



Council

Corporate Strategy Comments by the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel

At its meeting on 15 November 2022, Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel considered the Corporate Strategy, and made the following comments:

General comments:

- “live music” is mentioned twice under the “inward investment” section.
- Birmingham-Lewisham Caribbean & African Heal Inequalities is mentioned twice under “Diversity” and “Health & Wellbeing” section.
- Short paragraph on page 23 about young people – very compact – one element is that it is not explicit about the effort the Council is making to embed race equality in schools.
- Equality should read as a theme across the each of the sections.
- In pages 18 & 25 – to consider using culture as a drive for economic growth – perhaps to benchmark Camden, Haringey and similar organisations where culture has been part of their economic recovery.
- To backup and underpin opportunities from Lewisham’s world class cultural partners: on the issue of driving inward investment, to also consider working with partners under the local strategic partnership umbrella.
- To report after implementation e.g. to inform the Mayor’s meetings with local residents/local assemblies; progress reporting could also serve as a useful tool to ward councillors.

Specific Comments:

- In terms of the aims of the corporate strategy – suggested an annual report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee as a means of sharing progress on performance with the public. This is an opportunity to be more agile – suggested a dashboard approach to reporting.
- Retro-fitting is an opportunity to mention in the final form of the cultural strategy e.g. the Green Agenda - recognition of opportunity to retro-fitting in maintaining the cultural strategy – the move away from fossil fuels onto renewable energy infrastructure.
- Culture as an economic driver - partnership with Lewisham’s cultural anchor institutions – to use identity to drive place-shaping strategy.
- The theme of having diversity and race equality in the report was recognised, but there needs to be more emphasis on that in the young people’s section.
- There is a potential for developing a Health Charter – to link green with health – Panel recognised the strength that would present.

Suggested wordings:

- To include under quality Housing in the second paragraph of the report: “Working with all housing providers in the borough to encourage retro-fitting as part of our drive to be carbon-neutral by 2030, and to develop a Lewisham Rent Repairs Charter”.
- To include under the health section in the report: “Lewisham Health Care and Wellbeing Charter to encourage residents to access the right service at the right time”.

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On behalf of Councillor Mark Ingleby, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel