



Public Accounts Select Committee

Report title: Comments of the Healthier Communities Select Committee on budget cuts

Date: 2 February 2021

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Assistant Chief Executive (Scrutiny Manager)

Outline and recommendation

This report informs Public Accounts Select Committee of the views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on Wednesday 13 January 2021 on the second round of proposed budget cuts.

- The Public Accounts Select Committee is recommended to note the views of the committee and include these in its referral to Mayor and Cabinet.

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report informs the Public Accounts Select Committee of the views of Healthier Communities Select Committee arising from discussions held at its meeting on Wednesday 13 January 2021 on the second round of proposed budget cuts.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Public Accounts Select Committee is recommended to note the views of the committee as set out in section four of this referral and include these in its referral to Mayor and Cabinet.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. The Council's *Corporate Strategy 2018-2022* outlines the Council's vision to deliver for residents and includes the following priority relevant to this item:
 1. ***Delivering and defending: health, social care and support*** - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.

4. Healthier Communities Select Committee views

- 4.1. At its meeting on Wednesday 13 January 2021, the Healthier Communities Select Committee received a report on the second round of proposed budget cuts. The committee also re-visited a number of cuts proposals from the first round (in November 2020). Following discussion the committee resolved to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet in the following terms:
- 4.2. *In relation to proposal **B-08 Review of the Power of Attorney Service** (Round 1) the committee noted that the power of attorney service is an extremely important and trusted service to the small number of very vulnerable people who are supported by it and recommended therefore that the council continues to provide the service in-house, charging users a fair price for its provision.*
- 4.3. *In relation to proposal **C-02, Adult Learning and Day opportunities** (Round 1) the committee noted that many service users could potentially struggle to find meaningful daytime occupation during the long breaks in adult education that there are, such as during the summer holidays. The committee recommended therefore that the council consider making adult learning available all-year round for service users.*
- 4.4. *The committee also recommended that the adult learning service work closely with the council to make sure there are appropriate job opportunities available following any training and education, and that the council consider developing a corporate approach to employing more people with disability itself, particularly those with learning disability – looking to the approach of our local partners, such as health, for guidance.*
- 4.5. *In relation to proposal **E-04 – introduce charging for certain elements of self-funded care packages** (Round 1) the committee recommended ongoing monitoring of this change to ensure that the council's brokerage service, and bulk purchasing power, continues to provide a financial benefit for users, compared to users approaching service providers as individuals.*
- 4.6. *In relation to proposal **C-13, Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Primary Care** (Round 2) the committee expressed concerns about the possible adverse impacts of reducing LARC (Long-Acting Reversible Contraception) activity and recommended that work continues to be done to monitor and address high levels of abortions and teenage pregnancies in the borough.*

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5. Financial implications

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

6. Legal implications

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

9. Crime and disorder implications

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

10. Health and wellbeing implications

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

11. Background papers

- 11.1. [Healthier Communities Select Committee Agenda, 13 January 2021 \(item 4\)](#)

12. Report contact

- 12.1. *John Bardens, Scrutiny Manager, john.bardens@lewisham.gov.uk 020 8314 9976*

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