



Mayor and Cabinet

Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Levelling Up Fund Programme in Lewisham Town Centre

Date: 1 November 2023.

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1.

Ward(s) affected: All (none specific)

Outline and recommendations

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, arising from discussions on the delivery of the Levelling Up Fund Programme in Lewisham Town Centre.

Mayor and Cabinet is asked to consider the Committee's comments and ask the relevant officers to provide a response.

1. Summary

- 1.1. On Tuesday 12 September, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered a report from officers on the delivery of the Levelling Up Fund Programme in Lewisham Town Centre ([link to the agenda](#)) The Committee reflected on the contents of the report – and received a presentation from officers. Following questions to officers, the Committee agreed to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Mayor and Cabinet is asked to consider the Committee's comments and ask the relevant officers to provide a response.

3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views

- 3.1. The Committee recommends that further consideration be given to the development of the night-time offer in Lewisham Town Centre – including food and beverage options, as well as the potential for live music. This should build on existing knowledge and experiences of success elsewhere in London.
- 3.2. The Committee believes that further work should take place with young people, people who are disabled and members of groups with other protected

characteristics (as defined in the Equality Act 2010) – as well as a cross section of people from different socio-economic backgrounds to co-design the work taking place – particularly in relation to the accessibility and suitability of public spaces.

- 3.3. The Committee recommends that further work should take place to communicate, to residents and business, the alternative arrangements in place following the temporary closure of Lewisham Library.
- 3.4. The Committee believes that a system of impact measurement should be developed to ensure that the redevelopment is meeting its intended objectives. Members ask that this includes an assessment of the availability of workspaces in the refurbished library for students.
- 3.5. The Committee notes the Council's objective to make the borough carbon neutral by 2023 – and it encourages the ambitious delivery of energy efficiency and retrofit measures as part of the renovation of Lewisham Library¹. Members would encourage bids for external funding to enhance this work.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, there may be implications arising from their 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. 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.
- 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.

¹ The Committee expects retrofitting measures to be in line with best practice – including the most recent PAS standards for whole building retrofit (rather than isolated improvements).

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6.3. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

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. However, in February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. The declaration tasked the Sustainable Development Committee with scrutinising the Council's emerging plans.

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.

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 Committee's 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: Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk

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