



Full Council

Young Mayor's Budget and Overview

Date: 22nd November 2023

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Borough wide

Contributors: Young Mayor, Young Advisors, Advisers to the Young Mayor

Outline and recommendations

This report is set out into two sections:

1. An update for Full Council on the work of the Lewisham Young Mayor and Young Advisors for 2023.
2. Budget priorities from the Lewisham Young Mayor, Jentai Gen-One on spending of the Young Mayor's budget in 2023

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 8th February 2023, Jentai Gen- One was elected the eighteenth Lewisham Young Mayor of Lewisham and Llywella-Paige Hoban was elected Deputy Young Mayor. There was the most ballots counted in the history of the Young Mayor Election with a turnout of 58.27% with 9988 ballots counted. The range of ideas that now form the Young Mayor's Budget for 2023 have been taken from the Young Mayor manifesto pledges and developed over the last 6 months with the Young Advisors with input from the wider youth population.
- 1.2 The Young Mayor Election was moved to February 2023 where previously in previous years it had been in October. The current Young Mayor has been in post for 9 months with a further 3 months to deliver these proposals and contribute to the other areas of work. The next Young Mayor Election will be in February 2024.
- 1.3 This report is set out into two sections:
 - 1.3.1 An update for Full Council on the first nine months work of the Young Mayor and Young Advisors for 2023.
 - 1.3.2 Details from the Young Mayor, Jentai Gen-One on the spending of the Young Mayor's budget.
- 1.4 The Young Mayors budget is intended to provide improvements in services for children and young people in the borough. The Young Mayor for 2023 has a budget of £25,000 to be allocated after consultation with young people.
- 1.5 The report summarises for information the proposals which the 2023 Young Mayor is recommending to spend the £25,000.

2. Policy context

- 3.1 The Young Mayor Programme is a key priority for the Council in delivering on its commitment to giving children and young people the best start in life and building an inclusive local economy.
- 3.2 The Young Mayor Programme makes an important contribution to the objectives and priorities identified in the 2022-2026 Corporate Strategy. These priorities are:
 - Cleaner and Greener
 - A strong local economy
 - Quality Housing
 - Children and Young People
 - Safer Communities
 - Open Lewisham
 - Health and Wellbeing
- 3.3 The work of the Young Mayor and Young Advisors make a particular contribution to many of the outcomes set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Young Mayor Programme has been in place since April 2004. Jentai Gen-One is the eighteenth Young Mayor. Jentai Gen-One won the election on a turnout of 58.27% per cent which represents 9,988 young people voting.

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4. Budget Achievements of previous Young Mayors

- 4.1 Budget priorities from the former Young Mayor, Rosanna Campbell 2021/22 have continued to be delivered this year which have included creative youth led projects around aspects of young people's safety. Working with local voluntary youth groups including Sounds like Chaos, Lewisham Youth Theatre and BEin, with projects ranging from young people and domestic violence, young women's safety on the street and bullying. There is further work around wellbeing in September. Work to support the Halo code and the Tackling Race Inequality in Schools pledge continues Rosanna's interest and commitment to these discussions with young people, including peer training in schools. More opportunities to debate, understand and get involved in politics completes Rosanna's priorities.

The Bank of Things, the initiative developed from Young Mayor Femi Komolafe's 2020/21 budget continues to provide essential items for young people to succeed in education and life. In partnership with Lewisham Local, the Bank of Things supplies free toiletries and school supplies for young people in the borough at Unit 19 in Lewisham shopping centre. Bank of Things has recently started a community Fridge for young people, open Wednesdays and Fridays afterschool. At Unit 19 there is also support for young people to find support for college and work through Baseline and Lewisham Works.

5. Activities during 2023 by Young Mayor Jentai Gen- One, Deputy Young Mayor, Llywella-Paige Hoban and the Young Advisors Group

- 5.1 Since being elected in February 2023, the Young Mayor and Young Advisors have continued to represent their peers at the local, regional, national and international level. Working collaboratively with the Mayor and Cabinet, scrutiny committees, councillors, council officers, partner agencies and other key stakeholders, the Young Mayor and Young Advisors have made an important contribution to local policy development over the course of the last year. They have also continued to support projects that relate to and address issues which concern young people.
- 5.2 The Young Mayor and Young Advisors meet every Monday 5-7pm in the Civic Suite in Catford.

Colleagues, partners and community members join the meetings every week to find out from young people what their priorities are and ask them to contribute to policy development and projects across the borough. This is a key meeting every week for the group to also plan their own projects and discuss any issues of interest and concern.

The table below provides an update of some of the projects, work and activities that have been carried out by the Young Mayor and Young Advisors over the past nine months since the Young Mayor Election and inauguration in February 2023.

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Project or work area	Activity
Young Advisor's meetings	Regular meeting time 5-7pm Mondays for young people to plan and organise their activities and for partners, colleagues and peers to consult and discuss issues with the group. All face to face meetings, with an agenda with different speakers and discussions every week.
Employment and enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting opportunities for young people, activities, jobs and training through sharing on social media and through informal networks. Bank of Things working at unit 19 with Baseline and Youth Futures to create an accessible hub for young people in the borough to receive support. ▪ Students on work experience with the team. ▪ Working with the Downham Ambassadors ▪ Working with Economy and Business team to develop a business start-up competition for Lewisham schools – new Gen Business competition
Intergenerational activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working together with older people to build understanding through intergenerational projects ▪ Attending Positive Ageing Council meetings. ▪ Joint event for the Cultural Strategy ▪ Participating in Silver Sunday
Social justice and diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participating in debates and panels on social justice and diversity. Young people's voices and opinions being heard and shared with other community members and professionals such as the police and others, to help create change and influence policy making. ▪ Young Mayor Team working with young people in schools around anti-racism and equality and in Lewisham – workshops in schools. Feeding into the Race Inequality in Education pledge. ▪ Champions of Inclusion meetings working with Lewisham special schools. ▪ Drumbeat Autism Hub workshops and sharing space. ▪ Brent Knoll School workshops. ▪ Food poverty and justice discussions with councillors on how to support young people and schools, and link to national campaign.
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young people learning and contributing to public health strategies and young people's services. ▪ Meeting with Public Health about revisiting Young Champions ▪ Discussion on the development and progress of the Young Peoples GP service in New Cross. ▪ Contributing to and finding out about services for young people with mental health issues; Kooth. ▪ Understanding Ithrive and the Family Hubs ▪ Discussion on the development of the Lewisham Health and Care People's partnership committee and young people's role.

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Project or work area	Activity
Environmental issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How to work towards carbon neutrality and address the Climate Emergency. ▪ Meeting with colleagues in the climate emergency team, supporting the development of the schools climate network ▪ Contributing to Food network discussion
Community safety, policing and youth justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with the Public Safety team around Violence Reduction and the Public Health approach to serious youth violence. ▪ Contributing to the Appreciative Inquiry about domestic violence and being safe ▪ Contributing to the Youth Offending Service management board. ▪ Representing Young Advisors on the youth advising police groups ▪ Discussions and feedback on the Stop and Search charter.
Housing and regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributing to the consultation with Team Catford including a discussion on affordable housing. ▪ Working with Lewisham Homes engagement team about the needs and interests of young people and assessing young people's projects for the funding pot. ▪ Participating in the consultation around Lewisham shopping centre redevelopment ▪ Research on homes in London with Centre for London
Sports, arts and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feeding into Borough of Culture legacy discussions and the Cultural strategy ▪ Developing relationships with community organisations to help provide summer events and "vibes" for young people in the borough ▪ Delivering basketball tournament and Skating event during the summer holidays
Working with schools and colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visits to primary, secondary schools and colleges: campaigning, raising awareness, budget consultations and feedback through assemblies, citizenship days and school councils. Supporting other young people at exhibitions, achievement events and activities. ▪ Anti-racism and Equalities workshops with 10 schools developing the peer training aspect. ▪ Equalities events for schools at the Civic suite. ▪ Primary school visit to civic suite and school visits. ▪ Drumbeat Autism Hub and Brent knoll workshops. ▪ Resources and young mayor campaign and election in all secondary schools and colleges. ▪ Polling station training. ▪ International Women's Day event. ▪ LGBTQI+ History month event at the Civic Suite.

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Project or work area	Activity
Working with Children and Young People Directorate and Youth Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting with CYP Select Committee to discuss priorities including amplifying young people’s voices paper. ▪ Recruiting Education Psychologist// Early Help Head of Service / Head of SEND/ Head of Lewisham Learning. ▪ Contributing young people’s voices to the Safeguarding Partnership Board and developing young scrutineer role. ▪ Developing partnership with Baseline, Advice and information in Unit 19. ▪ Consultation and discussion on the Play Strategy. ▪ Consultation on Education Strategy. ▪ Contributing to SEND Strategy and meeting with Head of SEND. ▪ Contributing to Participation Strategy. ▪ Training and evaluation of Holiday Activity Fund projects. ▪ Meeting with and developing relationships with the Children in Care Council and identifying priorities
Community events and organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending community events representing young people, recognising achievement, encouraging participation, cohesion and volunteering. • Volunteering at “Bank of Things” • YM/YAs judging Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. • Comm Unity Space Celebration. • Supporting the My London Youth Action Group. • Meeting youth groups who are applying for funding pot and attending resulting performances and workshops. • Windrush 75 years and activism event. • Speaking at VRU event on youth spaces. • Planning and participating in the Black Leadership Conference at Goldsmiths
Working with politicians and engagement with politics and public life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people developing knowledge and understanding of party politics and democratic engagement which can then be shared with their peers. • Attending CYP Select Committee meeting. • Meeting with MPs and working on particular issues • Working with Councillors on Food Poverty campaign • Meeting with cabinet member for CYP to discuss priorities • Attending Lewisham Strategic Partnership meetings to ensure Young People’s voices are part of planning for the future. • Meeting with Mayor

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Project or work area	Activity
UK Youth Parliament (UKYP), British Youth Council (BYC) and other regional and national work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engagement with the national Youth Voice Strategies and meeting other young people who are representing their areas. ▪ Participating in London Youth Assembly meetings and online. ▪ Attending the UK Youth Parliament meetings and contributing to the national campaign. ▪ Attending BYC conventions and meeting other young people who are active in their communities across London and the South East. ▪ Attending UKYP sitting at House of Commons
European visits and welcoming visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Erasmus+: Youth Mobility Projects (European funded projects) with youth groups in Alingsas near Gothenburg, Sweden. Prague 7, Czech Republic, Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal and Portici in Italy. Young people creating relationships, working and sharing ideas and aspirations about being European, raising aspirations and being part of a wider world. ▪ Our final visit to Santa Maria da Feira in Portugal was in February Half term holidays, the final stage of a tripartite project with Portici in Italy ▪ These have ceased due to Brexit and the UK not being part of the Erasmus funding programme. ▪ The replacement programme does not offer the same funding opportunities, so we have been unable to organise any further visits ▪ We maintain our relationships with colleagues, so we have the potential in the future to revisit at least online.
Civic events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young Advisers attend events to recognise the importance for the wider community of events with important historical roots. Recognising achievements and being involved in and learning about other civic institutions. As elected representatives this is part of the role and is important both for them to attend and for others to see they recognise and take these responsibilities seriously. ▪ Holocaust Memorial Day event ▪ Meeting and working with Lewisham's Mayoresses. ▪ Attending Full Council ▪ Windrush 75-year celebration events ▪ LBL Staff awards ▪ Remembrance Sunday service

6. Developing the participation strategy across the borough

6.1 The Young Mayor Team are developing how they work with the Children in Care council and young people leaving care to see how the groups can collaborate to feed into the corporate parenting strategy, service improvement and other decision-making processes.

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6.2 Working with the Youth Justice Service to developing opportunities to identify priorities and find opportunities for young people to contribute to decision making and influencing policy in the borough.

6.3 Bring together internal and external voluntary and community sector groups of young people to share experiences, expectations and opportunities to develop young people's participation across the borough.

7. The Young Mayor's Budget Proposals 2023 Young Mayor Jentai Gen- One

7.1 Consultation

7.1.1 The Young Mayor has worked closely with both the Young Advisors and with schools and youth organisations in identifying how to best spend the allocated budget. Initial ideas for spending proposals were gathered from a range of sources, including from candidate's manifestos and the election campaign. These were then discussed at Young Advisors meetings and with groups in the community and colleagues in the council, to see what would be possible and sustainable moving forward.

7.1.3 There are lots of issues that young people are interested in and concerned about these include:

- Informal education, youth services, places to go and things to do
- Arts, sports and performance opportunities
- Employment and enterprise opportunities
- Healthy Living and lifestyles, mental health and wellbeing
- How to support work with faith groups, and diverse projects
- Environment issues, plastic waste, air pollution and rubbish
- Being safe, working together to help everyone feel and be safe
- The cost-of-living crisis and food poverty
- School: what we learn and why, linking school to working life, support in school.
- Equalities and challenging prejudice and discrimination, understanding each other.

8. Budget Priorities for 2023

8.1 Having worked with the Young Advisors these proposals reflect many of the interests, concerns and experience of young people in the borough as well as manifesto commitments. Young Mayor, Jentai Gen- One and Deputy, Llywella- Paige Hoban have spent the first half of their term in office talking to other young people, participating in community events and projects and representing the young people of Lewisham. Combined with some of their original ideas in their manifestos, they drew up some areas for what the budget of £25,000 budget should be spent on.

Jentai and Llywella were keen to make sure their proposals are sustainable and carry on some of the work already started, in order to support young people in the borough and reach as many as possible. While addressing young people's real and current concerns and priorities.

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The Young Mayor budget 2023 has three main areas:

8.1.2 **Our Futures – opportunities to learn what we need so we can have the best future**

- Business start-up competition in schools for young people who are interested in being an entrepreneur – with support to further our ideas and create our business futures
- Curriculum for Life and work experience – what else we need to learn to build our futures
- Develop a Young People’s Climate Campaign – the future of the world

Cost £12,000

8.1.3 **Our Voices – opportunities to share our views, and amplify the voices of young people in the borough**

- Working in partnership to create a radio station for young people in the borough to share opinions and ideas as well as music, so young people’s voices can be heard across the borough.

Cost £10,000

8.1.4 **Our Vibes – opportunities to socialise, enjoy, and be proud of our borough**

Community Events with “vibes” for young people, run in partnership with groups in the borough

For example; a Basketball tournament, Roller Skating, Dance Event, BMX and mountain biking so we can have fun and share what good things Lewisham has to offer, to change the narrative.

Cost £3,000

8.1.5 **Total Cost £25,000.00**

9. Progress and Evaluation

9.1 The new Young Mayor and Young Advisors will report progress in implementing these proposals to Youth forums, School Councils, Mayor and Cabinet and on social media.

9.2 An ongoing consultation and evaluation process will take place with local young people through School Councils, the Voluntary and Community Sector and People’s Day, as well as the B-involved website.

10. **Financial implications**

The cost of the proposed programme is £25,000 and will be met from the budget for the Young Mayor’s programme.

There are no financial implications arising from this report as there is a specific budget for this area.

The term of office of the young mayor is from February to February – the £25k spend will be incurred in the financial year 2023/24.

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11. Legal implications

11.1 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers the local authority to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of all or any persons within the local authority's area. It enables the Council to incur expenditure under these wellbeing powers which could include a budget for the Young Mayor. The sum of £25,000 is a reasonable for the purposes outlined in the report.

12. Equality Implications

12.1 The Young Mayor and Young Advisors have considered the equalities implications in all of the proposals and will ensure an inclusive approach to all activities undertaken. For example working with the special schools and groups such as Looked after Children and Young Carers who might find it more difficult to participate.

12.2 The various activities described in this report (e.g.: intergenerational activities; healthy lifestyles; social justice and diversity; environmental issues; community safety, policing and youth justice and education & employment) make an important contribution to the five objectives of the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016-20 as follows:

- Tackle victimisation discrimination and harassment
- Improve access to services
- Close the gap in outcomes between citizens
- Increase mutual understanding and respect within and between communities
- Increase participation and engagement

The activities described in this report will benefit all protected characteristics, but in particular that of age. Lewisham's population is driven by the birth rate and one in four Lewisham residents is aged 0-19.

Although socio-economic status is not a characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2020, the activities described in this report will also make a contribution to tackling socio-economic inequality. Nearly one in four Lewisham children under 16 live in a low income household (over three in ten after housing costs have been considered). The Young Mayor's proposals for the coming year, includes specific proposals to tackle poverty affecting children and young people living in the borough.

13. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 There are no negative environmental implications arising from this report. The Young Mayor is investing in developing a young people's campaign with part of the his budget this year which will work directly with the Council to promote the implications of climate change and be part of the Council's response to the climate emergency.

14. Crime and Disorder Implications

14.1 There are no negative crime and disorder implications arising from this report. The Young Mayor's proposals relate to the development of activities, resources and information that will provide young people with diversionary activities, contribute to community initiatives and provide opportunities for young people to address issues concerned with their safety.

15. Health and wellbeing implications

15.1 There are no negative health implications arising from this report. The Young Mayor

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and Young Advisors will continue to support public health projects and contribute to involving and representing young people in discussions around health and wellbeing. They have a long standing interest in young people's mental health and well-being in the borough and remain keen to contribute and support young people where possible.

16. Report Author and contact

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