

Overview and Scrutiny 2014-2018





“The well-being of the people comes first – a Latin inscription on Lewisham Council’s coat of arms and a vital guide for scrutiny councillors when holding the delivery of public services to account”.

- Councillor Hall, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny 2014-18

Scrutiny in figures

45 councillors on Lewisham's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)

6 select committees

10 councillors on each committee

3 time limited working groups

2 business panels

3 joint health overview and scrutiny committees

5 co-opted scrutiny members

1 health and adult social care protocol

181

Select Committee meetings

13 OSC meetings

6 working group meetings

20 Education Business Panel meetings

50 Business Panel meetings

More than
230
external guests /
expert witnesses

24
in-depth reviews

150+
referrals to Mayor and Cabinet

20+
Evidence gathering visits

The purpose of scrutiny

The following principles, developed by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, underpin scrutiny's work.

Effective scrutiny:

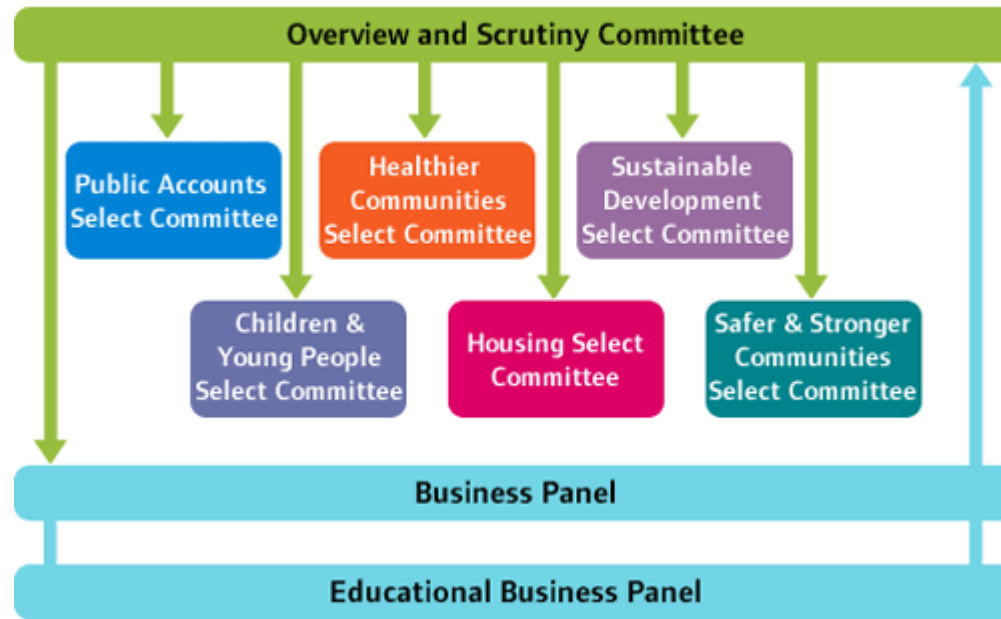
- Provides a '**critical friend**' challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers
- **Enables the voice and concerns of the public** and its communities
- Is carried out by **independent-minded governors** who lead and own the scrutiny process
- **Drives improvement** in public services.

Overview and Scrutiny oversees and reviews the implementation of Council policy, uses performance information to monitor the quality of services and holds decision makers to account for the decisions they make. Scrutiny councillors and officers have worked hard over the last four years to ensure that these responsibilities have been met by:

- **Scrutinising decisions before they are made and before they are implemented**
- **Holding the Mayor and other decision makers to account once decisions have been made**
- **Reviewing policies and their implementation as well as their impact on local people**
- **Contributing to the development of policy by investigating issues of local concern and making recommendations for change.**

Scrutiny councillors play a different role to professional officers. The value they bring is a different perspective: 'thinking outside the box', bringing fresh ideas to the table, amplifying the voice of service users, their needs and their aspirations.

The Structure of Scrutiny at Lewisham



Over the course of the administration six dedicated select committees have been in place, each carrying out specialised scrutiny:

- Children and Young People
- Healthier Communities
- Housing
- Public Accounts
- Safer Stronger Communities
- Sustainable Development

There have also been time-limited working groups looking at youth services, public health and public spending.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has focussed on key strategic and cross-cutting issues and the Business Panels have reviewed key decisions, referring them back to the decision maker when required.

Scrutiny Chairs 2014-18



Councillor Pauline Morrison, Safer Stronger Communities, 14/15; 15/16; 17/18



Councillor David Michael, Safer Stronger Communities, 16/17



Councillor Alan Hall, Overview and Scrutiny, 14-18



Councillor Jamie Milne, Public Accounts, 14/15; 15/16; 16/17



Councillor Maja Hilton, Public Accounts, 17/18



Councillor Carl Handley, Housing, 14-18



Councillor Liam Curran, Sustainable Development, 14-18



Councillor John Muldoon, Healthier Communities, 14-18



Councillor John Paschoud, Children and Young People, 14/15



Councillor Hilary Moore, Children and Young People, 15/16; 16/17

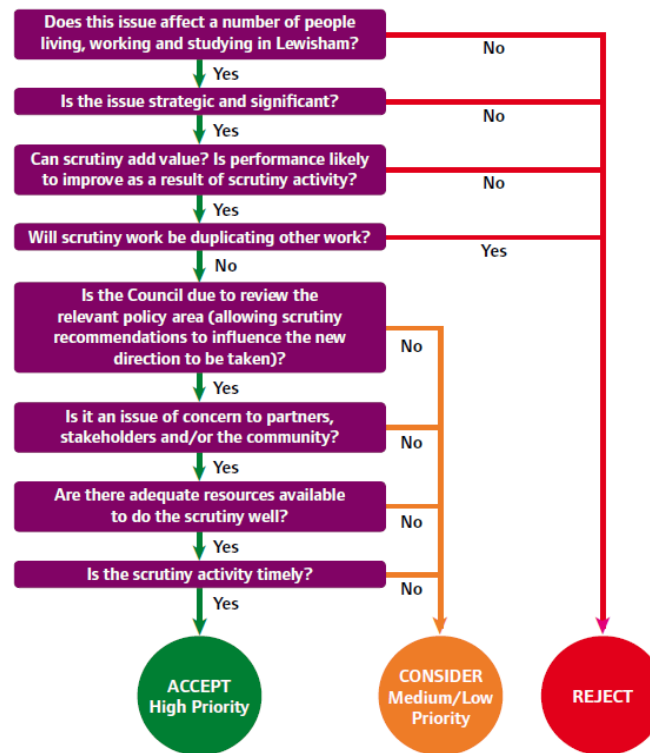


Councillor Luke Sorba, Children and Young People, 17/18

Prioritisation

Scrutiny at Lewisham aims to focus only on those issues where it can make an impact, so prioritising items for scrutiny is crucial. Scrutiny Members follow a **prioritisation process** when deciding on what to include in work programmes

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



The impact of scrutiny

How to carry out an in-depth review



Scrutiny is committed to creating maximum impact for its work. Committees use evidence from a broad range of sources to challenge the performance of the Council and partner organisations and drive improvement. Through the in-depth review process, councillors have the opportunity to hear from guest witnesses and experts alongside council officers and representatives of other public services. Lewisham has a clear process for developing and managing in-depth reviews.

A chart showing the reviews completed this administration can be found overleaf, followed by a series of case studies highlighting notable achievements.

In-Depth Reviews

Committee	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Public Accounts Select Committee	•No Recourse to Public Funds	•Income Generation		
Children and Young People Select Committee	•Young People's Mental Health	•Careers information advice and guidance (CIAG) in schools	•Transition from primary to secondary school	•Recruitment and retention of school staff
Sustainable Development Select Committee		•High Streets •Modern Roads	•The Catford Programme	
Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee	•Violence against Women and Girls	•Poverty review	•Capacity of the community and voluntary sector •Demographic change	•Provision for the LGBT + Community
Healthier Communities Select Committee			•Health and social care integration	•Social prescribing
Housing Select Committee		•Communal Heating Systems •Affordable Rents	•Housing and mental health	•New Housing Delivery
Overview and Scrutiny Committee				•Thames Water
Youth Service Working Group	•Youth Service working group report			
Public Health working group	•Public Health working group report			
Public Spending in Lewisham Working Group		•Public Spending in Lewisham		

Communal Heating

Following reports from residents at the Parkside Housing Estate that their newly installed communal heating system was very costly and causing a variety of problems including overheating, the Housing Select Committee agreed to investigate the matter. The Committee took evidence from:

- those behind the policies promoting communal heating systems;
- the developers, housing bodies and engineers commissioning and installing the systems;
- the organisations running the systems;
- the officers responsible for authorising and checking the installations;
- the relevant industry body;
- the consumers themselves.

Site visits were also made to the Bunhill Heat and Power Network, the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking and the South East London Combined Heat & Power (SELCHP) Network.

The review found that there was a sizeable 'performance gap'. Local experience of the performance of communal heating systems didn't always match up to predicted performance, both in terms of efficiency and carbon reduction; and in terms of costs to residents. This was, in part, being caused by a shortage of expertise amongst those planning, installing, maintaining and monitoring such schemes; and a lack of evaluation with regard to how the systems were working in practice.

The review culminated in a series of recommendations to ensure that, in future, any such systems fitted in Lewisham would be effective; and planned, maintained, monitored and, if necessary, rectified in a timely and successful manner. The central review finding that systems must be specified properly, with a clear understanding of the whole life cost of design, construction and management, was endorsed by the Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE) who established a Code of Practice for heat networks, published after the conclusion of the scrutiny review.



"This report isn't applying blame to any parties, we want to achieve effective communal heating systems that work and at the right price for everyone including the developers and especially the end user" – Councillor Carl Handley, Chair of the Housing Select Committee

Overview and Scrutiny

Communal Heating Systems Review

Housing Select Committee

May 2015

Membership of the Housing Select Committee in 2014-15:

Councillor Carl Handley (Chair)
Councillor Peter Bernards (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Paul Bell
Councillor John Coughlin
Councillor Amanda De Ryk
Councillor Maja Hilton
Councillor Simon Hooks
Councillor **Ohurotim** Ogunbadewa
Councillor Jonathan Slater
Councillor Susan Wise

In order to maximise the overall impact of the review and ensure it influences policy-making in this area, Council officers have lobbied Central Government and the Greater London Authority (GLA) to act on the review findings by encouraging take up of the ADE Code of Practice for heat networks and, in particular, raising requirements in terms of the technical knowledge needed to design, build and run such systems. Lobbying activity has also focussed on encouraging these bodies to start collecting and evaluating data about actual performance.

Public Spending In Lewisham

The Public Spending in Lewisham working group was set up by full Council in June 2015 to investigate the way in which public sector organisations were deploying their expenditure across the borough against a backdrop of austerity. The working group considered detailed information about organisations' capital and revenue expenditure in recent years, as well as budgeted spend for future years; and looked at areas of collaboration or interdependencies with Lewisham Council services. The aim was to encourage openness, accountability and closer working within a shrinking resources envelope. The Committee heard from the Police Service, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Lewisham Southwark College and Goldsmiths University.

Overview and Scrutiny

Public Spending in Lewisham

A report by the Public Spending in
Lewisham Working Group

September 2015



The recommendations resulting from the review sought to address some of the issues resulting from the significant and sustained reductions in public expenditure being felt across the borough. The aim was to help ensure that the remaining, limited and declining public financial resources were being used holistically and in the most efficient way possible.

Provision for the LGBT+ Community

Evidence

The Committee received verbal and written evidence from national organisations including the LGBT Foundation, Stonewall and Tonic Housing



A telephone conference was held with Leicestershire County Council

Local evidence was also taken from Public Health officers working on the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis and HR officers in relation to provision for staff

A Written Submission was received from the local Charity, Metro

Members visited Manchester City Council on 5 September 2017 to consider examples of good practice and information on LGBT+ Extra Care Provision

The review recognised that the inequalities faced and experiences within those defining as LGBT+ were diverse and that different groups and individuals within each group might face different challenges or might not face any challenges at all. To this end, the recommendations focused strongly on **improving the evidence base** and knowledge of the community in part through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process but also through equalities monitoring across Council provision. The review highlighted areas where members of the LGBT+ community still face inequalities and differences in service provision. In each of these cases, it made proposals for improvement and drew attention to the need for equalities provision **across a range of protected characteristics**, not just sexual orientation, to be deeper embedded throughout the full range of council services. The recommendations also emphasised the need to **make more routine use of good practice** and expertise from other public bodies and embed this across the Council. In particular, Scrutiny Members felt that emulating innovative practice elsewhere, for example in LGBT+ focussed extra care provision and **in embedding equalities policies across the Council's commissioning process**, was important. The Committee also recommended HR improvements to ensure the Council was providing an inclusive and supportive environment for all staff.

The review concluded that good partnership working with other public sector bodies, charities and local community groups and learning from and emulating good practice was essential to improving services to Lewisham residents.

Thames Water

In 2016 a series of major water mains bursts occurred across London, including in Lewisham, that were incredibly disruptive to residents and businesses. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recognised this and wanted to hold Thames Water to account in terms of the very significant impact the incidents had, both at the time and since. The Committee also wanted to make sure that Thames Water provided immediate, short term and longer term support to those affected; and work closely with residents and local businesses to help them get their lives and businesses back to normal as quickly as possible.

The recommendations made focused on :

- Improving Thames Water's communications with customers
- Strengthening and formalising their compensation arrangements and customer care policies
- Prioritising investment in replacing ageing Victorian pipework
- Ensuring that monitoring technology is fit for purpose with effective feedback mechanisms.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Scrutiny colleagues in other affected boroughs, also requested that the London Mayor, the GLA and all London Boroughs should support the campaign of the Fire Brigade Union to become the statutory Emergency Response Service for flooding. In Lewisham, this recommendation was endorsed by full Council.

The Committee recognised that there was value in working with other boroughs that had been similarly affected by burst water mains. The recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were joint recommendations with the London boroughs of Islington, Hackney and Lambeth and endorsed by the London Assembly Environment Committee.



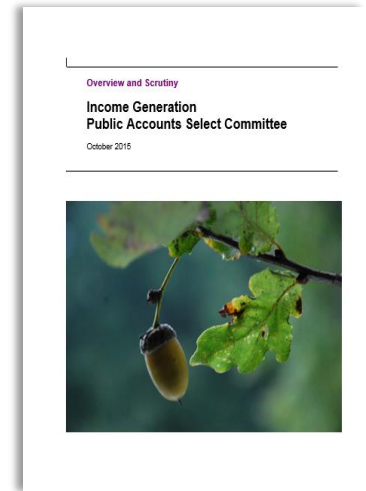
GLA Meeting to agree joint recommendations, 13 June, 2017

Income Generation

As a result of the severe financial pressures faced by Local Government, the Public Accounts Select Committee decided to carry out an in-depth review into Income Generation, publishing its report in 2016. A wide range of evidence was gathered on models used to generate income across the public sector within the parameters of relevant legislation, including commercialisation strategies being followed successfully by other local authorities.

Commercialisation

The Committee urged Council officers to become increasingly sales focused, question traditional assumptions and focus on customer experience. As a result of the review officers developed a range of income generation initiatives, established a new procurement team led by a commercialisation specialist and used the review findings to inform Council policy. More recently, further support and analysis of potential strategies and techniques for income generation was sought from external sources. In order to provide accountable leadership for income generating policies, it was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Resources would have express responsibility and accountability for pursuing income generation, including commercialisation.



"Identifying and realising new sources of income is not easy and there is no silver bullet. It will require a change of culture across the Council to maximise income generating opportunities whilst maintaining our public service ethos".

- Councillor Jamie Milne,
Chair of the Public Accounts
Select Committee, 2014-17.



Fees and Charges

The review challenged assumptions on fees and charges and helped to shape the Council's new Fees and Charges Strategy: challenging historical assumptions and random price increases and encouraging a streamlined policy-led approach. This has helped ensure improved value for money by generating more income from the Council's services and assets and removing unjustified subsidies wherever possible.

Catford Town Centre Regeneration

The Council has ambitious plans to regenerate the town centre of Catford, delivering major improvements to Catford's pedestrian and transport infrastructure whilst creating opportunities for new homes, shops and other amenities. The Sustainable Development Select Committee has kept the programme under review for the duration of this administration. The Committee has acted as a critical friend, challenging the approach taken by decision makers via quarterly updates on progress with the scheme. The Committee has made more than 30 recommendations in seven referrals to Mayor and Cabinet advising on the Committee's concerns and commenting on the overall progress with the scheme.

"At every step of the process we have encouraged the programme team to find ways to involve all councillors in shaping the vision for the future of the town centre, the civic heart of the borough and one which will have an impact for generations" – Cllr Liam Curran, Chair of the Sustainable Development Select Committee

The Committee has a particular interest in the quality and vibrancy of the public space in the newly developed Catford town centre. It has regularly reiterated its support for the development of a public square to frame the Broadway theatre as a centrepiece in the renewed town centre as well as providing a space for the community to come together. The Committee has a vision of a town centre that is on a human scale: that provides opportunities for people not only to work and live, but also to relax. Currently, Catford town centre is dominated by the shopping centre, which is no longer fit for purpose for businesses or for housing and is divided by the busy south circular, which is often congested and difficult to cross on foot. Accordingly, a specific focus for the Committee has been the options for the relocation of the south circular. The Committee has repeatedly pushed for the decision about the relocation to be accelerated and has kept pressure on officers and decision makers to ensure progress. In July 2017, with the endorsement of the Committee, the Mayor made a decision to relocate the road to the south, thereby opening up the potential for public space and improved infrastructure in the town centre. Since then, the Committee has been closely involved in the development of the masterplanning process.

What's happening?



In autumn 2017, members were invited to contribute towards the sustainability brief for the evolving masterplan. A workshop was held to involve councillors in the development of an environmental assessment for the regeneration, at a critical juncture in the master planning process.

Fire Safety

Councillor guide on fire safety for use during council meetings



FIRE SAFETY IN PURPOSE-BUILT BLOCKS OF FLATS AND MAISONNETTES IN YOUR BOROUGH

Local authorities play a vital role in ensuring fire safety within their borough as community leaders, enforcing authorities, partners to the emergency services and as landlords themselves.

Local authorities as the responsible person

Where the local authority is itself a responsible person for a property under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 it has a legal duty to keep properties safe from fire. This includes the common areas of purpose-built blocks of flats or maisonettes.

This means that the local authority has to ensure that there is a **comprehensive fire risk assessment** for each of its buildings. A fire risk assessment helps identify all the fire hazards and risks in the property so that the responsible person can make a decision on whether any risks identified are acceptable or whether something needs to be done to reduce or control them.

There should also be an **emergency evacuation plan** in place for each building. This details the action that residents and others need to take if there is a fire. This plan must make sure residents and others are safe. That a fire can be

detected and that residents are warned of this event. Residents should be able to safely escape from a fire using routes within the building designed and maintained to be safe to use during an emergency. There should be appropriate engineering and lighting in place on these routes.

Purpose-built blocks of flats or maisonettes are designed and built as self-contained residential units usually sharing common corridors, staircases and entrances. Purpose-built blocks of flats and maisonettes can be of any height, not just high-rise. In these buildings, the 'stay put' principle applies. This means that if a fire starts in the common parts or in another flat, all residents not directly affected by the fire would be expected to 'stay put' and remain in their flat unless directed to leave by the fire and rescue service.

More detailed information can be found at london-fire.gov.uk

version 1.0 (March 2017)



Lewisham Council staff to support Grenfell Tower fire residents

Published on 16 June 2017

Sir Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham, has issued the following statement on the Grenfell Tower fire and the support we are offering to people affected by the fire.

'The terrible consequences of the fire at Grenfell Tower have shocked us all and our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and those who have lost their homes.

'Although it will take time for the full causes to emerge, I am clear that we need to very quickly assess the implications for the high rise and tower blocks in our borough. Kevin Sheehan, the Executive Director responsible for housing, has written to me today [outlining the steps we are taking](#).

'We have been in constant contact with the various housing providers in Lewisham in the last couple of days and we will be writing to them all to get their assurance that risk assessments will be carried out as soon as possible. We are prepared to offer whatever advice and support might be necessary to ensure this happens. As further lessons and recommendations emerge from this terrible tragedy we will respond accordingly.

'We have today sent a number of officers to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to help their staff in running rest centres and supporting residents made homeless by the fire. We stand ready to offer further support along with our fellow boroughs across London. We are also encouraging those residents who want to help to donate to the Grenfell Tower Appeal set up by the [Kensington and Chelsea Foundation](#).'

Following the devastating fire at Grenfell tower in 2017, which resulted in appalling loss of life and the destruction of the homes of an entire community, the Council assessed all buildings in Lewisham for dangerous cladding. Where it was found, measures were put in place to keep residents safe whilst it was removed and residents were also reassured that fire safety procedures were in place and that safety checks were up to date. The Housing Select Committee, the Sustainable Development Select Committee and the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered detailed information from Council officers, Lewisham Homes and the London Fire Brigade, on the fire safety work taking place in the borough. At the request of scrutiny members, officers also provided regular updates on the work being carried out to assess the fire safety compliance of all tall buildings in the borough, including privately owned buildings and those managed by registered social landlords. The Housing Select Committee considered the options open to the Council to encourage private landlords and registered providers to share information with the Council and noted that there were a number of internal fire-safety issues at Grenfell, in addition to the external cladding issue, and urged improvements to tenancy checks. Following the publication of the interim report on fire safety by Dame Judith Hackett, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee took further evidence from the Council's Head of Building Control on the next steps.

Transition from Primary School

In 2016/17, the Children and Young People Select Committee reviewed the transition from primary to secondary school, a time of major change for children, both in terms of their physical development and the upheaval of finding their way in a new school. Members were aware that whilst some pupils took the change in their stride and settled into secondary school in a few short weeks, others took longer and needed more support. The committee found that the late sharing of crucial pupil information could impact upon the ability of secondary schools to put support in place for more vulnerable or disadvantaged pupils and without the necessary plans and support in place to enable a strong start in Year 7 for every student, seamless transition was difficult to achieve.

The review examined leading research on the subject, gathered the views of Year 6 and 7 pupils, head teachers and SENCOs in Lewisham's primary and secondary schools, and looked at best practice from elsewhere in England.

SENCOs from primary and secondary schools have historically met at Kaleidoscope in April for a 'Transition Day'. In previous years the Day focused on sharing information about SEND children. The review recommended broadening this to include vulnerable children and those likely to struggle with transition. Children starting secondary school in Lewisham in September 2017 benefited from the new arrangements. The Transition Day was attended by 100% of Lewisham's primary and secondary schools.

As a result of the review the importance of getting transition right, both pastorally and academically, has been emphasised and the profile of transition has been raised.

- Information is being shared earlier between primary and secondary schools.
- A wider range of information is being shared, including: (a) information that Year 6 pupils provide about themselves such as their strengths, hobbies, hopes and concerns; and (b) an example of written work prepared in the summer term of Year 6 to remind secondary teachers what they are capable of.
- Primary and secondary school staff are working to increase their knowledge of each others' curriculum
- Peer reviews are taking place in the autumn term to look at, among other things, the quality of teaching in KS3, to ensure that academic needs are prioritised as much as pastoral needs.
- Schools are now receiving advice on a variety of transition matters, including recommended activities.
- Schools have been advised to have a governor with responsibility for transition.

The Transition Working Group is working to improve transition as part of the wider drive to raise standards in Lewisham's secondary schools, and is tasked with implementing the recommendations.

Overview and Scrutiny Review of transition from primary to secondary school

Children and Young People's Select Committee
February 2017



Membership of the Children and Young People's Select Committee in 2016/17:

Councillor Mike Mason (Chair)
Councillor Laila Saito (Vice Chair)
Councillor Chris Barnham
Councillor Andrea Brown
Councillor David Brown
Councillor Simon Hoare
Councillor Laila Johnson-Francis
Councillor Helen Kite
Councillor Alex Peacock
Councillor Alan Tice
Sharon Kirkham (Parent Governor Representative)
Karin Morda (Parent Governor Representative)
Mark Tardien (Parent Governor Representative)
Gill Egan (Church Representative)
Margaret Nicholas-Roberts (Church Representative)



The London Scrutiny Network



The London Scrutiny network is a pan-London Scrutiny Forum chaired by a Lewisham Councillor, Councillor John Muldoon. The network promotes best practice in scrutiny and enables the sharing of ideas and expertise. Lewisham officers help support the network, ensuring that Lewisham is at the forefront of developments in scrutiny and that members and officers benefit from peer-to-peer and expert learning and support.

The network has hosted a number of high profile events, most recently on 29 January 2018, when the network considered the support available to, and some of the key issues facing, local government scrutiny. The network heard from Clive Betts MP (Chair of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee); Jennette Arnold (Chair of the London Assembly); Professor Tony Travers (Journalist and academic at LSE London); and representatives from the LGA and CfPS.

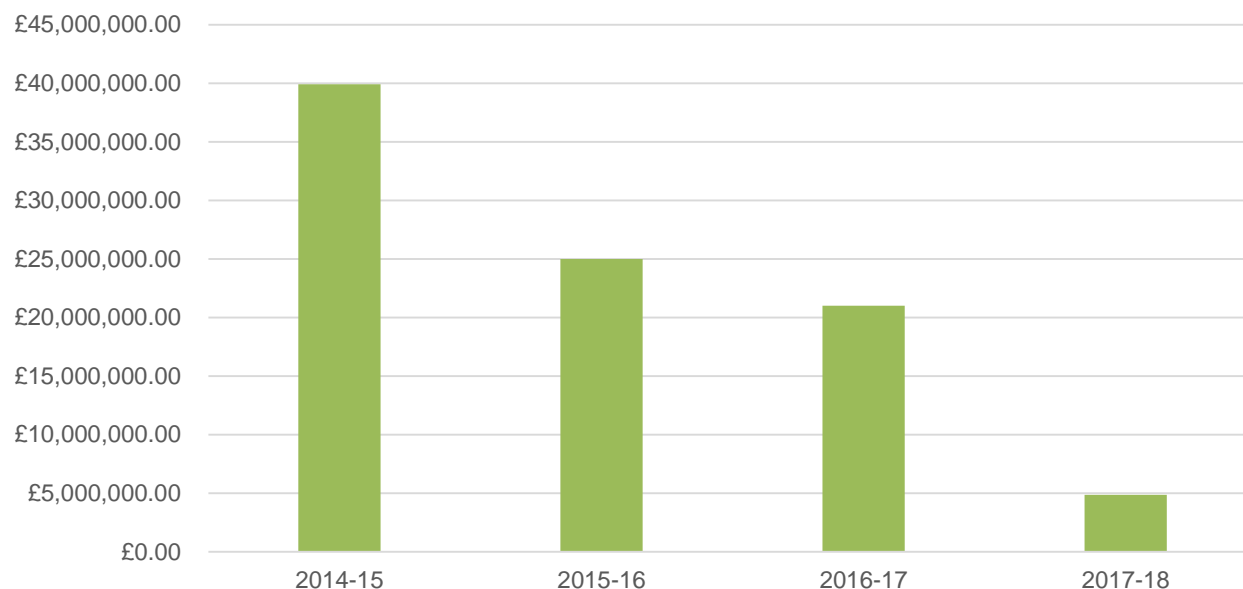


Budget Scrutiny

The Public Accounts Select Committee leads the scrutiny of the Council's savings programme and budget process, although all scrutiny committees are involved. The Mayor and the Cabinet Member for Resources have regularly attended meetings of the Public Accounts Select Committee to present budget and savings proposals. The Lewisham Future Programme is the Council's approach to meeting the challenges of reduced funding, whilst maintaining high quality public services. There have been sustained and significant reductions in funding from government over the four years of this administration, which are on top of significant reductions made over the preceding four years. A range of thematic cross-cutting programmes are in place in order to meet the challenges posed by reduced funding and scrutiny is closely involved in examining the potential impacts of the proposals that come forward.

The Select Committees have overseen the scrutiny of nearly £100m of savings proposals between 2014 and 2018:

Scrutiny of Lewisham Future Programme savings proposals 2014-18



Budget Scrutiny at London Borough of Lewisham

Harrow Scrutiny Challenge Panel Meeting – 14th January 2015

In January 2015, Lewisham's scrutiny team was invited to give evidence about best practice in pre-decision budget scrutiny to a scrutiny challenge panel at another London authority. The evidence provided was well received. It led the panel to recommend strategic changes to their council-wide approach to pre-decision scrutiny and challenge, modelled on the Lewisham approach.

Health Scrutiny

The performance and plans of the Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have been regularly scrutinised and members have made comments on changes to primary care services in the borough, the CCG's long-term commissioning plans, and a number of other significant proposals. In 2017/18 both the Healthier Communities Select Committee and the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee closely monitored the CCG's consultation on the future of the Walk-in Centre at New Cross, hearing evidence from senior leaders at the CCG, ward councillors, and local campaign groups. Members expressed concern about the confusion amongst some residents about the various ways of accessing GP services and sought reassurance that patients would benefit from an extended hours service by their local GP practice.

The Healthier Communities Select Committee has an important statutory role in monitoring the performance and the development of health services in Lewisham.

Lewisham's **health and social care scrutiny protocol** governs relationships between the Committee and local NHS bodies, the Local Clinical commissioning Group and Lewisham Healthwatch. It helps foster a positive working relationship between the Council and the wider health community. Local Health partners have agreed to give prior notice to the Committee about consultations on substantial variations to health services – in advance of the statutory requirements. The protocol also commits health partners to sharing their work programmes as well as commenting on, and submitting ideas for, the Select Committee's work plan.



healthwatch
Lewisham

The Healthier Communities Select Committee has established an effective working relationship with Healthwatch during this administration. The Committee worked closely with Healthwatch to run a series of engagement events as part of the Committee's review of health and care integration, and a representative of Healthwatch Lewisham regularly attends and contributes to committee meetings. The Committee has received regular updates on the work of Healthwatch, including their annual reports and a number of reports on the findings of their ongoing engagement work.

Voices we have heard

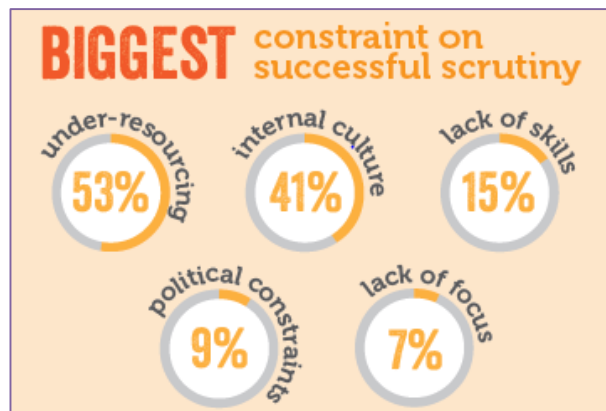
External input ensures that scrutiny benefits from a wide range of expert evidence and that a balanced range of views is heard. During 2014-18, we heard from many people and organisations, including:

- **Healthier Communities Select Committee:** Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust, St John's Medical Centre, Healthwatch Bromley and Lewisham
- **Children and Young People Select Committee:** the Young Advisors, National Careers Services, Prospects, London Councils, Youth Engagement Lewisham, Bonus Pastor School, Pearson UK and International, Leathersellers Federation of Schools, The Human Trafficking Organisation, the NUT, Cardiff University, Headteachers, Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign, Ubuntu Social Living Network
- **Sustainable Development Select Committee:** Land Securities, Street Feast, TfL, SEE3, Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), Allies and Morrison Urban Practitioners, the Lenox Project Community Interest Company/ Build, THCO, Ian Chalk Architects
- **Safer, Stronger Communities Select Committee:** Brandram Road Community Centre, Lewisham Pensioners' Forum, Honor Oak Community Association, Milton Court TRA, Volunteer Centre Lewisham, Voluntary Action Lewisham, London Fire Brigade, Intelligence Unit - Greater London Authority, Lewisham Disability Coalition, National Probation Service
- **Housing Select Committee:** Lewisham Homes, Rydon, Pinnacle, RB3, Shelter, CAYSH (a South London charity delivering accommodation, advice and support services for young people facing homelessness)
- **Public Accounts Select Committee:** IP&E Ltd, LB Brent

Scrutiny also benefits from the close involvement of officers from across the Council. The Executive Directors of each of the Council's four directorates regularly attend scrutiny meetings to account for the development or delivery of Council policies and programmes. The Chief Executive has also attended on a number of occasions to share his overarching view of issues in the borough and the plans in place to deliver on Lewisham's priorities.

Future Challenges

As noted in the final report of the Parliamentary Communities and Local Government Select Committee report into scrutiny in local government, there needs to be “parity of esteem” between scrutiny and the executive; comprehensive access to information relevant to scrutiny for scrutiny members; and adequate resourcing to ensure that member-led accountability is effective, distinctive and proportionate.



Source: CfPS Scrutiny Perceptions Survey 2017

The Council will continue to operate within challenging financial circumstances over the course of the next administration. A significant level of savings will be required in the years to 2022. It is expected that the Council will need, for example, to identify further savings of circa £35m in the two years 2019/20 and 2020/21. Scrutiny members will need to assure themselves that they have a good understanding of the Council's changing financial position and, as uncertainties resolve and government policy changes, scrutiny will be required to demonstrate leadership and diligence as it challenges decision makers and fulfils its responsibilities.

The current policy environment is one of continuing uncertainty, largely due to the scale of the uncertainty inherent in the UK's negotiations to leave the European Union (EU). The implications of this change will reverberate within London and within Lewisham, with potential implications for London's jobs market, which is global in its diversity and scale and is made up of a significant proportion of international workers. The implications for London's financial centre might also impact within Lewisham due to its proximity to the financial centres of the City of London and Canary Wharf. There are unresolved questions about the impact leaving the EU will have in Lewisham, including:

People – in London some 20% of the population were born abroad, many in the EU. Where will the numbers and skills come from to supply the workforce needed in the future?

Costs – given the complexity of supply chains and business interconnections with Europe, Brexit will almost certainly have implications for the cost of doing business, the access to global investments for pension funds, returns from London registered operations, and other changes to asset valuations (in particular in respect of property prices in London).

EU funding for research and economic development - How programmes currently funded by the EU will be funded in the future has to be resolved. For example, London is recognised as a congested and polluted city but the UK Government, post-Brexit, may introduce different development programmes and standards.