

Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Tuesday, 21 February 2023

7.00 pm, Civic Suite (the meeting can also be observed via the Council's website at <https://lewisham.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>)

Civic Suite

Lewisham Town Hall

London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Charlotte Dale (020 8314 8286)

Part 1

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members

Members of the committee, listed below, are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on Tuesday, 21 February 2023.

Jeremy Chambers, Monitoring Officer
Friday, 10 February 2023

Members

Councillor Mark Ingleby (Chair)

Councillor Ese Erheriene (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Yemisi Anifowose

Councillor Tauseef Anwar

Councillor Peter Bernards

Councillor Chris Best

Councillor Bill Brown

Councillor Natasha Burgess

Councillor Suzannah Clarke

Councillor Will Cooper

Councillor Liam Curran

Councillor Laura Cunningham

Councillor Sian Eiles

Councillor Billy Harding

Councillor Stephen Hayes

Councillor Coral Howard

Councillor Edison Huynh

The public are welcome to attend committee meetings. However, occasionally, committees may have to consider some business in private. Copies of reports can be made available in additional formats on request..

Councillor Mark Jackson
Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin
Councillor Eva Kestner
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 James Rathbone
Councillor James Royston
Councillor Rudi Schmidt
Councillor Aliya Sheikh
Councillor Sakina Sheikh
Councillor Luke Sorba
Councillor Eva Stamirowski
Councillor Liam Shrivastava
Councillor Hau-Yu Tam

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Councillor Luke Warner	
Councillor Carol Webley-Brown	
Councillor Susan Wise	

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 21 September 2022 at 7.00 pm

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors Mark Ingleby (Chair), Ese Erheriene (Vice-Chair), Yemisi Anifowose, Bill Brown, Natasha Burgess, Laura Cunningham, Billy Harding, Coral Howard, Mark Jackson, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Ayesha Lahai-Taylor, Aisha Malik-Smith, Joan Millbank, John Muldoon, Rosie Parry, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Stephen Penfold, James Rathbone, Aliya Sheikh, Sakina Sheikh, Luke Sorba, Luke Warner and Carol Webley-Brown

ALSO JOINING THE MEETING VIRTUALLY: Councillors Chris Best, Suzannah Clarke, Will Cooper, Liam Curran, Sian Eiles, Stephen Hayes, Eva Kestner, Jack Lavery, Oana Olaru, James Royston, Liam Shrivastava, Hau-Yu Tam and Susan Wise

APOLOGIES: Tauseef Anwar, Rudi Schmidt and Eva Stamirowski

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Brown (Executive Director for Community Services), Charlotte Dale (Head of Overview and Scrutiny), Jennifer Daothong (Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm), Councillor Juliet Campbell (Cabinet Member for Communities, Refugees and Wellbeing), Councillor Amanda De Ryk (Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy) and Councillor Louise Krupski (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate)

ALSO PRESENT VIRTUALLY: John Bennett (Head of Economy, Jobs and Partnerships), Pinaki Ghoshal (Executive Director for Children & Young People), Dr Catherine Mbema (Director of Public Health), Atika Mohammed (Head of Insight, Transformation & OD) and Martin O'Brien (Climate Resilience Manager)

NB: Those Councillors listed as joining virtually were not in attendance for the purposes of the meeting being quorate, any decisions taken or to satisfy the requirements of s85 Local Government Act 1972

1 **Minutes of the last meeting**

- 1.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July be agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

2 **Declaration of Interests**

- 2.1 Cllr Jacq Paschoud declared an interest in item 4 as she had a close family member in receipt of a care package from Lewisham Social Care.

3 **Mayoral Response to Committee Referral**

- 3.1 Councillor Lavery, who had led on this item at the Committee's March meeting, welcomed the response and outlined the importance of the council developing a clear economic development strategy, setting out its ambitions for economic growth in the borough and how this growth could benefit local residents.

- 3.2 Information was provided on the funding formula for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and it was agreed that the response to the Fund allocations, agreed with London Councils, would be provided to the Committee.
- 3.3 It was noted that the voluntary and community sector was a key employer in the borough and that volunteers were eligible for a Lewisham Local Card which rewarded cardholders for shopping locally by providing discounts and offers. The card could also be purchased for £10.
- 3.4 **RESOLVED:** That the response be noted.

4 Mayoral Response to Task and Finish Groups

- 4.1 The response to the Housing Retrofit Task and Finish Group recommendations was taken first.
- 4.2 Councillor Krupski, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate, introduced the response, which she felt was pragmatic and achievable, noting that a number of steps had already been taken to implement some of the group's recommendations. It was noted that Councillor Krupski was chairing a group which included a number of local anchor institutions, which would be looking at retrofit and how to upgrade buildings in the borough and address the shortage of skilled workers in the retrofit sector. Officers were continuing to proactively bid for new funding opportunities and to work creatively to align external funding with existing priorities and capacity, although it was accepted that the funding available was not sufficient to meet the scale of the challenge.
- 4.3 In the discussion that followed, the following points were noted:
- The group had recommended that, given the cabinet portfolios relating to the climate emergency, housing and planning were connected, discussions should take place on how these cabinet portfolios might be formally linked. It was recognised that Cabinet Member responsibilities were a matter for the Mayor and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny would speak to him on this point.
 - The situation regarding the retrofitting of voids was complicated as there were financial and practical constraints on the level of work that could be achieved within current turnaround targets. There was also a need to better understand (a) how best to optimise thermal efficiency through retrofit within these constraints and (b) the wider pressures such as the urgent need to provide properties for tenants housed in temporary accommodation. A review was planned to assess the right balance and the outcome of this review would be presented to the Housing Select Committee.
 - The group had recommended that the Council should explore the feasibility of recruiting an in-house retrofit coordination specialist. However, it was noted that there was currently huge demand for retrofit coordinators due to the focus of government funding; and it would be difficult to recruit and retain the expertise in house when the market was likely to offer higher wages than the public sector. Officers were therefore focussing on working with Lewisham College and the Green Skills Hub to support Lewisham residents in gaining the skills needed to become a retrofit coordinator. Officers would however, keep this decision under review, as having in house resource would be beneficial and, in time, might be able to generate income to 'pay for itself'.

- Steps were being taken to build up retrofit/decarbonisation expertise in the planning team and avoid single person dependency which could occur if expertise were concentrated in a single specialist who could then leave. Public practice was also being used to bridge the skills gap between the public and private sectors across the built environment, including retrofit.
- 4.4. The second TFG response was considered. Councillor Jacq Paschoud who had chaired the TFG looking into Digital Inclusion for Adults with Learning Disabilities, addressed the Committee. She spoke of the need to ensure that Adults with Learning Disabilities living with family and those living in a supported living setting were equally able to be digitally included and for all day settings to enable access to online services. Above all else, Adults with Learning Disabilities needed to be supported to have as useful and as fulfilling lives as possible. Although she welcomed the positive responses to a number of the group's recommendations, the responses citing a lack of resources and/or budget to carry out the recommended action (and nothing else) were disappointing.
- 4.5 Tom Brown, Executive Director for Community services, agreed with the sentiments expressed but noted the severity of the financial constraints that the service and the council as a whole were operating under. Unfortunately there were not the resources available to help all vulnerable groups to the extent that the council would wish to help them. The blunt tone of some of the responses was accepted but officers had deliberately not used more ambiguous or aspirational language as the budgetary context was such that there was no real chance of implementing the requested actions. Officers had instead focussed on those actions which could be implemented using available resources.
- 4.6 In the discussion that followed, the following points were noted:
- Members felt the council still needed to signal its ambitions, without being disingenuous - and seek out creative ways in which to take forward the recommended action, including working more closely with partners.
 - The group had recommended that all day service provision should have access to Wi-Fi for their service users and, following approval of the Wifi and connectivity business case for Ladywell and Mulberry Day Centres, full connectivity was still expected by October 2022.
 - Whilst a factsheet / directory of proven digital activities and tools for partners to share, could be pulled together and produced relatively easily, the cost of maintaining the document and keeping it up to date needed to be considered.
 - When the recommended changes and updates are made to the website as part of the Resident Experience Programme, key user groups will be asked to test accessibility to ensure the website is as accessible as possible for those with a learning disability.
- 4.7 The Committee voted on whether to make a referral to Mayor and Cabinet on the response, requesting a fuller and more creative response. One councillor voted against making the referral, given the bleak financial context; the possibility that the council might struggle to deliver statutory services; and the unlikelihood of resources being found to action the recommendations not currently being actioned.

4.8 **RESOLVED:** That the responses be noted and that a referral to Mayor and Cabinet be made in respect of the response to the recommendations of the Digital Inclusion for Adults with Learning Disabilities Task and Finish Group:

- The Committee noted that a number of responses cited a lack of resources and/or budget to carry out the recommended action.
- The Committee recognises the very severe financial constraints which have been imposed on Council services, with cuts made year on year despite increasing demand. However, the Committee also feels that the council still needs to signal its ambitions, without being disingenuous; and seek out creative ways, including working more closely with partners, in which to improve the experience of this extremely vulnerable and excluded section of the community. The Committee would like the response to be reconsidered and for a fuller response to be provided.

5 **Establishing Task and Finish Groups**

5.1 **RESOLVED:** That:

(a) Two time limited task and finish groups be established to look at creative and community workspaces and community gardening and allotments practice.

(b) The following memberships for each group be agreed:

Creative and community workspaces:

1. Cllr Rudi Schmidt (*nominated as Chair*)
2. Cllr Billy Harding
3. Cllr Mark Ingleby
4. Cllr Aliya Sheikh
5. Cllr Liam Shrivastava

Community gardening and allotments:

1. Cllr Coral Howard (*nominated as Chair*)
2. Cllr Natasha Burgess
3. Cllr Will Cooper
4. Cllr Laura Cunningham
5. Cllr Sian Eiles

6 **Cost of Living**

6.1 Councillor De Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Strategy, introduced the item and outlined what the Cost of Living Programme aimed to achieve and the important role of the Local Strategic Partnership. London wealth was not being shared and whilst there was 78% employment in the borough, Lewisham residents were the eighth lowest earners.

6.2 Catherine Mbema, Director of Public Health, was leading the programme alongside Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director for Children and Young People. Catherine introduced the report, noting that the Lewisham Cost of Living programme was focused on the following areas for action:

- Food justice programme
- Energy advice and fuel poverty support
- Income maximisation
- Debt triage.

6.3 In the committee discussion that followed Catherine’s introduction, the following key points were noted:

- A range of stakeholders were being consulted on the Food Justice action plan, building on the pre-existing Good Food Lewisham network which ran during the pandemic, and included local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations and the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust. The consultation would help galvanise support and generate “buy in” to the programme.
- A lot of funding was one off but was being made the most of – central Government grants tended to be provided with not a lot of notice and local authorities needed to react quickly which can make allocation tricky.
- In terms of staffing the programme, lessons were being learnt from the covid response with some staff reallocation and volunteering. The Council’s current financial pressures were having an impact on resourcing.
- “LIFT” software (an online interactive tool combining central government and local authority data to track families on low incomes) was being purchased. This would also assist in terms of identifying the issues facing those with no recourse to public funds.
- The Council was contacting libraries, leisure centres and adult learning institutions as part of its “warm havens” work to create warm and welcoming community spaces. Schools would also be asked to be part of the approach.
- The activity being undertaken in other boroughs was being considered so good practice could be shared.
- Mental Health was a key part of the programme, ensuring that residents badly affected by the crisis did not fall into despair. Efforts were also being made to ensure those in need of support were not being stigmatised.
- The communications team were an important part of the programme and comprehensive signposting information was on the website – there had been 48,000 redirects to support services from those pages. Lewisham life in November would be dedicated to the cost of living.

6.5 It was agreed that further information would be provided on:

- Whether the Council had/could engage with the Advice Lewisham Partnership and the capacity of the VCS to respond to the cost of living crisis.
- Whether the Household Support Fund had been fully allocated.

6.6 It was also agreed that an information pack would be prepared for councillors so they could signpost residents to Cost of Living resources at surgeries and at other points during their activities as Ward Members. Councillor De Ryk reported that Lewisham Local had co-produced a comprehensive sector leaflet. Officers and Cabinet Members were thanked by the Committee for their speedy response to this crisis.

6.7 **RESOLVED:** That:

1. The work done to date to support residents be noted.

2. The proposed work to be carried out by the Cost of Living working group be noted.
3. The Healthier Communities Select Committee review the draft Food Justice Action Plan and look at the commitment to providing Warm Havens for residents where they can spend time when the weather turns colder.
4. The Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee review the Cost of Living programme from an equalities perspective to ensure that support is being provided in an equitable way for Lewisham residents.
5. It be noted that the Children and Young People Select Committee would be looking at the cost of living crisis from the perspective of children and young people at its November meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.58 pm

Chair:

Date:



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Declarations of Interest

Date: 21 February 2023

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Director of Law and Corporate Governance

Outline and recommendations

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

1. Summary

- 1.1. Members must declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda. There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct:
 - (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
 - (2) Other registerable interests
 - (3) Non-registerable interests.
- 1.2. Further information on these is provided in the body of this report.

2. Recommendation

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

3. Disclosable pecuniary interests

3.1 These are defined by regulation as:

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship –payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).
- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.
- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member's knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
 - (a) that body to the member's knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough; and
 - (b) either:
 - (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

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

4. Other registerable interests

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

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

5. Non registerable interests

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

6. Declaration and impact of interest on members' participation

- 6.1. Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take not part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**
- 6.2. Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph 6.3 below applies.
- 6.3. Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- 6.4. If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- 6.5. Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

7. Sensitive information

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

8. Exempt categories

- 8.1. There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-
- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
 - (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or

guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor

- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception).

9. Report author and contact

- 9.1. Jeremy Chambers, Director of Law and Corporate Governance, 020 83147648, Jeremy.Chambers@lewisham.gov.uk,



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report title: Cost of Living Update

Date: 21 February 2023

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Catherine Mbema (Director of Public Health)

Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Lewisham Council's response to the Cost of Living Crisis. It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny:

- Listen to, and comment on, the verbal updates provided by the Director of Public Health and the Select Committee Chairs

1 Summary

- 1.1. A verbal update on Lewisham's response to the Cost of Living crisis, which builds on existing support already in place for residents, will be provided by the Director of Public Health.
- 1.2. The Chairs of the Healthier Communities; Safer Stronger Communities; and Children and Young People Select Committees will provide an update on the work their committees have undertaken in relation to this issue.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to listen to, and comment on, the verbal updates provided.

3 Update

- 3.1 The Director of Public Health will provide the Committee with a verbal update on Lewisham's response to the Cost of Living crisis, which builds on existing support already in place for residents.
- 3.2 Updates will also be provided by the Chairs of:
 - The Healthier Communities Select Committee – which has reviewed the draft Food Justice Action Plan and considered the commitment to providing Warm Havens for residents where they can spend time when the weather turns colder.

- The Children and Young People Select Committee – which has considered the cost of living crisis from the perspective of children and young people and visited Watergate School to talk to staff and parents about this issue.
- The Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee – which has reviewed the Cost of Living programme from an equalities perspective to ensure that support is being provided in an equitable way for Lewisham residents.

4 Financial implications

- 7.1 One off funding to support the development and delivery of this work has been agreed by the s151 Officer.

5 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications.

6 Equalities implications

- 6.1 Certain demographics are known to be more vulnerable to the cost of living crisis. This work is being established with a data and insight base that will support our equalities aims.

7 Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no direct climate change and environmental implications, however fuel poverty could have an indirect implication upon these factors.

8 Crime and disorder implications

- 8.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications.

9 Health and wellbeing implications

- 9.1 Stress and anxiety are often known impacts on residents facing financial pressures.

10 Background papers

- 10.1 None.

11 Report author and contact

- 11.1 Catherine Mbema (Director of Public Health)



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report title: Thames Water

Date: 21 February 2023

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Charlotte Dale (Head of Overview, Scrutiny and Policy)

Outline and recommendations

Representatives of Thames Water will be attending the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide an update on how they work in partnership with the Council and how they respond to issues such as burst water mains. The Committee is asked to listen to, and comment on, the presentation provided.

1 Summary

- 1.1. Representatives of Thames Water will be in attendance to talk about how they work in partnership with the Council and how they respond to issues such as burst water mains. They have been asked to provide information on their current performance and attendance standards; how they communicate with local authorities and residents; their emergency response arrangements; and their investment plans in terms of ageing Victorian pipe replacement.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to listen to, and comment on, the presentation and information provided.

3 Update

- 3.1 Thames Water has been asked to attend the meeting. Information will be provided on:
 - 1) Company overview (including turnaround plan)
 - 2) Clean water overview
 - 3) Where the water comes from
 - 4) How Thames Water manages its clean network

- 5) Dealing with emergencies
- 6) How Thames Water plans investment
- 7) Investment in Lewisham
- 8) Recent & upcoming investment
- 9) Waste water and networks overview
- 10) Tideway Tunnel
- 11) Working together
- 12) Working in the Community
- 13) Next steps – how to work together

3.2 The following officers will be in attendance:

- Martin Padley - London Water Director
- Simon Moore - Head of London Planning
- Carl Leadbetter - Head of South Region Wastewater
- Danni Dickinson - Area Manager for South London
- Natacha Israel - Local and Regional Government Liaison Lead

4 Financial implications

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

5 Legal implications

5.1 The Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) is the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. Ofwat sets the limit on how much water companies can charge their customers. They aim to protect consumers with value for money and protect the standard of service customers receive from their supplier. Their main duties include protecting the interests of consumers and securing the long-term resilience of water supply and wastewater systems. They ensure water companies finance and conduct their functions effectively.

5.2 The Flood Risk Regulations (2009) and The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) established the Lead Local Flood Authorities function in England and Wales, giving local authorities statutory duties and powers for local flood risk management in relation to ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface water flooding.

5.3 Lead Local Flood Authority responsibilities include a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management that sets out the objectives for managing local flood risk and outlines what actions are to be taken to meet those objectives.

5.4 The National Infrastructure Commission recommends that local authorities and water companies should work together to plan the management of surface water flooding.

6 Equalities implications

6.1 Scrutiny tries to ensure that its work reflects the diversity of Lewisham's communities and that the views of residents are fairly represented in scrutiny

processes. Recommendations arising from scrutiny work seek to support the Council's corporate strategy and reflect the needs of local residents.

7 Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no direct climate change and environmental implications, however Thames Water is a key council partner in terms of reducing the risk of major flooding in the Borough. There is substantial evidence that climate change as a result of human activity is linked to increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as flooding, heat waves, drought and storms. Adaptation to a changing climate, including flood risk management, needs to be a central priority in the response to the climate emergency.

8 Crime and disorder implications

- 8.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications.

9 Background papers

- 9.1 None.