

# Overview and Scrutiny



## Public Accounts Select Committee Agenda

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

**7.00 pm**, Remote - on Microsoft Teams - the public are welcome to observe via the Council's website at <https://lewisham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

For more information contact: Timothy Andrew  
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This meeting is an open meeting and all items on the agenda may be audio recorded and/or filmed.

### Part 1

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# Public Accounts Select Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 17 March 2021.

Kim Wright, Chief Executive  
Tuesday, 9 March 2021

Councillor Patrick Codd (Chair)	
Councillor Alan Hall (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Tauseef Anwar	
Councillor Jim Mallory	
Councillor Paul Maslin	
Councillor Joan Millbank	
Councillor Bill Brown (ex-Officio)	
Councillor Sophie Davis (ex-Officio)	

## Minutes of the Public Accounts Select Committee Tuesday, 2 February 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Patrick Codd (Chair), Tauseef Anwar, Jim Mallory, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank, Bill Brown and Sophie Davis

Apologies: Councillor Alan Hall

Also present: Councillor John Muldoon, Councillor James Rathbone, Councillor Luke Sorba, Councillor Chris Barnham (Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance), Councillor Paul Bell (Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning), Councillor Chris Best (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care), Councillor Brenda Dacres (Cabinet Member for Safer Communities), Councillor Amanda De Ryk (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources), Mayor Damien Egan (Mayor), Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager), David Austin (Director of Corporate Resources), Suki Binjal (Director of Law, Governance & HR), Tom Brown (Executive Director for Community Services), Kathy Freeman (Executive Director for Corporate Resources), Pinaki Ghoshal (Executive Director for Children & Young People), Salena Mulhere (Assistant Chief Executive), Katharine Nidd (Strategic Procurement and Commercial Services Manager), Kevin Sheehan (Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm), Selwyn Thompson (Director of Financial Services) and Kim Wright (Chief Executive)

### **1. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2020**

1.1. Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2020 be agreed as an accurate record.

### **2. Declarations of interest**

2.1. There were none.

### **3. Responses from Mayor and Cabinet**

3.1. The Chair of the Committee welcomed the responses from Mayor and Cabinet – members asked that officers provide additional details in their answers to questions later in the agenda about the actions being taken to control over spending.

3.2. Resolved: that the responses from Mayor and Cabinet be noted.

### **4. Budget cuts**

4.1. Kathy Freeman (Executive Director for Corporate Resources) introduced the report – setting out the financial situation facing the Council – the following key points were noted:

- Before the announcement of the local government funding settlement – officers anticipated a gap of more than £50m in the Council's finances over the next three years (with £34m of this being in 2021-22).
- The £34m gap for 2021-22 included £10m of savings required to address persistent and recurring overspending.
- The headline from the provisional settlement announced in December was better than expected.

- Confirmation had been received regarding additional funding available for social care as well as the Council's ability to increase Council tax to fund cost pressures in social care.
- The impact of the settlement means that there is a revised budget gap of £28m as opposed to £34m for next year.
- A number of cuts have already been through the pre-decision scrutiny process and on to Mayor and Cabinet.
- Additional cuts of £15m were being presented to scrutiny – with £13m identified for next year (bringing the total to £28m).
- The impact of the pandemic is still significant and having an ongoing impact on the Council's finances.
- There are also ongoing risks to the Council's ability to deliver the agreed savings.
- There are ongoing uncertainties around the funding available from government in the medium term.

4.2. Kathy Freeman responded to questions from the Committee – the following key points were noted:

- The Council has £150m of earmarked reserves. The current projected overspend to the end of the year is approximately £3m, which would have to be drawn from the non-earmarked reserves of £20m – however – this is contingent on the receipt of grant funding and spending to the end of the year.
- The collection of council tax and business rates had been impacted by the pandemic.
- Officers recognise the pressures in the Children and Young People's directorate budget.
- £35m of cuts would need to be delivered in the coming year (including £7m of cuts that had been paused due to the pandemic). The Council is putting in place a robust, risk based programme management approach to implementation of the cuts.

4.3. Pinaki Ghoshal (Executive Director for Children and Young People) outlined the approach being taken to ensure that the equality impacts of the cuts were being monitored and mitigated (where possible).

4.4. In response to a question from the Committee, Pinaki Ghoshal confirmed that updates on the impact of budget cuts could be brought to the Committee on a regular basis.

4.5. Pinaki Ghoshal also responded to questions about proposed cuts to funding for children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) – the following key points were noted:

- The Council anticipated increased investment from the NHS into CAMHS.
- Investment by the Council is being targeted to early support for families and young people.
- A process is being put in place to activate contingency measures to support CAMHS, should this be needed as a result of increased referrals.

4.6. In Committee discussions (including consideration of the specific cuts assigned to the Committee) the following key points were also noted:

- The process being followed to ensure that the identified cuts would be delivered was welcomed.

- Members asked questions about the decision making for the proposed cuts to children’s mental health services (C22 – reduction to the generic Council funded children and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) provision).
  - Members noted their displeasure at the government pay freeze for public sector workers.
  - The support for good contract management and efficiency.
  - The risk of cuts not being delivered.
- 4.7. Councillor Sorba (Chair of the Children and Young People Select Committee) addressed the Committee – outlining the CYP Committee’s concerns about the proposed cuts to mental health services for children and young people – particularly in relation to the damaging impact of the pandemic. Cllr Sorba recommended that the Public Accounts Select Committee endorse a proposal to draw on the Council’s un-earmarked reserves in order to avoid making the proposed cuts to these services.
- 4.8. Councillor Chris Barnham (Cabinet Member for Children’s Services and School Performance) addressed the Committee regarding the cuts to CAMHS provision – highlighting the Council’s long term support for mental health services and the actions being taken to support children, young people and families. He outlined a plan to hold funding in contingency to fund potential issues as they arose.
- 4.9. Councillor John Muldoon (Chair of the Healthier Communities Select Committee) addressed the Committee – highlighting the Council’s corporate policy to ‘insource’ services where possible and comments made in the Committee’s written referral.
- 4.10. Councillor James Rathbone (Vice-Chair of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee) addressed the Committee – restating the challenging financial situation facing, which had resulted in the proposals for cuts. He also noted the importance of considering the equalities implications of the proposed cuts.
- 4.11. Councillor Anwar asked that his opposition to the CAHMS cuts proposal (C22) be noted.
- 4.12. Resolved: that the Committee refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet as follows –
- The Committee reiterates its concerns about the challenging financial situation facing the Council and it is aware of the difficult task facing officers in identifying and delivering cuts.
  - The Committee notes the views of the select committees but it recognises the need to make the cuts as proposed.

## **5. Council budget 2021-22**

- 5.1. Mayor Egan addressed the Committee – noting the challenging financial situation facing the Council following more than ten years of austerity. He highlighted that the Council’s budget was half of what it was in 2010 and that there were now 1000 fewer members of Council staff. Whilst lamenting the need to make cuts and set a balanced budget he also outlined some of the successful work carried out by the Council in restrained circumstances.

5.2. Kathy Freeman presented the budget report – the following key points were noted:

- There is a legal requirement for the Council to set a balanced budget.
- The impact of the pandemic had been significant on the Council's finances.
- The figures in the report are based on the provisional local government settlement.
- The fair funding and business rates reviews have been delayed – and the medium term financial strategy (whilst prudent) could not account for significant swings in funding.
- The Council's general fund budget would be a net requirement of £243m in 2021-22 (which would incorporate cuts of £28m from two rounds of cuts proposals).
- It is proposed that there be a council tax increase of 4.99% (including a 3% increase to fund social care).
- The Council will continue its prudent approach to treasury management.
- The capital programme is proposed to be £184m in 2021-22.
- Work is taking place to enable the Council to recover from the pandemic – whilst ensuring financial resources are used effectively to support the recovery of the whole borough.
- A number of spending controls are in place to tackle overspending pressures.
- Funding had been set aside for service development, transformation and the delivery of cuts proposals.

5.3. Kathy Freeman responded to questions from the Committee – the following key points were noted:

- End of year overspending (currently projected to be £3.2m would have to be taken from un-earmarked reserves).
- Funds had been set aside for risks and pressures (which had been the case for a number of years – as outlined in the medium term financial strategy). This was not a 'contingency fund' to cover unachieved cuts.
- Councils are funded on the basis of the census – which did not take account of the changes in population between censuses.
- There were potential benefits from the business rate pool when things were going well. In the context of the pandemic (and associated financial risks) the Council was in a better position out of the pooling arrangements.
- There remained risk and uncertainties in achieving the plans set out in the budget.

5.4. Resolved: that the Committee refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet as follows –

- The Committee acknowledges the difficult circumstances facing the Council – and it commends the work of officers in responding to the pandemic – whilst also managing critical services and identifying additional cuts to budgets.
- The Committee believes that the hard work and dedication of Council officers in developing the 2021-22 budget should be recognised and praised.

**6. Select Committee work programme**

6.1. Tom Brown (Executive Director for Community Services) responded to questions from the Committee about the adult social care review. He noted that the review had commenced – and that a paper would be presented to the Healthier Communities Select Committee at the end of February.

6.2. Resolved: that the process for prioritising the work programme be noted.

The meeting ended at 21:20

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Public Accounts Select Committee

### Declarations of Interest

**Date:** 2020-21

**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, 020 83147648



## Mayor and Cabinet

### **Response to Public Accounts Select Committee on Budget Cuts**

**Date:** 3 February 2021

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Executive Management Team

### **Outline and recommendations**

Mayor and Cabinet have been asked to consider the comments of the Public Accounts Select Committee of the 2 February 2021, which incorporates the views of the respective select committees. This paper sets out the views of the Public Accounts Select Committee and officers' responses advising as to what has been undertaken, or will be undertaken, to take account of each Committee's comments.

It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet:

- Notes the response that follows in relation to the Public Accounts Select Committee referral to Mayor and Cabinet on 2 February 2021.

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

26 February 2020 – Budget report to Council

10 June 2020 – Council's response to COVID-19 – financial update report to Mayor and Cabinet (M&C)

9 July 2020 – First 2020/21 financial monitoring report to M&C

7 October 2020 – Financial stabilisation and medium term budget update report to M&C

11 November – 3 December 2020 – Select Committees reviewed and comments on draft proposals for cuts identified to date.

9 December 2020 – Mayor and Cabinet agreed that progress with identifying budget cuts, the £18.9m shortfall against the target for 2021/22 be noted, and that these be brought back in February 2021 for consideration.

2 February 2021 - Public Accounts Select Committee (PASC) collated the comments on the proposals received from Select Committees to refer to Mayor and Cabinet.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. On 2 February 2021, Public Accounts Select Committee received a report outlining proposed cuts to address persistent service overspending pressure of £10m and the budget gap identified in the medium term finance strategy of at least £40m over the next three years. The majority, £10m overspend and £24m of cuts, are needed for the 2021/22 Budget.
- 1.2. Since the round 1 cuts proposals were considered the provisional Local Government Finance (LGFS) settlement has been announced. The impact of the settlement has reduced the 21/22 gap from £34m to £28m. If all the available measures are agreed as part of the budget, including applying the maximum council tax increases, this could reduce the requirement for cuts next year to £18m plus the overspend £10m, a total of £28m. This would close the gap, subject to the budget decisions for next year and timely delivery of the agreed cuts in full, for 2021/22 and enable the Council to set a balanced budget.
- 1.3. Public Accounts Select Committee also received and collated comments from Select Committees to refer on to Mayor and Cabinet.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Mayor and Cabinet have been asked to consider the comments of the Public Accounts Select Committee meeting of the 2 February 2021, which incorporates the views of the respective select committees. This paper sets out the views of the Public Accounts Select Committee and officers' responses advising as to what has been undertaken, or will be undertaken, to take account of each Committee's comments.
- 2.2. It is recommended that the Mayor and Cabinet:
  - Notes the response that follows in relation to the Public Accounts Select Committee referral to Mayor and Cabinet on 2 February 2021.

## Policy Context

- 2.3. 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

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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.
- 2.4. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), agreed by M&C on the 7 October as part of the financial stabilisation and budget update report, identified an anticipated funding gap over the next three years of at least £40m with £24m for 2021/22. Added to this there is growing evidence that the base Budget retains a persistent £10m overspend in key service areas. Since the round 1 cuts proposals were considered the provisional Local Government Finance (LGFS) settlement has been announced. If all the available measures are agreed as part of the budget, including applying the maximum council tax increases, this could reduce the requirement for cuts next year to £18m plus the overspend £10m, a total of £28m. This would close the gap, subject to the budget decisions for next year and timely delivery of the agreed cuts in full, for 2021/22 and enable the Council to set a balanced budget.
- 2.5. Not only is the Council obliged to set a balanced budget there is limited room for manoeuvre in terms of using reserves to do this. The Council's reserves will be needed to address the immediate impact of the COVID-19 health pandemic and potentially prolonged slow economic recovery on the Council's finances without further support from government, as well as any impacts arising from the UK's exit from the EU.

## Values

- 2.6. Values are critical to the Council's role as an employer, regulator, 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.
- 2.7. Very 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 here in this report, incorporating further budget cuts for 2020/21.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Council's finances have been severely affected by the ongoing pandemic. The cost of coronavirus for Lewisham is estimated to be over £60m. 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. We must now begin the long, difficult process of identifying cuts of at least £40m for the next three years (to April 2024) with £24m to be cut in 2021/22 alone plus tackling the continuing overspend estimated at £10m.
- 3.2. With national restrictions now in place, the Council is acting quickly once again to protect critical services and support vulnerable residents through another very challenging period. We now face the challenge of needing to simultaneously respond to current and any future waves of the pandemic, plan for the long-term recovery of the place and set a balanced budget, establishing the financial basis for the internal recovery of the Council in the coming years. While it seems clear that the Council will

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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.

#### **4. Response to Public Accounts Select Committee comments to Mayor and Cabinet on 2 February 2021**

- 4.1. On Tuesday 2 February 2021, the Public Accounts Select Committee considered a report from officers on budget cuts proposals ([link to the agenda for the Public Accounts Select Committee meeting on 2 February 2021](#)). The Committee heard from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and received a summary of the budget cuts report from the Executive Director for Corporate Resources. It also received written comments from the Healthier Communities, Sustainable Development, Children and Young People and Safer Stronger Communities select committees - following the respective committees consideration of the same report. Chairs of the Healthier Communities and Children and Young People select committees also addressed the Committee.
- 4.2. The Public Accounts Select Committee received the report on proposed budget cuts and asked questions of officers. It also received the views of the other select committees. The Committee agreed to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet as follows:
  - *The Committee reiterates its concerns about the challenging financial situation facing the Council and it is aware of the difficult task facing officers in identifying and delivering cuts.*
- 4.3. In response to the Committee's first comment, the scale of the cuts required and the ongoing uncertainty with regards to both the long term impact of the pandemic on the borough's residents and the funding for the Council has meant that the approach to developing the officers' draft proposals for cuts this year was intentionally more strategic and collaborative. Not only at the officer level with more collaborative working at Executive Director and Director level across Directorate boundaries but also with Members through a series of sessions on each of the six themes identified to discuss and collect as many perspectives and ideas as possible.
- 4.4. As noted by the Committee, the delivery of these cuts in such a challenging financial situation has been recognised and in response Officers will be applying a programme management approach to delivery. 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, working in tandem with Finance 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.
- 4.5. 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.
  - *The Committee notes the views of the select committees but it recognises the need to*

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*make the cuts as proposed.*

- 4.6. The following paragraphs set out the comments and clarifications from Select Committees. Officers have provided responses to each of the Select Committees below. The Mayor and Cabinet are recommended to consider the comments of Select Committees and officers' responses.

## Healthier Communities Select Committee views

- 4.7. At its meeting on Wednesday 13 January 2021, the Healthier Communities Select Committee received a report on proposed budget cuts. Following discussion the committee resolved to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet in the following terms:
- *In relation to proposal **B-08 Review of the Power of Attorney Service** (Round 1) the committee noted that the power of attorney service is an extremely important and trusted service to the small number of very vulnerable people who are supported by it and recommended therefore that the council continues to provide the service in-house, charging users a fair price for its provision.*
- 4.8. In response to the Committee's first comment, the Executive Director for Corporate Services has noted the Committee's comments. Officers are considering options for how this service could be delivered from next year. Costs for managing finances for residents for whom we are responsible under power of attorney are prescribed by central government and one option to cover our costs is to charge those we manage finances for under appointeeship rules. Officers are also exploring whether this service can be provided through external organisations like financial advisors, financial institutions like banks or solicitors. Officers are also exploring existing charities to determine whether or not these organisations can provide support going forward.
- *In relation to proposal **C-02, Adult Learning and Day opportunities** (Round 1) the committee noted that many service users could potentially struggle to find meaningful daytime occupation during the long breaks in adult education that there are, such as during the summer holidays. The committee recommended therefore that the council consider making adult learning available all-year round for service users.*
  - *The committee also recommended that the adult learning service work closely with the council to make sure there are appropriate job opportunities available following any training and education, and that the council consider developing a corporate approach to employing more people with disability itself, particularly those with learning disability – looking to the approach of our local partners, such as health, for guidance.*
- 4.9. The Executive Director for Community Services has noted the Committee's comments. Adult Learning Lewisham is funded by the GLA and staff are on term-time contracts. However we recognise that for some people who use this service, alternative provisions will have to be made for those with eligible needs outside of term-time. This is being developed as part of the integrated model set out in proposal C-02. Supported employment and volunteering opportunities within the Council and key partners are being explored.
- *In relation to proposal **E-04 – introduce charging for certain elements of self-funded care packages** (Round 1) the committee recommended ongoing monitoring of this change to ensure that the council's brokerage service, and bulk purchasing power, continues to provide a financial benefit for users, compared to users approaching service providers as individuals.*
- 4.10. The Executive Director for Community Services has noted the Committee's comments. Where the Council provides brokerage services to people who fully fund their own care, they benefit from quality oversight, support in making changes and benefiting

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from any reduced costs that the Council is able to secure for them. Charges will only apply to people who opt in to this arrangement.

- *In relation to proposal C-13, Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Primary Care (Round 2) the committee expressed concerns about the possible adverse impacts of reducing LARC (Long-Acting Reversible Contraception) activity and recommended that work continues to be done to monitor and address high levels of abortions and teenage pregnancies in the borough.*

4.11. The Executive Director for Community Services has noted the Committee's comments. The Council will continue work closely with partners to monitor data on abortion levels and teenage pregnancies and to support young people and families in the borough. The Council would continue to fund existing levels of GP LARC activity and seek to ensure that residents across Lewisham are able to access LARC through their GP within their Primary Care Network.

## Sustainable Development Select Committee views

4.12. On Thursday 14 January 2021, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered a report from officers on budget cuts proposals. Following discussion, the Committee resolved to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet as follows:

- *Better contract management is key to a number of the cuts proposals. The Committee believes that Mayor and Cabinet should assure itself that through good organisational development and training for senior, mid and junior managers, the Council is able to effectively manage contracts at every stage of the cycle and attain the cost savings as proposed.*

4.13. The Executive Management Team has noted the Committee's comments. As part of the pressures of funding in 2020/21 the procurement service was expanded to include central contract management resourcing and capability. The team is now in place and is able to support staff at every stage of the commissioning and procurement process. This includes both training and specific support. The Council has a commissioning and contract management framework and the central team which works closely with services across the organisation providing advice and support on procurement activity for all employees of the Council. The team provides a focal point for procedures on procurement and best practice commercial approaches to help services achieve value for money for the Council. The Contracts team in Legal Services also provides advice, document drafting and guidance on the legal implications of the procurement process.

4.14. These changes were introduced as part of the organisation's response to PASC's previous reviews of commercialisation and the Council's approach, and this will continue into our developing organisational development strategy with plans to further develop the wider organisation's commercial awareness. It is recognised by EMT that the area of effective contract management is one that requires greater focus so this will also feature in training and development plans as part of the emerging organisational development strategy.

- *The Committee recommends that Mayor and Cabinet asks officers to carry out a review of the Council's online services (particularly those provided by third parties, such as online parking facilities) ensuring a good user experience and quality integration with existing systems.*

4.15. The Executive Management Team has noted the committee's comments. As part of the Council's refreshed approach to strategic transformation, across the organisation there will be a renewed focus on resident experience. This will include the use of digital to ensure resident-focused experiences are built into our online services and those of our partners. Council online parking facilities will also be reviewed to ensure good user experience and quality integration with existing systems.

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- *In relation to **proposal F22 (Motorcycle parking charges)** – the Committee recommends that, if Mayor and Cabinet is minded to agree the proposal to introduce charging for motorcycles, the Council should work with other enforcement partners to ensure those who are illegally parking on the pavement also have enforcement action taken upon them.*
- 4.16. The Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm has noted the committees' comments and confirms that the Council will be able to enforce parking on the public highway, including illegal parking on the pavement, making best use of our relationships and close working with our enforcement partners.
- *In relation to **proposal F20 (Emission based charging for short stay parking)** - the Committee recommends that the Council should move to a cashless parking system as soon as possible. Members of the Committee believe that £400K is too much to spend on upgrading pay and display machines. The Committee also believes that any reference in the budget cuts report to re-investment of parking charges in transport improvements should be removed – because the reality is that the Council will be using the money to support transport costs already contained within the general fund.*
- 4.17. The Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm has noted the committee's comments. Under current legislation (the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Section 55) any surplus raised can only be spent on transport related schemes which are specified in the legislation, such as meeting the cost of providing and maintaining parking facilities, highways improvement works (including schemes to improve conditions for walking and cycling), highways maintenance (carriageway and footway), public passenger transport services - such as concessionary fares, the Freedom Pass and the Taxicard scheme - and the costs of anything approved by the Mayor of London which facilitates implementation of the Mayor's transport strategy.
- 4.18. The £400k is required to upgrade all 65 existing Pay and Display machines to be able to identify permits for motorcycles. This investment in the Pay and Display machines would not be required if a cashless parking system was introduced. Such a decision would require further development and scoping by officers and an amendment to our parking policy.
- *The Committee understands that a large cut needs to be made in waste management and street cleaning and that a comprehensive review will be done to enable this to happen in the most efficient way possible. However, it regrets that this will mean redundancies amongst the Council's lowest paid workers and it highlights that this has been imposed upon us due to Government austerity. The Committee believes that any cuts to staffing must be done with sensitivity and care. The Committee welcomes Mayor and Cabinet's response to its previous referral on staffing cuts, flexible working and redeployment and it reiterates the importance of supporting and redeploying staff wherever possible.*
- 4.19. The Executive Management Team has noted the Committee's comments. There are no blanket redundancy programmes coming forward, only those as part of service redesigns, which allows officers to carefully consider how the service needs can be met, using all of the flexibility measures - such as job shares and flexible working - within our people management framework where appropriate.
- 4.20. A key principle of the Council's Managing Change (service restructure) policy is that every endeavour will be made to avoid redundancies by considering whether it is possible to rely on natural wastage, holding vacancies and reducing the number of agency workers to make reductions. Where posts are deleted the Council will aim to retain employees' skills within the organisation, wherever possible, through the redeployment process. Organisational change will be managed and implemented in line with all legal requirements including the statutory obligation to consult with staff

and the trade unions and relevant employment legislation

## Children and Young People Select Committee views

- 4.21. At its meeting on Thursday 21 January 2021, the Children and Young People Select Committee received a report on proposed budget cuts. Following discussion the committee resolved to refer its views to Public Accounts Select Committee in the following terms:
- *The Committee, taking into account compelling evidence of the escalating and damaging effect of the Pandemic on children and young people's mental health, warnings expressed by specialist Health Professionals, Academics, Educators, Charities, Parents and Campaign groups, and the indefinite third national lockdown along with prolonged school closures (which were not anticipated when this proposal was initially drafted) recommend not to go ahead with **Proposal C-22 (£250,000 cut in Council contribution to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services)** in the financial year 2021/22.*
- 4.22. The Executive Director for Children and Young People has noted the Committee's concerns. Since 2018 Lewisham Council has given a high priority to supporting effective mental health services for our young people. This has included working through our partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to secure improvements in funding and performance. As a result, overall funding has increased from £5.2m in 2018 to £7.1m this year (a rise of 36% in three years). The budget is expected to increase again next year, and we will continue to press for investment to reflect the needs of our young population. Alongside this, the Council has worked closely with the leadership of the South London and Maudsley (SLaM), who provide NHS CAMHS, and we have seen significant improvements to the service, performance and waiting times.
- 4.23. We are also strengthening our early intervention and prevention services, so that children and families in need can so far as possible get support before problems escalate to a level where acute NHS interventions are required. This early intervention approach has been well received and was seen as valuable by head teachers when schools welcomed back more children after the Spring 2020 lockdown. Despite these improvements, there is future uncertainty of need for NHS CAMHS support post-lockdown. There has been speculation that a prolonged school closure might impact badly on some children, although it should be noted that no such surge in demand took place over the course of last year and the previous lockdowns (referrals have remained at a similar level to previous years). However, we take this concern very seriously. Therefore officers have been asked to work up a contingency proposal that would ring fence the £250,000 reclaimed from the SLaM NHS contract against that possible post-lockdown need. If the fears of a surge in demand materialised, the Council would have the flexibility to respond wherever was most effective. For example, it is possible that the stresses of school absence might initially produce a rise in mental health concerns in schools and 'upstream' community services. It would be important to be able to respond to that. On the other hand, if our monitoring of GP referrals to NHS CAMHS showed a worrying increase on what we would normally expect, we could use our commissioning levers to liaise with NHS CAMHS to establish their capacity to respond, and recommend allocating contingency to SLaM as appropriate.
- *The Committee recommends that the **proposal C-23 (that £350,000 of the Health Visitor budget transfers to other parts of the public health budget)** is not made in the financial year 2021/22, considering the risk to families with children under 2 and our existing poor Healthy Child Programme (HCP) coverage. This would enable efforts to be made to improve contract management and recruit and retain health visitors. Failing this, Councillors can be presented with a clear plan for support which will be given to families with 0-*

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*2 year olds to achieve the goals of the HCP in terms of support and surveillance. The Committee feels strongly that a detailed comparison of the public health budget for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and understanding of prioritisation is necessary to fully understand the impact of the proposal before any decision is made.*

- 4.24. The Executive Director for Children and Young People has noted the Committee's concerns. Information about the use of the Public Health grant has been shared with Members. The contract with Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust is the final year of the current contract and this contract will need to be recommissioned next year. Improvements in the Healthy Child Programme will form part of the new specification. In addition, through the new Early Help and Prevention strategy we will be looking for opportunities to better align the health visiting service with wider work in this area, including with our developing Family Hubs.
- 4.25. In January 2021 we were able to confirm that the current underspend in this contract is greater than the £350,000 cut that is proposed. This is due to the difficulty in recruiting health visitors, which is a national issue. This underspend remains with the provider and cannot be used by the Council. Proposal C-23 in effect provides an opportunity for the Council to gain back the underspend to offset wider Council budget pressures. The Public Health grant is ringfenced and the saving made here will be used to contribute to the Council's Early Help budget.

## Safer, Stronger Communities Select Committee views

- 4.26. At its meeting on Thursday 14 January 2021, the Safer, Stronger Communities Select Committee received a report on proposed budget cuts. Following discussion the committee resolved to refer its views to Public Accounts Select Committee in the following terms:
- *That Lewisham Council agree in principle the proposed cuts to close the budget gap created by the Government, subject to the completion of Equalities Impact Assessments and feasibility studies as necessary.*
- 4.27. The Executive Management Team note the committee's comments. [Appendix 9 of the budget cuts report to Mayor and Cabinet](#) has an assessment of the impact that all of the cuts proposed has on the Council's corporate priorities, the impact by ward and an assessment of the overall equalities implications of these. This analysis describes the cumulative impact of the cuts on London Borough of Lewisham as a whole.
- *Where possible we would urge the Council to provide additional income generation support to partner organisations and in particular charitable, voluntary and community organisations.*
- 4.28. The Council supports the voluntary sector infrastructure through Lewisham Local. The capacity that is funded is there to support and expand the opportunities for the Voluntary and Community sector in the borough to develop sustainability and resilience. Any further support would require additional cuts elsewhere in the budget.

## 5. Financial implications

- 5.1. This report responds to the comment to Mayor and Cabinet on the Budget Cuts report for 2021/22. The report is concerned with the cuts proposals to enable the Council to address the future financial challenges it faces. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report other than those stated in the report and appendices itself.

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## 6. Legal implications

### Statutory duties

- 6.1. The Council has a variety of statutory duties which it must fulfil by law. The Council cannot lawfully decide not to carry out those duties. Even where there is a statutory duty there is often a discretion about the level of service provision. Where there is an impact on statutory duty that is identified in the report. In other instances, the Council provides services in pursuit of a statutory power, rather than a duty, and though not bound to carry out those activities, decisions about them must be taken in accordance with the decision making requirements of administrative law.

### Reasonableness and proper process

- 6.2. Decisions must be made reasonably taking into account all relevant considerations and disregarding all irrelevant matters. These are particular to the service reductions proposed and are set out in the body of the report. 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 requirements are set down in legislation. For example, depending on the service, there may be a need to consult with service users and/or others and where this is the case, any proposals in this report must remain proposals unless and until that consultation is carried out and the responses brought back in a further report for consideration with an open mind before any decision is made. Whether or not consultation is required, any decision to discontinue a service would require appropriate notice. If the Council has published a procedure for handling service reductions, there would be a legitimate expectation that such procedure will be followed.

### Staffing reductions

- 6.3. If service reductions would result in redundancy, then the Council's usual redundancy and redeployment procedure would apply. If proposals would result in more than 20 but fewer than 100 redundancies in any 90 day period, there would be a requirement to consult for a period of 30 days with trade unions under Section 188 Trade Union and Labour Relations (consolidation) Act 1992. The consultation period increases to 45 days if the numbers are 100 or more. This consultation is in addition to the consultation required with the individual employees. If a proposal entails a service re-organisation, decisions in this respect will be taken by officers in accordance with the Council's re-organisation procedures.

### Equalities Legislation

- 6.4. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. 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.
- 6.5. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed in the

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paragraph above. The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The Mayor must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has 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 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:

- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice>
- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-technical-guidance>

6.6. 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: A guide for public authorities.
- Objectives and the equality duty. A guide for public authorities.

6.7. Equality Information and the Equality Duty: A Guide for Public Authorities. 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:

- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance#h1> The EHRC has also issued Guidance entitled “Making Fair Financial Decisions”.
- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/making-fair-financial-decisions>. It appears at Appendix 4 and attention is drawn to its contents. The equalities implications pertaining to the specific service reductions are particular to the specific reduction.

### **The Human Rights Act**

6.8. Since the introduction of the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) have been incorporated into UK law and can be enforced in the UK courts without recourse to the European courts. Those articles which are particularly relevant in to public services are as follows:

- Article 2 - the right to life
- Article 3 - the right not to be subject to inhuman or degrading treatment
- Article 5 - the right to security of the person

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- Article 6 - the right to a fair trial
  - Article 8 - the right to a private and family life, home and correspondence
  - Article 9 - the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion
  - Article 10 - the right to freedom of expression
  - Article 11 - the right to peaceful assembly
  - Article 14 - the right not to be discriminated against on any ground The first protocol to the ECHR added
  - Article 1 - the right to peaceful enjoyment of property
  - Article 2 - the right to education
- 6.9. Some of these rights are unconditional, such as the right not to be tortured or subject to degrading treatment. Others may be limited in finite and well defined circumstances (such as the right to liberty). Others are qualified and must be balanced against the need of the wider community – such as the right to a private and family life. Where there are human rights implications associated with the proposals in this report regard must be had to them before making any decision.

#### **Best value**

- 6.10. The Council remains under a duty under Section 3 Local Government Act 1999 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 respect of this report.

#### **Specific legal implications**

- 6.11. Members' attention is drawn to the specific legal implications arising in relation to particular proposals set out in the relevant proforma in Appendices 2 to 7 of this report and Appendix

## **7. Equalities implications**

- 7.1. A detailed policy and equality implications have been appended to the report to Mayor and Cabinet as Appendix 9.

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

- 8.1. Section 40 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” The specific climate change and environmental implications identified as arising from the current cuts proposals will require further consideration, however, those flagged as likely to impact positively on our ability to conserve biodiversity are: E-11, F-15a, F-20, F-21 and F-22.

## **9. Crime and disorder implications**

- 9.1. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to have regard to the likely effect on crime and disorder when it exercises its functions, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.
- 9.2. Whilst there are no specific crime and disorder implications as yet identified as arising from the current cuts proposals, a number of these will require further consideration as to whether these will impact either positively or negatively on our ability to reasonably prevent crime and disorder. These are cuts C-09 and C-29.

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## 10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1. The specific health and wellbeing implications identified as arising from the current cuts proposals will require further consideration, however, those flagged as likely to impact either positively or negatively on the health and wellbeing of residents or service users are: A-13, B-11, C-12, C-13, C-14, C-15, C-16, C-17, C-21, C-22, C-23, C-26, C-28 and F-24.

## 11. Glossary

Term	Definition
CPZ	Controlled Parking Zone
CSR	Comprehensive Spending Review
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
ECHR	European Convention of Human Rights
EMT	Executive Management Team
FFR	Fair Funding Review
GF	General Fund
GLA	Greater London Authority
HR	Human Resources
HRA	Housing Revenue Account
LGA	Local Government Association
LGFS	Local Government Finance Settlement
M&C	Mayor & Cabinet
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Local Government and Communities
MTFS	Medium Term Financial Strategy
PASC	Public Accounts Select Committee
PMO	Programme Management Office
SLT	Senior Leadership Team (EMT plus Directors)
VFM	Value for Money

## 12. Report author and contact

- 12.1. Charlotte Parish, Principal Officer – Policy, Service Design and Analysis

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12.2. 020 8314 6101, [charlotte.parish@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.parish@lewisham.gov.uk)

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## Public Accounts Select Committee

### Financial Monitoring (Early Close) Report 2020/21 Period 9 (December 2020)

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** None Specific

**Contributors:** Executive Director for Corporate Resources

### Outline and recommendations

This report sets out the financial forecasts for 2020/21 as at 31 December 2020.

The report covers the position on the Council's General Fund, DSG, HRA, Collection Fund and Capital programme and provides an update on the work being done to assess and monitor the financial implications of the Covid-19 response.

The summary updated position shows that there is a forecast overspend of £2.6m against the directorates' net general fund revenue budget, after the application of some £40.3m of additional government funding to support the local authority's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Second wave coronavirus costs are included where these are known and this continues to be a fluid situation. It does not include the full extent of pressures resulting from losses to sales, fees and charges. Furthermore, it is estimated that there are irrecoverable costs of some £20m on the Collection Fund. The government has indicated that forthcoming funding is expected to cover the greater proportion of these losses, but to what extent, has not yet been factored into our assumptions. Officers will continue to monitor the situation.

Executive Directors continue to work to contain non Covid-19 expenditure within budget and additional expenditure controls remain in place that require sign-off of all purchase orders by Directors for expenditure up to £5k and Executive Directors for expenditure over £5k in the expectation that the additional scrutiny may reduce non-essential expenditure. Staffing controls are also in place to ensure that any recruitment is essential to the provision of services. The results of having these controls in place is being routinely monitored and they are having a positive impact in leading to a reduction in non-essential spend. These controls will remain in place until at least of the end of the financial year before the easing of any measures is considered by the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive.

## Timeline of engagement and decision-making

26 February 2020 – 2020/21 Budget report to Council

10 June 2020 – Council's response to COVID-19 – financial update report to M&C

9 July 2020 – 2020/21 financial monitoring (May 2020) report to M&C

7 October 2020 – Financial stabilisation and medium term budget update report to M&C

11 November 2020 – 2020/21 financial monitoring (August) report to M&C

3 December 2020 – 2020/21 financial monitoring (September) report to Public Accounts Select Committee

10 February 2021 – 2021/22 Budget report, including an update on the 2020/21 financial monitoring (October) to Mayor & Cabinet

End of June 2021 – Report to Mayor and Cabinet on the 2020/21 year-end financial results

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the financial forecasts for 2020/21 as at the end of December 2020.
- 1.2. There is a forecast overspend of £2.6m against the directorates' net general fund revenue budget, after the application of additional government funding to support the local authority's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and after including the forecast extent of irrecoverable losses through sales, fees and charges and collection fund income for council tax and business rates. There was a forecast overspend of £3.2m for the period to the end of October, which was reported to Mayor & Cabinet on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 as part of the 2021/22 Budget Report. Members should note, that financial monitoring has continued since this period. This report therefore provides a comparison of the changes from November to December 2020.
- 1.3. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is currently projected to overspend by £5m at the end of the financial year. The overspend is mainly due to SEND costs. Work is continuing with schools to understand the cost implication of the rising SEND pupil numbers.
- 1.4. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is currently projecting a balanced budget position. This is set out in more detail in section 12 of this report.
- 1.5. As at 31 December 2020, 73.25% (£109.3m) of *Council Tax* due had been collected compared to 73.99% at this point last year and this was £4.2m less than the amount needed to meet the profiled amount required by the end of this month. For *Business Rates* 69.85% (£26.4m) had been collected compared to 83.87% at this point last year and this was £6.8m less than the amount needed to meet the profiled amount required by the end of this month.
- 1.6. The Capital Programme spend to the end of December is £75.3m, which is 46% of the 2020/21 of the proposed revised capital budget of £164m. The final outturn for 2019/20 was 72% (£121.2m) of the revised budget of £169.1m. Information on the major projects is set out in section 14.

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## 2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of this report is set out the financial forecasts for 2020/21 as at the end of December 2020 and projected to the year end of 31 March 2021.

## 3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Public Accounts Select Committee is asked to:
- 3.2. Note the current financial forecasts for the year ending 31 March 2021 that report a forecast overspend of £2.6m and in so doing recognise that the situation is complex with particular regard to the various streams of government funding to support the local authority's response to the coronavirus pandemic;
- 3.3. Note the action which Executive Directors are taking to manage down budget pressures within their directorates.

## 4. Directorate Forecast Outturn

- 4.1. The forecasts against the directorates' general fund revenue budgets to the end December 2020 are set out in Table 1. The Council is forecasting a net overspend of £2.6m, comprising a Covid-19 related projected overspend of £3m and a service underspend of £0.4m. To date, the Council has incurred £43.3m of Covid-19 related expenditure for the year, which is being alleviated by general and targeted government Covid-19 funding of £40.3m.
- 4.2. The latest update of the financial position includes progress on the agreed savings for 2020/21, attached at Appendix 1 and the identified in-year cash reductions totalling £5.4m, which have been summarised at Appendix 2. The overall pressures are alleviated in part by additional government funding which is being received to provide some financial support to councils to undertake additional activities in recognition of the unplanned costs which have been incurred in responding to Covid-19. The amount received by Lewisham to date, or due for imminent arrival for such purposes, totals £40.3m. Once applied to the gross spend projections, this has the effect of reducing the overall pressure down to £2.6m. This does not take into account the fully unfunded pressures for losses in sales, fees and charges income, or losses in the Collection Fund.
- 4.3. The Council has principally altered its position in how it now reports Covid-19 resources. The Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and the Winter Grant monies are now ring-fenced separately. Members of the Public Accounts Select Committee should note that the detailed process of identifying expenditure towards the grants, thereby reducing our BAU spend is continuing and will continue to be reported on it future months. Furthermore, there is an additional £800k from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for Children's social care placements this month that have now been confirmed, but also quite a significant risk (not reported in the numbers yet) from SEND placements that may have a general fund impact).
- 4.4. The estimated costs for the Collection Fund alone are expected to be in the region of some £20m. There are also further costs expected to arising as a result of the second wave of the pandemic. This latest update of the financial position includes in-year cash reductions identified by Directorates totalling £5.4m and this monitoring position continues to assume that these will be delivered in full.

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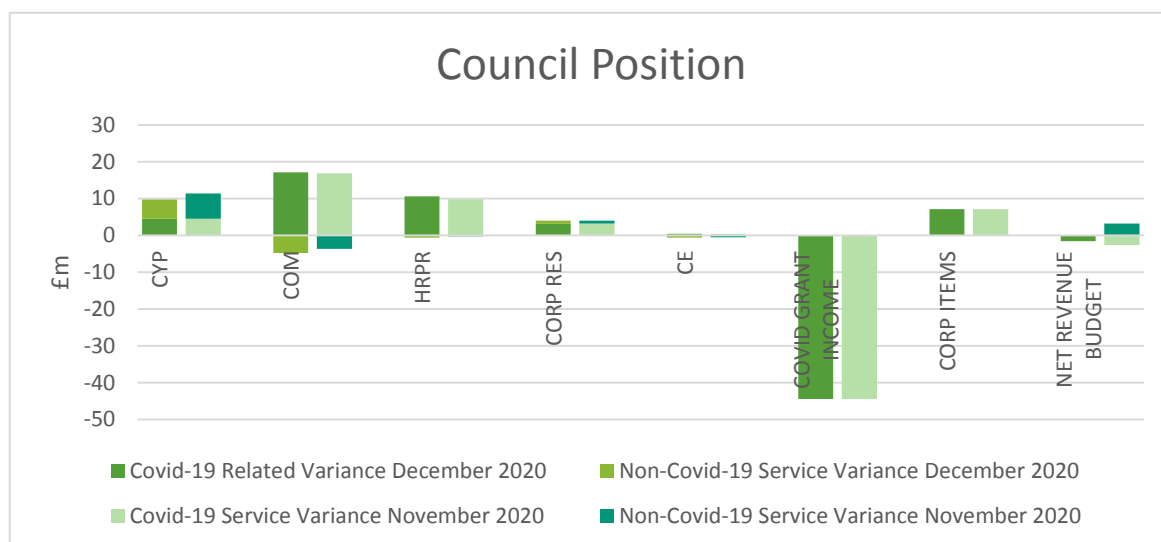
**Table 1 – Overall Directorate Position for 2020/21 to end of December 2020**

Directorate	Net budget 2020/21	DECEMBER 2020			
		Forecast Outturn 2020/21	Forecast Variance Over/ (Under) Spend	Covid-19 Related Variance	Non Covid-19 Service Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children & Young People (1) (CYP)	60.3	70.0	9.7	4.5	5.2
Community Services (COM)	89.2	101.5	12.3	17.6	(5.3)
Housing, Regen' & Public Realm (HRPR)	23.2	33.2	10.0	10.6	(0.6)
Corporate Resources (2) (CORP RES)	35.3	39.3	4.0	3.1	0.9
Chief Executive (CE)	12.2	12.0	(0.2)	0.4	(0.6)
<b>Directorate Totals</b>	<b>220.2</b>	<b>256.0</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>(0.4)</b>
Covid Grant Income	N/A	N/A	(40.3)	(40.3)	0.0
Other COVID related costs:-. Hospital Discharges, School meals contract	28.3	28.3	7.1	7.1	0.0
<b>Net Revenue Budget</b>	<b>248.5</b>	<b>284.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>(0.4)</b>

(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.

**Chart 1 – Overall Council-wide Variance for November and December 2020**



## 5. Children and Young People Directorate

- 5.1. As at the end of December 2020, there is a projected overspend of £9.7m for the directorate, which is a reduction of £1.7m compared to the position reported at the end of November. The change is as a result of agreement being reached with the CCG to reimburse £0.8m of health costs in respect of children looked after and the identification of Covid related costs totalling £0.9m following the enhanced soft close process, further details of which can be seen below.

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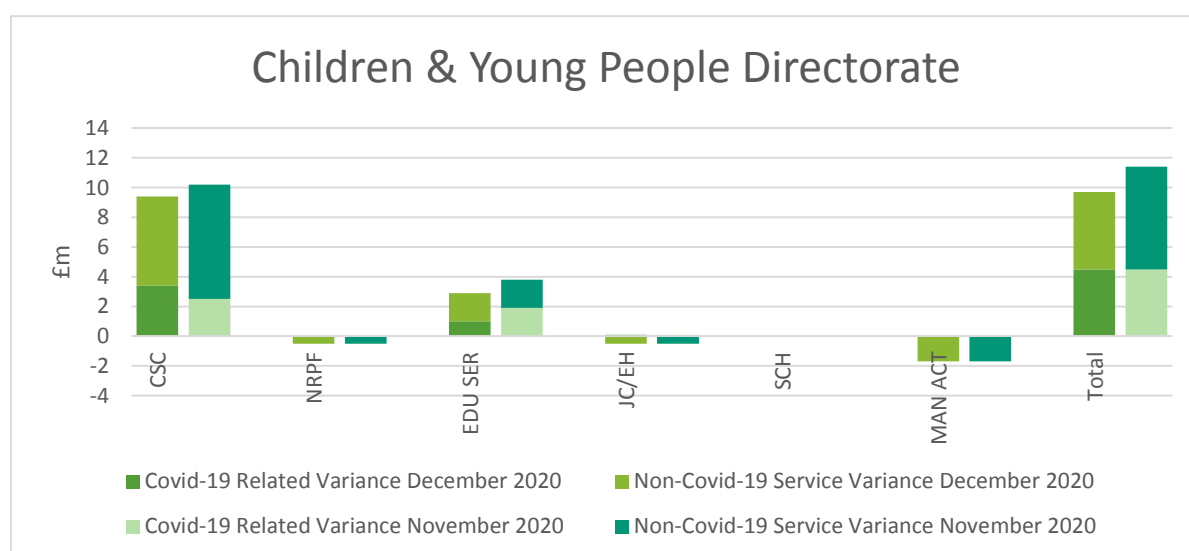
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**Table 2 – Children & Young People**

Service Area	Net budget 2020/21	Forecast Outturn 2020/21 as at end of Dec' 2020	Forecast Variance Over/ (Under) Spend Dec' 2020	Covid-19 Related Variance Dec' 2020	Non Covid-19 Related Variance Dec' 2020	Non Covid-19 Related Variance Nov' 2020
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Children's Social Care (CSC)	41.1	50.5	9.4	3.4	6.0	7.7
No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)	2.9	2.4	(0.5)	0.0	(0.5)	(0.5)
Education Services (EDU SER)	10.7	13.6	2.9	1.0	1.9	1.9
Joint Commissioning / Early Help (JC/EH)	6.9	6.5	(0.4)	0.1	(0.5)	(0.5)
Schools (SCH)	(1.3)	(1.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Management Action – Recovery plan (in progress) (MAN ACT)		(1.7)	(1.7)	0.0	(1.7)	(1.7)
<b>Revised Total</b>		<b>70.0</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>6.9</b>

**Chart 2 - Children & Young People Directorate Overall Variance – November and December 2020**



- 5.2. Paragraph 11.2 identifies a significant potential overspend in the High Needs Block in the DSG of approximately £5m which could potentially be higher dependant on the outcomes of data validation. This is currently under review and officers are working with F&HE colleges to determine the cost of supporting the increased SEND pupils, ensuring that the costs are accurately captured between the General Fund and the Dedicated schools grant.
- 5.3. The December position is derived from the commencement of the 'early close' process, the management action plan and assessment of current demand and spending patterns. The results from this process suggest a reduction in the overspend in the General Fund as Education Services' activity is reduced and refocused on dealing with situations arising from Covid-19 and an understanding of the additional costs of placing Children Looked After. At this stage, the findings from the Covid-19 assessments are being considered by senior management and awaiting validation. The current projection assumes agreement as a part of the validation process.
- 5.4. Of the total overspend, some £4.5m relates specifically to anticipated Covid-19 budget

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pressures on the General Fund and assumes non-delivery of revenue budget savings of £1.4m. In addition to this, £3.2m of Covid-19 related expenditure has been identified in respect of services not funded by the General Fund. Details are given in paragraph 5.6 below.

- 5.5. Members of the Public Accounts Select Committee are asked to note that the service has progressed the following measures with a view to reducing costs. These are:
- Ensuring that partner contributions for such placements are obtained
  - The high cost placements review board chaired by the Executive Director to ensure that high cost placements are kept to a minimum
  - Reviewing and reducing the number of interim and agency staff employed within the directorate
  - Introducing directorate specific recruitment controls
  - Reviewing all external contracts for care, starting with those of the highest value
- 5.6. The Children’s Social Care service continues to be a volatile and high risk area with potential risks arising from Covid-19 and Brexit. The Covid-19 projections has identified some level of risk relating to this area.

**Table 3 – Covid-19 Pressures for the CYP Directorate**

Service	Area	Total Cost December 2020 £m	Total Cost November 2020 £m
Children’s Social Care	Residential	1.2	0.4
	Care leavers	0.1	0.1
	Other	0.7	0.6
	Unachieved savings	1.4	1.4
Education Services	SEND	0.5	0.5
	Home to School Transport	1.0	1.0
	Other*	2.7	0.4
Joint Comm/Early Help	Contracts	0.1	0.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>7.7</b>	<b>4.5</b>

\* Net of £1.4m central and specific Covid grant funding, and including non-General Fund costs

- 5.7. The projected costs for Covid-19 pressures is £7.7m, and this represents an increase of £3.2m from the position reported in November. This position for this month is based on a more accurate assessment of the Covid-19 impact on the service budget as a result of additional placement and staffing costs, and a potential loss of grant funding arising from difficulties meeting targets as a result of Covid-19. The early close process remains ongoing and, in addition to reviewing costs between Covid-19, General Fund and other funding streams, a review of assumptions is being undertaken where estimates have been used.
- 5.8. It is important to note that Schools have received limited support from government with regards the additional costs incurred for meeting their Covid-19 health and safety requirements. The Schools’ Forum is currently in the process of making representations to the Secretary of State as a consequence. Nursery schools in particular have been excluded from any central grant funding.
- 5.9. The key divisional variances for the Children & Young People Directorate are set out in the following paragraphs.

### Children Social Care

- 5.10. As at the end of December 2020, the Children Social Care (CSC) division is reporting a budget pressures of £9.4m. This includes Covid-19 related costs of £3.4m. The non Covid-19 related overspend of £6m, relating to the placements budget, is a reduction of £1.7m compared to the figure reported in November.

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- 5.11. The CSC staffing review conducted through the first half of 2019 is currently being implemented. The budget for the new structure has been costed at £18m and the service is expecting to operate within budget, with a reduced reliance on agency staff, again subject to the constraint of Covid-19.
- 5.12. Based on the current number of placements, the current projection is spend of £34.5m, representing an overall overspend of £6m against the current budget. This has reduced £1.7m compared to the figure reported in November as a result of the identification of £0.9m additional Covid-19 costs included in the previous projection as a result of the early close process and agreement being reached with the CCG to reimburse £0.8m of health costs in respect of children looked after.
- 5.13. The total number of Children Looked After (CLAs) at any one time has fallen slightly since 2017/18 and has not increased since April 2019. However, the pattern of where CLAs are placed has altered with fewer in Lewisham in-house foster carers, more children being placed with extended family (kinship) and more in high cost residential units. More kinship placements represents a practice culture change to better support families to care for children who cannot remain with their parents and the increased use of residential placements represents the growing complexity of the children coming into care, who require specialist placements because of disabilities and/or challenging behaviours. The other significant change is the increased number of care leavers receiving a service and this includes housing support.
- 5.14. As can be seen from the table attached at Appendix 3a, the total placement numbers have moved little since April 2020. Over the same period, the number of CLAs, i.e. those in residential, foster and semi-independent placements has dropped marginally from 464 to 462. Within this figure there has been significant movement in the numbers of children in residential placements. The numbers had risen significantly from 47 in April 2019 to 63 in April 2020. Regular review of high cost placement activity has resulted in the number of children in residential placements falling to 51 by December 2020. The impact of the substantial fall in numbers can be seen when comparing the current projected outturn of £6m to the projected £10m overspend in May 2020.
- 5.15. The number of young people placed by the leaving care 18+ service has increased on average from 46 to 58. Over the same period, Special Guardianship Orders have also increased during that period from 209 to 243.
- 5.16. The numbers and graphs showing the trends for each category over this period has been attached at Appendix 3.

## Education Services

- 5.17. As at the end of December 2020, the Education Services division is projected to overspend by £2.9m relating to Special Educational Needs transport costs. The pressure includes £1m relating to additional costs arising from additional rounds needed in response to Covid-19.

## Joint Commissioning and Early Help

- 5.18. As at the end of December 2020, the Joint Commissioning and Early Help service is reporting an underspend of £0.5m, no change from the figure reported in November 2020.
- 5.19. A budget pressure of £0.1m is expected in relation to the extension the Youth Service contract approved by Mayor & Cabinet at the end of June. This is offset by an underspend of £0.2m in Children's Centres. The budgets are to be reviewed as a part of the setting up of the Early Help and Intervention service.
- 5.20. An additional pressure of £0.1m has been identified as a result of the potential loss of external funding due to the non-achievement of targets under the Troubled Families Grant.
- 5.21. An underspend of £0.5m is now expected in the Youth Offending Service. The Secure Remand placements budget is expected to underspend by £0.3m due to a combination of better demand management, an increase in grant funding and a slowdown of the court

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process due to Covid-19.

- 5.22. In addition to this, there is a underspend on the staffing budget of £0.2m which is resulting from staff vacancies and the impact of spending restrictions on both recruitment and the retention of agency staff.
- 5.23. It should be noted that budget can still be volatile as remand placements are at the discretion of the court based on the age/vulnerability of the young person and the nature of the offence.

## 6. Community Services Directorate

- 6.1. As at the end of December 2020, there is a projected overspend of £12.3m for the directorate which is a decrease of £0.8m from the projected overspend of £13.1m reported to the end of November 2020. Some £17.6m relates specifically to unanticipated Covid-19 budget pressures and assumes non delivery of revenue budget savings of £3m. The Covid-19 related budget pressure is offset by a non Covid-19 related underspend of £5.3m across services for the year. For these specific non Covid-19 service directorate variances, this represents a net improvement of £1.1m from the £3.7m underspend projected as at the end of November 2020.

**Table 4 – Community Services**

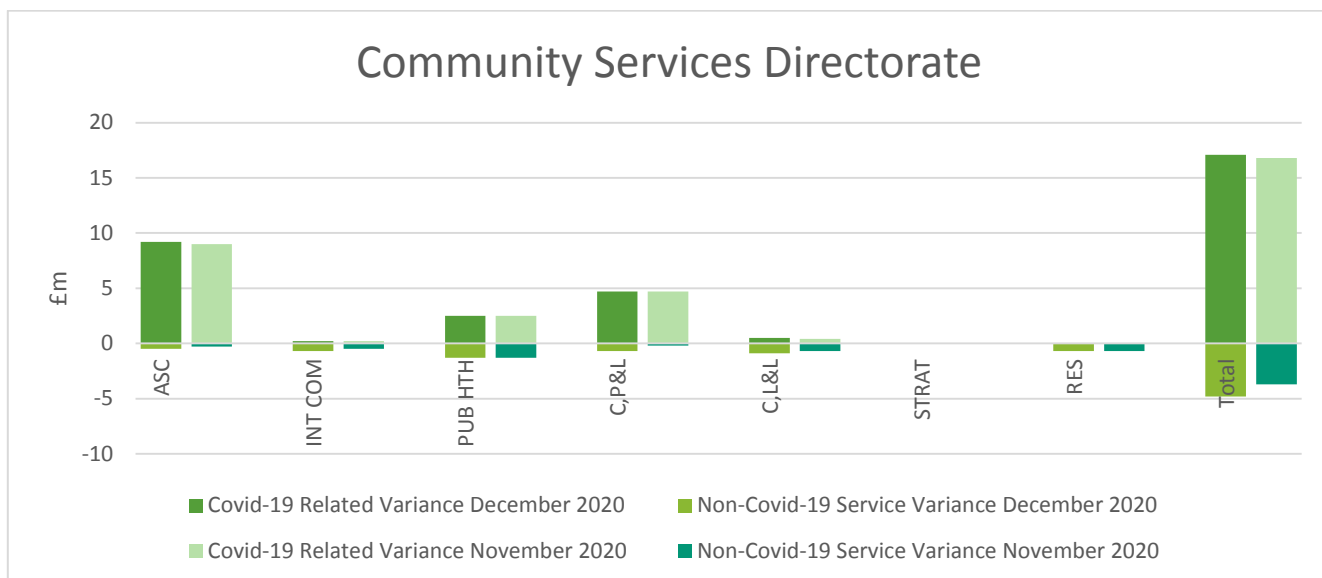
Service Area	Net budget 2020/21	Forecast Outturn 2020/21 as at end of Dec' 2020	Forecast Variance Over/ (Under) Spend Dec' 2020	Covid-19 Related Variance Dec' 2020	Non Covid-19 Related Variance Dec' 2020	Non Covid-19 Related Variance Nov' 2020
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care (ASC)	66.5	75.1	8.7	9.7	(1.1)	(0.3)
Integrated Commissioning (INT COM)	8.3	8.0	(0.5)	0.2	(0.7)	(0.5)
Public Health (PUB HTH)	(0.3)	0.9	1.2	2.5	(1.3)	(1.3)
Communities, Partnerships and Leisure (C,P&L)	9.5	13.4	4.0	4.7	(0.7)	(0.2)
Culture, Learning and Libraries (C,L&L)	4.0	3.6	(0.4)	0.5	(0.9)	(0.7)
Strategy (STRAT)	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0	0
Reserves (RES)	0.0	(0.7)	(0.7)	0.0	(0.7)	(0.7)
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>(5.3)</b>	<b>(3.7)</b>
Management action	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>(5.3)</b>	<b>(3.7)</b>

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**Chart 3 – Community Services Directorate Overall Variance – November and December 2020**



6.2. The most significant cost variances for the directorate fall within the Adult Social Care division. The following sections provide a summary of the revenue forecast by division. It provides an explanation of the cause of the variance and any movements from the previous period.

The most significant cost variances for the directorate fall within the Adult Social Care division. The following sections provide a summary of the revenue forecast by division. It provides an explanation of the cause of the variance and any movements from the previous period. It also makes clear what the impact of any management action or other intervention will have on the forecast projected to the year-end. Where any variance is impacted upon by demand driven activity, then these are also set out and made clear in this section.

### Cost of Covid-19

6.3. The estimated financial impact of Covid-19 on base budgets for expenditure and income in Community Services is £17.6m. These pressures are included in projections below. These, and similar pressures in other directorates, will be alleviated by the Covid grant that the Council has received and from other specific grants. This is summarised as follows:

**Table 5 – Community Services Directorate – Covid-19 Pressures**

Service	Area	Total forecast Dec 2020 £m	Total forecast Nov 2020 £m
Adult Social Care	PPE and Infection Control	4.8	4.7
	Market Support	1.7	1.7
	Unachieved Savings	2.5	2.5
	Other	0.7	0.6
Integrated Commissioning	Prevention and Inclusion – contract stabilisation	0.2	0.2
Public Health	Test and Trace	2.2	2.2
	Volume pressure on contracts	0.3	0.3
	Other	0.0	0.0
Communities, Partnerships & Leisure	Community Hub	0.2	0.4

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	Leisure Management – contract and other additional costs	1.7	1.8
	Leisure Management – income	0.2	0.1
	Licensing – income	0.1	0.1
	Crime, Enforcement & Regulation – compliance & enforcement	0.2	0.0
	Green Scene – income & infection control	0.4	0.4
	Bereavement Services – infection control	0.4	0.3
	Bereavement Services – London Wide Mortality Management Scheme	1.3	1.3
	Bereavement-Coroners Court Consortium	0.1	0.1
	Community Centres – income & infection control	0.1	0.2
Culture, Learning & Libraries	Adult Learning Lewisham – income & infection control	0.3	0.3
	Libraries and Broadway Theatre - income	0.2	0.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>17.6</b>	<b>16.8</b>

- 6.4. The Council has been allocated £4.3m from the Infection Control Fund. The expenditure is included in the Adult Social Care figures in the above table, with the expenditure in relation to the allocation being included in the projection this month.
- 6.5. The Council has also been allocated £2.2m for Test and Trace. This is included in the Public Health figures shown below.
- 6.6. Some £1.3bn has been awarded to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) nationally to fund the costs of hospital discharges since 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This projected income is included in the adult social care projections below as is the matching additional expenditure.
- 6.7. The estimated financial impact of Covid-19 on base budgets for expenditure and income in Community Services is £12.5m. These pressures are included in projections below. These pressures will be alleviated by the Covid grant that the Council has received and from other specific grants. This is summarised as follows:

## Adult Social Care Services

- 6.8. As at the end of December 2020, the Adult Social Care Services is reporting net budget pressures of £8.7m, including Covid-19 related costs of £9.7m.
- 6.9. The impact of Covid-19 continues to be felt within the service and this will remain the case up to March 2021 and likely beyond. The nature of the impact relates to both costs of providing care as well as pattern of demand. The Council is beginning to see increases in Non Residential care users as they are being discharged from hospital. Also the number of placements in Residential care has picked up from decline witnessed in May/June at the height of COVID. This pattern is expected to continue into 2021. At present these costs are forecast to be supported by the Covid Grant as well as Health (CCG) for discharges. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, costs will continue to be charged to the CCG for a 6 week period with expectation that service users are formally assessed with NHS colleagues, this will be to the end of the financial year. The estimated claim for the full year for this group of users is £6.1m. This position is subject to demand and is likely to change before end of financial year
- 6.10. Whilst the pressures for 2020/21 financial year will be managed within the arrangement above, it is not clear what the arrangement beyond March 2021 will be. There is a risk that

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the Council will face increased costs/demand in 2021 without the funding support it currently receives. For instance we are seeing higher levels of care from discharged clients, increase use of 24 hour care at home, and increase use of double handed care etc. These increases are not impacting as much currently because of funding support mentioned above.

- 6.11. In addition to this impact on demand and costs, Covid-19 has also changed the way social care activity is being carried out. The Council is increasingly using remote ways of working to undertake some of its tasks. Many Families of care users are resistant to face to face visits and hence there is an increased use of telephone for undertaking client assessments. There is also increased use of remote processes to undertake Care Home reviews. These innovative ways are helping to reduce backlogs but challenges remain high as staff numbers at both care homes and council are limited due to the impact of Covid-19.
- 6.12. In order to deliver the agreed savings for the next financial year, the Adult Social Care division will need to ensure that the impact of Covid-19 is clearly understood and mitigated. To enable it to do this, it is essential that the social work review is implemented in a timely manner and the expected improvements to LAS and Contocc are delivered effectively.
- 6.13. Overall numbers and costs of residential and nursing placements dropped significantly in April and May, but have since been increasing. Costs of new or increased packages for patients who have been discharged from hospital are currently recharged to the CCG. As highlighted previously, these arrangements ended on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, costs will continue to be charged to the CCG for a six week period with expectation that service users are formally assessed with NHS colleagues, this will be to the end of the financial year.
- 6.14. It is likely that service user numbers will continue to increase as the incidence of Covid-19 recedes, but it is not certain this will happen for different services. Although the demand for residential and nursing placements has reduced overall, the situation continues to be closely monitored. It can also not be said with any certainty at this point how quickly it will be possible to establish the new ways of working on which many of the planned savings depend. Some trends are attached at Appendix 4.

## Integrated Commissioning

- 6.15. The Integrated Commissioning division is expected to underspend by £0.5m. including Covid-19 related costs of £0.2m.
- 6.16. The Prevention and Inclusion budget is projecting an overall net underspend of £0.3m. There is a COVID-19 related variance of £0.2m which has resulted from temporary contract stabilisation payments made to Supporting People and Substance Misuse providers. This overspend is being offset by savings across the rest of the service. The core staffing budget is expected to underspend by £0.04m due to current staff vacancies. The core Supporting People budget is projected to underspend by £0.1m - this relates primarily to contract savings resulting from re-procurement processes that have been undertaken. The Drug and Alcohol budget is expected to underspend by £0.2m, this primarily relates to savings on activity based detoxification and rehabilitation budgets of £0.15m – this has resulted from treatment delays resulting from the impact of Covid-19 on service providers. There are smaller savings on Drug and Alcohol budgets of £0.05m resulting from underspends on other contract and campaign budgets.
- 6.17. The Joint Commissioning budget is now projecting an underspend of £0.2m. This mainly relates to reductions in projected spend on section 75 payments made to the CCG and on block/spot purchase contractual arrangements with the voluntary sector. A number of these contracts are currently under review.

## Public Health

- 6.18. The *Public Health* division is projected to overspend by £1.2m as at end December 2020.

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This overspend includes spend against the £2.2m for track and trace which will be offset in full by the grant received from central government for these purposes. The balance of the overspend is due to Covid-19, some £140k and £126k for costs associated with uncapping of sexual health e-services and the establishment of an online contraception offer to mitigate against the reduction in face-to-face sexual health clinic services during the pandemic, respectively; and a further £40k for the joint Lewisham and Birmingham work to address health inequalities in Black African and Black Caribbean communities.

- 6.19. An underspend of £1m is now expected on sexual health services. This reflects reduced activity and lower payments to out-of-borough clinics. The Public Health Grant released by this underspend will be used to fund eligible activity elsewhere in the Council.

## Communities, Leisure and Partnerships

- 6.20. The *Communities, Leisure and Partnerships* service is currently projecting a net overspend of £4.0m. There are a series of Covid-19 related pressures which total £4.7m – these relate to Leisure Management £1.9m, Bereavement Services £1.7m, Green Scene £0.5m, the Community Hub £0.2m, Licensing £0.1m, Enforcement & Regulation £0.2m and Community Centres £0.1m. These variances are now being offset by non Covid variances of £0.7m across the Division.
- 6.21. The Leisure Management budget is currently projecting a total net overspend of £1.9m for 2020/21 which is all being treated as a Covid-19 related pressure. The pandemic led to the forced termination of the Fusion Lifestyle contract on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and a new contractual arrangement was put in place with Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) with effect from 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020. This contract change has resulted in direct overall additional costs of £1.2m for 2020/21 under the new contract arrangements. The figure of £1.2m includes lost income of £0.2m which is a combination of the income due from Fusion Lifestyle under the old contract arrangement and additional lost rental income at Bellingham LC during the various lockdown periods. The current position has been further complicated by the ongoing closure of the all the leisure centres during the current lockdown period. Glass Mill LC was able to open briefly in December 20 under the new contract arrangements and Downham LC also opened under the One Life contract between lock down periods. The final amount payable to GLL for the 20-21 financial year is still subject to final negotiation under the terms of the new contract. Costs continue to be incurred under the contract with no income being generated due to the ongoing closure of the centres. In addition to the projected costs of £1.2m under the new contract arrangements, costs of £0.5m have been incurred on direct additional payments made to both Fusion Lifestyle and One-life (Downham) for closure costs as a result of the lockdown periods in the earlier part of the financial year when the previous contract was still in place. The Council has recently submitted a bid to Sport England for £0.7m of Leisure relief funding covering the Dec 2020-Mar 2021 period in terms of the financial support we are providing to both Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) and One-life (Downham) during this period. Officers will report on the progress of this funding bid in next month's monitoring. If this funding bid is successful, it will beneficially impact on the overall monitoring position for Leisure Management.
- 6.22. The Council has also had to incur significant costs on the infrastructure at the Leisure Centres to ensure they are ready for operation under the new contract once the centres are in a position to reopen. These costs total approx. £1m and are primarily covered from a combination of the £0.4m contract settlement with Fusion for Dilapidations at the centres, £0.2m of agreed Section 106 funding and £0.2m drawdown of reserves funding specifically earmarked for dilapidations works at the Leisure Centres. The remaining costs of £0.2m will fall on this year's General Fund.
- 6.23. There is a non Covid-19 related pressure on the Downham PFI budget of £0.05m resulting from the annual inflationary increase on the unitary charge contract with Linteum which was not covered from non-pay inflation this year as part of the budget process. This is offset by a small saving agreed on Sports Development budgets as part of the part of the

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management action described below in Appendix 2.

- 6.24. The community sector grants programme is showing no variance. The new three-year programme came into effect on 1 August 2019 meaning that the full saving of £0.6m agreed as part of the 2019/20 budget process will be fully achieved for the 2020/21 financial year.
- 6.25. There is a projected Covid-19 related overspend of £0.1m on the Community Centres budget which is resulting from a combination of the loss of regular room hire income coupled with additional infection and cleaning costs incurred at some centres.
- 6.26. The final costs of the community hub that was set up during the initial COVID-19 lockdown period to help residents of the borough who were shielding with food supplies and other support is £0.2m.
- 6.27. The Community Safety budget is projected to show a net underspend of £0.1m. There is a COVID-19 related staffing pressure of £0.2m resulting from Enforcement and Compliance activity undertaken by the service Crime, Enforcement and Regulation service budget - this costs has been set against the specific grant funding received from central government at a corporate level. In addition, there is a projected income shortfall of £0.1m on licensing income (primarily Gambling Act and Licensing Act) as a result of the impact of Covid-19. These COVID related variances will be offset by an overall underspend of £0.4m on staffing budgets across the service.
- 6.28. The projected overspend for *Green Scene* services is now £0.3m. Overall base income for Parks is down by £0.25m against budget primarily due to the impact of Covid-19 on the ability to generate income through events and other activities, however this is being mitigated by new car parking income generated at Beckenham Place Park of £0.1m. Similarly, the Covid-19 restrictions have impacted on the ability of the pest control service to generate income resulting in a projected income shortfall of up to £0.05m. There are also Covid-19 pressures around security and infection control in Parks of up to £0.1m. In addition, there is a non Covid-19 pressure of £0.15m on the Arboriculture service due to the urgent works and surveys required in relation to many old and damaged trees across the borough (both in Parks and on Highways – this work is only undertaken when it is essential to mitigate health and safety risks to the general public.
- 6.29. There is an overall forecast overspend of £1.6m on Bereavement Services – the overall position is down by £0.2m on last month due to an increase in projected income at the Crematorium and Cemeteries. The majority of this budget pressure, £1.7m, is Covid-19 related offset by a non Covid underspend of £0.1m. The largest part of the Covid-19 related pressure relates to Lewisham’s agreed contribution of £1.266m to the London Borough Wide Mortality Management Scheme under the pandemic plan for London – two payments have been made under the scheme to date totalling £1.266m and we are awaiting clarification if any refunds are likely in 2020/21 as overall spend on the second phase of the London wide scheme has been low for the period to date. There are further Covid-19 related costs totalling £0.35m which include additional mortuary costs, additional security at the cemeteries and crematorium, the cost of PPE, additional cleaning costs and agency workers recruited to cover staff unable to work due to shielding from Covid-19. In addition, there is now an additional projected cost of £0.1m expected on the Coroners’ Court Consortium contribution for 2020/21 which is a result of additional costs resulting from Covid-19. These pressures are being offset by a net underspend of £0.1m on the core Bereavement Services budgets. There is a pressure of £0.1m on the core costs for the Mortuary Service with the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the Coroners’ Court Consortium with London Borough of Southwark. This pressure is now being offset by a net underspend of £0.2m on the Cemeteries and Crematorium budgets which is largely the result of increased income generated for the YTD.

## Culture, Learning and Libraries

- 6.30. The *Culture, Learning and Libraries* division is forecasting a net underspend of £0.4m. There are Covid-19 related pressures of £0.5m which are the primarily the result of the

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projected reduction in Adult Learning student fee income of £0.3m and a reduction in income generated by the Libraries and the Broadway Theatre which total a further £0.2m. These pressures are being more than offset by other underspends across the division of £0.9m to give net underspend of £0.4m.

- 6.31. The Libraries service is projecting a net underspend by £0.5m which is a small increase on last month. There are projected staffing underspends of £0.4m resulting from the high number of posts held vacant during the closure of the libraries due to Covid-19. Part of this underspend is highlighted via the in-year management action detailed in Appendix 1. In addition, there have been overall savings of £0.1m on operational budgets including security costs at both Lewisham and Downham Libraries, the books and resources fund and on the budget had also been set aside for the relocation of the Local History archive. The History Archive is currently housed at Lewisham Library but the proposed relocation has been delayed as a result of ongoing discussions over the future of Lewisham Library. The underspends on staffing and operational budgets will be offset by an income shortfall on fees and charges income of £0.1m which is a result of the ongoing closure of the libraries for full services due to Covid-19.
- 6.32. The Broadway Theatre will be closed for the whole 2020/21 financial year partly as a result of Covid-19 and partly to facilitate essential works. During this time, there are ongoing staff and other costs which will have not been able to recover from the normal income generating activities resulting in a budget pressure of £0.05m is projected. The annual Blackheath Firework event did not go ahead this year resulting in the saving of £0.03m – part of the management action described below in Appendix 2. Although Peoples' Day did not go ahead in 2020, the budget of £0.03m has instead been used by the Arts Service to support the 'virtual culture' offer that was agreed by the Executive Management Team and so this has resulted in no overall variance.
- 6.33. The Adult Learning service is reliant on budgeted funding of £0.5m from the student fee income generated from the courses run by the service. There have been course closures brought about by Covid-19 and social distancing policies have placed a limit class sizes meaning classes are only able to operate at a two thirds capacity or have had to operate remotely. This is expected to result in a total income loss of £0.3m in student fee income in the full year. Against this it is now anticipated that as a result of expenditure restrictions and management action there will matching costs savings of £0.3m on tutor costs, tutor training and other course materials/resources. This will leave no net overall budget pressure for the service. In terms of the core grant funding we receive from the GLA of £3.4m, we are continuing to deliver courses above the grant tolerance level of 90% so are not currently anticipating any claw back in respect of the grant funding for the current Academic Year.

## Strategy, Partnership and Improvement

- 6.34. The Strategy, Partnership and Improvement division is reporting a small underspend of £0.1m due to a 50% contribution under section 75 from CCG towards the staffing budget.

## 7. Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

- 7.1. As at the end of December 2020, the Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm Directorate is projecting a net overspend of £10m for 2020/21. This is after applying and achieving once-off in year measures of £0.9m. There is a Covid-19 related overspend of £10.6m, and assumes non-delivery of revenue budget savings of £1.4m. There is a non Covid-19 related underspend of £0.6m. For November, the directorate was also forecasting a £9.5m net overspend, of which an overspend of £9.8m related to Covid-19 activity.

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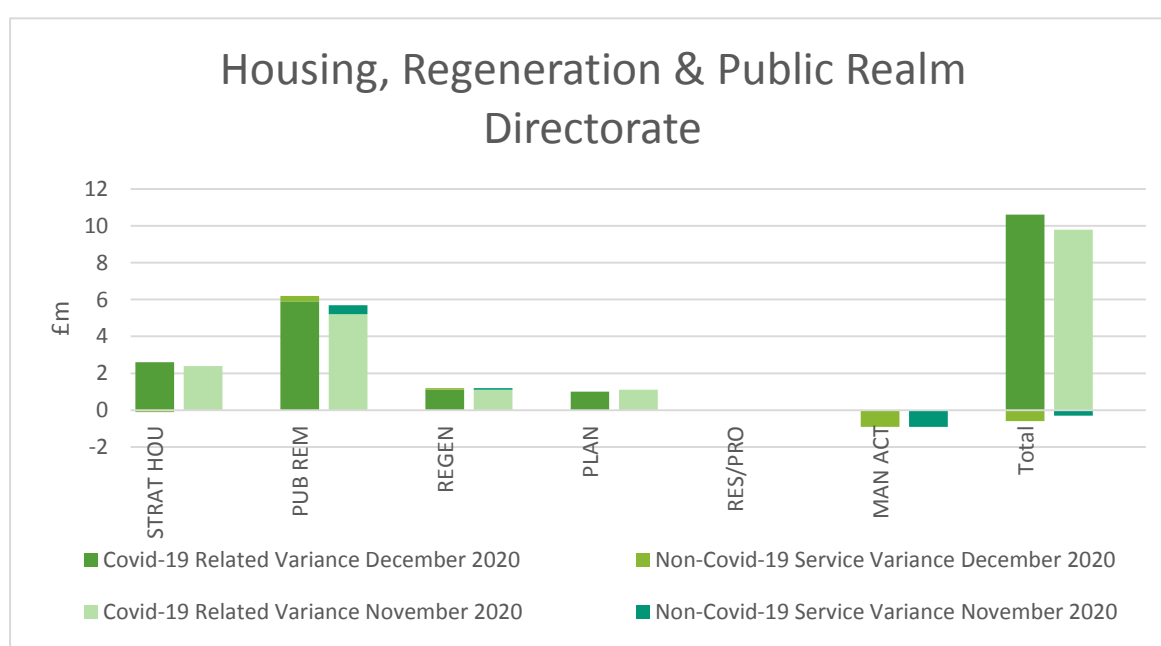
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**Table 6 – Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm**

Service Area	Net budget 2020/21	Forecast Outturn 2020/21 as at end of Dec' 2020	Forecast Variance Over/ (Under) Spend Dec' 2020	Covid-19 Related Variance Dec' 2020	Non Covid-19 Related Variance Dec' 2020	Non Covid-19 Related Variance Nov' 2020
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Strategic Housing (STRAT HOU)	4.6	7.1	2.5	2.6	(0.1)	0.0
Public Realm (PUB REM)	17.0	23.2	6.2	5.9	0.3	0.5
Regeneration (REGEN)	0.9	2.1	1.2	1.1	0.1	0.1
Planning (PLAN)	0.7	1.7	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Reserves/Provisions (REV/PRO)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Management Action (MAN ACT)	0.0	(0.9)	(0.9)	0	(0.9)	(0.9)
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>	<b>(0.3)</b>

**Chart 4 – Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm Directorate Overall Variance – November and December 2020**



7.2. The most significant cost pressures for the directorate fall within the Public Realm division. The following sections provide a summary of the cost of covid and the revenue forecast by division, along with a summary of directorate risks and on-going pressures.

**Table 7 – Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm Directorate – Covid-19 Pressures**

Service	Area	Total Cost December 2020 £m	Total Cost November 2020 £m
Strategic Housing	Housing Needs	2.6	2.4
Public Realm	Parking	2.5	1.8
	Highways and Transport	0.6	0.5

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	Refuse Collection	1.3	1.6
	Strategic Waste	0.5	0.5
	Street Management	0.3	0.3
	Street Markets	0.5	0.4
	Environmental Health	0.1	0.1
Regeneration	Capital Programme Delivery	0.8	1.0
	Economy & Partnerships	0.3	0.1
Planning	Planning	1.0	1.0
	PPE and other costs	0.1	0.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>10.6</b>	<b>9.8</b>

- 7.3. The estimated financial impact of Covid-19 on base budgets for expenditure and income in Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm is £10.6m. These pressures are included in projections. The Covid-19 pressures are summarised in the table above.

### Strategic Housing Division

- 7.4. As at the end of December 2020, the Housing Services division is reporting budget pressures of £2.5m, with some £2.6m attributable to Covid-19 activity. This compares to £2.4 reported in November and a non-Covid-19 related underspend of £0.1m. The underspend is mainly as a result of in-year savings of £0.2m achieved by the service.
- 7.5. The Council recently received additional rough sleepers grant fund of £0.4m which will reduce the Covid-19 overspend to £2.2m and the overall overspend to £1.9m.
- 7.6. It was announced in December 2020 that there will continue to be grant funding for homelessness activity for 2021/22. The grant has been awarded for 2021/22 on a once-off basis to homelessness to cover the effects of the implementation of the Housing Reduction Act and compensation for the removal of TA management allowances in the HB regulations.
- 7.7. The grant award is £4.834m and is therefore slightly more than awarded in 2020/21. This will relieve some of the budget pressures for 2021/22.

### Public Realm Division

- 7.8. As at the end of December 2020, the Public Realm Division is reporting a projected net overspend of £5.6m, with £5.9m attributable to Covid-19. The forecast non-covid underspend is £0.3m, achieved after applying £0.5m in-year savings. The November forecast was a £5.2m overspend entirely attributable to Covid-19. The current Covid-19 overspend has increased due to the current lockdown, with increased forecast income losses from parking services and markets. The main areas of overspend are summarised below.
- 7.9. For *Parking Services*, there is a forecast overspend of £0.5m. This compares to £0.3m in November. There is a £2.5m overspend attributable to loss of income from parking change notices (PCNs) and permits due to Covid-19. This is an increase of £0.7m from last month. The impact of the current lockdown continues to be monitored and a change in forecast is possible. The service is also forecasting £2m net income from moving traffic contraventions.
- 7.10. The forecast net overspend for *Highways & Transport* is £0.5m. This was £0.4m in November. The increase is due to the inclusion of the 'reopening of high streets' costs which are covid related. There is a covid related overspend of £0.6m, and in-year savings of £0.25m have been achieved.

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- 7.11. The *Refuse Collection* service is forecasting an overspend of £2m, compared to £2.1m reported in November. Some £1.3m of the current forecast is Covid-19 related. This is after achieving an in-year saving of £0.032m. The reduction in the Covid-19 related overspend is mainly as a result of increased income collection in the garden waste service.
- 7.12. The *Strategic Waste Management Service* is projecting an overspend of £1.3m, of which £0.5m is attributable to Covid-19. An additional increase in the cost of disposals for civic amenities as a result of contamination due to Covid-19 this month has been partially covered by a reduction of spend in the animal welfare service.
- 7.13. The *Street Markets* service is forecasting a loss of income of £0.5m, an increase of £0.12m from last month due to the current lockdown.

## Regeneration Division

- 7.14. The Regeneration Division is forecasting an overspend of £1.2m, compared to £1.1m in November. This is after applying once-off in year savings of £0.064m. Some £1.1m of the overspend relates to Covid-19. The increase is due to the inclusion of the 're-opening of high streets' costs.
- 7.15. The Covid-19 related overspend is largely due to lost Building Control income, which has recovered slightly, and lost income from commercial rents. The lost commercial rents income is in relation to forecast non-payment of invoices due to Covid-19.

## Planning Division

- 7.16. The *Planning Division* is forecasting an overall £0.9m overspend in 2020/21 as at the end of December. This compares to £1m to the end of November. The Covid-19 related overspend is £1.1m due to loss of income. However, the service is introducing £0.08m measures to reduce spend in 2020/21.
- 7.17. The service is heavily reliant on income, but the forecast large reduction in planning applications and pre-application enquiries was improving slightly. However, the effect of the current lockdown is being closely monitored and will be reported in subsequent reports.

## Directorate risks and ongoing pressures

- 7.18. Commercial waste – There is a risk that service user numbers will not recover post Covid-19, as the number of businesses closing increases nationally. This will impact on income in the next financial year. The service is currently working on how to attract new service users to take up the service.
- 7.19. Commercial rents – The 2020/21 £0.5m additional saving may continue to be a pressure on the service in 2021/22. This is as a result in the change of plan regarding Copperas Street. As a consequence of lockdown, the service is also anticipating that tenants will ask for rent free periods at the start of the financial year.
- 7.20. Highways – There is a risk that Highways will not receive Local Implementation Plans (LIP) funding from Transport for London (TfL) to the expected level in 2021/22.
- 7.21. Planning – The government is consulting on a raft of planning changes linked to the Planning White Paper. There are now government consultations on measures that would add complexity and costs to application processes, reduce fee income and increase the costs of proactive work such as design codes, and if introduced as drafted would add pressure to the existing budget.
- 7.22. There is also a risk that legal costs linked to planning appeals and judicial reviews could exceed the budget, given the number and issues involved. The service is mitigating legal risks but cannot eradicate them.

## 8. Corporate Resources Directorate

- 8.1. As at the end of December 2020, there is a projected overspend of £4m for the directorate.

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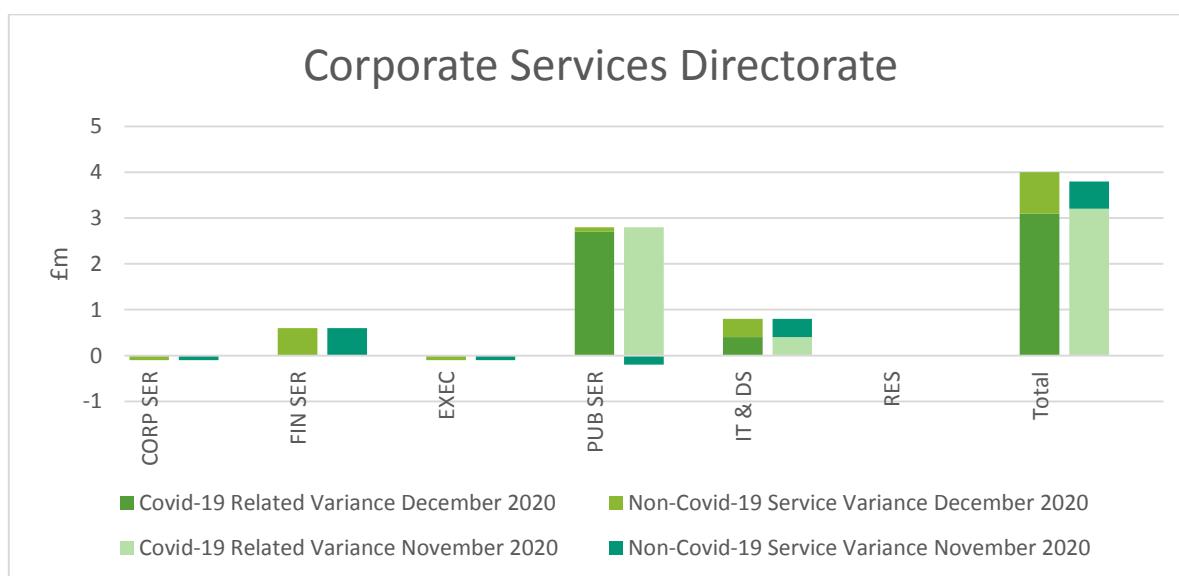
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This is unchanged from November 2020. Of this sum, £3.1m relates to Covid-19 budget pressures and £0.9m relating to non Covid-19 pressures.

**Table 8 – Corporate Resources**

Service Area	Net budget 2020/21	Forecast Outturn 2020/21 as at end of Dec' 2020	Forecast Variance Over/ (Under) Spend Dec' 2020	Covid-19 Related Variance Dec' 2020	Non Covid-19 Related Variance Dec' 2020	Non Covid-19 Related Variance Nov'2020
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Corporate Services (CORP SER)	3.2	3.1	(0.1)	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)
Financial Services * (FIN SER)	4.1	4.7	0.6	0.0	0.6	0.6
Executive Office (EXEC)	0.2	0.1	(0.1)	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)
Public Services (PUB SER)	21.2	24.0	2.8	2.7	0.1	(0.2)
IT & Digital Services (IT & DS)	7.3	8.1	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4
Reserves (RES)	(0.7)	(0.7)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>

**Chart 5 – Corporate Resources Directorate Overall Variance – November and December 2020**



- 8.2. The estimated financial impact of Covid-19 on base budgets for expenditure and income in Corporate Resources is £3.1m. These pressures are included in projections below. These, along with similar pressures in other directorates, will be alleviated by the Covid-19 grant the Council received from central government. The Covid-19 pressures are summarised in the following table.

**Table 9 – Corporate Services Directorate – Covid-19 Pressures**

Service	Area	Total forecast December 2020 £m	Total forecast November 2020 £m
IT and Digital Services	Emergency rollout of IT hardware, licences for software, buy your own IT scheme etc.,	0.4	0.4

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Public Services	Sundry Debt – Delay in Invest to Save to improve debt collection	0.5	0.5
	Revenues Services – Loss of income collected through enforcement and court fees	1.6	1.7
	Registrars – Loss of fee income	0.2	0.2
	Building cleaning, staffing etc.,	0.4	0.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>

- 8.3. The *Financial Services* division has a pressure of £0.6m due to residual once off costs of the wider corporate Oracle Cloud Programme. These projected costs are due to delays experienced in the implementation of the Human Capital Management (HCM) and Payroll elements of the Oracle Programme. The programme has now gone live and officers are currently considering options for resolving this budget pressure by the year-end.
- 8.4. The *IT & Digital Services* division is forecasting a £0.8m pressure of which £0.4m is covid related and largely due to emergency rollout of IT kit for home working. The remaining £0.4m non covid pressure mainly relates to Evosys (Oracle) support costs of £0.350m that are unbudgeted, but expected to be an ongoing requirement.
- 8.5. The *Public Services* division is forecasting a net overspend of £2.8m, of which £2.7m is Covid-19 related, and £0.1m relates to a small 'business as usual' activity overspend. The overall position is mainly due to loss of income in Revenues (£1.6m), which is an decrease of £0.1m from the position reported to the end of November; unachieved sundry debt saving (£0.5m); loss of income in Registrars / Service Point (£0.2m); additional cleaning, security and miscellaneous costs (£0.4m).
- 8.6. The significant pressures within Revenue services of £1.6m are due to loss of income collected by the Enforcement Team and loss of income from court fees. Courts have been closed during the pandemic, and the Enforcement Team has had to put much activity on hold.
- 8.7. The £0.480m sundry debt saving is considered unachievable at present as much income recovery work has been on hold, and collected would in any case benefit the wider Council rather than directly benefit the Public Services Division budget.

## 9. Chief Executive Directorate

- 9.1. As at the end of December 2020, there is a projected underspend of £0.2m for the directorate being reported. Of this sum, £0.4m relates specifically to Covid-19 budget pressures. This is offset by a £0.6m underspend that is not due to Covid-19. The projections include in-year cash reductions totalling £0.2m.

**Table 10 – Chief Executive's**

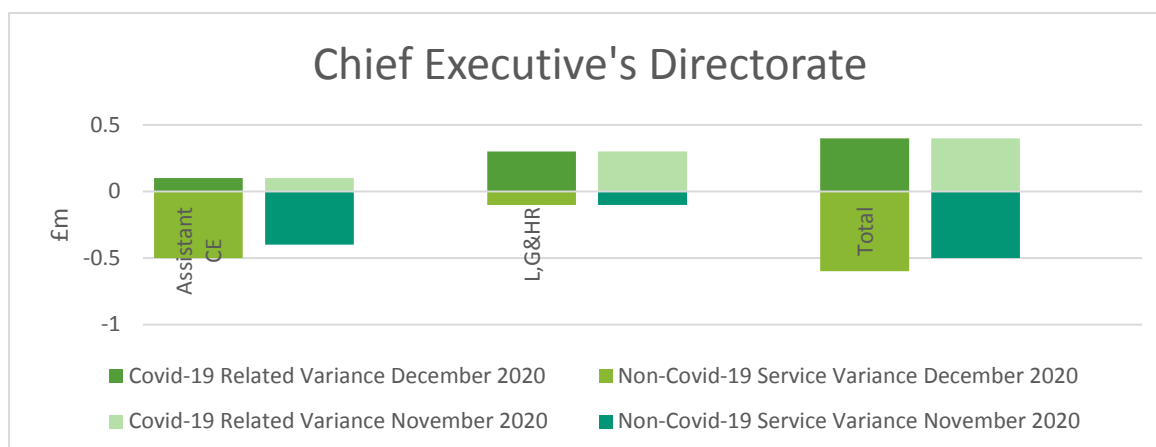
Service Area	Net budget 2020/21	Forecast Outturn 2020/21 as at end of Dec' 2020	Forecast Variance Over/ (Under) Spend Dec' 2020	Covid-19 Related Variance Dec' 2020	Non Covid-19 Related Variance Dec' 2020	Non Covid-19 Related Variance Nov' 2020
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assistant Chief Executive (ASSISTANT CE)	5.2	4.8	(0.4)	0.1	(0.5)	(0.4)
Law, Governance & HR (L,G&HR)	7.0	7.2	0.2	0.3	(0.1)	(0.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>(0.2)</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>(0.6)</b>	<b>(0.5)</b>

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**Chart 6 – Chief Executive’s Directorate Overall Variance – November and December 2020**



**Cost of Covid-19**

- 9.2. The estimated financial impact of Covid-19 on base budgets for expenditure and income in the Chief Executive Directorate is £0.4m. These pressures are included in projections below. These, along with similar pressures in other directorates, will be alleviated by the Covid grant the Council received from central government. The Covid-19 pressures are summarised in the following table.
- 9.3. The *Assistant Chief Executive Division*, is forecasting a net covid pressure of 0.1m. This comes as a result of pausing production of the Lewisham Life magazine offset by vacancies at various points within the division over the year to date. This is offset by a non covid forecast underspend of £0.5m elsewhere within the division leaving a net underspend of £0.4m.
- 9.4. The *Law, Governance & Human Resources Division* is forecasting a net covid pressure of £0.3m arising from £0.2m in Legal Services in relation to staffing, income and non-recoverable shortfalls for right-to-buys, court costs, lease extensions and name changes; and a pressure of £0.1m for Human Resources mainly due to additional staff costs. In addition there is a miscellaneous £0.1m non covid underspend elsewhere within the division leaving an overall net pressure of £0.2m for the division. Further options are being taken to contain these costs within the directorate cash limits.

**Table 11 – Covid-19 Pressures for the Chief Executive’s Directorate**

Service	Area	Total forecast December 2020 £m	Total forecast November 2020 £m
Communications	Increases in communications capacity to support response to the coronavirus pandemic. This is partly offset by delays in recruitment related to covid and pause on production of Lewisham Life magazine	0.1	0.1
Human Resources	Increases in HR capacity to support response to the coronavirus pandemic with regards to emergency recruitment and HR advice	0.1	0.1
Legal Services	Loss of income due to covid-related reduction in activity offset by reduced election spend.	0.2	0.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>

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## 10. Support received from central government

- 10.1. The Council has taken measures to support both businesses and residents who are facing financial hardship as a result of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The table below provides an overall summary of the additional 'general' and 'targeted' resources which have been received the Council to date to help with this support.

**Table 12 – General and Targeted Government Funding for Covid-19**

<b>Funding Description</b>	<b>Lewisham's Allocation £m</b>
<b><u>Unringfenced Funding</u></b>	
Covid-19 LA Support Grant (Tranches 1 to 4)	29.395
Sales, Fees and Charges Income – 1 <sup>st</sup> Claim	2.854
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32.249</b>

<b>Funding Description</b>	<b>Lewisham's Allocation £m</b>
<b><u>Ringfenced Funding</u></b>	
Section 31 – Infection Control Grants (Tranches 1 and 2)	4.256
Section 31 – Test, Track and Contain Grant	2.267
Section 31 – Food and Essential Supplies	0.401
Reopening High Street Safely Fund	0.272
Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Support Grant	0.144
Next Steps Accommodation Programme	0.479
LA compliance & Enforcement grant	0.198
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.017</b>

<b>Sub Total – Services Funding – attributable to BAU</b>	<b>40.266</b>
<b>Funding Description</b>	<b>Lewisham's Allocation £m</b>
<b><u>Ringfenced Funding Outside Of Service Expenditure e.g. DSG or Transfer Payment</u></b>	
Contain Outbreak Management Fund (including Tier 2 Funding)	3.059
Covid Winter Grant	1.075
Cold Weather Payment	0.090
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.224</b>

<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>44.490</b>
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### Government grant for Council Services

- 10.2. The Council received £18m from the first two tranches of emergency government Covid-19 funding. A further £3.2m of funding (third tranche) was announced on 17 July 2020, followed by a fourth tranche of £8.2m in October. The Council has also received a number of targeted grants. This included funding for 'infection control', 'test, track and contain' and 'contain outbreak management'. Overall the total of funding that can be attributed to council services comes to £40.266m to date. For the purpose of this report, the gross costs of the coronavirus response has been set out in each directorate section, expressing the financial position in gross terms and before the application of the £40.266m emergency government

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funding. There are also some additional grants shown in the table above totalling £4.224m that are outside of the main council services. The total amount of grants received is therefore £44.49m.

## Council Tax Payers

- 10.3. In March, the government announced a hardship grant would be provided to local authorities in response to Covid-19 to provide council tax relief to vulnerable people and households. Lewisham received £3.2m of hardship funding and has made these funds available to individual Council Tax payers through two routes:
- Grants aligned to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme
  - Emergency support for residents.
- 10.4. The first is an additional grant of £150 per working age claimant of the Council's Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS). On 8 July, 16,300 households' accounts were credited with £150. Any remaining balance of this funding is being used to support additional hardship claims for those in crisis via the local support scheme, where no other assistance is available. More than 400 applications had been received.

## Businesses

- 10.5. Central government has turned to local authorities to deliver a number of new schemes aimed at supported local businesses who have been impacted by Covid-19.
- 10.6. For businesses, support measures include extended business rates relief for 2020/21, grants to small businesses and those in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors, and a grant to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) – those with less than 50 employees – not covered by the initial grant arrangements.
- 10.7. The Council has received a cash advance of £47m to distribute in grants of £10k or £25k to small business within certain rateable values and/or in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors. The Council had assessed all those who have applied and disbursed more than 3,225 grants to the 3,384 businesses eligible which equates to more than £41m. The balance remaining will be reconciled along with other covid grant funding and any balance due/to from Government will be paid/claimed. The scheme formally closed at the end of August. There have been a number of other government backed financial packages provided to support local businesses during the course of the second and third national lockdown periods.

## 11. Dedicated Schools' Grant

- 11.1. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) net allocation for Lewisham remains at £263.24m and is allocated as set out in the table below.

**Table 13 – DSG allocation and projection 2020/21**

	Schools Block £m	CSSB £m	HNB £m	EY £m	Total DSG £m
Allocation	179.67	4.64	55.02	23.91	263.24
Projected Outturn	179.67	4.64	60.00	21.69	266.00
Variance			(4.98)*	2.22	( 2.76)

\*£5m overspend represents a best case scenario

- 11.2. The table above confirms the following:

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- A. **Schools Block** – anticipated to be within budget. Any underspends on the delegated element and growth fund remain schools funding and would need to be considered with Schools Forum.
- B. **Central Services Support Block (CSSB)** – despite a reduction of £775k, the CSSB spend has been contained within the block mainly as a consequence of the no call on pension’s liability for 2020/21.
- C. **High Needs Block** – Funding to support Lewisham based provision is made predominantly in summer, autumn and spring. As such the final payment for spring needs to be made and is included as an estimate. With regards payments to providers outside of Lewisham, payment is made on invoices. Validation continues to take place in this area which could see a further increase in the overspend. Officers are currently in the process of finalising the pupil led details and current indications are that an overspend of £5m is expected. Detailed validation is being undertaken by the service with particular focus on the FE (post-16) sector. CYP (SEN) is currently undertaking detailed validation of post 16 placements. Post 16 funding is a complex area due the transient adult population which results in a high level of turnover and dropouts. There remains a possibility that some costs particularly in SEN residential may revert back to the General Fund. This needs to be noted as a risk. The data also needs to be validated by the service with regards any leavers who could still be on the forecasted data.
- D. **Early Years Block** – the Early Years Block is provisional and remains as such until around June/July 2021, (post closure of accounts), when the DfE will confirm the final allocation based on January 2021. The EY block is always a complex area to ascertain as funding is allocated to providers on three termly counts but funding is received on census data for the two January counts that fall nearest e.g. 2020/21 will be based on January 2020 and January 2021. Covid-19 will play a major risk with EY funding, partially led by funding payments to providers and also the information for completion of data census for January 2021 (census effectively taking place during lockdown). At the time of writing the projected underspend of circa £2.2m (should that remain the final position) would be subject to claw back from the DfE. For this reason the DSG (eliminating the Early Years Block funding) would be £4m to £5m overspent, subject to the validation work described above.

11.3. Lewisham remains one of very few Local Authorities to have recently been able to balance their budget, unfortunately, there remains continued pressure on in particular 0-5 and post 18 Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) support.

11.4. Table 14 below shows that since 2017/18 (when the DSG High Needs Block was balanced), 768 additional EHCP have been issued, of which 397 have related to post-secondary and 39 to under 5s.

**Table 14 – Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**

Phase - EHCPs	Under 5s	Primary	Secondary	Post-secondary	Grand Total
FY17/18 Used As Base Line	42	831	769	537	2,179
FY18/19	24	889	821	626	2,360
FY19/20	37	929	887	774	2,627
FY20/21 current	81	965	967	934	2,947
Increase on Baseline Numbers	39	134	198	397	768
Increase on Baseline %	92.9%	16.1%	25.7%	73.9%	35.2%

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- 11.5. Lewisham SEN services is currently working with the Schools Forum High Needs Working group to progress a mitigation plan. Based on the overspend position stated, Lewisham is required to prepare a Management Action Plan for discussion with the Department for Education.
- 11.6. At recent meetings with Schools Forum and Member meetings, the detail and process has been discussed.

## Schools

- 11.7. Coming into 2020/21, there are now five schools with loans, totalling £1.4m. In total, there are 11 schools with deficits and 13 schools with balances that are within 8% of their delegated budget share. There are however 53 schools with balances in excess of 9%. Budget Plans received by a significant number of schools suggest that many schools are considering the use of reserves to deal with challenges such as impact of restructures, movement in pupil numbers, unfunded pressures including this year's pay award etc.,
- 11.8. The Schools Finance Team will continue to work with schools in developing sustainable budget plans. Budget plans incorporating metrics management have been developed to support schools to review budgets with a strategic view. This enables schools to compare their deployment on leadership, teaching, support administration, contact time etc., Feedback from schools continues to remain positive.

## 12. Housing Revenue Account

- 12.1. The table below sets out the current budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in 2020/21. The balanced HRA budget seen in the table includes a budgeted contribution from reserves of £47.9m, which is to be used to fund the HRA major works and new supply programme and is included as a part of the 30 year HRA business plan. Current HRA forecasts show a small deficit on the account mainly due to re-profiling of major works income into 2021/22. Further work is being undertaken to bring the account into balance before the end of the financial year.
- 12.2. Repairs & Maintenance (R&M) forecasts have been updated by Lewisham Homes and currently shows an underspend in the region of £1.0m. Further detailed work on the forecast R&M outturn is being carried out by Lewisham Homes and an update will be provided for the January monitoring period. There was an underspend in this area in 2019/20. This area will be closely monitored in 2020/21 to ensure that spend does not exceed budget and that costs can be contained within overall allocations.
- 12.3. The current 30 year HRA financial model has been refreshed, with the final outturn for 2019/20 as well as the latest updates for the general capital programme, revised stock numbers and reserves allocations incorporated into the plans. Budgets have been updated in July 2020 to reflect starting stock numbers from 1 April 2020, as well as incorporating a May/June 2020 consolidation update for the new supply programme to reflect the latest position. The revisions to the budgets have been agreed with Lewisham Homes and has pushed some of the planned capital and new supply expenditure into 2021/22 due to a re-programming of works and programme delays due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 12.4. At the present time, the forecasts have been updated with costs related to Covid-19. Those costs which have currently been identified include additional bad debt impairments in the region of £500k, void losses on units unable to be let in the early period of the lockdown and there is a guarantee to Lewisham Homes that the local authority will cover up to £1.2m of operative workforce related pressures due to the slowdown of repairs works undertaken which will represent lost income to their trading account. Lewisham Homes have recently reported that this pressure is not likely to exceed £200k due to a quicker return to normal working patterns than originally expected. These are all currently contained within current projections and use of reserves.
- 12.5. Additional income is currently being forecast from tenant's rents and service charges due to

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lower than budgeted void rates. There is also additional income related to Leasehold service charges following completion of the leasehold service charge audit. The projections include a surplus of garage rents for garages remaining in the HRA and subject to development proposals. These garages will continue to provide income until such time as they are decanted for the development to proceed. Energy costs are forecast to underspend against current budget allocations.

- 12.6. There is a significant major works income budget of £6.1m, which is based on the General Capital programme allocation of £47m. However, raising of bills is dependent on the Lewisham Homes Capital Programme undertaking works which can/are recharged to Leaseholders. As at week 39 (up to 02/01/21) a total of £314k has been charged to leaseholders. Further discussions with Lewisham homes indicate that the majority of these bills may not be raised until the early part of financial year 2021/22. Consequently the majority of the forecast income has now been re-profiled to 2021/22 and has adversely effected the monitoring position.
- 12.7. This is being off-set by the additional rental and service charge income, as well as the forecast underspends in R&M, bad debt and other running costs.
- 12.8. Lewisham Homes are currently reporting a full forecast spend against the general capital allocations of £47m, although working patterns have changed due to the second lockdown. The development team are currently reporting an underspend against the 2020/21 BfL programme allocation. The forecast shows that approximately 55% of the total allocation will be spend in 2020/21 due to slippage. The unspent resources will be carried into 2021/22.
- 12.9. The forecast does not yet include any additional interest cost arising from the return of RTB 1-4-1 receipts to MHCLG. This information will not be known until the final return is completed at the end of March 2021 and is dependent on the actual expenditure incurred on the qualifying costs. Updates will be provided as soon as they are available.

**Table 15 – Housing Revenue Account**

Service Area	Expenditure Budget 2020/21	Income Budget 2020/21	Net Budget 2020/21	Forecast Variance over/ (under) spend Dec' 2020
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Housing, Regeneration and Environment – Housing	19.2	(3.6)	15.6	(0.31)
Lewisham Homes & R&M	38.4	0	38.4	(1.00)
Resources	1.6	0	1.6	0.13
Centrally Managed Budgets	90.3	(145.9)	(55.6)	1.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>149.5</b>	<b>(149.5)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.16</b>

### 13. Collection Fund

- 13.1. There are estimated losses of some £20m on the Collection Fund as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Broadly, these estimated and irrecoverable losses are broken down as follows: Business Rate losses as a result of the various 'lockdowns' which have restricted commercial trading activity and the subsequent economic recession of £4.5m; an increase in local council tax support payments of £4.8m; Council tax arrears for current and previous years of £9.2m and Council tax base growth loss of £1.5m. The impact of these losses are expected to be felt more notably in the 2021/22 financial year.

#### *Council Tax*

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- 13.2. As at 31 December 2020 approximately £109.3m of council tax had been collected representing 73.25% of the total amount due for the year. This is below the profiled collection rate of 76% if the overall target for the year of 96% is to be met.

**Table 16 – Council Tax collection to end of December 2020**

	Cash Collected (cumulative)	Cash needed to meet 96% Profile	difference between collected and 96% profile	Current Year Collection Rate%	Previous Year Collection Rate (2019-2020)	difference	Required Collection Rate to reach 96%	difference
Apr-20	15,214,801.26	16,389,858.70	-1,175,057.44	9.98%	10.86%	-0.88%	10.98%	-1.00%
May-20	26,675,961.23	28,872,736.54	-2,196,775.31	17.49%	19.01%	-1.52%	19.35%	-1.86%
Jun-20	38,288,334.52	40,745,481.49	-2,457,146.97	25.46%	26.72%	-1.26%	27.30%	-1.84%
Jul-20	50,775,906.85	53,283,534.56	-2,507,627.71	33.83%	34.87%	-1.04%	35.71%	-1.88%
Aug-20	61,906,944.69	65,137,218.71	-3,230,274.02	41.32%	42.52%	-1.20%	43.65%	-2.33%
Sep-20	74,086,558.93	77,047,584.28	-2,961,025.35	49.39%	50.32%	-0.93%	51.63%	-2.24%
Oct-20	86,439,372.47	89,531,866.48	-3,092,494.01	57.76%	58.34%	-0.58%	60.00%	-2.24%
Nov-20	98,123,021.57	101,481,065.75	-3,358,044.18	65.67%	66.02%	-0.35%	68.00%	-2.33%
Dec-20	109,306,417.75	113,513,525.02	-4,207,107.27	73.25%	73.99%	-0.74%	76.07%	-2.82%

## Business Rates

- 13.3. Business rates collection to 31 December is at 69.85%. This is a decrease of 14.02% compared to the same period last year, and 18.51% lower than the profiled collection rate if the overall target rate for the year of 99% is to be achieved. It should be noted though, that the collectible amount for the year has been reduced by over £30m due to Covid-19 related additional reliefs for businesses.

**Table 17 – Business Rate collection to end of December 2020**

	Previous year (%)	Current year (%)	Difference from previous year (%)
	Excluding Credits	Excluding Credits	Excluding Credits
April	22.35	20.40	-1.95
June	31.00	33.44	2.44
July	37.82	37.56	-0.25
July	45.55	46.35	0.80
August	53.97	51.03	-2.94
September	61.93	58.07	-3.86
October	68.66	60.92	-7.74
November	75.83	65.81	-10.02
December	83.87	69.85	-14.02

**Table 18 – Business Rate Cash Equivalents**

Cash Equivalents – December 2020	£ (Excl. CR)	%
Amount due for year	36,945,655.69	-
Amount needed to meet 99.0% profile for year	36,576,199.13	99.00

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<b>Amount needed to meet 99.0% profile by month end</b>	<b>33,210,449.90</b>	<b>89.89</b>
<b>Amount collected to end of month</b>	<b>26,371,710.59</b>	<b>69.85</b>
<b>Comparison against 99.0% requirement</b>	<b>-6,838,739.31</b>	<b>-18.51</b>
<b>Comparison against last year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-14.02</b>

## 14. Capital Expenditure

14.1. The Capital Programme is currently subject to review in preparation for the forthcoming budget setting process. This following table sets out the very latest position on this year's programme as at the end of the third quarter for 2020/21. It indicates an overall spend is £75.3m, which is 46% of the proposed revised 2020/21 budget of £164m. A summary of the major projects are set out in the table below.

**Table 19 – Capital Programme 2020/21 (Major Projects)**

<b>2020/21 Capital Programme</b>	<b>Revised Budget (M&amp;C 11/11/20)</b>	<b>Revised Budget Proposed Dec' 2020</b>	<b>Spend to 31 Dec' 2020</b>	<b>Spent to Date (Revised Budget)</b>
			<b>£m</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>				
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%
Other General Fund schemes	7.4	7.4	1.8	24%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>				
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%
<b>TOTAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>	<b>100.4</b>	<b>100.4</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>163.6</b>	<b>164.0</b>	<b>75.3</b>	<b>46%</b>

## 15. Financial Implications

15.1. This report concerns the financial forecasts for the 2020/21 financial year. However, there are no direct financial implications in noting these.

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## 16. Legal Implications

16.1. The Council is under a duty to balance its budget and cannot knowingly budget for a deficit. It is imperative that there is diligent monitoring of the Council's spend and steps taken to bring it into balance. The proposals in the body of the report suggest this can be achieved this year by use of reserves.

## 17. Crime and Disorder Implications

17.1. There are no specific crime and disorder act or climate and environment implications directly arising from this report.

## 18. Equalities Implications

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

18.2. There are no equalities implications directly arising from this report.

## 19. Background Papers And Appendices

Short Title of Report	Date	Location	Contact
Financial Forecasts for 2020/21 (June 2020)	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 (M&C)	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Laurence House	Selwyn Thompson
Financial Forecasts for 2020/21 (August 2020)	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2020 (M&C)	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Laurence House	Selwyn Thompson
Financial Forecasts for 2020/21 (September 2020)	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020 (PAC)	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Laurence House	Selwyn Thompson
Budget Report for 2021/22	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Laurence House	Selwyn Thompson

## 20. Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)</b>	Clinical Commissioning Groups ( <b>CCGs</b> ) were created following the Health and Social Care Act in 2012, and replaced Primary Care Trusts on 1 April 2013. They are clinically-led statutory NHS bodies responsible for the planning and commissioning of health care services for their local area.
<b>Collection fund</b>	A statutory account maintained by the Council recording the amounts collected from Council Tax and Business Rates and from which it pays the precept to the Greater London Authority.
<b>Collection Fund surplus (or deficit)</b>	If the Council collects more or less than it expected at the start of the financial year, the surplus or deficit is shared with the major precepting authority, in Lewisham's case this is the GLA, in proportion to the respective Council Taxes. These surpluses or deficits have to be returned to the Council taxpayer in the following year through lower or higher

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<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
	Council taxes. If, for example, the number of properties or the allowance for discounts, exemptions or appeals vary from those used in the Council Tax base, a surplus or deficit will arise.
<b>Contingency</b>	This is money set-aside centrally in the Council's base budget to meet the cost of unforeseen items of expenditure, such as higher than expected inflation or new responsibilities.
<b>Council Tax Base</b>	The Council Tax base for a Council is used in the calculation of Council Tax and is equal to the number of Band D equivalent properties. To work this out, the Council counts the number of properties in each band and works out an equivalent number of Band D equivalent properties. The band proportions are expressed in ninths and are specified in the Local Government Finance Act 1992. They are: A 6/9, B 7/9, C 8/9, D 9/9, E 11/9, F 13/9, G 15/9 and H 18/9, so that Band A is six ninths of the 'standard' Band D, and so on.
<b>Dedicated schools grant (DSG)</b>	This is the ring-fenced specific grant that provides most of the government's funding for schools. This is distributed to schools by the Council using a formula agreed by the schools forum.
<b>General Fund</b>	This is the main revenue fund of the local authority, day-to-day spending on services is met from the fund. Spending on the provision of housing however, must be charged to the separate Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	The total cost of providing the Council's services, before deducting income from government grants, or fees and charges for services.
<b>Housing Revenue Account (HRA)</b>	A separate account of expenditure and income on housing that Lewisham must keep. The account is kept ring-fenced from other Council activities. The government introduced a new funding regime for social housing within the HRA from April 2012.
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	This is gross expenditure less services income, but before deduction of government grant.
<b>Revenue Expenditure</b>	The day-to-day running expenses on services provided by Council.

## 21. Report Author and contact

Selwyn Thompson, Director of Financial Services on 020 8314 6932,  
selwyn.thompson@lewisham.gov.uk

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## 22. APPENDIX 1 – Summary of agreed budget saving for 2020/21

Ref	Proposal	2020/21 £'000	2020/21 £'000	2020/21 £'000	Comment:
<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE</b>		<b>Agreed Savings</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Gap</b>	
RES02	Legal fees increase	32	32	0	Achieved
RES04	Policy, service design and intelligence - reduction on staffing	155	50	105	£50k Achieved (n.b. saving was reduced to £50k) as it was assessed early on the full sum would not be achievable.
RES10	Cease graduate programme	78	78	0	Achieved
<b>Total for Chief Executive Directorate</b>		<b>265</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>105</b>	
<b>CHILDREN &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTORATE</b>					
CYP01	More efficient use of residential placements	300	0	300	Not achieved – Included in Covid pressures
CYP03	More systematic and proactive management of the market	600	0	600	Not achieved – Included in Covid pressures
CYP04	Commission semi-independent accommodation for care leavers	250	0	250	Not achieved – Included in Covid pressures
CYP05	Residential framework for young people. Joint South East London Commissioning Programme	200	0	200	Not achieved – Included in Covid pressures
CYP06	Cease funding for former CYP funded post in Voluntary Action Lewisham	25	25	0	Achieved
CUS15	No Recourse to Public Funds	1,000	1,000	0	Achieved
<b>Total for Children &amp; Young People Directorate</b>		<b>2,375</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>1,350</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE</b>					



Ref	Proposal	2020/21 £'000	2020/21 £'000	2020/21 £'000	Comment:
COM02	Ensuring support plans optimise value for money	250	250	0	Achieved
COM04	Reduce costs for Learning Disability and Transitions	1,000	200	800	Low Achievement – Included in Covid pressure
COM05	Increased focus of personalisation	482	350	132	Partially Achieved – Included in Covid pressure
COM06	Reduction in Mental Health Residential care costs	200	200	0	Achieved
COM07	Reduction in Adult Social Care contribution to Mental Health Integrated Community Services (Sirs)	50	50	0	Achieved
COM08	Change in the public engagement responsibilities for air quality and dedicated funding	60	60	0	Achieved
COM10	Crime, Enforcement & Regulation reorganisation	161	161	0	Achieved
COM15	Extended Use of Broadway Theatre	50	50	0	Achieved
COM16	Cultural & Community Development Service Staffing	75	75	0	Achieved
COM18	Funding inflationary increase from within the ASC Grant	2,000	2,000	0	Achieved
COM1A	Managing demand at the point of access to adult social care services	1,000	100	900	Low Achievement – Included in Covid pressures
COM2A	Ensuring support plans optimise value for money	500	0	500	Not Achieved – Included in Covid pressures
COM3A	Increase revenue from charging Adult Social Care clients	500	0	500	Not Achieved – Included on Covid pressures

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Ref	Proposal	2020/21 £'000	2020/21 £'000	2020/21 £'000	Comment:
CUS06	Bereavement Services increase income targets	67	0	67	Not Achieved – Included in Covid pressure
RES17	Beckenham Place Park - income generation	105	0	105	Not Achieved – Included in Covid pressure
<b>Total for Community Services Directorate</b>		<b>6,500</b>	<b>3,496</b>	<b>3,004</b>	
<b>CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE</b>					
CUS10	Invest to save - create revenues protection team	394	394	0	Achieved
CUS11	Process automation in Revenues and Benefits	250	250	0	Achieved
CUS13	Invest to save - improve sundry debt collection	480	0	480	Delayed due to Covid-19 related reduction in collection activity
RES01	Benefits realisation of Oracle cloud	350	0	350	Delayed until 2021/22, subject to further improvement work for HR and Payroll modules
RES03	Executive Office - Administrative Support Staff Reduction	104	104	104	Achieved
RES14	Corporate Estate Facilities Management Contract Insourcing	100	0	100	At Risk – The saving relates to a proposal to in source building planned maintenance which is yet to happen.
RES21	Reduced allocation of inflation to contract cost	1,000	1,000	0	Achieved
RES22	Reduced allocation of inflation as dividend for improved ICT Provision	1,500	1,500	0	Achieved

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Ref	Proposal	2020/21 £'000	2020/21 £'000	2020/21 £'000	Comment:
<b>Total for Corporate Services Directorate</b>		<b>4,178</b>	<b>3,144</b>	<b>1,034</b>	
<b>HOUSING, REGENERATION &amp; PUBLIC REALM DIRECTORATE</b>					
CUS02	Income generation - increase of garden waste subscription	485	285	200	Partially Achieved - Included in the Covid pressures.
CUS04	Income generation - increase in commercial waste charges	300	0	300	Not Achieved – Included in Covid pressures.
CUS09	Cost reductions in homelessness provision - income generation and net budget reductions	696	696	0	In 2020/21 this saving will not be achieved, but will be covered by once off funds.
CUS14A	Parking service budget review	500	0	500	Not Achieved – Included Covid pressures.
CUS16	Operational savings in the private sector housing agency through service improvements	175	175	0	Achieved
RES06	Increase income supporting the Funding Officer post and review the Economy and Partnerships Function	80	80	0	Achieved
RES07	Reduce corporate apprenticeships salaries budget	55	55	0	Achieved
RES11	Increase in pre-application fees	100	0	100	Not Achieved – Included in Covid pressures.
RES12	Catford complex office rationalisation	250	150	100	Partially Achieved – Delayed due to pause in work related to Covid-19 activity.
RES13	Reduction in business rates for the corporate estate	100	100	0	Achieved

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Please give us feedback so we can improve.

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Ref	Proposal	2020/21 £'000	2020/21 £'000	2020/21 £'000	Comment:
RES15	Commercial estate growth	500	100	400	Only £100k will be achieved, a further £300k is being covered this year by once off income received during the year.
RES18	Electric vehicle charging points	50	0	50	Not Achieved – Included in Covid pressures.
<b>Total for Housing, Regeneration &amp; Public Realm Directorate</b>		<b>3,291</b>	<b>1,641</b>	<b>1,650</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>16,609</b>	<b>9,466</b>	<b>7,143</b>	

### Is this report easy to understand?

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## 23. APPENDIX 2 – Summary of agreed ‘in year’ cash reductions for 2020/21

### Children’s and Young People Directorate

Ref	Proposal	Division	£m	Achieved £m	Gap £m	Comment
CYP	Review of Contracts and Processes	JCEH	0.070	0.070	0.000	Achieved
CYP	Income from third party to support CLS placements	CSC	0.250	0.250	0.000	Achieved
CYP	Working with housing to improve pathways for young people	CSC	0.070	0.070	0.000	Achieved
CYP	Review of Care leavers accommodation with regards housing benefit income	CSC	0.150	0.150	0.000	Achieved
CYP	Reduction in Legal and Advocacy Fees		0.150	0.150	0.000	Achieved
CYP	Increase in UASC income		0.100	0.100	0.000	Achieved
CYP	Maximisation of DSG –Early Years Funding to support central strategic costs		0.050	0.050	0.000	Achieved
CYP	Vacancy Factor and Recruitment Freeze		0.570	0.570	0.000	Achieved
CYP	Reduction in Directorate Core Budget spend areas		0.250	0.250	0.000	Achieved
<b>Total for Children &amp; Young People Directorate</b>			<b>1.660</b>	<b>1.660</b>	<b>0.000</b>	

### Community Services Directorate

Ref	Proposal	Division	£m	Achieved £m	Gap £m	Comment
COM	Managing Care Demand linked to Direct Payments	ASC	0.800	0.400	0.400	Partially Achieved.

### Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

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

Ref	Proposal	Division	£m	Achieved £m	Gap £m	Comment
	Support					Compensating savings from review of packages that are feeding into reported underspend
COM	6 Week Government funding	ASC	0.300	0.300	0.000	Achieved
COM	Review of staffing levels	ASC	0.200	0.200	0.000	Achieved
COM	Review of Placements and 1:1 costs	ASC	0.300	0.300	0.000	Achieved
COM	integrated sexual health tariff payments for 20/21 - reduced activity in year	PH	0.300	0.300	0.000	Achieved
COM	Assemblies and Neighbourhood Development savings	CP&L	0.060	0.060	0.000	Achieved
COM	Crime Reduction £60k in year underspends	CP&L	0.060	0.060	0.000	Achieved
COM	Sports Development £9k not doing London Youth Games & mini marathon.	CP&L	0.009	0.009	0.000	Achieved
COM	Sports Development £10k - no talent bursaries (small awards to talented young sports Individuals)	CP&L	0.010	0.010	0.000	Achieved
COM	Lewisham People's Day/Civic Events	CL&L	0.014	0.014	0.000	Achieved
COM	In year Libraries Saving	CL&L	0.150	0.150	0.000	Achieved
COM	Not hold Blackheath Fireworks	CL&L	0.036	0.036	0.000	Achieved

### Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

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Ref	Proposal	Division	£m	Achieved £m	Gap £m	Comment
COM	Increase Bereavement Income	CP&L	0.040	0.040	0.000	Achieved
<b>Total for Community Services</b>			<b>2.279</b>	<b>1.879</b>	<b>0.400</b>	

### Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm Directorate

Ref	Proposal	Division	£m	Achieved	Gap	Comment
HRPR	PSHA Licensing and Housing Enforcement Service Manager – Vacant post (8 months savings)	Strategic Housing	0.052	0.052	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	Housing Needs Customer Access Officer vacant post	Strategic Housing	0.039	0.039	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	NRPF Caseworker vacant post	Strategic Housing	0.051	0.051	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	PSHA Licensing Enforcement and Grants Coordinator (x2) (6 months savings) vacant posts	Strategic Housing	0.039	0.039	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	PSHA Empty Homes Officer salary underspend	Strategic Housing	0.018	0.018	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	PSHA Head of PSHA salary underspend	Strategic Housing	0.032	0.032	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	Cleansing: Reduce Agency Staff Costs	Public Realm	0.077	0.077	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	Cleansing: Stop overtime to sweep secondary shopping areas on Saturdays from 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020	Public Realm	0.048	0.048	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	Recycling - Contaminations crew	Public Realm	0.032	0.032	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	Cleansing: Service Change	Public Realm	0.080	0.080	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	Reduction in highway maintenance expenditure	Public	0.250	0.250	0.000	Achieved

### Is this report easy to understand?

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Ref	Proposal	Division	£m	Achieved	Gap	Comment
	(footways)	Realm				
HRPR	Cleansing: Stop Overtime on bank holidays – Starting 31/8/20	Public Realm	0.010	0.010	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	Not filling vacancies for the rest of the year	Planning	0.084	0.084	0.000	Achieved
HRPR	Strategic Development Team (SDT) Salaries	Regen'	0.064	0.064	0.000	Achieved
<b>Total for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm</b>			<b>0.876</b>	<b>0.876</b>	<b>0.000</b>	

### Corporate Resources Directorate

Ref	Proposal	Division	£m	Achieved	Gap	Comment
CORP	Holding budget underspends in corporate H&S team	Corp Services	0.020	0.020	0.00	Achieved
CORP	Holding vacancies for the Corporate H&S officer post	Corp Services	0.030	0.030	0.00	Achieved
CORP	Holding vacancies in Strategic Finance for 6 months (NB salary is in the financial services budget)	Corp Services	0.000	0.000	0.000	Achieved
CORP	Reduce frequency of risk assessments	Public Services	0.005	0.005	0.000	Achieved
CORP	Mobile Phone/SIM Card Reduction	IT & Digital	0.050	0.050	0.000	Achieved
CORP	Printing Reduction	IT & Digital	0.030	0.030	0.000	Achieved
CORP	Facilities Management - Delay in in-sourcing cleaning contract	Public Services	0.100	0.100	0.000	Achieved
CORP	Climate Resilience- Meter operator savings	Public Services	0.006	0.006	0.000	Achieved

### Is this report easy to understand?

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<b>Total for Corporate Services Directorate</b>		<b>0.241</b>	<b>0.241</b>	<b>0.000</b>	
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### Chief Executive's Directorate

Ref	Proposal	Division	£m	Achieved	Gap	Comment
CE	In year savings from previous restructure	ACE / LG&HR	0.130	0.130	0.000	Achieved
CE	Vacant post held for Service Development and Integration Manager	ACE	0.050	0.050	0.000	Achieved
<b>Total for Chief Executive's Directorate</b>			<b>0.180</b>	<b>0.180</b>	<b>0.00</b>	

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## 24. APPENDIX 3a – Children Looked After and Care Leavers with placement support Data – April 2019 to December 2020

Numbers	Local Authority Fostering	Agency Fostering	Residential Placement	Semi-Independent	SGOs	Staying Put: Leaving care 18+	Total
Apr-19	196	195	47	32	209	46	725
May-19	197	190	42	32	213	46	720
Jun-19	189	189	43	40	214	50	725
Jul-19	167	197	46	39	219	59	727
Aug-19	168	192	52	42	223	63	740
Sep-19	164	189	57	42	222	60	734
Oct-19	162	190	61	42	224	63	742
Nov-19	162	191	60	38	224	64	739
Dec-19	162	191	60	38	226	64	741
Jan-20	162	194	62	38	226	65	747
Feb-20	165	195	60	38	231	70	759
Mar-20	161	195	62	40	231	68	757
Apr-20	168	194	63	39	233	68	765
May-20	167	197	62	35	233	61	755
Jun-20	166	195	62	33	232	58	746
Jul-20	173	195	62	31	229	58	748
Aug-20	167	199	62	30	229	57	744
Sep-20	169	201	59	33	229	58	749

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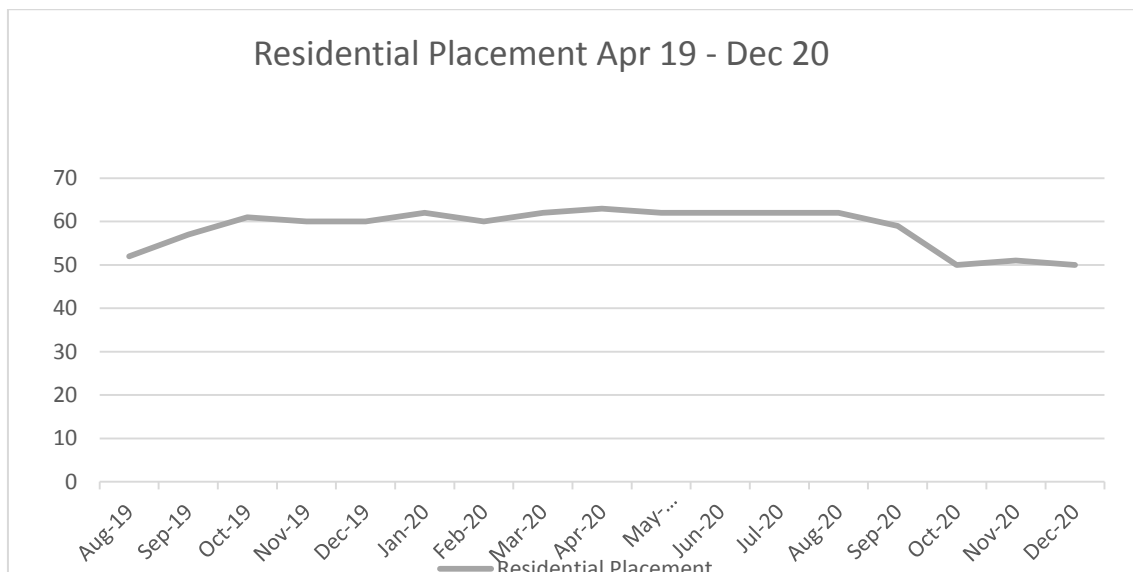
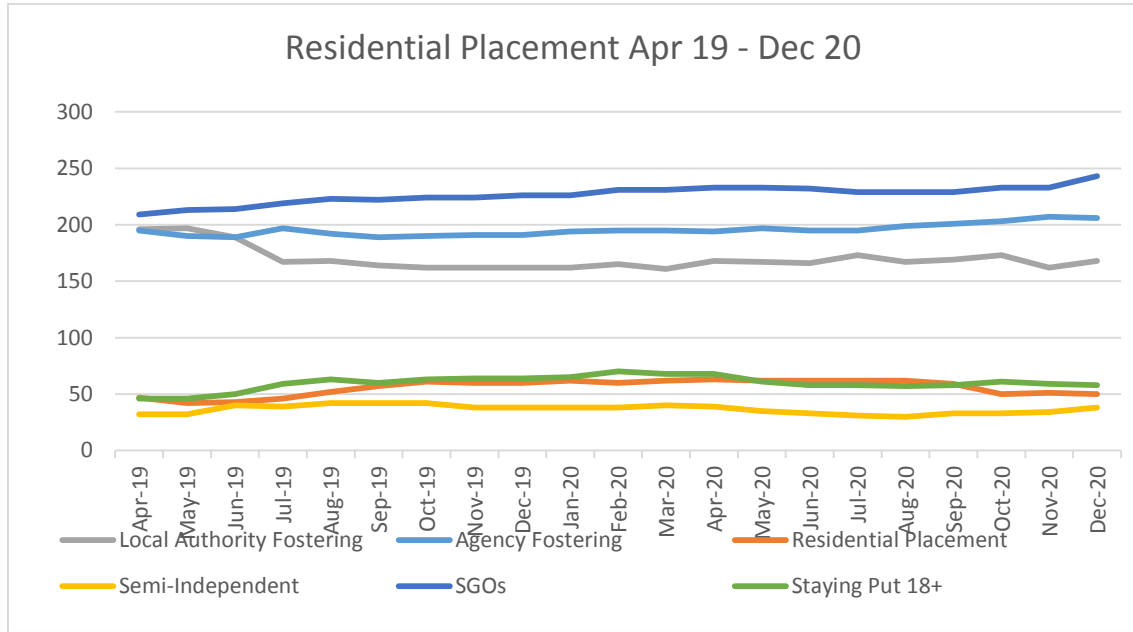
Oct-20	173	203	50	33	233	61	753
Nov-20	162	207	51	34	243	59	746
Dec-20	168	206	50	38	243	58	763

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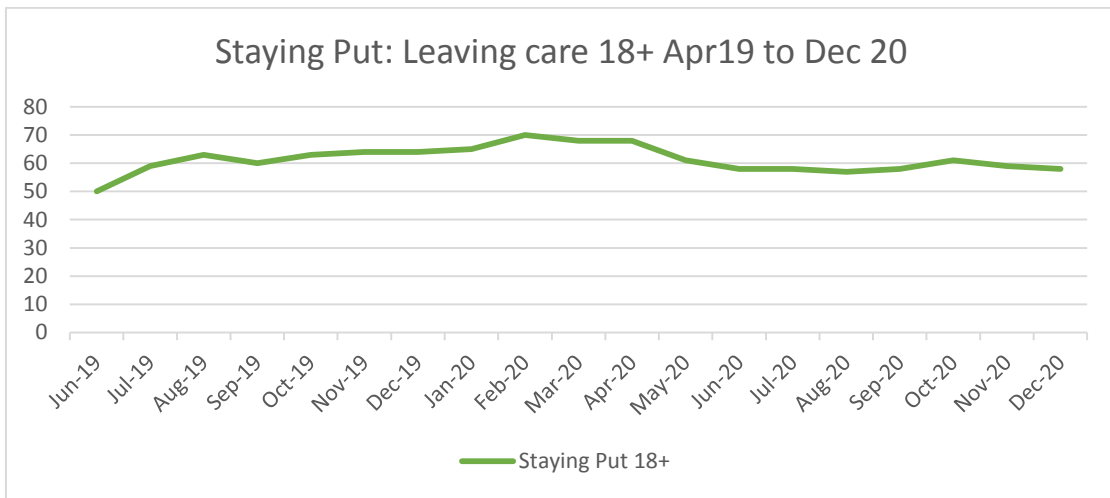
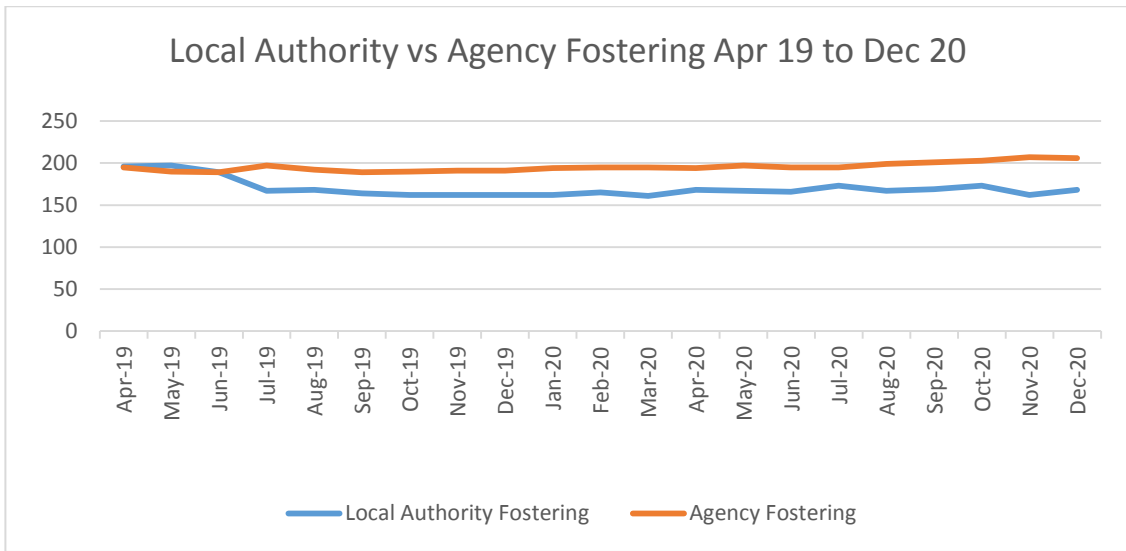
## 25. APPENDIX 3b – Activity Trend Charts for Children Looked After



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## 26. APPENDIX 4 – Activity Trend Tables for Adult Social Care

Adults 18+ in each type of care (numbers)				
	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
Residential	418	418	424	426
Nursing	269	271	276	288
Non-Residential	2,114	2,125	2,131	2,143
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,801</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>2,831</b>	<b>2,857</b>

Adults 18+ in each type of care (average cost)				
	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
Residential	£1,190	£1,194	£1,190	£1,188
Nursing	£859	£862	£877	£883
Non-Residential	£405	£403	£406	£404
Average Gross v. Numbers	£566	£564	£569	£570

Adults 18+ in each type of care (gross cost)				
	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
Residential	£497,287	£498,974	£504,710	£506,271
Nursing	£231,177	£233,502	£241,918	£254,222
Non-Residential	£855,673	£855,465	£864,263	£866,776
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,584,138</b>	<b>£1,587,941</b>	<b>£1,610,890</b>	<b>£1,627,269</b>

### Is this report easy to understand?

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## Public Accounts Select Committee

### Report title: select committee work programme report

**Date:** 17 March 2021

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** None specific

**Contributors:** Assistant Chief Executive

### Outline and recommendations

To advise members of the completed work programme for 2020/21 and to outline how the committee's work programme for 2021/22 will be set.

The Committee is asked to:

- note the completed work programme attached at **appendix A**
- review the issues covered over the course of 2020/21
- review forthcoming key decisions set out in **appendix B**
- Note the timetable for setting the 2021/22 work programme

### Timeline of decision-making

Draft programme agreed by Committee on 24 September 2020

Programme agreed by Business Panel on 29 September 2020

Public Accounts Work Programme 2020/21 – Agreed work programme reviewed at committee meetings on 3 December 2020; 2 February 2021.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. Each select committee is required to agree a work programme for submission to the Business Panel at the beginning of the municipal year. As this is the last meeting of the Public Accounts Select Committee in 2020/21 members are being asked to put forward suggestions for the 2021/22 work programme. Please note, however, that the 2021/22 work programme will not be formally agreed until the first meeting of 2021/22.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to:
  - note the completed work programme attached at appendix A
  - review the issues covered over the course of 2020/21
  - note the timetable for setting the 2021/22 work programme
  - start to prioritise and plan for 2021/22
  - review forthcoming key decisions set out in appendix B.

## 3. The work programme

### Issues covered over the course of 2020/21

- 3.1. Due to the pandemic and the demand that this has placed on the council, each select committee has only met four, instead of five, times this year. In addition, during the latter part of the municipal year, select committees were asked to only consider business critical and/or urgent items. This has had an impact on the volume of work select committees have been able to complete this year. The completed work programme is attached at appendix A.
- 3.2. Key issues covered by the Public Accounts Select Committee this year have included matters related to the budget as well as to financial monitoring and to the financial stabilisation of the Council.

### Timetable for setting the 2021/22 Work Programme

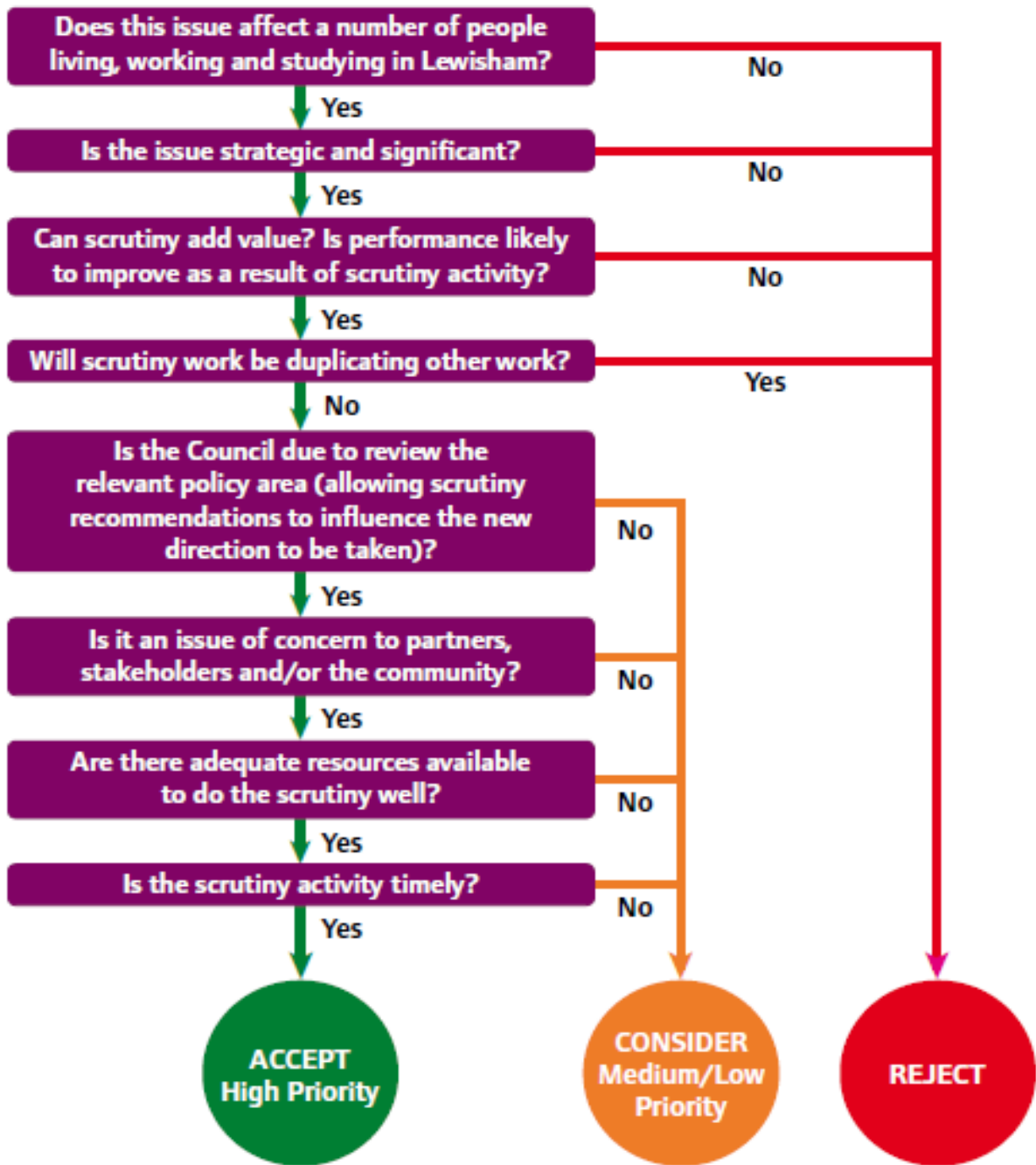
- 3.3. Five committee meetings will be scheduled for the 2021/22 municipal year. A draft work programme will be put forward at the first meeting of the municipal year, taking into account key local issues and the Committee's previous work.
- 3.4. At this meeting, Members are asked to review the Committee's work over 2020/21 and consider suggestions/priority themes for 2021/22. Forthcoming key decisions are set out in appendix B.
- 3.5. Work programme suggestions should be considered against the Committee's terms of reference (see section 4) and the prioritisation chart set out below, and be achievable in terms of the meeting time available.

### Is this report easy to understand?

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## Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



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- 3.6. The Committee should give consideration to issues of local importance and decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet. Items within the work programme should be linked to the priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022:

**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.

## 4. Public Accounts Select Committee terms of reference

- 4.1. The Council's constitution sets out the Committee's powers as defined by the terms of reference (set out below). The Committee should familiarise itself with the terms of reference and consider its remit when selecting items for scrutiny.

Select Committee terms of reference:

- 4.2. To exercise all the functions and roles of the overview and scrutiny committee in relation to the following matters:
- To make reports and recommendations to the Council or the Executive which promote the better custodianship of the Council's finances and to make recommendations for best financial practice across the authority.
  - To investigate the possibilities for improving the Council's financial management practice and to make reports and recommendations to Executive or Council as appropriate.
  - To encourage the highest standards of financial custodianship where necessary overseeing training activity for all members in this area.
  - To consult on and to comment on and make recommendations to the Executive in respect of the actual and proposed contents of the Council's budget and without limiting the general remit of the committee, to hold the Executive to account for its performance in respect of all budgetary matters.
  - To receive reports as appropriate from the Audit Panel in respect of their overview of contract procedure rules and financial regulations.
  - To make recommendations and reports for consideration by the Executive or Council to improve procurement practice.
  - To scrutinise the effectiveness of the Audit Panel.

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## **5. Financial implications**

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme will have financial implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

## **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, all scrutiny select committees must devise and submit a work programme to the Business Panel at the start of each municipal year.

## **7. Equalities implications**

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.3. There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

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

- 8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, in February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. Items on the Committee's work programme may well have (directly referenced or implicit) climate change implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

## **9. Crime and disorder implications**

- 9.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have crime and disorder implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have health and wellbeing implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

### **Is this report easy to understand?**

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## **Report author and contact**

If you have any questions about this report please contact: Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) [timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk)

Appendix A – Completed work programme

Appendix B - Forthcoming key decisions

### **Is this report easy to understand?**

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**Public Accounts Select Committee Work Programme 2020-21**

Item	Type of item	Corporate priority	24-Sep-20	03-Dec-20	02-Feb-21	17-Mar-21
Income generation and commercialisation review 2019-20	In-depth review	All	Final report			
Financial stabilisation - budget update and medium term plan	Performance monitoring	All				
Children's social care	Standard item	All, CP3				
Budget cuts	Performance monitoring	All				
Council budget 2021-22	Policy development	All				
Cost pressures in the Public Realm division	Standard item	All, CP6				
Capital programme	Standard item	All				
Financial forecasts 2020-21	Performance monitoring	All				
Adult social care review	Standard item	All				



## Corporate Priorities

### Priority

1	Open Lewisham	CP 1
2	Tackling the Housing Crisis	CP 2
3	Giving Children and young people the best start in life.	CP 3
4	Building an inclusive local economy	CP 4
5	Delivering and defending: health, social care and support	CP 5
6	Making Lewisham greener	CP 6
7	Building Safer Communities	CP 7

## FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

### Forward Plan March 2021 - June 2021

This Forward Plan sets out the key decisions the Council expects to take during the next four months.

Anyone wishing to make representations on a decision should submit them in writing as soon as possible to the relevant contact officer (shown as number (7) in the key overleaf). Any representations made less than 3 days before the meeting should be sent to Kevin Flaherty 0208 3149327, the Local Democracy Officer, at the Council Offices or [kevin.flaherty@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.flaherty@lewisham.gov.uk). However the deadline will be 4pm on the working day prior to the meeting.

A “key decision”\* means an executive decision which is likely to:

- (a) result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates;
- (b) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.

**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS**

<b>Date included in forward plan</b>	<b>Description of matter under consideration</b>	<b>Date of Decision Decision maker</b>	<b>Responsible Officers / Portfolios</b>	<b>Consultation Details</b>	<b>Background papers / materials</b>
December 2020	<b>2020/21 Budget</b>	03/03/21 Council	Kathy Freeman, Executive Director for Corporate Resources and Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources		
June 2020	<b>Climate emergency action plan update</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Martin O'Brien, Climate Resilience Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
September 2020	<b>Building for Lewisham Programme Requirements</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Karen Barke, Head of Strategic Development and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		
August 2020	<b>Occupational Health Employee Assistance Programme contract</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	David Austin, Acting Chief Finance Officer and Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources		
June 2020	<b>Options appraisal of the security contract</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Chris Damri, SGM Asset Strategy and Technical Support and Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources		
November 2020	<b>Small Sites SPD</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	James Masini, Regeneration and New Supply Manager and		

<b>FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS</b>					
<b>Date included in forward plan</b>	<b>Description of matter under consideration</b>	<b>Date of Decision Decision maker</b>	<b>Responsible Officers / Portfolios</b>	<b>Consultation Details</b>	<b>Background papers / materials</b>
			Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		
February 2021	<b>Neighbourhood CIL borough wide pot</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	David Syme, Strategic Planning Manager and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		
February 2021	<b>Learning Disability Framework - Permission to procure contract</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Tom Bird, Integrated Commissioning Manager and Councillor Chris Best, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care		
February 2021	<b>Statement of community involvement [ceasing temporary covid changes to the scheme of delegation)</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Christopher Dale, Development Manager and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		
February 2021	<b>Main Grants Extensions</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Winston Castello, Community Enterprise Manager and Councillor Jonathan Slater, Cabinet Member for Community Sector		
February 2021	<b>Thames Water Rebates</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Rachel Dunn, Housing Partnerships and Service Improvement Manager and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for		

**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS**

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
			Housing & Planning		
February 2021	<b>Governing Body proposal regarding future of St Mary Magdalen RC Primary School</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Matthew Henaughan, Head of Business, Infrastructure, Compliance and Education and Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance		
February 2021	<b>Contract Extension - Parks and Open Spaces Management</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	James Lee, Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
February 2021	<b>Riverside Youth Club: Refurbishment</b>	10/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Catherine Bunten, Commissioning Manager and Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance		
February 2021	<b>COVID-19 Related Contract Extensions including Stop Smoking, National Health Checks, specialist support for Gypsy Roma community, supported housing services for homeless adults and young people, primary care and counselling and drop in</b>	16/03/21 Executive Director for Community Services	Iain McDiarmid and Councillor Chris Best, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care		

**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS**

Date included in forward plan	Description of matter under consideration	Date of Decision Decision maker	Responsible Officers / Portfolios	Consultation Details	Background papers / materials
	<b>services</b>				
February 2021	<b>ULEZ expansion: section 8 agreement</b>	16/03/21 Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment	Alexandra Crush, Transport Policy and Development Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
February 2021	<b>Adult Social Care Consultant Procurement</b>	16/03/21 Executive Director for Community Services	Kathy Freeman, Executive Director for Corporate Resources and Councillor Chris Best, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care		
February 2021	<b>Electric Vehicle Recharging Point programme</b>	16/03/21 Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment	Alexandra Crush, Transport Policy and Development Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
February 2021	<b>Cycle hangar programme</b>	16/03/21 Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment	Alexandra Crush, Transport Policy and Development Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
February 2021	<b>School streets programme</b>	16/03/21	Liz Brooker, Road Safety		

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		Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment	& Sustainable Transport Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
February 2021	<b>Review of social distancing measures on high streets</b>	16/03/21 Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment	Alexandra Crush, Transport Policy and Development Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
February 2021	<b>Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhood programme</b>	16/03/21 Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment	Alexandra Crush, Transport Policy and Development Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
February 2021	<b>Bus priority programme</b>	16/03/21 Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment	Alexandra Crush, Transport Policy and Development Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
September 2020	<b>Catford Regeneration Partnership Ltd Business Plan 2020-21</b>	24/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Kplom Lotsu, SGM Capital Programmes and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		

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December 2020	<b>Lewisham Homes Business Plan 2021-22</b>	24/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Councillor Colin Elliott and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		
November 2019	<b>Approval to appoint operator for concessions contract at the lake, Beckenham Place Park</b>	24/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Gavin Plaskitt, Programme Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
February 2021	<b>COVID-19 Related Contract Extensions including Sexual Health, Home Care, and Learning Disability Frameworks for Supported Living &amp; Registered Residential Care</b>	24/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Iain McDiarmid and Councillor Chris Best, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care		
February 2021	<b>COVID-19 Related Contract Extensions - CYP Directorate</b>	24/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Richard Marks, Children with Complex Needs Commissioner and Councillor Chris Barnham, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Performance		
December 2019	<b>Additions of new buildings to Local List St Lukes Church</b>	24/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Joanna Ecclestone, Senior Conservation Officer and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		



**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS**

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February 2021	<b>Annual Complaints Report</b>	24/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Irene Bremang, Interim Complaints Service Manager and Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources		
February 2021	<b>New Hope Supported Housing project</b>	24/03/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Kenneth Gregory, Joint Commissioning Lead, Adult Mental Health and Councillor Chris Best, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care		
February 2021	<b>Lee Green school road safety measures</b>	30/03/21 Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment	Josh Learner, Cycling and Walking Programme Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
February 2021	<b>Dockless bikes</b>	30/03/21 Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration & Environment	Alexandra Crush, Transport Policy and Development Manager and Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport		
June 2020	<b>Conversion of 114-116 Manor Avenue to temporary housing</b>	19/05/21 Mayor and Cabinet	James Masini, Regeneration and New Supply Manager and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for		

**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS**

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			Housing & Planning		
February 2021	<b>The Shaftesbury Centre Approval of S106 funding for Housing Development</b>	19/05/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Karen Barke, Head of Strategic Development and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		
February 2021	<b>Catford Town Centre Framework</b>	19/05/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Paul Moore, Interim Director for Regeneration and Place and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		
December 2020	<b>Approval of a new Housing Allocations Scheme'</b>	19/05/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Michael Moncrieff, Housing Policy & Partnerships Manager and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		
February 2021	<b>Building for Lewisham Programme Requirements</b>	19/05/21 Mayor and Cabinet	James Ringwood, Housing Delivery Manager and Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning		
February 2021	<b>Libraries' Update</b>	19/05/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Antonio Rizzo, Library and Information Services Manager and Councillor Jonathan Slater, Cabinet Member for Community Sector		

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February 2021	<b>Film Location Service Contract Award</b>	01/06/21 Executive Director for Community Services	Nancy Stridgen, Local Assembly Coordinator and Councillor Andre Bourne, Cabinet member for Culture, Jobs and Skills (job share)		
October 2019	<b>Mayow Road Supported Living Service Parts 1 &amp; 2</b>	14/07/21 Mayor and Cabinet	Tom Brown, Executive Director for Community Services and Councillor Chris Best, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care		

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