



## Workspaces Task and Finish Group

### Task and Finish Group Final Report

**Date:** 5 July 2023

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Nidhi Patil (Scrutiny Manager)

### Outline and recommendations

Following the review of a wide range of evidence, members of the Workspaces Task and Finish Group are asked to:

- Consider, comment on and agree the final report attached as Appendix A.
- Agree recommendations for submission to the Mayor and Cabinet.

### Timeline of engagement and decision-making

The subject and membership of the Group were agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2022.

The scope and key lines of enquiry for the review were agreed by the Workspaces Task and Finish Group on 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

Between November 2022 and June 2023, the Task and Finish Group carried out a range of evidence gathering and engagement sessions (as detailed in the report).

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The report attached as Appendix A sets out the key findings and recommendations of the Workspaces Task and Finish Group.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Task and Finish Group is asked to:
  - Consider, comment on and agree the final report attached as Appendix A.
  - Agree recommendations for submission to the Mayor and Cabinet.

### **3. Policy Context**

3.1. The Council's Corporate Strategy (2022-2026) outlines the Council's ambitions for Lewisham and details its approach towards achieving them. Delivering this strategy includes the following key priorities that relate to the Workspaces Task and Finish Group:

- Building a strong local economy  
Provision of more affordable workspaces in the borough is essential to this objective as they play a crucial role in driving economic growth by attracting new businesses, supporting SMEs, and generating employment opportunities.
- Open Lewisham  
The emphasis on equalities and the priority of Open Lewisham hold significant importance in the endeavour to expand availability of affordable workspaces, ultimately contributing to the provision of accessible opportunities for all individuals.

3.2. In its Corporate Strategy 2022-26, the Council also commits to building on its legacy as London's Borough of Culture by celebrating the diverse creative communities in Lewisham. Ensuring the availability of affordable creative workspaces is vital for enhancing Lewisham's cultural landscape.

3.3. The work of this Task and Finish group was informed by these corporate priorities.

### **4. Background**

4.1. The subject of this Task and Finish group was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2022. The Group has received evidence from a range of sources and activities and has produced a report summarising its findings attached as Appendix A.

4.2. The Task and Finish Group members are being asked to review the final report and agree any recommendations they wish to make.

### **5. Financial implications**

5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group may have financial implications, and these will need to be considered in due course.

### **6. Legal implications**

6.1. The Council's Constitution provides at paragraph 6.11, Article 6 that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may from time to time appoint sub-committees, to be known as task and finish groups which will exist for a period of no less than 3 months, nor more than 12 months from the date of their creation. It further adds that 'Any task and finish group shall consist of 5 members and be established for the purpose of examining a particular issue in depth. The terms of reference of any task and finish group shall be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which shall also appoint members to it.'

### **7. Equalities implications**

7.1. 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 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.

- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. It is crucial to consider equalities when expanding the provision of affordable workspace, ensuring that opportunities are accessible and inclusive for individuals of diverse backgrounds.
- 7.4. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report, but the recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group may have equalities implications and the Council will need to give due consideration to this in their response.

## **8. Climate change and environmental implications**

- 8.1. There are no direct climate change and environmental implications arising from this report. Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group may have climate change and environmental implications, and these will need to be considered in due course.

## **9. Crime and disorder implications**

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

## **10. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report. Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group may have health and wellbeing implications, and these will need to be considered in due course.

## **11. Appendices**

- 11.1. Appendix A- Final report of the Workspaces Task and Finish Group

## **12. Report author and contact**

- 12.1. If you have any questions about this report, please contact:  
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