



Mayor and Cabinet

Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the Local Plan (regulation 19 proposed submission)

Date: 8 December 2021.

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1.

Ward(s) affected: All (none specific)

Contributor: Sustainable Development Select Committee

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 Local Plan.

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 Tuesday 23 November 2021, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered a report from officers on the development of the Local Plan (regulation 19 – proposed submission) ([link to the agenda for the Sustainable Development Select Committee on Tuesday 23 November 2021](#)) The Committee reflected on the contents of the report – and received a presentation from officers. 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 consider the Committee's comments and ask the relevant officers to provide a response.

3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views

- 3.1. The Committee welcomes the updates to the Local Plan and it congratulates the planning team for its efforts in engaging with residents – particularly in the context of the difficulties posed by the global pandemic. The Committee believes that the benefits of the online engagement carried out should be captured, the valuable lessons learned and that the good practice identified should be disseminated across the Council.

Members also note and welcome the work to ensure seldom heard voices are given further opportunity to feed into this key place making document.

- 3.2. The Committee notes the motion of full Council supporting the creation of an integrated district park in Grove Park as an essential part of the borough's green infrastructure¹.
- 3.3. The Committee recommends that the Grove Park District Park should be specifically named and included in the Lewisham Local Plan as well as the updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan (which supports the Local Plan).
- 3.4. The Committee also recommends that the Grove Park District Park should be included in Lewisham's strategic infrastructure list of green infrastructure.
- 3.5. Furthermore, the Committee believes that all of the borough's sites of importance for nature conservation (SINCs) should be individually named.

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 them 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

¹ At its meeting on 21 July 2021 the full Council [resolved](#) to: **Work** with the local community and support community-led projects which seek to enhance and improve this land; **Engage** key partners, landowners and stakeholders in the area, such as Network Rail, Thames Water, the Environment Agency, the GLA and Transport for London, and seek to secure their support for the creation of an integrated District Park, as well as working together to ensure responsible land management and the protection of this important green corridor; **Maintain** the current protections in this area and seek to prevent inappropriate development; **Hold** private landowners accountable for breaches of planning law, taking enforcement action where appropriate; **Explore** all feasible options for acquisition when land in private ownership in this area becomes available.

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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 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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