



Mayor and Cabinet

Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the railway children urban nation park – environmental protection and neighbourhood plans

Date: 6 October 2021.

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1.

Ward(s) affected: All

Outline and recommendations

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, arising from discussions on the response from Mayor and Cabinet to the Committee's referral on the railway children urban national park environmental protection and neighbourhood plans.

Mayor and Cabinet is asked to consider the Committee's comments and ask the relevant officers to provide a response.

1. Summary

- 1.1. On Wednesday 15 September 2021, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered the response from Mayor and Cabinet to the Committee's referral on the railway children urban national park, environmental protection and neighbourhood plans ([link to the agenda for Sustainable Development Select Committee on 15 September 2021](#)) The Committee heard from Councillor Ingleby regarding some new evidence for submission to Mayor and Cabinet. The Committee agreed to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Mayor and Cabinet is asked to consider the Committee's comments and ask the relevant officers to provide a response.

3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views

- 3.1. The Committee recommends that Mayor and Cabinet should give consideration to the additional evidence provided by the Friends of Railway Children Walk – as well as the comments and suggestions made by Councillor Ingleby - in determining the potential for the collection of sites of importance for nature conservation within the complex of

open spaces situated either side of the Hither Green railway corridor to constitute a broader site of metropolitan importance for nature conservation (MSINC).

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) legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It replaced the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single act, making the law easier to understand and strengthen protection in certain situations. 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.
- 6.2. The Act also imposes a public sector equality duty. This means that in public bodies, of which this Council is designated, they must consider all individuals in carrying out their day-to-day work when shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It also requires public bodies to:
 - Have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination
 - Advance equality of opportunity
 - Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities
- 6.3. The Council recognises diversity is one of its strengths and is committed to creating a more inclusive community. Therefore, having due regard to the Act, is confirmation of the Council's commitment to eliminating all forms of discrimination against any group within the community and to actively promote an equality of opportunity and positive community partnership.
- 6.4. 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.
- 6.5. 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
- 6.6. 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 recommendation in this report. However, in February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the

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borough carbon neutral by 2030. The declaration tasked the Sustainable Development Committee with scrutinising the Council's emerging plans. All reports considered by the Committee should acknowledge this.

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. Report author and contact

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

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