

Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Tuesday, 10 November 2020
7.00 pm, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Civic Suite
Lewisham Town Hall
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Charlotte Dale (020 8314 8286,
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Part 1

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Tuesday, 10 November 2020.

Kim Wright, Chief Executive
Monday 2 November 2020

Councillor Bill Brown (Chair)	
Councillor Sophie Davis (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye	
Councillor Tauseef Anwar	
Councillor Peter Bernards	
Councillor Juliet Campbell	
Councillor Suzannah Clarke	
Councillor Patrick Codd	
Councillor Liam Curran	
Councillor Colin Elliott	
Councillor Aisling Gallagher	
Councillor Leo Gibbons	
Councillor Alan Hall	
Councillor Carl Handley	
Councillor Octavia Holland	
Councillor Sue Hordijkeno	
Councillor Coral Howard	
Councillor Mark Ingleby	
Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin	

Councillor Caroline Kalu	
Councillor Silvana Kelleher	
Councillor Louise Krupski	
Councillor Jim Mallory	
Councillor Paul Maslin	
Councillor Joan Millbank	
Councillor Hilary Moore	
Councillor Pauline Morrison	
Councillor John Muldoon	
Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa	
Councillor Lionel Openshaw	
Councillor Jacq Paschoud	
Councillor John Paschoud	
Councillor Stephen Penfold	
Councillor Kim Powell	
Councillor James Rathbone	
Councillor Sakina Sheikh	
Councillor Alan Smith	
Councillor Luke Sorba	
Councillor Eva Stamirowski	
Councillor James-J Walsh	
Councillor Susan Wise	

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 5 March 2020 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Bill Brown (Chair), Obajimi Adefiranye, Tauseef Anwar, Peter Bernards, Juliet Campbell, Patrick Codd, Liam Curran, Aisling Gallagher, Leo Gibbons, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Octavia Holland, Coral Howard, Mark Ingleby, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Silvana Kelleher, Jim Mallory, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, John Muldoon, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Stephen Penfold, James Rathbone, Alan Smith, Luke Sorba, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise

APOLOGIES: Councillors Sakina Sheikh, Abdeslam Amrani, Tom Copley, Sophie Davis, Colin Elliott, Sue Hordijkenko, Caroline Kalu, Louise Krupski, Pauline Morrison, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Lionel Openshaw, Kim Powell and Eva Stamirowski

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Chris Barnham (Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance), Councillor Chris Best (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care), Councillor Brenda Dacres (Cabinet Member for Safer Communities), Charlotte Dale (Overview and Scrutiny Manager), Stephanie Fleck and Barrie Neal (Director of Corporate Policy and Governance)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2020

- 1.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2020 be agreed as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the following addition:

The bullet point stating that: *“There was a £30k grant to support volunteers working with refugees so this should be able to fund DBS checks if required”* will have a clarification in brackets after it reading *“Following the meeting it was clarified that £20k of grant funding had been made available to Lewisham Refugee Welcome for the voluntary support of refugees in Lewisham”*.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 **RESOLVED:** That the following declarations of interest be noted in relation to the *Executive Question Time* item on the agenda:

Cllr Jacq Paschoud – close relative is in receipt of a social care package from the Council.

Cllr John Paschoud – governor of a school attended by 4 or 5 Lewisham children; and declared his spouse's interest as described above.

Cllr Luke Sorba – Member of the governing body of trustees for the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust.

Cllr Liz Johnston-Franklin - Non Executive Director for Youth First.

3. Scrutiny Update

- 3.1 The Chair of the Safer, Stronger Communities Select Committee reported that her committee had considered the proposals around the distribution of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy monies the night before, and made a referral to Mayor and Cabinet outlining their concerns.
- 3.2 The Chair of the Housing Select Committee reminded those present that members of the Children and Young People Select Committee had been invited to the next meeting of his committee, on 12 March. The Committee would be looking at homelessness which was pertinent to the Children and Young People Select Committee's review into the effect of temporary accommodation on children.
- 3.2 **RESOLVED:** That the updates provided be noted.

4. Executive Question Time

- 4.1 Cllr Dacres was questioned first. In response to questions from Members of the Committee, the following points were noted:
- Athena would provide confidential and non-judgemental support to all Lewisham residents experiencing gender based violence.
 - The "public health approach to serious youth violence" strategy had been published and the approach was making a real difference, in particular the school immersive programme being piloted at Coopers Lane School and Sydenham Girls School. The approach was also making a difference in the home environment and leading to better engagement between parents and children.
 - 22 people had been trained to hold community conversations and deliver community based engagement and officers could look to do something specific for parents (of victims and perpetrators). The support required by parents varied and it was important to be led by their wishes and arrange support on a case by case basis.
 - Police were receiving training on unconscious bias and were spending time with young people whilst training, which was having an impact on the way stop and search was being carried out. Work was also being undertaken to ensure that young people knew their rights in relation to stop and search; and there was also collaboration with the Racial Disparity Unit.
 - Three local community organisations had received central government funding to deliver projects to tackle hatred and intolerance in Lewisham. Key approaches included theatre programmes (Second Wave), the provision of advocacy and accurate information, advice and guidance (African Advocacy Foundation) and using football as a hook (the Rio Ferdinand Foundation).
 - The concern hubs were dealing with 192 cases at present (136 male and 59 female) using a genuinely multi-disciplinary approach.
 - Deprivation was a key factor in violent crime, with 54% of violent incidents in Lewisham occurring in three wards.
 - *A query about step free access to Bellingham Station would be referred to Councillor McGeevor.*

4.2 Cllr Barnham was questioned second. In response to questions from Members of the Committee, the following points were noted:

- There has been a recognition that previously, the Council had perhaps taken formal safeguarding action too readily and there was now a greater focus on the ‘front door’ and taking the correct action straight away using a robust risk management framework. In terms of the number of children on protection plans, Lewisham was still above its statistical neighbours, but improving. The planned stronger emphasis on early help would be beneficial.
- There was a genuine will amongst schools to treat exclusion as a last resort. Fair Access Panels were used to ‘challenge’ headteachers seeking permanent exclusions to make sure there was no alternative.
- The strategy for improving school attainment would be reviewed. There was a new director of Lewisham Learning and schools were now able to commission support from a wider range of places.
- Because Lewisham exported more high attaining pupils at the secondary school phase than any other London borough, its schools were not truly comprehensive. Efforts were being made to attract the parents of all Lewisham pupils to Lewisham schools.
- With regards to the Youth Service, “reach” was the most important thing. Negotiations were ongoing with Youth First to ensure more targeted work would be provided.
- Due to improved financial processes, schools were now finding that they could run their budgets more effectively.
- The most important action people could take to halt the spread of coronavirus was to wash their hands thoroughly and regularly with soap and water. The council was not aware of any schools having issues procuring sufficient liquid soap.
- Special educational needs support was regularly refocused to ensure it was meeting the needs of the borough’s young people. The expansion of special schools was not designed to cater for children in mainstream schools, but to increase the specialist provision available in the borough for those with specific high needs, to avoid them having to go out of borough.
- The Council would like to initiate a “Pause project” which would encompass supporting parents of children with special educational needs and learning disabilities. However, the current priority for the directorate was the workforce structure and the quality of practice.
- Following Ofsted’s “requires improvement” judgement in relation to children’s social care; a fresh inspection would likely take place in three or four years’ time, with two or three focused visits before then, looking at areas of weakness. One was expected this year, potentially looking at domestic violence or permanence planning. The Council was currently in year two of its four year improvement plan.
- The Council was not aware of any schools planning to academise, apart from Sedgehill which was subject to an Academy Order and would probably join the United Learning Academy Trust this summer.
- Although the Council was proposing to sell its outdoor education (Wide Horizons) sites, local schools would still have a wide range of other providers to choose from that were more fit for purpose.

4.3 Cllr Best was questioned third. In response to questions from Members of the Committee, the following points were noted:

- The Council had received £160k to reduce childhood obesity and would be holding market events for organisations that were interested in bidding to deliver associated contracts and these could be used to help smaller groups tender for work.
- Should the air quality monitoring sites reveal that certain particulate levels were increasing, further information could be provided, including on any action being taken to address this and improve air quality.
- The BAME Network were working with the Council to address 16 action points in relation to mental health.
- The Cabinet Member was not aware of any sexual assaults in Lewisham Care Homes. The work of the Independent Chair of the Adult Safeguarding Board was very important in helping ensure the safety of Care Homes.
- The Young Mayor's programme was an excellent initiative and the participants had a very productive working relationship with the Positive Ageing Council.
- The Cabinet Member was confident that the Council's coronavirus plans were robust. Actions included weekly meetings with the Council's emergency planning GOLD officer; the ordering of additional soap dispensers; regular partnership meetings to discuss plans; the display of posters encouraging people to wash their hands; and the updating of business continuity plans.

4.4 **RESOLVED:** That a referral to Mayor & Cabinet be made, outlining the further information requested by the Committee:

Safer Communities Portfolio

- **Athena** – Can sex workers be confident that they will get non judgemental support?
- **Concern Hubs** – Can a full range of statistics on useage be provided, including a breakdown of client ethnicity?

School Performance and Children's Services Portfolio

- **Schools in deficit** – How many Lewisham schools are in deficit and can some further information on their situations be provided?
- **Hand sanitising gel / handwash** – are any Lewisham schools experiencing difficulty in procuring these products as a result of shortages arising from the coronavirus outbreak?
- **School playing fields** – can more information be provided on the current strategy including whether there are any plans to expand the number of school playing fields?

Health and Adult Social Care Portfolio

- **Air quality** – Should the monitoring sites reveal that certain

particulate levels are increasing, can further information be provided on what is being done to address this and improve air quality?

- **Youth support** – Can more information be provided on the successful bid for funding to support youth support in two local accident and emergency departments?
- **Vaccinations** – can more information on uptake be provided?

5. Referrals to Mayor & Cabinet

5.1 A referral was made in relation to the item on the agenda entitled “Executive Question Time”.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm

Chair:

Date:

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 15 July 2020 at 7.50 pm

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

1. OSC Election of Chair

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bill Brown be elected as Chair and Councillor Sophie Davis be elected as Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2020-21.

2. OSC Composition

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

3. OSC Select Committees

RESOLVED that the following appointments be made:

<i>Overview & Scrutiny Committee (all non executive councillors)</i>	Councillor Bill Brown (Chair) Councillor Sophie Davis(Vice-Chair)
<i>Business Panel & O&S (Education) Business Panel (10)</i>	Councillor Bill Brown(Chair) Councillor Sophie Davis (Vice-Chair) Councillor Liam Curran Councillor Kim Powell Councillor Juliet Campbell Councillor John Muldoon Councillor Luke Sorba Councillor Peter Bernards Councillor Joan Millbank Councillor Patrick Codd
<i>Public Accounts (6)</i>	Councillor Patrick Codd (Chair) Councillor Alan Hall (Vice-Chair) Councillor Jim Mallory

	Councillor Paul Maslin Councillor Joan Millbank Councillor Tauseef Anwar
<i>Healthier Communities</i> (6)	Councillor John Muldoon (Chair) Councillor Coral Howard (Vice-Chair) Councillor Leo Gibbons Councillor Sue Hordijkeno Councillor Kim Powell Councillor Alan Smith
<i>Children & Young People</i> (8)	Councillor Luke Sorba (Chair) Councillor Caroline Kalu (Vice-Chair) Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin Councillor Octavia Holland Councillor Colin Elliott Councillor Hilary Moore Councillor Jacq Paschoud Councillor Lionel Openshaw
<i>Safer & Stronger Communities</i> (6)	Councillor Juliet Campbell(Chair) Councillor James Rathbone (Vice-Chair) Councillor Pauline Morrison Councillor Sakina Sheikh Councillor Jim Mallory Councillor Carl Handley
<i>Sustainable Development</i> (6)	Councillor Liam Curran (Chair) Councillor Louise Krupski (Vice-Chair) Councillor Jimi Adefiranye Councillor Suzannah Clarke Councillor James Walsh Councillor Eva Stamirowski
<i>Housing</i> (6)	Councillor Peter Bernards (Chair) Councillor Stephen Penfold (Vice-Chair) Councillor Susan Wise Councillor Aisling Gallagher Councillor Olurotimi Ogunbadewa Councillor Silvana Kelleher

The meeting closed at 8.46pm

Chair:

Date:

Agenda Item 2



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Declarations of Interest

Date: 10 November 2020

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Chief Executive (Director of Law, Governance and HR)

Outline and recommendations

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

1. Summary

1.1. Members must declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda. 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.

1.2. Further information on these is provided in the body of this report.

2. Recommendation

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

3. Disclosable pecuniary interests

3.1 These 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.

4. Other registerable interests

4.1 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.

5. Non registerable interests

- 5.1. 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).

6. Declaration and impact of interest on members' participation

- 6.1. 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 not 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**
- 6.2. 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 6.3 below applies.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. 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.
- 6.5. 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.

7. Sensitive information

- 7.1. 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.

8. Exempt categories

- 8.1. 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).

9. Report author and contact

- 9.1. Suki Binjal, Director of Law, Governance and HR, suki.binjal@lewisham.gov.uk, 020 83147648

Agenda Item 3



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee - requests for further information

Date: 10 November 2020

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Assistant Chief Executive

Outline and recommendations

This report provides the response agreed at Mayor and Cabinet on 7 October 2020 to requests for further information made at the meetings of Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) held on 27 January 2020 and 5 March 2020.

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report informs Members of the response agreed at Mayor and Cabinet on 7 October 2020 to referrals made by the Committee at its meetings held on 27 January 2020 and 5 March 2020.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Committee is recommended to receive and note the Mayor & Cabinet response to its referrals.

3. Response

- 3.1. The Mayor and Cabinet considered the attached report at the Mayor & Cabinet meeting held on 7 October 2020. The Mayor and Cabinet unanimously resolved that the response be approved and forwarded to the Committee.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal implications

5.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. Equalities implications

6.1. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

7. Climate change and environmental implications

7.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

8. Crime and disorder implications

8.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

9.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

10. Glossary

Term	Definition
Overview & Scrutiny	Overview and scrutiny is the way in which Mayor and Cabinet (the 'Executive'), officers and external organisations are held to account for the decisions that they make. It is led by councillors who are not members of the Executive. They also influence policy development and investigate issues of local concern, making recommendations for improvement.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	A committee made up of all non-executive councillors which carries out scrutiny focussing on strategic and cross cutting issues.
Mayor and Cabinet	Mayor & Cabinet (otherwise known as the 'Executive') consists of the Mayor and between two and nine Cabinet Members, who are appointed by the Mayor.

11. Background Papers

Mayor & Cabinet Minutes of 7 October 2020

12. Report author and contact

12.1. Charlotte Dale, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, 0208 31 48286, charlotte.dale@lewisham.gov.uk



Mayor and Cabinet

Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee - requests for further information

Date: 7 October 2020

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Assistant Chief Executive

Outline and recommendations

This report provides responses to requests for further information at the meetings of Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) held on 27 January 2020 and 5 March 2020.

Mayor & Cabinet is asked to note the responses from officers and agree that they be submitted to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides responses to requests for further information at the meetings of Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) held on 27 January 2020 and 5 March 2020.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Mayor & Cabinet is asked to note the responses from officers and agree that they be submitted to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

3. Requests for further information

Democracy, Refugees and Accountability portfolio

- 3.1. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on the accessibility of polling stations and information on whether all polling stations used for the forthcoming London Mayoral and Assembly elections will be fully accessible.
- 3.2. Officers have reviewed all polling stations as part of the Polling District and Places Review 2019. The results came into force on 31 January 2020 and the new polling scheme will be used for future elections. The review concluded that all polling places in the new polling scheme are fully accessible. However, should councillors or residents identify an issue with any polling place they should bring it to the attention of the Electoral Services Manager who will ensure changes are put in place for future elections.
- 3.3. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for further information on the content and date of the 'general training day' for NRPF officers and on the organisation that will be delivering the training.
- 3.4. The NRPF service has received training delivered by the NSPCC on human trafficking and modern slavery. The service is also and working with MOPAC and the Council's community safety team to ensure smooth referral procedures to the National Referral Mechanism across the Council. The training being delivered is detailed and involves the allocation of responsibilities to key first responders in the statutory and voluntary sector. Due to the importance of aligning its initiatives with the MOPAC initiative, several training sessions will be sequenced throughout the year. A steering group will be set up to monitor progress. Separate training on the Lewisham Citizens charter on customer service is also being arranged and complements the Council's commitment to meeting the Children's Charter commitments.
- 3.5. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for the communications plan relating to school admissions (with the aim of ensuring that parents are properly informed about the process and their options) to be shared with members of the Children and Young People Select Committee.
- 3.6. Last year a range of marketing work was undertaken which resulted in a 10% increase in preferences from Lewisham parents choosing Lewisham schools, the highest in the last 10 years. Seven secondary schools saw an increase in 1st preferences, these are Deptford Green, Forest Hill, Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College, Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy, Prendergast Ladywell, Sedgehill and St Matthew Academy. An [interactive school distance map](#) was launched giving parents a clear idea of furthest distance travelled. To build on this success, a range of work is planned for this year and although this work has been affected by COVID-19, more information about applying for a secondary school place is available on the [Council's website here](#). Further plans for 2020 can be shared with members on request.
- 3.7. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for some examples of consultation activities where there has been good feedback to participating residents.

- 3.8. Each year the Council undertakes about 50 public consultations, which are published on a dedicated [online portal](#). In addition, numerous other engagement activities take place as part of which, the views of local residents are sought on various issues. In terms of online consultations, the consultation on 'Health Watch and the NHS Complaints Advocacy Service' is a good example of how the "[we asked, you said, we did](#)" function on the Council's new consultation and engagement platform has been used effectively to provide feedback and assurance to local residents in response to their views. The [Achilles Street estate](#) regeneration proposals are a good example of how local residents were consulted and engaged extensively and often through the design and development process. A series of events were held between February 2016 and March 2017 which enabled proposals and designs to be reshaped in response to resident feedback. In total 92% of eligible residents voted in the Achilles Street Estate resident ballot for estate regeneration. This is the highest turnout of any resident ballot for estate regeneration held anywhere to date. The extension of additional [licensing for Houses of Multiple Occupation and introduction of a selective licensing scheme](#) is a good example of how residents' concerns have been addressed in a formal report. An officer report setting out the Council's responses to respondents' comments was included as a supplementary link to report to Mayor & Cabinet on 11 March 2020 and published on the Council's website.

Housing portfolio

- 3.9. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for a briefing on the work being carried out in relation to the Domestic Abuse Bill and the potential changes to the allocations scheme in relation to survivors of domestic violence.
- 3.10. Officers are currently starting a review of the allocations scheme, which will include the possible changes to the scheme for survivors of domestic violence. Alongside this, officers are working on achieving Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation, which will involve a full review of the Council's response to all forms of domestic abuse, ensuring we are following best practice, working in effective partnership across the organisation and providing the best possible support and assistance to victims and survivors of domestic abuse. The accreditation process will also ensure that the authority is fully compliant with the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Act. Officers are intending to discuss the outcome of these with Housing Select Committee. Officers will circulate a briefing when the review of the allocations policy is further underway, and to provide an update on the progress to achieving DAHA accreditation.

Finance and Resources portfolio

- 3.11. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for further information on the in-sourcing of the school meals contract, including timelines and implications for schools.
- 3.12. Schools have requested additional time to consider the Council's proposed model of service delivery and the Council will undertake further engagement with schools and governors during this time. Officers will be able to provide a further information in due course.
- 3.13. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for reassurance that the Council correctly applies the council tax reduction for students.
- 3.14. The Council correctly applies the council tax reduction for students where an application is received, where the applicant meets the criteria as stipulated in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and where the applicant provides the required student certificate as evidence. Details about the student reduction and how to apply is publicised on the Council's website at <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/counciltax/reductions/council-tax-for-students>

Environment and Transport portfolio

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve. **Page 16**

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

- 3.15. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on officer efforts to make renting a bicycle rack more affordable, following the rent increase that was put in place following the end of TfL funding.
- 3.16. The current cost of access to a cycle hangar in Lewisham is £60 per year (plus returnable key deposit to cover costs of provision). This works out as £1.15 per week or 16p per day. However, officers are currently exploring options for subsidising cycle hangar rentals, particularly for those residents on lower incomes, including how this would be funded and the logistics of undertaking the required checks.

Safer Communities portfolio

- 3.17. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for an update on whether sex workers using the Athena service can be confident that they will get non-judgemental support.
- 3.18. Any sex workers accessing Lewisham's Athena Service are all supported in a non-judgemental approach, as any victim of gender-based violence. The Athena Service supports clients experiencing: domestic violence (physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological abuse); rape and sexual assault; stalking; prostitution; sexual exploitation; human trafficking and modern slavery (for example, sexual exploitation; forced labour; domestic servitude); female genital mutilation (FGM); forced marriage; or so-called 'honour'-based violence. Council officers and Lewisham Police Officers have also worked closely with National Ugly Mugs over the last few years to support sex workers in Lewisham. National Ugly Mugs (NUM) is a pioneering organisation which provides greater access to justice and protection for sex workers who are often targeted by dangerous individuals but are frequently reluctant to report these incidents to the police. These offenders are often serial sexual predators who pose a huge risk to the public as a whole.
- 3.19. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for a full range of statistics on usage of the Concern Hubs, including a breakdown of client ethnicity.
- 3.20. The Operational Concern Hub is unique to Lewisham. The hub incorporates a number of adolescent safeguarding, youth justice and community safety functions. The Operational Concern Hub went live in January 2019 and to date has accepted 246 referrals. The Operational Concern Hub accepts referrals from all agencies working with Lewisham children and young people up to the age of 25. Of the 246 cases dealt with, 55% of cases identify as Black, 20% identify as white, 3% identify as Asian, 9% identify as mixed race, and 1% identify as "other". 13% of cases did not provide ethnicity data. These matters are being identified as a key theme within the developing Child Exploitation Strategy.
- 3.21. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for more information on the successful bid for funding to support youth support in two local accident and emergency departments.
- 3.22. Redthread (<https://www.redthread.org.uk/>) were awarded a contract by the London Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC) to deliver youth support and intervention in both Lewisham Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Following an initial mobilisation and recruitment phase, which was hampered in part by COVID lockdown, Redthread have been up and running in both hospitals since 7 September 2020. The Team Leaders in both sites are linked in with both Lewisham's Violence Reduction Team Manager and Children's Social Care and linked in to the weekly Concern Hub meetings. Lewisham Hospital's team have had 11 cases referred since 7 September 2020 and 6 of these are engaging well.

School Performance and Children's Services portfolio

- 3.23. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked how many Lewisham schools are in deficit and for some further information on their situations.
- 3.24. There are 11 schools in Lewisham with deficits. The Schools Finance Team is

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continuing to work with schools in developing sustainable budget plans, to prevent further schools moving to a deficit position. New budget plans incorporating metrics management have been developed to support schools to review budgets with a strategic view. These enable schools to compare their deployment on leadership, teaching, support administration, contact time etc. Feedback from schools on this has been very positive. Officers are working on deficit recovery plans with all our schools that are in deficit.

- 3.25. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked if any Lewisham schools are experiencing difficulty in procuring handwash or sanitising gel as a result of shortages arising from the coronavirus outbreak.
- 3.26. The Council is continuing to support schools through COVID-19. Schools have been able to access all the handwash or hand sanitizer that they require.
- 3.27. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for more information on the current school playing fields strategy, including whether there are any plans to expand the number of school playing fields?
- 3.28. Officers in CYP are currently developing a broad asset strategy to encompass how we best utilise facilities to deliver services. School playing fields will be explored as part of this work. In addition, the Lewisham Playing Pitch Strategy is being refreshed.

Health and Adult Social Care portfolio

- 3.29. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for further information on what is being done to address certain particulate levels in the air increasing.
- 3.30. The Council is taking a number of measures to improve air quality, particularly PM2.5 in the air. Unlike other pollutants, such as nitrogen dioxide, a large percentage of PM2.5 in London comes from regional, and often trans boundary, sources. Therefore, the powers to tackle these emissions lie elsewhere within London, the UK and with other European governments which can make it more difficult to address with direct measures. However, pending the availability of funding, the actions that will be considered during the review of our current Air Quality Action plan include: installing new air quality monitors to measure PM2.5 concentration in air; the adoption of tighter minimum emission standards for burning stoves and we will consider banning domestic burning in areas with high PM2.5 levels; there are within the Clean Air Act which enable local authorities to tackle smoke emissions from chimneys of buildings, fixed boilers and industrial plant; more actions will be considered to target domestic combustion as the major source of PM2.5; prohibiting buildings, like schools and care homes that are designated as sensitive receptors, being built near main roads; installing more PM2.5 monitoring around schools and other vulnerable receptors like hospital and care homes. It should be noted that although a combination of complementary initiatives is key to creating a positive impact in both the short and longer-term PM2.5 on-air quality in Lewisham, initiatives with evidence of positive impacts on air quality in the short term such as increasing parking charging, idling enforcement and traffic management will be given priority. The Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report is available here:
<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/read-our-air-quality-action-plan-and-other-reports>
- 3.31. Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked for more information on the uptake of vaccinations.
- 3.32. Vaccination has been one of the most effective public health interventions. In the UK, primary vaccination uptake for infants by their first birthday is above 90%, similar to Lewisham, but uptake of later childhood vaccines and seasonal flu and whooping cough vaccines recommended in pregnancy, varies from year to year. Uptake is sometimes lower in more deprived areas, and among some BAME groups. The

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COVID-19 pandemic and the on-going challenges it presents has impacted on childhood immunisation uptake and could pose challenges in delivering the flu vaccination programme over the winter. Along with the challenges of implementing a flu immunisation programme that meets infection control guidelines and routine winter pressures, the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic may further impact on general practice's ability to deliver childhood immunisation programmes. SEL CCG (Lewisham) with support from the Council's Public Health Team is considering possible strategies to manage delivery of the childhood vaccination programmes to ensure as many children as possible are protected from infectious diseases. The impact of COVID-19 has also been seen in other immunisations, including school-aged vaccinations. The school-aged immunisation programme was not delivered when schools were closed during lockdown. In Lewisham the school immunisation programme has now resumed and Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust is delivering catch-up immunisation clinics in community areas.

4. Financial implications

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

5. Legal implications

- 5.1. There are no specific legal implications arising from the updates in this report at this time. However, there may be legal implications in relation to the range of issues, proposals and plans referred to in this composite report as they are worked through and decisions made to put them into action. Legal implications will be provided individually on those specific matters at the appropriate time.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1. There are a range of equalities implications arising from the various responses provided for this report. The report makes reference to voting in elections, No Recourse to Public Funds, school admissions, the Council's domestic abuse work active travel schemes – which may impact on protected characteristics. In addition to this, socio-economic implications may arise for those who face disadvantage as a result of their income status. In due course, relevant implications will be provided as specific proposals are developed. As appropriate, any proposals that are taken forward will also be considered in light of the objectives of the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme:

- Tackling victimisation, discrimination and harassment
- Improving access to services
- Closing the gap in outcomes for our citizens
- Increasing mutual understanding and respect within and between communities
- Increasing participation and engagement

7. Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1. There are no specific environmental implications arising from the updates in this report at this time. However, there may be environmental implications in relation to the range of issues, proposals and plans referred to in this composite report as they are worked

through and decisions made to put them into action. Environmental implications will be provided individually on these specific matters at the appropriate time.

8. Crime and disorder implications

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

9. Health and wellbeing implications

9.1. There are no specific health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

10. Report author and contact

10.1. James Noble, Head of Mayor's Office, james.noble@lewisham.gov.uk



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Update

Date: 10 November 2020

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Assistant Chief Executive (Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this item is for Members to receive an oral update from Select Committee Chairs on any scrutiny activity related to their Committee that they wish to bring to the Committee's attention. The Chair or Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may also provide an update on any relevant scrutiny developments.

1. Summary

- 1.1. The intention of this item is to provide Members with an update on current scrutiny activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Members are asked to discuss and note any information provided.

3. Scrutiny Update

- 3.1. Select Committee Chairs will be invited to provide an oral update on any scrutiny activity related to their committee that they wish to bring to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's attention.
- 3.2. The Chair or Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may also provide an update on any relevant scrutiny developments.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. Scrutiny work is managed within existing budgets. Formal recommendations to the Mayor arising out of any specific work items within select committee work programmes or considered by the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee are evaluated in the usual way through the process of formal reports. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal implications

5.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. Equalities implications

6.1. The delivery of the Council's equalities objectives is to be achieved through the delivery of all of the Council's strategies, plans and procedures. As such, all select committees and other scrutiny bodies, when planning their work and scrutinising items, bear in mind the delivery of the Council's equality objectives.

6.2. Scrutiny tries to make sure that its work reflects the diversity of Lewisham's communities and that the views of residents are fairly represented in scrutiny processes. Any recommendations arising from scrutiny work support the Council's corporate strategy and reflect the needs of local residents.

7. Climate change and environmental implications

7.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

8. Crime and disorder implications

8.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

9.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

10. Glossary

Term	Definition
Overview & Scrutiny	Overview and scrutiny is the way in which Mayor and Cabinet (the 'Executive'), officers and external organisations are held to account for the decisions that they make. It is led by councillors who are not members of the Executive. They also influence policy development and investigate issues of local concern, making recommendations for improvement.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	A committee made up of all non-executive councillors which carries out scrutiny focussing on strategic and cross cutting issues.
Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel (OSBP) and Education OSBP	Lewisham has two Business Panels (sub-committees of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee). OS Business Panel is made up of the chair and vice-chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the chair of each of the Select Committees, and two other non-Executive councillors. The main functions of Business Panel are reviewing key decisions once they have been taken (potentially "calling in" key decisions that have been made but not yet implemented); coordinating and approving the overall scrutiny work programme; and allocating scrutiny work in the event that it crosses the remit of more than one scrutiny body. Three parent governors and two diocesan representatives sit

	on the Education Business Panel, alongside the councillors that make up the regular Business Panel. The Education Business Panel reviews (and can call-in) key decisions that are education matters.
Select Committee	Lewisham has six Select Committees (sub-committees of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee), each made up of non-Executive councillors and responsible for scrutinising a specific service area. Select Committees gather evidence to help them review policies and performance and make recommendations to improve outcomes for residents.
Select Committee Work Programmes	The annual programme of work setting out the matters which each select committee will scrutinise over the year.

11. Report author and contact

- 11.1. Charlotte Dale, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, 0208 31 48286,
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Agenda Item 5



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report title: Question & Answer Session with the Mayor

Date: 10 November 2020

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Assistant Chief Executive (Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this item is to allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to question the Mayor on matters within his remit.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Note any responses to advance questions, appended at Appendix A (these will be circulated before the meeting).
- Ask the Mayor questions.

1 Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this item is to allow Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask questions of the Mayor.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Note any responses to advance questions, appended at Appendix A (these will be circulated before the meeting).
- Ask the Mayor questions.

3 Policy Context

- 3.1 The strategic priorities of the [Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022](#) are:

[Open Lewisham](#) - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.

[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 an 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.

- 3.2 The work carried out by the Mayor and his Cabinet directly contributes to the Council's corporate priorities.

4 Scrutinising the Executive

- 4.1 Part of the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to hold the Council's Executive to account. Therefore it may hold Question & Answer sessions with the Mayor and Cabinet Members.

- 4.2 Each Question & Answer session will explore the work the Mayor (or a Cabinet Member) has done in relation to their portfolio, looking at priorities, actions, achievements and impact.

- 4.3 The Mayor is responsible for the strategic direction of the Council, leads the community and speaks up for the borough. The Mayor is also the cabinet portfolio holder for COVID-19 response and recovery.

- 4.4 Brief written responses to any advance questions from Committee Members can be found at Appendix A. (These will be published before the meeting).

- 4.5 The Committee may wish to focus questions on:

- Notable activities and achievements
- Current priorities
- Current challenges
- Any key decisions going to Mayor & Cabinet over the next 6 months.

- 4.6 The Committee may choose to focus its questions on two current issues of primary importance: the response to the pandemic and the Council's financial position. However, Members can, of course, ask questions on any aspect of the Mayor's remit.

- 4.7 Following the session the Committee may choose to make a referral to Mayor and Cabinet in relation to what the Committee has heard, including any actions it would like the Mayor to consider.

5 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6 Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

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7 Equalities implications

- 7.1 The Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. 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.
- 7.2 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.

8 Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1 There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

9 Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

10 Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

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