

MINUTES OF THE LEWISHAM CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 6 November 2021 at 12.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Patrick Codd

ALSO PRESENT: Adeyinka Joseph & Winston Castello

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Aisling Gallagher

	Item
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting
	<p>Cllr Patrick Codd welcomed everyone and went through the format of the meeting.</p>
2	Environmental Crime Enforcement Services
	<p>An officer from the Council's Environmental Crime Enforcement Services gave a short presentation on the works provided by the team. The team are responsible for tackling issues around flytipping, littering and other environmental offences in the borough. Regular patrol are conducted by officer to ensure the local environment is protected, looking out for things like illegal dumping of trade waste, graffiti, flytipping or other illegal rubbish dumping and littering.</p> <p>Officers use various media to track down offenders and appropriate legal action are taken against offenders which includes prosecutions in court or issuing of fixed penalty notices to people caught committing an environmental crime in person or via the post. A quick rundown of the various types of offences, penalties, and recent actions taken against environmental offences and how the council uses fund acquired from fixed were explained.</p> <p>A question and answer session followed the short presentation.</p>
3	Lewisham Central Ward NCIL Presentation
	<p>A presentation was given on the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy by Ade Joseph who provided detailed explanation of the overview and the context of the NCIL funding as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) was said to be a payment that local authorities charges on certain new developments. The fund is spent on the improvement of local infrastructure to offset the impact that development have on

an area

- Around 75% of the CIL fund collected is set aside by the council and spent to improve provisions such as schools, hospitals, roads, open spaces or leisure facilities. The remaining 25% can be spent on local priorities identified by Communities.
- A total of £2,931,269 CIL charges has been collected by the council since 2015.
- Around £100k is taken to fund projects which improve air quality across the borough
- Some of the fund was also set aside to form the borough-wide fund. Bids to the borough-wide fund are currently being assessed by officers.

Strategy for allocating NCIL fund

- Residents were consulted on local priorities through Common Place online tool and some local project were identified
- Priorities submitted through common place were agreed at the Local Assembly meeting and resident were also given the opportunity to agree a further priority should they wish to
- Due to delays in allocation the fund because of the Covid pandemic, Mayor and Cabinet agreed further additional funding for each ward. An overarching Covid-19 priority was also added for all wards.
- Support programme for bids was developed by officers and the ward NCIL fund application was opened for bids through the council online portal in late September.

Priorities agreed for Lewisham Central NCIL

- Open / green spaces and nature
- Transports and streets
- Community facilities
- Air Quality
- Community Safety
- Youth activities, opportunities and social inclusion (focus on up to age 25)
- Covid-19 Recovery

How much is available to spend in Lewisham Central

A total of £465,884 has been awarded to Lewisham Central ward. Bids to the fund can be made by individual residents or community groups of the ward. Project proposed by an individual have to be sponsored or supported by an established community group unless the council is the delivery agent. A joint bid for a project that will be delivered across two or three wards where there is a shared ward boundaries can also be made. In such cases, the wards must have a shared priority/ies and all the ward Councillors must be made aware and agree to the projects proposed. The council is delivering a number of themed workshops and one to one application support to assist experienced and non-experienced applicants. Details of how to access the workshops were provided to the meeting.

	<p>What cannot be funded?</p> <p>Clarifications on what the fund cannot be used for were listed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that should be delivered by the Council or its partners as part of their normal functions, e.g. refuse collection etc. • Lobbying, political activity or where promotion of private interests is involved • Projects that will have a significant ongoing financial/revenue implications not covered by the bid, such as long-term maintenance or staff costs • Projects that do not align with the local ward priorities • Projects to be delivered borough-wide across Lewisham <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The long list of applications submitted through the portal will be internally assessed by officers against the grant criteria • Recommendations on the assessed bids will be presented to local ward assembly meeting in January-February 2022 for their ratification. • Projects agreed by the ward assembly will be submitted for final approval to Mayor & Cabinet in March 2022 • It is expected that all agreed project will commence delivery from April 2022 and must be completed within 2 years <p>A session of question and answer followed this presentation.</p>
7.	Community Updates & Any Other Business
	There were no item under community updates.
8.	Declaration of interest
	There were no interest declared at this meeting