



Mayor and Cabinet

Young Mayor's budget proposals

Date: 12th January 2021

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Boroughwide

Contributors: Young Mayor, Young Advisors, Advisers to the Young Mayor

Outline and recommendations

This report is set out into two sections:

1. An update for Mayor & Cabinet on the work of the Young Mayor and Young Advisors for 2019-2021.
2. A proposal from the former Young Mayor, Femi Komolafe on spending of the Young Mayor's budget.

Mayor & Cabinet are recommended to agree the Young Mayor's budget proposals set out in section 8 of this report.

1. Summary

- 1.1 On 16th October 2019, Femi Komolafe was elected the sixteenth Young Mayor of Lewisham and Aaliyah Odedina was elected Deputy Young Mayor. Due to the Covid pandemic which resulted in schools being closed, and the country being in lockdown at various periods during this time, it was decided that it would not be possible to have a Young Mayor Election in 2020. Femi and Aaliyah kindly agreed to continue their tenure for a second year. The Young Mayor and Young Advisors worked together over the two years to develop and then consult on a range of ideas that now form the Young Mayor's Budget proposals for 2020-21 that will be spent in 2021-22. Due to Covid, the changes in the ways of working and the pressure on budgets, Femi and Aaliyah's budget proposals are for £25,000 one year only.
- 1.2 This year and in previous years the Young Mayor's budget has been created at the end of the Young Mayor's term. The aim is that in 2022 this will change with the Young Mayor's budget being agreed within the term of the Young Mayor.
- 1.3 This report is set out into two sections:
 - 1.3.1 An update for Mayor & Cabinet on the work of the Young Mayor and Young Advisors for 2019-2021.
 - 1.3.2 A proposal from the former Young Mayor, Femi Komolafe on spending of the Young Mayor's budget.
- 1.4 These proposals are intended to provide improvements in services for children and young people in the borough. The Young Mayor for 2020-21 has a budget of £25,000 to be allocated after consultation with young people.
- 1.5 The report summarises the proposals which the 2020-21 Young Mayor is recommending to spend the £25,000.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Mayor & Cabinet are recommended to agree the Young Mayor's budget proposals set out in section 8.

3. Policy context

- 3.1 The Young Mayor Programme is a key priority for the Council in delivering on its commitment to giving children and young people the best start in life and building an inclusive local economy.
- 3.2 The Young Mayor Programme makes an important contribution to the objectives and priorities identified in the 2018-2022 Corporate Strategy. These priorities are:
 - Open Lewisham - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.
 - Tackling the housing crisis - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.
 - Giving children and young people the best start in life - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.
 - Building an inclusive local economy - Everyone can access high quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.
 - Delivering & defending: Health, Social Care and Support - Ensuring everyone

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- receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.
 - Making Lewisham greener - Everyone enjoys our green spaces and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.
 - Building safer communities - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.
- 3.3 The work of the Young Mayor and Young Advisors make a particular contribution to many of the outcomes set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Young Mayor Programme has been in place since April 2004. Femi Komolafe is the sixteenth Young Mayor. Femi Komolafe won the election on a turnout of 55.01 per cent which represents 9,238 young people voting.
- 4.2 An evaluation of the project continues to be undertaken by Dr Kalbir Shukra of Goldsmith's, University of London with interviewing candidates and evaluating the process.

5. Budget Expenditure and Achievements, 2018/19 Young Mayor, Adam Abdullah

- 5.1 Following consultation with young people across the borough, the Young Mayor and Young Advisors identified that the key concerns of young people in the borough were related to poverty and the lack of opportunities. The climate emergency was also a growing priority for young people in the borough. The impact of poverty has been widely documented. Poverty impacts young people's potential and development leading to reduced chances in the areas below:

- Educational outcomes
- Employment outcomes
- Mental and physical health outcomes
- Youth safety outcomes

An update of how that work has progressed is outlined below.

- 5.2 Due to the pandemic it was agreed that young people experiencing poverty and disadvantage was the priority, and that the way in which the budget would be spent would be changed to emphasise this, the original proposals agreed are below:

Proposal 1 - Young Mayor's Youth Poverty Fund - £8,000

Proposal 2 - Educational Support - £10,000

Proposal 3 - Work Experience programme - £5,000

Proposal 4 – Youth Climate Forum - £2,000

- 5.3 **The revised proposal agreed as part of the Covid response: "Bank of Things"**

In discussion with the Young Mayor, Young Advisors and colleagues and on reflecting and learning from the success of food banks in supporting families in the community, it was agreed that the budget would be used to create a "Bank of Things".

The "Bank of Things" is a resource for young people who need to access school equipment and other necessities in order to take a full and active role in their education and in society. This is not available to them due to low household incomes, increased by the impact of Covid on Lewisham families.

Based on the principles of a food bank to identify (with young people) and enable the

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supply items of need to young people through a standardised menu (for example school equipment/ arts equipment/ toiletries) and donations.

Public donations will contribute to the re-use of objects by young people who have the need providing an alternative way to recycle.

5.4 Progress of the “Bank of Things”

- Established with part time worker through Lewisham Local, volunteers identified to support the project.
- Logo and promotional material produced with young people.
- Menu of things needed by young people established through work with young advisors and young people in school and youth clubs.
- Soft launch of toiletry packs to young people at youth clubs and voluntary organisations.
- Donations received from just giving Tuesday – schools and others.
- Links to business owners in the shopping centre for future donations and partnerships.
- Partnership in premises in Lewisham shopping centre secured as venue for Bank of Things.
- Steering group of young people and colleagues to oversee the direction of the project.

6. Activities during 2019/21 by Young Mayor Femi Komolafe, Deputy Young Mayor, Aaliyah Odedina and the Young Advisors Group

6.1 Since October 2019, the Young Mayor and Young Advisors have continued to represent their peers at the local, regional, national and international level. Working collaboratively with the Mayor and Cabinet, scrutiny committees, councillors, council officers, partner agencies and other key stakeholders, the Young Mayor and Young Advisors have made an important contribution to local policy development over the course of the last year. They have also continued to support projects that relate to and address issues which concern young people.

6.2 During Covid from March 2020 the Young Mayor and Young Advisors transferred to meeting via Zoom for the regular Monday meetings. There were also additional catch up social meetings on Friday during the lock downs to maintain contact and support the group. We had some young people who didn't join virtually but also new members who were able to join online. When possible we would meet as a group outside or in twos or threes.

Colleagues and partners were able to join the meetings to continue the work finding out from young people what their priorities were and helping with policy development. The team were also able to continue work with schools online, having termly meetings virtually and maintaining the Champions of Inclusion, working with special schools and units, as well as some online work experience and events such as International Women's Day.

We have continued to maintain our European links through online meetings of colleagues and young people, despite Brexit and Covid. We have our final Erasmus + projects to complete in 2022 with colleagues from Sweden, Portugal and the Czech Republic, as well as online projects we completed with colleagues in Greece and Italy.

The Young Mayor and Young Advisors website www.b-involved.org was also revamped and was used to share views and activities from around the borough through lock down, as were other social media channels.

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The Young Mayor and Young Advisors also supported the messaging around mask wearing and social distancing and continue to work with Public Health in positive Covid communications with young people.

The Young Mayor and Young Advisors returned to face to face meeting in May 2021, working from the St Laurence Centre, Catford due to the Civic Suite being used for Covid activities.

The below table provides an update of some of the project, work and activities that have been carried out by the Young Mayor and Young Advisors over the past two years, some work was curbed because of restrictions and the pandemic.:

Project or work area	Activity
Young Advisor's meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meeting time 5-7pm Mondays for young people to plan and organise their activities and for partners, colleagues and peers to consult and discuss issues with the group. Young Advisor meetings were held across both years with some online, during 2019/21. • Website and online young people's voice. • Alumni meetings.
Employment and enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting opportunities for young people, activities, jobs and training through sharing on Facebook and through informal networks. • Working with Goldsmiths widening participation team to organise enterprise and entrepreneurship opportunities and events for young people. • Two Work experience groups of students from Lewisham schools and two students from Goldsmiths with the Young Mayor's Team.
Intergenerational activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together with older people to build understanding through intergenerational projects. • Attending Positive Ageing Council meetings. • Silver Sunday and online Silver Sunday with Positive Ageing Council. • Filming project with Positive Ageing Council (POSAC), visiting members and singing carols from the pavement and creating a short film to celebrate and raise moral.

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Project or work area	Activity
Social justice and diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in debates and panels on social justice and diversity. Young people’s voices and opinions being heard and shared with other community members and professionals such as the police and others, to help create change and influence policy making. • Young Advisors helped plan and host an International Women’s Day event, workshops included spoken word workshops and an online version in 2020. • Begin part of the Youth AIG – youth advising police group. • Champions of Inclusion meeting working with Lewisham special schools. • Drumbeat School prize giving. • LGBTQ History month schools event with the Positive Aging Council. • Prevent review and workshops. • Equalities review. • Contributing to the Lewisham Race Equality Strategy and workshops in schools and film. • Helping Goldsmiths develop their statues consultation. • Participating in the Mayors Actively Anti-Racist Group.
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people learning and contributing to public health strategies and young people’s services. • Co-produced materials as part of the Obesity Trailblazer and continue to contribute young people’s views into the project. • Continue to contribute to the messaging around Covid for young people including mask wearing, and social distancing and vaccine hesitancy – Instagram live. • Supporting the development of Young Covid Champions. • Healthy Eating workshops. • Reviewing young people’s programmes with St Johns Ambulance Service. • Meeting about creating youth board for Lewisham and Greenwich NHS trust. • SLAM strategy refresh.
Environmental issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to work towards carbon neutrality and address the Climate Emergency • Meeting with colleagues in the climate emergency team, supporting the development of schools conference. • Telegraph Greener Futures young people’s voice seminars.
Community safety, policing and youth justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Public Safety team around Violence Reduction and the Public Health approach to serious youth violence. • Hate Crime Awareness week supporting the White Ribbon Campaign, awareness building in the community and for young people. • Meeting with the Prevent officer and developing and participating in a workshop around democracy, rights and prejudices. • Participating in the Youth Independent Advisory Group. • Contributing to the Youth Offending Service management board

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Project or work area	Activity
Housing and regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to the consultation with Team Catford including a discussion on affordable housing. • Working with Lewisham Homes engagement team about the needs and interests of young people and assessing young people's projects for the funding pot. • Discussion and working with local groups around developing a young people's forum for Convoys Wharf. • Beckenham Place park development.
Sports, arts and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the Borough of Culture bid. • Alumni presenting at LEAN AGM. • Second wave workshop on online grooming. • Voices of Lewisham project. • Albany speakeasy project.
Working with schools and colleges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits to primary, secondary schools and colleges: campaigning, raising awareness, budget consultations and feedback through assemblies, citizenship days and school councils. Supporting other young people at exhibitions, achievement events and activities. • Curriculum for Life Conference and funding pot allocated to some schools. • Primary school visits to the Civic Suite with the Speaker. • Primary school visit – Haberdashers', John Ball. • Online summit with schools on former Young Mayor Election Day. • Termly on line meeting with secondary schools around issues of interest and concern. • Summer 2021 communications plan with schools leading up to the next Young Mayor's Election. • Young Mayor's Campaign and Election 2021.
Working with Children and Young People Directorate and Youth First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and discussion on progress of Youth First, attending Youth Forum. Visit to Youth First sites, contributing to young people's training days. • Participating in children in care council sessions. • Meeting with CYP Select Committee and to identify in depth review of an area of Children and Young People's Services. • Co-producing workshops and discussion for i-thrive. • Contributing to Early Help strategy. • Recruiting Director CYP /Early Help. • Youth provision discussion with commissioners. • Contributing young people's voices to the Safeguarding. Partnership Board strategy.

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Project or work area	Activity
Community events and organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending community events representing young people, recognising achievement, encouraging participation, cohesion and volunteering. • Curriculum for Life focus group at Somerville adventure and coordinating visit with Six Counties/ Northern Ireland Youth Group ongoing relationship with the Youth Service and receiving youth groups. • Speaking at Prison Ministries event (local Church and voluntary organisation) around safety and knife crime. • Taking part and Young People presenting at VAL Young People's Forum meetings. • Day of Community Prayer. • Curriculum for life small funding pots distributed to community groups. • Deptford People's museum, developing workshops with Deptford Green school about the Deptford docks and Empire. • Intergenerational Project with Goldsmiths developing learning resources for schools around the New Cross Fire and Black People's Day of Action. Recognising 40 years of New Cross Fire. • Archiving workshops and visit to James Barnham exhibition • Working with Lewisham Local in developing the "Bank of Things"; identifying needs, developing logo and promotional materials.
Working with politicians and engagement with politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people developing knowledge and understanding of party politics and democratic engagement which can then be shared with their peers. • Meetings with the Mayor and Cabinet Members. • Meeting with CYP Select committee. • Meeting with London Assembly Member. • London Youth Assembly. • Votes at 16 -Lowering voting age conference in Manchester.
UK Youth Parliament (UKYP), British Youth Council (BYC) and other regional and national work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with the national Youth Voice Strategies and meeting other young people who are representing their areas. • Participating in London Youth Assembly meetings and online. • Representing Lewisham at House of Commons UKYP Annual Sitting. • Attending the UK Youth Parliament meetings. • Attending BYC conventions and meeting other young people who are active in their communities across London and the South East. • Supporting young people to participate in the U18 travel campaign "Don't zap the zip". • Meeting and working with Lambeth Youth Council.

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Project or work area	Activity
European visits and welcoming visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erasmus+: Youth Mobility Projects (European funded projects) with youth groups in Alingsas near Gothenburg, Sweden. Prague 7, Czech Republic, Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal. Young people creating relationships, working and sharing ideas and aspirations about being European raising aspirations and being part of a wider world. • Working with Folk School alternative education in Sweden around Curriculum for Life ideas and ways of working with young people in a holistic and support way, to offer opportunities to young people with most needs. Sharing ideas and creating projects around lifelong learning and community based education. • With the aid of the Erasmus+ grant, completed (some online) the evaluation project of the experiences of Young Advisors who have participated in visits and projects over the last 10 + years. Visit to Prague 7. • Completed BASE project online young people sharing ideas about democracy and what it means to be European. • Online meetings with young people and colleagues, sharing experiences of covid and planning for future projects. • Visit from Swedish school teachers to make link with Lewisham schools. • Visit to Young Mayor Election in St Maria da Feira, Portugal.
Civic events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Advisers attend events to recognise the importance for the wider community of events with important historical roots. Recognising achievements and being involved in and learning about other civic institutions. As elected representatives this is part of the role and is important both for them to attend and for others to see they recognise and take these responsibilities seriously. Fewer events during Covid as these were mainly cancelled. • Primary School Council Meetings with the speaker every Friday morning. • Holocaust Memorial Day event and online. • Meeting and working with Lewisham's Mayoresses. • Contributing to Black History Month.

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Project or work area	Activity
Research and evaluation projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking part in interviews and helping evaluate the Young Mayor Project. Interviewing candidates and recording their journey and experiences. • Continue to follow candidates and record their experiences, creating a longitudinal study conducted by Dr Kalbir Shukra at Goldsmiths. • Goldsmiths applied for and received a grant for a scoping project of the Young Mayor archive. Looking at the archive in the Civic suite and how it can be developed as a community resource to support, encourage and recognise activism in the borough. Scoping project identified the next steps, cataloguing grant.

7. The Young Mayor's Budget Proposals 2020/21 Young Mayor Femi Komolafe

7.1 Consultation

7.1.1 The Young Mayor has worked closely with both the Young Advisors and with schools and youth organisations in identifying how to best spend the allocated budget. An online survey was created to gain young people's views on what the budget should be spent on and shared with schools and youth groups.

7.1.2 Initial ideas for spending proposals were gathered from a range of sources and forums, including from candidates manifestos and the election campaign. These were then discussed at Young Advisors meetings and the long-list.

7.1.3 There are lots of issues that young people are interested in and concerned about these include:

- Arts, sports and performance opportunities
- Employment and enterprise opportunities
- Healthy Living and lifestyles
- How to support work with faith groups, and diverse projects
- Environment issues, plastic waste, air pollution and rubbish
- Being safe, working together to help everyone feel and be safe
- School; what we learn and why, linking school to working life, support in school.
- Informal education, youth services

7.2 Covid recovery

Due to Covid and in order to continue the work started to address the impact of Covid on young people in the borough, though the above issues continue to be important to young people it is recognised that supporting young people in poverty increased by the pandemic remains the priority. As does recognising tough financial times maintaining and developing services is more useful and appropriate than starting new initiatives at this time.

8. Budget Proposals for 2020/21

8.1 Having worked with the Young Advisors and talked to other young people across the borough, including the consultation set out above, these proposals recognise that

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many of the interests, concerns and experience of young people in the borough. Young Mayor, Femi Komolafe and Deputy, Aaliyah Odedina have spent their term in office talking to other young people, participating in community events and projects and representing the young people of Lewisham. Their term has come to an end and they are completing their consultation about what their £25,000 budget should be spent on. There have been many ideas and areas of interest and concern, as identified above.

As we are coming through the pandemic, an unprecedented time of change and disruption for everyone Femi and Aaliyah are keen to make sure their proposals are sustainable and support young people in the borough who are most in need. The previous Young Mayor, Adam Abdullah had already identified that some young people struggled to afford basic necessities for school and to be able to function and participate in wider opportunities.

To address this the “Bank of Things” has been created, and provide necessities like toiletries, school supplies and other essentials as identified by young people and will be based in Lewisham Shopping Centre.

The Young Mayor proposal for the Young Mayor budget 2020-21 is to continue to develop the “Bank of Things” project in various ways to ensure it is sustainable, well known and well used by the young people of Lewisham.

- Wellbeing support as part of The Bank of Things
- Developing the volunteering opportunities for young people
- Workshops around employment, training and enterprise
- Activities and events in the shop to ensure the “Bank of things” is well known and well used by young people in the borough

Total Budget proposal for Bank of Things £25,000

8.2 Progress and Evaluation

8.2.1 The new Young Mayor and Young Advisors will report progress in implementing these proposals to Youth forums, School Councils, Mayor and Cabinet and on social media.

8.2.2 An ongoing consultation and evaluation process will take place with local young people through the Youth Service, School Councils, the Voluntary and Community Sector and People’s Day, as well as the B-involved website.

9. Financial implications

The cost of the proposed programme is £25,000 and will be met from the budget for the Young Mayor’s programme.

10. Legal implications

10.1 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers the local authority to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of all or any persons within the local authority's area. It enables the Council to incur expenditure under these wellbeing powers which could include a budget for the Young Mayor. The sum of £25,000 is a reasonable for the purposes outlined in the report.

11. Equality Implications

11.1 The Young Mayor and Young Advisors have considered the equalities implications in all of the proposals and will ensure an inclusive approach to all activities undertaken.

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For example working with the special schools and groups such as Looked after Children and Young Carers who might find it more difficult to participate.

11.2 The various activities described in this report (e.g.: intergenerational activities; healthy lifestyles; social justice and diversity; environmental issues; community safety, policing and youth justice and education & employment) make an important contribution to the five objectives of the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016-20 as follows:

- Tackle victimisation discrimination and harassment
- Improve access to services
- Close the gap in outcomes between citizens
- Increase mutual understanding and respect within and between communities
- Increase participation and engagement

The activities described in this report will benefit all protected characteristics, but in particular that of age. Lewisham's population is driven by the birth rate and one in four Lewisham residents is aged 0-19.

Although socio-economic status is not a characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2020, the activities described in this report will also make a contribution to tackling socio-economic inequality. Nearly one in four Lewisham children under 16 live in a low income household (over three in ten after housing costs have been considered). The Young Mayor's proposals for the coming year, includes specific proposals to tackle poverty affecting children and young people living in the borough.

12. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

12.1 There are no negative environmental implications arising from this report. The Young Mayor is recommending investing £2,000 of his budget to the Lewisham Youth Climate Forum which will work directly with the Council to promote the implications of climate change and be part of the Council's response to the climate emergency.

13. Crime and Disorder Implications

13.1 There are no negative crime and disorder implications arising from this report. The Young Mayor's proposals relate to the development of activities, resources and information that will provide young people with diversionary activities, contribute to community initiatives and provide opportunities for young people to address issues concerned with their safety.

14. Health and wellbeing implications

14.1 There are no negative health implications arising from this report. The Young Mayor and Young Advisors will continue to support public health projects and contribute to involving and representing young people in discussions around health and wellbeing. They have a long standing interest in young people's mental health and well-being in the borough and remain keen to contribute and support young people where possible.

15. Report Author and contact

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