



Mayor and Cabinet

Levelling Up Fund Programme

Date: 1 November 2023

Key decision: Yes

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Lewisham Central

Contributors: LUF Lead Programme Manager

Outline and recommendations

In January 2023, Lewisham Council successfully secured £19m from the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) to deliver interventions in Lewisham Town Centre that will revitalise the marketplace, create a flagship Culture and Business Hub, and connect the town with better, safer walking and cycling infrastructure. The delivery of this programme will transform economic and community activity, provide opportunities for local businesses, increase cultural activity, and stimulate the night-time economy. It will increase footfall and consumer spend, unlock private investment, create jobs, and give residents a place to be proud of. This report provides an update on the programme, sets out planned delivery milestones and seeks approval to procure necessary works and services.

The recommendations are for Mayor and Cabinet to:

- 1** Note the progress made to date in establishing the LUF programme and ongoing delivery
- 2** Authorise officers to run a procurement of the required works and services for Project 1, Lewisham Market Revitalisation, by March 2026 totalling £3,965,000 including:
 - Canopy construction
 - Professional services
 - Market equipment (including additional stalls)
- 3** Authorise officers to run a procurement of the required works and services for Project 3, Public Realm Improvements by March 2026 totalling £11,630,000, including:
 - Specialist design services in respect of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation
 - Street furniture
 - Clock tower restoration
- 4** Approve the variation of the measured term contract dated 1st April 2023 between the Council and FM Conway to include of public realm improvement works.
- 5** Approve the variation of the PFI contract dated August 2011 between the Council and Milestone to include the provision of lighting and power.
- 6** Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to select an appropriate route for the delivery of street furniture and depending on that selection either: (i) authorise officers to run a procurement for a contract for delivery of street furniture or (ii) approve the variation of the measured term contract include the delivery of street furniture.
- 7** To note that Mutual Ventures are appointed by single tender action to provide programme management consultancy support to the programme with an indicative allocation of £45,000. Mutual Ventures wrote the LUF bid and provided initial mobilisation support of the programme. It would benefit the programme by continuing their involvement to provide support and challenge in ensuring the programme is being delivered effectively. Mutual Ventures are working with a number of other councils in delivering their LUF programmes so there is benefit from sharing challenges and approaches.

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- 8 To note the procurement of external consultants to deliver a programme evaluation – expert support with summative evaluation up to the to be delivered by 2027 with an indicative allocation of £50,000.
- 9 In respect of each new procurement described above, delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to select the preferred providers in accordance with the selection criteria published in each of the tender documentations and agree and enter into the final form of contract to the preferred bidder in each case provided that the total value of the contracts to be entered into is no more than £15,690,000 in totality.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

Mayor and Cabinet – 15 June 2022

Mayor and Cabinet – 26 July 2023 (Project 2 – Culture and Business Hub)

Sustainable Development Select Committee – 12 September 2023

1. Summary

1.1 This report outlines progress made to date in the delivery of Lewisham’s Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Programme. This report seeks approval from Mayor and Cabinet to authorise the procurement exercise necessary for securing goods and services to deliver the revitalisation programme in Lewisham Town Centre. Delegation of authority to the Executive Director of Place to select preferred providers in accordance with the tender selection criteria will enable the Levelling Up Fund Programme to continue moving at pace.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The recommendations are for Mayor and Cabinet to:

2.2 Note the progress made to date in establishing the LUF programme and ongoing delivery.

2.3 Authorise officers to run a procurement of the required works and services for Project 1 by March 2026 totalling £3,965,000, including:

- Canopy construction
- Professional services
- Market equipment (including additional stalls)

2.4 Authorise officers to run a procurement of the required works and services for Project 3 by March 2026 totalling £11,630,000, including:

- Specialist design services in respect of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation
- Street furniture

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- 2.5 Approve the variation of the measured term contract dated 1st April 2023 between the Council and FM Conway to include of public realm improvement works.
- 2.6 Approve the variation of the PFI contract dated August 2011 between the Council and Milestone to include the provision of lighting and power.
- 2.7 Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to select an appropriate route for the delivery of street furniture and depending on that selection either: (i) authorise officers to run a procurement for a contract for delivery of street furniture or (ii) approve the variation of the measured term contract to include the delivery of street furniture.
- 2.8 To note that Mutual Ventures are appointed by single tender action to provide programme management consultancy support to the programme with an indicative allocation of £45,000. Mutual Ventures wrote the LUF bid and provided initial mobilisation support of the programme. It would benefit the programme by continuing their involvement to provide support and challenge in ensuring the programme is being delivered effectively. Mutual Ventures are working with a number of other councils in delivering their LUF programmes so there is benefit from sharing challenges and approaches.
- 2.9 To note the procurement of external consultants to deliver a programme evaluation – expert support with summative evaluation up to the to be delivered by 2027 with an indicative allocation of £50,000.
- 2.10 In respect of each new procurement described above, delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to select the preferred providers in accordance with the selection criteria published in each of the tender documentations and agree to enter into the final form of contract to the preferred bidder in each case provided that the total value of the contracts to be entered into is no more than £15,690,000 in totality.
- 2.11 For the procurement described above, delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to select the preferred providers in accordance with the selection criteria published in each of the tender documentations and agree to enter into the final form of contract to the preferred bidder in each case provided that the total value of the contracts to be entered into is no more than £15,690,000 in totality.

3 Policy Context

- 3.1 The 2022-2026 Corporate Strategy priority “A strong local economy” includes the following commitments:
- Invest in our high streets and create more pedestrianised spaces
 - Provide support for our independent businesses and protect and improve our local street markets
 - Actively work to attract jobs and businesses to Lewisham and create more spaces for pop up stores and markets
 - Continue to work with businesses across the borough, encouraging them to become London Living Wage employers
- 3.2 The Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan was adopted by the Council in 2014. It sets out nine objectives including ambitions for Lewisham to become a metropolitan town centre, increase commercial floorspace in the town centre, enhance features such as the street market, support walking and cycling, improve safety and increase leisure provision.
- 3.3 In March 2021 the Government set out its ambition to “Build Back Better” through the pillars of infrastructure, skills, innovation, “Levelling Up” across the UK, transition to

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net-zero and a vision for a Global Britain. The Government considers Levelling Up to mean addressing inequalities between geographic areas, giving everyone the opportunity to flourish and raising living standards and wellbeing.

3.4 The 'We Are Lewisham' cultural strategy 2023 – 2028 is our plan for securing the legacy of our 2022 London Borough of Culture and builds on Lewisham's strong cultural foundations for creating the conditions which allow creativity to thrive. The key priorities of the cultural strategy include:

- Creative communities – everyone will have access to the positive benefits of engaging with cultural and creative activities
- Creative places – cultural and creative places will meet the changing needs of Lewisham's communities and creatives
- Creative enterprise – the conditions will be right for the cultural and creative industries to thrive and be more accessible to a broader range of communities in Lewisham
- Creative connections – creative ways of connecting public sector organisations and communities tested during our year as London Borough of Culture will become part of the way we work together.

4 Background

4.1 In January 2023, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced that Lewisham Council had successfully secured £19m to revitalise Lewisham Town Centre. The funding has been combined with £5m of match funding from the council.

4.2 The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) funding will be used to revitalise Lewisham street market, create a new Cultural and Business Hub in Lewisham Library, and improve both pedestrian and cycle connectivity throughout the high street.

Lewisham street market

4.3 The street market plays a vital role to the Lewisham's local economy, providing jobs and supporting a loyal customer base, with the market being particularly well-used by residents local to the town centre, lower income residents and older people. Despite the market's current success, it is in need of investment and modernisation. A number of issues threaten its long-term future such as an out-dated appearance, ease of food waste collection around the market and a lack of night time economy. While significant improvements to food waste collection have been implemented by the Council, this revitalisation will ensure that progress on waste and recycling can be permanently embedded into the management of the market.

4.4 The fund will support the rejuvenation of the market with improved stalls, better waste management infrastructure, improvements to the pavement and railings, new lighting and electricity, and installation of a canopy along the high street.

4.5 The investment in infrastructure will be paired with initiatives that complement the market's offer and expand the diversity of groups who use the market, without losing or alienating existing customers, including an evening market, "pop up" trading opportunities and space to support food and drink, cultural and seasonal events.

4.6 These changes will attract more visitors to the market and town centre, extend hours of economic activity in the town centre into the evening and night-time, enhance local pride, improve the environmental impact of the market and deliver a better quality experience for residents, visitors and businesses.

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Cultural and Business Hub

- 4.7 The current Lewisham Library located at the end of the high street is an important community asset. However, it is in poor condition, has limited accessibility and the space is underutilised. At the same time, there is a lack of flexible and accessible business spaces in the area, with demand significantly outstripping the capacity. There is also significant opportunity to enhance the cultural offer in the town centre to attract and retain visitors.
- 4.8 One of the key challenges for the library is adapting to changing needs and expectations of service users. There is a potential for the library to become the magnet that offers culture, business support, local history and a food/drink offer.
- 4.9 The project focuses on the renovation of the building to create a centrally-located multi-purpose culture and business hub, which can include:
- More accessible space for library services
 - Publicly available workspace
 - Flexible community and cultural space which could be used to host events, performances and exhibitions
 - A food and drink offer such as café, bar, restaurant and/or event catering.
- 4.10 The new hub will be used to support a variety of services including business advice and support services (e.g. support to start a business, capacity building for businesses to secure contracts in the Council's supply chain, business growth programmes etc.), a rich cultural programme; activities for children and young people, and employment support and training.

Reimagined and connected High Street

- 4.11 There are a wide range of issues facing Lewisham High Street. These include the high volume of buses and vehicles that has a significant impact on the safety and attractiveness of the environment; difficult navigation between the key points (train station, market, shopping centre, high street); limited greenery; and limited cycling infrastructure. The poor accessibility of the high street remains a significant barrier, particularly for our residents with physical or sensory impairments. The public realm around the high street is not considered pedestrian friendly, which means people feel less confident navigating the area on foot and are less inclined to spend time or shop with business located in the town centre.
- 4.12 The key objective of this project is to create an enhanced public realm that supports positive experiences when visiting the town centre and increases the safety of residents, visitors and businesses. The planned interventions are:
- Improvement of access routes to and from High Street (wayfinding and signage, redesign of junctions and pedestrian crossings, pavement improvements)
 - Development of mobility hubs to encourage people to use cycling, walking and electric cars
 - Improvements to cycling infrastructure and new cycling lanes (subject to TfL approval)
 - Public realm enhancements and greenery, which will improve the attractiveness and accessibility of the high street as well as increase biodiversity. Enhanced greening will include planting of trees, as well as surface level planting and installation of green pocket spaces
 - Safety features such as improved lighting and CCTV.

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5. Project progress update

Project 1: Revitalisation of Lewisham Market and reimagined and connected high street

- 5.1 A significant amount of survey work has been carried out to ascertain the condition of the paving, and the underground conditions to confirm how much paving requires replacing and the implications for the design of the market plain, based on foundations and services/utilities that sit below surface level. In addition, costs from the original bid have been under review by a quantity surveyor given that the bid was submitted over a year ago, and rising inflation has caused significant increases to construction and material costs.
- 5.2 Availability of some materials from the time they are ordered may also impact the programme duration.
- 5.3 The design and construction delivery programme has been refined to provide greater clarity to the programme duration. We are expecting RIBA stage 3 design development for the high street to be completed in mid-September 2023. RIBA stage 4 (the point at which construction drawings are issued) is expected to be completed by December 2023/January 2024. More accurate programming and phasing work can start at the end of RIBA 3 and adjusted where necessary on issue of RIBA 4. Construction of the market area, subject to successful planning application, is projected to commence mid-2025 and will complete in March 2026. This aligns with the current predicted completion of the Culture and Business Hub. This delivery timeline is dependent on a successful tender process for the design and construction of the canopy.
- 5.4 'Studio Weave' have been appointed as the architecture team for the market canopy structure design. The architects and Council programme team are working closely to commence work. Initial pre-application planning meetings have taken place to outline the rationale for the canopy in the market area. Subsequent pre-application planning meetings are scheduled to take place over the coming months with a planning application expected for submission in November, subject to a positive planning pre-application process.
- 5.5 The development of the market service yard (Burton's yard) is progressing to RIBA Stage 4 (the point at which construction drawings are issued) following meetings with the market operations teams.

Project 2: New Culture and Business hub

- 5.6 Detailed structural feasibility surveys have been carried out since the bid was submitted, that have provided new insights into the current state of the building and what works will be required. A quantity surveyor cost review similar to Project 1 has taken place to test the costs in our original LUF bid against current inflationary challenges. A further intrusive survey has been commissioned via the structural engineering consultants, Webb Yates, to help understand the structural capacity of the building.
- 5.7 'Architecture 00' have been appointed as the Lead Consultant via the GLA's Architecture and Urbanism Framework. An inception meeting was held on 15th August 2023 to introduce all members of the multi-disciplinary design team and agree immediate priorities, including the production of a plan for our public-facing engagement and co-design activities. RIBA Stage 1 report has now been completed, outlining the Project Brief, and work has commenced on RIBA stage 2.
- 5.8 Lewisham Library closed on 16th September 2023. Plans for reprovision include signposting to neighbouring libraries, a click and collect service operating from the Glass Mill Leisure Centre and pop up events in the town centre. The archives and local history service will be temporarily relocated to the first floor of Catford Library and the home library service will carry on as usual. Key messaging around the closure of the library and interim plans has

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and will continue to feature heavily in the communications plan – making use of council social media channels, the council website, as well as outdoor communications and engagement in the town centre.

6. Programme

Project 1: Revitalisation of Lewisham Market and reimagined and connected high street

Milestone	Date
Clock tower conditions survey	Sept – Oct 2023
Tender exercise for clock tower works	Nov – Dec 2023
Clock tower works	Early 2024
High Street RIBA stage 4	Jan 2024
High Street construction	March 2024 – March 2026
Street lighting columns (installation)	Jan – March 2024
Project completion	March 2026

Project 2: New Culture and Business Hub

Milestone	Date
Options development + concept design	02/10/23 to 27/10/23
RIBA Workstage 2 cost plan and sign off	30/10/23 to 17/11/23
Planning pre-application discussions	06/11/23 to 15/12/23
Equalities Impact Assessment sign-off	11/12/23 to 15/12/23
Developed design	20/11/23 to 26/01/24
RIBA Workstage 3 cost plan and sign off	15/01/24 to 09/02/24
Submit planning application	29/01/24 to 09/02/24
Technical design	19/02/24 to 29/03/24
RIBA Workstage 4 cost check	01/04/24 to 12/04/24

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Main Contractor tender process	15/04/24 to 16/08/24
Construction on-site	30/09/24 to 29/08/25
Construction contingency	01/09/25 to 26/12/25
Inspections and snagging	29/12/25 to 09/01/26
Practical completion	19/01/26 to 23/01/26
Operator move-in	26/01/26 to 20/02/26
Culture and Business Hub opens	March 2026

7. Communications and Engagement

7.1 The project and programme leads have been working closely with the communications team to sequence key messages internally and externally. A phased communications plan has been developed to link key messages with major milestones within the programme. The key phases of the plan are:

- Phase 1: Launch and awareness raising: June – December 2023
- Phase 2: Design engagement (RIBA stage 4 detailed design): January – June 2024
- Phase 3: Delivery (RIBA stage 5 construction): July 2024 – December 2025
- Phase 4: (RIBA stage 6 handover): March 2026

7.2 The team are also working on a localised branding and identity for the programme, using insight that we have been able to gather through engagement sessions delivered through the Lewisham Town Centre Partnership.

7.3 A Communications and Engagement Officer dedicated to the Levelling Up Fund Programme has been recruited to implement the communications plan and engagement strategy across the programme, including close partnership working with key groups, local stakeholders and to ensure consistent messaging across both projects.

7.4 A dedicated Levelling Up [webpage](#) has been created which will house the latest information and a list of FAQs, which will be signposted to through all communications. The programme has also been featured in the autumn edition of Lewisham Life, and will be followed up with posters and postcards that will be distributed to around 15,000 households who live within proximity to the library.

7.5 An overarching communications strategy is being developed to ensure a holistic approach to engagement which will help to build a narrative for the Levelling Up Fund Programme and will be complimented by targeted engagement opportunities that are linked to key milestones, throughout the programme, delivered within each of the projects.

8. Procurement

8.1 There are a number of procurements that require approval through this report. As a result of continuous inflationary increases, we will be required to go out and test the market in order to ascertain the true costs of the works and services that will be required.

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- 8.2 Given the scale of the LUF programme, there are a number of procurement exercises that need to be delivered, with each of the projects running out of alignment, some will progress sooner rather than others. However, we will ensure to run each procurement at the earliest opportunity.
- 8.3 A subsequent Mayor and Cabinet report will be presented in early 2024 to seek approval for the remaining procurement exercises.
- 8.4 The report asks that Mayor and Cabinet:
- 8.5 Authorise officers to run a procurement of the required works and services for Project 1 by March 2026 totalling £3,965,000, including:
- Canopy construction - procured through an open procurement: invitation to tender by public advertisement. The canopies require a highly specialised provider able to deliver the specification. Competitive tendering process will ensure value for money.
 - Professional services - procured through the Technical Consultants Framework agreement. This route allows for quick contract mobilisation and reduced transaction costs. Rates will be agreed as per the appropriate frameworks agreement and contract fees will be agreed in advance for specific areas of work under the submission of a fee proposal to be agreed by the project manager.
 - Market equipment (including additional stalls) - procured through an open procurement: invitation to tender by public advertisement, on a fixed price supply only basis.
- 8.6 Authorise officers to run a procurement of the required works and services for Project 3 by March 2026 totalling £11,630,000, including:
- Specialist design services in respect of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation - procurement to be delivered through specialist design services and installed by existing highways measured term contractor
 - Street furniture
 - Clock tower restoration
- 8.7 Approve the variation of the measured term contract dated 1st April 2023 between the Council and FM Conway to include of public realm improvement works.
- 8.8 Due to the contract's high value and long duration (10 years), this route allows us to obtain significant economies of scale. This route allows for quick mobilisation, coordination and value of money.
- 8.9 Approve the variation of the PFI contract dated August 2011 between the Council and Milestone to include the provision of lighting and power.
- 8.10 Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to select an appropriate route for the delivery of street furniture and depending on that selection either: (i) authorise officers to run a procurement for a contract for delivery of street furniture or (ii) approve the variation of the measured term contract include the delivery of street furniture.
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- 8.12 To note the procurement of external consultants to deliver a programme evaluation – expert support with summative evaluation up to the to be delivered by 2027 with an indicative allocation of £50,000.
- 8.13 Open procurement route with requirement to test market and ITT to promote innovation and identify experienced provider.
- 8.14 In respect of each new procurement described above, delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to select the preferred providers in accordance with the selection criteria published in each of the tender documentations and agree and enter into the final form of contract to the preferred bidder in each case provided that the total value of the contracts to be entered into is no more than £15,690,000 in totality.

9. Risks

- 9.1 A number of key risks have been identified in the inception of the programme and as delivery has commenced. Robust risk registers are being maintained for each of the projects and at programme level and each risk is monitored continually.
- 9.2 Significant delays were caused by central government's late announcement of the funding followed by further delays through contracting and mobilisation. The LUF announcement was anticipated in the Autumn 2022, but was received at the end of January 2023 followed by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement and inception meeting taking place in March 2023 which has had an impact on the original delivery plans set out in the bid. Given each project is moving at the quickest pace possible, these projects are slightly out of alignment with each other in the RIBA design and delivery process. This means procurement decisions will need to be made on each project separately to sustain programme momentum. Delegating authority to the Executive Director to secure preferred providers at this stage of the LUF programme will ensure this momentum is sustained for each project.
- 9.3 We are currently liaising with DLUHC to submit a Project Adjustment Request, where we can submit a request to change the delivery timescales of the programme. DLUHC have agreed changes can be made up to 30% to project outcomes and outputs and spend between financial years without recourse to the department.
- 9.4 Since the bid submission, over a year ago, there has been a rise in material and labour costs. More detailed surveys have also been carried out that would not have been done at bid stage, that have identified the need for additional works that would not have been originally budgeted for.
- 9.5 The project teams are working with quantity surveyors to review the original bid costs in details, in line with reviewing the delivery plan for each of the projects. Concurrently, the project teams are looking at additional match funding opportunities. If no further funding is successfully secured, the team will have to explore value engineering, and potentially even risk having to de scope some of the original plans. What will have to be ensured, is that any changes requested will need to achieve the outputs and outcomes as committed to DLUHC through the terms of the fund.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 The Levelling Up Fund Grant has conditions attached to it to for the nature of spend & also the timeframe of the spend. These conditions will be monitored by DLUHC throughout the length of the projects, and if the conditions are not met then some of the grant may have to be returned. Any grant returned will mean a greater call on match funding from the council. The current grant amount is £19m, with £5m of match funding required (made up of £4m of CIL/S106 and £1m of Council funds), therefore making a total programme envelope of £24m.
- 10.2 The council has committed c£4m of s106 & CIL funding as part of the £5m match funding requirement. This funding could be used on other projects in the wider capital programme, so this can be seen as an opportunity cost.

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- 10.3 There is currently £1m of funding required that is assumed to be funded through a combination of the disposal of the Library Resource Centre and council funds, however if the proceeds of the disposal do not match the £1m funding requirement then there will be an assumed need to borrow externally. This borrowing would attract interest and the need to set aside Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and therefore would be cost to revenue. The council will continue to look for alternative sources of financing, such as additional grant from DLUHC, in order to reduce the potential risk of needing to borrow externally.
- 10.4 As detailed in the above section on the risks to the programme, there has been rises in costs to the programme that will have to be managed through value engineering & de scoping. Robust monitoring of the programme will be carried out to ensure the cost remains within the agreed funding envelope. Any costs outside this envelope will have to be taken to M&C for consideration.

11. Legal implications

- 11.1 The Council has power under section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to public law principles. There is no express prohibition, restriction or limitation contained in statute against the use of the Council's powers in the manner proposed in this report. The Council therefore has sufficient power to enter into the transactions proposed in this report.
- 11.2 Several new procurement exercises are recommended in this report. Any procurement must be conducted in accordance with the Council's constitution, including its contract procedure rules, and where applicable the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or any replacement legislation that may be introduced. Further specific advice in relation to each specific contract proposed should be obtained from the Council's Procurement and Legal teams to ensure compliance.
- 11.3 This report also seeks approval for variation of contracts to include additional works and/or services required to be delivered through the LUF programme. The Council's constitution and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 permit variations of contracts in certain specified circumstances, including where the modifications are not substantial. It is considered that the variations proposed in this report are not substantial, however further advice should be obtained from the Council's Legal Team at the point of variation to ensure compliance.
- 11.4 This report seeks approval to make a direct award of contract for management consultancy services for an indicative value of £45,000. The Council's constitution requires that for contracts of this value officers should seek four written quotations. However these rules may be waived in exceptional circumstances. This report explains why the exemption is required in this case.
- 11.5 Officers must continue to comply with any conditions of grant funding. Failure to do so may result in withholding or repayment of grant monies and/or termination of the agreement. Any variation to the grant agreement must be approved in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation and recorded in writing.

12. Equalities implications

- 12.1 Lewisham's Levelling Up Programme aims to have an overall positive equalities impact. Economic growth will enable the creation of more jobs within the town centre which could help address some of the existing inequalities in the local labour market. Changes to the street market could allow opportunities for new traders which can be targeted at groups who are currently under-represented in the profile of existing traders (e.g. Black residents, women, young people). The cultural and business hub will increase access to cultural activities and business opportunities for local residents, and again could be targeted to promote or attract people with a variety of protected equalities characteristics.

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- 12.2 A high level Equalities Analysis Assessment was carried out at bid level, but an in depth assessment will be carried out at project level for the high street/public realm and the Culture and Business Hub ensuring cohesion and consistency across both.
- 12.3 Throughout the delivery of the programme, appropriate milestones will be identified where we can engage directly with key groups throughout the design and testing phases.
- 12.4 We will work with the Lewisham Town Centre Partnership, and draw on existing relationships. As well as engaging with stakeholders previously involved with the Lewisham Disabled People's Commission.
- 12.5 Lewisham Disabled People's Commission Report, published in March 2023, sets out a number of recommendations that will be taken into consideration when delivering this programme. The report highlights a number of statistics and insights from engagement they have delivered for those who use, or don't use our town centres and high streets, and will inform some of the thinking particularly as we move into the design phases.
- 12.6 A brief is in development to engage with Jamie Hale, the former chair of the Lewisham Disabled People's Commission and we are mapping other key stakeholders to ensure that we have a range of input and perspectives during the design and delivery of the programme.
- 12.7 We will also ensure all communications and consultation documents are available in a range of formats, including easy-read.

13. Climate change and environmental implications

- 13.1 The projects being delivered through the Levelling Up Fund will have a positive biodiversity impact through the enhancements and greenery delivered through the high street. Enhanced greening will include planting of trees, as well as surface level planting and installation of green pocket spaces.
- 13.2 The programme will also have a positive environmental effect through, for example, improving the recycling rates of the street market and reducing food and other waste, and reducing the impact of the library building by improving insulation and updating machinery and plant.

14. Crime and disorder implications

- 14.1 Improvements to the public realm on the High Street will aim to reduce crime and improve actual and perceived safety. The programme will also improve economic prosperity for local residents, having a positive impact on reducing crime and disorder.

15. Health and wellbeing implications

- 15.1 Improved economic prosperity for local residents is expected to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

16. Background papers

- 16.1 [Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan Adoption](#) – 26 February 2014
- 16.2 [Lewisham High Street Headcount and Survey](#) – November 2021
- 16.3 [Mayor and Cabinet: Levelling Up Fund bid](#) – June 2022

17. Glossary

Term	Definition
Levelling Up	This is a term used by the Government to describe policies which aim to improve standards of living and to increase economic potential in different areas of the country

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Term	Definition
Levelling Up Fund (LUF)	A fund launched by the Government which is seeking bids to improve transport, town centres and culture in the UK
Public Realm	The space between and within buildings that is publicly accessible, including streets, squares, forecourts, parks and open spaces (definition from the London Plan).
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
RIBA	The RIBA Plan of Work organises the process of briefing, designing, constructing and operating building projects into eight stages and explains the stage outcomes, core tasks and information exchanges required at each stage.

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