



Mayor and Cabinet

Report title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee - requests for further information

Date: 12 February 2020

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Executive Director for Corporate Services (Scrutiny Manager)

Outline and recommendations

This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's requests for further information arising from the question and answer session with Cabinet Members, held on 27 January 2020. The Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the requests of the committee and agree to provide a response.

- Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the requests for further information set out in section 4 below and ensure that a response is provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1. Summary

1. This report informs Mayor and Cabinet of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's requests for further information arising from the question and answer session with Cabinet Members, held on 27 January 2020. The Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the requests of the committee and agree to provide a response.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Mayor and Cabinet is recommended to note the views of the committee as set out in section four of this referral and agree to provide a response.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. The strategic priorities of the Council's [Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022](#) are:

[Open Lewisham](#) - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.

[Tackling the housing crisis](#) - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.

[Giving children and young people the best start in life](#) - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.

[Building an inclusive local economy](#) - Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.

[Delivering and defending: health, social care and support](#) - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.

[Making Lewisham greener](#) - Everyone enjoys our green spaces, and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.

[Building safer communities](#) - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

- 3.2. The work carried out by Cabinet Members directly contributes to the Council's corporate priorities.

4. Overview and Scrutiny Committee's views

- 4.1. At its meeting on Monday 27 January 2020, the Committee held a question and answer session with Councillor Kevin Bonavia, Cabinet Member for Democracy, Refugees and Accountability; Councillor Paul Bell, Cabinet Member for Housing; and Councillor Amanda de Ryk, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources. The Cabinet Members agreed to look into the following issues and provide a response to the Committee:

Democracy, Refugees and Accountability Portfolio

- **Polling stations** – Can the accessibility of polling stations be reviewed and information provided on whether all polling stations used for the forthcoming London Mayoral and Assembly elections will be fully accessible.
- **No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)** – Can further information be provided on the content and date of the “general training day” for NRPF officers and on the organisation that will be delivering the training.
- **School Admissions Publicity** – Can the communications plan relating to school admissions (with the aim of ensuring that parents are properly informed about the process and their options) be sent to members of the Children and Young People Select Committee, once prepared.
- **Citizen Engagement** – Can some examples of consultation activities where

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there has been good feedback to participating residents be provided.

Housing Portfolio

- **Domestic Violence** – Can a briefing be circulated on the work being carried out in relation to the Domestic Abuse Bill and the potential changes to the allocations scheme in relation to survivors of domestic violence.

Finance and Resources Portfolio

- **School Meals** – Can some further information on the in-sourcing of the school meals contract, including timelines and implications for schools, be provided.
- **Council Tax** – Can reassurance be provided that the Council correctly applies the council tax reduction for students.

Environment and Transport Portfolio

- **Cycle racks** – Can an update on officer efforts to make renting a bicycle rack more affordable, following the rent increase that was put in place following the end of TfL funding, be provided. (*Matter arising from minutes of the last meeting*)

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 7.2. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

8. Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

9. Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

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10. **Health and wellbeing implications**

10.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

11. **Background papers**

11.1. [Executive Question Time – OSC report, 27.01.20](#)

12. **Report contact**

12.1. *Charlotte Dale, Scrutiny Manager, charlotte.dale@lewisham.gov.uk 020 8314 8286*

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