

MAYOR & CABINET		
Report Title	Youth Task Force	
Key Decision	Yes	Item 5
Ward	All	
Contributors	Executive Director for Resources (Head of Strategy)	
Class	Part 1	Date: 19 January 2011

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to consider the conclusions of the Youth Task Force.

2. Policy Context

The content of this report is made in the context of Lewisham's overarching Sustainable Communities Strategy though there is particular focus on the 'ambitious and achieving', 'safer', 'empowered and responsible' and 'dynamic and prosperous' themes of the strategy. The report also supports the Council's policy priorities and in particular it relates to the Children and Young People's Plan.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Mayor:

3.1 notes the contents of the Youth Task Force report (appendix 1 to this report).

3.2 requests officers to explore options for implementing Task Force recommendations and to return to Mayor and Cabinet with a further report detailing implications and a delivery plan.

4. Background

4.1 In 2009, at the Council's Annual General Meeting, the Mayor highlighted the impact that the recession was having in Lewisham and in particular he noted the effect of the economic downturn on young people.

4.2 Figures from the Office of National Statistics show that as unemployment figures rise young people are disproportionately affected by the effects of economic recession. In response to the economic downturn, the Mayor established a Task Force to consider how Lewisham Council and its partners might take action to support young citizens. The group's remit was to assess the full implications of the recession on young people and consider some of the challenges arising as a result. Once the group had convened they went on to establish their own terms of reference, taking on board

the direction set out in their broad remit. The Mayor specifically requested that the Task Force be chaired by Pete Walsh, the ex-head of one of Lewisham's largest secondary schools.

5. Overview of Task Force activities

Details of the group's meetings are set out in their own report. The group met periodically from winter 2009 to late Autumn 2010. At each meeting the Task Force considered a different topic. The work of the Task Force was supported by officers in the Council. It is intended that the Chair of the Task Force will present the final report to the Mayor.

6. Legal Implications

Full legal implications for the implementation of Task Force recommendations would be included in a subsequent report to the Mayor, which is dependent on the decision made by the Mayor and Cabinet in relation to the recommendations at 3.1 and 3.2 of this report.

7. Financial Implications

Full financial implications for the implementation of Task Force recommendations would be included in a subsequent report to the Mayor, which is dependent on the decision made by the Mayor and Cabinet in relation to the recommendations at 3.1 and 3.2 of this report.

8. Crime and Disorder Implications

There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. However, the Task Force's report includes commentary on the effects of crime and disorder on young people.

9. Environmental Implications

There are no immediate environmental implications arising from this report.

10. Equalities Implications

There are no immediate equalities implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

11. Conclusion

The Youth Task Force report sets out a comprehensive record of the work of the group over the previous year.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Short Title of Document	Date	File Location	Contact Officer

If you would like further information on this report please contact Kevin Sheehan, Head of Strategy, on 02083146800