase to the point of full cost recovery. | 150 | - | - | 150 |
| E-04 | Introduce charging for certain elements of self-funded care packages | 82 | - | - | 82 |
| E-05 | Traded services with schools | 50 | 50 | - | 100 |
| E-06 | Reduce care leaver costs | 200 | 100 | - | 300 |
| E-07 | Housing – Increased rent for Private Sector Lease (PSL) and Private Managed Accommodation (PMA) | 300 | 375 | - | 675 |
| E-08 | Contract Efficiencies – inflation management | 500 | - | - | 500 |
| E-09 | Realising further benefits from the Oracle Cloud Solution and exploiting its functionality as a fully integrated enterprise resource planning solution. | 100 | 100 | - | 200 |
| E-10 | Increase funeral charges | 250 | - | - | 250 |
| Total for Theme E – Commercial Approach | | 1,897 | 890 | 20 | 2,807 |
| Theme F – Demand Management | | | | | |
| F-01 | Adult Social Care Demand management | 3,000 | - | - | 3,000 |
| F-02 | Children Social Care Demand management | 500 | 500 | 1,000 | 2,000 |
| F-03 | Children Service reconfiguration - fostering | - | 250 | 250 | 500 |
| F-04 | Special Guardianship Order payments | 60 | - | - | 60 |
| F-05 | VfM commissioning and contract management - CSC | 250 | 250 | - | 500 |
| F-06 | Adults with learning difficulties and 14 - 25yrs transitions costs | 760 | - | - | 760 |
| F-09 | In house services reductions - adults passenger transport | 600 | - | - | 600 |
| F-10 | In house Early Help service | 200 | - | - | 200 |
| F-11 | Front door arrangements in CYP | 50 | - | - | 50 |
| F-12 | Housing - No Recourse to Public Funds | 300 | - | - | 300 |
| F-15 | Environment - environmental operations review | - | 330 | - | 330 |
| F-16 | Environment - new waste strategy | - | - | 250 | 250 |
| F-17 | Road safety enforcement | 250 | 250 | - | 500 |
| F-18 | Controlled Parking Zone Extension | - | - | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Total for Theme F – Demand Management | | 5,970 | 1,580 | 2,500 | 10,350 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 15,051 | 8,304 | 3,237 | 26,592 |

APPENDICES W1 to Z4 2021/22 BUDGET REPORT

APPENDIX Y2 2020/21 2021/22 Budget Cuts – Round 2 February 2021

| Ref | Proposal | 2021/22 £'000 | 2022/23 £'000 | 2023/24 £'000 | Total £'000 |
|--|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Theme A - Productivity | | | | | |
| A-01a | Staff productivity - arising from new ways of working (including learning from the Covid 19 pandemic), better collaboration and a return on IT investment | 1000 | - | - | 1000 |
| A-09 | Support to leadership | 105 | - | - | 105 |
| A-10 | Elections services | 55 | - | - | 55 |
| A-11 | Legal, governance service and elections review. | 340 | - | - | 340 |
| A-12 | Rationalising Central Education Services functions | 150 | - | - | 150 |
| A-13 | Children with complex needs (CWCN) revision | 195 | - | - | 195 |
| A-14 | Replace Educational Psychology (EP) locums / Expand generic EP Team | 200 | - | - | 200 |
| A-16 | Reduction of workforce development budget | 50 | - | - | 50 |
| A-17 | Care leaver accommodation / housing costs | 500 | - | - | 500 |
| A-18 | Library and Information Service | 300 | - | - | 300 |
| Total for Theme A - Productivity | | 2,895 | - | - | 2,895 |
| Theme B – Joint working | | | | | |
| B-11 | Improved usage of BCF Funding across partners | 1000 | - | - | 1000 |
| B-12 | Adult Learning Lewisham - back office efficiencies | 96 | - | - | 96 |
| B-13 | Early Years Funding Block | 54 | - | - | 54 |
| B-11 | Improved usage of BCF Funding across partners | 1000 | - | - | 1000 |
| B-12 | Adult Learning Lewisham - back office efficiencies | 96 | - | - | 96 |
| B-13 | Early Years Funding Block | 54 | - | - | 54 |
| Total for Theme B – Joint working | | 1,150 | - | - | 1,150 |
| Theme C – Service Reconfiguration | | | | | |
| C-09 | Youth Offending Service (YOS) redesign | 152 | - | - | 152 |
| C-10 | Housing Services Review | 300 | 300 | - | 600 |
| C-11 | Reduced dependency on agency staff within Highways and Transportation Services | 300 | - | - | 300 |
| C-12 | Weight management services | 25 | - | - | 25 |
| C-13 | Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Primary Care | 100 | - | - | 100 |
| C-14 | Substance Misuse Cuts (Public Health Budget) | 150 | - | - | 150 |
| C-15 | Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Services | 150 | - | - | 150 |
| C-16 | Reduction of Management overheads for the Social Inclusion and Recovery Service (SLaM Lewisham Community Services) | 50 | - | - | 50 |
| C-17 | Re-configuration of MH Supported Housing pay – Social Interest Group | 100 | 150 | - | 250 |
| C-21 | Early Help and Prevention Re-commissioning | 170 | - | - | 170 |
| C-22 | Reduction in LBL contribution to CAMHS service (monies ringfenced for investment in Early Help) | 250 | - | - | 250 |
| C-23 | Reduction in the Health Visiting contract | 350 | - | - | 350 |
| C-24 | Culture Team Salaries & Borough of Culture | 60 | - | - | 60 |

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| | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| C-26 | Reducing leisure spend – temporary closure of the Bridge | 355 | - | - | 355 |
| C-28 | Supported Housing Services | 169 | 84 | - | 253 |
| C-29 | Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service Restructure | 50 | - | - | 50 |
| C-30 | Rationalisation of Business support across Education services | 70 | - | - | 70 |
| Total for Theme C – Service Reconfiguration | | 2,801 | 534 | - | 3,335 |
| Theme D – Assets Realisation | | | | | |
| D-09 | Educational Assets | 300 | - | - | 300 |
| Total for Theme D – Assets Realisation | | 300 | - | - | 300 |
| Theme E – Commercial Approach | | | | | |
| E-01a | Improved Debt collection | 500 | - | - | 500 |
| E-08a | Contract Efficiencies – inflation management | 250 | - | - | 250 |
| E-11 | Environmental Enforcement – Use of Civil Enforcement Officers | 100 | - | - | 100 |
| Total for Theme E – Commercial Approach | | 850 | - | - | 850 |
| Theme F – Demand Management | | | | | |
| F-15a | Environment - environmental operations review | - | 567 | - | 567 |
| F-19 | Reduction in specialist legal advocacy and assessments for CYP proceedings | 500 | - | - | 500 |
| F-20 | Emission based charging for Short Stay Parking | 120 | 120 | - | 240 |
| F-21 | Road Safety Enforcement | 250 | 375 | - | 625 |
| F-22 | Motorcycle parking charges | - | 80 | - | 80 |
| F-23 | Home to school transport | 250 | - | - | 250 |
| F-24 | Adult Social Care cost reduction and service improvement programme | 3849 | 430 | - | 4279 |
| Total for Theme F – Demand Management | | 4,969 | 1,572 | - | 6,541 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 12,965 | 2,106 | - | 15,071 |
| TOTALS | | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | TOTAL |
| | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | |
| Theme A - Productivity | | | | | |
| Round 1 | | 3,797 | 3,700 | 100 | 7,597 |
| Round 2 | | 2,895 | - | - | 2,895 |
| Theme B – Joint working | | | | | |
| Round 1 | | 1,821 | 1,608 | - | 3,429 |
| Round 2 | | 1,150 | - | - | 1,150 |
| Theme C – Service Reconfiguration | | | | | |
| Round 1 | | 677 | 375 | 60 | 1,112 |
| Round 2 | | 2,801 | 534 | - | 3,335 |
| Theme D – Assets Realisation | | | | | |
| Round 1 | | 889 | 151 | 557 | 1,597 |
| Round 2 | | 300 | - | - | 300 |
| Theme E – Commercial Approach | | | | | |
| Round 1 | | 1,897 | 890 | 20 | 2,807 |
| Round 2 | | 850 | - | - | 850 |
| Theme F – Demand Management | | | | | |
| Round 1 | | 5,970 | 1,580 | 2,500 | 10,350 |
| Round 2 | | 4,969 | 1,572 | - | 6,541 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | |
| Round 1 | | 15,051 | 8,304 | 3,237 | 26,592 |
| Round 2 | | 12,965 | 2,106 | - | 15,071 |
| TOTAL | | 28,016 | 10,410 | 3,237 | 41,663 |

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APPENDIX Y3: Allocation of Cuts to Base Budget and Overspend

| Ref | Round 1 Proposals | 2021/22 £'000 | O/spend | Base budget |
|--|---|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Theme A - Productivity | | | | |
| A-01 | Staff productivity - arising from new ways of working (including learning from the Covid 19 pandemic), better collaboration and a return on IT investment | 3,000 | - | 3,000 |
| A-02 | Hybrid roles - enforcement | - | - | - |
| A-03 | Corporate Transport arrangements | 100 | - | 100 |
| A-04 | Process automation in Revs and Bens | 60 | - | 60 |
| A-05 | Revs and Bens - additional process automation | 400 | - | 400 |
| A-06 | Revs and Bens - Generic roles | - | - | - |
| A-07 | Housing - Productivity gains | 202 | - | 202 |
| A-08 | Reduction in paper usage | 35 | 35 | - |
| Total for Theme A - Productivity | | 3,797 | 35 | 3,762 |
| Theme B – Joint working | | | | |
| B-02 | Strategic recharging - improve partner contributions to the placement costs for children | 600 | 600 | |
| B-04 | Smoking cessation service | 221 | - | 221 |
| B-05 | Recharge OT and housing officer costs to the Disabled Facilities Grant | 425 | - | 425 |
| B-06 | Cuts to the main grants programme | - | - | - |
| B-07 | Review of Council run events | 70 | - | 70 |
| B-08 | Review the Power of Attorney service | 160 | - | 160 |
| B-09 | Reduction in the discretionary award of concessionary fares | 300 | - | 300 |
| B-10 | Reduction in local assemblies service | 45 | - | 45 |
| Total for Theme B – Joint working | | 1,821 | 600 | 1,221 |
| Theme C – Service Reconfiguration | | | | |
| C-01 | Redesign of the CYP Joint Commissioning service. | 140 | 140 | |
| C-02 | Adult Learning and Day Opportunities | 50 | - | 50 |
| C-03 | Reduction in the use of agency social workers. | 215 | 215 | |
| C-05 | Housing needs and procurement service review | 127 | - | 127 |
| C-07 | Review Short breaks provision. | 65 | 65 | - |
| C-08 | IT - mobile telephony review | 80 | 80 | - |
| Total for Theme C – Service Reconfiguration | | 677 | 500 | 177 |

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| Theme D – Asset Realisation | | | | |
|--|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| D-01 | Generating greater value from Lewisham's asset base | - | - | - |
| D-02 | Business Rates Revaluation for the estate | 40 | - | 40 |
| D-03 | Facilities management general cost reduction | 50 | - | 50 |
| D-04 | Operational estate - security | 100 | - | 100 |
| D-05 | Operational estate - mothballing premises | - | - | - |
| D-06 | Catford Campus - Estate Consolidation | 674 | - | 674 |
| D-07 | Meanwhile use - Temporary Accommodation | 25 | - | 25 |
| D-08 | Miscellaneous - income generation | - | - | - |
| Total for Theme D – Asset Realisation | | 889 | - | 889 |
| Theme E – Commercial Approach | | | | |
| E-01 | Improved Debt collection | 250 | - | 250 |
| E-02 | Income from building control | 15 | - | 15 |
| E-03 | Review discretionary sales, fees and charges and increase to the point of full cost recovery. | 150 | - | 150 |
| E-04 | Introduce charging for certain elements of self-funded care packages | 82 | - | 82 |
| E-05 | Traded services with schools | 50 | - | 50 |
| E-06 | Reduce care leaver costs | 200 | 200 | - |
| E-07 | Housing – Increased rent for Private Sector Lease (PSL) and Private Managed Accommodation (PMA) | 300 | - | 300 |
| E-08 | Contract Efficiencies – inflation management | 500 | - | 500 |
| E-09 | Realising further benefits from the Oracle Cloud Solution and exploiting its functionality as a fully integrated enterprise resource planning solution. | 100 | 100 | - |
| E-10 | Increase funeral charges | 250 | 250 | - |
| Total for Theme E – Commercial Approach | | 1,897 | 550 | 1,347 |
| Theme F – Demand Management | | | | |
| F-01 | Adult Social Care Demand management | 3,000 | - | 3,000 |
| F-02 | Children Social Care Demand management | 500 | 500 | - |
| F-03 | Children Service reconfiguration - fostering | - | - | - |
| F-04 | Special Guardianship Order payments | 60 | 60 | - |
| F-05 | VfM commissioning and contract management - CSC | 250 | 250 | - |
| F-06 | Adults with learning difficulties and 14 - 25yrs transitions costs | 760 | - | 760 |
| F-09 | In house services reductions - adults passenger transport | 600 | - | 600 |
| F-10 | In house Early Help service | 200 | 200 | - |
| F-11 | Front door arrangements in CYP | 50 | 50 | - |
| F-12 | Housing - No Recourse to Public Funds | 300 | 300 | - |
| F-15 | Environment - environmental operations review | - | - | - |
| F-16 | Environment - new waste strategy | - | - | - |
| F-17 | Road safety enforcement | 250 | - | 250 |
| F-18 | Controlled Parking Zone Extension | - | - | - |
| Total for Theme F – Demand Management | | 5,970 | 1,360 | 4,610 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 15,051 | 3,045 | 12,006 |

APPENDICES W1 to Z4 2021/22 BUDGET REPORT

| Ref | Proposal | 2021/22 £'000 | O/spend | Base budget |
|--|---|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Theme A - Productivity | | | | |
| A-01a | Staff productivity - arising from new ways of working (including learning from the Covid 19 pandemic), better collaboration and a return on IT investment | 1000 | - | 1000 |
| A-09 | Support to leadership | 105 | - | 105 |
| A-10 | Elections services | 55 | - | 55 |
| A-11 | Legal, governance service and elections review. | 340 | - | 340 |
| A-12 | Rationalising Central Education Services functions | 150 | - | 150 |
| A-13 | Children with complex needs (CWCN) revision | 195 | - | 195 |
| A-14 | Replace Educational Psychology (EP) locums / Expand generic EP Team | 200 | - | 200 |
| A-16 | Reduction of workforce development budget | 50 | 50 | - |
| A-17 | Care leaver accommodation / housing costs | 500 | 500 | - |
| A-18 | Library and Information Service | 300 | - | 300 |
| Total for Theme A - Productivity | | 2,895 | 550 | 2,345 |
| Theme B – Joint working | | | | |
| B-11 | Improved usage of BCF Funding across partners | 1000 | - | 1000 |
| B-12 | Adult Learning Lewisham - back office efficiencies | 96 | - | 96 |
| B-13 | Early Years Funding Block | 54 | - | 54 |
| Total for Theme B – Joint working | | 1,150 | - | 1,150 |
| Theme C – Service Reconfiguration | | | | |
| C-09 | Youth Offending Service (YOS) redesign | 152 | - | 152 |
| C-10 | Housing Services Review | 300 | - | 300 |
| C-11 | Reduced dependency on agency staff within Highways and Transportation Services | 300 | - | 300 |
| C-12 | Weight management services | 25 | - | 25 |
| C-13 | Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Primary Care | 100 | - | 100 |
| C-14 | Substance Misuse Cuts (Public Health Budget) | 150 | - | 150 |
| C-15 | Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Services | 150 | - | 150 |
| C-16 | Reduction of Management overheads for the Social Inclusion and Recovery Service (SLaM Lewisham Community Services) | 50 | - | 50 |
| C-17 | Re-configuration of MH Supported Housing pay – Social Interest Group | 100 | - | 100 |
| C-21 | Early Help and Prevention Re-commissioning | 170 | 170 | - |
| C-22 | Reduction in LBL contribution to CAMHS service | 250 | 250 | - |
| C-23 | Reduction in the Health Visiting contract | 350 | 350 | - |
| C-24 | Culture Team Salaries & Borough of Culture | 60 | - | 60 |
| C-26 | Reducing leisure spend – temporary closure of the Bridge | 355 | 355 | |

APPENDICES W1 to Z4 2021/22 BUDGET REPORT

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| C-28 | Supported Housing Services | 169 | - | 169 |
| C-29 | Crime, Enforcement & Regulation Service Restructure | 50 | - | 50 |
| C-30 | Rationalisation of Business support across Education services | 70 | - | 70 |
| Total for Theme C – Service Reconfiguration | | 2,801 | 1,125 | 1,676 |
| Theme D – Assets Realisation | | | | |
| D-09 | Educational Assets | 300 | 300 | - |
| Total for Theme D – Assets Realisation | | 300 | 300 | - |
| Theme E – Commercial Approach | | | | |
| E-01a | Improved Debt collection | 500 | - | 500 |
| E-08a | Contract Efficiencies – inflation management | 250 | - | 250 |
| E-11 | Environmental Enforcement – Use of Civil Enforcement Officers | 100 | - | 100 |
| Total for Theme E – Commercial Approach | | 850 | - | 850 |
| Theme F – Demand Management | | | | |
| F-15a | Environment - environmental operations review | - | - | - |
| F-19 | Reduction in specialist legal advocacy and assessments for CYP proceedings | 500 | 500 | - |
| F-20 | Emission based charging for Short Stay Parking | 120 | - | 120 |
| F-21 | Road Safety Enforcement | 250 | - | 250 |
| F-22 | Motorcycle parking charges | - | - | - |
| F-23 | Home to school transport | 250 | 250 | - |
| F-24 | Adult Social Care cost reduction and service improvement programme | 3,849 | - | 3,849 |
| Total for Theme F – Demand Management | | 4,969 | 750 | 4,219 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 12,965 | 2,725 | 10,240 |

| TOTALS | 2021/22 £'000 | O/pend | Base budget |
|--|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Theme A - Productivity | | | |
| Round 1 | 3,797 | 35 | 3,762 |
| Round 2 | 2,895 | 550 | 2,345 |
| Theme B – Joint working | | | |
| Round 1 | 1,821 | 600 | 1,221 |
| Round 2 | 1,150 | - | 1,150 |
| Theme C – Service Reconfiguration | | | |
| Round 1 | 677 | 500 | 177 |
| Round 2 | 2,801 | 1,125 | 1,651 |
| Theme D – Assets Realisation | | | |
| Round 1 | 889 | - | 889 |
| Round 2 | 300 | 300 | - |
| Theme E – Commercial Approach | | | |
| Round 1 | 1,897 | 550 | 1,347 |
| Round 2 | 850 | - | 850 |
| Theme F – Demand Management | | | |
| Round 1 | 5,970 | 1,360 | 4,610 |
| Round 2 | 4,969 | 750 | 4,219 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | |
| Round 1 | 15,051 | 3,045 | 12,006 |
| Round 2 | 12,965 | 2,725 | 10,240 |
| TOTAL | 28,016 | 5,770 | 22,246 |

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APPENDIX Y4: Ready Reckoner for Council Tax 2021/22

| | Budget | Council | Increase / | GLA | Total | Total |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | Requirement | Tax | (Decrease) | Precept | Council | Increase / |
| | Lewisham | | Lewisham | | Tax | (Decrease) |
| | | (Band D) | | (Band D) | (Band D) | |
| | £m | £ | % | £ | £ | % |
| 2020/21 | 248.714 | 1,314.37 | 3.99% | 332.07 | 1,646.44 | 3.91% |
| 2021/22 | 243.100 | 1,379.96 | 4.99% | 363.66 | 1,743.62 | 5.90% |
| | 242.529 | 1,373.52 | 4.50% | 363.66 | 1,737.18 | 5.51% |
| | 241.947 | 1,366.95 | 4.00% | 363.66 | 1,730.61 | 5.11% |
| | 241.365 | 1,360.38 | 3.50% | 363.66 | 1,724.04 | 4.71% |
| | 240.782 | 1,353.80 | 3.00% | 363.66 | 1,717.46 | 4.31% |
| | 240.200 | 1,347.23 | 2.50% | 363.66 | 1,710.89 | 3.91% |
| | 239.618 | 1,340.66 | 2.00% | 363.66 | 1,704.32 | 3.52% |
| | 239.035 | 1,334.09 | 1.50% | 363.66 | 1,697.75 | 3.12% |
| | 238.453 | 1,327.52 | 1.00% | 363.66 | 1,691.18 | 2.72% |
| | 237.871 | 1,320.94 | 0.50% | 363.66 | 1,684.60 | 2.32% |
| | 237.288 | 1,314.37 | 0.00% | 363.66 | 1,678.03 | 1.92% |

APPENDIX Y5 - Chief Financial Officer's Section 25 Statement

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1. This statement makes reference to the 2021/22 Budget Report to Mayor & Cabinet circulated to all Members.
2. Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 requires the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to report to an authority when it is making the statutory calculations required to determine its Council Tax. The Authority is required to take the report into account when making the calculations. The report must deal with the robustness of the estimates, included in the budget and the adequacy of the reserves, for which the budget provides. This Statement also reflects the requirements of CIPFA's current Local Authority Accounting Panel (LAAP) Bulletin 99 on 'Local Authority Reserves and Balances'.
3. Section 114 of the Local Government Act 1988, requires the CFO to issue a report to all the Local Authority members to be made by that officer, in consultation with the monitoring officer and head of paid service, if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget.

Structure of the report

4. This Statement seeks to outline:
 - The impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing financial risks it poses to the Council
 - The Medium Term Financial Strategy and future uncertainty of Local Government Finances
 - The budget assumptions in the Council's MTFS
 - Delivery risks of the cuts
 - Budget management, financial controls and systems
 - Capital programme and & Housing Revenue Account
 - Adequacy of reserves and provisions
 - Conclusion and opinion

Impact of COVID-19 and ongoing risks

5. The impact of COVID has been devastating on individuals, on communities, businesses and the economy. The financial impact has been significant and has put the financial resilience of councils under stress. To date, the cost of COVID for Lewisham is c£60m and rising. Government support has been provided on the costs incurred through the emergency response and the Sales, Fees and Charges scheme funds 75% of 95% eligible lost income against our budget position.
6. Despite the financial support received from central government the effects felt by our community and businesses will impact on the level of income we can both raise and collect through Council Tax and Business rates next year.
7. In response, officers have reduced our Council Tax base from a collectible amount of 97% to 95% on Council Tax and work will continue into next year to manage the number of appeals from businesses and our collection rates. The number of working age residents claiming Council Tax Support has increased from our expected levels of 15,536 to 16,689.
8. During 2020/21, the government has granted S31 relief payments to almost 50% of our businesses amounting to £32m against our net collectible amount of £65m. Concerns remain on the financial viability of those businesses receiving rate relief and business closure grants as there is no confirmation at this stage the financial support will continue. Through the creation of a newly established Economic

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- Development team the Council aims to provide agile support to support business survival, building sustainable resilience through to sector led growth.
9. Increased demand for the Council's services to support hospital discharges and to provide the homeless with accommodation is likely to continue into next financial year.
 10. To mitigate the risks above, officers have considered the potential risks in our Medium Term Financial Strategy and have made a series of assumptions based on the best available information available.
 11. The full financial impact of COVID is still very much unknown. To date, central government has announced a one-off £10m COVID grant to fund costs for next year, and has extended the Sales, Fees and Charges support scheme into the first quarter of 21/22. Officers have set this money aside in full to respond to the potential continuation of the pandemic into 21/22. Through close monitoring and accurate forecasting of this funding, we will continue to inform MHCLG of the ongoing financial pressures faced by the Council so our COVID related direct costs are recognised and Lewisham is sufficiently compensated. The indirect costs of COVID, the impact on the economy, the potential job losses when the furlough schemes ends remain a concern but the council will be providing support through our Council Tax Support scheme where required.

Medium Term financial strategy and future uncertainty of Local Government Finances

12. Since 2010, the Council has made savings in excess of £190m. The Financial Stabilisation budget reported to Mayor & Cabinet in September 2020 set out the Medium Term Financial (MTFS) for 2021/22 to 23/24 with a budget gap over £40m plus a £10m to recognise the recurring overspends in a number of service areas. Of the £50m plus cuts target, £34m fell in year one of the MTFS period.
13. The provisional Local Government Settlement announced on the 17th December 2020, reduced the funding gap for next year from £34m to £28m. However, over 86% of the Council's Core Spending Power increase is through increasing local taxation, a regressive tax that disproportionately affects our lower paid residents. This has been recognised in the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment and will be mitigated through providing Council Tax Support, Welfare Support, Discretionary Housing Payments including other forms of support where applicable.
14. To address the scale of the financial challenge, the Council's Executive Management Team (EMT) has adopted a themed approach to identify cuts, savings, income generation proposals through the lens of collaborative, moving away from the traditional siloed approach to the cuts process. Each EMT member led a specific theme with cross-cutting council wide initiatives being identified.
15. Following a series of scrutiny committees throughout Autumn 2020 to January 2021 to consider the proposed cuts in two rounds, officers have put forward proposals of £41.663m in total, broken down into £28.016m for 2021/22, £10.410m for 2022/23 and £3.237m for 23/24. The cuts will fully enable the Council to set a balanced budget for 21/22 with a gap of circa £9m in the remaining 2 years of the MTFS.
16. As with 20/21, the Treasury and MHCLG have announced a one year settlement and have delayed the Fair Funding Review, the business rates reset, longer term changes to social care to 22/23 at the earliest. Our MTFS assumes some changes to the Settlement Funding Assessment in years 2 & 3 but are based on our best estimates as opposed to any certainty on our funding position.

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17. Following 10 years of austerity, over 70% of the Council's expenditure is now spent on Public Health and Adult's and Children's social care. This makes future cuts processes increasingly difficult as universal services, organisational capacity on HR, ICT & Digital, Finance, procurement and effective contract management will bear a disproportionate impact of future cuts. The budget process for 21/22 has begun to address this as the Council made demand management reductions for both Adult and Children's social care.

Budget assumptions

18. For financial planning purposes in the budget, the Council anticipates an average inflation of 1.5% per annum for non-pay costs and 2% for pay costs, which equates to approximately £4m for both pay and non-pay costs.
19. COVID has brought about many changes in our working practices and has in many ways improved the productivity of our workforce. As such the pay inflation of £7m for year 1 & 2 of the MTFs has been put forward as a cut with officers managing a vacancy factor in their budgets of c5%. This is not dissimilar an approach to many other councils and is achievable through managing the recruitment process, holding vacancies, addressing staff sickness and tackling performance issues.
20. Contract inflation will be carefully managed through creating a better contract management approach across the Council, creating a Community of Practice approach of sharing good practice, encouraging officers to adopt a commercial mind set when negotiating with our suppliers.

Budget risks, delivery of cuts

21. It will be essential that the Council is able to deliver the cuts proposed over the MTFs, with the focus on ensuring the undelivered cuts in 2020/21 of £7m (out of £16.6m) is delivered alongside the proposed cuts of £28m for 2021/22.
22. The proposed cuts will address both the £18m base budget reduction required and the £10m in persistent overspend in order to ensure a balanced budget is set for 2021/22. In addition to this the MTFs for 2021/22 sets aside a further £6.5m for budget pressures and risks. To this it is recommended the saving of £1.5m is added from reduced contributions required to the London concessionary fares scheme as a result of reduced demand through 2020/21. In addition, it is recommended that the £2.339m of additional social care grant (on top of the £8.434m received in 2020/21 and continuing for 2021/22) be used to address current pressures. These actions will provide £10.339m to be allocated to selected budget pressure and growth areas that will present as challenges in future budgets if not corrected.
23. In terms of accounting for these, it is proposed that these investments and pressures are allocated in line with the decisions of this budget from the corporate risk and pressures monies and £3.5m from the Social Care precept to the relevant Directorates when determining their cash limits for 2020/21.
24. To fund the costs outlined above officers have added the NHB of £2.652m, lower tier baseline grant of £0.700m, and corporate items to support one-off pressures identified as needing funding in 2021/22.
25. Using cash budgets (in particular grants such as the Social Care Grant) presents a risk for future years although the medium planning assumptions are that this level of funding for 2021/22 from government is in recognition of the pressures faced by local authorities and will effectively form the baseline pending fair funding review.

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26. The budget pressures anticipated in 2021/22 have been reviewed and it is recommended that the following identified pressures are funded now, set against the Corporate Strategy priorities. These exclude pressures associated with services experiencing persistent overspends as these have been addressed via the cuts process.
27. The Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Corporate Resources are working on creating and instilling a culture of accountability and ownership of the cuts process and work is already underway to RAG rate the proposals and directors are being asked to provide “delivery action plans” to outline “how” and “when” the cuts will be implemented and key milestones for success.
28. Investment will be made in creating a Project Management Office (PMO) that will create capacity to support the delivery of proposals that are complex and/or cross-cutting.
29. Officer capacity on the delivery of budget cuts will continue to be stretched as often the same officers will be vital in support of the Council’s emergency response during the Pandemic. At present, it is unclear how quickly and how effective the vaccines will begin to contain the outbreak allowing for the Council to slowly return to the “new normal”.
30. The longer term financial impact of COVID cannot be quantified in full at this stage. However, it is more than likely to create additional pressures on the cost of the services we provide and increase the complexity of support required of our vulnerable residents. There has been a marked increase in children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and those requiring an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) by 35% comparing 2020/21 to 2017/18 (2,947 in 2020/21 versus 2,179 in 2017/18). The wider economic impact of COVID, the effect it’ll have on our residents and our businesses will no doubt put a large proportion of the income we collect at risk. Knowing what these risks are, we will ensure a responsible approach to debt management and intervening early to enforce debts fairly, agreeing payment plans where necessary.

Budget management, financial control & systems

31. To increase budget manager accountability, directors and heads of service will be asked to sign off their budgets for next year with the aim to instilling the culture of budget ownership across the Council. All budget managers will be asked to contain their expenditure within the available funding envelope.
32. The delivery risks to the savings will be managed closely by Finance and where there are delays to the implementation, this will be communicated clearly to the responsible directors so that mitigating actions are put forward or alternative proposals are progressed with. Financial management information will be reported in a timely manner so budget managers are able to redress an adverse forecast at the earliest opportunity.
33. During 2020/21, in order to contain the significant overspend forecast in the Council, Spending Controls were introduced in October 2020 with only directors being authorised to spend up to £5,000 and executive directors authorising spend over £5,000. Recruitment approvals were also introduced with all requests requiring authorisation by executive directors. The Council’s financial systems and the spend authorisation limits were adjusted to reflect these financial controls on Oracle. This position is being reviewed carefully and is likely to continue until the Council’s forecast overspend is significantly reduced.
34. A review of the system is required to improve the quality of the financial management information so it is accessible and easy to understand. This should

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further encourage a budget manager self-service approach to financial management and support ownership and accountability.

35. The 2021/22 Budget identified an extra £10m to address a number of historic service related overspends that will be applied to the relevant service budgets but the Council must fully deliver the £28m of cuts for 2021/22 as well as implement the 20/21 cuts of £7m that remain undelivered to date. This equates to over £35m of cuts to be implemented during 21/22. In addition, services must contain emerging demand led pressures within their financial envelope. Adopting a programme management office approach will create delivery capacity for the directors to mitigate some of this risk.

Capital Programme & Housing Revenue Account

36. The Council's three year capital programme for 2021/22 – 2023/24 is budgeted at £556.3m. The programme is fully funded through a combination of reserves, capital receipts, grant and borrowing.
37. There are no changes to the General Fund capital programme, the HRA capital programme will be increasing by more than £50m which will be more than double the annual budget for works next year. This now includes an amendment to increase the general capital and decent homes programme line by £38.8m in 2021/22 (£31.6m to £70.4m) to reflect the priorities arising from the conclusion of the stock condition survey. Delivery risk aside, the cost of borrowing an additional £78m is estimated to be £45m-£50m over the life of the loan and savings will be identified in the HRA to offset this cost, specifically there is a commitment to reduce the annual R&M budget in 2021/22 by £1m. Further investment will be required for essential resident and fire safety works.
38. The Council maintains its ambitious Building for Lewisham Programme focused on providing the much needed increase supply of new social and affordable homes. These plans, their scale, and the complexity of delivering such a programme add significant new risk to the Council's finances.
39. In respect of the capital works these are managed scheme by scheme. Officers review required funding (be it from capital receipts, grant support, or borrowing) quarterly and updated projections are reported regularly to Mayor & Cabinet.

Adequacy of Reserves & Provisions

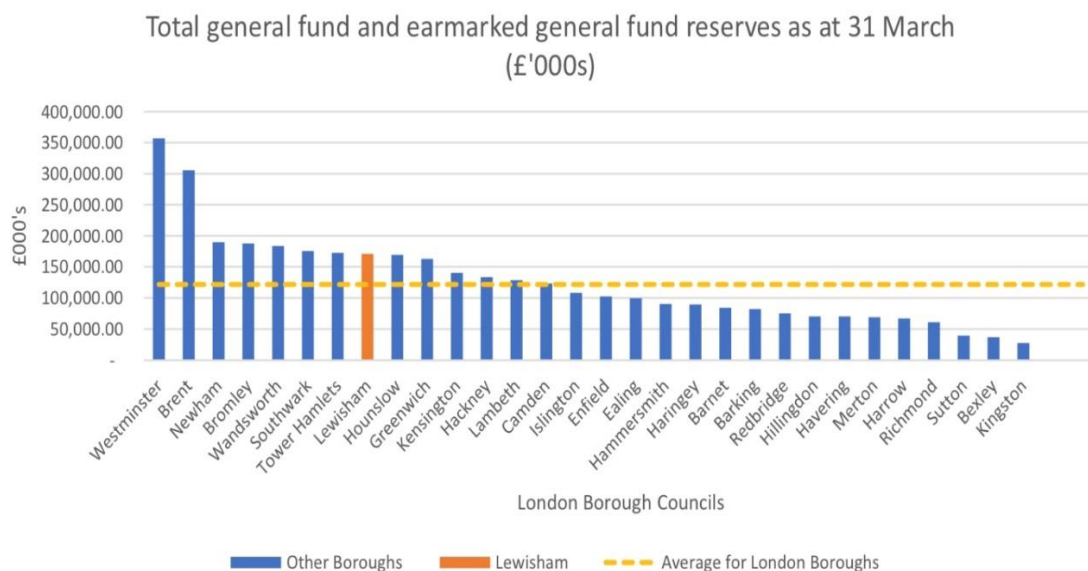
40. In setting this budget, the Council will maintain a level of corporate balances and reserves which should be adequate to deal with any risk associated with the delivery of this budget. The Chief Financial Officer recommends that the un-earmarked reserves are held at the current level of £20.0m. Should the need arise to call upon these reserves during the year, consideration should be given to replenish them as soon as possible.
41. In addition, the Council held Specific Earmarked Reserves which totalled £66m at the end of March 2020 (£57m at March 2019) plus £24m for schools. These funds are earmarked for various future planned spending and to undertake one-off projects or work that does not happen every year. Examples include, the transformation fund, redundancy provisions, elections, replacement of obsolete equipment and contractual claims that may become due (e.g. dilapidations that may become payable on properties we lease from the private sector to provide housing).
42. Officers have maintained an extremely prudent approach to financial management and have worked hard to ensure that reserves are maintained at an adequate

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level. This helps to ensure the Council can remain resilient in the event of an unexpected financial shock.

43. The graph below illustrates Lewisham's position on reserves, relative to its London borough counterparts:

Graph 1: total general fund and non-schools earmarked general fund reserves as at 31 March 2020



Population: London Borough Councils which had published draft 2019/20 financial statements

Summary and conclusion

44. Although there is much financial uncertainty ahead, the MTFS seeks to address many of the risks known to the Council over a three year period.
45. Furthermore, the financial plans and strategies have contributed to the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives to date and will continue to do so. Focus must now be turned to the continual alignment of the MTFS to the 5 key principles that underpin our Recovery programme.
- Tackling widening social, economic and health inequalities;
 - Protecting and empowering our most vulnerable residents;
 - Ensuring the Council's continued resilience, stability and sustainability;
 - Enabling residents to make the most of Lewisham the place; and
 - Collaborating and working together with our communities and partnership across the borough.
46. Work continues to improve the culture of budget ownership and accountability and through better financial management and a programme management approach, giving directors the support required to deliver the proposed cuts.

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47. Whilst the Council does currently have adequate reserves and an established financial management regime, the ongoing delivery risks of the cuts and emerging demand led pressures could unbalance this position. In the event that the Council becomes heavily reliant on reserves to support either the setting of the budget or the delivery of the budget, this will be addressed through robust medium term financial planning as a matter of priority and spending controls will be re-introduced to contain this position.
48. This budget is being set following more than 10 years of continued austerity for Local Government. There are a number of risks to our financial position for not just next year but in the medium term. However, through careful financial planning officers have identified cuts of £28m that enables the Council to deliver a balanced budget without the use of reserves in spite of the challenge.

Kathy Freeman – Executive director of Corporate Resources

Chief Financial officer – Section 151

February 2021

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APPENDIX Y6: Council Tax and Draft Statutory Calculations

Council Tax Calculation

As part of the Localism Act 2011, core Council Tax may not be increased by 2% or more (inclusive of levies) without triggering an automatic referendum of all registered electors in the borough. In addition, there is also the opportunity to increase Council Tax by up to a further 3% under the social care precept for 2021/22. This means, for 2021/22, an automatic referendum will be triggered if the Council Tax increase is 5% or above. The recommended social care precept for 2021/22 is 3%, therefore the recommended total increase is 4.99%. The statutory calculation for whether the Council is required to hold a referendum is based upon the 'relevant basic' amount of Council Tax, which under accounting regulations, includes levies. Any final recommendations on Council Tax levels will need to meet statutory requirements.

The Environment Agency confirmed that the 2021/22 levy would increase by £6,883, agreed on the 10 February 2021. The Lee Valley Regional Park has confirmed a £2,424 increase for 2021/22. The London Pensions fund Authority confirmed that the contribution for 2021/22 would decrease by £8,679 from the 2020/21 level.

Council Tax and Levies

| 'Relevant Basic' Amount of Council Tax | 2020/21 | 2020/21 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | |
| Council Tax Base | 90,099.3 | 88,614.3 |
| Council Tax Requirement with Levy (£) | 118,423,817 | 122,284,176 |
| Basic Amount of Council Tax (£) | 1,314.37 | 1,379.96 |
| Increase in basic amount of Council Tax (%) | 3.99% | 4.99% |

| Levy bodies for Lewisham | 2020/21 £ | 2021/22 £ | Change £ |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| LPFA | 1,288,738 | 1,280,059 | (8,679) |
| Lee Valley Regional Park | 210,883 | 213,307 | 2,424 |
| Environment Agency | 201,262 | 208,145 | 6,883 |
| Total Levies | 1,700,883 | 1,701,511 | 628 |

The term "relevant basic amount of council tax" is defined in section 52ZX of the 1992 Act (inserted as above and amended by section 41(1) and (9) to (13) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014).

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Statutory Calculations

1) It be noted that at its meeting on 20 January 2021, the Council calculated the number of **88,614.3** as its Council Tax base for 2021/22 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax base) Regulations;

2) The following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2021/22 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

a. **£1,212,121,675** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for gross expenditure, calculated in accordance with Section 32(2)A of the Act;

b. **£969,021,760** being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for income, calculated in accordance with Section 32(3)A of the Act;

c. **£243,099,915** being the amount by which the aggregate of 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate of 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32A(4) of the Act, as its General Fund budget requirement for the year;

d. **£123,304,020** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of the Settlement Funding Assessment.

e. **£9,000** being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred into its general fund from reserves, in relation to part of the 2020/21 London Pilot Pool Growth, S31 NNDR grant, and its share of NNDR deficit.

f. **£119,785,915** being the residual amount required to be collected from Council Tax payers. This includes a deficit on the Council's Collection Fund of £2,498,000.

g. **£1,379.96** being the residual sum at (f) above (adding the deficit on the Collection Fund), divided by the Council Tax base of **88,614.3** which is Lewisham's precept on the Collection Fund for 2021/22 at the level of Band D;

| Band | Council Tax (LBL) |
|----------|-------------------|
| | £ |
| A | 919.97 |
| B | 1,073.30 |
| C | 1,226.63 |
| D | 1,379.96 |
| E | 1,686.62 |
| F | 1,993.27 |
| G | 2,299.93 |
| H | 2,759.92 |

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (g) above by the number which, in proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is

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applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

3) It be noted that for the year 2021/22, the Greater London Authority is currently consulting on the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended), for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

| Band | GLA Precept |
|-------------|------------------------|
| | £ |
| A | 242.44 |
| B | 282.85 |
| C | 323.25 |
| D | 363.66 |
| E | 444.47 |
| F | 525.29 |
| G | 606.10 |
| H | 727.32 |

4) Having calculated the estimated aggregate amount in each case of the amounts at 2) (g) and 3) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, assumed the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

| Band | Total Council Tax (LBL & GLA) |
|-------------|--|
| | £ |
| A | 1,162.41 |
| B | 1,356.15 |
| C | 1,549.88 |
| D | 1,743.62 |
| E | 2,131.09 |
| F | 2,518.56 |
| G | 2,906.03 |
| H | 3,487.24 |

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APPENDIX Y7

Summary of proposed budget pressures to be funded in 2021/22

| Description | £'000 Base Budget | £'000 Once off | £'000 Total |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Corporate Strategy priorities | | | |
| Open Lewisham | | | 1,870 |
| Leisure contracts support | 600 | 1,200 | |
| Neighbourhood planning | 70 | | |
| Tackling the Housing Crisis | | | 200 |
| Strategic housing | | 200 | |
| Giving Children the best start | | | 4,040 |
| Children Social Care | 700 | | |
| School catering contract | 690 | | |
| Troubled Families | 200 | | |
| SEN Transport | 1,000 | | |
| Transport pressures held centrally | 750 | | |
| Adoption services | 100 | | |
| Corporate provision for Schools DSG | | 600 | |
| Building an inclusive economy | | | 50 |
| Support for the Kickstart Programme. | 50 | | |
| Defencing health & social care | | | 3,494 |
| Social Care precept from Council Tax | 3,494 | | |
| Making Lewisham greener | | | 2,632 |
| Tree works (to be held corporately) | 300 | | |
| Energy | 62 | | |
| Environment Services | 70 | | |
| Waste costs | 200 | | |
| Recycling and disposal | 1,200 | | |
| Fleet replacement (build capital fund) | 800 | | |
| Building a safer community | | | 82 |
| Bereavement | 82 | | |
| Total Corporate Strategy priorities | | | 12,368 |
| Organisational value for money | | | 3,220 |
| Corporate Services | 500 | | |

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| | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Technology and Digital | 1,115 | | |
| Estate compliance | 300 | | |
| PMO Support | | 350 | |
| Salary inflation | 955 | | |
| Transformation investment and potential unachieved savings | | 4,097 | |
| Grand Total Funded Pressures | 13,538 | 6,447 | 19,685 |

APPENDIX Y8

Making Fair Financial Decisions



**Making fair financial decisions
Guidance for decision-makers**

3rd edition, January 2015

APPENDICES W1 to Z4 2021/22 BUDGET REPORT

Introduction

With major reductions in public spending, public authorities in Britain are being required to make difficult financial decisions. This guide sets out what is expected of you as a decision-maker or leader of a public authority responsible for delivering key services at a national, regional and/or local level, in order to make such decisions as fair as possible.

The public sector equality duty (the equality duty) does not prevent you from making difficult decisions such as reorganisations and relocations, redundancies, and service reductions, nor does it stop you from making decisions which may affect one group more than another group. The equality duty enables you to demonstrate that you are making financial decisions in a fair, transparent and accountable way, considering the needs and the rights of different members of your community. This is achieved through assessing the impact that changes to policies, procedures and practices could have on people with different protected characteristics.

Assessing the impact on equality of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is not just something that the law requires, it is a positive opportunity for you as a public authority leader to ensure you make better decisions based on robust evidence.

What the law requires

Under the equality duty (set out in the Equality Act 2010), public authorities must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The protected characteristics covered by the equality duty are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The duty also covers marriage and civil partnerships, but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination.

The law requires that public authorities demonstrate that they have had 'due regard' to the aims of the equality duty in their decision-making. Assessing the potential impact on equality of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is one of the key ways in which public authorities can demonstrate that they have had 'due regard'.

It is also important to note that public authorities subject to the equality duty are also likely to be subject to the Human Rights Act 1998. We would therefore recommend that public authorities consider the potential impact their decisions could have on human rights.

Aim of this guide

APPENDICES W1 to Z4 2021/22 BUDGET REPORT

This guide aims to assist decision-makers in ensuring that:

- The process they follow to assess the impact on equality of financial proposals is robust, and
- The impact that financial proposals could have on people with protected characteristics is thoroughly considered before any decisions are arrived at.

We have also produced detailed guidance for those responsible for assessing the impact on equality of their policies, which is available on our website at www.equalityhumanrights.com

The benefits of assessing the impact on equality

By law, your assessments of impact on equality must:

- Contain enough information to enable a public authority to demonstrate it has had 'due regard' to the aims of the equality duty in its decision-making
- Consider ways of mitigating or avoiding any adverse impacts.

Such assessments do not have to take the form of a document called an equality impact assessment. If you choose not to develop a document of this type, then some alternative approach which systematically assesses any adverse impacts of a change in policy, procedure or practice will be required.

Assessing impact on equality is not an end in itself and it should be tailored to, and be proportionate to, the decision that is being made.

Whether it is proportionate for an authority to conduct an assessment of the impact on equality of a financial decision or not depends on its relevance to the authority's particular function and its likely impact on people with protected characteristics.

We recommend that you document your assessment of the impact on equality when developing financial proposals. This will help you to:

- **Ensure you have a written record of the equality considerations** you have taken into account.
- **Ensure that your decision includes a consideration of the actions that would help to avoid or mitigate any impacts on particular protected characteristics.** Individual decisions should also be informed by the wider context of decisions in your own and other relevant public authorities, so that people with particular protected characteristics are not unduly affected by the cumulative effects of different decisions.
- **Make your decisions based on evidence:** a decision which is informed by relevant local and national information about equality is a better quality decision. Assessments of impact on equality provide a clear and systematic way to collect, assess and put forward relevant evidence.

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- **Make the decision-making process more transparent:** a process which involves those likely to be affected by the policy, and which is based on evidence, is much more open and transparent. This should also help you secure better public understanding of the difficult decisions you will be making in the coming months.
- **Comply with the law:** a written record can be used to demonstrate that due regard has been had. Failure to meet the equality duty may result in authorities being exposed to costly, time-consuming and reputation-damaging legal challenges.

When should your assessments be carried out?

Assessments of the impact on equality must be carried out at a **formative stage** so that the assessment is an integral part of the development of a proposed policy, not a later justification of a policy that has already been adopted. Financial proposals which are relevant to equality, such as those likely to impact on equality in your workforce and/or for your community, should always be subject to a thorough assessment. This includes proposals to outsource or procure any of the functions of your organisation. The assessment should form part of the proposal, and you should consider it carefully **before** making your decision.

If you are presented with a proposal that has not been assessed for its impact on equality, you should question whether this enables you to consider fully the proposed changes and its likely impact. Decisions not to assess the impact on equality should be fully documented, along with the reasons and the evidence used to come to this conclusion. This is important as authorities may need to rely on this documentation if the decision is challenged.

It is also important to remember that the potential impact is not just about numbers. Evidence of a serious impact on a small number of individuals is just as important as something that will impact on many people.

What should I be looking for in my assessments?

Assessments of impact on equality need to be based on relevant information and enable the decision-maker to understand the equality implications of a decision and any alternative options or proposals.

As with everything, proportionality is a key principle. Assessing the impact on equality of a major financial proposal is likely to need significantly more effort and resources dedicated to ensuring effective engagement, than a simple assessment of a proposal to save money by changing staff travel arrangements.

There is no prescribed format for assessing the impact on equality, but the following questions and answers provide guidance to assist you in determining whether you consider that an assessment is robust enough to rely on:

- **Is the purpose of the financial proposal clearly set out?**

A robust assessment will set out the reasons for the change; how this change can impact on protected groups, as well as whom it is intended to benefit; and the intended outcome. You should also think about how individual financial proposals

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might relate to one another. This is because a series of changes to different policies or services could have a severe impact on particular protected characteristics.

Joint working with your public authority partners will also help you to consider thoroughly the impact of your joint decisions on the people you collectively serve.

Example: A local authority takes separate decisions to limit the eligibility criteria for community care services; increase charges for respite services; scale back its accessible housing programme; and cut concessionary travel. Each separate decision may have a significant effect on the lives of disabled residents, and the cumulative impact of these decisions may be considerable. This combined impact would not be apparent if the decisions were considered in isolation.

• **Has the assessment considered available evidence?**

Public authorities should consider the information and research already available locally and nationally. The assessment of impact on equality should be underpinned by up-to-date and reliable information about the different protected groups that the proposal is likely to have an impact on. A lack of information is not a sufficient reason to conclude that there is no impact.

• **Have those likely to be affected by the proposal been engaged?**

Engagement is crucial to assessing the impact on equality. There is no explicit requirement to engage people under the equality duty, but it will help you to improve the equality information that you use to understand the possible impact on your policy on different protected characteristics. No-one can give you a better insight into how proposed changes will have an impact on, for example, disabled people, than disabled people themselves.

• **Have potential positive and negative impacts been identified?**

It is not enough to state simply that a policy will impact on everyone equally; there should be a more in-depth consideration of available evidence to see if particular protected characteristics are more likely to be affected than others. Equal treatment does not always produce equal outcomes; sometimes authorities will have to take particular steps for certain groups to address an existing disadvantage or to meet differing needs.

• **What course of action does the assessment suggest that I take? Is it justifiable?**

The assessment should clearly identify the option(s) chosen, and their potential impacts, and document the reasons for this decision. There are four possible outcomes of an assessment of the impact on equality, and more than one may apply to a single proposal:

Outcome 1: No major change required when the assessment has not identified any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to advance equality have been taken.

Outcome 2: Adjustments to remove barriers identified by the assessment or to better advance equality. Are you satisfied that the proposed adjustments will remove the barriers identified?

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Outcome 3: Continue despite having identified some potential for adverse impacts or missed opportunities to advance equality. In this case, the justification should be included in the assessment and should be in line with the duty to have 'due regard'. For the most important relevant policies, compelling reasons will be needed. You should consider whether there are sufficient plans to reduce the negative impact and/or plans to monitor the actual impact, as discussed below.

Outcome 4: Stop and rethink when an assessment shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination.

• **Are there plans to alleviate any negative impacts?**

Where the assessment indicates a potential negative impact, consideration should be given to means of reducing or mitigating this impact. This will in practice be supported by the development of an action plan to reduce impacts. This should identify the responsibility for delivering each action and the associated timescales for implementation. Considering what action you could take to avoid any negative impact is crucial, to reduce the likelihood that the difficult decisions you will have to take in the near future do not create or perpetuate inequality.

Example: A University decides to close down its childcare facility to save money, particularly given that it is currently being under-used. It identifies that doing so will have a negative impact on women and individuals from different racial groups, both staff and students.

In order to mitigate such impacts, the University designs an action plan to ensure relevant information on childcare facilities in the area is disseminated to staff and students in a timely manner. This will help to improve partnership working with the local authority and to ensure that sufficient and affordable childcare remains accessible to its students and staff.

• **Are there plans to monitor the actual impact of the proposal?**

Although assessments of impact on equality will help to anticipate a proposal's likely effect on different communities and groups, in reality the full impact of a decision will only be known once it is introduced. It is therefore important to set out arrangements for reviewing the actual impact of the proposals once they have been implemented.

What happens if you don't properly assess the impact on equality of relevant decisions?

If you have not carried out an assessment of impact on equality of the proposal, or have not done so thoroughly, you risk leaving yourself open to legal challenges, which are both costly and time-consuming. Legal cases have shown what can happen when authorities do not consider their equality duties when making decisions.

Example: A court overturned a decision by Haringey Council to consent to a large-scale building redevelopment in Wards Corner in Tottenham, on the basis that the council had not considered the impact of the proposal on different racial groups before granting planning permission.

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However, the result can often be far more fundamental than a legal challenge. If people feel that an authority is acting high-handedly or without properly involving its service users or employees, or listening to their concerns, they are likely to be become disillusioned with you.

Above all, authorities which fail to carry out robust assessments of the impact on equality risk making poor and unfair decisions that could discriminate against people with particular protected characteristics and perpetuate or worsen inequality.

As part of its regulatory role to ensure compliance with the equality duty, the Commission monitors financial decisions with a view to ensuring that these are taken in compliance with the equality duty and have taken into account the need to mitigate negative impacts, where possible.

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APPENDIX Z1: Interest Rate Forecasts 2021 - 2024

The Council has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisor and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The following table provides Link's latest central view.

| Period | Bank Rate | PWLB Borrowing Rates % (including certainty rate adjustment of 20 basis points) | | | |
|----------|-----------|--|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 5 year | 10 year | 25 year | 50 year |
| Mar 2021 | 0.10 | 0.80 | 1.10 | 1.50 | 1.30 |
| Jun 2021 | 0.10 | 0.80 | 1.10 | 1.60 | 1.40 |
| Sep 2021 | 0.10 | 0.80 | 1.10 | 1.60 | 1.40 |
| Dec 2021 | 0.10 | 0.80 | 1.10 | 1.60 | 1.40 |
| Mar 2022 | 0.10 | 0.90 | 1.20 | 1.60 | 1.40 |
| Jun 2022 | 0.10 | 0.90 | 1.20 | 1.70 | 1.50 |
| Sep 2022 | 0.10 | 0.90 | 1.20 | 1.70 | 1.50 |
| Dec 2022 | 0.10 | 0.90 | 1.20 | 1.70 | 1.50 |
| Mar 2023 | 0.10 | 0.90 | 1.20 | 1.70 | 1.50 |
| Jun 2023 | 0.10 | 1.00 | 1.30 | 1.80 | 1.60 |
| Sep 2023 | 0.10 | 1.00 | 1.30 | 1.80 | 1.60 |
| Dec 2023 | 0.10 | 1.00 | 1.30 | 1.80 | 1.60 |
| Mar 2024 | 0.10 | 1.00 | 1.30 | 1.80 | 1.60 |

APPENDIX Z2: Creditworthiness Policy (Linked to Treasury Management Practice (TMP1) – Credit and Counterparty Risk Management)

Annual Investment Strategy:

The key requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services and MHCLG's Investment Guidance are to set an annual investment strategy, as part of its annual Treasury Management Strategy for the following year, covering the identification and approval of the following:

- The strategy guidelines for choosing and placing investments, particularly non-specified investments;
- The principles to be used to determine the maximum periods for which funds can be committed;
- Specified investments that the Council will use. These are high security (i.e. high credit rating, although this is defined by the Council, and no guidelines are given), and high liquidity investments in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year; and
- Non-specified investments, clarifying the greater risk implications, identifying the general types of investment that may be used and a limit to the overall amount of various categories that can be held at any time.

Specified investments: These investments are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity, or those which could be for a longer period but where the Council has the right to be repaid within 12 months if it wishes. They also include investments which were originally classed as being non-specified investments, but which would have been classified as specified investments apart from originally being for a period longer than 12 months, once the remaining period to maturity falls to under twelve months. These are considered low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small. These would include sterling investments which would not be defined as capital expenditure with:

1. The UK Government, such as the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF), UK Treasury bills or a gilt with less than one year to maturity;
2. Supranational bonds of less than one year's duration;
3. A local authority, housing association, parish council or community council;
4. Pooled investment vehicles (such as money market funds) that have been awarded a high credit rating (AAA) by a credit rating agency; and
5. A body that is considered of a high credit quality (such as a bank or building society).

Within these bodies, and in accordance with the Code, the Council has set additional criteria to define the time and amount of monies which will be invested in these bodies, as shown in the table further below.

Non-Specified Investments: These are any investments which do not meet the specified investment criteria, and include certificates of deposit issued by banks or building societies,

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fixed deposits with building societies that do not meet the basic security requirements of specified investments, corporate bonds, and property funds. Provision has been made in the Strategy to invest in a limited number of lower rated building societies within the restrictions set out, certificates of deposit with both banks and building societies, and pooled asset funds (should the relevant opportunity arise). The Council will seek guidance on the status of any pooled fund or collective investment scheme it may consider using, and appropriate due diligence will also be undertaken before investment of this type is undertaken.

The Council applies the creditworthiness service provided by Link Group. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach utilising credit ratings from the three main credit rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays:

- credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies;
- Credit Default Swap (CDS) spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings;
- sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

These factors are weighted and combined with an overlay of CDS spreads. The end product is a series of ratings (colour coded) to indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These ratings are used by the Council to determine the suggested duration for investments.

The Link Group creditworthiness service uses a wider array of information other than just primary ratings. Furthermore, by using a risk weighted scoring system, it does not give undue precedence to just one agency's ratings.

The criteria, time limits and monetary limits applying to institutions or investment vehicles are:

| | Minimum credit criteria / colour band | Max % of total investments/ £ limit per institution | Max. maturity period |
|------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|
| DMADF – UK Government | N/A | 100% | 6 months |
| UK Government gilts | UK sovereign rating | £20m | 1 year |
| UK Government Treasury bills | UK sovereign rating | £60m | 6 months |
| Money Market Funds - CNAV | AAA | £30m | Liquid |
| Money Market Funds - LVNAV | AAA | £30m | Liquid |
| Money Market Funds - VNAV | AAA | £30m | Liquid |
| Local authorities | N/A | £10m | 1 year |

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| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Term deposits with banks and building societies | Yellow* Purple Blue Orange Red Green No Colour | £30m £25m £40m £25m £20m £15m Not for use** | Up to 5 years Up to 2 years Up to 1 year Up to 1 year Up to 6 Months Up to 100 days Not for use** |
| CDs or corporate bonds with banks and building societies | Blue Orange Red Green No Colour | £40m £25m £20m £15m Not for use** | Up to 1 year Up to 1 year Up to 6 Months Up to 100 days Not for use** |
| Term deposits or CDs with building societies on Link's counterparty list rated 'No colour' | BBB- | £10m | Up to 3 months |
| Call accounts and notice accounts | Yellow* Purple Blue Orange Red Green No Colour | £30m £25m £40m £25m £20m £15m Not for use | Liquid |
| Pooled asset funds | | £50m | At least 5 years |

*for UK Government debt, or its equivalent, Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV) money market funds and collateralised deposits where the collateral is UK Government debt.

**except for those building societies rated BBB- or higher as set out elsewhere in the table.

The monitoring of investment counterparties: The credit rating of counterparties will be monitored regularly, on at least a weekly basis. The Council receives credit rating information (changes, rating watches and rating outlooks) from Link Group as and when ratings change, and the impact of those changes are assessed promptly. On occasion ratings may be downgraded when an investment has already been made. The criteria used are such that a minor downgrading should not affect the full receipt of the principal and interest upon maturity. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria will be removed from the lending list immediately, and if required new counterparties which meet the criteria will be added to the list. Any fixed term investment held at the time of the downgrade will be left to mature as such investments cannot be broken mid-term.

Sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external service. In addition, the Council will make use of market data and information on any external support for banks to help support its decision-making process.

Accounting treatment of investments: The accounting treatment may differ from the underlying cash transactions arising from investment decisions made by this Council. To ensure that the Council is protected from any adverse revenue impact which may arise from these differences, we will review the accounting implications of new transactions before they are undertaken.

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Creditworthiness impact of COVID-19: Although the credit rating agencies changed their outlook on many UK banks from Stable to Negative during the quarter ended 30/6/2020 due to upcoming risks to banks' earnings and asset quality during the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, the majority of ratings were affirmed due to the continuing strong credit profiles of major financial institutions, including UK banks. However, during Q1 and Q2 2020, banks made provisions for expected credit losses and the rating changes reflected these provisions.

As we move into future quarters, more information will emerge on actual levels of credit losses (quarterly earnings reports are normally announced in the second half of the month following the end of the quarter). This has the potential to cause rating agencies to revisit their initial rating adjustments from 2020; these adjustments could be negative or positive, although it should also be noted that banks entered this pandemic with strong balance sheets. This is predominantly a result of regulatory changes imposed on banks following the Great Financial Crisis; indeed, the Financial Policy Committee (FPC) report on 6th August 2020 revised down their expected credit losses for the UK banking sector to "somewhat less than £80bn". It stated that in its assessment, "banks have buffers of capital more than sufficient to absorb the losses that are likely to arise under the Monetary Policy Committee's central projection". The FPC stated that for real stress in the sector, the economic output would need to be twice as bad as the MPC's projection, with unemployment rising to above 15%.

All three rating agencies have reviewed banks around the world, with similar results in many countries of most banks being placed on Negative Outlook, but with a small number of actual downgrades.

CDS price impact of COVID-19: Although bank CDS prices (market indicators of credit risk) spiked upwards at the end of March / early April 2020 due to the heightened market uncertainty and ensuing liquidity crisis that affected financial markets, they have returned to more average levels since then. Nevertheless, prices are still elevated compared to end-February 2020. Pricing is likely to remain volatile as uncertainty continues. However, sentiment can easily shift, so it will remain important to undertake continual monitoring of all aspects of risk and return in the current circumstances. The Council's advisers, Link Group, monitor CDS prices as part of their creditworthiness service and the Council has access to this information via its Link-provided Passport portal.

APPENDIX Z3: Approved Countries for Investment

This list is based on those countries which have sovereign ratings of AA- or higher (we show the lowest rating from Fitch, Moody's and S&P) and also have banks operating in sterling markets which have credit ratings of green or above in the Link Group creditworthiness service.

AAA

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

AA+

- Canada
- Finland
- USA

AA

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- France

AA-

- Belgium
- Hong Kong
- Qatar
- U.K.

APPENDIX Z4: Requirement of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice

Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation

(i) Full Council

- budget consideration and approval;
- approval of annual Treasury Management Strategy;
- approval of/amendments to the organisation's adopted clauses and treasury management policy statement.

(ii) Public Accounts Committee

- receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities.

The Treasury Management Role of the Section 151 Officer

The S151 (responsible) officer has responsibility for:

- recommending treasury management policies for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance;
- submitting regular treasury management policy reports;
- submitting budgets and budget variations;
- receiving and reviewing management information reports;
- reviewing the performance of the treasury management function;
- ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function;
- ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit;
- approval of the division of responsibilities;
- approving the organisation's treasury management practices;
- preparation of a capital strategy to include capital expenditure, capital financing, non-financial investments and treasury management, with a long-term timeframe;
- ensuring that the capital strategy is prudent, sustainable, affordable and prudent in the long term and provides value for money;
- ensuring that due diligence has been carried out on all treasury and non-financial investments and is in accordance with the risk appetite of the authority;
- ensuring that the authority has appropriate legal powers to undertake expenditure on non-financial assets and their financing;
- ensuring the proportionality of all investments so that the authority does not undertake a level of investing which exposes the authority to an excessive level of risk compared to its financial resources;
- ensuring that an adequate governance process is in place for the approval, monitoring and ongoing risk management of all non-financial investments and long term liabilities;
- provision to Members of a schedule of all non-treasury investments including material investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures, loans and financial guarantees;
- ensuring that Members are adequately informed and understand the risk exposures

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taken on by an authority; and

- ensuring that the authority has adequate expertise, either in-house or externally, to carry out the above.

| COUNCIL | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| Report Title | Motions | |
| Key Decision | | Item No. |
| Ward | | |
| Contributors | Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee) | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: March 3 2021 |

Adopting the UN Sustainable Development Global Goals Motion

Lewisham Council notes:

(i) The importance of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that address the global challenges we face including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation and prosperity.

(ii) That we have a decade of action if we are to deliver the Goals by 2030.

(iii) That in 2019 the cross-party Local Government Association unanimously adopted a motion recognising the vital role that councils could play in planning, implementation and monitoring the UK's progress on meeting the ambitions of the Agenda 2030.

Lewisham Council believes:

(i) That all levels of government work together and that local government is a key component to successful domestic implementation of the SDGs.

(ii) The holistic framework the SDGs offers is significant and the importance of looking at the challenges for the planet and people in a holistic and systems way. Each of the goals are intrinsically linked which will require coordinated, multi-disciplinary action.

(iii) That Lewisham Council's existing work complements the priorities of the SDGs. For example, the council's Climate Emergency Action Plan addresses goals: SDG 3 good health and well-being, SDG 7 affordable and clean energy, SDG 10 reduced inequalities, SDG 11 sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 climate action and SDG 15 life on land.

Lewisham Council resolves to:

(i) Lobby central government for them to recognise the vital role local government must play in terms of the planning, implementation and monitoring in local areas, and fully resource councils to do that work, to deliver the UK's progress on meeting the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda.

(ii) Recognising that we will only be able to achieve the Goals by working with local partners, the Council recommit to engaging our areas through local partnerships and with

our citizens to share research and engagement with our networks, partners and citizens, particularly given our sector's continuing funding pressures.

(iii) Formalise our commitment to the Goals and therefore adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), agreeing to pursue the Goals in the work undertaken by the Council.

(iv) Work to map out which targets are relevant using the LGA and UKSSD Sustainable Development Guide.

Proposer: Cllr Sakina Sheikh

Seconder: Cllr Sophie Davis

Agenda Item 9

| COUNCIL | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| Report Title | Composition of the Executive | |
| Key Decision | No | Item No. |
| Ward | | |
| Contributors | Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee) | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: 3 March 2021 |

To receive written notification from the Mayor of the constitution and composition of the Executive

Following the return of Councillor Reid from parental leave and the resignation of Councillor Dromey from the Cabinet, the Mayor has informed the Chief Executive that the members, listed below, will serve as members of the Cabinet in the remainder of this municipal year.

| Name | Portfolio |
|----------------------|--|
| Damien Egan | Mayor of Lewisham |
| Cllr Chris Best | Deputy Mayor of Lewisham and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care |
| Cllr Chris Barnham | Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance |
| Cllr Paul Bell | Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning |
| Cllr Kevin Bonavia | Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability |
| Cllr Brenda Dacres | Cabinet Member for Safer Communities |
| Cllr Sophie McGeevor | Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport |
| Cllr Joani Reid | Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share) |
| Cllr André Bourne | Cabinet Member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share) |
| Cllr Amanda de Ryk | Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources |
| Cllr Jonathan Slater | Cabinet Member for the Community Sector |

The Council is therefore:

RECOMMENDED to note the constitution and composition of the Executive for the municipal year 2020/21