



Mayor and Cabinet

Report title: Response to Children and Young People Select Committee referral of ideas to amplify children and young people's voices within the Council

Date: 18.04.2023

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

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Outline and recommendations

On 15 March 2023, the Children and Young People Select Committee received a report and heard oral evidence from officers and young people regarding amplifying young people's voices within the council.

This report is in response to a referral from Mayor and Cabinet directing officers to explore the feasibility of adopting suggestions in paragraph 4.1 made by young people who are already engaged with the council.

1. Summary

- 1.1 Following a report to the Children and Young People Select Committee on 'Amplifying the Voice of Children and Young People', Mayor and Cabinet has asked officers to provide a response to the feasibility of adopting the suggestions made in paragraph 4.1 in the report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Officers accept the recommendations outlined in the Mayor and Cabinet referral following Children and Young People Select Committee on 15.03.2023.
- 2.2 Officers welcome the views and ideas shared by young people and support the suggestions outlined in paragraph 4.1 points 'a' to 'k' that include; involving young people in decision making, improving social media communication, the contribution of young people to the corporate and other strategies, involving children and young people in commissioning and Officers in the Children and developing a participation strategy with children and young people.
- 2.3 To begin this process officers have arranged a workshop on the 5th of May including Jacob Sakil and Katy Brown from the Young Mayors Team. Out of the workshop it is expected that a plan and proposal for reviewing the Council's participation strategy and offer will be developed. These proposals will be shared with the Young Mayors Team and following their input officers will pull together a working group including young people, to begin the process of designing a new participation strategy.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Scrutiny's work programme has regard to the corporate strategy¹ which sets out the Council's values, priorities and focus for 2022-2026. These are categorised under the following headings:
- Cleaner and Greener
 - Strong Local Economy
 - Quality Housing
 - Children and Young People
 - Safer Communities
 - Open Lewisham
 - Health and Wellbeing

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

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 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the

¹ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/corporate-strategy>

separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 6.2 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.

7. Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

8. Crime and disorder implications

- 8.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

- 9.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

Background papers

[Amplifying the Voices of Children and Young People](#) – Children and Young People Select Committee, 15 March 2023

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