



## Mayor and Cabinet

### **Comments of the Public Accounts Select Committee on the 2021-22 budget**

**Date:** 03 February 2021.

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1.

**Ward(s) affected:** All.

**Contributor:** Public Accounts Select Committee

### **Outline and recommendations**

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Public Accounts Select Committee, arising from discussions on the Council's proposed 2021-22 budget.

Mayor and Cabinet is asked to note the views of the select committee.

### **Timeline of engagement and decision-making**

26 February 2020 – 2020-21 Budget report to Council

10 June 2020 – Council's response to Covid-19 – financial update report to Mayor and Cabinet

9 July 2020 – First 2020/21 financial monitoring report to Mayor and Cabinet

September 2020 – Financial stabilisation report to select committees

7 October 2020 – Mayor and Cabinet consideration of the financial stabilisation – budget update and medium term plan report

November/December (various dates) 2020 – first budget cuts report to scrutiny committees

9 December 2020 – first budget cuts report to Mayor and Cabinet

January/February (various dates) 2021 – second budget cuts report to scrutiny committees

3 February 2021 – budget cuts and budget report 2021-22 to Mayor and Cabinet

3 March 2021 – 2021-22 budget to Council

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. On Tuesday 2 February 2021, the Public Accounts Select Committee considered a report from officers on the Council's proposed 2021-22 budget ([link to the agenda for the Public Accounts Select Committee meeting on 2 February 2021](#)). The report was introduced by the Mayor of Lewisham. The Committee also received a summary of the report from the Executive Director for Corporate Resources. Following questions to officers, the Committee agreed to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Mayor and Cabinet is asked to note the Committee's views.

## 3. Public Accounts Select Committee views

- 3.1. The Committee acknowledges the difficult circumstances facing the Council – and it commends the work of officers in responding to the pandemic – whilst also managing critical services and identifying additional cuts to budgets.
- 3.2. The Committee believes that the hard work and dedication of Council officers in developing the 2021-22 budget should be recognised and praised.

## 4. Financial implications

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. These will need to be considered as part of the response.

## 5. Legal implications

- 5.1. The Constitution provides for select committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

## 6. Equalities implications

- 6.1. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.2. In summary, 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.
- 6.3. There may be equalities implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

## 7. Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be climate change and environmental implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

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## **8. Crime and disorder implications**

- 8.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

## **9. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 9.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations – these will need to be considered in the response.

## **10. Background papers**

- 10.1. [Agenda for the Public Accounts Select Committee meeting on 2 February 2021](#)

## **11. Report author and contact**

- 11.1. If you have any questions about this report then please contact: Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) [timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk)

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