Decisions taken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 4 July 2023

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision

Part A – Items considered in public

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
A1	Minutes of the meetings held on 21 February 2023 and 29 March 2023	**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meetings held on 21 February and 29 March 2023 be agreed as accurate records of proceedings.
A2	Declaration of interests	None declared
A3	Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24	**RESOLVED:** That the Select Committee work programmes for 2023/24 be agreed.
A4	Establishment of Task and Finish Groups	**RESOLVED:** That the three proposed task and finish groups be established with the following memberships: Improving Scrutiny 1. Cllr Mark Jackson (nominated Chair) 2. Cllr Sian Eiles 3. Cllr Mark Ingleby 4. Cllr James Rathbone 5. Cllr Aliya Sheikh Private Renters 1. Cllr Will Cooper (nominated Chair) 2. Cllr Bill Brown 3. Cllr Jack Lavery 4. Cllr Rosie Parry 5. Cllr Sakina Sheikh Youth Provision 1. Cllr Edison Huynh (nominated Chair) 2. Cllr Yemisi Anifowose 3. Cllr Laura Cunningham 4. Cllr Oana Olaru 5. Cllr Hau-Yu Tam

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A5	Good Developer Engagement Protocol	**RESOLVED:** That the following recommendations be made in relation to the good practice guide for developers for pre-application resident engagement, being produced by the Planning team: 1. Equalities must play a central role in pre-application engagement. • The guide should set the expectation that proportionate EAAs should be carried out on the proposals. • The engagement plan should seek to ensure that the engagement reflects the make-up of the affected communities. • Seldom heard groups should be specifically consulted • The guide should ask developers to engage in equalities monitoring where it is possible, especially to ensure smaller working groups are representative • The Fairer Lewisham duty should inform equalities monitoring to ensure social economic background is considered alongside protected characteristics • Local organisations with specialised knowledge of the local area should be engaged to ensure participation is high quality and representative. 2. The guide should ask developers to see themselves in partners in our aim to build community and empower residents with the skills, knowledge and tools which will enable them to take part in local decision making beyond the engagement process including understanding the planning framework and associated rules, which can be difficult to comprehend. 3. The guide should make it clear that engagement has to be meaningful. Developers must be willing to allow residents to influence the application in a tangible way, and any

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		developer 'red lines' should be clear from the outset.
		4. The guide should differentiate between different scales of development and different levels of impact; and suggest different levels of engagement based on scale and impact: with developers of larger, more complex developments encouraged to carry out larger, more in-depth engagement. The most affected residents should be engaged most intensively.
		5. The guide should articulate that engagement should be accessible to as wide a range of people as possible; aim to meet the engagement preferences of local residents; and not involve an onerous time commitment – consideration should be given to taking a creative approach.
		6. The guide should encourage developers to take a social value approach which asks open ended questions about what residents value and what they want, to help identify residents' feelings and aspirations for their area.
		7. The guide should acknowledge potential barriers to engagement and suggest ways in which these might be overcome (e.g. digital exclusion, childcare/caring responsibilities, language barriers etc)
		8. The guide should include (a) template early engagement strategies which can be used by

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		developers and (b) case studies showcasing successful pre-application engagements that have utilised a range of different engagement models with an articulation of their benefits.
		9. The guide should establish a framework for developers engaging with the planning team (and through them, other relevant council teams) and the council's formal strategies and priorities, in order to gain both local and borough wide insights. The principle of "we come to you" in engagement is important, and Community Development Officers have valuable local experience and can highlight to the Planning team local organisations and groups, including the voluntary & community sector, who can play an important part in the engagement (providing information on "who, when and where"). Some proposed developments may benefit from being considered at local assembly meetings as part of the engagement process.
		10. The guide should look to ensure that, as a result of resident engagement, residents understand the distinction, and relationship, between the council and developers.
		11. The guide should make clear that good engagement is important so it should be properly funded in order to (a) enable early discussions; (b) allow time for feedback to be given to the community on how their points have been responded to; and (c) allow for the preparation of a report on the engagement activities to form part of the eventual planning submission.
		12. The planning team should investigate whether it is feasible to create a community

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| | | engagement post to assist local engagement on behalf of developers for a fee. |
| | | 13. Developers should consult residents on whether the land they have purchased for development has meanwhile use potential and could be utilised by local residents, groups and businesses for creative and community projects with social value outcomes prior to its redevelopment. |