



Mayor and Cabinet

Young Mayor's Annual Report

Date: 29th January 2025

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 Mayor and Cabinet on the work of the Lewisham Young Mayor and Young Advisors for 2024.
2. Budget priorities from the Lewisham Young Mayor, Bilvilyn Asamoah on spending of the Young Mayor's budget in 2024

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 7th February 2024, Bilvilyn Asamoah was elected the nineteenth Lewisham Young Mayor of Lewisham and Paul Frimpong was elected Deputy Young Mayor. The turnout was 57.46% with 9485 ballots counted. The range of ideas that now form the Young Mayor's Budget for 2024 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 in 2023 where 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 2025.
- 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 2024.
 - 1.3.2 Details from the Young Mayor, Bilvilyn Asamoah 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 2024 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 2024 Young Mayor is recommending to be spent from the £25,000 budget.

2. Policy context

- 2.1 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 and is included in the Council's constitution.
- 2.2 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. Background

- 3.1 The Young Mayor Programme has been in place since April 2004. Bilvilyn Asamoah is the nineteenth Young Mayor. This is the 20th Anniversary of the Young Mayor in Lewisham, having had one year without an Election in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic. Bilvilyn Asamoah won the election on a turnout of 57.46% per cent which represents 9,485 young people voting.

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4. Budget Achievements of previous Young Mayors

- 4.1 The budget priorities of former Young Mayor Jentai Gen- One 23/24 have continued to be delivered this year include opportunities to socialise, enjoy, and be proud of our borough. “Bringing vibes to Lewisham” where activities including a basketball tournament and roller-skating event provided free, safe community based activities for young people in the borough.

With partners, the Young Mayor and Young Advisors have put a huge amount of work into creating Radio Lewisham for young people in the borough, so young people’s voices can be heard, and it can be a platform for sharing young people’s talents. Radio Lewisham is based at Lewisham Music and offers training for young people and opportunities for young people’s groups across the borough to get involved and create their own radio shows.

An enterprise programme has been started and there will be opportunities for young people to take part in “bitesized” workshops followed by more in-depth support for developing their business and enterprise ideas. We will be working with partners in the business community to develop it further.

Budget priorities from the former Young Mayor, Rosanna Campbell 2021/22 included creative youth led projects around aspects of young people’s safety. Supporting 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 anti -racism workshops continue to take place in secondary schools and primary schools across the borough and the Lewisham Great Debate was also an idea from Rosanna’s time in office.

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. At Unit 19 there is also support for young people to find support for college and work through Baseline and Lewisham Works. This year has seen pop up activities in local youth and community venues, to reach those young people who don’t access the shopping centre. Bank of Things also operates from the Family Hubs.

5. Activities during 2024 by Young Mayor Bilvilyn Asamoah, Deputy Young Mayor, Paul Frimpong and the Young Advisors Group

- 5.1 Since being elected in February 2024, 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 from previous Young Mayors.
- 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

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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 2024.

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 Economy and Partners team to develop a young people's business project Lewisham New Gen Enterprises ▪ Meeting with Urban Synergy to develop ideas for supporting young people into work ▪ Young Mayor contributing to Green Futures careers event at Goldsmiths ▪ Discussion about the Youth Hub being developed in Downham.

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Project or work area	Activity
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. ▪ Running teacher training sessions on anti-racism in schools ▪ Champions of Inclusion meetings working with Lewisham special schools. Steering group of young people leading school's forum and contributing to interviewing and policy development. ▪ Drumbeat Autism Hub workshops and sharing space. ▪ Brent Knoll School workshops. ▪ 2 x Champions of Inclusion Schools Forum led by young people from the steering group. ▪ Contributing to Food Justice Action Plan ▪ Food poverty and justice discussions with councillors on how to support young people and schools, and link to national campaign. ▪ International Women's Day event for secondary schools ▪ Human Rights Day for schools at the Civic Suite – exploring young peoples' rights. ▪ Reviewing the Risk and Resilience Training with Metro Charity
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 ▪ Contributing to and finding out about services for young people with mental health issues; Kooth/Tellmi ▪ Understanding Ithrive and contributing to the Family Hubs ▪ Contributing to Mental Health Action plan and survey regarding the Youth Hub in the south of the borough ▪ Sharing ideas for developing a young people's health research group
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 and assemblies ▪ Contributing to Food network discussion ▪ Young Advisors planting trees at Beckenham Place Park and discussions around further work with schools and young people in the park. ▪ Young Advisors speaking at Seeds of Hope and Action Exhibition launch at Goldsmiths

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Project or work area	Activity
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 Youth Offending Service management board. ▪ Representing Young Advisors on the independent youth advising police groups ▪ Discussions and feedback on the New Met charter. ▪ Discussions with community policing on young people's relationships, including stop and search ▪ Young people speaking at the BRIDGE event at the Savoy Hotel ▪ Discussion about Integrated Adolescent board
Housing and regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participating in the consultation around Lewisham shopping centre redevelopment ▪ Focus group about the levelling up and redevelopment of Lewisham Town Centre ▪ Women and Girls safety walk for the Lewisham Town centre redevelopment ▪ Attending the public engagement launch for Lewisham Town Centre ▪ Workshop on the redesign of Lewisham Library with the architect team. ▪ Young Advisors participating in a film supporting the extension of the Bakerloo line ▪ Creating a video to record the redevelopment of Riverside Youth Club
Sports, arts and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feeding into Borough of Culture legacy; through the Cultural Education Partnership Theory of Change ▪ Young Advisors co-facilitating 2 workshops for young people feeding directly into the Cultural Education Partnership. ▪ Representing young people at the SEEN festival launch ▪ Developing relationships with community organisations to help provide summer events ▪ Delivering basketball tournament and Skating event during the summer holidays ▪ Young Advisors attend Hamilton the musical on a subsidised youth day as a teambuilding activity. ▪ Working with Lewisham Music to launch Radio Lewisham

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Project or work area	Activity
Working with schools and colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visits to primary, secondary schools and colleges: campaigning, raising awareness, assemblies, citizenship days and school councils. Supporting other young people at exhibitions, achievement events and activities. ▪ Anti-racism and Equalities workshops and peer training. ▪ Peer training rolled out at three secondary schools, delivering to year 6 and 7s. ▪ Equalities events for schools at the Civic suite. ▪ Human Rights Day for schools at the Civic suite ▪ Primary school visits 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. ▪ TRIIE teacher training ▪ The Great Lewisham Debate with St Matthew Academy for other secondary schools ▪ Discussion with schools about creating podcasts and access to Radio training at Radio Lewisham ▪ Transition year 6 anti -racism workshops
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. ▪ Contributing young people’s voices to the Safeguarding. Partnership Board ▪ Contributing to SEND Strategy and meeting with Head of SEND and SEND Inspection ▪ Champions’ of Inclusion steering group, forum and schools workshops ▪ Contributing to CYP Participation Strategy. ▪ Meeting with and developing relationships with the Children in Care Council and identifying priorities – working together on the Black history event and Radio Lewisham ▪ Young Advisors contributing to the Youth Service review over 6 months ▪ Young Advisors contributing to the Youth Service Task and Finish Group ▪ Developing a partnership with Lewisham Music, Undeniable and Bloomsbury Institute to launch Radio Lewisham ▪ Ongoing training for young people at Radio Lewisham ▪ Working with the HAF programme to deliver Radio Training at Lewisham Music during the summer holidays. ▪ Working with Elevate, the leaving care team on Black History Month events and Radio Training ▪ Supporting other Lewisham young people’s groups to access radio training ▪ Visit from youth group from Northern Ireland to share ideas about sexual health services for young people ▪ Young Advisors Team visit to Macaroni Woods residential centre in partnership with Lewisham Youth Theatre

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Project or work area	Activity
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 • Supporting Bank of Things Summer pop up events and Black History month campaign. • YM/YAs judging Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. • Young Mayor speaking at Phoenix Housing AGM • S Factor Open day and awards • Voluntary sector partnership to deliver basketball tournament and roller skating event during the summer • Young Advisors participating in (and winning) community cook off. • Young Advisors key notes presentation at Lewisham Black Voluntary Sector conference
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. • 2 x Young Advisors attending and contributing to every CYP Select Committee • Meeting with MPs and working on particular issues • 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 • Young Advisors interviewing x 3 senior director positions within the council including the Youth Strategy lead, Head of Prevention and Early Health and the Director of Quality and Investments • Attending and supporting the Positive Aging council and intergenerational activity • Working with colleagues in Communications to develop a Young Mayor's Tick Tock channel to increase how young people can learn about and communicate with the Young Mayor and the council. •
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, meeting with Lewisham and Greenwich Assembly member, visiting City Hall and online meetings.. ▪ Attending the UK Youth Parliament meetings and contributing to the national campaign. ▪ Attending UKYP sitting at House of Commons ▪ Contributing to GLA mentoring research and young advisor presenting the results at conference.

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Project or work area	Activity
European visits and welcoming visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We maintain our relationships with colleagues, from our Erasmus+ work with Sweden, Portugal, Czech Republic, who we know form the Erasmus programme so we have the potential in the future to revisit at least online. Young people creating relationships, working and sharing ideas and aspirations about being European, raising aspirations and being part of a wider world. ▪ The Erasmus+ visits have ceased due to Brexit and the UK not being part of the Erasmus funding programme. ▪ SALAR the Swedish local government organisation brought politicians from across the regions to meet with the Young Mayor team and Young Advisors to hear about young people's participation in the local authority.
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. ▪ Meeting and working with Lewisham's Mayoress. ▪ Attending Full Council ▪ Armed Forces Day ▪ Remembrance Sunday Service
Young Mayor Archiving and 20 Year Anniversary celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Advisors and the team have been working with the Lewisham archivist at Catford library to archive the work of the Young Mayor and Young Advisors over the last 20 years. • We have had 6 sessions to collate materials into archive boxes and an exhibition has been created for the Black Leadership Conference and at the celebration on the 6th November 2024 • Event planned with current and past Young Advisors to celebrate 20 years of the Young Mayor for all those who have been involved over the year.

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6. Contributing to the Youth Service Review

6.1 Over the year the Young Mayor and Young Advisors have contributed through workshops and discussions to the Youth Service review which has been taking place over the last year. This includes working with the consultant who was brought in to develop the youth offer.

The Young Advisors also met with elected members Task and Finish group and were at the CYP Select Committee so were able to contribute their views.

6.2 Young Advisors also formed an interview panel with young people from the Leaving care team, for the Youth Offer Strategic Manager position, who will implement the Youth Service review.

7. The Young Mayor's Budget Proposals 2024 Young Mayor Bilvilyn Asamoah

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 and community, to see what would be possible and sustainable moving forward. The Young Mayor also used social media, specifically to gain feedback on ideas for the budget.

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

- youth services, places to go and things to do
- Arts, sports and performance tournament and opportunities to play different schools and showcase talent.
- Voices of young people being heard and listened too about the things that matter to them.
- Employment and enterprise opportunities
- Environment issues, climate emergency, 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
- Equalities and challenging prejudice and discrimination, understanding each other.
- Healthy Living and lifestyles, mental health and wellbeing
- Opportunities for young people with SEND

8. Budget Priorities for 2024

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, Bilvilyn Asamoah and Deputy, Paul Frimpong have spent the first nine months of their term in office talking to other young people, participating in community events and projects and representing the young people of Lewisham. As usual they followed through on some of the commitments of the previous Young

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Mayor. 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.

Young Mayor Bivilyn has created a Tick Tock channel to better communicate with Young People where they are, this is being established and will be an ongoing communication mechanism for the Young Mayor going forward.

Bivilyn and Paul 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.

The Young Mayor budget 2024 has three main areas:

8.1.2 **Opportunities to experience and explore different workplaces and careers.**

- Working with Urban Synergy to offer work experience and mentoring opportunities to young people.
- To link in with existing Young Mayor Projects, to offer opportunities in the media sector and diversity, equality and inclusion divisions.
- Support young people to experience and take up opportunities to work for the Council.
- Partner with schools so the opportunities available at Urban Synergy are widely available.

Cost £12,000

8.1.3 **Creating opportunities for young people to stay healthy and socialise safely**

Working with voluntary and community sector organisations to provide ongoing sports and healthy activities such as basketball and football tournaments, skating events and others as identified by young people

Cost £6,000

8.1.4 **Radio Lewisham – a space for everyone**

Enabling training sessions for different groups within Lewisham who want to learn how to make their own radio show. To showcase local talent and hear the views of a wide range of young people and organisations in the borough. Ensuring Radio Lewisham is sustainable and open to as many young people as possible.

Cost £7,000

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.

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9.2 An ongoing consultation and evaluation process will take place with local young people through School Councils, and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 The Council has set aside a budget of £25,000 for discretionary spend by the Young Mayor in 2024/25.
- 10.2 The total cost of the proposed programme set out in section 8 of this report is £25,000. The programme will be implemented during the current Young Mayor's term of office which ends in February 2025 so all costs will fall into the current financial year.
- 10.3 Since the spend is in line with the budget available there are no additional financial implications on the Council's General Fund.

11. Legal implications

- 11.1 Section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011 permits the Council to do anything an individual can do, unless prohibited by law (and subject to public law principles). The Council therefore has sufficient powers to deliver the proposed programme of expenditure recommended by the Young Mayor. Any contract or other agreement entered into pursuant to the recommendations in this report must comply with the Council's constitutional requirements.

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

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- 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 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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