

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report Title	Response to referral by the Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel on the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration		
Class	Open	Date:	19 April 2017

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report is the Executive Director's response to comments made by the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel concerning the perceived obsolescence of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020. It sets out proposals for the evaluation and update or replacement of the strategy.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Mayor:

- 2.1 Approves the responses from the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration to the comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel
- 2.2 Agrees that officers undertake the proposed evaluation of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020.
- 2.3 Agrees that this report should be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 9 March 2017 the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel considered the key decisions made by the Mayor at the meeting of Mayor and Cabinet on 1 March 2017.
- 3.2 In considering the decision relating to the Proposed London Borough of Lewisham (Heathside and Lethbridge Estate, Lewisham – Phase 6) Compulsory Purchase Order 2017 the Business Panel noted the Mayor's decision and agreed to make the following comments to Mayor and Cabinet:
- 3.3 The Business Panel believes the current Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020 is now obsolete following the numerous changes that had occurred since it was first written. The Business Panel requests that the Mayor ask officers to update this strategy as soon as possible.
- 3.4 The Mayor acknowledged the Strategy had been written in a completely different political and economic environment and he asked officers to consider whether the Strategy could be updated or should be differently replaced and report back to him.

4. Response

- 4.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020 was developed following consultation with Lewisham residents, public sector agencies, local business, voluntary and community sector organisations. It set out Lewisham's vision that: 'Together, we will make Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn.'
- 4.2 The strategy set out six priorities that reflected the concerns and aspirations of Lewisham's citizens. The strategy aimed to build and support sustainable communities that are:
1. **Ambitious and achieving:** where people are inspired and supported to their potential;
 2. **Safer:** where people feel safe and live free from crime, antisocial behaviour and abuse;
 3. **Empowered and responsible:** where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities;
 4. **Clean, green and liveable:** where people live in high quality housing and can care for and enjoy their environment;
 5. **Healthy, active and enjoyable:** where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being;
 6. **Dynamic and prosperous:** where people are part of vibrant communities and town centres, well connected to London and beyond.
- 4.3 The strategy was produced at a time when local authorities had a statutory duty to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy under the Local Government Act 2000. These strategies also underpinned Local Area Agreements, established by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The duty to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreements were both abolished by the Coalition Government in 2010.
- 4.4 Far from being obsolete, however, the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020 continues to be a bold aspiration that stretches and motivates the council and its partners to set priorities and deliver services. It remains an essential part of the policy context for council decision making.
- 4.5 As the Mayor has identified, however, the political and economic context has changed dramatically since 2008. In order to test its continued relevance, it is proposed that officers undertake an evaluation and make proposals for the update or replacement of the strategy.
- 4.6 Officers recognise the urgency identified in the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel comments and therefore propose to report on the outcome of that evaluation to Mayor and Cabinet in May 2017.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications.

7. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications.

8. Equalities Implications

8.1 The Council's Comprehensive Equality Scheme (CES) for 2016-20 provides an overarching framework and focus for the Council's work on equalities and describes the Council's commitment to equality for citizens, service users and employees. The CES is underpinned by a set of high level strategic objectives which incorporate the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty. Any update to the Sustainable Community Strategy or a replacement strategy will need to adhere to these objectives.

9. Environmental Implications

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications.

Background Documents

Shaping Our Future: Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies/Documents/Sustainable%20Community%20Strategy%202008-2020.pdf>

Report to 1 March 2017 Mayor and Cabinet: Proposed London Borough of Lewisham (Heathside and Lethbridge Estate, Lewisham – Phase 6) Compulsory Purchase Order 2017:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=4356>

Report to 9 March 2017 Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel: Decisions made by Mayor and Cabinet on 1 March 2017

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=4321>

Report to 22 March Mayor and Cabinet: Report Back on Matters Raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel or other Constitutional Bodies:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=4357>

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