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MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUSINESS PANEL

Tuesday, 4 October 2022 at 7.05 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Mark Ingleby, Ayesha Lahai-Taylor, Joan Millbank, Stephen Penfold and James Rathbone.

MEMBER IN-ATTENDANCE PRESENT IN PERSON:
Councillor Louise Krupski, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Action.

MEMBERS ALSO JOINING VIRTUALLY:
Councillors Chris Best and James Royston.

OFFICERS PRESENT IN PERSON:
Senior Committee Manager.

OFFICERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:
Director of Public Realm, Assistant Chief Executive, Head of Overview & Scrutiny, and Senior Programme Manager

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Luke Sorba and Councillor Eva Stamirowski.

1. Minutes

RESOLVED that minutes of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel held on 19 July 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

3. Open Session - Decisions by Mayor and Cabinet on 21 September 2022

Councillor Mark Ingleby, Chair of the Panel, informed the meeting that he had requested that Members should consider the “Lewisham and Lee Green Local Transport Network Monitoring Update” report relating to Item 15 in the Mayor and Cabinet meeting agenda of 21 September 2022. Commenting on paragraph 6 of the report, “Design and Implementation Update”, Councillor Ingleby enquired about progress relating to the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) in view of the Council’s Place-Shaping Strategy and coordinated efforts with the Highways Division for implementing complementary measures in accordance with the relevant local policies.

In response, the Director of Public Realm stated that it was necessary to clarify the following:

1. That it was in January 2022 that the Mayor and Cabinet reviewed and agreed implementation to retain Lewisham and Lee Green LTN. The proposal to that informed the decision stipulated that measures should be in place to encourage the use of more sustainable forms of transport. Also, at the time that decision was made, the Mayor and Cabinet recognised at the time of taking the decision that there was minimal consultation due to lockdown restrictions because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.1 Thus, the submission considered by Mayor and Cabinet on 21 September 2022, which Councillor Ingleby was referring to was not a not a decision report. It was stated that the proposals required the Mayor and Cabinet to note findings of the data monitoring and update on the delivery of complementary measures within the LTN and the surrounding areas and agree further monitoring in April 2023 for continued assessment of the LTN.

The Director informed the Panel:

- 2.1 That the complementary measures identified included provision for
 - additional bike hangers to encourage residents to take up cycling;
 - additional electric charging points with the aim to move to cleaner vehicles; and
 - benches to allow people to rest while walking in areas within the borough.
- 2.2 That the measures were linked to the Council's Transport and Cycling policies, and its Highways action plan. In addition to that, plans were agreed for the planting of trees and other and shrubs to encourage a more pleasant environment in the public realm.
- 2.3 That rollout of the measures had begun as follows:
 - Benches:
 - 10 locations had been identified within the LTN and wider areas;
 - Work to roll out in the locations was underway.
 - Electric vehicles charging points:
 - 12 locations were identified;
 - 3 had already been installed: on Mount Pleasant Road, Springbank Road and Upwood Road;
 - Further 9 will be installed by end of March 2023.
 - Cycle hangers:
 - 20 locations have been identified;
 - There is a shortage of bike hangers due to high demand. Officers are seeking alternative suppliers. Notwithstanding that, 5 have been installed; 7 will be installed later in the month, with further rollouts in the following month.
 - Trees:
 - 35 locations have been identified for tree planting;
 - Planting season is between October and March; Implementation is underway;
 - Challenges of avoiding obstructions that could cause damage to vehicles, or create confusion to users will be taken into consideration during implementation.
 - School streets:

- Trinity Primary School Street has gone live; warning letters will not be sent out until about two or three weeks after implementation;
 - The design for Brindishe Lee has been extended to incorporate 20 secondary schools surrounding Trinity Secondary School area, and implementation will take place at the end of the month alongside School Streets for Brindishe Manor, St Saviour's and St Winifred's schools.
- Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras:
 - Physical modal filters will be removed to allow camera enforcements for better management, less interference, and to prevent vandalism;
 - Cameras will go live around School Streets on 17 October 2022;
 - Letters informing about the implementation will be sent out to residents in the first two or three weeks before the issuing of tickets because the Council aimed to encourage residents to change their behaviours by using more sustainable forms of transport for shorter journeys.

The Panel noted further responses by the Director as follows:

- 3 That to ensure community involvement, the Council was coordinating efforts across relevant departments to work with and inform residents and other organisations about the interventions and implementation of its community programmes.
- 3.1 That a comprehensive response regarding NCIL's awards will be circulated to Members after liaison with the Community Development Team who are leading the programme.

Councillor Ingleby welcomed the efforts, and suggested:

- 4 That officers should consider strategic actions for a coordinated opportunity of intervention around the LTNs that have had less attention, including Hither Green and other areas where there had been a substantial number of NCIL projects.

Councillor Royston addressed the meeting as follows:

- 5 That the situation with the LTNs rollouts was unique. However, because there was insufficient consultation, some transport improvements had become an after-thought.
- 5.1 It was suggested that parking and sustainable transport improvements should have a strong emphasis upon the improvements.
- 5.2 That for future rollout of the measures, officers should outline processes they will be following when deciding the location for electric vehicle charging points and bike hangers, and the planting of trees.

The Director responded to questions raised by Councillor Royston as follows:

- 6 That decisions to implement bike hangers and electric charging points were based on requests.
- 6.1 That specific to electric charging points, officers were seeking to balance demands within the LTNs and across the wider borough because the

- Council was committed to erect them no more than 500 metres from each other.
- 6.2 That there is an exploratory element to the planning of trees because the Council is supportive of the efforts. Thus, officers who are expert in the field are seeking to plant as many trees as possible to cover a larger area, while dealing with challenges to consider services installed underneath roads and pavements.
 - 6.3 That the rollouts of benches were based on trials and information from feedback. Although the Council do not receive large volume of requests for benches, people tended to use them when erected in public spaces.
 - 6.4 That officers were keen to receive requests and suggestions from Members and residents about applying and implementing the measures.

Councillor Ingleby:

- 7 Echoed statement made by Councillor Royston, advising that the Panel requires confirmation about future processes regarding parking, and the overall place shaping strategy.
- 7.1 Requested that officers should provide sufficient data to show the prioritisation of implementation on Hither Green because the area borders the LTNs.
- 7.2 Requested update on the NCIL projects.

Councillor Louise Krupski, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Action stated as follows:

- 8 That some of the questions raised have already been responded to via email.
- 8.1 That it would be useful if the Panel focus on interventions based on available funds to progress the Council's Local Implementation Plan (LiP) from a strategic perspective on a borough-wide basis instead of focusing on issues that affect one area.

Councillor Ingleby:

- 9 Endorsed the statement by Councillor Krupski, and requested that officers should provide an update on the Council's LiP funds.

In response to question about LiP funds, the Director advised the Panel:

- 10 That the Government has recently agreed a two-year funding stream of £69m with Transport for London (TfL) to be distributed to local authorities within this financial year.
- 10.1 That there are strict criteria that TfL has been mandated to undertake by the Government but out of the £69m sum, Lewisham has received an allocation of £1.1m, which is equivalent to the 2019-2020 financial year figure.
- 10.2 That although Lewisham is expected to spend its allocation of £1.1m by the end of the current financial, the LiP funding has provided a means for it to plan strategically as an authority into the next financial year.

Councillor Krupski responded to further questions, advising the Panel:

- 11 That mitigation measures planned for the LTN are currently being implemented.

- 11.1 That the Council will be taking a strategic look at the whole borough, with safety as a key criterion to assess collision rates and speeds on its roads. Also for safety reasons, the considerations would include School Streets to prevent them from becoming islands in themselves.
- 11.2 That before the previous LiP funding dried up, the Council had a list of uncompleted schemes that it was progressing, and some of those are going to be addressed in this financial year.

The Director responded to questions from Councillor Millbank, confirming:

12. That the decision about the LTN taken by the Mayor and Cabinet in January 2022 was subject to a six-monthly review. It was stated that the next review will take place in six-months' time
- 12.1 That the Council was using social media and utilising expertise from colleagues in the Council's Communication Team to inform residents of progress and work to be undertaken.

Councillor Rathbone:

13. Expressed a disappointment at not receiving information about the implementation of some of the complementary measures mentioned at the meeting.
- 13.1 Suggested that the Council should take steps to improve how it was communicating with its residents to prevent mass disinformation in the locality

Councillor Krupski:

14. Welcomed the suggestion made about mass disinformation on board, and encouraged Members to raise concerns they might have in the future on matters pertaining to her portfolio.

The meeting noted that officers will provide information about the company that is advising on locations of the complementary measures.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

4. Part 1 - Decision made by the Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. Scrutiny Update Report

The Head of Overview and Scrutiny advised the Panel as follows:

- That some select committee dates were changed following the announcement of Queen's death.
- That the Council is currently in the middle of a select meeting cycle. Sustainable Housing Select Committee and Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee will be meeting the following week to complete this round of meetings.
- That the next cycle of Select Committee meetings will start with Healthier Communities Select Committee which will be meeting on 1 November. The

budget cuts will be considered by all the select committees in that round of meetings.

The Panel also noted updates about the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which met on 21 September as follows:

- The main item was a report on Lewisham's response to the cost-of-living crisis. As a result of that, three select committees - Healthier Communities, Safer and Stronger Communities and Children and Young People - will be carrying out further work on the topic
- That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee also established two task and finish groups. One of those will be looking at creative and community workspaces and the other will be reviewing community gardening and allotments practise. The investigations are now in the process of being scoped and the first meetings will take place later in the month or early next month.

Councillor Rathbone, Chair of Public Accounts Select Committee informed the meeting as follows:

- That because of certain recent financial decisions made by the Government, a substantial part of the Council's budget projections no longer apply. It was stated that officers are having to make changes very rapidly to their financial projections as the Bank of England acts on the issues.
- That it is a normal financial risk for the Council not receiving the Government's financial settlement until very close to the end of its financial year.

Councillor Penfold, Chair of Housing Select Committee stated that the next meeting of the Committee will be on 12 of October 2022, and Members will consider among other things, Lewisham Homes' Annual Report, the Service Charge Policy, and updates on selective licencing.

Councillor Lahai-Taylor, Chair of Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee echoed the statement by the Head of Overview and Scrutiny that the equalities perspective of the cost-of-living crisis has been added to the Committee's workplan.

Councillor Royston, Chair of Sustainable Development Select Committee stated that there has been no significant update since the last meeting, and that the next meeting of the Committee will take place the following week.

Councillor Best, Chair of Healthier Communities Select Committee reported as follows:

- That there will be a substantive item on the cost-of-living crisis.
- That the Director of Public Health has been invited to present a report which will include information on the food justice work, and the warm hubs and spaces.
- That the Executive Director for Community Services will provide an update on the use of local libraries, community centres, and the work with Lewisham's local.

- It was stated that as the winter period approaches, there could be referrals of the issues to Safer and Stronger Communities and Children and Young People Select committees because they concern the health and wellbeing of residents.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Chair