

**QUESTION No. 1**  
**Priority 1**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**17 JANUARY 2018**

**Question by Councillor Walsh**  
**of the Cabinet member for Third Sector and Community**

**Question**

Lewisham has a sizeable LGBT+ population, twice that of the national average according to Council reports. Please highlight some of the LGBT History Month programme we can look forward to next month in Lewisham?

**Reply**

Lewisham's LGBTQ+ Forum has been working with partners across the borough to organise a programme of events to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month. This will culminate with a showing of Veronica McKenzie's film "Under Your Nose" which details the struggle to establish the first Black Lesbian and Gay centre in London during the 1980s.

All of Lewisham's libraries are hosting book displays with new stock, reading groups have selected a book written by a LGBTQ+ author for February and libraries will be showing LGBTQ+ themed films throughout the month. Lewisham Library will be hosting a series of health lectures on the theme of sexual health for gay and lesbian people.

The Lewisham Council LGBTQ+ staff forum is hosting a free film screening for all staff of "David is Homosexual" at Beckenham Place Park on 1<sup>st</sup> February. This is a short movie filmed in the summer of 1976 by members of the Lewisham branch of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE). The film follows lonely, isolated office clerk David as he discovers CHE, makes new friends and blossoms into a happy and out gay man.

The Metro Centre, as the Council funded organisation will be using the higher profile provided by LGBT History Month for increased outreach work to promote greater awareness and understanding of LGBT issues as well as providing information about the services that are available in the borough. This will be done through social media, use of posters and leaflets in public spaces and attendance at meetings and events. The organisation will also continue to work with the Lewisham LGBTQ+ Forum in developing a wider programme of events for the month.

Furthermore LGBTQ+ month events will be promoted via a dedicated page on our website and other council channels including social media, our 40,000-strong email marketing list and the homepage of the website.

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**17 JANUARY 2018**

**Question by Councillor Hall**  
**of the Mayor**

**Question**

How will Lewisham Council respond to the Draft Local Government Settlement published on 19th December?

**Reply**

The draft Local Government Settlement offered little change and no new money for the sector as a whole from central government. As I reported to Council at the time of the Autumn Budget in November, this is very disappointing given the growing population, rising demand for Council services as other services are reduced, and increasing costs with inflation running above 3%.

The four year settlement (and associated funding reductions) announced for 2016/17, running to 2019/20, was confirmed along with the arrangements for the Adult Social Care precept and funding for the improved Better Care Fund. No further changes were made to the reduced New Homes Bonus arrangements.

The per pupil schools funding announced by the Department for Education in a separate but related announcement at the same time was broadly in line with the Council's expectations.

The two notable changes for 2018/19, one national and one for London, were:

- The option for Councils to raise a further 1% of Council Tax in 2018/19 before triggering a referendum (so 2.99% up from 1.99%); and
- Agreement confirmed for the creation of a pilot London pool for Business Rates in line with proposals considered by Council on the 22 November.

All the implications of these and the other technical points related to the Council's budget are now being considered and will be presented in the draft budget report for pre-scrutiny at the Public Accounts Select Committee before Mayor & Cabinet on the 7 February and Council on the 21 February.