



## Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel

### Scrutiny Update

**Date:** 16 February 2021

**Key decision:** No

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Assistant Chief Executive (Overview and Scrutiny Manager)

### Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this item is for Members to receive an oral update from Select Committee Chairs on any scrutiny activity related to their Committee that they wish to bring to the Panel's attention. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager may also provide an update if the Select Committees have met since the last Business Panel meeting.

#### 1. Summary

- 1.1. The intention of this item is to provide Members with an update on current scrutiny activity.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Members are asked to discuss and note any information provided.

#### 3. Scrutiny Update

- 3.1 The second round of budget cuts were considered by all the Select Committees at the following meetings:
- Healthier Communities - 13 January
  - Safer Stronger Communities – 14 January
  - Sustainable Development – 14 January
  - Children and Young People – 21 January
  - Housing – 28 January
  - Public Accounts – 2 February.
- 3.2 The Public Accounts Select Committee submitted a referral on the cuts to Mayor and Cabinet, on its behalf and on behalf of the other Select Committees that also wished to formally comment on the proposals. Mayor and Cabinet considered the budget cuts at

its meeting held on 3 February 2021 and authorised officers to carry out consultations where public consultation was necessary in relation to specific proposals and report back to the Mayor with the outcome, for a decision to be made. This included the proposal on local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (subject of a scrutiny referral) with work to be done on a contingency arrangement alongside the consultation, and brought forward in a future report to Mayor and Cabinet. Mayor and Cabinet also received [this response](#) to the referrals made by the Select Committees.

3.3 The Select Committee work programmes are attached at Appendix A.

3.4 The agendas for the March Select Committee meetings may be amended once Members and officers have discussed the implications of the ongoing pandemic response in terms of the capacity of the organisation to attend and support the current schedule of formal meetings.

3.5 Select Committee Chairs will be invited to provide an oral update on any scrutiny activity related to their committee that they wish to bring to the Panel's attention.

#### **4 Financial implications**

4.1 Scrutiny work is managed within existing budgets. Formal recommendations to the Mayor arising out of any specific work items within select committee work programmes are evaluated in the usual way through the process of formal reports. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5 Legal implications**

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6 Equalities implications**

6.1 The delivery of the Council's equalities objectives is to be achieved through the delivery of all of the Council's strategies, plans and procedures. As such, all select committees and other scrutiny bodies, when planning their work and scrutinising items, bear in mind the delivery of the Council's equality objectives.

6.2 Scrutiny tries to make sure that its work reflects the diversity of Lewisham's communities and that the views of residents are fairly represented in scrutiny processes. Any recommendations arising from scrutiny work support the Council's corporate strategy and reflect the needs of local residents.

#### **7 Climate change and environmental implications**

7.1 There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

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

8.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

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

9.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

## 10 Glossary

Term	Definition
Overview & Scrutiny	Overview and scrutiny is the way in which Mayor and Cabinet (the 'Executive'), officers and external organisations are held to account for the decisions that they make. It is led by councillors who are not members of the Executive. They also influence policy development and investigate issues of local concern, making recommendations for improvement.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	A committee made up of all non-executive councillors which carries out scrutiny focussing on strategic and cross cutting issues.
Overview & Scrutiny Business Panel (OSBP) and Education OSBP	<p>Lewisham has two Business Panels (sub-committees of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee).</p> <p>OS Business Panel is made up of the chair and vice-chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the chair of each of the Select Committees, and two other non-Executive councillors.</p> <p>The main functions of Business Panel are reviewing key decisions once they have been taken (potentially "calling in" key decisions that have been made but not yet implemented); coordinating and approving the overall scrutiny work programme; and allocating scrutiny work in the event that it crosses the remit of more than one scrutiny body.</p> <p>Three parent governors and two diocesan representatives sit on the Education Business Panel, alongside the councillors that make up the regular Business Panel. The Education Business Panel reviews (and can call-in) key decisions that are education matters.</p>
Select Committee	Lewisham has six Select Committees (sub-committees of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee), each made up of non-Executive councillors and responsible for scrutinising a specific service area. Select Committees gather evidence to help them review policies and performance and make recommendations to improve outcomes for residents.
Select Committee Work Programmes	The annual programme of work setting out the matters which each select committee will scrutinise over the year.

## 11 Report author and contact

- 11.1 Charlotte Dale, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, 0208 31 48286, [charlotte.dale@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.dale@lewisham.gov.uk)

## Appendix A – Select Committee Work Programmes