



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report title: Question & Answer Session with the Mayor

Date: 10 November 2020

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 to allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to question the Mayor on matters within his remit.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Note any responses to advance questions, appended at Appendix A (these will be circulated before the meeting).
- Ask the Mayor questions.

1 Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this item is to allow Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask questions of the Mayor.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Note any responses to advance questions, appended at Appendix A (these will be circulated before the meeting).
- Ask the Mayor questions.

3 Policy Context

- 3.1 The strategic priorities of the [Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022](#) 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 and defending: health, social care and support](#) - Ensuring everyone 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.

- 3.2 The work carried out by the Mayor and his Cabinet directly contributes to the Council's corporate priorities.

4 Scrutinising the Executive

- 4.1 Part of the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to hold the Council's Executive to account. Therefore it may hold Question & Answer sessions with the Mayor and Cabinet Members.

- 4.2 Each Question & Answer session will explore the work the Mayor (or a Cabinet Member) has done in relation to their portfolio, looking at priorities, actions, achievements and impact.

- 4.3 The Mayor is responsible for the strategic direction of the Council, leads the community and speaks up for the borough. The Mayor is also the cabinet portfolio holder for COVID-19 response and recovery.

- 4.4 Brief written responses to any advance questions from Committee Members can be found at Appendix A. (These will be published before the meeting).

- 4.5 The Committee may wish to focus questions on:
- Notable activities and achievements
 - Current priorities
 - Current challenges
 - Any key decisions going to Mayor & Cabinet over the next 6 months.

- 4.6 The Committee may choose to focus its questions on two current issues of primary importance: the response to the pandemic and the Council's financial position. However, Members can, of course, ask questions on any aspect of the Mayor's remit.

- 4.7 Following the session the Committee may choose to make a referral to Mayor and Cabinet in relation to what the Committee has heard, including any actions it would like the Mayor to consider.

5 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6 Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

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7 Equalities implications

- 7.1 The Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. 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.
- 7.2 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

8 Climate change and environmental implications

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

9 Crime and disorder implications

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

10 Health and wellbeing implications

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

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