

Public Document Pack

Council Summons and Agenda

All Members of the Council are summoned to attend the meeting to be held on
Wednesday, 27 September 2023



Jeremy Chambers, Monitoring Officer
19 September 2023

Wednesday, 27 September 2023
7.30 pm, Council Chamber - Civic Suite
Civic Suite
London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Head of Governance and Committee Services
(committee@lewisham.gov.uk)

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.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 12 July 2023 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Damien Egan (Mayor), Yemisi Anifowose, Tauseef Anwar (Chair), Chris Barnham, Peter Bernards, Chris Best, Bill Brown, Natasha Burgess, Suzannah Clarke, Will Cooper, Laura Cunningham, Liam Curran, Brenda Dacres, Sophie Davis, Amanda De Ryk, Billy Harding, Stephen Hayes, Coral Howard, Edison Huynh, Mark Ingleby, Mark Jackson, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Louise Krupski, Ayesha Lahai-Taylor, Aisha Malik-Smith, Joan Millbank, John Muldoon, Rosie Parry, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Stephen Penfold, Kim Powell, James Rathbone, Rudi Schmidt, Sakina Sheikh, Liam Shrivastava, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, Hau-Yu Tam, James-J Walsh, Luke Warner, Carol Webley-Brown and Susan Wise

ALSO PRESENT: Emma Campbell Smith, Jeremy Chambers and Jennifer Daothong

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Bell, Councillor Andre Bourne, Councillor Juliet Campbell, Councillor Ese Erheriene, Councillor Eva Kestner, Councillor Jack Lavery, Councillor Hilary Moore, Councillor Rachel Onikosi and Councillor Aliya Sheikh

1. Minutes

The Speaker MOVED, the Deputy Speaker SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. Announcements or Communications

The Speaker announced that 11 July had been Srebrenica Memorial Day, marking 28 Years since the 1995 genocide. The Council observed a minute's silence to commemorate the genocide victims.

Cllr De Ryk delivered an obituary to the late Glenda Jackson, actor, politician and Blackheath resident who had died in June.

The Mayor and Cllr Dacres paid tribute to John Berylson, who had been the chairman of Millwall FC until 4 July when he had perished in car accident.

The Council observed a minute's silence in remembrance of Glenda and John.

Cllr Krupski announced that Lewisham had launched a new campaign encouraging residents to recycle their food waste, in a bid to boost recycling rates.

Lastly, Cllr Barnham announced plans to completely revitalise and expand Riverside Youth Club in Deptford. He reported that renovation work was due to begin this summer and would see the creation of a state-of-the-art 3G football pitch and games area, gym, indoor sports, kitchen, and flexible learning spaces for young people and the community.

4. Petitions

None.

5. Public Questions

33 questions were received and written answers supplied. Some questioners that were present at the meeting asked supplementary questions, and these were answered by the relevant Cabinet Members, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny or the Mayor.

6. Member Questions

Seven questions were received from Members and written answers supplied. Some Members asked supplementary questions and these were answered at the meeting.

7. Deptford St Paul's Charity - appointment of Trustee

Cllr Dacres MOVED, Cllr Schmidt SECONDED and it was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Cooper as a nominative Trustee to the Deptford St Paul's Charity.

8. Pay Policy Statement 2023/24

Cllr De Ryk MOVED, Cllr Rathbone SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 be agreed.

9. Motions

The Speaker advised that Cllr Campbell had nominated Cllr Anifowose to propose the motion in her absence.

Cllr Anifowose MOVED, Cllr Webley-Brown SECONDED and it was RESOLVED that the Council would:

Support Cassius Burton and his campaign for Race Equality to become adopted as the 18th Sustainable Development Goal by

- Writing to the Foreign Secretary encouraging them to raise this issue with the United Nations
- Writing to our three local MPs asking them to support this campaign in Parliament, and
- Encouraging more local schools to join this campaign.

The Mayor also supported the motion.
The meeting ended at 8:47pm.



Council

Declarations of Interest

Date: 27 September 2023

Class: Part 1

Contributors: Head of Governance and Committee Services

Outline and recommendations

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

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

Announcements or Communications

Date: 27 September 2023

Class: Part 1

Contributors: Head of Governance and Committee Services

Outline and recommendations

Members are asked to receive any announcements or communications from the Speaker, the Mayor, members of the Executive or the Chief Executive.

Agenda Item 4



Council

Petitions

Date: 27 September 2023

Class: Part 1

Contributors: Head of Governance and Committee Services

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. Public petitions that meet the conditions described in the Council's published petitions scheme and about which the Head of Governance and Committee Services has been notified in advance, will be accepted and may be presented from the public gallery at the meeting.
3. Any person who lives, works or studies in Lewisham can organise a petition, including those under the age of 18.
4. We accept both paper and e-petitions. We do not accept hybrid petitions.
5. The requirements of the Council's petition scheme apply to both paper and e-petitions. E-Petitions should use the council's system which can be found on the council's website: <https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/influence/submit-or-view-a-petition>.
6. Paper petitions can be sent to: Governance and Committee Services, 1st Floor, Laurence House, Catford Road, SE6 4RU.



Council

Public Questions

Date: 27 September 2023

Class: Part 1

Contributors: Head of Governance and Committee Services

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 26 September. Questioners will be entitled to attend the meeting and ask a supplementary question.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 1
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Geoffrey Dolamore

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

In response to Q23 of 01.03.23 the Council states it will produce a full breakdown of the new controlled parking zones consultation results; does that mean the raw data will be published (as recommended by the Govt) subject to it being anonymised?

Reply

The results and data were published within Appendix A of the Sustainable Transport and Parking Improvements Programme Report presented to Mayor and Cabinet in July 2023. The report and appendix can be found on the Council's website and the link is included below:

Sustainable Transport and Parking Improvements Programme Report:
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s110856/Sustainable%20Transport%20and%20Parking%20Improvements%20Programme%20report.pdf>

Appendix A:
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s110857/Sustainable%20Streets%20Appendix%20A%20-%20Phase%201%20consultation%20report.pdf>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 2
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Geoffrey Dolamore

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

Question

What guidance does the Council provide schools on the amount of ultra-processed food that can be included in Lewisham school meals?

Reply

School food standards are set by national government. Within those standards, school leaders are autonomous in making decisions around how they will deliver their school meals and the specification of their contracts for those who outsource. 25 Lewisham schools choose to take part in a centrally-provided catering contract, overseen by Lewisham Council. The specification for this contract includes a clear requirement for all menus to be cooked from scratch using high quality, seasonal, fresh ingredients that are unprocessed and free from additives.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 3
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Margaret Clarke

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

The Council appears to be backtracking on its commitment to carry out a carbon footprint evaluation of its waste services (Q49 of Jan 2022). Will the evaluation referred to in Q19 of May 2023 specifically include an evaluation of the waste collection service as a whole or just the vehicles?

Reply

The Council remains on track to complete the fleet strategy document by the end of the current financial year. As part of the strategy and business case development, it will consider the wider carbon footprint of the waste collection service as a whole.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 4
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Margaret Clarke

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

With reference to Q116 of 23.11.22 what evidence does the Council have of officers successfully convincing a developer to retain buildings or re-use materials in the last 2 years.

Reply

Applications are considered against the development plan which requires sites to optimise their development potential and where retention of existing buildings is suitable this will be encouraged. Major applications are also required to submit Circular Economy Statements in accordance with the London Plan which encourage reuse of buildings and materials.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 5
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Stephen Locke

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Paul Bell

Question

How many teams of Lewisham social workers are made up entirely of agency staff, and what is the overall percentage of agency staff currently working in the department?

Reply

Lewisham Adult Social Care does not have any social work teams that are made up entirely of agency staff.

The overall percentage of agency staff working in the department is 38.26%. Lewisham has a rolling recruitment campaign in place and like other Local Authorities we are experiencing challenges in recruiting staff. Our neighbouring borough's have similar ratios of agency and permanent staff in place.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 6
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Kirsty Gillingham

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

In a response to a question (number 4) asked at the Council meeting on 18/01/23 it was claimed that pavement parking is only allowed in Lewisham borough when space of 1.2 metres remains for pedestrians as that is what's demanded by "national standards".

What standard is this, and why does Lewisham Council not use DfT guidance or TfL guidance which both say that a minimum width of 2 metres is required?

Reply

The Council's standards are in line with the national guidance issued by the Department for Transport (DfT), which includes Manual for Streets and Inclusive Mobility: A guide to Best Practice on Access to Pedestrian and Transport Infrastructure.

The guidance says that widths should be made as wide as possible but in normal circumstances a width of 2.0 metres is the minimum that should be provided, which is the general standard the Council seeks to achieve. However, the guidance also states that if this is not feasible due to obstacles on the footway such as trees and street furniture then an absolute minimum width of 1.0 metre for short distances is acceptable. The Council's minimum standard of 1.2 metres is in line with these requirements and aims to create sufficient space for pedestrians to safely travel along the footway.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 7
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Kirsty Gillingham

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Why is pavement parking allowed on Sandhurst Road when far less than 1.2 metres for pedestrians remains?

Reply

Addressing the problems created by pavement parking is part of a wider Council priority to improve the public realm and create more space for pedestrians, wheelchair users and people with buggies.

Where pavement parking in the borough is permitted, including on sections of Sandhurst Road, these areas will be reviewed through the on-going Sustainable Streets programme and where possible, parking will be moved onto the carriageway. In the meantime, the Council's parking enforcement officers will continue regular enforcement on Sandhurst Road to prevent vehicles parking obstructively.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 8
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Edward Scoble

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

I would like to know whether Lewisham is exempt from the London wide ban on footway parking. From what I see on Sangley and Sandhurst Road, it look like you are allowed to park over the designated line, as well as driving into the pavements to park on the residential/business areas. If Lewisham doesn't allow footway parking, then I would like to know why they continued to ignore this specific rules?

Reply

The Council supports the London-wide ban on footway parking as addressing the problems created by obstructive footway parking is a key Council priority to improve the public realm and create more space for pedestrians, wheelchair users and people with buggies.

Under certain circumstances, following the introduction of a traffic order, parking within a specified area on a footway may be permitted where the prohibition of such parking would give rise to significant problems for residents and there remains a minimum width of footway available for pedestrians. Where pavement parking in the borough is permitted, including on sections of Sangley Road and Sandhurst Road, these areas will be reviewed through the on-going Sustainable Streets programme and where possible, parking will be moved onto the carriageway.

In the meantime, the Council's parking enforcement officers will continue to regularly patrol these areas and if vehicles are seen parked with their wheels over the designated line, the vehicle may be subject to enforcement.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 9
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Isobel O'Sullivan

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

I understand that refuse waste collection was reduced to every other week to encourage people to recycle more and for Lewisham to be more sustainable, which I fully support and I make a concerted effort to recycle as much as possible. Given the recent heat waves and increase in temperature in London, I am often finding that my refuse bin is crawling with maggots by the time it is collected and if a collection is missed then it becomes a very big problem. My neighbours are complaining of the same issue. Would it be possible to increase refuse collection to weekly during the summer months to reduce the time that refuse waste is sat out in the sun?

Reply

The Council are committed to increasing recycling rates across the borough while at the same time reducing the amount of waste produced. As such, there are no plans to reintroduce a weekly refuse collection.

Householders are responsible for managing their own household waste, including maintaining their recycling and rubbish bins. To assist households the Council is continually expanding the materials we can collect from residents at the kerbside to recycle. This includes a weekly food waste recycling scheme for kerbside collections, and it is planned to be extended in the future to include residents who live in flats. This in conjunction with the weekly recycling service should help reduce the issues of maggots.

There are also other things residents can do themselves to minimise these issues, including storing bins in the shade where possible and bagging any non-recycled food waste. Residents can bag up their food waste in clear plastic bags to go in food waste caddies. The Council website will be updated accordingly to provide further advice to residents.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 10
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Phil Bridger

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Kim Powell

Question

Why does Alpha Lounge night club in Lewisham High Street continue to hold a license until 5am (6am bank holidays), contrary the council's own licensing policy guidelines (2am for town centres) and in the context of such impact on residents?

Reply

Alpha Lounge has held a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003, since January 2018. The venue varied the licence in January 2020, to provide its current operating hours.

When the Council receives an application for a licence, it consults, and this provides the opportunity for any person to make a representation against the application. If the Council does not receive a relevant representation, it must grant the licence as applied for. The Council did not receive any relevant representations; therefore, the Council granted the licence in full and with the current operating hours.

If the Council had received a relevant representation, the application would have been determined by the Councils Licensing committee. At that point, the Committee could have had regard to the town centre framework hours as set out at paragraph 15.7 of our Licensing Policy.

The Council can only take steps to revoke or modify a licence for example, by reducing a venue's operating hours, following an application for a review of the licence. The Council has not received an application to review.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 11
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Phil Bridger

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Kim Powell

Question

Given Alpha Lounge nigh club is the only late night venue on the highstreet and the council is unable, or unwilling, to act to protect local residents from its impact, how does the council plan on enhancing Lewisham's night time economy without causing further misery to the resident that live there?

Reply

In 2018 the Council consulted on the Evening and Night Time Economy in the borough and asked residents, businesses and visitors their feedback on the current offer and what they would like to see change. The feedback from this consultation was used to develop the borough's vision for the Evening and Night Time Economy, which was approved by Mayor and Cabinet in 2019.

The vision sets out that we want to see an Evening and Night Time Economy which includes:

- A diverse, inclusive offer for all communities.
- A safe and healthy night out.
- Decent work and an inclusive night-time economy.
- Well-connected and thriving town centres.
- A fostering of creativity, music and the arts.

As the Licensing Authority, we will aim to strike a balance between promoting the licensing objectives and a thriving evening and night time economy by ensuring that those premises that operate in that economy are well managed, have suitable conditions to promote licensing objectives, are operated in such a way that reflects the nature of the area within which they are located and are compliant with law.

The investment we are making in Lewisham town centre with the Levelling Up Fund will create physical improvements which will have a positive impact on the evening and night time economy such as a new cultural hub at the library, opportunities for evening markets on the high street and improved lighting to increase safety.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 12
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Andrew Brown

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

When will the latest monitoring report for the Lee Green LTN be published? Monitoring was done earlier this year. Leahurst road continues to suffer from increased southbound through traffic.

Reply

Officers have completed the analysis of the monitoring and the results are expected to be presented to the Council's Mayor & Cabinet in November 2023.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 13
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Frank Grimes

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

I've got a neighbour who is selling cars from his private residence - he is frequently parking the cars he is trying to sell on street parking - they are parked legally, but are increasingly inconvenient to the surrounding houses. Is this all above board?

Reply

Cars parked on the public highway for sale can become a nuisance to local residents and other road users. Under legislation, it is an offence for a business to leave two or more cars for sale on a road within 500 metres of each other. If this is the case in this situation, then please contact the Council's Environmental Crime Enforcement Team who will investigate and where possible take enforcement action. They can be reached on envirocrime.enforcement@lewisham.gov.uk

Further information is also available on the Council website through the following link:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/street-cleaning/abandoned-vehicles/selling-a-vehicle-on-a-public-road>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 14
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

How many cycle cages have been instituted in the Lee Green Ward area and where are they?

Reply

There have been a total of 11 cycle hangars installed in the Lee Green Ward and their locations are as follows:

Cycle hangar ref.	Street	Post Code
Cycle hangar 3444	Manor Park	SE13 5LU
Cycle hangar 3445	Fernbrook Road	SE13 5NH
Cycle hangar 2977	Longhurst Road	SE13 5LZ
Cycle hangar 3440	Northbrook Road	SE13 5QT
Cycle hangar 2978	Thornwood Road	SE13 5RG
Cycle hangar 3318	Kellerton Road	SE13 5QS
Cycle hangar 3421	Kellerton Road	SE13 5RD
Cycle hangar 2972	Fernbrook Road	SE12 8LP
Cycle hangar 2006	Kellerton Road	SE13 5RD
Cycle hangar 1698	Leahurst Road	SE13 5NL
Cycle hangar 1496	Murillo Road	SE13 5QE

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 15
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Carol Spurling

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

How much has Lewisham Council received in payment for the use of cycle cages in the Lee Green Ward since 1/4/22 and where are future cages to be erected in the Lee Green Ward area?

Reply

The breakdown of payments by ward for use of cycle hangars is not currently available although we will seek to obtain this information in the future.

There are a total of 11 cycle hangars already installed in the Lee Green ward and work is currently underway to identify future locations as part of the Council's ongoing cycle hangar programme across the borough as funding becomes available. When future locations are finalised, the information will be put on the Council website.

The Council does not currently make any income out of the rental of cycle hangars as this goes directly to the third-party provider who installs and maintains them.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 16
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Jean Branch

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

Question

What guidance does the Council provide schools on the amount of ultra-processed food that can be included in Lewisham school meals?

Reply

School food standards are set by national government. Within those standards, school leaders are autonomous in making decisions around how they will deliver their school meals and the specification of their contracts for those who outsource. 25 Lewisham schools choose to take part in a centrally-provided catering contract, overseen by Lewisham Council. The specification for this contract includes a clear requirement for all menus to be cooked from scratch using high quality, seasonal, fresh ingredients that are unprocessed and free from additives.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 17
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Jean Branch

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

How many fines have been issued for exceeding 20mph speed limits across the borough during 2021 and 2022? Please show separate figures for each year.

Reply

Speeding is a criminal offence and the enforcement of these offences in Lewisham is the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police who hold this data. The Police can be contacted directly via the following link:

<https://www.met.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 18
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Marcus Mayers

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

With reference to para 4.2 of the Council's Future Housing Progress Report, before deciding to bring Lewisham Homes in-house, how much did the Council estimate it would cost to "meet new & emerging regulatory requirements" as well as "improve the quality of housing services" using Lewisham Homes in the structure it had before being brought in-house?

Reply

A report was presented to Mayor and Cabinet in June 2023 which outlined costs associated with transferring the housing services in-house. These costs took into account the drivers for change including the need to meet the new and emerging regulatory and legal requirements, increasing the pressure of accountability on landlords and to improve the quality of the housing service.

The actual costs of new and emerging regulatory requirements are difficult to quantify as they range from improving tenant satisfaction to addressing issues with damp and mould, as examples. Part of the role of the new Executive Director of Housing Services and their team will be to put together a plan to ensure we improve our service and meet these new requirements, and that will involve looking at the overall Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The Council's financial monitoring of the HRA reports on these risks and in-year pressures on the repairs and maintenance budgets and constraints of the capital programme to meet the longer term challenges. These are operational pressures and financial risks being experienced by the sector nationally at present. They are not specific to Lewisham and the Council is engaging through its networks to inform discussions on how the financial and policy framework needs to change.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 19
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Marcus Mayers

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

Please provide an update on the Building for Lewisham project in table format: (a) sites that are included in the project, (b) the originally anticipated completion date for each site and (c) the date each site was completed or is now expected to be completed.

Reply

A number of completion dates for schemes within the Building for Lewisham programme have been subject to delays following the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent supply side challenges the development sector has faced.

Acquisitions/Buyback completions between 01.04.18 - 31.03.22			
Scheme Name	Social Homes	Anticipated Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
Hyde Acquisitions	94	23/04/2018	23/04/2018
5 Rushey Mead	1	17/05/2021	17/05/2021
Sydney Arms	16	26/04/2021	26/04/2021
Buybacks Completed 21/22	5	31/03/2022	31/03/2022
Total	116		
Schemes completed between 01.04.18 - 31.03.22			
Scheme Name	Social Homes	Anticipated Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
Dacre Park South, (Block B)Phase 2	18	01/02/2016	19/03/2019
Campshill Road SE13 6QT	19		05/03/2021
Longfield Crescent	27		28/06/2019
Dacre Park North	5	01/11/2019	16/07/2020
Hawke Tower (Conversion)	1	11/02/2020	18/12/2020
Rawlinson House (Conversion)	1	11/02/2020	27/01/2021
Marnock	6	02/10/2021	30/03/2022
Canonbie Road	6	31/08/2021	31/03/2022
Firhill Road	1	31/03/2019	31/03/2019

Millcroft House	1	01/12/2019	01/12/2019
Beckenham Hill Road	2		17/01/2022
Forster House	22		22/09/2021
Woodbank Road	4		01/12/2020
Stanstead Road	4		03/02/2021
Deptford:Tidemill	24		17/05/2021
Total	141		

Acquisitions/Buyback completions between 01.04.22 - 30.06.23				
Scheme Name	Social Homes		Anticipated Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
Buybacks Completed 22/23	112		31/03/2023	30/04/2023
Total	112			

Schemes completed between 01.04.22 - 30.06.23				
	Social Homes	Shared Ownership	Anticipated Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
Creekside	22	34	27/06/2022	09/05/2023
Kenton	25		01/09/2021	26/05/2022
Knapdale	17		01/02/2022	16/01/2023
Grace Path	5		27/10/2021	29/11/2022
Mayow Road	32		01/03/2022	27/04/2023
Silverdale	6		02/10/2021	29/11/2022
Somerville	23		01/09/2022	09/03/2023
Meadow House (Pinnacle Spaces)	43		13/02/2023	13/02/2023
Total	173	34		

Acquisitions/Buyback onsite between 01.04.22 - 30.06.23				
Scheme Name	Social Homes	Shared Ownership	Anticipated Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date
Housing Acquisitions Programme 23/24	300		31/03/2026	31/03/2026
Total	300			

Schemes onsite 01.04.22 - 30.06.23				
Scheme Name	Social Homes	Shared Ownership	Anticipated Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date
Algernon Road	4		01/10/2021	01/04/2024

Bampton Estate	39		31/12/2021	25/09/2023
Elderton Garage	5		30/10/2023	05/08/2024
Endwell Road	9		02/10/2021	01/10/2023
New Cross Rd (52-54)	35		30/11/2024	30/11/2024
Walsham Garage	5		30/04/2023	24/06/2024
9-19 Rushey Green Road	45			30/07/2023
Church Grove	6	12		15/09/2023
Deptford:Tidemill	79	14	01/01/2023	05/12/2023
Excalibur Ph3	36	21	01/03/2021	01/05/2024
Heathside and Lethbridge PH5	171		18/10/2022	24/10/2023
Heathside and Lethbridge PH6		53	17/03/2022	25/12/2023
Mais House	55			15/07/2025
Melfield Gardens	32			30/08/2025
Shaftesbury Centre	33		30/09/2022	14/06/2024
Total	554	100		

Schemes in pre-construction 01.04.22 - 30.06.23				
Scheme Name	Social Homes	Shared Ownership	Anticipated Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date
Drakes Court (HRA)	8		30/07/2023	30/06/2025
Fairlawn (HRA)	12		31/05/2023	20/05/2026
Greystead (HRA)	33		31/07/2023	03/10/2026
Ladywell (HRA)	47	55	30/04/2025	15/04/2026
Manor Avenue (GF)	10		31/07/2021	01/06/2024
Mayfield (HRA)	23	41	31/08/2024	08/11/2026
Valentines (HRA)	26	15	30/09/2023	07/08/2025
Besson Street		27	30/04/2025	30/11/2025
Deptford Tidemill Ph3 - Frankham	38	19	01/03/2025	24/08/2025
Excalibur Ph4	112		01/11/2025	01/06/2027
Farmstead Road	18	6		30/03/2026
Total	327	163		

Approved Pipeline Schemes 01.04.22 - 30.06.23				
Scheme Name	Social Homes	Shared Ownership	Anticipated Completion Date	Forecast Completion Date
Achilles	123	161	01/12/2029	31/01/2033
Parker House		38	N/A	01/02/2026
Thomas Lane	36	61	30/11/2026	31/01/2027
Willow Way	74	34	01/09/2027	30/11/2026
Total	233	294		

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 20
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Andy Smith

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

The Council accepted £64,000 from Peabody for the redevelopment of a site near Hatcham Gardens. How has the money been spent for the benefit of people in the immediate vicinity?

Reply

I can confirm that the funding secured within the Section106 agreement related to the Peabody development will be spent on new play equipment within Hatcham Gardens.

Work is currently underway with the parks team and Peabody to reinstate the section of the park that they used to help them facilitate the building of much needed new homes. Additionally, Peabody is in the process of procuring the relevant works required and we should soon be in a position to confirm a deadline for the completion of the works.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 21
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Andy Smith

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

With regard to Peabody's failure to restore Hatcham Gardens following their building work in the area, the lack of a deadline for reinstating the park was clearly a problem. Will the Council ensure a deadline for reinstatement is incorporated in all similar agreements in future?

Reply

There were delays to the building works due to COVID-19. Peabody have agreed to an enhanced reinstalment. This is over and above what was set out in the lease agreement.

Work is currently underway with the parks team and Peabody to reinstate the section of the park that they used to help them facilitate the building of much needed new homes. Additionally, Peabody is in the process of procuring the relevant works required and we should soon be in a position to confirm a deadline for the completion of the works.

We agreed a lease to allow the developer to occupy the section of the park for 125 weeks to use as their works compound to enable the building of the much-needed homes, however due to COVID-19 and issues with procuring the enhanced reinstatement works due cost increases caused by inflation this timeline has run over.

Although leasing of parkland for this type of project does not happen very often, we will consider setting a hard deadline for any future proposals.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 22
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Janet Hurst

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Has the Council applied for funding for tree planting from the Coronation Living Heritage Fund?

Reply

I am pleased to inform you that the Council have applied for funding to establish 3 Community Orchards at the following locations:

- Durham Hill
- Forster Park
- Home Park

If our application is successful, these planting projects will be in addition to over 600 street trees we will be planting in partnership with local charity Street Trees for Living in the forthcoming planting season and 3 new Tiny Forests at:

- Forster Park,
- Blythe Hill Fields
- Chinbrook Meadows.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 23
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Janet Hurst

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Andre Bourne

Question

What is the Council doing to facilitate the rapid restoration of the park in Hatcham Gardens that Peabody has left derelict?

Reply

There were delays to the building works due to COVID-19. Peabody have agreed to an enhanced reinstalment. This is over and above what was set out in the lease agreement.

Work is currently underway with the parks team and Peabody to reinstate the section of the park that they used to help them facilitate the building of much needed new homes. Additionally, Peabody is in the process of procuring the relevant works required and we should soon be in a position to confirm a deadline for the completion of the works.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 24
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

Question

Further to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) issuing in March an enforcement notice to Lewisham Council for failing to respond to hundreds of overdue requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the reprimand given to Lewisham Council on the 16th August for not responding within the statutory deadlines to Subject Access Requests (SARs) please set out in detail the progress Lewisham Council has made in addressing overdue requests and responding to new FOI and SAR requests.

Reply

On 17th March the Council was issued with an Enforcement Notice regarding its FOI response times. At the time of the notice there were 389 historic outstanding responses.

All 389 cases were dealt with in advance of the deadline of 16th September 2023. Myself and the Council's Director of Law & Corporate Governance have worked closely with the ICO throughout this time. The ICO officers were particularly pleased with the cultural change being instilled across the Council and are keen to explore how they can create a case study on how we positively embraced this challenge and responded to it.

The Council has assured the ICO that it remains committed to addressing its SARs performance and meets regularly with them to discuss progress. Current response rates are much improved and the drive for even better response rates will continue.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 25
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Mark Morris

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Juliet Campbell

Question

I understand that Lewisham Council's sole crematorium at Hither Green has been part of the voluntary scheme of recycling ferrous and non-ferrous metals left in the cremator following a cremation since 1990 with the funds raised allocated to a death related charity. Has any consideration been given to advertising and promoting the scheme?

Reply

Lewisham Bereavement Services finds sensitive and meaningful ways of advertising this fantastic scheme and looks to do more.

During the pandemic when charitable donations were decreasing, Bereavement Services pledged full metal recycling to the scheme and raised £90,321 which was shared between the following organisations

- St Christopher's Hospice
- Alzheimer's Society
- Huntington's Disease Association
- Sands
- WAY Widowed and Young
- Muscular Dystrophy UK
- Marie Curie
- Make a Wish
- The UK Sepsis Trust

We recently added the Sickle Cell Society to our list of death related charities. The scheme is first shared with the bereaved, the applicant organising the funeral must give consent for the crematorium to use any metals left in a cremator following a cremation. Metals are collected based on use and in general two collections are made yearly, after each collection the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), who manage the scheme are informed of the total sum raised following that collection, Bereavement Services management then contact the next organisation due to receive a donation and they are given permission to share this donation on their socials and website. Once a letter of receipt is received, the letter is displayed in the crematorium reception so that service users can see the outcome of them giving consent. Lewisham Bereavement Services is currently designing a new website with the scheme having its own place on there. This will include testimonies and charity details, even giving service users the ability to submit the

details of a charity they would like to be included in the list of those due to receive donations from the scheme.

The ICCM was founded in 1913 and since that time has provided policy and best practice guidance to Burial and Cremation authorities.

ICCM also spreads awareness of the scheme and donations made via its Journal and Facebook page.

The service is always open to new ideas and opportunities to raise awareness

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 26
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Patricia Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

Who will be running and managing Crofton Park and Grove Park libraries from when?

Reply

We are currently in the process of transferring the service at Grove Park Community Library to S&B Childcare. Grove Park Community Library is currently closed for refurbishment, but it is expected to reopen to the public on 2nd October 2023. Eco Communities are still running and managing Crofton Park Community Library and will continue to do so until we have been able to able to formerly transfer the service to a new tenant.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 27
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

With the development of Leegate there will be a loss of jobs to the community in retail, services, offices over 4/5 years. How many replacement jobs does the Council expect to appear, once the new centre is up and running?

Reply

Leegate is a private development in the borough and in the report presented to the Strategic Planning Committee on 19 July 2023 it was stated that the existing level of employment is 138 full time equivalent jobs – based on the floorspace and uses that existing in the shopping centre.

The proposed number of jobs within the completed development is projected to be up to 193 full time equivalent jobs.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 28
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Tim Burnell

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

Please could you let me know what exactly is happening with the Ladywell Playtower, it's an amazing building and holds incredible potential as a resource for our community- yet seemingly the plans seem to have evaporated.

Reply

The scheme to restore and redevelop the Ladywell Playtower to provide a cinema and new housing on site received planning permission in Autumn 2022, but work has not yet begun on the development.

The developer with whom the Council has agreed a long lease for the restoration and redevelopment of the Playtower site - Guildmore - informed the Council recently of the challenges they are facing in delivering the scheme. Fast growing costs and rising interest rates have significantly heightened the cost of financing the development. The impact of this is that Guildmore are not currently in a position to bring the Playtower scheme forward at this stage without securing additional funding or an alternative model of financing.

Guildmore remain committed to the scheme and are working with the Council to identify new funding or a different funding model, that enables the restoration of the building, without changing the consented scheme. Officers are working with them as swiftly as we can to identify the best way forward.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 29
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Chris Maines

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

Prior to announcing that Lewisham Library will close until 2026, what negotiations took place to temporarily move the Library to a suitable vacant retail unit in Lewisham Shopping Centre, on Lewisham High Street or close to the Railway Station ?

Reply

In order for the council to make an informed decision about interim library provision in central Lewisham, officers engaged with a number of local stakeholders. In our recent experience in opening the new Catford Library, the costs associated with refitting a vacant shop or unit to make the space suitable, which includes the need to have publicly accessible toilets, the installation of secure IT systems and Wi-Fi access, fitted racking for books and resources for activities, wheelchair access and flooring etc for a temporary relocation of the library, made this option untenable.

Interim library provision for Lewisham Library includes a click and collect service at Glass Mill Leisure Centre, an ongoing programme of roaming events in the central Lewisham community and the relocation of the Archive and Heritage service to Catford Library. Manor House Community Library and Catford Library are close by where residents can access the full range of library services.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 30
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Chris Maines

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

Which Council owned properties (and those managed by Lewisham Homes) have been surveyed and shown to have Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC)?

Reply

A review of our property information indicated that we do not have any buildings constructed using this technique. Physical inspections of Inglemere Road Hall, Talbot Court, The Vineries, Waverly Court, Welland Court and The White House were undertaken and no RAAC was identified.

Currently only the Council's school estate has been surveyed to check for presence of RAAC as a construction material. From that, only one school has been identified as having part of a building constructed of RAAC. Officers have been working with the school leadership and the Department for Education to ensure that the school is safe for staff and pupils, and teaching and learning has not been disrupted.

The Council is taking an active risk-based approach and a commission is now in place to survey a number of buildings within the Council's non-housing stock to check for the presence of RAAC.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 31
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Peter Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

The Council has announced that the re-developed Central Library on Lewisham High Street will not re-open until early 2026. What are the current plans for the storage and accessibility of the Local Studies material and Archive material?"

Reply

The current local studies and archive material which is located at Lewisham Library currently will transfer to Catford Library as will the viewing room facility.

The archive material and collection which is currently in storage in Croydon, will remain in situ until such time as we have been able to find alternative suitable storage in Lewisham. This will mean that residents will be able to request viewings again. We hope to be able to establish this for the beginning of next year but as soon as we have confirmed dates, we will send out communications to residents and publicise via our website, social media channels and printed publications.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 32
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

What is Lewisham doing to ensure that Housing Associations and other social housing land lords are following the guide lines and reforming the way they treat their tenants ?

Reply

The council does not have power to ensure Registered Providers (RPs, Housing Associations) follow guidelines where the stock is owned and managed by the RP, even where the stock was transferred from the council to the RP through a stock transfer.

The responsibility for regulating and holding RPs to account is held by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH). The RSH registers RPs and undertakes economic regulation, focusing on governance, financial viability and value for money. They also set consumer standards and may take action if these standards are breached and there is a significant risk of serious detriment to tenants or potential tenants. The RSH have introduced Tenant Satisfaction Measures from 1st April 2023, to be collected by RPs through tenant surveys during the 2023/24 financial year. The results will be published by mid-2024, and will provide a basis on which to compare performance of RPs.

The role of investigating individual complaints and mediating in disputes between landlords and tenants is held by the Housing Ombudsman. The Ombudsman may inform the RSH of any systemic issues relating to particular RPs that it becomes aware of.

Despite powers not being available to the council, we work closely with RPs who own and manage stock in the borough. This is through partnership working meetings, where information is shared and key issues are discussed, and through contact with individual RPs to discuss specific issues which arise from time to time. Any concerns which cannot be easily resolved through discussion between officers can be escalated internally for senior management discussion, with a view to finding a resolution in the best interests of tenants.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 33
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Kate Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

How ready are they [Housing Associations] to ensure they are in a position to implement the measures with in the Social Housing Regulation bill which I believe is due to be implemented in April 2024.

Reply

The Social Housing Regulation Bill became law on 20th July 2023. It introduces new regulatory standards for social landlords and will come into force in April 2024. The responsibility for regulating and holding RPs to account is held by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH), who requires RPs to meet the regulatory and consumer standards.

The Social Housing Regulation Act gives broader powers to the RSH and aims to strengthen the regulation of social landlords. The Act will bring forward a stronger and more proactive regulatory regime to improve standards in the sector and hold landlords to account for the service they provide to their tenants.

The council does therefore not have power to scrutinise the preparations of Registered Providers (RPs, Housing Associations) where the stock is owned and managed by the RP, even where the stock was transferred from the council to the RP through a stock transfer.

Despite powers not being available to the council, we work closely with RPs who own and manage stock in the borough. This is through partnership working meetings, where information is shared and key issues are discussed, and through contact with individual RPs to discuss specific issues which arise from time to time. Through this partnership working, we know that RPs have begun their preparations for the new legislation and are collecting feedback from tenants via the Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) Surveys, however, we cannot comment on the extent of their readiness.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 34
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: The Mayor, Damien Egan

Question

The Mayor was elected to a full-time post in May 2022 but announced he would unilaterally go part-time from June 2023 so he could develop his career in Bristol. What proof has the Mayor provided the Council about the time spent on Lewisham business during the period of his part-time working?

Reply

The Mayor temporarily reduced his working hours from the 26th June and returned to full working hours on the 31st July. During this period the Mayor maintained his regular meetings and commitments.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 35
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Mark Bennett

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

Did the Council know in January 2023 that Lewisham Homes' data infrastructure was not the same as the Council's?

Reply

As an independent company Lewisham Homes were responsible for their own data infrastructure. For example, they have their own independent email and accounting systems in place.

Having made the decision to bring the Housing Services back in house, further information, discovery and detailed analysis of costs have been carried out. This includes lessons learned from transferring some services in advance of October which revealed a much better understanding of costs.

Within these costs is a significant element of technology investment which was already part of the Lewisham Homes improvement journey which included getting closer to the Council's systems and infrastructure. However, these actions were delayed with the focus placed on Covid and meeting new compliance priorities with resources diverted. They are therefore now falling into the transition activities as these have to be done to enable the Lewisham Homes staff to transfer to the Council.

In recent years the council and Lewisham Homes have been working together to better align and, for example, have shared the same technology provider using the same helpdesk system, although with individual processes for each organisation. Ongoing work for the transfer in October 2023 is to move from alignment to integration.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 36
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Stephen Locke

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Following the recent consultations in Honor Oak Park, Deptford and Catford, if it is no longer the Council's default policy to implement CPZs right across the borough, regardless of local majority opinion, will its policy document be updated and reissued?

Reply

The consultations mentioned form part of the Council's Sustainable Streets programme, which aligns with Lewisham's new Parking Policy agreed by Mayor and Cabinet in December 2022. The policy states that the decision whether to implement Sustainable Streets should be based on officer recommendations which consider consultation responses in conjunction with data of parking pressure, road safety, air quality and walking and cycling needs. The new policy also requires that information should be looked at over a wider area to decide whether to include individual streets, taking into consideration factors such as the risk of displacement. Knowing the level of support and collating local knowledge from residents in the responses has informed the final design of the improvements.

This policy still stands as the Council has listened to the responses of residents and taken a measured approach in its recommendations. However, as agreed by Mayor and Cabinet in July 2023, the Council will review the schemes within 6-12 months of implementation and look to make amendments where appropriate, including seeking to extend the scheme to other streets where there is clear parking displacement which is having a detrimental impact on residents.

For further details, links to the December 2022 and July 2023 Mayor and Cabinet reports are as follows:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=7763&Ver=4>

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=8054&Ver=4>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 37
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor James-J Walsh

Question

The closure of the central Lewisham Library has been announced from mid-September 2023 - early 2026, almost two and a half years. In that lengthy time what arrangements will be made to support pupils who currently used this central local resource for study and IT provision?

Reply

Interim library provision for Lewisham Library includes a click and collect service at Glass Mill Leisure Centre, an ongoing programme of roaming events in the central Lewisham community and the relocation of the Archive and Heritage service to Catford Library, where residents can engage with the central local resources for study.

Manor House Community Library and Catford Library are close by where residents can access the full range of library services including IT provision and quiet study space. We are also in the process of upgrading IT facilities across our hub libraries which will include making more space and digital access available for residents. Adult Learning Lewisham's, Granville Park centre has open access ICT available in the café space and we are exploring how we can expand this provision during the closure of Lewisham Library for the refurbishment.

There is also free digital access for advice matters at Citizens Advice Lewisham. More details can be found at: <https://citizensadvicelewisham.org.uk/get-help/>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 38
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Diana Cashin

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Can you say what the financial plans are for the recently tarmacked car park 'extension' behind Laurence House? It appears to be used by three Zip cars only but presumably was resurfaced at some cost to ratepayers.

Reply

The section of car park referred to was originally utilised as a lorry car park and was partially tarmacked during the pandemic so it could be safely used as a mobile Covid testing centre. It then served as an overflow car park for staff working at Laurence House before being restricted to car club vehicles as part of the Council's staff travel plan, which aims to encourage staff to use sustainable modes of travel.

In the medium to longer term, the Council is working closely with Transport for London (TfL) to develop proposals for the realignment of the South Circular (Catford Road) which will help support the delivery of the Council's aspirations for Catford set out in the Catford Town Centre Framework. As part of TfL's plans it is proposed that the road is moved to a new position south of Laurence House, on the site of Laurence House car park, with the overflow car park being used as the works compound during the construction period. The Council will continue to work closely with TfL to ensure any final proposals for this area support the Catford Town Centre Framework and wider Council policy objectives.

For more information on the road realignment proposals please see the following link on the Council website:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/consultation-launched-on-south-circular-road>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 39
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Richard Elliott

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

National guidance concerning public consultations states that Councils should publish the raw data once the process has finished in order to inform their electorate. When will the Council publish and publicise anonymised raw data for its recent (and future) CPZ consultations with a covering explanation for its decisions and social impact conclusions?

Reply

The results and data were published within Appendix A of the Sustainable Transport and Parking Improvements Programme Report presented to Mayor and Cabinet in July 2023.

The report and appendix can be found on the Council's website and the link is included below:

Sustainable Transport and Parking Improvements Programme Report:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s110856/Sustainable%20Transport%20and%20Parking%20Improvements%20Programme%20report.pdf>

Appendix A:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s110857/Sustainable%20Streets%20Appendix%20A%20-%20Phase%201%20consultation%20report.pdf>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 40
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Richard Elliott

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

The recent CPZ consultations were poorly conducted, with inappropriate venues, ill-informed staff, and an unclear decision process/timetable. Are the Council satisfied with how they have managed this, the performance of the outsourced project management company and the value for money (cost per consultation area?) this represents?

Reply

Yes, the Council are satisfied with the recent Sustainable Streets consultation. As with any phased borough-wide programme we will continue to refine the engagement and consultation approach as the programme develops, including the revisions agreed by the Council's Mayor and Cabinet in July 2023.

A key focus of the programme was to actively engage with the local community on the proposals for their area. The consultation programme across Catford, Crofton Park and Deptford included delivering over 21,000 leaflets to residents and businesses, holding 10 pop-up sessions, and nearly 1,000 visits to individual households and businesses. This resulted in a total of over 4,000 responses including over 2,000 responses from Catford and Crofton Park along with a further 650 from Deptford.

The pop-up sessions were not promoted as formal meetings but communicated in leaflets and online as an opportunity for people to drop-in and ask questions about the consultation process. This approach is often used to ensure as many people as possible can be made aware of the consultation, including hosting these at locations where people often less represented in consultation are able to respond, for example at the school gates or outside transport hubs – capturing people during their day-to-day activities.

A link to the relevant report outlining the revisions to the consultation approach is as follows:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=8054&Ver=4>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 41
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Josh Lucas Mitte

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

From the answer to Q83 of 01.03.23 it is clear that 17,187 of 82,169 PCN issued for school streets arose from Bell Green junction with Stanton Way (21% of the total). Why does the Council think so many are generated at this one junction and what does the Council intend doing about it?

Reply

Enforcement of parking and moving traffic restrictions is an important part of the Council's overall transport strategy in order to reduce congestion and improve road safety. In the case of school streets, they are designed to restrict vehicles from entering the school street area at the times shown on the signs to protect the safety of children and encourage more cycling and walking. Over time it is normal for the number of PCN's issued at a given restriction to vary with the expectation that there is an overall reduction as compliance levels increase.

Regarding the school street referred to, between March and June 2023 the number of PCNs issued at this location totalled 2,429. For the same period in 2022 the number was 6,358 which represents a reduction of around 60%, indicating a much greater level of compliance is now being achieved. Therefore, there are no plans to make any changes at the present time.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 42
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Josh Lucas Mitte

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Andre Bourne

Question

Does the Council systematically collect comments from users of Glassmill Leisure Centre about its management rather than the building itself?

Reply

The number of comments, complaints and compliments for all Better managed facilities are reported to the Council on a monthly basis as part of the contract monitoring process. High level themes of the feedback are reported rather than the verbatim comments and these will include comments about both the building and the centre management.

The Council uses these themes as a focus for inspections, contract penalisation (where appropriate) and service improvement work with its leisure provider.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 43
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Sian Hill

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

I have previously raised questions relating to the volume of traffic and pollution on Lee Road and the Council's plans to alleviate these. In one of these questions I referred to Lee Road as a "residential road" (it has houses and flats along almost its entire length) but the Council's response simply stated that Lee Road is a B road and not residential although did not explain why this distinction mattered. Please could you explain whether the Council considers that it has any obligation to reduce traffic and pollution levels on B roads in the borough?

Reply

Reducing the harmful effects of traffic congestion and pollution across the borough is a key Council policy objective. This applies to all roads, including B roads. For example, initiatives such as the Sustainable Streets programme aims to reduce the number of car journeys made in Lewisham and encourage more people to walk, cycle or use public transport in order to reduce air pollution, traffic and congestion, improve road safety and lower carbon emissions. More information on this initiative is available via the Council's website:

<https://lewishamsustainablestreets.commonplace.is/>

The Council, as a local highway authority, still nevertheless needs to recognise the distinction between various classes of road and the role they have in managing and facilitating traffic across the borough, in line with national guidance issued by the Department for Transport. 'A' and 'B' roads for example still need to cater for through traffic and serve as 'local' distributor roads, though of course initiatives exist at borough and London-wide level to reduce traffic and pollution overall. The term 'residential' road in this context is taken to mean those roads that are not 'A' and 'B' roads and not part of the route network designated for 'through' traffic.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 44
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Geoffrey Richardson

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: Councillor Andre Bourne

Question

We understand that the Council is in receipt of Grant Funding for the provision of a permanent shelter to the front of the changing room/café building in Forster Memorial Park. There has been a long delay in progressing this project which is causing serious concern to the café proprietor and to many regular park users especially now that winter approaches. Can the Council explain what is causing the delay and indicate a firm timescale for its implementation and completion.

Reply

There have been significant difficulties appointing a contractor for this project and securing a quotation within the allocated budget. Additional funds needed to be identified and have now been secured. Accurate plans were requested from the appointed contractor and following various technical amendments these were submitted to Planning on 7 September 2023 as an Application for Lawful Development. The Friends group and Café Owner were updated at that point. Standard processing times for planning applications are 8 weeks. Once approval has been received and any Planning requirements or amendments have been accommodated, the purchase order will be raised and the contractor will provide start and completion dates for the works.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 45
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Mary Petty

Relevant Directorate: Corporate Resources

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

Question

On what proportion of its total debt does the Council pay the market rate of interest?

Reply

The Council pays the market rate of interest on all its loans and debt based on the market rates at the time the loans and debt were taken out.

The main sources of borrowing are Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) and Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans, all of which were taken out at the relevant market rates, and the Council regularly reviews its debt position.

Debt rescheduling opportunities are monitored on a regular basis and if an opportunity arises to repay borrowing on favourable terms then this will be considered by the Executive Director of Corporate Resources as per the Council's Treasury Management Strategy (TMS).

The Council has £104.7m of LOBO loans paying an average of 3.55% interest with an average life of 50 years. The Council has £90.5m of PWLB loans paying an average of 4.40% interest with an average life of 39 years. For context the current 40 year PWLB annuity rate (on the 19 Sept.) is 5.74%.

At the 31 March 2023 the Council had £193m Private Finance Initiative (PFI) debt remaining and the PFI debt is funded by government credits.

More information can be found in the Statement of Accounts and the Treasury Management Strategy:

Lewisham Council - Our annual statement of accounts and notices

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s108198/2023%2024%20Budget%20Report%20Council%201March.pdf>

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 46
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Michael Bachmann

Relevant Directorate: Community Services

Member to reply: The Mayor, Damien Egan

Question

Earlier this year the Mayor said he would publish details of his meetings with the borough's Met commander but there is nothing on the Council's website. What issues will the Mayor raise at the next meeting with the local police commander?

Reply

The Mayor agreed with Mr Bennett at the previous Full Council meeting that there needs to be much greater scrutiny of the Met and that following the Casey Review there should be more formal structures in place across the capital to provide public accountability to the police. The Mayor agreed to look at Mr Bennett's suggestion of following Merton Council's approach of publicising meetings with the Borough Commander. Following this meeting it was determined that Merton Council publish the agenda of their meetings when the BCU Commander speaks at their relevant select committee. This is the approach that Lewisham Council already follows.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 47
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Michael Bachmann

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

The two roads that were included in the new Honor Oak Park CPZ were allegedly selected to discourage commuter parking for the nearby Overground station. Why did the Council chose operating times from 9-5 rather than 2 hours in the middle of the day?

Reply

The proposed zone is within close proximity of a train station and shopping parade on Honor Oak Park, which generate demands on parking throughout the day.

The Council is committed to reviewing the new zones after a period of six months, and this will include the hours and days of operation.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 48
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Peter George

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

With reference to Q59 of March 2023 please provide an update on the estimated cost of the entire Building for Lewisham project including homes built.

Reply

Including the completed, onsite, planning and approved pipeline, the current 'Total Scheme Costs' for the Building for Lewisham programme are estimated at £672 million, of which £229.7 million will be funded by grant funding and £53.2 million by shared ownership initial sales, leaving the remaining £389.1 million to be funded directly by the Council.

At 31st August 2023, the total spend on the Building for Lewisham programme was £160.7 million.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 49
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Peter George

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Did Lewisham Council respond to the recent consultation on railway ticket office closures?

Reply

Individual objections were sent in response to the recent consultation rather than a single Council response, including from the Cabinet Member. The Cabinet Member also ran a social media campaign to encourage the public to respond to the consultation.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 50
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Ben McGuire

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

With reference to Q18 of March 2023, what is it about Lee Rd that means the police cannot enforce the 20mph speed limit and does this reason apply to other roads with 20mph speed limits in the borough?

Reply

The 20mph speed limit on Lee Road is enforceable as demonstrated by a Police enforcement exercise on Lee Road undertaken in May 2023.

As mentioned in the previous response, the Council is not aware of any such locations that are not enforceable, however, if any are brought to our attention, we will seek to address any issues accordingly.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 51
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Ben McGuire

Relevant Directorate: Chief Executive

Member to reply: Councillor Amanda De Ryk

Question

When a Lewisham mayor or councillor (such as our incumbent mayor and Blackheath councillor) decide to stand as an MP candidate in another part of the country, does Lewisham Council (including its executive and officers) have any mechanism in place to ensure Lewisham residents receive value for money given the full-time allowances they continue to draw from the council? For example, monitoring in-person meeting attendances and email response times?

Reply

In-person meeting attendance to committee meetings is monitored by the Council's Director of Law & Corporate Governance for the purpose of Section 85 Local Government Act 1972 and published on the council website.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 52
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Eric Kentley

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

With the traffic restrictions on Adenmore Road how does the Council suggest someone with mobility issues is dropped off to catch a train going up to central London from Catford Bridge?

Reply

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

In partnership with Transport for London, the Council will undertake accessibility reviews across all stations in the Borough, including Catford Bridge, to ensure and promote accessibility for all users. The results, including guidance for people with mobility issues, will be made available on the Council website by the end of this year.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 53
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Eric Kentley

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

There are also similar access problems for drop-off at Lewisham Station (unless by taxi) and Hither Green (south side). Is the Council aware of accessibility issues in getting to stations?

Reply

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

In partnership with Transport for London, the Council will undertake accessibility reviews across all stations in the Borough, including Lewisham and Hither Green stations, to ensure and promote accessibility for all users. The results, including guidance for people with mobility issues, will be made available on the Council website by the end of this year.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 54
27 September 2023

Question asked by: James Foulkes

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

Can you tell me what scrutiny, scoring or metrics you have in place to ascertain how well a Housing Association or landlord is performing for Lewisham Council Tenants?

Reply

To clarify, the residents of properties owned and managed by Housing Associations are tenants of that housing association. They are not Lewisham Council Tenants. Lewisham Council own properties which are currently managed by Lewisham Homes, Regenter B3 and two tenant management organisations. The residents in these properties are Lewisham Council tenants. Responsibility for the managing the properties currently managed by Lewisham Homes will transfer back to Lewisham Council from 1st October 2023.

The council does not have power to scrutinise the performance of Registered Providers (RPs, Housing Associations) where the stock is owned and managed by the RP, even where the stock was transferred from the council to the RP through a stock transfer.

The responsibility for regulating and holding RPs to account is held by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH). The RSH have introduced Tenant Satisfaction Measures from 1st April 2023, to be collected by RPs through tenant surveys during the 2023/24 financial year. The results will be published by mid-2024, and will provide a basis on which to compare performance of RPs.

Despite powers not being available to the council, we work closely with RPs who own and manage stock in the borough. This is through partnership working meetings, where information is shared and key issues are discussed, and through contact with individual RPs to discuss specific issues which arise from time to time. Any concerns which cannot be easily resolved through discussion between officers can be escalated internally for senior management discussion, with a view to find a resolution in the best interests of tenants.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 55
27 September 2023

Question asked by: James Foulkes

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Sophie Davis

Question

How do you ensure Housing Associations do not decant tenants into temporary accommodation and then sell the asset they've just vacated or refuse to let them return?

Reply

The council does not have power to control the actions of Registered Providers (RPs, Housing Associations) where the stock is owned and managed by the RP, even where the stock was transferred from the council to the RP through a stock transfer.

The responsibility for regulating and holding RPs to account is held by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH). Secure tenants who need to be decanted due to regeneration works will be entitled to a home loss payment and disturbance payment, if they have been living in the home for at least 6 months. If a secure tenant needs to be moved for other reasons, they should be offered an alternative home, with the same type of secure tenancy or a right to return.

Despite powers not being available to the council, we work closely with RPs who own and manage stock in the borough. This is through partnership working meetings, where information is shared and key issues are discussed, and through contact with individual RPs to discuss specific issues which arise from time to time. Any concerns which cannot be easily resolved through discussion between officers can be escalated internally for senior management discussion, with a view to find a resolution in the best interests of tenants.

If there is a specific concern which relates to your own housing situation, we would encourage you to raise this with your Housing Association directly, and if it is not resolved, with your Councillor, the Housing Ombudsman or the RSH. If further information is submitted to the council, council officers could look into the matter with the relevant housing association, but they would not have the same authority as the RSH or Ombudsman to intervene if necessary.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 56
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Joan Sakkas

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Based on the data from the 2021 Census, it shows that car ownership (1+ vehicles) is greater for properties within large areas of the Lee & Hither Green LTN, then it is on any of the boundary Rd where traffic has now been displaced to. What steps have the council taken during 2020, 2021, and 2022 to encourage the reduction of car ownership within the LTN? And if no steps have been taken, why not?

Reply

The primary aim of the Lewisham and Lee Green LTN is to encourage people to walk and cycle more whilst also improving air quality and public health, reducing noise pollution, and making roads safer, which are all in line with the Council's longer term aims for the whole borough. LTNs achieve this by restricting motor vehicle through traffic within a residential area while maintaining and improving through movement for pedestrians and cyclists.

In addition to restricting through traffic and creating an environment that supports non-car based travel, the Council has also implemented a series of additional complementary measures within the LTN and surrounding areas to further support the aims of the LTN and encourage long term behaviour change towards sustainable forms of travel. These measures include school streets, more trees and green spaces, additional electric vehicle charging points, additional bike hangars and cycle stands, improved pedestrian crossing points and new seating areas.

All information and data collected to assess the performance of the LTN since 2020 can be found in the monitoring reports presented to the Council's Mayor and Cabinet in September 2022.

Please see the two links below for copies on the reports:

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=6495&Ver=4>

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=7912&Ver=4>

A further monitoring report is expected to be presented to Mayor and Cabinet later this year.

In addition, the Council is also encouraging the move towards non-car based travel through our borough wide Sustainable Streets programme which seeks to reimagine

the borough's roads in order to reduce air pollution, improve road safety and encourage more people to walk, cycle or use public transport. As part of this programme we will be installing more trees, secure cycle storage hangars and electric vehicle charging points, as well as improving road safety at junctions to make walking and cycling safer and more attractive. Lee Green is currently in phase 2 of the programme and residents are expected to be consulted on these plans in spring 2024.

We recognise there is more to do in the future to encourage residents to move to more sustainable forms of transport, the LTN being only one part of a wider and more complex set of policies the Council is instigating to reach the London Mayor's target of reducing car journeys by 27% across London by 2030.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 57
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Joan Sakkas

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

The following is a recent post from Lee Road and Blackheath village WA group? 'This Ward now the 3rd highest polluted in LBL! Why does the council not take action? Air pollution caused in the roads where all the traffic is being pushed, can be visibly seen just by how often the windows need cleaning and sitting in the garden isn't safe anymore. I have small children and terrified of the consequences. ' Why does the council not take action or respond to our concerns?'

Reply

The Council takes the issue of air quality very seriously and in 2022 published the Air Quality Action Plan. It sets out measures which will work towards improving air quality in the borough. These include expanding our air quality monitoring network, with priority given to schools, care homes, hospitals and lower income areas; minimising emissions from new developments, through planning and enforcement; introducing more school streets, play streets, electric vehicle charging points, bike hangers, idling campaigns, modal filters, expanding and improving green infrastructure across the borough and initiatives focused on tackling wood burning.

More details on the Council's plans to improve air quality across the borough can be found on our website through the following link:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/read-our-air-quality-action-plan-and-other-reports>

The Council's monitoring data does not support the suggestion that Blackheath is the 3rd highest polluted ward in the borough, although along with several other wards it does suffer from a major arterial road running through it as part of Transport for London's Road Network, in this case the A2. As part of the Council's commitment to improve air quality in the borough, including in Blackheath, we will continue to work with TfL to seek measures that reduce the harmful effects of traffic congestion by promoting more sustainable forms of travel.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 58
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Maria L Mitte

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

Have any other issues, such as asbestos, been revealed or exposed through incidents of failing Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) being identified in the borough?

Reply

Currently, only the Council's school estate has been surveyed to check for presence of RAAC as a construction material. From that, only one school has been identified as having part of a building constructed of RAAC. In this case, no other regulatory compliance issues or materials such as asbestos were highlighted as of concern.

The Council is taking an active risk-based approach and a commission is now in place to survey a number of buildings within the Council's non-housing stock to check for the presence of RAAC.

The Council has an active regulatory regime around the management of asbestos and general regulatory compliance across its operational estate. If as part of these surveys, materials such as asbestos become exposed, they will be managed in accordance with regulatory standards.

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 59
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Maria L Mitte

Relevant Directorate: Housing

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

What specific properties are affected and what is the impact on Lewisham residents following the recent Government announcement regarding the risks from this form of concrete construction? (RAAC)

Reply

A review of our property information indicated that we do not have any buildings constructed using this technique, physical inspections of: Inglemere Road Hall, Talbot Court, The Vineries, Waverly Court, Welland Court, The White House were undertaken and no RAAC was identified.

Agenda Item 6



Council

Member Questions

Date: 27 September 2023

Class: Part 1

Contributors: Head of Governance and Committee Services

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 26 September

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 1
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Johnston-Franklin

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

Question

Based on the recent Early Years announcement on the expansion of free child care for working parents from April 2024, Can an update be provided outlining the details around Lewishams sufficiency to offer free places for 2 year olds from April 2024 and babies from 9 months from September 2024.

Reply

Additional funding for early years education and childcare is obviously welcome, although the Government's announcement falls short of the ambition we would expect to see from a future Labour government. Under Labour, childcare will be more than just a facility that allows parents to work more hours. It is crucial in providing every child with the best start in life; an early years education which sets them up for school and supports child development. Extensive evidence shows the positive impact of high-quality early education on long-term educational, behavioural and social outcomes, and on closing the gap for children in low-income households.

Turning to the Government's proposed new funding, the initial phase of the new two-year-old offer for working parents in April 2024 is likely to be the conversion of existing places that are paid for into part-funded places. Those children are already in a place and we are confident that we will have sufficient places for those transferring from a paid-for place to a funded place in April.

Looking further ahead, there is undoubtedly a workforce challenge for providers: recruitment and retention of high-quality staff is difficult. We are looking at initiatives to tackle this, including a supported apprenticeship programme to help providers recruit and retain apprentices and improve training; developing an online bank of staff that providers and employees can access to mitigate high agency staff costs; and a promotional campaign to encourage people into the early years sector. We are also working closely with our childminding sector to raise awareness of the extended entitlements and to help them consider how providing funded as opposed to just paid for places can benefit their business. This is likely to be most valuable for the implementation of the entitlements in September 2024 for babies from nine months.

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 2
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Councillor James Royston

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

What feasibility studies or other preparatory work needs to be done by LBL or others in order to make the Bakerloo Line Extension a reality? What has already been carried out and what is planned, and what is the expected timeframe for that?

Reply

The studies considered to be needed at present are:

- Updated Impact Assessment – being undertaken by Hatch – being led by Central London Forward with LB Southwark with LB Lewisham. Expected to be completed by November 2023.
- Funding and Financing study Led by LB Southwark with LB Lewisham and TfL – brief currently being prepared.
- Station feasibility studies – Led by TfL in partnership with LB Lewisham and LB Southwark. Expression of interest to be sent out before end of September with tenders going out in October 2023.

Studies required in the near future:

- Bell Green / Lower Sydenham Area Framework – Further, detailed masterplanning work building on the visioning study and community masterplan.

Studies undertaken:

- Economic Impact Assessment – being undertaken by Hatch Regeneris – being led by LB Lewisham LB Southwark and TfL.
- Funding and Financing study Led by LB Southwark with LB Lewisham and TfL – undertaken by KPMG.
- New Cross Area Framework led by LB Lewisham
- Bell Green Vision Study led by LB Lewisham
- Bermondsey Dive Under Study – jointly led by LB Lewisham, LB Southwark and Network Rail
- Lacing Lewisham (Station study) – Joint commission with LB Lewisham, TFL and Network Rail

We are in a Growth Partnership with LB Southwark and meet regularly with them and the GLA at the Old Kent Road, New Cross and Lewisham Growth Partnership Board.

The Council's webpages show an updated timeline for the Bakerloo Extension:

Lewisham Council - Accommodating the Bakerloo line extension (Direction of Travel document).

The Back the Bakerloo website has also been updated:

Back the Bakerloo Line - Help bring the Bakerloo line to south east London

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 3
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Luke Sorba

Relevant Directorate: Children and Young People

Member to reply: Councillor Chris Barnham

Question

How many schools in Lewisham are affected by RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete)?

Reply

One school in Lewisham is known to contain RAAC, Myatt Garden Primary School. Officers have been working with the school leadership and the Department for Education to ensure that the school is safe for staff and pupils, and teaching and learning has not been disrupted.

Following changes to DfE guidance, we are working with schools, surveyors and a structural engineer to re-check the school estate.

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 4
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Hilary Moore

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

What is the Council doing to increase active travel within the Borough?

Reply

The Council remains committed to encouraging active travel and creating an environment where sustainable modes will be the most pleasant, reliable and attractive form of travel.

In support of this the Council has recently unveiled proposals as part of our Sustainable Streets Programme to reimagine the borough's roads in order to reduce air pollution, improve road safety and encourage more people to walk, cycle or use public transport. As part of this programme we will be installing more trees, secure cycle storage hangars and electric vehicle charging points, as well as improving road safety at junctions to make walking and cycling safer and more attractive.

The Council has also just announced a new partnership with Lime to significantly expand the operation of dockless hire bikes around the borough, which will support more people in Lewisham to make journeys using active travel.

Other initiatives the Council is pursuing include the on-going roll-out of school streets and bike hangar programmes across the borough along with plans for more segregated cycle ways, including in Deptford Church Street. We have also recently made permanent a number of modal filters and cycle contra-flow measures across the borough to reduce through traffic and prioritise active travel.

To ensure the Council's plans remain robust and forward looking, we are also updating Lewisham's cycling strategy as part of a new Integrated Active Travel Strategy. This will help guide and facilitate future investment in Lewisham's walking and cycling network in line with the Council's wider Transport Strategy.

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 5
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Liam Curran

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Louise Krupski

Question

Following my questions in July and November 2022 relating to the severe flooding that occurs in areas around Wells Park and at the bottom of Kirkdale, during heavy rainfall, can the Cabinet member confirm that all of the blocked gullies/drains in Wells Park Road have been unblocked, cleared and repaired and inform us of the results of any related camera surveys?

Reply

Yes, all the gullies along Wells Park Road were cleared and jetted earlier this year. The surveys showed that several of the gullies required some remedial repairs. The remedial work has all been completed except for one gulley, which is due to be repaired next month.

MEMBER QUESTION NO. 6
27 September 2023

Question asked by: Councillor Liam Curran

Relevant Directorate: Place

Member to reply: Councillor Brenda Dacres

Question

What plans are there to renew Lewisham's pubs protection policies both in planning and licensing?

Reply

The existing Development Management Local Plan at DM Policy 20 gives protection to public houses. The Council's new Local Plan will continue to protect public houses across the borough via Policy EC19. This places a presumption in favour of the retention of public houses. The Local Plan is due for submission with to the Secretary of State later this year when it will start to gain weight in decision making.

Agenda Item 7



Council

Decisions taken under General Urgency – Rule 19

Date: 27 September 2023

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Contributors: Head of Governance and Committee Services

Outline and recommendations

Council is asked to note the decisions detailed in the report that were taken under Rule 19 – General Urgency.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Constitution requires that the Mayor must report to Council any executive decisions taken under Rule 19 – Special Urgency.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Council is asked to note the information contained in this report.

3. Background

- 3.1. On 15 May 2023, following a funding announcement by the Mayor of London regarding universal Key Stage 2 Free School Meals, the Mayor agreed to:
 - 3.1.1. formally accept the one academic year funding (2023/24) and instructed officers to write back stipulating the financial implications for the council and schools as outlined above; and
 - 3.1.2. approve capital funding of up to £620k and instruct officers to commence procurement of the necessary kitchen equipment to enable the delivery of these meals from September 2023.
- 3.2. Timing requirements imposed by the Mayor of London meant that the normal council decision making processes could not be followed.
- 3.3. Rule 19 – Special Urgency provides that urgent executive decisions can be taken without providing 28 days notice in the forward plan of key decisions, and that the decision can be exempted from call-in with the agreement of the Chair of the Council’s Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Speaker of Council.
- 3.4. This decision was taken by the Mayor on 15 May 2023 having obtained agreement from the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny and the Speaker to apply Rule 19 – Special Urgency.

4. Report author and contact

- 4.1. Emma Campbell Smith, Head of Governance and Committee Services.
emma.campbellsmith@lewisham.gov.uk

5. Appendices

- 5.1. **Appendix A** – report Mayor of London Grant for Key Stage 2 Universal Free School

Meals

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s109485/MC%20Decision%20Report%20-%20Mayor%20of%20London%20Grant%20for%20Key%20Stage%202%20Universal%20Free%20School%20Meals%2015.5.23.pdf>

- 5.2. **Appendix B** - Universal Free School Meals – information on grant allocations, funding flows, grant conditions and principles

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s109486/Appendix%201%20-%20UFSM%20Grant%20Conditions%20and%20Principles.pdf>

- 5.3. **Appendix C** –Notice of Key Decision for which it has not been possible to provide notice

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s109487/Notice%20Rule%2019%20FSM%20decision%2015%20May%2023.pdf>



Council

Report title: Revised Terms of Reference for South-East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SEL JHOSC)

Date: 27 September 2023

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Jeremy Chambers (Director of Law and Corporate Governance)

Outline and recommendations

Lewisham Council participates in a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee alongside five other South-East London boroughs. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of this Committee have been revised to reflect the changes to local NHS structures (the establishment of Integrated Care Systems via the Health and Care Act 2022) and to allow the committee to look at discretionary cross-borough strategic health matters, as well as mandatory cross-borough substantial reconfiguration proposals, as health services and care are now being planned and designed at a South East London level.

The Council is recommended to note the revised ToR for the South-East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SEL JHOSC) and instruct the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Constitution.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

Revised Terms of Reference agreed by the South-East London Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee on 6 July 2023

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Health and Care Act 2022 put the Integrated Care Systems on a statutory footing from 1 July 2022, making them responsible for planning and funding health and care services in the area they cover.
- 1.2. Following that, the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the South-East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SEL JHOSC) have been revised to

allow the committee to look at discretionary cross-borough strategic health matters, as well as mandatory cross-borough substantial reconfiguration proposals

- 1.3. This report asks the Council to note the revised ToR for the SEL JHOSC and instruct the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Constitution.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Council is asked to:
 - note the revised ToR for the SEL JHOSC and instruct the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary changes to the Constitution.

3. Background

- 3.1. After the Health and Care Act 2022 put the Integrated Care Systems (ICS) on a statutory footing, the ICS took on the NHS planning functions previously held by former clinical commissioning groups and services are now being planned and designated at a South-East London level. The ToR for SEL JHOSC have been revised to reflect these NHS contextual changes.
- 3.2. There are two key types of Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees- discretionary and mandatory:
 - 3.2.1. The ToR retain the ability for the Committee to meet to consider and respond to proposals for substantial reconfigurations that affect the entire ICS area. In this case the JHOSC acts as a mandatory committee.
 - 3.2.2. The ToR also allow for greater scrutiny of wider, system level issues that relate to the planning, provision and operations of health services across the ICS. In this case the JHOSC acts as a discretionary committee.

4. Financial implications

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

5. Legal implications

- 5.1. The Council's Constitution provides at paragraph 6.8, Article 6 that the Council may establish and appoint members to joint overview and scrutiny arrangements including but not limited to a joint overview and scrutiny committee with other Council(s) to carry out overview and scrutiny functions in relation to health bodies under Section 245 NHS Act 2006, Section 123 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 regulations thereunder, amendments thereto and/or other relevant legislation. The terms of reference of such joint overview and scrutiny committees as are established from time to time will be appended to the Constitution.
- 5.2. The Council participates in the South-East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SEL JHOSC) and has appointed members to it. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (now called South-East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee) appear in Lewisham's Constitution as Appendix 5. After noting the revised ToR for SEL JHOSC, the Council will have to instruct the Monitoring Officer to update the Constitution by appending the up-to-date ToR

for the joint committee.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

7. Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1. There are no direct climate change and environmental implications arising from this report.

8. Crime and disorder implications

- 8.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

- 9.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report. Nevertheless, the SEL JHOSC plays an important role in scrutinising the planning, provision and operation of health services that cross local authority boundaries in the SEL ICS footprint area. In doing so, they positively influence residents' health and wellbeing by ensuring accountability among service providers and decision makers.

10. Appendices

- 10.1. Appendix A- South-East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

11. Report author and contact

- 11.1. If you have any questions about this report please contact the scrutiny manager:

Nidhi Patil, 020 8314 7620, Nidhi.Patil@lewisham.gov.uk

South East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

South East London Integrated Care System

The South East London Integrated Care System (ICS), brings together local health and care organisations and local councils to design care and improve population health and healthcare, tackle unequal outcomes and access, enhance productivity and value and help the NHS to support broader social and economic development through shared leadership and collective action.

The Health and Care Act 2022 put the ICS on a statutory footing from 1 July 2022, making them responsible for planning and funding health and care services in the area they cover.

The ICS is a partnership of local health and care providers and local authorities responsible for collaboratively planning and commissioning health and care services for the South East London region, which covers the London Boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.

The SEL ICS includes the South East London Integrated Care Board, which takes on the NHS planning functions previously held by clinical commissioning groups, and an Integrated Care Partnership, which brings together the NHS and local authorities as well as health and care providers and partners as equal partners to focus more widely on health, public health and social care and is responsible for developing an integrated care strategy, setting out how the wider health needs of the local population will be met.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is constituted in accordance with the Local Authority Public Health, Health & Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny Regulations 2013 (the “Regulations”) and Department of Health Guidance to review and scrutinise any matter, including, when required, substantial reconfiguration proposals, relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services covering more than one Council area from within the South East London Integrated Care System. The ICS is a partnership of local health and care providers and local authorities responsible for collaboratively planning and commissioning health and care services for the South East London region, which covers the London Boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark.

The Joint Committee’s terms of reference are:

1. To carry out overview and scrutiny in relation to planning, provision and operation of health services that cross local authority boundaries in the SEL ICS footprint area. This does not prevent the appointing local authorities from separately scrutinising local health issues. However, there are likely to be

occasions on which this committee is the best way of considering how the needs of a local population, which happens to cross council boundaries, are being met.

2. To convene as, and to undertake all the functions of, a statutory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) when required, in accordance with the Regulations and Department of Health Guidance.

This includes, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) To consider and respond to proposals from the SEL Integrated Care System (ICS) for the substantial reconfiguration of Health Services in South East London.
- (b) To scrutinise any consultation process that relate to more than one borough conducted by the SEL ICB, but not to replicate any consultation process.

This does not include the power to make any decision to make a referral to the Secretary of State in relation to the proposals from the SEL ICS for Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark. However, any individual borough may make a specific delegation to the JHOSC in relation to their own power to make such a referral on their behalf.¹

Membership

Membership of the Committee will be two named Members from each of the following local authorities:

London Borough of Bexley;
London Borough of Bromley;
Royal Borough of Greenwich;
London Borough of Lambeth;
London Borough of Lewisham;
London Borough of Southwark.

Members must not be an Executive Member.

¹ This remains the current position with regards to powers to make a referral to the Secretary of State until changes to the reconfiguration process that were introduced through the Health and Care Act 2022 are implemented and new statutory guidance around this is published.

PROCEDURES

Chair and Vice-Chair

1. The Committee will appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair at its first meeting, and at the first meeting of every new municipal year. The Chair and Vice-Chair should be members of different participating authorities.

Substitutions

2. Substitutes may attend Committee meetings in lieu of nominated members. Continuity of attendance throughout a review is strongly encouraged however.
3. It will be the responsibility of individual committee members and their local authorities to arrange substitutions and to ensure that the lead authority is informed of any changes prior to the meeting.
4. Where a substitute is attending the meeting, it will be the responsibility of the nominated member to brief them in advance of the meeting

Quorum

5. The quorum of the meeting of the Joint Committee will be 4 members, each of whom should be from a different participating authority.
6. The meeting should start at the time stated on the agenda, but it is acceptable to wait up to 15 minutes for quorum to be achieved. If after 15 minutes there is still not a quorum present, the meeting shall terminate.

Voting

7. It is hoped that the Committee will be able to reach their decisions by consensus. However, in the event that a vote is required each member present will have one vote. In the event of there being an equality of votes, the Chair of the meeting will have the casting vote.
8. On completion of a scrutiny review by the Joint Committee, it shall produce a single final report, reflecting the views of all the local authorities involved.

Meetings

9. Meetings of the Joint Committee will normally be held in public and will take place at venues within South East London. The normal access to information provisions applying to meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny committees will apply. However, there may be occasions on which the Joint Committee may need to make visits outside of the formal Committee meeting setting.
10. Meetings shall last for up to two hours from the time the meeting is due to commence. The Joint Committee may resolve, by a simple majority, before

the expiry of 2 hours from the start of the meeting to continue the meeting for a maximum further period of up to 30 minutes.

Local Overview and Scrutiny Committees

11. The Joint Committee will encourage its Members to inform their local overview and scrutiny committees of the work of the Joint Committee and any proposals contained within the SEL Integrated Care System.
12. The Joint Committee will invite its Members to represent to the Joint Committee the views of their local overview and scrutiny committees on the work of the SEL ICS and the Joint Committee's work.

Communication

13. The Joint Committee will establish clear lines of communication between the NHS, participating local authorities and itself. All formal correspondence between the Committee, local authorities and the NHS on this matter will normally be administered by officers from the same borough as the Chair.

Representations

14. The Joint Committee will identify and invite witnesses to address the committee and may wish to undertake consultation with a range of stakeholders.

Support

15. Administrative and research support will be provided by the scrutiny teams of the 6 boroughs working together.

Assumptions

16. The Joint Committee will be based on the following assumptions: -
 - (a) That the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is constituted to carry out overview and scrutiny in relation to planning, provision and operation of health services that cross local authority boundaries in the SEL ICS footprint area and to respond to the work of the Integrated Care System this includes, when required, to respond to any proposals it puts forward and any consultation it may carry out, as well as comment on the public and patient involvement activity in which the NHS has engaged in relation to this matter.
 - (b) That the SEL ICS will permit the Joint Committee access to the outcome of any public consultation phase prior to the formulation and submission of the Joint Committee's response to such public consultations.

- (c) Efforts will be made to avoid duplication. The individual health overview and scrutiny committees of individual authorities shall endeavour not to replicate any work undertaken by the SEL ICS JHOSC.



Council

Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2023/24

Date: 20/09/2023

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1.

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Interim Director of Finance Katharine Nidd

Outline:

The purpose of this report is to set out the following:

- A review of the Treasury Management position as at 31 March 2023;
- An economic update for the five months of the 2023/24 financial year;
- An update of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24;
- An update on the Council's Capital Programme forecast and prudential indicators;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2023/24;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2023/24; and
- A review of compliance with treasury and prudential limits for 2023/24.

Recommendation:

Council is recommended to:

1. Note the report, in particular the macroeconomic updates, Treasury Management Outturn 2022/23, performance of investments to date, the revised forecast Capital Programme 2023-27 and borrowing forecast in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA).
2. To approve the updated Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 including the prudential indicators.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making:

1 March 2023 – 2023/24 Budget Report to Council (Section 5.21 onwards: Treasury Management Strategy)

8 February 2023 – 2022/23 Budget Report to Mayor & Cabinet

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out the current economic conditions in which the Council is operating in respect of its investments and borrowing. It details the Council's treasury performance (focused on security, liquidity and return in that order) and forecast capital position as at 30 June 2023 (or alternative date as stated) and provides updates on performance against the current Treasury Management Strategy as required by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice.
- 1.2. Inflation has risen dramatically following the war in Ukraine and this has led to a large increase in the cost of energy, food, goods and services. The Bank of England has subsequently raised interest rates to combat inflation. There is uncertainty in the financial markets due to the Covid pandemic recovery, the war in Ukraine and climate events. The Bank of England is expected to continue to increase interest rates and the UK Government is expected to increase its borrowing to support individuals and businesses during the energy and cost of living crisis.
- 1.3. The overall capital programme for 2023/24 was agreed as £193.5m in February 2023 and is now forecast to be £190.7m as at 30 June 2023, a £2.8m reduction. The reduction comes from the decrease in the HRA and general Fund projects due to re-profiling of the current schemes into future years.
- 1.4. In January 2023 the Council added a new source of borrowing of a Community Municipal Investment through a peer to peer platform. The Community Investment was launched in May 2023 and has raised over £650,000 by attracting retail investors and local residents to invest in local carbon reduction projects.
- 1.5. The Council's Operational Boundary (being the limit which external debt is not normally expected to exceed) and Authorised Limit (being the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited) have not been breached in the year to date, and no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with the Code's requirements for prudential borrowing. These borrowing limits for 2023/24 that were set by the Council in March 2023 have not been changed by this report.
- 1.6. The current investments of £377m as at 30 June 2023 will give the Council a 4.8% return compared to 1.6% at September 2022. With interest rates continuing to rise it is likely that the final 2023/24 yield will exceed the returns of 2022/23. The investment return is expected to continue to increase due of the higher Bank of England bank rate, although working cash balances will reduce in line with the planned capital programme spending.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Council is recommended to:
 - 2.1.1. Note the report, in particular the macroeconomic updates, Treasury Management Outturn 2022/23, performance of investments to date, the revised forecast Capital Programme 2023-27 and borrowing forecast in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA).
 - 2.1.2. To approve the updated Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. This report aligns with Lewisham's Corporate Priorities, as set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy (2022-2026):
- Cleaner and Greener
 - A Strong Local Economy
 - Quality Housing
 - Children and Young People
 - Safer Communities
 - Open Lewisham
 - Health and Wellbeing
- 3.2. These recommendations in this report support all the Council's priorities generally through effective risk management and efficient placement of adequate insurance arrangements for all of its activities and duties.
- 3.3. The Treasury Management Strategy will directly support the theme of an economically sound future for the borough and its residents.

4. Structure of the Report

- 4.1. The remainder of this report is structured as follows:
5. Background and Prior Year Outturn
 6. 2022/23 Treasury Management Outturn
 7. Economic Update
 8. Interest Rate Forecast
 9. Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24
 10. Investment Portfolio
 11. Capital Strategy 2023/24
 12. Financing the Capital Programme
 13. Borrowing and Prudential Indicators
 14. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement
 15. Financial Implications
 16. Legal Implications
 17. Equalities Implications
 18. Climate Change and Environmental Implications
 19. Crime and Disorder Implications
 20. Health and Wellbeing Implications
 21. Background Papers
 22. Report Author and Contacts

Appendix 1 – Interest Rate Forecasts 2023 - 2026

Appendix 2 – Extract from Credit Worthiness Policy

Appendix 3 – Benchmarking Extract

Appendix 4 – Economic Update from Link Group

Appendix 5 – Approved Countries for Investment

Appendix 6 – Requirement of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice

5. Background and Prior Year Outturn

- 5.1. The Council is required to operate a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return. The continued war in Ukraine has led to unprecedented levels of economic and fiscal uncertainty as well as the challenges of high inflation. This has made the balanced budget even more challenging to achieve than in the previous years.
- 5.2. The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 5.3. The contribution the treasury management function makes to the authority is critical, as the balance of debt and investment operations ensure liquidity and the ability to meet spending commitments as they fall due, either for day-to-day revenue purposes or for larger capital projects. Treasury operations will see a balance of the interest costs of debt and the investment income arising from cash deposits affecting the available budget. Since cash balances generally result from reserves and balances, it is paramount to ensure adequate security of the sums invested, as a loss of principal will in effect result in a loss to the General Fund.
- 5.4. Whilst any commercial initiatives or loans to third parties will impact on the treasury function, these activities are generally classed as non-treasury activities, arising usually from capital expenditure, and are separate from the day to day treasury management activities.
- 5.5. Accordingly, treasury management is defined as “the management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”
- 5.6. The Council complies with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2021). The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:
 - a) Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.

- b) Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
- c) Receipt by the full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report covering activities during the previous year.
- d) Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
- e) Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is the Public Accounts Select Committee.

6. 2022/23 Treasury Management Outturn

6.1. The overall treasury management outturn for the year ending 31 March 2023 is set out in the table below:

BORROWING	Outstanding at 31 March 2023	Weighted Average Coupon Rate	Weighted Average Remaining Duration	Outstanding at 31 March 2022
	£m	%	Years	£m
Fixed Rate Borrowing				
Public Works Loan	91.9	4.2	25.3	92.9
Market Loans	82.5	4.0	31.0	82.5
Subtotal – Fixed Rate Borrowing	174.4	4.2	28.2	175.4
Variable Rate Borrowing				
Public Works Loan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Market Loans	37.2	2.2	35.3	37.4
Subtotal – Variable Rate Borrowing	37.2	2.2	35.3	37.4
Total Debt	211.6	3.8	29.6	212.8

INVESTMENTS (short term investment for 0-12 months)	Outstanding at 31 March 2023	Weighted Average Coupon Rate	Outstanding at 31 March 2022
	£m	%	£m
Banks and Building Societies	225.0	0.2	185.0
Local Authorities	0	0	0
Subtotal – Fixed Rate Investments	225.0	0.2	185.0
Money Markets	91.0	0.1	116.2
Notice Accounts	0	0.0	90.0
Subtotal – Variable Rate Investments	91.0	0.1	206.2
Total Investments	316.0	0.2	391.2

6.2. In respect of the net borrowing requirement for 2022/23 it was £32.8m, this being

£34.9m higher than the net borrowing requirement of (£2.1m) for 2021/22 as set out in the table below:

Net Borrowing Requirement	2022/23	2021/22
	£m	£m
Capital Investment	137.2	117.6
Capital Grants	(29.8)	(20.8)
Capital Receipts	(12.5)	(7.8)
Repair Reserves	(25.7)	(27.1)
Revenue	(21.6)	(51.7)
Net position	47.6	10.2
MRP	(4.7)	(4.3)
Other Financing	(10.1)	(8.0)
Net Borrowing Requirement	32.8	(2.1)

- 6.3. As at 31 March 2023, this internal borrowing was £146.4m, which is the difference between the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) and the Council's actual borrowing.

Debt and CFR Movement	2022/23	2021/22
		£m
Capital Financing Requirement*	358.0	301.7
External Debt**	(211.6)	(212.8)
Difference – Internal Borrowing	146.4	88.9

* Excluding other long-term liabilities.

**Excluding Fair Value adjustments.

7. Economic Update

- 7.1. The Economic update is provided by the Council's treasury advisors Link Group and is at Appendix 4; this includes commentary on the impact of the war in Ukraine on global markets.

8. Interest Rate Forecasts

- 8.1. The Council's treasury adviser, Link Group, has published its latest interest rate forecasts up to 30 June 2025 as below:

	Sep-2023	Dec-2023	Mar-2024	Jun-2024	Sep-2024	Dec-2024	Mar-2025	Jun-2025
Bank Rate View	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.25%	4.75%	4.25%	3.75%	3.25%
5yr PWLB Rate	5.60%	5.30%	5.10%	4.80%	4.50%	4.20%	3.90%	3.60%
10yr PWLB Rate	5.20%	5.00%	4.90%	4.70%	4.40%	4.20%	3.90%	3.70%
25yr PWLB Rate	5.40%	5.20%	5.10%	4.90%	4.70%	4.50%	4.20%	4.00%
50yr PWLB Rate	5.10%	5.00%	4.90%	4.70%	4.50%	4.30%	4.00%	3.80%

- 8.2. The war in Ukraine has affected economies around the world with increases in energy and food costs which have led to the rise in inflation. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) are trying to reduce inflation by increasing the Bank Rate. The Bank of England increased the Bank Rate again at their meeting in June to 5.0%. The headline Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rate is now forecast to fall slowly during the remainder of 2023-24.
- 8.3. The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is very low due to the war in Ukraine and the effects of high inflation on world prices. It is likely that the UK will go into recession as the UK population cuts back on retail spending in order to pay for the increasing energy and food costs as well as higher mortgage costs. Interest rates will continue to increase as the Bank of England raises interest rates to combat inflation.
- 8.4. The upside is that the increasing interest rates is that the Council has been earning a higher return on its investments in 2022/23 and in 2023/24 which will help to meet higher costs of providing local services.

9. Investment Strategy 2023/24

- 9.1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2023/24 was approved by Council on 1 March 2023.

Investment Policy – Management of Risk

- 9.2. The DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) and CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) have extended the meaning of 'investments' to include both financial and non-financial investments. This report deals predominantly with financial instruments (as managed by the Strategic Finance – Treasury Team) and non-financial investments and loans.
- 9.3. The Council's investment policy has regard to MHCLG's Guidance on Local Government Investments ("the Guidance"), the CIPFA Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes ("the CIPFA TM Code"), and CIPFA's Treasury Management Guidance Notes 2021.
- 9.4. The Council's investment priorities will be security first, liquidity second, then return. The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and within the Council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs. However, given increasing interest rates, where appropriate (from an internal as well as external perspective), the Council will also consider the value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, as well as wider range fund options.
- 9.5. The Council uses Link Group as its external treasury management advisor. The Council recognises that responsibility for treasury management decisions remains with the Council at all times and will ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon our external service providers. All decisions will be undertaken with regards to all available information including, but not solely, our treasury advisors. It also recognises that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The Council will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented, and subjected to regular review.
- 9.6. The Guidance and CIPFA TM Code place a high priority on the management of risk. The Council has adopted a prudent approach to managing risk and defines its risk appetite by the following means:
1. Minimum acceptable credit criteria are applied in order to generate a list of highly creditworthy counterparties which also enables diversification and thus avoidance of concentration risk. The key ratings used to monitor counterparties are the short term and long term ratings.
 2. Other information; ratings will not be the sole determinant of the quality of an institution; it is important to continually assess and monitor the financial sector on both a micro and macro basis and in relation to the economic and political environments in which institutions operate. The assessment will also take account of information that reflects the opinion of the markets. To this end, the Council will engage with its advisors to maintain a monitor on market pricing such as "credit default swaps" and overlay that information on top of the credit ratings, as well as information on outlooks and watches. This is fully integrated into the credit methodology provided by the advisors in producing its colour codings which show the varying degrees of suggested institution creditworthiness. This has been set out in more detail at Appendix 2.
 3. Other information sources used will include the financial press, share prices and other such information pertaining to the financial sector in order to establish

the most robust scrutiny process on the suitability of potential investment counterparties.

4. The Council has defined the list of types of investment instruments that the treasury team are authorised to use in the financial year, and these are listed in Appendix 2 under the categories of “specified” and “non-specified” investments
 - Specified investments are those with a high level of credit quality and subject to a maturity limit of one year.
 - Non-specified investments and loans are those with less high credit quality, may be for periods in excess of one year, and/or are more complex instruments which require greater consideration by Members and officers before being authorised for use.
5. Lending limits (amounts and maturity) for each counterparty will be set through applying the credit criteria provided by advisors, and are set out in Appendix 2.
6. Interest rate limits are set out in paragraph 9.9 and place restrictions on the exposure to variable and fixed rate investments.
7. The Council has placed a limit on the amount of its investments which are invested for longer than 365 days (see paragraph 13.9).
8. Investments will only be placed with counterparties from countries with a specified minimum sovereign rating (see Appendix 5).
9. All investments and loans will be denominated in sterling.
10. As a result of the change in accounting standards for 2018/19 under IFRS 9, the Council will, on an ongoing basis, consider the implications of investment instruments which could result in an adverse movement in the value of the amount invested and resultant changes at the end of the year to the General Fund. The DLUHC enacted a statutory override, which expires on 31 March 2025, for any unrealised capital gains or losses on marketable pooled funds to be chargeable in year. The Council would not be affected if the override was removed as it does not at present have any pooled investments. Although the Council has scope to do so as per the creditworthiness policy in Appendix 2.

- 9.7. Investments will be made with reference to the core balances and cash flow requirements and the outlook for short-term interest rates (i.e. rates for investments up to 12 months). In order to maintain sufficient liquidity, the Council will seek to utilise its notice accounts, money market funds and short-dated deposits (overnight to three months). The remainder of its investments will be placed in deposits of up to 36 months to generate improved returns, depending on prevailing market conditions.

Creditworthiness Policy

- 9.8. The Council's Treasury Team applies the creditworthiness service provided by its advisors Link Group. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach utilising credit ratings from the three main credit rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays:
- Credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies;
 - CDS spreads that may give early warning of changes in credit ratings; and
 - Sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.
- 9.9. This modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches and credit outlooks in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS spreads for

which the end product is a series of colour coded bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These colour codes are used by the Council to determine the suggested duration for investments:

- Yellow 5 years*
- Purple 2 years
- Blue 1 year (only applies to nationalised or semi nationalised UK Banks)
- Orange 1 year
- Red 6 months
- Green 100 days
- No colour Not to be used**

*for UK Government debt, or its equivalent, Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV) money market funds and collateralised deposits where the collateral is UK Government debt.

**except for those building societies rated BBB- or higher as set out in the policy.

- 9.10. The Council's creditworthiness policy has been set out at Appendix 2.

Country limits

- 9.11. The Council has determined that it will only use approved counterparties from the UK and from other countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AA- from Fitch. The list of countries that qualify using this credit criteria as at the date of this report are shown in Appendix 5. This list will be added to, or deducted from, by officers should country ratings change in accordance with this policy.

Updates to Investment Strategy

Investment Returns

- 9.12. Investment returns are likely to continue to increase due to the rise in inflation and the continued increases in the Bank of England interest rate. The continued war in Ukraine has caused huge economic damage to the UK and world economies and has caused large increases in the cost of energy and food.
- 9.13. The Bank of England is combatting the rise in inflation by increasing the Base Rate, on an almost monthly basis. The base rate has increased from 0.1% in December 2021 to 5.0% in June 2023.
- 9.14. Money market yields have risen in line with the Bank of England base rate rises and now offers a better return for cash held for the Council's cashflow. The Money Market rates are expected to continue to increase further in 2023.
- 9.15. The Council uses the services of its advisor, Link Group, to formulate a view on interest rates; their view is that the Bank Rate will continue to increase through 2023 but will peak and start to fall in late 2024. Given the interest rates will peak soon the Council will continue to invest to lock into long term fixed rates so that it can take advantage of the high rates.
- 9.16. In light of these predictions for increasing returns the Council continues to assess, with support from its advisors, the potential risk and return offered by investing for longer (five or more years) in pooled asset funds. Any investments entered into will be taken after taking advice from the Council's advisors and will continue to meet the objectives of security, liquidity and return.
- 9.17. A more extensive table of interest rate forecasts for September 2023 onwards, including Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing rate forecasts, is set out in Appendix 1.

Non-Treasury Investments

- 9.18. Treasury management investments represent the placement of cash in relation to the

S12 Local Government Act 2003 investment powers, i.e. they represent investments using the residual cash available to the authority from its day to day activities, under security, liquidity and yield principles.

- 9.19. The Council recognises that non-treasury investments in other financial assets and property, primarily for financial return, taken for non-treasury management purposes, requires careful management. Such investments tend to be either:
- Policy type investments; whereby capital or revenue cash is advanced for a specific Council objective and will be approved directly through Committee. This may be an advance to a third party for economic regeneration, investments in subsidiaries and joint ventures, etc.
 - Strategic type investments; whereby the objective is primarily to generate capital or revenue resources to help facilitate local services.
- 9.20. The Council can make loans to other enterprises as a non-treasury investment in line with the Guidance on Local Government Investments.
- 9.21. The Council does not set a limit on the amount of loans that it can approve because it considers each application on a case by case basis. Due diligence must be carried out on all applications and the total financial exposure must be proportionate.
- 9.22. The Council's risk appetite for these investments is reviewed on a case-by-case basis depending on the scale and nature, and strategic fit, of the proposed investment. Where such non-treasury investments exist, they will be identified and summarised at high level within this strategy. The detail and rationale for non-treasury investments are covered in the separate Capital Strategy.

Subsidiary Companies

- 9.23. The Council has two wholly owned subsidiary companies, Lewisham Homes Limited and Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited (CRPL). It has invested in these subsidiaries as summarised below.

Lewisham Homes Limited

- 9.24. Lewisham Homes is an arms-length management organisation (ALMO) set up in 2007 as part of the Council's initiative to deliver better housing services and achieve the Decent Homes Standard. The company manages approximately 18,000 homes.
- 9.25. The Council has to date agreed two separate loan facilities with Lewisham Homes, the first on proxy commercial terms financed from internal borrowing and the second on cost-neutral terms financed through the PWLB. Both loans allow Lewisham Homes to purchase properties to address temporary accommodation needs in the borough, and will be repaid on set maturity dates.
- 9.26. Agreement of the property acquisition programme and relevant loan agreements was obtained from Mayor and Cabinet. State Aid issues and other risks and mitigations were considered in the approval of the loan facilities, including for the second loan the requirement for collateral against the loan in order to obtain MRP exemption.
- 9.27. The Council has provided a £40m commercial loan facility to Lewisham Homes Ltd and the agreed facility financed from PWLB debt.

Catford Regeneration Partnership Limited (CRPL)

- 9.28. The CRPL is a property investment company created in January 2010 which owns the Catford Shopping Centre and several neighbouring properties used to generate income whilst driving forward a regeneration programme for the town centre and surrounding area.

The Council has provided CRPL with loans totalling £16.2m, currently on an interest only basis, with interest being capitalised until 2024/25.

Other Non-Treasury Investments

Besson Street Joint Venture

- 9.29. The Council is an equal equity partner in a joint venture with Grainger Plc. to bring forward the development of the currently vacant Besson Street site to provide properties for the Private Rented Sector on long term tenancies. The Council has invested land at this stage and will be required to put forward an estimated £22-27m of cash to make up its share (50%) of the assumed 40% equity, with 60% external long-term borrowing, to be invested once the scheme is built. This is currently forecast to be in 2026/27.
- 9.30. The Council also holds minority stakes in the following:
- 10% in Lewisham Schools for the Future LEP Limited, a Local Education Partnership established under the Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme to rebuild and refurbish secondary schools within the borough;
 - Less than 1% in South-East London Combined Heat and Power Ltd (SELCHP), a joint venture with the London Borough of Greenwich for the provision of waste disposal and waste to energy processes; and

10. Investment Portfolio 2023/24

- 10.1. In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, using the Link Group suggested creditworthiness approach, including a minimum sovereign credit rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information. As set out in Section 6, the rising Bank of England base rates will help the Council to earn a higher return on its investments in 2022/23 and this will help to meet higher costs of providing local services.

a) Performance as at 30 June 2023

- 10.2. The Council held £377m of investments as at 30 June 2023 (£385m at 31 March 2022) and the current annualised yield as at 30 June 2023 is 4.8% (compared to 1.9% at September 2022). These investments provide some assurance when matched to the level of debt held, represent the reserves held for investment, and provide the working balances and cash flow to support the Council's service delivery.
- 10.3. The Council is a member of a treasury benchmarking group (organised by Link Group) containing 15 authorities, including 12 other London authorities. An extract from the latest available benchmarking report is shown in Appendix 3; this shows that the return on investments as at June 2023 is below the Council's model weighted average rate of return provided by the treasury advisors, which is adjusted for the risks inherent in the portfolio. Compared to our peers Lewisham has slightly more fixed term short term investments and were therefore more impacted by the extremely low bank rates during Covid. The Council is now however obtaining improved investment returns as its short term investments mature and it takes advantage of the rising interest rates.

A full list of outstanding investments held as at 30 June 2023 is shown below:

Counterparty	Duration (Days)	Principal £m	Interest Rate	Interest £
Fixed Rate Investments – Banks and Building Societies				
OP Corporate Bank plc	365	25.0	2.95%	737,500
DBS Bank Ltd.	181	5.0	4.30%	106,616
Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.	92	15.0	4.76%	179,967
National Westminster Bank PLC (RFB)	364	10.0	4.75%	473,699
DBS Bank Ltd.	183	5.0	4.65%	116,568
Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.	365	10.0	4.93%	493,000
Landesbank Hessen-Thueringen Girozentrale	365	15.0	5.07%	760,500
Standard Chartered Bank	185	20.0	4.95%	501,781
Bank of Montreal	364	10.0	4.68%	466,718
Close Brothers Ltd	184	10.0	5.00%	252,055
Close Brothers Ltd	184	10.0	5.00%	252,055
Toronto-Dominion Bank	364	15.0	4.85%	725,507
Royal Bank of Canada	367	25.0	4.82%	1,211,603
Bank of Montreal	364	15.0	5.00%	747,945
Toronto-Dominion Bank	364	5.0	5.22%	260,285
National Westminster Bank PLC (RFB)	364	20.0	5.15%	1,027,178
Toronto-Dominion Bank	364	5.0	5.34%	266,268
Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets Plc (NRFB)	364	10.0	4.90%	245,671
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB	365	25.0	5.06%	1,261,534
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	365	10.0	5.16%	475,003
Variable Rate Investments – Money Markets				
Aberdeen Standard	N/A	30.0	4.82%	N/A
BlackRock	N/A	30.0	4.75%	N/A
Federated Hermes	N/A	21.6	4.73%	N/A
Insight	N/A	30.0	4.75%	N/A
TOTAL INVESTMENTS		376.6	4.82%	

- 10.4. The Executive Director of Corporate Resources confirms that there were no breaches of the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy during the first five months of 2023/24.
- 10.5. The current investment counterparty criteria as set out in the Credit Worthiness Policy and included at Appendix 2 of this report are meeting the requirements of the treasury management function,.

11. Capital Strategy 2023/24

11.1. The CIPFA 2021 Prudential and Treasury Management Codes require all local authorities to produce a Capital Strategy, which will provide the following:

- A high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services;
- An overview of how the associated risk is managed; and
- The implications for future financial stability.

11.2. The aim of the Capital Strategy is to ensure that all elected Members on full Council fully understand the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting Capital Strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite

11.3. The Capital Strategy is reported separately from the Treasury Management Strategy; non-treasury investments will be reported through the former. This ensures the separation of the core treasury function under security, liquidity and yield principles, and the policy and strategic investments are usually driven by expenditure on an asset.

The Capital Strategy shows:

- The corporate governance arrangements for these types of activities;
- Any service objectives relating to the investments;
- The expected income, costs and resulting contribution;
- The debt related to the activity and the associated interest costs;
- For non-loan type investments, the cost against the current market value; and
- The risks associated with each activity.

11.4. On 8 February 2023, Mayor & Cabinet agreed the Capital Strategy for 2023/24.

Capital Programme

11.5. The table below sets out the budget and profile for the Capital Programme for 2023-2027 as of 30th June 2023.

Capital Programme budget 2023-27	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
General Fund					
Resources Directorate (ICT)	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Community Services	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Children and Young People	10.1	8.5	1.7	0.0	20.3
Regeneration	26.6	18.5	39.8	6.4	91.3
GF Housing	32.5	47.9	38.8	7.6	126.8
Total General Fund	70.8	74.9	80.3	14.0	240.0
HRA					
Building for Lewisham	31.1	53.6	49.7	6.0	140.4
Decent Homes	81.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	81.1
Other HRA	1.4	0.9	0.0	0.0	2.3
HRA Unallocated	6.3	2.2	3.1	3.2	14.8
Decent Homes Unallocated	0.0	67.0	66.8	51.3	185.1
Total HRA	119.9	123.7	119.6	60.5	423.7
Total Capital Programme	190.7	198.6	199.9	74.5	663.7

The 2023/27 budget for the Capital Programme as agreed by the Council in March 2023/27 was £480.6m. The Capital Programme has increased by £183.1m to £663.7m.

The main increases have come from the increase the housing development and regeneration of £153.3m in the general fund and a decrease of £35m in the Building for Lewisham programme and an increase of £60.1m to the Decent Homes programme in the HRA.

12. Financing of the Capital Programme

- 12.1. The table below draws together the main strategy elements of the capital expenditure plans (above), highlighting the original supported and unsupported elements of the capital programme, and the expected financing arrangements of this capital expenditure in 2023/24.
- 12.2. The borrowing element of the table increases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by way of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), although this will be reduced in part by revenue charges for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision). If the CFR is positive, the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing), or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing).
- 12.3. The table below shows the required prudential borrowing 2023/24 and this has decreased by £12.2m for from the original capital programme that was approved in March 2023. This is due the changes in the revised capital programme; for new schemes along with a decrease in HRA schemes and the re-profiling of projects.
- 12.4. Capital Expenditure Financing

Capital Financing Forecast

Capital financing forecast	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Grants	16.2	19.1	42.7	10.4	88.4
S106 & CIL	12.2	2.5	0.4	0	15.1
Capital Reserves	5.8	1.1	0.9	0.2	8.0
Corporate Reserves	4.1	3.6	2.1	0.5	10.3
Capital Receipts	8.5	11.6	5.9	2.2	28.2
Prudential Borrowing	24.0	37.0	28.3	0.7	90.0
General Fund	70.8	74.9	80.3	14.0	240.0
Grants	15.7	24.3	30.5	12.8	83.3
Capital Reserves & Revenue Contribution	5.7	2.0	3.9	4.2	15.8
Major Repair Allowance	26.2	26.7	27.2	27.7	107.8
Prudential Borrowing	72.3	70.7	58.0	15.8	216.8
HRA	119.9	123.7	119.6	60.5	423.7
Total	190.7	198.6	199.9	74.5	663.7

- 12.5. Forward projections for borrowing as at 31 March 2023 are summarised in the table below, which shows the actual external debt from treasury management operations and other long-term liabilities against the underlying capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement - CFR) which is simply the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's indebtedness, and its underlying borrowing need; any increase to capital expenditure which has not immediately been paid for through a revenue or capital resource will increase the CFR.
- 12.6. The CFR does not increase indefinitely, as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) is a statutory annual revenue charge which broadly reduces the indebtedness in line with each asset's life, and so charges the economic consumption of capital assets as they

are used.

- 12.7. The CFR includes any other long-term liabilities (e.g. PFI liabilities). Whilst these increase the CFR and therefore the Council's borrowing requirement, these types of scheme include a borrowing facility by the PFI or PPP provider and so the Council is not required to separately borrow for these schemes.
- 12.8. Changes in external debt incorporate upcoming loan maturities and projected prudential borrowing requirements in both the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
- 12.9. The table below illustrates over/(under) borrowing relative to the combined CFR for the General Fund and HRA.

External Debt Projections

	2023/24 Forecast £m	2024/25 Forecast £m	2025/26 Forecast £m	2026/27 Forecast £m
External Debt at 1 April	222.0	240.1	270.7	291.7
Prudential Borrowing – General Fund	18.1	30.5	21.1	(7.1)
Prudential Borrowing – HRA	71.2	67.8	55.1	12.9
Other Long-Term Liabilities	199.1	186.7	174.3	162.1
Gross Debt at 31 March	510.4	525.2	521.2	459.6
Total Capital Financing Requirement at 31 March*	630.7	718.4	782.3	774.1
Borrowing – over / (under)	(120.4)	(193.2)	(261.1)	(314.5)

*The Capital Financing Requirement includes the prudential borrowing figures.

- 12.10. The borrowing requirements will be reviewed on a regular basis and will be dependent on the progress of the Capital Programme therefore the borrowing forecast will be updated in later reports.
- 12.11. Within the prudential indicators, there are a number of key indicators to ensure that the Council operates its activities within well-defined limits. One of these is that the Council needs to ensure that its gross debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for the current and following two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years, but ensures that borrowing is not undertaken for revenue or speculative purposes.
- 12.12. The Executive Director for Corporate Resources officer's reports that the Council has complied with this prudential indicator in the current year to date and does not envisage difficulties for the future. This view takes into account current commitments, existing plans, and the proposals in this report.

13. Borrowing and Prudential Indicators

Borrowing Strategy

- 13.1. The Council's external debt as at 30 June 2023, gross borrowing plus long term liabilities, was £416.2m. The Council's borrowing strategy is consistent with last year's strategy. The Council is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position in that the CFR is not fully funded with loan debt, as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as an alternative funding measure. In the current economic climate, this strategy is considered prudent while investment returns are lower than the cost of borrowing.
- 13.2. The Executive Director for Corporate Resources will continue to monitor interest rates in the financial markets and adopt a pragmatic and cautious approach to changing circumstances. With the interest rates rising the cost of borrowing has been increased so it is less expensive to use internal borrowing (cash held from reserves and balances).

Policy on Borrowing in Advance of Need

- 13.3. Members should note that the Council's policy is not to borrow more than or in advance of its needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed. Any decision to borrow in advance will be within the approved forward CFR estimates, and will be considered carefully to ensure that value for money can be demonstrated and that the Council can ensure the security of such funds.

Sources of borrowing

- 13.4. Previously approved sources of borrowing: The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:
1. HM Treasury's PWLB lending facility (formerly the Public Works Loan Board)
 2. any institution approved for investments (see below)
 3. any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
 4. any other UK public sector body including local authorities
 5. UK public and private sector pension funds (except Lewisham Pension Fund)
 6. capital market bond investors
 7. UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues
 8. Investors in capital market bonds and retail bonds issued by the Council
 9. Individuals lending via a peer-to-peer platform where appropriate Individuals lending via a peer-to-peer platform where any necessary counterparty checks (for example proof of identity or money laundering requirements) are conducted by the platform.
 10. Investors in capital market bonds and retail bonds issued by the Council.

Other sources of debt finance: In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:

1. leasing
2. hire purchase
3. Private Finance Initiative
4. sale and leaseback

Treasury Indicators

13.5. There are three debt-related treasury activity limits. The purpose of these are to restrain the activity of the treasury function within certain limits, thereby managing risk and reducing the impact of any adverse movement in interest rates. These limits need to be balanced against the requirement for the treasury function to retain some flexibility to enable it to respond quickly to opportunities to reduce costs and improve performance.

13.6. The debt related indicators are:

- Upper limits on variable interest rate exposure. This identifies a maximum limit for variable interest rates based upon the debt position net of investments;
- Upper limits on fixed interest rate exposure. This is similar to the previous indicator and covers a maximum limit on fixed interest rates; and
- Maturity structure of borrowing. These gross limits are set to reduce the Council's exposure to large fixed rate sums falling due for refinancing and are required for upper and lower limits.

13.7. The treasury indicators and limits are set out below:

Limits on Interest Rate Exposures	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Upper	Upper	Upper
Limits on fixed interest rates:			
• Debt only	100%	100%	100%
• Investments only*	90%	90%	90%
Limits on variable interest rates			
• Debt only	15%	15%	15%
• Investments only*	50%	50%	50%
* For this calculation short term (less than 12 months) investments for 1-12 months are treated as fixed interest rates.			
Limits on Maturity Structure of Fixed Interest Rate Borrowing 2022/23			
	Lower	Upper	
Under 12 months	0%	10%	
12 months to 2 years	0%	10%	
2 years to 5 years	0%	10%	
5 years to 10 years	0%	25%	
10 years to 20 years	0%	25%	
20 years to 30 years	0%	25%	
30 years to 40 years	0%	50%	
40 years to 50 years	0%	60%	
Limits on Maturity Structure of Variable Interest Rate Borrowing 2023/24			
	Lower	Upper	
30 years to 40 years	0%	60%	
40 years to 50 years	0%	40%	

Long Term Investments Indicator

- 13.8. This indicator sets a limit on the total principal funds invested for greater than 365 days. This limit is set with regard to the Council's liquidity requirements and to manage the risks associated with the possibility of loss which may arise as a result of having to seek early repayment, or redemption of, principal sums invested.
- 13.9. The indicator is set out below. As at 30 June 2023, the Council is not expected to hold any investments for longer than 365 days.

Maximum Principal Sums Invested for Longer than 365 days			
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£m	£m	£m
Limit on principal sums invested for longer than 365 days	50.0	50.0	50.0

Debt Rescheduling

- 13.10. As short-term borrowing rates are currently higher than longer term fixed interest rates, there may not be many opportunities to generate efficiencies by switching from long-term debt to short-term debt. However, these efficiencies will need to be considered in light of the current treasury position and the size of the cost of debt repayment (premiums incurred).
- 13.11. The reasons for any rescheduling to take place will include:
- The generation of cash savings and/or discounted cash flow savings;
 - Helping to fulfil the Treasury Strategy; and
 - Enhancing the balance of the portfolio (to amend the maturity profile and/or the balance of volatility).
- 13.12. During 2023 the council has been in correspondence with a few banks that provide its LOBO loans to see if there were any opportunities to reschedule the debt. On 4th September 2023 the Council repaid a £15m LOBO loan from Bayerische Landesbank at a nil premium.
- 13.13. The Council has reduced its LOBO loans from £119.7m to £104.7m and as at 4th Septmber 2023 there is a further £20m that have call options in 2023/24. In the event that the lender exercises the option to change the rate or terms of the loans within their call period, the Council will consider the terms being provided and also the option of repayment of the loan without penalty.
- 13.14. The Council continuously reviews its debt position to optimise its cash flow. Any consideration of debt rescheduling will be reported to Mayor and Cabinet and subsequently to Council at the earliest meeting possible.
- 13.15. The Council will continue to explore rescheduling opportunities as appropriate in respect of the financing of its PFIs and external loans.
- 13.16. No new external borrowing has been undertaken to date in 2023/24 because the Council uses its internal borrowing when required in this financial year.
- 13.17. Debt rescheduling opportunities have been very limited in the current economic climate therefore no debt rescheduling has been undertaken to date in the current financial year.

Limits to Borrowing Activity (remain unchanged from the approved limits set by Council in March 2023)

- 13.18. There are two measures of limiting external debt: the 'operational boundary' and 'authorised limit for external debt', which the Council reports on as part of its prudential indicators. Both are described in further detail in the following paragraphs.

The Operational Boundary for External Debt

- 13.19. This is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed. In most cases, this would be a similar figure to the CFR, but may be lower or higher depending on the levels of actual debt and the ability to fund under-borrowing by other cash resources. The Council's operational boundary is set out below:

Operational Boundary (unchanged)	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Maximum External Debt at 31 March	254.5	353.2	434.9	469.0
Other Long-Term Liabilities	209.8	198.4	186.1	172.2
Provision for Non Receipt of Expected Income	56.0	56.0	56.0	56.0
Operational Boundary for Year	520.3	607.6	677.0	697.2

The Authorised Limit for External Debt

- 13.20. This key indicator represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing and provides a limit beyond which external debt is prohibited. It reflects the level of external debt which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term but is not sustainable in the longer term.
- 13.21. This is a statutory limit determined under Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003, and needs to be set and revised by full Council. The Government retains an option to control either the total of all Councils' plans, or those of a specific Council, although this power has not yet been exercised.
- 13.22. The authorised limits are set out as below:

Authorised Limits (unchanged)	2022/23 £m	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m
Maximum External Debt at 31 March	310.5	409.2	490.9	525.0
Other Long-Term Liabilities	209.8	198.4	186.1	172.2
Additional 10% Margin	52.0	60.8	67.7	69.7
Authorised Limit for Year	572.3	668.4	744.7	766.9

Liability Benchmark

- 13.23. A new prudential indicator for 2023/24 is the Liability Benchmark (LB). The Council is required to estimate and measure the LB for the forthcoming financial year and the following two financial years, as a minimum.
- 13.24. There are four components to the LB: -

1. Existing loan debt outstanding: the Council's existing loans that are still outstanding in future years.
2. Loans CFR (Capital financing Requirement): this is calculated in accordance with the loans CFR definition in the Prudential Code and projected into the future based on approved prudential borrowing and planned MRP.
3. Net loans requirement: this will show the Council's gross loan debt at the last financial year-end, projected into the future and based on its approved prudential borrowing, planned MRP and any other major cash flows forecast.
4. Liability benchmark (or gross loans requirement): this equals net loans requirement plus short-term liquidity allowance.

Liability Benchmark	2023/24 Forecast £m	2024/25 Forecast £m	2025/26 Forecast £m	2026/27 Forecast £m
External Borrowing	211.6	212.7	301.2	378.3
Less: Opening Treasury Investments	(316.0)	(213.9)	(203.9)	(203.9)
Plus Planned Prudential Borrowing	96.3	107.7	86.3	16.5
Less: MRP & loan repayments	(6.9)	(9.3)	(10.1)	(10.7)
Net Loans Requirement**	(15.0)	97.2	173.5	180.2
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)				
General Fund	260.9	293.1	314.2	305.3
Housing Revenue Account (HRA)	170.8	238.6	293.7	306.7
Underlying Borrowing Requirement (Loans CFR*)	431.7	531.7	607.9	612.0
Liquidity and Investment allowance above net debt	200.0	200.0	200.0	200.0
Liability Benchmark (Gross loans requirement)	185.0	297.2	373.5	380.2
Under / (Over) Liability Benchmark	169.9	394.4	547.0	560.4
<i>Underborrowing as a % of Underlying Borrowing Requirement</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>74%</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>92%</i>

* The Loans CFR is the borrowing requirement excluding finance from PFI and Leases

** The Net Loans Requirement is the authority's gross loan debt less treasury management investments at the last financial year-end, projected into the future and based on its approved prudential borrowing, planned MRP and any other major cash flows forecast.

13.25. The liability benchmark is showing the borrowing requirement subject to using internal borrowing while maintaining £200m (liquidity allowance) in Treasury Management investments, so in 2023/24 the external debt is circa £26m above the benchmark.

14. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

- 14.1. The Council is required to pay off an element of the accumulated General Fund capital spend each year (the CFR) through a revenue charge (the MRP), although it is also allowed to undertake additional voluntary payments if required (Voluntary Revenue Provision – VRP). The MRP must be determined by the Council as being a prudent provision having regard to the MHCLG Statutory Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision.
- 14.2. The MRP is the amount the Council charges to the revenue account and does not correspond to the actual amount of debt repaid, which is determined by treasury related issues. Historically the Council has applied a consistent MRP policy which comprises prudential borrowing being repaid over the useful life of the asset concerned and previous borrowing being repaid at the rate of 4% (equivalent to 25 years) of the outstanding balance.
- 14.3. In 2016/17, this policy was changed to reflect the useful lives of the specific asset classes on the Council's balance sheet. It moved to:
 - A straight line MRP of 14% equivalent to seven years for plant and equipment (such as IT and vehicles); and
 - A straight line MRP of 2.5% equivalent to forty years for property (such as land and buildings).
- 14.4. In 2017/18 a third element was added to the Council's MRP policy, whereby no MRP need be charged on capital expenditure where the Council has assessed that sufficient collateral is held at a current valuation to meet the outstanding CFR liability, and that should it be determined at any point that insufficient collateral is held to match the Council's CFR liability a prudent MRP charge will commence.
- 14.5. In 2019/20 the Council commissioned an independent review of its current MRP policy to ensure it is fit for current and future spending plans, as well as a review of historic calculations and a reconciliation to the CFR to identify any potential efficiencies. The review was undertaken by the Council's treasury advisors, Link Group.
- 14.6. The Council implemented one of the recommendations from the report from 2019/20 onwards, specifically to adjust for an historic overcharging of MRP from 2003/04 as a result of a miscalculation in the 'Adjustment A' figure (an accounting adjustment designed to ensure minimal changes in liability when new capital financing regulations were introduced in 2003/04). The Prudential Code allows for MRP to be reduced appropriately, in line with an authority's own judgement, where Adjustment A reflects an error that increases the current MRP liability. As such, the Council reduced its ongoing liability by reducing its MRP charge to account for the higher Adjustment A figure, whilst additionally offsetting current and future years' MRP charges to recover the historic overcharging since 2003/04.

15. Financial Implications

- 15.1. There are no additional financial implications besides those mentioned elsewhere in this report.

16. Legal Implications

- 16.1. Local authorities are required to produce and monitor for the forthcoming year a range of indicators based on actual figures; these are set out in the report. The CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice says that movement may be made between

the various indicators during the year by an Authority's Chief Finance Officer so long as the indicators for the total Authorised Limit and the total Operational Boundary for external debt remain unchanged. Any such changes are to be reported to the next meeting of the Council.

- 16.2. Under Section 5 of the Local Government Act 2003, the prudential indicator for the total Authorised Limit for external debt is deemed to be increased by an amount of any unforeseen payment which becomes due to the Authority within the period to which the limit relates, which would include, for example, additional external funding becoming available but not taken into account by the Authority when determining the Authorised Limit. Where Section 5 of the Act is relied upon to borrow above the Authorised Limit, the Code requires that this fact is reported to the next meeting of the Council.
- 16.3. Authority is delegated to the Executive Director of Corporate Resources to make amendments to the limits on the Council's counterparty list and to undertake treasury management in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Council's Treasury Policies.

17. Equalities Implications

- 17.1. There are no equalities implications directly arising from this report. An initial Equality Analysis was undertaken to assess the likely adverse impact the contract award would have on protected groups compared to non-protected groups. The analysis concluded that a full equality analysis was not required due to the fact that Treasury Management would not have any adverse impact on protected groups compared to non-protected groups.
- 17.2. The organisations and counterparties that Treasury Management uses to invests or borrow are large institutions and should all conform to The Equality Act 2010.

18. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 18.1. There are no direct climate or environmental implications arising from this report.

19. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 19.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

20. Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 20.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

21. Background Papers

- 21.1. The following papers are appended to this report:
- *Appendix 1 – Interest Rate Forecasts 2023 – 2026*
 - *Appendix 2 – Extract from Credit Worthiness Policy*
 - *Appendix 3 – Benchmarking Extract*
 - *Appendix 4 – Economic Update from Link Group*
 - *Appendix 5 – Approved Countries for Investment*
 - *Appendix 6 – Requirement of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice*

22. Report Author and Contacts

- 22.1. For more information please contact David Austin, Interim Executive Director of Corporate Resources, 1st Floor Laurence House, 020 8314 9114
David.Austin@lewisham.gov.uk
- 22.2. Financial implications: Chris Flower Treasury and Investment Manager
- 22.3. Legal implications: Mia Agnew, Contracts Lawyer

APPENDIX 1: Interest Rate Forecasts 2023 - 2026

The Council has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisor and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The following table provides Link's latest central view.

Period	Bank Rate	PWLB Borrowing Rates % (including certainty rate adjustment of 20 basis points)			
		5 year	10 year	25 year	50 year
	%				
Jun 2023	5.00	5.50	5.10	5.30	5.00
Sep 2023	5.50	5.60	5.20	5.40	5.10
Dec 2023	5.50	5.30	5.00	5.20	5.00
Mar 2024	5.50	5.10	4.90	5.10	4.90
Jun 2024	5.25	4.80	4.70	4.90	4.70
Sep 2024	4.75	4.20	4.20	4.50	4.30
Dec 2024	4.25	4.20	4.20	4.50	4.30
Mar 2025	3.75	3.90	3.90	4.20	4.00
Jun 2025	3.25	3.60	3.70	4.20	4.00
Sep 2025	2.75	3.40	3.50	3.90	3.60
Dec 2025	2.75	3.30	3.50	3.80	3.60
Mar 2026	2.75	3.30	3.50	3.80	3.50
Jun 2026	2.50	3.00	3.40	3.70	3.50

APPENDIX 2: Extract from Credit Worthiness Policy

(Linked to Treasury Management Practice (TMP1) – Credit and Counterparty Risk Management)

Annual Investment Strategy:

The key requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC's) Investment Guidance are to set an annual investment strategy, as part of its annual Treasury Management Strategy for the following year, covering the identification and approval of the following:

- The strategy guidelines for choosing and placing investments, particularly non-specified investments;
- The principles to be used to determine the maximum periods for which funds can be committed;
- Specified investments that the Council will use. These are high security (i.e. high credit rating, although this is defined by the Council, and no guidelines are given), and high liquidity investments in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year; and
- Non-specified investments, clarifying the greater risk implications, identifying the general types of investment that may be used and a limit to the overall amount of various categories that can be held at any time.

The investment policy proposed for the Council is:

Strategy guidelines – The main strategy guidelines are contained in the body of the treasury strategy statement.

Specified investments: These investments are sterling investments of not more than one-year maturity, or those which could be for a longer period but where the Council has the right to be repaid within 12 months if it wishes. They also include investments which were originally classed as being non-specified investments, but which would have been classified as specified investments apart from originally being for a period longer than 12 months, once the remaining period to maturity falls to under twelve months. These are considered low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small. These would include sterling investments which would not be defined as capital expenditure with:

1. The UK Government, such as the Debt Management Account Deposit Facility (DMADF), UK Treasury bills or a gilt with less than one year to maturity;
2. Supranational bonds of less than one year's duration;
3. A local authority, housing association, parish council or community council;
4. Pooled investment vehicles (such as money market funds) that have been awarded a high credit rating (AAA) by a credit rating agency; and
5. A body that is considered of a high credit quality (such as a bank or building society).

Within these bodies, and in accordance with the Code, the Council has set additional criteria to define the time and amount of monies which will be invested in these bodies, as shown in the table further below.

Non-Specified Investments: These are any investments or loans with less high credit quality, may be for periods in excess of one year, and/or are more complex instruments which require greater consideration by Members and officers before being authorised for use.

These include certificates of deposit issued by banks or building societies, fixed deposits with building societies that do not meet the basic security requirements of specified investments, corporate bonds, and property funds. Provision has been made in the Strategy to invest in a limited number of lower rated building societies within the restrictions set out, certificates of deposit with both banks and building societies, and pooled asset funds and other investment (should the relevant opportunity arise). The Council will seek guidance on the status of any pooled fund or collective investment scheme it may consider using, and appropriate due diligence will also be undertaken before investment of this type is undertaken

The Council applies the creditworthiness service provided by Link Group. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach utilising credit ratings from the three main credit rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays:

- Credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies;
- Credit Default Swap (CDS) spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings;
- Sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

These factors are weighted and combined with an overlay of CDS spreads. The end product is a series of ratings (colour coded) to indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These ratings are used by the Council to determine the suggested duration for investments.

The Link Group creditworthiness service uses a wider array of information other than just primary ratings. Furthermore, by using a risk weighted scoring system, it does not give undue precedence to just one agency's ratings.

The criteria, time limits and monetary limits applying to institutions or investment vehicles are:

	Minimum credit criteria / colour band	Max % of total investments/ £ limit per institution	Max. maturity period
DMADF – UK Government	N/A	100%	6 months
UK Government gilts	UK sovereign rating	£30m	1 year
UK Government Treasury bills	UK sovereign rating	£60m	6 months
Money Market Funds - CNAV per fund	AAA	£35m	Liquid
Money Market Funds - LVNAV per fund	AAA	£35m	Liquid
Money Market Funds - VNAV per fund	AAA	£35m	Liquid
Local authorities	N/A	£50m	1 year

Term deposits with banks and building societies	Yellow* Purple Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	£30m £25m £40m £25m £20m £15m Not for use**	Up to 5 years Up to 2 years Up to 1 year Up to 1 year Up to 6 Months Up to 100 days Not for use**
CDs or corporate bonds with banks and building societies	Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	£40m £25m £20m £15m Not for use**	Up to 1 year Up to 1 year Up to 6 Months Up to 100 days Not for use**
Term deposits or CDs with building societies on Link's counterparty list rated 'No colour'	BBB-	£10m	Up to 3 months
Call accounts and notice accounts	Yellow* Purple Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	£30m £25m £40m £25m £20m £15m Not for use	Liquid
Pooled asset funds or other investment		£50m	At least 5 years

*for UK Government debt, or its equivalent, Constant Net Asset Value (CNAV) money market funds and collateralised deposits where the collateral is UK Government debt.

**except for those building societies rated BBB- or higher as set out elsewhere in the table.

The monitoring of investment counterparties: The credit rating of counterparties will be monitored regularly, on at least a weekly basis. The Council receives credit rating information (changes, rating watches and rating outlooks) from Link Group as and when ratings change, and the impact of those changes are assessed promptly. On occasion ratings may be downgraded when an investment has already been made. The criteria used are such that a minor downgrading should not affect the full receipt of the principal and interest upon maturity. Any counterparty failing to meet the criteria will be removed from the lending list immediately, and if required new counterparties which meet the criteria will be added to the list. Any fixed term investment held at the time of the downgrade will be left to mature as such investments cannot be broken mid-term.

Sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external service. In addition, the Council will make use of market data and information on any external support for banks to help support its decision-making process.

Accounting treatment of investments: The accounting treatment may differ from the underlying cash transactions arising from investment decisions made by this Council. To ensure that the Council is protected from any adverse revenue impact which may arise from these differences, we will review the accounting implications of new transactions before they are undertaken.

APPENDIX 3: Benchmarking Extract

The following three pages present an extract, with glossary, of the Council's treasury benchmarking report as at 31 December 2022.

London Borough Of Lewisham

Summary Sheet

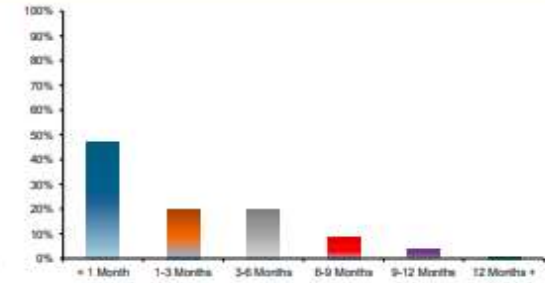
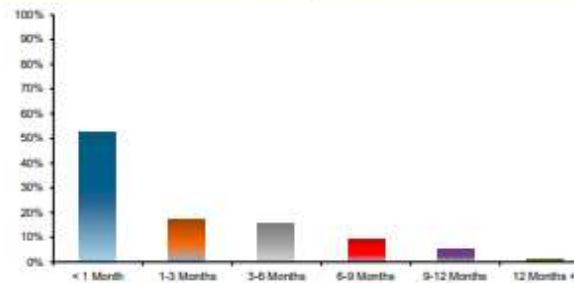
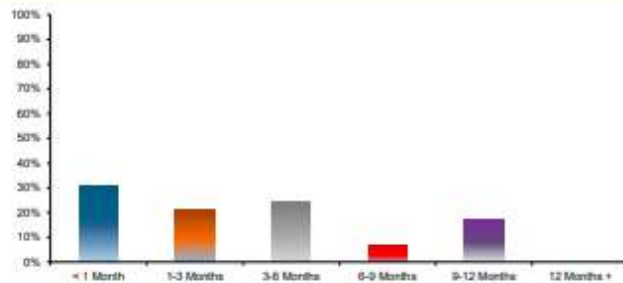
	London Borough Of Lewisham	Benchmarking Group 2 (15) Basic Portfolio Characteristics	London (21)
WARoR	3.25%	2.64%	2.76%
WAM	112	73	73
WATT	204	188	183
WA Credit Risk	3.15	2.67	2.59
Model WARoR	2.80%	2.70%	2.71%
Difference	0.45%	-0.06%	0.05%
Model Band	2.61% - 3.00%	2.50% - 2.90%	2.51% - 2.90%
Performance	Above	Inline	Inline

Asset Breakdown

- Fixed Deposits
- Calls & O/N
- MMFs
- USDBFs
- Struct. Prods.
- Bonds
- CDs



Maturity Profiles



London Borough Of Lewisham

Peer Comparison

	London Borough Of Lewisham	Benchmarking Group 2 (15)		London (21)		Population Average (229)	
		Basic Characteristics					
Principal	£355,323,000	£272,410,296		£279,468,706		£108,685,449	
WARoR	3.25%	2.64%		2.76%		2.82%	
WAM	112	73		73		68	
WATT	204	188		183		144	
WA Credit Risk	3.15	2.67		2.59		2.97	
		Portfolio Breakdown					
Fixed Deposits	68.95%	51.67%	12	56.92%	18	55.70%	207
Calls & O/N	0.00%	12.50%	6	7.77%	9	14.98%	171
MMFs	31.05%	26.67%	13	26.79%	17	24.46%	180
USDBFs	0.00%	0.36%	1	0.86%	2	0.93%	15
Struct. Prods.	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.15%	4
Bonds	0.00%	5.43%	3	2.74%	3	0.90%	14
CDs	0.00%	3.37%	2	4.93%	3	2.88%	26
		Institution Breakdown					
Banks	68.95%	45.43%	15	40.21%	21	46.78%	219
Building Socs.	0.00%	2.17%	3	4.16%	6	4.78%	74
Government	0.00%	24.26%	10	27.19%	14	22.65%	139
MMFs	31.05%	26.67%	13	26.79%	17	24.43%	180
USDBFs	0.00%	0.36%	1	0.86%	2	0.93%	15
MLDBs	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.01%	1
Other	0.00%	1.11%	2	0.79%	2	0.42%	15
		Domestic/Foreign Exposure					
Domestic	22.51%	62.29%	15	60.62%	21	64.75%	228
Foreign	46.44%	10.67%	6	11.73%	10	9.89%	90
MMFs	31.05%	26.67%	13	26.79%	17	24.43%	180
USDBFs	0.00%	0.36%	1	0.86%	2	0.93%	15
		Maturity Structure					
< 1 Month	31.05%	52.48%		47.10%		53.90%	
1-3 Months	21.11%	17.25%		19.93%		20.35%	
3-6 Months	23.92%	15.08%		20.04%		15.25%	
6-9 Months	7.04%	8.82%		8.18%		5.51%	
9-12 Months	16.89%	5.26%		3.96%		3.99%	
12 Months +	0.00%	1.11%		0.79%		1.02%	

Definitions

WARoR	Weighted Average Rate of Return	This is the average annualised rate of return weighted by the principal amount in each rate.
WAM	Weighted Average Time to Maturity	This is the average time, in days, till the portfolio matures, weighted by principal amount.
WATT	Weighted Average Total Time	This is the average time, in days, that deposits are lent out for, weighted by principal amount.
WA Risk	Weighted Average Credit Risk Number	Each institution is assigned a colour corresponding to a suggested duration using Link Asset Services' Suggested Credit Methodology 1 = Yellow; 1.25 = Pink 1; 1.5 = Pink 2, 2 = Purple; 3 = Blue; 4 = Orange; 5 = Red; 6 = Green; 7 = No Colour
Model WARoR	Model Weighted Average Rate of Return	This is the WARoR that the model produces by taking into account the risks inherent in the portfolio.
Difference	Difference	This is the difference between the actual WARoR and the model WARoR; Actual WARoR minus Model WARoR.

APPENDIX 4: Economic Update from Link Group

Economic Update

- 1.1. The first quarter of 2023/24 saw:
 - A 0.2% m/m rise in real GDP in April, partly due to fewer strikes;
 - CPI inflation falling from 10.1% to 8.7% in April, before remaining at 8.7% in May. This was the highest reading in the G7;
 - Core CPI inflation rise in both April and May, reaching a new 31-year high of 7.1%;
 - A tighter labour market in April, as the 3myy growth of average earnings rose from 6.1% to 6.5%;
 - Interest rates rise by a further 75bps over the quarter, taking Bank Rate from 4.25% to 5.00%;
 - 10-year gilt yields nearing the “mini-Budget” peaks, as inflation surprised to the upside.
- 1.2. The economy has weathered the drag from higher inflation better than was widely expected. The 0.2% m/m rise in real GDP in April, following March’s 0.3% m/m contraction will further raise hopes that the economy will escape a recession this year. Some of the strength in April was due to fewer strikes by train workers and teachers in that month. Moreover, some of the falls in activity in other areas in April were probably temporary too. Strikes by junior doctors and civil servants contributed to the fall in health output (0.9% m/m) and the meagre 0.1% m/m increase in public administration.
- 1.3. The fall in the composite Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) from 54.0 in May to a three-month low of 52.8 in June (>50 points to expansion in the economy, <50 points to contraction) was worse than the consensus forecast of 53.6. Both the services and manufacturing PMIs fell. The decline in the services PMI was bigger (from 55.2 to 53.7), but it remains consistent with services activity expanding by an annualised 2%. The fall in the manufacturing PMI was smaller (from 47.1 to 46.2), but it is consistent with the annual rate of manufacturing output falling from -0.8% in April to around -5.0%. At face value, the composite PMI points to the 0.1% q/q rise in GDP in Q1 2023 being followed by a 0.2% q/q gain in Q2 2023.
- 1.4. Meanwhile, the 0.3% m/m rise in retail sales volumes in May was far better than the consensus forecast of a 0.2% m/m decline and followed the robust 0.5% m/m rise in April. Some of the rise was due to the warmer weather. Indeed, the largest move was a 2.7% m/m jump in non-store sales, due to people stocking up on outdoor-related goods. But department stores also managed to squeeze out a 0.6% m/m rise in sales and the household goods sub-sector enjoyed a reasonable performance too. Overall, the figures were far better than analysts had expected. In addition, the GfK measure of consumer confidence rebounded from -27 to a 17-month high of -24 in June.
- 1.5. The recent resilience of the economy has been due to a confluence of factors including the continued rebound in activity after the pandemic, households spending some of their pandemic savings, and the tight labour market and government handouts both supporting household incomes. That said, as government support fades, real household incomes are unlikely to grow rapidly. Furthermore, higher interest rates will mean GDP is likely to contract later this year. Our central assumption is that inflation will drop to the 2.0% target only if the Bank triggers a recession by raising rates from 5.00% now to at least 5.5% and keeps rates there until at least mid-2024. Our colleagues at Capital Economics estimate that around 60% of the drag on real activity from the rise in rates has yet to bite, and the drag on the quarterly rate of real GDP

growth over the next year may be about 0.2ppts bigger than over the past year.

- 1.6. The labour market became tighter over the quarter and wage growth reaccelerated. Labour demand was stronger than the consensus had expected. The three-month change in employment rose from +182,000 in March to +250,000 in April. Meanwhile, labour supply continued to recover as the size of the labour force grew by 303,000 in the three months to April. That was supported by a further 140,000 decline in inactivity as people returned to work from retirement and caring responsibilities (while inactivity due to long-term sick continued to rise). But it was not enough to offset the big rise in employment, which meant the unemployment rate fell from 3.9% to 3.8%
- 1.7. The tighter labour market supported wage growth in April, although the 9.7% rise in the National Living Wage on 1st April (compared to the 6.6% increase in April last year) probably had a lot to do with it too. The 3myy rate of average earnings growth reaccelerated from 6.1% to 6.5% (consensus 6.1%) and UK wage growth remains much faster than in the US and the Euro-zone. In addition, regular private sector wage growth increased from 7.1% 3myy to 7.6%, which left it well above the Bank's forecast for it to fall below 7.0%. Overall, the loosening in the labour market appears to have stalled in April and regular private sector wage growth was well above the Bank's forecast.
- 1.8. CPI inflation stayed at 8.7% in May (consensus 8.4%) and, perhaps more worryingly, core CPI inflation rose again, from 6.8% to a new 31-year high of 7.1%. The rise in core inflation built on the leap from 6.2% in March to 6.8% and means it is accelerating in the UK while it is slowing in the US and the Euro-zone (both fell to 5.3%). A further decline in fuel inflation, from -8.9% to -13.1%, and the second fall in food inflation in as many months, from 19.3% to 18.7%, explained why overall CPI inflation didn't rise. And the scheduled fall in the average annual utility price from £2,500 to £2,074 on 1st July means overall CPI inflation will probably ease in the coming months. But the problem is that the recent surge in core inflation and the reacceleration in wage growth shows that domestic inflationary pressures are still strengthening.
- 1.9. This suggests the Bank may have more work to do than the Fed or ECB. Indeed, the Bank of England sounded somewhat hawkish in the June meeting. This came through most in the MPC's decision to step up the pace of hiking from the 25bps at the previous two meetings. The 7-2 vote, with only two members voting to leave rates unchanged at 4.50%, revealed support for stepping up the fight against high inflation.
- 1.10. That said, the Bank has not committed to raising rates again or suggested that 50bps rises are now the norm. What it did say was that "the scale of the recent upside surprises in official estimates of wage growth and services CPI inflation suggested a 0.5 percentage point increase in interest rates was required at this particular meeting". Moreover, the Committee did not strengthen its forward guidance that any further rate hikes would be conditional on the data. However, it looks highly probable, given the on-going strength of inflation and employment data, that the Bank will need to raise rates to at least 5.5% and to keep rates at their peak until the mid-point of 2024. We still think it is only a matter of time before the rise in rates weakens the economy sufficiently to push it into recession. That is why instead of rising to between 6.00%-6.25%, as is currently priced in by markets, we think rates are more likely to peak between 5.50-6.00%. Our forecast is also for rates to be cut in the second half of 2024, and we expect rates to then fall further than markets are pricing in.
- 1.11. Growing evidence that UK price pressures are becoming increasingly domestically generated has driven up market interest rate expectations and at one point pushed the 10-year gilt yield up to 4.49% in late June, very close to its peak seen after the "mini-budget". Yields have since fallen slightly back to 4.38%. But growing expectations that rates in the UK will remain higher for longer than in the US mean they are still more than 70 bps above US yields. While higher interest rates are priced into the markets,

the likely dent to the real economy from the high level of interest rates is not. That's why we think there is scope for market rate expectations to fall back in 2024 and why we expect the 10-year PWLB Certainty Rate to drop back from c5.20% to 5.00% by the end of this year and to 4.20% by the end of 2024.

- 1.12. The pound strengthened from \$1.24 at the start of April to a one-year high at \$1.26 in early May, which was partly due to the risks from the global banking issues being seen as a bigger problem for the US than the UK. The pound then fell back to \$1.23 at the end of May, before rising again to \$1.28 in the middle of June as the strong core CPI inflation data released in June suggested the Bank of England was going to have to raise rates more than the Fed or ECB in order to tame domestic inflation. However, sterling's strong run may falter because more hikes in the near term to combat high inflation are likely to weaken growth (and, hopefully, at some point inflation too) to such a degree that the policy rate will probably be brought back down, potentially quite quickly, as the economic cycle trends downwards decisively. This suggests that additional rate hikes are unlikely to do much to boost the pound.
- 1.13. In early April, investors turned more optimistic about global GDP growth, pushing up UK equity prices. But this period of optimism appears to have been short-lived. The FTSE 100 has fallen by 4.8% since 21st April, from around 7,914 to 7,553, reversing part of the 7.9% rise since 17th March. Despite the recent resilience of economic activity, expectations for equity earnings have become a bit more downbeat. Nonetheless, further down the track, more rate cuts than markets anticipate should help the FTSE 100 rally.

MPC meetings 11th May and 22nd June 2023

- 1.14. On 11th May, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased Bank Rate by 25 basis points to 4.50%, and on 22nd June moved rates up a further 50 basis points to 5.00%. Both increases reflected a split vote – seven members voting for an increase and two for none.
- 1.15. Nonetheless, with UK inflation significantly higher than in other G7 countries, the MPC will have a difficult task in convincing investors that they will be able to dampen inflation pressures anytime soon. Talk of the Bank's inflation models being "broken" is perhaps another reason why gilt investors are demanding a premium relative to US and Euro-zone bonds, for example.
- 1.16. Of course, what happens outside of the UK is also critical to movement in gilt yields. The US FOMC has already hiked short-term rates to a range of 5.00%-5.25%, but a further increase is pencilled in for July, whilst the ECB looks likely to raise its Deposit rate at least once more to a peak of 3.75%, with upside risk of higher to come.

Gilt Yields/PWLB Rates

- 1.1 Since the start of 2023, there has been a lot of volatility in gilt yields, and hence PWLB rates. As the interest forecast table for PWLB certainty rates in Appendix 1 shows, the forecast to continue to rise for a few quarters before starting a steady reduction, in both Bank Rate and gilt yields during the period to June 2026, though there will be a lot of unpredictable volatility during this forecast period.
- 1.2 The current PWLB rates are set as margins over gilt yields as follows:
 - PWLB Standard Rate is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
 - PWLB Certainty Rate is gilt plus 80 basis points (G+80bps)
 - PWLB HRA Standard Rate is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
 - PWLB HRA Certainty Rate is gilt plus 80bps (G+80bps)
 - Local Infrastructure Rate is gilt plus 60bps (G+60bps)

As the interest forecast table for PWLB certainty rates, (gilts plus 80bps), above shows, there is likely to be more upward movement in PWLB rates before the Bank of England can start to reduce rates if the economic conditions allow.

PWLB RATES

- 1.17. Gilt yield curve movements have shifted upwards, especially at the shorter end of the yield curve since our previous forecast but remain relatively volatile. PWLB 5 to 50 years Certainty Rates are, generally, in the range of 4.90% to 5.60%.
- 1.18. We view the markets as having built in, already, nearly all the effects on gilt yields of the likely increases in Bank Rate and the elevated inflation outlook.

The balance of risks to the UK economy: -

- 1.19. The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is to the downside.

Downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates include:

- 1.20. Labour and supply shortages prove more enduring and disruptive and depress economic activity (accepting that in the near-term this is also an upside risk to inflation and, thus, the rising gilt yields we have seen of late).
- 1.21. The Bank of England increases Bank Rate too fast and too far over the coming months, and subsequently brings about a deeper and longer UK recession than we currently anticipate.
- 1.22. UK / EU trade arrangements – if there was a major impact on trade flows and financial services due to complications or lack of co-operation in sorting out significant remaining issues.
- 1.23. Geopolitical risks, for example in Ukraine/Russia, China/Taiwan/US, Iran, North Korea and Middle Eastern countries, which could lead to increasing safe-haven flows.
- 1.24. A broadening of banking sector fragilities, which have been successfully addressed in the near-term by central banks and the market generally, but which may require further intervention if short-term interest rates stay elevated for longer than is anticipated.

Creditworthiness

- 1.3 Significant levels of downgrades to Short and Long Term credit ratings have not materialised since the war in Ukraine. In the main, where they did change, any alterations were limited to Outlooks. Now that inflation has begun to fall there have been some instances of previous lowering of Outlooks being reversed. However, sentiment can easily shift, so it remains important to undertake continual monitoring of all aspects of risk and return in the current circumstances.

APPENDIX 5: Approved Countries for Investment

This list is based on those countries which have sovereign ratings of AA- or higher, (we show the lowest rating from Fitch, Moody's and S&P) and also, (except - at the time of writing - for Hong Kong, Norway and Luxembourg), have banks operating in sterling markets which have credit ratings of green or above in the Link credit worthiness service.

AAA

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

AA+

- Canada
- Finland
- USA

AA

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- France

AA-

- Belgium
- Hong Kong
- Qatar
- U.K.

APPENDIX 6: Requirement of the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice

Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation

(i) Full Council

- budget consideration and approval;
- approval of annual Treasury Management Strategy;
- approval of/amendments to the organisation's adopted clauses and treasury management policy statement.

(ii) Public Accounts Committee

- receiving and reviewing reports on treasury management policies, practices and activities.

The Treasury Management Role of the Section 151 Officer

The S151 (responsible) officer has responsibility for:

- recommending treasury management policies for approval, reviewing the same regularly, and monitoring compliance;
- submitting regular treasury management policy reports;
- submitting budgets and budget variations;
- receiving and reviewing management information reports;
- reviewing the performance of the treasury management function;
- ensuring the adequacy of treasury management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the treasury management function;
- ensuring the adequacy of internal audit, and liaising with external audit;
- approval of the division of responsibilities;
- approving the organisation's treasury management practices;
- preparation of a capital strategy to include capital expenditure, capital financing, non-financial investments and treasury management, with a long-term timeframe;
- ensuring that the capital strategy is prudent, sustainable, affordable and prudent in the long term and provides value for money;
- ensuring that due diligence has been carried out on all treasury and non-financial investments and is in accordance with the risk appetite of the authority;
- ensuring that the authority has appropriate legal powers to undertake expenditure on non-financial assets and their financing;
- ensuring the proportionality of all investments so that the authority does not undertake a level of investing which exposes the authority to an excessive level of risk compared to its financial resources;
- ensuring that an adequate governance process is in place for the approval, monitoring and ongoing risk management of all non-financial investments and long term liabilities;
- provision to Members of a schedule of all non-treasury investments including material investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures, loans and financial guarantees;
- ensuring that Members are adequately informed and understand the risk exposures taken on by an authority; and
- ensuring that the authority has adequate expertise, either in-house or externally, to carry out the above.

Agenda Item 10



Council

Recruitment of the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive)

Date: 27 September 2023

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Not applicable

Contributors: Jeremy Chambers
Director of Law & Corporate Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Outline & Recommendations

The Chief Executive role is currently being undertaken by Jennifer Daothong, Executive Director, on a temporary basis pending the recruitment and appointment to the permanent role. The administration wishes to pursue a permanent appointment and this report seeks approval for the involvement of the Appointments Committee and to confirm its composition.

Council is asked to agree that: -

1. The process for the recruitment of the permanent Chief Executive is commenced as soon as is reasonably practicable;
2. The Appointments Committee assists the Council in the recruitment process with a report being brought to a future meeting of the Council to confirm the appointment of the permanent postholder;
3. That the composition of the Appointments Committee be confirmed as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of this report;
4. The Mayor, in consultation with the Director of Law & Corporate Governance and the Director of People & Organisational Development, be authorised to finalise the matters referred to in paragraph 5.1 of this report.

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Chief Executive role is currently being undertaken by Jennifer Daothong, Executive Director, on a temporary basis pending the recruitment and appointment to the permanent role. The administration wishes to pursue a permanent appointment and this report seeks approval for the involvement of the Appointments Committee and to confirm its composition.

2. Recommendations

2.1. Council is asked to agree that: -

1. The process for the recruitment of the permanent Chief Executive is commenced as soon as is reasonably practicable;
2. The Appointments Committee assists the Council in the recruitment process with a report being brought to a future meeting of the Council to confirm the appointment of the permanent postholder;
3. That the composition of the Appointments Committee be confirmed as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of this report;
4. The Mayor, in consultation with the Director of Law & Corporate Governance and the Director of People & Organisational Development, be authorised to finalise the matters referred to in paragraph 5.1 of this report.

3. Background

3.1. The appointment of the Chief Executive (Head of the Paid Service) is reserved in law to a meeting of Council. Under the Council's Constitution, the Appointments Committee has the following in its Terms of Reference: -

To assist the Council in the appointment of the Head of Paid Service as the Council shall request from time to time.

3.2. The Constitution also states: -

Where the Council requests the Appointments Committee to assist with the appointment of the Head of Paid Service, the functions of the appointment of the Head of Paid Service are delegated to the Appointments Committee in accordance with Article 9, subject to the approval of the full Council. No letter of appointment (or dismissal) may be sent until such approval is obtained.

3.3. The administration wishes to pursue a permanent appointment and this report seeks approval for the involvement of the Appointments Committee and its composition.

4. Composition of Appointments Committee

4.1. As there are no other political groups currently on the Council, the composition of the Appointments Committee would ordinarily be the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny, and two such executive members as the Mayor, as Leader of the largest political group, may nominate on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

4.2. Council is asked to agree the following composition of the Appointments Committee for this appointment only: -

- The Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Rudi Schmidt;
- The Mayor;
- Two Executive Members – to be nominated by the Mayor;
- Two non-Executive Members – to be nominated by the Mayor.

- 4.3. The four nominated councillors must be confirmed in writing to the Council's Monitoring Officer, as proper officer

5. Employment Procedure Rules

- 5.1. Pursuant to the Council's Employment Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution, in the recruitment of the Chief Executive, the Council will: -

1. draw up a statement specifying the duties of the post concerned and any qualifications or qualities to be sought in the person to be appointed;
2. make arrangements for the post to be advertised in such a way as is likely to bring it to the attention of persons who are qualified to apply for it;
3. make arrangements for a copy of the statement mentioned in paragraph (1) to be sent to any person on request.

- 5.2. Council is asked to agree to delegate finalisation of these matters to the Mayor in consultation with the Director of Law & Corporate Governance and the Director of People & Organisational Development.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1. There are none directly arising from this report.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1. All relevant legal matters are addressed in the body of the report.

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1. None

9. Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1. None

10. Crime and disorder implications

- 10.1. None

11. Health and wellbeing implications

- 11.1. None

12. Background papers

- 12.1. None

13. Report author and contact

- 13.1. Jeremy Chambers
Director of Law & Corporate Governance (Monitoring Officer)

14. Appendices

- 14.1. None

Agenda Item 11

Motion: Support and recognise East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) communities and heritage in Lewisham and nationally

Proposer: Cllr Edison Huynh

Seconder: Cllr Hau-Yu Tam

This council:

a. notes that:

1. East and Southeast Asian (hereafter ESEA) communities have been settling in the UK as far back as the 19th century.
2. According to 2021 census data and community research, there are about 1 million people who identify as ESEA (1.5% of the UK population). About a third live in London. Lewisham, namely Deptford, is one of the most populous areas of settlement.
3. Lewisham has had a long history of migration, which has made our Borough into the vibrant place it is today. We settled Vietnamese boat refugees in the 80s and are now a committed Borough of Sanctuary. Successive generations of ESEA communities and waves of immigration have in multitudes of ways, influenced British society.
4. However, ESEA communities remain underrepresented in politics, arts and culture, policy-making and senior levels of leadership, although the picture is improving all the time. There is a historical paucity of data in research and understanding of ESEA histories and communities' experiences, especially those told from below
5. Since 2021, ESEA Heritage Month has been commemorated by grassroots groups as a way not only to foster cohesion among ESEA communities themselves, but to include ESEA culture and heritage within the narratives around a diverse modern Britain, alongside other communities such as Black, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT), South Asian, and LGBTQIA+ groups, who also celebrate annual history and heritage months.
6. Lewisham has a history of ESEA pioneers and local community organising. Cllr Mee Ling Ng represented the Evelyn area for 4 terms between 1986 and 2002 and served as Deputy Leader. The Lewisham Indochinese Centre in Deptford ward has one of the very few and possibly the largest bilingual Chinese-English nursery as well as having elder care and youth activities. Vietnamese Family Partnership in Evelyn ward is currently undertaking work to commemorate ESEA heritage across Deptford.

(b) believes that:

1. ESEA communities should be better understood and supported through joined-up policy-making, advocacy and public services - ideally working closely with those community groups.
2. The Council, as part of its pledge to "tackle all forms of violence, racism and harassment; should work with partners to follow an anti-racist and intersectional approach to prevent identity-based discrimination", and ensure ESEA communities are considered and their voices heard.

(c) resolves to:

1. Formally recognise ESEA Heritage Month in September as a Council, annually.
2. Support and/or host at least one annual event to mark ESEA Heritage Month.
3. Write to the Government department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to support the official campaign to establish an annual observance celebrating the history, heritage and social contributions of ESEA communities in the UK.

4. Support culturally-responsive services such as [On Your Side](#), a free 24/7 racism and hate support and reporting service for ESEA communities operating nationwide.
5. Undertake a review of how underrepresented and 'hard to reach' (as noted in our last local democracy review) ESEA communities can better participate in civic society.