



Public Accounts Select Committee

Children and Young People Select Committee comments on the budget cuts

Date: 1 December 2022

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1.

Ward(s) affected: All (none specific).

Contributor: Children and Young People Select Committee

Outline and recommendations

This report informs the Public Accounts Select Committee of the comments and views of the Children and Young People Select Committee, arising from discussions about proposals for budget cuts.

The Public Accounts Select Committee is asked to consider the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee as part of its overall consideration of the budget cuts. The referral from Children and Young People Select Committee will be submitted to Mayor and Cabinet alongside any comments from the Public Accounts Select Committee.

1. Summary

- 1.1. On Thursday 24 November 2022, the Children and Young People Select Committee considered a report from officers on budget cuts proposals ([agenda for the meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee on 24 November 2022](#)). The Committee received an overview of the report from the Executive Director for Children and Young People and from the Director of Finance. Following questions to officers, the Committee agreed to refer three of the savings proposals to Public Accounts Select Committee.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Public Accounts Select Committee is asked to consider the Committee's comments and submit them as part of its combined referral to Mayor and Cabinet.

3. Children and Young People Select Committee views

- 3.1. The Committee requested that the following comments be referred to the Public Accounts Select Committee:
- **CYP_SAV_01 – Review of Children Centres Budgets.** The Committee was concerned about the associated risk of the move to the pilot hub model advocated by government only coming with funding committed for three years and the potential long-term impact of the cut on children and young people and their families. The Committee was concerned that the cut could reduce preventative support and result in more significant pressures on other budgets should peoples' needs then escalate.
 - **CYP_SAV_04 – Youth Services Budget Review.** The Committee was concerned about the impact of the cut on levels of provision for children and young people in the borough and also for the staff providing these services. The Committee was particularly concerned that the shift to focus Council support on more targeted provision, with a necessary reduction in support for universal provision, and the mitigations outlined in the proposal would make the recruitment of staff harder for providers.
 - **COM_SAV_08 – Reduction in Opening Hours at Lewisham Libraries.** The Committee was concerned regarding any reduction in opening hours at Lewisham libraries considering the important role libraries played on a range of services and in particular in their part in the response to the cost of living crisis and the Council's strategy on "Warm Welcomes".

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. These will need to be considered as part of the response.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1. The Constitution provides for select committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.2. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.3. There may be equalities implications arising from the implementation of the committees' recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

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7. Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be climate change and environmental implications arising from the implementation of the committees' recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

8. Crime and disorder implications

- 8.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be implications arising from the implementation of the committees' recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

- 9.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be implications arising from the implementation of the committees' recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

10. Report author and contact

- 10.1. If you have any questions about this report then please contact: Katie Wood (Scrutiny Manager) 020 8314 9446 – katie.wood@lewisham.gov.uk

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