

# Public Document Pack

## Council Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 20 July 2022.



Kim Wright, Chief Executive  
12 July 2022

Mayor Damien Egan	
Councillor Yemisi Anifowose	
Councillor Tauseef Anwar	
Councillor Chris Barnham	
Councillor Paul Bell	
Councillor Peter Bernards	
Councillor Chris Best	
Councillor Andre Bourne	
Councillor Bill Brown	
Councillor Natasha Burgess	
Councillor Juliet Campbell	
Councillor Suzannah Clarke	
Councillor Will Cooper	
Councillor Laura Cunningham	
Councillor Liam Curran	
Councillor Brenda Dacres	
Councillor Sophie Davis	
Councillor Amanda De Ryk	

Councillor Sian Eiles  
Councillor Ese Erheriene  
Councillor Billy Harding  
Councillor Stephen Hayes  
Councillor Coral Howard  
Councillor Edison Huynh  
Councillor Mark Ingleby  
Councillor Mark Jackson  
Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin  
Councillor Eva Kestner  
Councillor Louise Krupski  
Councillor Ayesha Lahai-Taylor  
Councillor Jack Lavery  
Councillor Aisha Malik-Smith  
Councillor Joan Millbank  
Councillor Hilary Moore  
Councillor John Muldoon  
Councillor Oana Olaru  
Councillor Rachel Onikosi  
Councillor Rosie Parry  
Councillor Jacq Paschoud  
Councillor John Paschoud  
Councillor Stephen Penfold  
Councillor Kim Powell  
Councillor James Rathbone  
Councillor James Royston  
Councillor Rudi Schmidt  
Councillor Aliya Sheikh

Councillor Sakina Sheikh

Councillor Liam Shrivastava

Councillor Luke Sorba

Councillor Eva Stamirowski

Councillor Hau-Yu Tam

Councillor James-J Walsh

Councillor Luke Warner

Councillor Carol Webley-Brown

Councillor Susan Wise



# Council Agenda

Wednesday, 20 July 2022 7.30 pm,  
Council Chamber  
Civic Suite  
Lewisham Town Hall  
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Emma Aye Kumi (Tel: 0208 314 9534)

## Part 1

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



## Council

### Declarations of Interest

**Date:** July 20 2022

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** n/a

**Contributors:** Chief Executive (**Acting Head of Committee Business**)

### Outline and recommendation

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have on any agenda item.

#### Declaration of interests

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

#### 1 Personal interests

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

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

#### 2 Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined by regulation as:-

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person\* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship –payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).

- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person\* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member’s knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person\* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:-
  - (a) that body to the member’s knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough; and
  - (b) either
    - (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
    - (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person\* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

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

### **(3) Other registerable interests**

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

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

### **(4) Non registerable interests**

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

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

- (a) Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take no part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**
- (b) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph (c) below applies.
- (c) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- (d) If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- (e) Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

## **(6) Sensitive information**

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

## **(7) Exempt categories**



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

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



## Council

### Minutes

**Date:** July 20 2022

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** n/a

**Contributors:** Chief Executive (**Acting Head of Committee Business**)

### Outline and recommendation

Members are asked to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on May 25 2022

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the meeting of the Council which was open to the press and public, held on May 25 2022 be confirmed and signed (copy previously circulated).

# Agenda Item 3



## Council

### Announcements and Communications

**Date:** July 20 2022

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** n/a

**Contributors:** Chief Executive (**Acting Head of Committee Business**)

### Outline and recommendations

Members are asked to receive any announcements or communications

### Recommendation

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

### Mayor's Business Awards

The Mayor of Lewisham Business Awards are an annual opportunity to recognise the importance of our local businesses and celebrate their contributions to the borough. This year's awards will be acknowledging the local businesses that provide opportunities benefitting our communities and work hard to boost local economic growth. This year, there are 14 categories reflecting the range of businesses we have in Lewisham, including best green business, best in creative sector, and best community contribution.

Nominations close on Friday 19 August 2022.

See here for information on how to nominate a local business:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/business/the-mayor-of-lewisham-business-awards-2021>

## **Liberty Festival**

Part of Lewisham's year as Borough of Culture, this is a three-day festival celebrating the creative works by D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists, presented by the Mayor of London. The festival will feature music, theatre, dance, visual art and more. You can look forward to internationally acclaimed artists such as **Yinka Shonibare CBE, Touretteshero, Raymond Antrobus and Selina Thompson.**

The festival will be held in various locations across Lewisham from 22-24 July. All events are free and all ages are welcome to attend.

See the website for more details:

<https://www.wearelewisham.com/festivalevent/liberty/>

## **Mathlete at Grinling Gibbons School**

The Council would like to give a massive congratulations to eight-year-old Michelle from Deptford who has been named the best 'mathlete' (UK Year 3 Category) at this year's World Maths Day Global Challenge. Michelle, who attends Grinling Gibbons Primary School, is the only girl to have won gold in the 10 categories this year. The Challenge has around 10 million entrants from 160 countries. We are very proud of Michelle and look forward to what she achieves in the future!

## **Beckenham Place Flower Show**

The Beckenham Place Flower is a fun, free community event, due to be taking place on Sunday 31 July, 12-7pm. The event includes a flower and produce competition with categories including floral display on the theme 'Queen's Platinum Jubilee'; a medley of courgettes and/or summer squashes; and bowl of salad veg. There are also children's categories judged 10 years and under and 11-16 years which include tallest sunflower, miniature garden on the theme of 'climate emergency'; and vegetable creature (sculpture). There will also be an art exhibition on the theme 'Local Parks and Gardens', a dog show, market stalls, and live music.

See the website for more details: <https://beckenhamplacepark.com/events/bpp-show-2022>

# Agenda Item 4



## Council

### Petitions

**Date:** July 20 2022

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** n/a

**Contributors:** Chief Executive (**Acting Head of Committee Business**)

### Outline and recommendation

Members are invited to receive any petitions from members of the Council or the public

1. The Council is invited to receive petitions (if any) from members of the Council or the public. There is no requirement for Councillors to give prior notice of any petitions that might be presented.
2. The Council welcomes petitions from the public and recognises that petitions are one way in which people can let us know their concerns. All petitions sent or presented to the Council will receive an acknowledgement from the Council within 14 days of receipt. This acknowledgement will set out what we plan to do with the petition.
3. Paper petitions can be sent to :-  
  
Governance Support, Town Hall, Catford, SE6 4RU  
  
Or be created, signed and submitted on line by following this link  
  
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ielogon.aspx?lp=1&RPID=49729383&HPI D=49729383&Forms=1>
4. Petitions can also be presented to a meeting of the Council. Anyone who would like to present a petition at a Council meeting, or would like a Councillor to present it on their behalf, should contact the Governance Support Unit on 0208 314 9534 at least 5 working days before the meeting.

5. Public petitions that meet the conditions described in the Council's published petitions scheme and which have been notified in advance, will be accepted and may be presented from the public gallery at the meeting.
6. No public petitions have been notified for this meeting.

# Agenda Item 5



## Council

### Public Questions

**Date:** July 20 2022

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

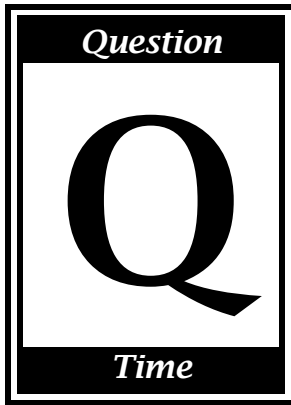
**Ward(s) affected:** n/a

**Contributors:** Chief Executive (**Acting Head of Committee Business**)

### Outline and recommendation

Members are asked to consider questions received from members of the public.

Questions received from members of the public will be published together with written answers on July 19. Questioners will be entitled to attend the meeting and ask a supplementary question.



# **LIST OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Public questions and answers for the Council Meeting of the London Borough of Lewisham to be held on Wednesday 20 July 2022.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 1**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Nicholas MacGuinness

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

Railside habitats are the most biodiversity rich habitats in Lewisham borough. One of the most valuable of these habitats in terms of nature recovery is owned by a property developer. It is the closest Ancient Woodland to the City of London and is located in Courtrai Road SE23 & Buckthorne Road SE4.

At a recent meeting between Mayor Egan and the residents of Crofton Park ward, the Mayor agreed to discuss the possibility of a Compulsory Purchase Order for Gorne Wood, after he understood that the community cannot attempt to raise the necessary funds without this process being agreed by LBL.

Will the council commit to starting a CPO process for this site?

**Reply**

The Council recognises this site provides a habitat for many protected species and is therefore very valuable ecologically and in terms of biodiversity. Officers are considering the realistic options as to how the railside habitats at Courtrai Road SE23 & Buckthorne Road SE4 could be protected and will be providing advice on those options to Members in due course.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 2**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Gina Raggett

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

**Question**

According to the Council's website, "All libraries have study space, free PC access and free WiFi access".

This is clearly untrue in the case of Age Exchange in Blackheath, where there is no study space and the PCs are not in use. Even before Covid, the PCs were inaccessible to wheelchair or disabled users as the platform lift does not extend to the reference section.

Moreover, the library is closed at lunchtime and from 4pm every day as well as all day on Saturdays.

The result is that local children are unable to access their library after school or at weekends.

Q: What, apart from blaming a lack of volunteers, is the Council doing to remedy this appalling situation?

Q: If RB Greenwich can provide a comprehensive and efficient library service despite Covid and government cutbacks, why can't Lewisham?

**Reply**

Thank you very much for your question and the query that you've raised. As the new Cabinet Member for Libraries I'm always keen to hear feedback from the public about our services both how we can improve alongside positive feedback too.

Lewisham's approach is to seek to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service through the library services available at Lewisham, Deptford Lounge, and Downham, and shortly a reopened library at Catford, alongside the invaluable work delivered through our community libraries. Blackheath Library is one such community library.

Thank you for highlighting the anomaly in the service currently in Blackheath to me, which I have met with the Libraries Service to discuss. I can confirm we are actively

working our host voluntary sector partner Age Exchange to help navigate some challenges that arose for them and the service at that site during the pandemic. All of the other hub and community libraries have study space, free PC access and free Wi-Fi access. Going forward I'm also delighted to share with you that our hub libraries are about to increase their opening hours in August, reintroducing a 7 days' operation.

As an interim, and if at all possible for you and your family, it may be well worth a visit and exploring the offer at Manor House Library, which is just over a kilometre away and less than a 15 minutes walk from Age Exchange.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 3**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: William Phillips

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

**Question**

Who has external oversight and auditing of Lewisham Homes procedures and finances?

The continued lack of governance in relation to financial billing of leaseholders and lack of response to leaseholder queries continues (as has for many years) with management complicate in the “rotten” culture and seeming unable to change or accept the issues.

**Reply**

There are a number of external organisations who have a role providing either external oversight or auditing of Lewisham Homes procedures and finances. In respect of the company TIAA undertake an internal audit function, with KPMG undertaking an external audit role. Both of these organisations have a focus on financial controls.

In relation to leaseholder accounts, Lewisham Homes have recently procured new auditors (Beever and Struthers) to undertake an audit in this area.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 4**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Andy R Smith

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

**Question**

In relation to Park Safety most notably Hillyfields, has the council investigated the need for cctv at certain locations?

Frequently the local residents (including myself) are subjected to loud noises at night (such as motor biking in the park) and other anti social behaviour and it's becoming a ongoing concern.

**Reply**

We have fixed CCTV points across the local authority; however, we do have the option to deploy temporary cameras where one can be fitted and when repetitive reports have been received in a specific location. To evidence the reports, we rely on Police intelligence.

There are a number of ways to report anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance at Lewisham. Through the SaferCommunities@Lewisham.gov.uk inbox or through an online portal at <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myserVICES/environment/noise/noise-and-other-disturbances-we-investigate> which is most preferable, as this will prompt you to include detail of the incident, which includes times/date and your housing status. The latter is requested as not all anti-social behaviour is managed by the Council, thus this way of reporting would allow a swifter targeted response.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 5**  
**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Chief Exec's

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

What are the Mayor's responsibilities?

**Reply**

Lewisham Council has a directed elected Mayor and Cabinet model of governance. This means the electorate has directly chosen Damien Egan to be Mayor, for a four year term in 2018 and more recently again for another four year term in May 2022. The Mayor is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the Council, leads the community and speaks up for the whole borough. The Mayor has responsibility for the executive functions of the Council and works closely with the Chief Executive and senior officers to deliver the Council's corporate priorities.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 6**

### **Priority 1**

Question asked by: Temitope Fisayo

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

A third of car trips in London are under 2km, a distance that could easily be travelled on foot or by bike. As a Council, Lewisham has declared a climate emergency. To reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, reducing car use is vital. It therefore follows that increasing the number of journeys made by bike is consistent with the Council's vision of a carbon neutral Lewisham.

What plans have been made to increase cycling provision in Brockley and New Cross?

By 'cycling provision', I am referring to: bike lanes (e.g., upgrading existing cycleways, building new ones) and bike storage (e.g., Sheffield stands in public places, cycle hangars on residential streets).

### **Reply**

The Council remains committed to encouraging active and sustainable travel and creating an environment where travel by sustainable modes will be the most pleasant, reliable and attractive. Currently there are 121 bike hangars across the borough.

The Council has taken a borough wide approach to increase the provision of bike parking facilities, cycle lanes and reducing traffic levels. For example, the council has implemented a low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) aimed at reducing car dominance and improving the environment for walking and cycling, whilst benefiting from improved safety and air quality. Currently the Council is rolling out complementary environmental measures in the LTN and surrounding area to further improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, which includes a significant number of bike hangars, improved crossing facilities, school streets and electric vehicle charging points.

The Council is currently developing a programme to roll bike hangars out to other areas of the borough, including Brockley and New Cross. To deliver this we are actively seeking alternative sources of funding, such as section 106 funding, in light of the challenging financial position of TfL.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 7**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Silvia D Barber

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

When the new development between the two Catford stations was completed I was disappointed to find out that no allowance had been made for bike locking areas near the new Sainsbury's local, café and barbershop. Currently the nearest bike parking facilities are at Catford Station or on the other side of the river by the wall of Catford Bridge Station. As Lewisham is trying to increase the air quality and promote the use of bikes over cars, I believe bike parking near the new supermarket will encourage more people to choose this method of transport.

Will the council consider retrofitting bike parking facilities near the new Sainsbury's local to facilitate the use of bikes in the Borough?

**Reply**

The Council remains committed to expanding the provision of cycle parking throughout the borough.

The proposals for the Catford station area improvements include a covered cycle parking along the outside wall of Catford Bridge station. Whilst the land directly outside of the Sainsbury's local is not public highway, we will investigate opportunities to further increase the provision in the area.



## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 8**

### **Priority 1**

Question asked by: Nicolette Morgan

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

### **Question**

There has been a lot of disruption at night around my house on Lewisham Way. Last night it was the worst it has been with approximately 15 people pitching up deck chairs in the street and having a party. I contacted 101 and they informed the police do not attend noise complaints and it would be for the council to manage this. They stated they did not have an out of hours phone number to report this. Due to the fact there have been some dangerous crimes in the area recently neither my partner nor myself would feel comfortable asking said people to keep it down or move on (not that we should be expected to do so anyway).

How are we supposed to enjoy living in this area if we just have to accept constant disruption, shouting and general antisocial behaviour and are unable to report it. And how is there not an pit of hours phonline to report noise disruptions? Surely late nights are when the most complaints would occur? What will the council do to support "out of hours" complaints?

### **Reply**

I was sorry to hear about the nuisance that you and neighbours have experienced. I can well understand the stress this may cause. Unfortunately, as a result of over 12 years of central government cuts the Council has had reluctantly to cease to operate an out of hours response service. However, we take these issues very seriously, and if we receive repetitive reports of concern we are able to investigate specific issues of concern at whatever time is appropriate, including out of hours.

Accordingly, I would urge residents always to report concerns, with as much detail as possible. There are a number of ways to report anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance at Lewisham. Through the SaferCommunities@Lewisham.gov.uk inbox or through an online portal at

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/noise/noise-and-other-disturbances-we-investigate> which is most preferable, as this will prompt you to include detail of the incident, which includes times/date and your housing status. The latter is requested as not all anti-social behaviour is managed by the Council, thus this way of reporting would allow a swifter targeted response.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 9**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Clive Lees

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

We are interested in viewing comments made by consultees to planning applications. However, these do not display – there is a ‘blank list’ of comments but no way to see them. eg at [https://planning.lewisham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=neighbourComments&keyVal= LEWIS\\_DCAPR\\_112565&neighbourCommentsPager.page=1](https://planning.lewisham.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=neighbourComments&keyVal= LEWIS_DCAPR_112565&neighbourCommentsPager.page=1)

**Reply**

Internal and statutory consultee comments are uploaded to planning case files online and can be viewed alongside plans and documents.

Public and neighbour comments are not routinely uploaded to the case file due to GDPR rules. However, on request to [planning@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:planning@lewisham.gov.uk), public comments on any case will be provided in a redacted format.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 10**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

How many Lewisham residents do not pay their council tax by Direct Debit?

The council enclosed a leaflet with the 2022/23 council Tax bill referring to its plans to pass on the £150 government payment to residents.

Have those paying by Direct Debit been reimbursed? How will those not paying by Direct Debit be reimbursed and when?

**Reply**

31.73% do not pay their council tax by Direct Debit.

65,487 households living in properties banded A – D and paying their council tax by direct debit were reimbursed with a payment of £150 which was credited directly into their bank accounts on or around 10 May 2022.

Anyone living in a property banded A – D but NOT paying their council tax by direct debit will receive a letter confirming the arrangements for them to claim their payment. The letters will be dispatched in surname order over a 4 week period commencing on Monday 11 July as below;

Surname starts with	Date letters will be sent
A - Do	11 July 2022
Do - La	18 July 2022
La - Ri	25 July 2022
Ri to Z	1 August 2022

The letter will contain an embedded barcode which they can present at their local post-office with their ID to redeem the cash payment of £150. They will have one month from the date of the letter to redeem it for cash. Any un-presented letters at the end of this period will have the credit off-set against their council tax account instead.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 11**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

Lewisham Planning Department recently delivered a leaflet in Lee Green Ward advising of the proposed development at the Leegate Centre (DC/22/126997)

How widespread was this delivery in the London borough of Lewisham?

Will the council be informing the Royal Borough of Greenwich Planning Department of the proposed development as the adjacent borough's residents may feel the effect/impact of the demolition plans, delivery of building materials, building time and resulting new development, more than some distanced residents of Lee Green Ward?

**Reply**

The Royal Borough of Greenwich have been consulted on the Leegate Planning application.

8,637 letters have been sent to addresses within an area approximately 300 metres from the development site boundary and in some places, where the site is directly visible, letters have been sent to addresses up to 500 metres away from the boundary. This is in addition to site notices and public notices being displayed in the local area and a local newspaper in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 12**

### **Priority 1**

Question asked by: Caroline Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

We the residents of Tannsfeld and Girton roads (both directly off Sydenham high street) have been asking for residents' parking for many years. We have registered our interest on the council website at least twice, myself and many of my neighbours without a response.

We are asking for parking restrictions similar those which operate in the London Borough of Bromley where it is only in force for part of the day to deter all day parking for now to see if there is any impact.

Residents of Tannsfeld use the bottom part of Girton Road which emerges halfway down Tannsfeld and where there is no housing to park on also, so a scheme which links the two roads would be helpful.

We have lost many parking spaces on one side of Tannsfeld because of the increasing number of drives which have been put in, where previously three cars could park outside two houses, you can only park two cars, on the drive. Most of one side of Tannsfeld is prevented from adding drives because the front gardens are 50cm shorter than the recommended length.

There is a large car park (very badly signposted) which is free for two hours on Girton Road (close to the entrance with the high street) so there is ample parking for gym users and shoppers.

Please can you look into this please?

### **Reply**

The Council understands the concerns raised with regards to requesting better parking controls and we sincerely apologise for the lack of response. Currently the Council is in the process of developing a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) programme which is aimed at consulting at areas with no parking controls at this time, asking residents if they wish to see parking controls introduced on their roads. The programme will focus on areas of highest stress at first and implementation will on a phased approach and dependent on resident feedback. A

decision on the programme is expected by the Mayor & Cabinet committee later this year.

The issues around poor directional signage for Girton Road car park will also be looked into and improved where possible.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 13**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Billy Shah

Relevant Directorate: Chief Exec's

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

Lewisham Life has on average five photographs of Mayor Damien Egan in each edition, with nearly every other spread having a photograph of him. The code of practice on local council publicity says that council magazines should only have "information for the public about the business, services and amenities of the council or other local service provider".

What is the reason to have so many pictures of the Mayor in the magazine and is this consistent with the code on publicity?

**Reply**

Lewisham Life is published four times a year, in line with the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. The current issue, which was distributed earlier this month includes 13 pages on our London Borough of Culture programme, with details of events and opportunities for residents to get involved and experience. It also includes information about our leisure centres, markets, adult learning centre open days, new playgrounds and how to get a COVID vaccine booster. Lewisham Life is a valuable way to share this information with residents – particularly those who don't have access to or choose not to use social media. We do include photos of the Mayor and Cabinet members where appropriate and in context to illustrate stories, usually alongside local residents at local events.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 14**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Phil Bridger

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Parking in Clarendon Rise Car Park and on Albion Way is restriction free on Sundays. There also appears to be no parking enforcement. This leads dozens of cars being parked illegally / parked idling and an extremely busy wider area as people save their shopping for this day (due to being fare free).

Given the recent move to emissions based parking what is the climate incentive for maintaining this restriction free policy? Surely it leads to heavily polluting vehicles simply parking on Sundays?

Why is there no enforcement of illegal parking on Sundays (cars can be parked in fare free zones illegally e.g double yellow lines, disabled parking with no badges etc)?

Does the council have an ambition to improve the illegal parking situation in the area and if so how does it plan on implementing this ambition?

How much money has been raised from parking enforcement on Albion Way YTD 2022. In expectation that this is a very large number doesn't this point to a wider issue with parking in the area that needs fixing / preventing rather than just punitive enforcement?

**Reply**

Clarendon Rise Car Park operates Monday to Saturday. On Sundays and bank holidays, the car park is free of charge. The Council does deploy parking enforcement teams on Sundays and bank holidays except on Easter Sunday and Christmas Day, to minimise the cost to the Council considering controls are not in place. On these days enforcement does take place for contraventions to double yellow lines, disabled bays and dropped kerbs, as examples.

Albion Way falls under the Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) which operates from Monday to Saturday in this area and again, the Council's parking enforcement team will be patrolling the location to enforce vehicles parked against similar contraventions as mentioned above, on Sundays.



If the Council is to propose an extension on the CPZ days, through a review, the Council will need to undertake a public consultation with residents and businesses, with approval likely if there is a strong appetite for any extension to parking controls. Currently a review programme for existing CPZs is being considered with possible committee decision later this year.

The Council is always looking for ways to improve parking compliance whilst lowering the emission in direct response to the climate emergency. This includes introducing new emissions controls on motorcycles recently, enforcing contraventions to traffic signs, as well as updating signs and road markings which have been deteriorated over the years through general wear and tear.

To date and since the beginning of the financial year, payments due to fines issues have totalled £10,180.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 15**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Tim collingridge

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Barrier on path between Avonley Rd/Hunsdon Road and John Williams Close in New Cross

This question concerns this barrier, made up of three overlapping railings, which LBL installed in November 2021 on the path between Avonley Rd/Hunsdon Road and John Williams Close.

This is on a designated cycleway:

<https://www.openstreetmap.org/way/170206117#map=18/51.48018/-0.04914>

I contacted highways@lewisham.gov.uk on 17/2/22 and 26/3/22 for clarification of the reasons for the erection of this barrier but did not receive any response.

The barrier that has been installed is very difficult to cycle round and causes conflict between cyclists and pedestrians. Also it is not passable by cargo bikes and 'inclusive' cycles like trikes. Given that one of the stated aims of Lewisham's transport policies is to encourage active travel and use of cargo bikes this barrier seems very inappropriate in its implementation and design.

We are also a bit baffled by the signage which states this is a 'Pedestrian' zone with no mention of cycle access along the path.

For information my original email sent from lewishamcyclists@gmail.com to Highways contains photographs of the barrier and signage.

Please clarify why the barrier was erected and what evidence was collected that demonstrated that it was needed.

**Reply**

I am sorry that you didn't receive a response to your original enquiry and Council officers are happy to meet and discuss the points raised.

The barriers were introduced following the receipt of complaints from members of the public raising safety concerns resulting from motorcycles and moped users using this route.

We appreciate that this has made it more difficult for cyclists, however this had to be weighed against the safety of pedestrians in this area, some of whom are elderly.

There is always a challenge to find a compromise solution that addresses the safety concern about motorcycle/moped use, but remains accessible and enables the use by adapted/cargo bikes.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 16**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

Sadly Cllr Bell chose to answer a different question to the one I put (question 54) in March 2022 about the Council's business plan for Kitewood. It was not a question about when the Council published its interest in the development. Please answer the actual question: does the Council have a business plan for Kitewood and if yes where can I find a copy?

**Reply**

No, the Council does not have a dedicated business plan for Kitewood. However, the Council's proposal for its land at Copperas Street, involving Kitewood, can be found on the Council's website using the following address:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=139&MIId=4350>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 17**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Richard Hebditch

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Is it still council policy to deliver on the actions in Lewisham's climate action plan from March 2020, and will the council publish an update on the individual actions within it?

**Reply**

Lewisham Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan was approved by Mayor and Cabinet on 11 March 2020. The Council's delivery of Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan has had to adapt in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and in relation to new funding opportunities such as the Government's Low Carbon Skills Fund, the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the Green Homes Local Authority Delivery Fund and the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. Updates on delivery of the Action Plan have been presented to Mayor and Cabinet on 10 March 2021

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=6122>  
and 9 March 2022

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=6498>

A further update on delivery of Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet in March 2023.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 18**

### **Priority 1**

Question asked by: Lee Powell

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

### **Question**

Lewisham's auditors have reported that "slippage in the council's capital programme has been a recurrent theme over the years" and that this year it has happened again with capital projects allowed to slip into the following financial year. The auditors note that "there is more work to be completed in relation to instilling a sense of accountability for capital management". They also point out the lack of reporting on slippage on a scheme by scheme basis, and call for detailed explanations for any slippage. Given this issue recurs year after year and is not picked up by scrutiny (beyond public questions), what is the council's plan to deal with this issue?

### **Reply**

This refers to the Auditor's Annual Report and positive Value for Money conclusion for 2020/21 and the subsequent post balance sheet period received by the Audit Panel at their June 2022 meeting with the report available here:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s100379/Appendix%20A%20-%20Auditors%20Annual%20Report%20London%20Borough%20of%20Lewisham.pdf>

Since 2020 with the expansion of the housing capital programme at the same time as the Council was dealing with the disruptions from the Covid pandemic has made the timely delivery of the capital programme more challenging.

As noted in the report, the governance arrangements have been reviewed and strengthened given the increased and scale of the Council's Housing Revenue Account capital programme and the General Fund Plans. In addition, the internal reporting to decision makers is being improved through the introduction of more comprehensive Project Highlight Reports (PHR). These help more closely align reporting on the time, cost and quality elements of delivery of schemes.

The financial reporting has also been strengthened with the introduction of Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings for spend against project profile for the period and in respect of the total budget. The financial timetable has also been revisited for 2022/23 to include a full re-profiling stage in the annual programme cycle in June/July with a further update in October/November by exception.

This improved reporting informs and is part of the capital section in the regular quarterly budget monitoring to Mayor & Cabinet. The re-profiling work and future programme is then consulted on with Member via pre-scrutiny at the relevant select committees, in particular the Public Accounts Select Committee, before moving to Mayor and Cabinet for the proposals to form part of the Budget report presented to Full Council for adoption.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 19**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

Please state what is Lewisham Council's exact definition of a social home?

**Reply**

There are lots of different types of 'affordable' housing products being delivered across London and nationally

The affordable homes that we define as 'social homes' for the purposes of planning are:

- London Affordable Rent (LAR) homes; and
- Target Rent homes

London Affordable Rent is for households on a low income with the rent level based on social rent levels with those levels set by the GLA. This is a lower rent level than the national Affordable Rent which is set at up to 80% of market rent.

Target Rent is a social rent level calculated by the government.

When the Council refers to its Building for Lewisham programme, the council uses the term social home to describe the tenures reference above i.e. LAR and Target Rent and also temporary accommodation, which the Council are both building and acquiring to support those residents presenting to us as homeless. The Temporary Accommodation homes delivered by the Council are let at Local Housing Allowance (LHA) levels.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 20**  
**Priority 2**

Question asked by: Andy R Smith

Relevant Directorate: Chief Exec's

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

When I'm a candidate for the local election, can my professional qualifications appear next to my name? I.e Andrew R Smith, MSc, CA ?

**Reply**

No, current electoral law does not allow for election candidates to display a title or qualification next to their name. The ballot paper allows for the candidate's full name, or their commonly used name. In addition, candidates for political parties are allowed to use a description and an emblem (both of which must be registered with the electoral commission). Independent candidates are allowed to have the description "independent". No further information appears on the ballot paper.



**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 21**

**Priority 2**

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

How does Lewisham Council ensure compliance with the data protection and sharing requirements laid down in law, specifically the INSPIRE Regulations 2009?

**Reply**

The Council's Information Security and Governance team oversee data protection compliance. It does so by delivering mandatory data protection training, advice and support to council services. It oversees the data privacy impact assessment (DPIA) and data sharing agreement (DSA) processes to ensure sharing activities comply with legislation.

The Council's LLPG/GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Team is responsible for the transfer of Spatial Data to staff, internal and external clients and partners. The team transfer data to the INSPIRE Hub guided by INSPIRE Regulations of 2009. INSPIRE Regulations of 2009 implement the European Directive on public access to environmental information (2003/4/EC) in the UK. The Directive requires public authorities to make environmental information available to the public on request, free of charge. The Regulations set out how public authorities must comply with the Directive, including what information must be made available, how requests for information must be handled, and what exceptions apply.

Information that must be provided includes air quality, water quality, noise levels, waste management, and other environmental issues. The exceptions in the Directive include information which is confidential or commercially sensitive, or which would prejudice the interests of security or defence.

Requests for information must be handled in a timely and efficient manner. The regulations do not specify a particular method for handling such requests, but they do require that all requests must be responded to within 20 working days. In addition, the regulations stipulate that public authorities must make every effort to provide the requested information in an accessible format. The INSPIRE Regulations do not apply to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 22**

### **Priority 2**

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

### **Question**

The council will have agreed a balanced budget for the London borough of Lewisham for 2022/2023.

Will the council be forced to re-think its spending plans or draw up emergency cuts to front line public services due to the highest inflation rate, causing a surge in costs, thus eroding funding agreed? Would this be likely to affect front line services? Or, will the council use any funding required from its contingency reserve?

### **Reply**

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is kept under regular review, aligned with the regular budget monitoring in-year and announcements from government on future spending plans impacting Local Authority activities.

At present based on the service budgets set and corporate provisions made for 2022/23, including assumptions for inflation, the Council is not expecting to need to draw up emergency cuts to front line services. Any pressures in-year not covered by these assumptions will be considered by the s151 officer. They will then agree plans with the relevant service(s) to find alternative means to reduce an overspending risk. The use of reserves as a temporary measure to provide the time for these plans to be implemented would be part of this discussion and report to Mayor & Cabinet at the earliest opportunity, either via the quarterly monitoring report or the reports that build the budget if later in the year.

If the current very high levels of inflation continue for longer than expected based on Bank of England assumptions the savings target for 2023/24 may also need to be increased. These considerations are explored further in the 6 July MTFS report to Mayor & Cabinet, available at:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s101761/Medium%20Term%20Financial%20Strategy.pdf>.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 23**

**Priority 2**

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

During 2021/2 how much did the Council spend on legal fees defending it's planning decision concerning Mais House, Sydenham Hill? How much did the Council spend on legal fees in the same year defending other planning applications?

**Reply**

The Council spent £74,111 defending the Mais House decision in 21/22.  
The Council has spent £63,706 on legal fees defending other planning applications in the same year.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 24**  
**Priority 2**

Question asked by: Lee Powell

Relevant Directorate: Chief Exec's

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

Until the election of Mayor Egan in 2018, Lewisham published on its website its monthly performance report. These were then scrapped. The council has now taken down all the pre-2018 performance reports from its website. The auditors have now revealed that in fact the council does collate a quarterly performance report, but this is neither shared at council committee meetings or made public. Will the council commit to publishing these reports in future and also making public its quarterly performance reports from the last four years?

**Reply**

The Council is committed to publishing its performance reporting going forward. The historic reports have been removed from the website in error and will be uploaded again. We acknowledge there has been a gap in performance reporting over the last few years whilst we firstly reevaluated effectively reporting on our priorities with the introduction of our Corporate Strategy in early 2019, and then shifted our resources and priorities to responding to COVID, however as we emerge from our COVID response, the Council is reviewing its performance management approach and will be regularly publishing performance information later this year.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 25**

**Priority 2**

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

**Question**

Please state how many temporary homeless households there currently are in Lewisham and what number of these households are placed in temporary accommodation outside of the Borough. Please also state what was the position a full year ago.

**Reply**

As at 12th July 2022, there were 2,767 households placed in temporary accommodation (TA). Of these, 57% were in TA within Lewisham, 25% were in TA within SE London and 18% were in TA outside of Lewisham and SE London.

As at 12th July 2021, there were 2,614 households placed in TA. Of these, 60% were in TA within Lewisham, 24% were in TA within SE London and 16% were in TA outside of Lewisham and SE London.

The Council strives to make all placements in borough or as close to borough as possible.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 26**

### **Priority 3**

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

### **Question**

Some local residents recently received a public notice from the London Borough of Lewisham Planning department.

It was dated 22/6/2022, property reference LE/995/A/TP, council reference DC/22/126997. Residents were advised to reply by 22/7/2022, barely a month.

What are the statutory requirements for the time allowed for comments?

There is no mention on the leaflet of a public presentation, public meeting, contact with developers and councillors, council officers.

Will such events be held?

There is no mention of a time-line of the steps involved in the progress of the proposed development to inform the public. Will this be available to the public?

The leaflet refers to a "proposed development at Leegate Centre" and then to "the application." Does this mean the same in terms of planning law?

The leaflet delivered seems incomplete in many respects. Will the council planning department be clear about its responsibilities to the public, how the public is informed and what the public can expect?

### **Reply**

The statutory period for responses relating to Public Notices for EIA development is 30 days.

The Neighbour letters circulated to residents includes case officer contact details; a link to the submission plans and documents; and Planning Committee meeting details. The planning description correctly sets out the site address and development proposal. Further details about what to expect after commenting on a planning application are included in acknowledgement letters that are sent to all those who comment, as well as information available on the Council website at:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myserVICES/planning/find-comment-planning-applications/guide-to-commenting-on-planning-applications>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 27**

**Priority 3**

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

This question concerns the street trees on Eastdown Park between the Dermody Hill junction and the Wisteria Road junction.

These trees have been pollarded and as a consequence there is massive growth around the trunks to ground level. Those on the right hand side of the road from Dermody Hill to Wisteria Road seem to have more growth than those opposite. Attempts have been made for the first 2 trees to cut back the growth. However, because the rest are flourishing the growth is badly reducing the pavement width for pedestrians and beginning to cover the parked cars.

Will the council say who is responsible for monitoring the tree growth and dealing with the damaging consequences to be seen? Can anything be done to free up the pavements? This is a narrow busy road and the tree growth adds to the problems for pedestrians and residents.

**Reply**

The Council's Tree Service is responsible for ensuring that the shoots that grow from the base of trees in Council ownership are removed if they are blocking pavements. This is part of our annual tree maintenance programme. There is an active program/team carrying out this work and the area around Eastdown Park is included within that. It is anticipated that works in this vicinity should be completed by mid- August 2022.

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 28**  
**Priority 3**

Question asked by: Alan Hall

Relevant Directorate: Chief Exec's

Member to reply: Chair of Audit Panel

**Question**

May I ask the Chair of the Council to outline the terms of reference and responsibilities of the Audit Panel?

**Reply**

The Constitution states:

**9.3** The Council will also appoint an advisory Audit Panel as set out in the first column of the table below with the composition set out in the second column and the terms of reference set out in the third column

Audit Panel	Composition	Terms of Reference
Audit Panel	Consisting of 6 non executive Councillors, one of whom shall serve as chair and up to 4 independent co-opted members	(a) To receive, review and where appropriate advise as appropriate and make recommendations to the Council * on the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The review and approval of the Council's Internal Audit strategy, plans and resources.</li> <li>• Internal Audit progress reports on a quarterly basis summarizing the audit reports issued and performance of the Internal Audit function.</li> <li>• The annual report of the Council's Head of Internal Audit and Inspection Agencies</li> <li>• Reports from Internal Audit on the implementation of agreed recommendations where</li> </ul>



		<p>management have failed to undertake the necessary actions within the planned audit time frame.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The external auditor's Annual Plan, relevant reports, and reports to those charged with governance.</li> <li>• External inspection reports and specific reports as agreed with the external auditor</li> <li>• The monitoring of the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements, the control environment and associated anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements.</li> <li>• An overview of the Council's Constitution in respect of audit procedure rules, contract procedure rules, and financial regulations.</li> <li>• The Council's assurance arrangements including the Statement of Internal Control.</li> <li>• The Council's Annual Statement of Accounts, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are any concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Executive.</li> <li>• The external auditor's opinion and reports to members, and monitoring of management action in response to issues raised by external audit.</li> </ul>
		<p>* Any advice and recommendations made by the Audit Panel shall be referred to the Chief Executive and/or Executive Director of Corporate Resources who shall refer the matter to the appropriate Council decision maker for consideration.</p>

**PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 29**

**Priority 3**

Question asked by: Lee Powell

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

**Question**

Lewisham's Local Democracy Review recommended "that the Council take an open data approach, namely that it seeks to provide (subject to legal constraints such as personal data) all the information it holds on an easily accessible platform for our citizens to interrogate and also use for their own purposes". Please can you tell us whether there is a platform or, if not, what plans there are to provide one?

**Reply**

Information can be found on the Council's open data and transparency page  
[Lewisham Council - Open data and transparency](#)

Further data is also published on the observatory page  
[Lewisham Observatory – Welcome to the Lewisham Observatory site](#)

# Agenda Item 6



## Council

### Member questions

**Date:** July 20 2022

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** n/a

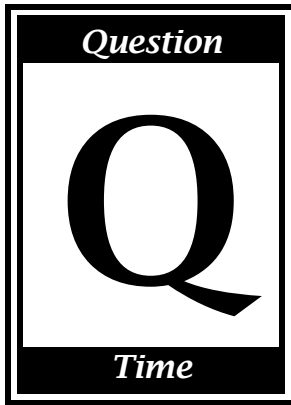
**Contributors:** Chief Executive (**Acting Head of Committee Business**)

### Outline and recommendation

To receive questions from members of the Council.

### Questions from Members of the Council

Section C, paragraph 14 of the Constitution, provides for questions relevant to the general work or procedure of the Council to be asked by Members of the Council. Copies of the questions received and the replies to them will be published as an attachment to this document on July 19 2022.



# **LIST OF MEMBER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Member questions and answers for the Council Meeting of the London Borough of Lewisham to be held on Wednesday 20 July 2022.

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 1**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Councillor Harding

Relevant Directorate: Chief Exec's

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

How many homes in Lewisham have been lost to Right To Buy between 2018-2022

**Reply**

The total number of properties sold under the Right to Buy scheme between April 2018 to March 2022 is 234. The breakdown is as follows: -

2018 to 2019 : 86 properties

2019 to 2020: 43 properties

2020 to 2021: 42 properties

2021 to 2022: 63 properties

I believe that the Right to Buy policy has a detrimental impact on the number of social homes in our borough and the UK. We support more funding for more social homes from the government. As a Labour council we will continue to fight for safe and affordable homes for every resident.

## **MEMBER QUESTION NO. 2**

### **Priority 1**

Question asked by: Councillor Eiles

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

### **Question**

I would like to submit the following question to Louise Krupski in July's full council meeting:

Tackling toxic air pollution is a priority of this administration. What is Lewisham doing to make Lewisham's air cleaner?

### **Reply**

The Council has recently had its Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) agreed by Lewishams Mayor and Cabinet. This is an in-depth document that is required by the Greater London Authority (GLA), as part of London's statutory plans, to fit in with National measures to tackle air pollution. A summary of this document in a more readable format is available for residents, businesses and other interested parties. The plan lays out our aims and ambitions for the next five years as a baseline, as follows:

Continuation and expansion of our Air Quality Monitoring programme.

- Will assist to identify parts of the borough most affected by pollution.
- Will allow the Council and partners to consider actions to improve the air quality in these areas, and includes the introduction of new air quality monitors and real time monitoring.

Reduce emissions from developments and buildings

- Working to minimise emissions from existing buildings and new developments, this includes policies, enforcement, an awareness campaign and engagement with businesses, residents and other partners.
- Included in this are projects based on tackling indoor pollution, including an awareness campaign on wood burning and working with landlords to ensure that private-rented accommodation follows legal requirements on the environment alongside enforcement of those who breach air quality based legislation.

Public Health and Awareness Raising

- The Council, Lewisham's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other partners will continue to raise awareness about the causes of air pollution, measures that are being taken to reduce harmful emissions, and steps that residents, businesses and organisations can take to help improve air quality.

- The Council will work closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group, GPs and pharmacies to raise awareness of the health impacts of air pollution within local communities, to help reach vulnerable residents, who are most impacted by air pollution.

- Alongside this are plans around improved Air Quality for schools which link with the further introduction of schools streets.

Supporting vulnerable people

- Specific measures have been included that focus on protecting vulnerable people in our action plan.

- This includes the prioritisation of schools, care homes, hospitals and lower-income areas for air quality monitoring and support schools to help children walk and cycle more, through initiatives like free cycle lessons, and encouraging them to gain STARS accreditation.

Transport and Travel

- The work that the Council is doing to deliver the borough's Transport Strategy and Local Implementation Plan will also contribute to improving air quality.

- One of the objectives of the strategy is that travel by sustainable modes will be the most pleasant, reliable and attractive option for those travelling to, from and within Lewisham.

- Introduce more Electric Vehicle charging points across the borough, increase the number of cycle hangars and improve the council's fleet.

- Champion the use of cargo bikes and other non-direct combustion powered delivery vehicles.

- Enhancing our campaign and enforcement around our anti-idling message to road users.

- Supporting the further extension of the Mayor for London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ).

### **MEMBER QUESTION NO. 3**

#### **Priority 1**

Question asked by: Councillor Shrivastava

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

#### **Question**

As the 2022 London Borough of Culture, what have been some of the highlights so far for Lewisham? What else can we expect over the next 6 months and are you able to share your thoughts and plans on how we can ensure this year of culture leaves a lasting legacy for the borough?

#### **Reply**

The first 6 months have seen a diverse programme ranging from a Creative Careers Fair designed to help young people find their way into the creative industries, a small grants programme that supported communities and businesses to develop their own events in every ward, to two music festivals showcasing the Borough's music scenes. Most recently the internationally renowned Sun & Sea production at the Albany attracted wide media attention and sold out audiences as part of the Climate Emergency programme.

The next six months will feature a wide range of opportunities for all of Lewisham's communities to join in events, ranging from the first People's Day for several years on July 16th, to a new programme of family friendly activities in places like libraries, parks and shopping centres throughout the summer. Coming up are: the Liberty Festival (22-24 July), showcasing the work of d/deaf, disabled and neuro-diverse artists; Climate Home, a youth-led temporary venue and festival; the Beyond Borders music programme, featuring outdoor and family festivals; and Close to Home, the culmination of local participation throughout the year for the UK's largest Black-led mass dance event. More details at <https://www.wearelewisham.com/whats-on/> Work on a lasting legacy was a fundamental part of the Borough of Culture planning, and work continues to cement both a physical and cultural legacy within the Council and across community organisations.



**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 4**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Councillor Olaru

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Juliet Campbell

**Question**

Lewisham is a proud Borough of Sanctuary, with many people from all corners of the world finding the home and safety that they needed here. Could the Cabinet Member inform us regarding how many households have stepped forward to help and how many Ukrainian citizens have moved to Lewisham through the Homes for Ukraine scheme?

**Reply**

We are pleased and proud that over 300 sponsors have made themselves available for Ukrainian citizens. It's not possible to give a precise number for Ukrainian citizens that have arrived in Lewisham, I can however, confirm that a total of 253 citizens have arrived in Lewisham through the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

## **MEMBER QUESTION NO. 5**

### **Priority 1**

Question asked by: Councillor Johnston-Franklin

Relevant Directorate: Children & Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

### **Question**

The draft Play Strategy aims to highlight the opportunities for play across the borough. The vision for this is that all children will have a variety of supervised and unsupervised places to play within walking distance of their home. The strategy outlines various options to work at improving, updating and funding play spaces in the borough. However, it does not mention about the maintenance and conditions of the Adventure Playgrounds and the need to look at the play offer provided for children and young people. Embedding a strategy and implementing recommendations will take time to arrange but meanwhile there is currently one Adventure Playground situated in Ladywell Fields that has been closed for some considerable time due to roofing problems. Could an update be provided on :

- 1 The repairs that are required to meet health and safety standards
- 2 The cost of the repairs
- 3 The planned reopening of the playground

### **Reply**

Play is crucial to children's development and wellbeing. That's why I'm proud of the commitment we made in our May Labour manifesto to:

"Launch a ground-breaking Play Strategy, to support children's quality of life, wellbeing and development, creating a new long term investment programme to refurbish or replace all Lewisham's play areas"

The strategy we are developing is intended to set in motion a five-year plan to put Lewisham on track to be a borough leader on play. Of course, not everything can be achieved at once, but the strategy will set out what can be done within a short to medium term, set ambitions for going further, and take stock of opportunities and barriers for doing so.

Following the approval of the Play Strategy (due to go to Mayor and Cabinet in October 2022) an action plan will be developed to detail the recommendations coming out of the strategy. Among other things, this will include proposals for our existing adventure playgrounds. Lewisham is one of the leading London boroughs for adventure play, and we want to continue our commitment in that area.

I expect the detail of any necessary repairs and costs for existing playgrounds, including that in Ladywell Fields, to be drawn out during the action planning stage of the strategy. In the meantime, far from being closed, I'm pleased to note that our partner organisation Youth First plan to run an extensive programme of activities at the Ladywell playground over the summer period. The nearby Ladywell Centre is being used for the indoor delivery.

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 6**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Councillor Royston

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

**Question**

Establishing district heat networks in Lewisham is a critical way of ensuring we reduce carbon emissions from buildings. Can the Cabinet Member update us on the rollout of district heat networks across the borough in recent years, and of any future plans for heat networks?

**Reply**

In 2020 the Council completed an Energy Masterplan <https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/files/imported/accessible-lewisham-energy-masterplan.ashx?la=en> which assessed the potential for district energy to contribute to decarbonising Lewisham. This study identified three opportunity areas in Catford, Lewisham Town Centre and an extension in Deptford of the existing plans to connect the South East London Combined Heat and Power facility (SELCHP) and the development at Convoys Wharf.

Three detailed technical economic assessments of these opportunity areas have recently been completed with funding from the Government's Heat Network Delivery Unit and will be published on the Council's website shortly. This work will support ongoing discussions with developers in these locations and bids for further funding to support delivery.

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 7**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Councillor Tam

Relevant Directorate: Housing, Regeneration & Public Realm

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

Community members, including colleagues here, have been and are being told very differing answers on the plans for the Thames Path as part of the Convoys Wharf development. As local ward Councillors, we are concerned that it should be accessible, well upkept, inclusively and sustainably designed and open as soon as possible. Can we restate our Council's position on this so as to be unequivocal about our expectations for the site?

**Reply**

The Outline Planning Permission granted in 2015 secured the continuation of the Thames Path along the riverfront of the Convoys Wharf site. The S106 agreement linked with the Outline Planning Permission secured this as a Publicly Accessible Route and it is a conditional requirement of the permission that the developer provide details of the Thames Path extension prior to submission of Reserved Matters Applications for any of the riverfront plots. The Council supports the Thames Path extension through the site and will continue to engage with the developer to ensure timely delivery of this important route.

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 8**

**Priority 2**

Question asked by: Councillor Royston

Relevant Directorate: Children & Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

**Question**

In addition to its use by local schools, what is being done to enable greater public access to and use of Whitefoot Fields, in order to provide the widest possible benefit to the local community?

**Reply**

Officers are currently working with potential funding partners in relation to improving the facilities at Whitefoot Lane Playing Fields. The facilities themselves are designated under planning policy as School Playing Fields so the main priority area and majority of use is by local schools, however we do currently have 4 other community based users that access the facilities out of school hours, including 2 football clubs, an archery club and American football. We hope that funding can be obtained to enable improvements that will allow further intensification of the use of the site with a particular focus on community use whilst not being detrimental to the core school users.

**MEMBER QUESTION NO. 9**

**Priority 1**

Question asked by: Councillor Lahai-Taylor

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

**Question**

Can you confirm if Lewisham will be celebrating Black History Month this year and, if so, what can we expect?

**Reply**

Yes. As part of the Council's strong commitment to recognising the diversity of our Borough we will be working with partners to deliver a range of activities through services like libraries as well as providing opportunities for community organisations to lead their own activities. We will of course also be connecting up with events being planned for the month through London Borough of Culture such as A Caribbean Couturier in Lewisham – a project that will explore the forgotten textile legacies of the women of the Windrush Generation through design collaborations. In response to the #morethanjustamonth message developed by the council's black staff forum we are also ensuring that activities take place throughout the year such as Pioneers and Protests by IRIE! dance theatre and the Sybil Phoenix Exhibition in the We Are Lewisham unit in Lewisham Shopping Centre

<https://www.wearelewisham.com/event/sybilphoenix/>

I am also delighted this Council administration has a manifesto commitment to bring artists, community groups and businesses together to launch a Black Arts Festival – with the aim to make it an annual event.



## Council

### Report title: Members Allowance Scheme

**Date:** 20 July 2022

**Key decision:** N/A

**Class:** Part 1.

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Contributors:** Jeremy Chambers  
**Director of Law, Governance & Elections**  
**Monitoring Officer**

### Outline and recommendations

This report outlines the minor amendment needed to the Special Responsibility Allowances provisions to enable any Cabinet roles to be job-shared.

The recommendations are as follows: -

That the Director of Law, Governance & Elections is instructed to amend the Special Responsibility Allowances Scheme to achieve the following: -

- Wherever and only where there is a Cabinet Member supported by an Associate Cabinet Member, the Cabinet Member receives 50% of the full SRA ordinarily payable to Cabinet Members;
- The Associate Cabinet Member receives an allowance the equivalent of 50% of the full SRA ordinarily payable to Cabinet Members.

### Timeline of engagement and decision-making

N/A

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 At the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Mayor notified Council of his intention to split a Cabinet role between two councillors. This report proposes a slight amendment to the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme to give effect to the Mayor.



## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Director of Law, Governance & Elections is instructed to amend the Special Responsibility Allowances Scheme as follows: -
- Wherever and only where there is a Cabinet Member supported by an Associate Cabinet Member, the Cabinet Member receives 50% of the full SRA ordinarily payable to Cabinet Members;
  - The Associate Cabinet Member receives an allowance the equivalent of 50% of the full SRA ordinarily payable to Cabinet Members.

## 3. Policy Context

- 3.1 N/A

## 4. Background

- 4.1 With regard to the number of councillors that can sit on Cabinet, the relevant legislation is clear, as follows: -

*The number of **members** of a local authority executive may not exceed 10 or such other number as may be specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State.*

- 4.2 Simply put, a Cabinet cannot have more than 10 councillors serving on it. The splitting of a Cabinet role would, if the two councillors both formally sat on Cabinet at the same time, put the Council above the permitted maximum number.

## 5. Further Information

- 5.1 In order to comply with the legislative requirements, it is necessary to put arrangements in place where one councillor holds a Cabinet position for a set period of time, e.g. May-31<sup>st</sup> October and then a second councillor taking their place for a set period of time, e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> November-30<sup>th</sup> April. However, there are some practical consequences, as follows: -
1. Whilst councillor 1 is serving on Cabinet, councillor 2 cannot formally serve as a Cabinet member and vice versa. Councillor 2 can attend and take part in the meeting but is not recorded as a member of Cabinet and cannot vote;
  2. The non-Cabinet councillor can't receive a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) as a member of the Cabinet for the period they don't hold the position. In the scenario above, councillor 1 would receive the full SRA for 6 months and nothing for the second half of the year and vice versa for councillor 2. SRAs are only payable for a period that a councillor holds a position of special responsibility.
- 5.2 The term 'job-share' is used for ease of reference but it really isn't that; it is consecutive periods of formally holding office. Whilst we can include both councillors on the website with some appropriate narrative explaining the intention to formally split the role 6 months/6 months, the SRA can only be paid to the holder of the office.
- 5.3 Given that both councillors will be undertaking extra responsibilities across the whole of the year it seems inequitable that under the Council's current SRA scheme no payment can be made for 6 months of the year. In order to address this inequity, the following solution is proposed: -
- Councillor A is the Cabinet Member for the 1<sup>st</sup> six months;

- Councillor B is an *Associate Cabinet Member* for the 1<sup>st</sup> six months;
- The roles are reversed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> six months;
- The Council's SRA scheme is amended as follows: -
  - Wherever and only where there is a Cabinet Member supported by an Associate Cabinet Member, the Cabinet Member receives 50% of the full SRA ordinarily payable to Cabinet Members;
  - The Associate Cabinet Member receives an allowance the equivalent of 50% of the full SRA ordinarily payable to Cabinet Members.

5.4 This achieves the following: -

1. There are only 10 Cabinet Members at any one time as required legally;
2. The Council is legitimately paying an SRA to the Associate Cabinet Member;
3. There is no additional burden on the public purse;
4. Both 'job-share' councillors receive the same monthly SRA.

## **6. Financial implications**

6.1 None. The proposed slight amendment would be cost neutral.

## **7. Legal implications**

7.1 All relevant legal matters have been addressed in the report.

## **8. Equalities implications**

N/A

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

N/A

## **10. Crime and disorder implications**

N/A

## **11. Health and wellbeing implications**

N/A

## **12. Background papers**

N/A

## **13. Glossary**

N/A

## **14. Report author**

Jeremy Chambers  
**Director of Law, Governance & Elections**  
**Monitoring Officer**

## **15. Appendices**

N/A

# Agenda Item 8



## Council

### Action Taken by the Speaker of Council Under Rule 19 of Section E of the Constitution

**Date:** July 20 2022

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** n/a

**Contributors:** Chief Executive (Acting Head of Committee Business)

### Outline and recommendation

Members are asked to note the action taken by the Speaker of the Council

### ACTION TAKEN BY THE SPEAKER OF COUNCIL UNDER RULE 19 OF SECTION E OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. The Speaker of the Council agreed under the urgency procedure set out in Rule 19 of Section E of the Constitution, that the matters listed below should be treated as matters of urgency and not subject to call-in. This determination not to subject two decisions taken by the Mayor and Cabinet to scrutiny was made by the Speaker of Council as the delay in considering the items of business would have prejudiced the interests of the Council.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reason for Urgency</u>
27 May 2022	The Library Consortium Courier Service Framework	A contract agreement was required by 1 June 2022 to enable books and other items to continue to move around library services. Mayor and Cabinet had already granted authority to the Executive Director for Community Services to approve the award of contract and approve the call off from the Framework Agreement, but it had been omitted from the Forward Plan.
29 April 2022	Permission to Award Contract for Water supply	An approval was sought to exempt this report from scrutiny in order to ensure Lewisham Council's

commitment to procure the best water contract at the lowest possible rates The item was not included in the Council's Key Decision Plan, because the report is confidential.

**RECOMMENDATION that the actions taken by the Speaker of the Council be noted.**

# Agenda Item 9



## Council

### Motions

**Date:** July 20 2022

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** n/a

**Contributors:** Chief Executive (**Acting Head of Committee Business**)

### Outline and recommendation

Members are asked to consider motions submitted to Council

#### Motion 1

#### Housing Association Motion

Proposer: Cllr Cooper; Seconder: Cllr Parry

#### **This council notes:**

- That the Conservative Government has re-announced plans to introduce a right-to-buy scheme for housing association tenants.
- Housing association properties make up a key component of our social housing stock in Lewisham, Across London and across the UK.
- That in Lewisham alone we have around 10,000 applicants on our housing waiting list and 2,000 families in temporary accommodation.
- A large number of the properties designated via our choice-based lettings service, to those on our housing waiting list, are housing association properties.

#### **This council believes:**

- That introducing a policy of right to buy for housing association properties will further deplete the number of properties available to those on our housing waiting list.
- That this policy will have an extremely detrimental impact on the number of social homes in our borough and across the UK.
- The Government should be focussing on tackling the housing crisis by building more social homes and funding local authorities and housing associations to have radical social home building programmes, not selling off existing social housing stock.
- That the promises that have been made to replace all properties sold under the new scheme are extremely hollow as the government has no direct power over how housing associations build and replace properties.
- As a Labour council we will continue to fight for a decent, safe and affordable home for every resident, and this policy will be hugely detrimental to that aim.

**This council resolves to:**

- Write to the government minister expressing our opposition to these plans and demand they are halted immediately.
- To make a public statement against the policy change and in support of more funding for social homes from the Government.
- Write to our local MPs to put together a cohesive local campaign against the proposals to protect our social housing stock.

**Motion 2**

**Local Government Pay to Council – A fully funded, proper pay rise for council and school workers**

Proposer: Cllr Sorba; Seconder: Cllr Johnston-Franklin

**This council notes:**

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. UNISON research found that councils in England had to fill a combined funding gap of £3 billion when setting budgets for 2022/23.

Over the last two years, councils have led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is. But Covid has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and as we emerge from the pandemic, local authorities and schools need far more support from Westminster.

Council and school workers kept our communities safe through the pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide

quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 25 per cent of their value since 2009/10. Staff are now facing the worst cost of living crisis in a generation, with inflation hitting 9% and many having to make impossible choices between food, heating and other essentials. This is a terrible situation for anyone to find themselves in.

At the same time, workers have experienced ever-increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.

There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three-quarters of the local government workforce.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2022 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

**This council believes:**

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who were not offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic.

**This council resolves to:**

Support the pay claim submitted by UNISON, GMB and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for an increase of £2,000 or the current RPI rate, whichever is the greater (along with the various conditions claims proposed)

Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim

Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government

Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can support the campaign

Encourage all local government workers to join a union.