

**Decisions taken by the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on Thursday, 2 March 2023**

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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**Part A – Items considered in public**

<b>A1</b>	Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023	<b>Resolved:</b> that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2023 be agreed as an accurate record.
<b>A4</b>	Borough of Sanctuary update	<p><b>Resolved:</b> that the Committee would share its views with Mayor and Cabinet, as follows:</p> <p>The Committee believes that the Borough of Sanctuary strategy is of vital importance to the Council’s work supporting the most vulnerable. It welcomes the work being carried out to deliver the strategy and it recognises and commends the work being carried out by community and voluntary sector organisations to ensure that those seeking sanctuary are supported and protected from harm. Nonetheless, there are opportunities to ensure that the sanctuary strategy is more effective. The Committee recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor and Cabinet should reiterate and reinforce the Borough of Sanctuary messaging across Council departments. It is important that there is management support for the delivery of the strategy in all parts of the organisation.</li> <li>• There should be an enhanced focus on the delivery of operational work to deliver the Council’s Borough of Sanctuary ambitions. Members are particularly concerned about potential discrepancies in decision-making processes and the delivery of frontline services for those seeking sanctuary.</li> <li>• An assessment of the training needs for frontline staff in relevant directorates (specifically in social care and housing) should be carried out. The prioritisation and development of this work might include input from community and voluntary sector partners who have experience of engaging with the Council – and of supporting vulnerable families and individuals.</li> <li>• An update on the use of asylum dispersal funding should be provided to the Committee.</li> <li>• There should be a risk assessment of the measures needed to ensure that the Council will be successful in its attempts to be reaccredited as a Borough of</li> </ul>

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		<p>Sanctuary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A refugee and migrant champion should be appointed by the Mayor to act as a senior stakeholder and critical friend to the Council and its partners.</li> <li>• Work should take place to communicate with Lewisham’s partner organisations (including health, education and community safety) about what the Council expects of them in relation to the Borough of Sanctuary.</li> <li>• Consideration should be given to the resources available for frontline work. Specific attention should be given to the funding available for community and voluntary sector organisations.</li> <li>• Lewisham should work with its partners and with other local authorities to highlight the detrimental impacts of the Immigration and Asylum Act (1999) and the costs and harm caused by leaving people with no recourse to public funds.</li> </ul>
<b>A5</b>	Borough of Culture Legacy	<b>Resolved:</b> that the report be noted.