Shaping out future

Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020



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Foreword

At the beginning of the 21st century, the pace of change is breathtaking. Innovations and developments that were recently considered cutting edge are now commonplace. We can communicate with each other around the world in an instant.

Here in London, we are very aware that we are global citizens. We make a key contribution to the world's economy but are also subject to global pressures and events such as climate change and an increasingly mobile human population. At the same time we are residents of Lewisham and the quality of life in our local neighbourhoods and communities is of vital importance to us.

It can be difficult to know what the future will bring. What will Lewisham look like in 2020? How will we live. learn, do business and enjoy life in the borough? We can't predict for certain but we can establish a vision for the borough and its people. Shaping our future sets out how Lewisham's public, private and voluntary and community sectors will work alongside our communities and citizens to make this vision of the future a reality. It is a strategy which recognises that Lewisham is an integral part of London and is characterised by its diverse and distinctive communities. neighbourhoods and localities.

This diversity is Lewisham's defining characteristic and will continue to be its key strength.

I want to see a future where all of our citizens, young and old, feel empowered and where they are involved in the changes that shape their lives. Real, lasting improvements can only occur when we all recognise our own contribution to making them happen. By pulling together as individuals, communities and organisations we can help make Lewisham a prosperous and exciting place, with strong, cohesive and sustainable communities, today and for future generations.



Sir Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham



Together, we will make Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn

Shaping our future is Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy. The strategy looks ahead to 2020 and explores how Lewisham will change and develop over this period. It identifies the key challenges and opportunities that the borough and our citizens will face and looks at how we can ensure that everyone can benefit from the changes the future will bring.

Shaping our future reflects the many individual strategies and plans endorsed by different agencies and partnerships in Lewisham, which are all working with our citizens to build a successful and sustainable future. It takes forward the aspirations of the original Community Strategy and builds upon its achievements.

Lewisham Strategic Partnership is responsible for leading on the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Partnership brings together representatives from Lewisham's public, private, voluntary and community sectors to examine how, by working together, the quality of life of Lewisham's citizens can be improved.

The Partnership involves key local organisations and stakeholders, including:

- Lewisham Primary Care Trust
- Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust
- Lewisham Council
- Metropolitan Police
- Lewisham Housing Association Group
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- Lewisham College
- Race Equality Action Lewisham
- Voluntary Action Lewisham
- Lewisham Community Network
- JobCentre Plus
- South East London Chamber of Commerce

- Millwall Football & Athletic Company
- Lewisham Fire Brigade
- South London and Maudsley NHS Trust
- Lewisham Ethnic Minority Partnership

To help citizens achieve their aspirations and ambitions, the Partnership is committed to achieving its long-held vision for the borough:

Together, we will make Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn.





Our principles

Reducing inequality – narrowing the gap in outcomes for citizens.

We share our citizens' ambitions for themselves, their families and their communities. No individual or section of the community should be excluded from the benefits and the opportunities the future will bring. Lewisham has pockets of affluence but also neighbourhoods that count among the most deprived in the country.

Deprivation and poverty can limit people's prospects and some of our communities are more likely to experience their effects than others. Our black and minority ethnic communities are at greater risk from health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and stroke as well as being more likely to present to acute mental health services.

Disabled people and our older population are more likely to face barriers to securing employment. Educational outcomes are significantly lower for our children and young people on free school meals. Deprivation is often accompanied and made worse by discrimination and prejudice.

Tackling both the causes and the effects of deprivation and challenging discrimination are at the heart of this strategy. The Partnership will work with citizens to narrow the gap in outcomes so that an individual's background, community or circumstances will not be a barrier to them achieving their full potential.

Delivering together efficiently, effectively and equitably – ensuring that all citizens have appropriate access to and choice of high quality local services.

Many of the challenges that face our citizens are complex and cannot be easily solved by a single individual or organisation. For example, improving our health is first and foremost a personal responsibility. However, citizens can be supported to lead healthy lifestyles through good education, high quality health and care services, an insistence on decent standards of housing and easy accessibility to culture and leisure activities.

Effective partnership working draws upon the expertise of citizens and organisations to tackle challenges in an intelligent way. It starts with citizens helping to identify their needs and design solutions that will make a difference. It encompasses the work of the public services, the activism of voluntary and community organisations and the specialist skills of private and commercial sector partners. By working together, combining resources and avoiding duplication, our local services will represent value for money and provide effective answers to local problems.

Sustainable communities

A sustainable community is one where people feel responsible for their local area and those who live there, where people are tolerant and hospitable and where individuals and groups can feel confident in their ability to effect change. It's a community which can rely upon effective services and a good infrastructure for support.

A sustainable community is:

- Socially progressive tackling disadvantage and social exclusion, responding to the needs of its diverse citizens and communities.
- Environmentally aware protecting the environment and using resources prudently.
- Economically dynamic regenerating its localities and ensuring its citizens are skilled and equipped to take advantage of economic opportunities.

What our residents have said

This strategy is based upon what local citizens have told us about their life in the borough and their hopes for the future.

- People are proud of where they live. They recognise that they are a part of London and feel a sense of attachment to both the city and to their local area. They enjoy the diversity, dynamism and sense of community in Lewisham that set it apart from other places.
- Lewisham's citizens are active in their communities. They want to make sure that their voices are heard and that they can influence decisions which will affect their lives.
- They are ambitious for themselves, their families and their communities. They want the best education, training and employment opportunities in an increasingly competitive global market.

- Good connections to the opportunities that exist in London and beyond are of vital importance to them.
- People want to live in communities which care for our most vulnerable citizens and do not tolerate abuse or neglect.
- Crime and the fear of crime remain key areas of concern. People want the borough to feel safer in the future.
- Citizens have told us that a clean environment with high-quality and affordable housing is important if the local area is to thrive.
- They want to lead active, healthy and enriching lives with plenty of opportunities to participate in leisure and cultural activities.
- They want a dynamic environment that supports business and contributes to Lewisham's successful future.





Our strategic priorities

Shaping our future is based upon a thorough analysis of the borough and its needs. It incorporates some key assumptions about the changes we are likely to see between now and 2020, based on projections, evidence prepared for the borough's Local Development Framework and national and regional strategies such as the London Plan. It is also informed by the challenges identified by external inspection or review such as the local authority's 'Corporate Performance Assessment', the Primary Care Trust's local needs assessment 'A Picture of Health' and the Metropolitan Police's 'Strategic Needs Assessment'.

Drawing upon all this information and reflecting the concerns and aspirations of Lewisham's citizens, this strategy sets out six priorities. Lewisham Strategic Partnership will work alongside citizens to build and support sustainable communities that are:

Ambitious and achieving – where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential.

Safer – where people feel safe and live free from crime, antisocial behaviour and abuse.

Empowered and responsible – where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.

Clean, green and liveable – where people live in high quality housing and can care for and enjoy their environment.

Healthy, active and enjoyable – where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being.

Dynamic and prosperous – where people are part of vibrant communities and town centres, well connected to London and beyond.

Lewisham today

Lewisham is a part of London, the largest, most culturally diverse and vibrant city in the European Union and home to over 7.5 million people. As one of the world's largest economic centres, London is powered by the dynamism and diversity of the people who live and work here. Sustaining this position means making the most out of all the talents of our communities.

Stretching from the banks of the Thames, in the north, to the borders with Bromley, in the south, the 13.4 square miles of Lewisham encompass strong communities who take pride in their local areas and neighbourhoods. This sense of place ensures that while the borough and its neighbourhoods develop they maintain their unique identities and preserve Lewisham's rich natural and architectural heritage. Lewisham is one of the greenest parts of south-east London, Over a fifth of the borough is parkland or open space. 'Green Flag' parks, attractive residential neighbourhoods and Lewisham's waterway network all combine to create a relaxing and pleasant environment in the midst of bustling city life.

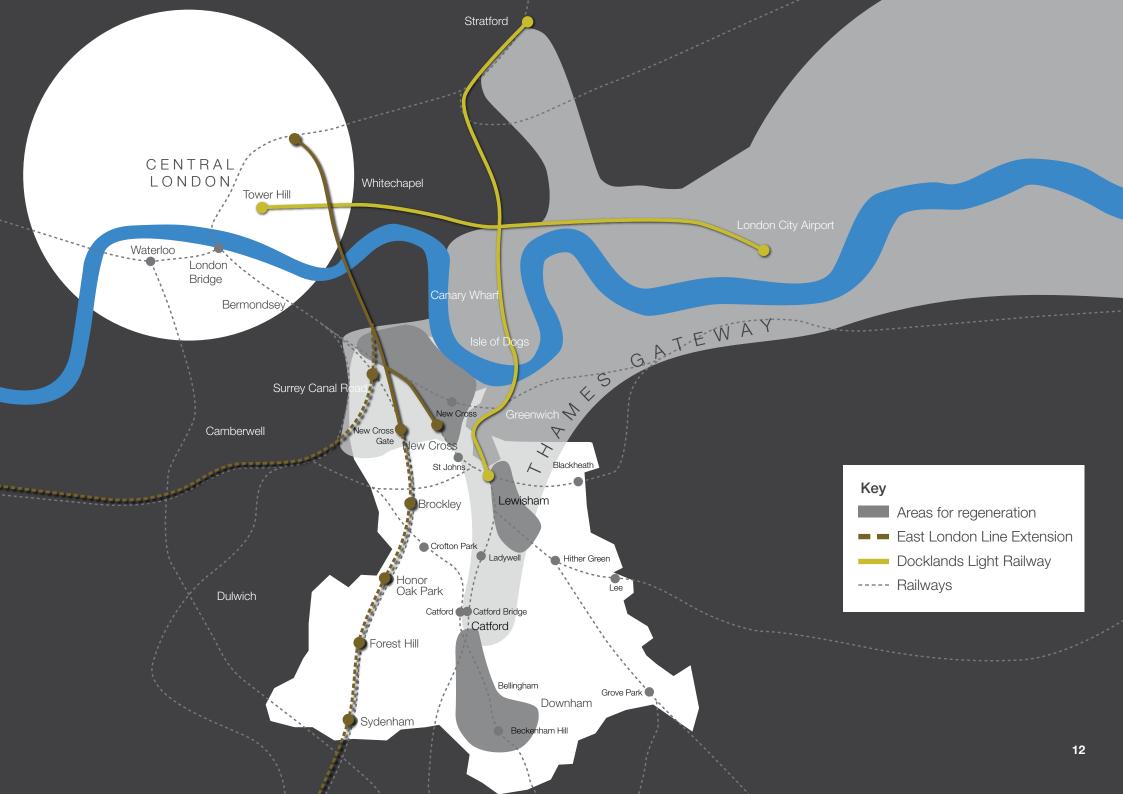
Lewisham contributes to the diversity and energy of the capital, supporting its growing economy whilst gaining significant benefits from being a part of a world class city. Lewisham's own economy, though relatively small by London standards, is well placed to grow, encouraging new enterprises and allowing existing businesses to prosper.

There are excellent transport connections from Lewisham to the rest of London, the wider region and the world beyond. Our developing infrastructure connects citizens to Canary Wharf and the City and provides fast access to London City Airport and the new international rail terminal at Stratford.

Lewisham has a population of 250,000. The population is relatively young with one in four under 19. The population over 60 represents one in seven in our community. It is the 15th most ethnically diverse local authority in England. Two out of every five of our residents are from a black and minority ethnic background and there are over 130 languages spoken in the borough making links throughout London and

across the world. Lewisham's vitality and dynamism stem from the energy of its citizens and diverse communities. Lewisham's people have a long history of welcoming and championing new communities, valuing diverse viewpoints and recognising the contribution that different cultures can make to the quality of life in the borough.

Lewisham has over 800 active voluntary and community sector organisations and more than 200 individual faith groups. All these groups and many others help to strengthen our communities by galvanising our citizens, addressing local concerns and advocating on behalf of some of the most vulnerable in society. There is at all times a huge variety of community and cultural activities taking place in the borough, highlighting the creativity and energy of local citizens and organisations.



Lewisham into the future

Place

Lewisham's future is intrinsically linked to that of London and the wider region. The borough is part of the Thames Gateway area which will see significant housing and economic growth in the near future. In London itself the number of jobs is predicted to grow by over half a million by 2016. Lewisham citizens have a key role to play in supporting this growth, employing their skills and contributing to the vitality and continuing prosperity of the capital. In 2012 London will host the Olympic and the Paralympic Games showcasing the city and the achievements and vibrancy of its communities. Lewisham's citizens will be well placed to be involved in this major international celebration.

Within the borough, significant investment is planned for our town centres and localities. New business. leisure and retail opportunities will transform our centres, refreshing their appearance and adding to their dynamism. Lewisham's Local Development Framework (LDF) sits alongside Shaping our future and provides the spatial context for new developments and regeneration initiatives. The LDF ensures that developments incorporate high standards of design, accessibility and sustainability, improve the overall quality of the built environment and strengthen our citizens' sense of place.

Some of the headline developments in Lewisham over the next 12 years include:

- A £280 million programme of rebuilding and refurbishment will see all the borough's secondary schools brought up to the highest standard to help our children and young people achieve their full potential.
- A major redevelopment of Lewisham and Catford town centres will provide new business and leisure opportunities along with new housing developments.
- The extension of the East London Line will connect the borough to London's Overground network and provide greater accessibility to central London and beyond.
- The proposed Convoys Wharf development in the north of the borough will open up a major part of London's riverfront to Lewisham's citizens, providing new homes and affordable housing, cultural facilities and retail and community premises.

People

London will continue to be a destination for people from all over the world and an attractive place for new communities and citizens. By 2026, projections show that there could be as many as 35,000 more people making their home in Lewisham. This population growth will predominantly be in the north of the borough, in line with many of the proposed physical developments and regeneration initiatives.

Lewisham's communities will also become more diverse:

- Currently around 40% of residents are from a black and minority ethnic background. By 2020, this figure is projected to increase to 44%, with particular growth in the Black African and Black Caribbean communities.
- New communities from the European Union and beyond will continue to make their home in the borough.
- Improved health services and medical technology will result in a larger proportion of older residents, as people live longer, and more low birth-weight children with disabilities surviving into adulthood.

Services

A growing population will increase demand on services and the local infrastructure. Our schools, colleges, university, hospital and local surgeries will need to adapt and change to make sure that the needs of the future can be met. Increasingly the police and other agencies will work at a local level to tailor their activities to local needs. People will expect easier access to public services, with one single point of access for many of their enquiries.

More health services will be provided in the community to reduce the need for travel to hospital and to support people with long-term conditions to manage their health. There will need to be a better spread of specialist services across London and the region to ensure that our citizens have access to the best possible healthcare.

The transport infrastructure will need to accommodate more journeys and more people per journey. This will require increased capacity on public transport and alternatives to private car travel. Walking and cycling and initiatives such as car-sharing will grow in popularity as we seek to reduce our carbon output.

The projected increase in the population will produce a larger environmental 'footprint'. We are likely to witness the impact of climate change, with warmer, drier summers and milder, wetter winters. Our services and our communities will have to adapt to these changes, tackling new challenges such as the increased risk of flooding.

Stretching our horizons

New technology and biotechnologies will continue to revolutionise how we live. Economic, political and social trends will evolve, changing the context for action and the way we approach many of the challenges of today.

Even with all the information available on how the borough might develop, no prediction can be entirely accurate. There will be challenges over the next 12 years that are not expected and require entirely new solutions and ways of working. This strategy will support Lewisham's citizens, communities and partnerships to work together to address these new challenges and to ensure that the borough continues to prosper.



Ambitious and achieving – where people are inspired and supported to fulfill their potential

Everyone who lives, works and learns in the borough should have the opportunity and the confidence to set themselves high ambitions and to achieve them. A good start at nursery and at school is one way people can shape their futures, but ambition and aspiration do not stop once people leave full-time education. London is one of the world's leading cities and opportunities exist for people of all ages.

Whether looking to achieve good academic and vocational qualifications, enter employment, start a new business, change career, take up a hobby or branch out in an entirely new direction, Lewisham will be a place where people feel supported to achieve their personal goals.

To support this priority we will work together to:

- Inspire our young people to achieve their full potential by removing the barriers to learning.
- Encourage and facilitate access to education, training and employment opportunities for all our citizens.
- Celebrate local achievements so people feel proud of their area and eager to be a part of its success.

What will progress look like?

- More of our children and young people going on to further and higher education and securing places at top universities and colleges.
- A higher proportion of children and young people achieving five A* to C grades at Key Stage 4.
- A higher proportion of children and young people achieving level four or above at Key Stage 2.
- A reduction in the achievement gap between our most disadvantaged pupils and their peers.
- More 16–18 year olds in education, employment or training.
- A higher proportion of the working age population with basic skills and vocational qualifications.

Inspire our young people to achieve their potential by removing the barriers to learning

Education is one of the key factors in determining and transforming people's life chances. Achievement at school or college multiplies the opportunities open to our children and young people. Before entering school, high quality pre-school provision can lay the foundation for a child's successful development.

By raising standards in our schools and colleges and by supporting parents. more of our children and young people can reach their full potential. For some of our young people there remain barriers to achievement. Statistically, children from particular black and minority ethnic and white working-class backgrounds, looked after children and those most affected by poverty achieve less well than their peers. Children with special educational needs usually require additional support to allow them to fulfil their potential. There are also particularly vulnerable groups of young people who are at risk of not participating in education, training or employment.

Local people, especially those with children, consistently tell us that the quality of local primary and secondary schools is a key priority for them and for the local area.

What has been achieved

- Standards in Lewisham's schools across all age ranges have improved significantly over the last six years.
- Young people's achievement at GCSE has risen significantly, making Lewisham's schools some of the most improved in London over three years.
- In 2007/8, 28% more Black Caribbean pupils achieved five A*-C grades at GCSE than in 2002.
- The achievements of both Lewisham College and Christ the King have been recognised with the awarding of Beacon Status. This award marks out both colleges as examples of excellence for others to follow.
- Our local communities, libraries, parks, theatres and natural resources complement the work of schools by providing safe, clean areas for learning.

- Continue to work with our children and young people to raise standards at all Key Stages to meet and then surpass the national average.
- Continue to focus support on underachieving groups so that circumstances and background do not act as a barrier to them achieving in the future.
- Work with the government and our private sector partners to invest £260 million in rebuilding and renovating 15 schools in the borough and building a new all-age school in Lewisham town centre.
- Ensure that the Building Schools for the Future programme incorporates the latest technology and design to provide stimulating learning environments and to support innovative teaching.

- Continue to invest in quality further education in the borough. Lewisham College is undertaking a £150m redevelopment of its Deptford campus, one of the largest further education investment programmes in the country.
- Provide high-quality information, advice and guidance to all young people aged 13–19 to remove the barriers and obstacles to training and employment.
- Provide our young people with a fulfilling educational career, supporting them through pre-school and primary schools to secondary schools and colleges, into further and higher education, employment, and beyond.

How can we all help?

- Volunteer to become a school governor and help your school and its pupils to perform even better in the future.
- Mentor a young person, helping them to deal with challenging situations and to plan out an ambitious future for themselves.
- Participate in the life of your local school, perhaps by helping out with after-school or holiday activities.

What else can I look at?

• Children and Young People's Plan.



Encourage and facilitate access to education, training and employment opportunities for all our citizens

As London's economy grows the number of jobs and careers available to Lewisham's citizens will increase. The London Plan, developed by the Greater London Authority, predicts a minimum of 249,000 more jobs between now and 2016 for east and south-east London.

Many of these jobs will require specific skills. Lewisham's citizens should feel equipped to compete for the best jobs and fulfil their aspirations. Everyone, regardless of their background or experience, will be able to develop their skills through lifelong learning and access these opportunities. New skills can be learnt in a variety of situations. whether it be caring for a relative, starting an adult education course or training to advance or change a career. Some 30.000 adults in Lewisham require help with basic literacy and numeracy. With access to the right training, development opportunities and support, all our citizens can benefit from London's dynamism and transform their prospects.

Learning new skills is about more than finding a new or better job. For many citizens and particularly those who are now retired it's also about achieving personal goals and pursuing a particular interest, whether that be taking up a new hobby, learning a language or becoming involved in a voluntary or community organisation.

What has been achieved

- Students from our schools, colleges and further and higher education providers have achieved great things. Five winners of the Turner Prize and almost a quarter of those shortlisted for the award have been Goldsmiths graduates. Every year 10,000 students attend vocational training at Lewisham College.
- Granville Park, the borough's first purpose-built adult learning centre, opened in July 2006.
- Since 2004 education providers throughout the borough have helped over 3,000 people attain an entry level qualification in literacy, numeracy or English for Speakers of another Language (ESOL).
- The Mayor's Training Scheme, developed by Connexions and the Youth Service with private, voluntary and community sector support, has helped the borough to have almost the highest percentage of young people in education, training or employment in the region.

- Enable all our citizens to aim high and achieve their full potential by ensuring that all education and skills organisations provide accessible and quality services that support and inspire development.
- Identify the skills required for Lewisham citizens to access future employment opportunities and close the gap between existing provision and future needs.
- Ensure that all our communities have access to appropriate learning and training opportunities and the chance to benefit from the employment prospects that will accompany the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Improve the quality, availability and flexibility of childcare so that more parents and especially young mothers will be able to access training and employment.

- Extend the opportunities available for lifelong learning and encourage citizens to make full use of the libraries and learning resources available in the borough. A new library and learning resource centre in New Cross is being built as part of the New Deal for Communities programme.
- Support more people who are currently on Incapacity Benefit progress into employment. The New Horizons project provides mentoring and support services that facilitate people entering or returning to employment.

How can we all help?

 Commit to achieving your ambitions and make use of the resources and opportunities available in Lewisham and across London. Local and regional organisations run courses ranging from performing arts and communication to numeracy and literacy. Make use of local facilities to find the best route into employment.
 Organisations like JobCentre Plus and Connexions provide advice and guidance and local libraries have a range of resources available to help you expand your skills or look for a new job.

- Achieving Ambitions Lewisham College's Strategic intentions.
- Goldsmiths, University of London's Strategic Plan.
- 2012 Action Plan.
- Ageing Well Strategy.
- Children and Young People's Plan.



Celebrate local achievements so people feel proud of their area and eager to be a part of its success

Lewisham's citizens have a lot to be proud of. Our young people compete at the highest level in national sports such as basketball and the Special Games. Local heroes such as Sybil Phoenix, Asquith Gibbs and the late Dame Cicely Saunders inspire people through their examples of leadership and their contributions to individual and community well-being. There are artists and academics of world renown who live and work in the borough.

Internationally acclaimed institutions such as Goldsmiths (University of London), Trinity Laban and the Horniman Museum all contribute to London's creativity and continuing success. The Stephen Lawrence Centre which opened in 2008 adds to this group of leading-edge facilities, providing excellent opportunities for our young people. All of these are or are set to become leaders in their respective fields.

Lewisham citizens have a host of opportunities open to them in the future. In 2012 the Olympic and Paralympic Games will place London, its citizens and its distinctive communities at the heart of international attention. In the run up to the Games and during the celebrations, Lewisham will be able to showcase its strengths and demonstrate its vibrancy, creativity and dynamism.

What has been achieved

- Millwall Football Club progressed all the way to the FA Cup Final in 2004.
 When not on the pitch, the Club and its players support a range of local initiatives including community coaching and anti-racism and men's health campaigns.
- Students from the Trinity Laban conservatoire of Music and Dance enjoy great success, performing with leading choreographers and dance companies throughout the world.
- The contribution of our older citizens is highlighted in My Life, a Lewisham publication which celebrates success and details opportunities for active participation.

- Annual high profile Civic
 Achievement Ceremonies promote
 business, academic and citizen
 accomplishment.
- 11 Lewisham care leavers took part in a pioneering international volunteering project in South Africa. This was the first of its kind in the UK. It was sponsored by Sir Richard Branson, featured on national television and was recently profiled in government legislation.
- Horniman Museum is the first museum in Britain to open a gallery specifically celebrating African art and recently added 'Blue Earth 1807-2007', a sculpture commemorating the Bicentenary of the Parliamentary Abolition of Transatlantic Slavery, to its collection.

Plans for the future

- Promote and reward the achievements of Lewisham's citizens and organisations to inspire success in others.
- Develop Lewisham's identity as a vital, creative place by promoting its distinctive qualities and opportunities so that it is a recognised and respected part of the capital.
- Ensure that Lewisham's arts, heritage and its cultural opportunities support and inspire people's ambitions and learning.
- Inspire our young people and our communities in the lead up to the London 2012 Olympic Games, maximising opportunities for them to connect and contribute to the event and its ideals.
- Support festivals and events which contribute to citizens' sense of place and celebrate local areas and identities.

How can we all help?

• Tell us about your achievements.

- Lewisham Arts Strategy.
- Cultural Strategy.
- 2012 Action Plan.





Safer – where people feel safe and live free from crime, antisocial behaviour and abuse

Crime and community safety are key areas of concern for our citizens. The crime rate is falling in Lewisham as it is across most of London. This is important because our citizens move around London every day and are affected by the crime rate elsewhere. However, our fear of crime is not diminishing in line with the overall reduction in real crime. This issue needs to be addressed because it results in some of our most vulnerable citizens feeling unsafe. People want to feel safe as they go about their daily lives and want to know that children and young people are safe travelling around the borough and across London. Feeling safe is about more than crime and policing, it's also about how an area looks and feels and how people treat one another. Safer communities are based upon effective partnership working. By sharing experience and expertise the police, the fire brigade, the council, schools, community groups including the Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group (LCPCG) and crucially citizens themselves can ensure that local areas are free from crime and antisocial behaviour and provide a safe environment for all.

To support this priority we will work together to:

- Reduce the overall level of crime to below the London average.
- Tackle antisocial behaviour and ensure that people feel confident and safe throughout the borough.
- Keep our children and young people safe from harm, abuse and criminal activity.

What will progress look like?

- A reduction in the rates of crime that impact most upon Lewisham, such as serious violent crime, serious acquisitive crime and repeat incidents of domestic violence.
- A reduction in the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System.
- A reduction in reoffending and substance misuse among Lewisham's children and young people.
- An improvement in the stability of placements for looked after children.
- A reduction in the numbers of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

Reduce the overall level of crime to below the London average

Crime wrecks people's lives, damages communities and can undermine citizens' perceptions of where they live. It can create fear and intolerance and reduce the sense of well-being and togetherness that is essential for a sustainable community. Hate crime and discrimination can marginalise individuals and whole communities.

Lewisham has generally had lower levels of crime than most of the other inner London boroughs. However, as with most major conurbations, there is a prevalence of certain crimes, including burglary, violent crime and car crime. There are also hot spots of antisocial behaviour and street crime. Some offences, like domestic violence and abuse, are often unreported and undetected for years. However, the damage caused to victims and their families causes untold misery and has a significant impact on health and educational outcomes.

To tackle crime effectively, citizens need to feel confident about reporting criminal activity and working with criminal justice agencies. The police and other public agencies need to collaborate effectively and involve the community. Our response needs to be appropriate and proportionate. For some crimes a custodial sentence is the right solution. However, we need to look beyond apprehension to interventions which stop people offending in the first place and which rehabilitate offenders so that they can break free from the cycle of reoffending.

What has been achieved

- There are now 18 Safer
 Neighbourhood Teams across the
 borough, one per ward, set up to
 address local concerns and tackle
 crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Successful targeting of hotspots and work with local schools has resulted in a significant decrease in the robbery rate during 2007.
- The Central Clinic opened in 2005, providing a single point of contact for people accessing drug and alcohol support and treatment services.
- The sanctuary scheme, developed with Supporting People, works with victims of domestic violence to enable them to feel safer at home by providing physical adaptations to their properties, easier access to emergency services and additional advocacy and support.
- Community justice programmes use trained local volunteers to help young people who have got into trouble with the courts for the first time move in a more positive direction.

- Use the latest technology, data and intelligence to target offenders more effectively and bring them to justice more efficiently.
- Continue to work alongside local communities to build trust and confidence in the police and the criminal justice system.
- Safeguard our most vulnerable citizens, ensuring that staff in local organisations recognise the signs of abuse and neglect and work together to provide appropriate interventions.
- Develop specialist support for victims of domestic violence and create an environment where such violence is not tolerated by improving education and holding the perpetrators accountable.

- Reduce drug-related crime by targeting drug and alcohol misuse in partnership with health and social care support and ensure that all sections of the community are accessing the available drug support services.
- Reduce hate crime crimes perpetrated against people simply because of who they are: their race, their faith or their sexual orientation – and provide 'safe' areas for third party reporting of these crimes.

How can we all help?

- Report all criminal and suspicious activities to the police.
- Get involved speak to your Safer Neighbourhood Team, consider joining your local Safer Neighbourhood Panel or become involved with the Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group.
- Help out in the community justice schemes run by the Youth Offending Service or in a project that helps young people to stay out of trouble.

- Safer Lewisham Strategy.
- The Adult Treatment Plan substance misuse and alcohol.
- The Young People Substance Misuse Plan.
- Domestic Violence Strategy.
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Strategy.



Tackle antisocial behaviour and ensure that people feel confident and safe throughout the borough

Fear of crime can have a damaging effect on a local area. In many cases fear of crime is not related to the level of actual crime. Nonetheless, this fear can stop people travelling at certain times of day, it can shut off or stigmatise entire areas of the borough and it can leave people feeling unsafe in their neighbourhoods. Scams and 'artifice' crimes target the most vulnerable and leave people suspicious and unwilling to engage.

Antisocial behaviour can exacerbate this fear of crime. Significant numbers of young people hanging around without apparent purpose, aggressive street drinkers and rude behaviour on public transport can all contribute to people feeling insecure. People should expect to feel safe to enjoy the borough, no matter what the area or the time of day.

Citizens have made it clear that better lighting and a more visible presence of police and wardens are important in making people feel safe. Installing CCTV cameras and removing signs of neglect, like graffiti and fly-tipping, have also been highlighted as important in making the borough look and feel safer.

What has been achieved

- Teams of wardens across the borough work to make areas look and feel safer and resolve issues before they become incidents of antisocial behaviour.
- Almost 200 CCTV cameras have been installed throughout the borough, acting as a preventative tool and a valuable source of evidence when crimes do occur.
- Our parks and open spaces are well maintained and looked over by park rangers, allowing people to feel safe to use them throughout the day. At Ladywell Fields, an EU-funded project to incorporate the river into the parkland is being developed on a 'designing out crime' model, creating a safe and accessible green space for citizens.

- Electronic reporting of images of graffiti, fly-tipping and other elements of antisocial behaviour through the 'Love Lewisham' campaign has resulted in a significant improvement in the cleanliness and safety of the local area.
- Programmes of restorative justice, where offenders meet their victims and are supported to make amends, have been introduced by the Youth Offending Service. In schools this programme is being used effectively to tackle bullying and antisocial behaviour between pupils.

Plans for the future

- Tackle antisocial behaviour through better area-based working with local assemblies and Safer Neighbourhood Teams.
- Extend the use of mediation, restorative justice and 'payback' to hold people to account for their behaviour and to improve the outcomes for victims of crime or antisocial behaviour.
- Make new developments, open spaces and public facilities, including the new and refurbished train stations, feel safe by 'designing out' crime, improving lighting and accessibility and dealing with vandalism and graffiti.
- A new street lighting contract will replace run-down lighting columns throughout the borough, making areas feel safer, improving road safety and assisting the work of the police.

- Improve the speed of response to nuisance, graffiti and antisocial behaviour with the help of Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Community Wardens, youth workers and the CCTV network.
- Employ and enforce trading standards so that people are less likely to be victims of 'artifice' crimes and the number of illegal traders operating in the borough is reduced.

How can we all help?

 Report antisocial behaviour when it occurs. Make sure your Safer Neighbourhood Team is aware of your concerns about antisocial or abusive behaviour, so that steps taken to tackling the issue can support and complement other work in the area.

- Safer Lewisham Strategy.
- Safer Neighbourhood Team priorities.
- Local Development Framework.
- Antisocial Behaviour Strategy.



Keep our children and young people safe from harm, abuse and criminal activity

Children can be among the most vulnerable groups in our society and keeping them safe from harm is everyone's responsibility. Young people in the borough tell us that personal safety is their top concern. Addressing this anxiety requires coordinated work from all local organisations, whether it be schools helping to eliminate bullying or Transport for London ensuring safe travel on public transport.

No child or young person should have to suffer abuse or neglect. Some families in crisis or challenging circumstances find it hard to provide sufficient care and protection to their children. Support needs to be available not only to provide care for the child but also to address the underlying problems that have put the family in difficulty.

The vast majority of young people in Lewisham are focused on success and have high aspirations. They add enormously to the vitality of the borough. However, there are still too many of our young people involved in criminal and antisocial activity. In particular young black males are significantly overrepresented in the criminal justice system. Keeping young people safe involves creating opportunities that allow them to aim higher, improving their relationship with the police and schools and inspiring them to respect themselves and their fellow citizens.

What has been achieved

- All Lewisham's schools have antibullying schemes with initiatives such as bullying post boxes to make it easy for young people to let someone know what's happening.
- Multi-agency work by the police, the youth service and local schools has resulted in a 30% reduction in the number of first time entrants into the youth justice system.
- A programme of activities offered by voluntary, community and public agencies during school holidays has significantly reduced the level of antisocial behaviour during these periods.
- A Stop and Search conference organised by the Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group (LCPCG) in 2007 has resulted in police officers receiving specific training on how to build better relationships with children and young people.

- Support parents and families in crisis and ensure that all care assessments for children and young people are timely and respond to concerns.
- Ensure that all areas of the borough have access to services and support for parents and children and young people through Children's Centre, the work of the voluntary and community organisations and the activities of extended schools.
- Ensure that the opinions of children and young people inform the development and implementation of local services.
- Tackle violent crime by and against young people by intervening at an early stage with families, building trust and accountability between young people, and managing high-risk individuals more effectively in the community.

 Promote access to drug and substance misuse services and ensure that a higher proportion of young people in the criminal justice system are referred to specialist treatment services.

How can we all help?

- If you own a local business, consider supporting the Work Placement Scheme that helps young offenders into jobs and changes their prospects.
- Lewisham needs more foster carers in the local area for our looked after children. If you are interested, contact the council.
- If you are a young person with particular anxieties or concerns, share your problems with someone you trust (your parents, a friend, your teacher etc).

- Safer Lewisham Strategy.
- Young People and Crime Plan.
- Children and Young People's Plan.





Empowered and responsible – where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities

In many situations the people best qualified to deal effectively with local issues are citizens themselves. Many people in Lewisham actively take responsibility for the well-being of their area and those who live there, whether it be participating in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, keeping an eye on older residents living alone or helping a neighbour who has fallen ill. When citizens take the time to report fly-tipping, graffiti or other hazards, it means that local services can respond quickly and effectively. Empowered and energetic communities also contribute to tackling disadvantage, discrimination and inequality.

Lewisham's communities are also supported by the borough's vibrant voluntary and community sector which engages local people in a whole range of social, participative and cultural activities. Active organisations across the borough dedicate their time to support our most vulnerable communities, fostering community links and encouraging active and involved citizenship.

Between now and 2020 new individuals and communities will make their home in the borough. Alongside existing communities, they will contribute to the diversity and strengthen the social fabric of Lewisham. The borough will continue to be characterised by the hospitality and energy of its citizens, welcoming newcomers and the contribution they make to Lewisham and its future.

To support this priority we will work together to:

- Empower citizens to be involved in their local area and responsive to the needs of those who live there.
- Promote volunteering and the activity of voluntary and community organisations.
- Champion diversity and the contribution everyone makes to the borough's quality of life.

What will progress look like?

- A higher proportion of citizens who believe that their local area is a place where people get on well together.
- A greater number of people who feel that they can influence local decision-making.
- A higher proportion of people participating in volunteering.
- Increased levels of local activity being delivered with and through voluntary and community organisations.

Empower citizens to be involved in their local area and responsive to the needs of those who live there

Democracy can only work when people make their voices heard. People need to be aware of how they can influence decisions and be confident that becoming involved will actually result in real changes on the ground. Citizens and communities should also be aware of their rights and what they can expect from their local services in terms of quality and choice.

Alongside these rights come responsibilities. The cleanliness of the local area, the behaviour of people towards each other and the way in which local services are delivered all rely on the active involvement of our local citizens.

These responsibilities extend to looking out for our neighbours and fellow citizens. Many people look after and provide care for a friend or relative. As the number of vulnerable and elderly people increase so communities will need to play their part in providing them with support, companionship and care.

What has been achieved

- The Young Mayor, Young Advisers, Young Commissioners and school councils provide early opportunities for young people to voice their opinions and influence policy locally and nationally.
- The Older People's Advisory Group has been established to bring together representatives from 30 diverse groups across the borough and to influence policy and service provision for older people.
- The Blue Borough Grand Prix and For Real Youth Conference, organised by Race Equality Action for Lewisham, give young people an opportunity to debate current issues with local service providers and be involved in developing effective responses to local problems.
- All the major public services provide ways for citizens to be involved and give their opinions on the quality of local services.

- All wards in the borough have a Safer Neighbourhood Panel where residents can set local priorities to help tackle crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Lewisham's voluntary and community sector has piloted a participatory budgeting initiative, through which local groups and people have the opportunity to put forward their ideas and influence how local money is spent.

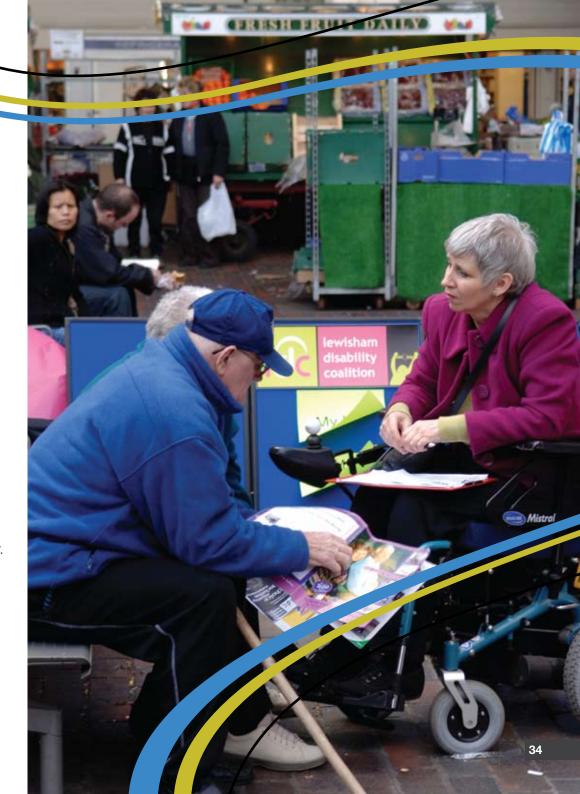
- Each ward in the borough will have a local assembly where citizens and organisations will have the opportunity to come together with their local councillors to agree the priorities for the area and to explore how these priorities can be achieved.
- Enhance the opportunity for citizens to fully realise the benefits of their local facilities by considering how these assets can be best managed to enhance an area.

- Provide citizens with greater access to decision-making processes.
 People will have the opportunity to raise issues through the Councillor Call for Action and the use of petitions.
- Provide citizens with the opportunity to help develop, tailor and exercise choice over the services they receive through effective dialogue and initiatives such as Direct Payments.
- Make more services accessible electronically and online so that citizens can resolve problems and report issues more easily.
- Establish opportunities for older people to participate in Lay Visitor schemes, which will enable them to advocate improved services and provision which is tailored to individual need.

How can we all help?

- Take an active interest in your local area. Report fly-tipping, antisocial behaviour and broken or damaged street furniture and keep an eye out for your friends, neighbours and colleagues.
- If you want to be involved in local decisions, why not speak to your local councillor or go along to a meeting of your local assembly?
- Make sure you make your voice heard by voting in Young Mayoral, school council, local, London, national and European elections. Contact electoral services to make sure you're on the Electoral Register.

- Volunteering Strategy.
- Lewisham Statement of Community Involvement.
- Local Assembly websites.
- Children and Young People's Plan.



Promote volunteering and the activity of voluntary and community organisations

People being willing to volunteer their time and energy is a sign of a healthy community. Whether through formal voluntary and community organisations or informal volunteering work, individuals and organisations contribute to vibrant and active communities and help to raise the borough's overall quality of life.

Lewisham is especially fortunate in this respect. There are over 800 voluntary and community organisations in the borough. They range in size and scope, covering issues from the very specific to ones that relate to the whole community. Many of these organisations have specialist knowledge and experience, whether for a particular part of the borough or a specific health condition, enabling them to respond to local needs in an effective way.

The sector is a major part of Lewisham's success. It makes a significant contribution to the economic and social development of the borough by securing funding to support some of our most disadvantaged citizens. It also helps to foster the connections, links and networks that bind communities and individuals together.

Our citizens recognise that volunteering is an important way of improving their quality of life. Almost three quarters of the borough's residents have participated in informal volunteering.

What has been achieved

- Many services in the borough are directly provided by voluntary and community organisations. The Supporting People programme, which helps some of the most vulnerable within our society, relies upon the contribution and expertise of the sector.
- Significant funding has been secured on behalf of Lewisham's citizens by voluntary and community organisations. It is estimated that for every £1 invested in the voluntary and community sector by the council and other local public services, the voluntary and community sector levers in an additional £4 of external funding.
- Lewisham's Volunteer Centre provides resources and guidance to volunteers and organisations that involve or include volunteers. It successfully matches volunteers with appropriate organisations and increases awareness of the benefits and value of volunteering.

- Encourage wider civic participation at all levels, from volunteering to be a school governor or non-executive director, to helping manage a local voluntary or community organisation or dedicating some time to a club, a community or a person in need.
- Work with the voluntary and community sector to build their capacity and to facilitate their involvement in the development and delivery of local outcomes.
- Develop commissioning practices that allow for greater involvement of voluntary and community organisations in the design, delivery and monitoring of local services.
- Move to three-year funding arrangements in appropriate circumstances.

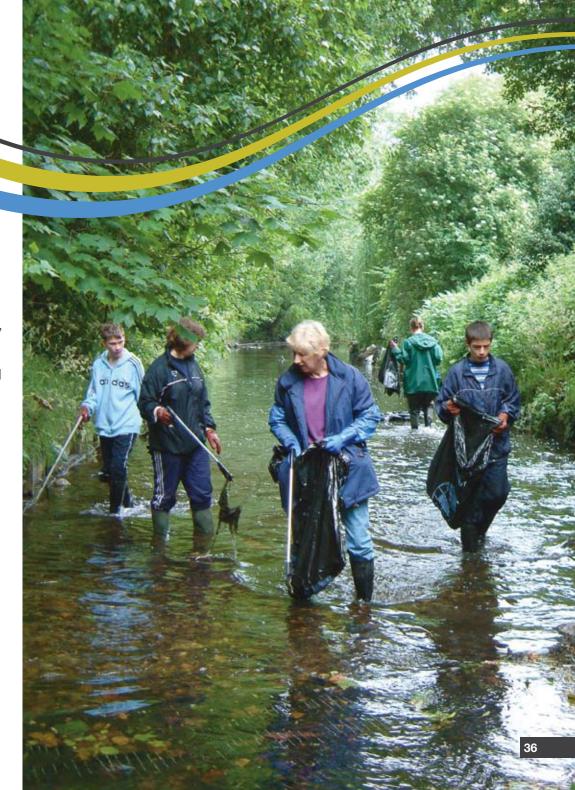
- Encourage the use of casework reporting to allow organisations like Race Equality Action Lewisham and the Lewisham Disability Coalition to challenge service providers and effect change in local policy.
- Support the development of social enterprise within the borough.
- Increase the number and diversity of local volunteers. As part of this, promote the importance of volunteers and their key contribution to the well-being of local communities and areas.

How can we all help?

- Become a member of your local resident or community organisation.
 A fifth of Lewisham's residents are already actively involved in local organisations, such as tenants groups, or helping their local schools.
- Become a volunteer: contact the Volunteer Centre to find out about opportunities in your area.

 Find out which local groups can support your needs and help with your interests or consider setting up your own group. Voluntary Action Lewisham (VAL) can provide support, contacts and advice, including assistance with project planning, governance, fundraising and financial management.

- ChangeUp Local Infrastructure Development Plan.
- Children and Young People's Plan.
- Volunteering Strategy.



Champion Lewisham's diversity and the contribution everyone makes to the borough's quality of life

Recognising, respecting and valuing difference all contribute to a cohesive community. London's continuing success is built upon its ability to embrace new people and new cultures, allowing them to contribute to the vitality and strength of the city.

Nonetheless, difference, change and new customs can be challenging. Between now and 2020 the population of the borough will increase and so will the number of new communities. Just as past immigration has added to the vitality of the borough, so new communities will make their own contribution to the life and future of Lewisham.

Championing diversity is about recognising the value of both our new and our existing communities. The borough has vibrant faith communities, providing support and guidance for people throughout the borough. It has an active older community, keen to be involved and work more closely with our children and young people. Over 130 languages are spoken in Lewisham, reflecting a cosmopolitan urban environment where, on the whole, people get on well together. However, we need to remain vigilant. Inequalities and discrimination still exist and need to be challenged.

People in Lewisham value the diversity of the borough and support the variety of festivals and events which enrich our local areas. Working together we need to ensure that all sections of society, regardless of their background or circumstances, are recognised for their contribution and encouraged to involve themselves in the life and future of the borough.

What has been achieved

- Surveys shows that almost 80% of respondents recognise Lewisham as a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.
- Lewisham benefits from strong advocacy organisations such as Race Equality Action Lewisham and the Lewisham Ethnic Minority Partnership, Turkish and Indo-Chinese groups, the Lewisham Disability Coalition and the Campaign for Independent Living in Lewisham, all of which help to improve local quality of life and build bonds between our citizens.
- Lewisham's annual People's Day festival showcases and celebrates the diversity of the borough. The festival has developed into a major cultural event in London which demonstrates the talents, skills and unique contributions of Lewisham's people.
- Citizenship ceremonies, held in Lewisham Town Hall, provide a special welcoming event for new citizens and their families.

 Lewisham's Holocaust Memorial Day activities involve the collaboration of our different faith communities in remembering and recognising past and present atrocities and persecutions.

Plans for the future

- Ensure that all our communities have the opportunity to participate, to make their views known and their voices heard and to obtain fair and equal access to all local services.
- Support visible and inclusive demonstrations of our diverse communities such as local festivals and markets, allowing all local people to learn about the variety of cultures that exist in the borough.
- Introduce our children and young people to the value and the benefits of our local diversity, encouraging intergenerational and intercultural work, such as activities around Black History Month.

- Challenge discrimination and prejudice and reduce the number of hate crimes, i.e. crimes perpetrated against people in our community simply because of who they are or their lifestyle choices.
- Ensure that all public agencies develop equality schemes that specifically address issues raised by local communities and inspire and support other partner organisations to follow this example.

How can we all help?

 We all have a responsibility to eliminate discrimination.
 Discrimination based on age, gender, disability, race, faith or sexual orientation is against the law and should not be tolerated in any environment.

- Ageing Well Strategy.
- Children and Young People's Plan.
- London Borough of Lewisham's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme.





Clean, green and liveable – where people live in high quality housing and can care for and enjoy their environment

London's economy and population are set to grow and prosper. Lewisham will be a part of this growth and our citizens will reap the benefits. Our challenge is to accommodate growth in the economy and population in a way that promotes our communities and protects our environment. We all have a key role to play in contributing to this sustainable future. Our citizens, businesses and local organisations will need to recognise their impact upon the environment and their responsibily.

High quality housing will be an important prerequisite for the health and well-being of our citizens. Our long-term ambition is to see an extra 11,000 new homes in Lewisham by 2020. This housing will have to meet the needs of existing and new communities, responding to both overcrowding and the growing demand for smaller homes.

By ensuring that all new developments are planned and developed in a sustainable manner we can help to conserve energy, protect Lewisham's unique biodiversity and provide people with easy access to jobs, schools, shops, transport and local amenities. Lewisham in the future will remain a comfortable and pleasant place where people choose to live and fulfil their ambitions.

To support this priority we will work together to:

- Maximise Lewisham's contribution to a sustainable future by tackling waste and making effective use of resources.
- Increase the supply and quality of housing to accommodate the diverse needs of our population.
- Protect and enhance our parks, open spaces and local biodiversity.

What will progress look like?

- An increase in the number of homes and affordable homes in the borough.
- An increase in citizen's satisfaction with their local environment.
- A reduction in the levels of homelessness and the number of households living in temporary accommodation.
- A reduction in the residual household waste produced in Lewisham.
- A reduction in the borough's CO₂ emissions, in line with national targets.

Maximise Lewisham's contribution to a sustainable future by tackling waste and making effective use of resources

The global impact of climate change is becoming increasingly evident. As economies across the world evolve, there is a role for governments and businesses to consider their carbon footprint. Local public and private agencies can contribute to this agenda by ensuring that they use resources efficiently. However, to effectively minimise further climate change we will all need to consider carefully our lifestyles and take responsibility for our impact on the environment.

Lewisham households produce over 100,000 tonnes of waste a year. We need to look at how we, individually and collectively, can more effectively reduce, reuse and recycle our resources. This issue covers almost every aspect of our daily lives. The mode of travel we use, how we light and heat our homes and the way we spend our leisure time all make a difference.

People in Lewisham have told us that they recognise their personal responsibility to reduce their impact on the environment and want more information on how they can make a difference. They also want to see national and local government take the lead and set a good example by using environmentally friendly energy.

What has been achieved

- Citizens have improved recycling levels in Lewisham in recent years.
 Weekly kerbside collections pick up five types of materials (glass, paper, cans, plastic bottles and cardboard) and green and garden waste can be composted.
- The Clean and Green Schools programme helps our children and young people to understand their role in protecting the environment, covering issues ranging from climate change and fair trade to litter and graffiti.
- An innovative Energy Action Zone programme operates in Lewisham, providing local citizens with information and support to allow them to make more efficient use of energy and save money.

Plans for the future

- Minimise the growth in waste and keep landfill waste to a minimum by reducing, reusing and recycling resources.
- Promote opportunities for people to make environmentally friendly choices and minimise their personal impact on the environment.
- Ensure that new developments and new homes in the borough are built to a high environmental standard and, where possible, support on-site renewable energy measures.
- Encourage the use of sustainable forms of transport and minimise the need for people to rely upon car travel by making it easier and safer to walk or cycle around the borough.

- Procure energy from sustainable sources. The council has a specific policy of buying its electricity from renewable sources. The Riverside ward of University Hospital Lewisham makes use of a photovoltaic plant (solar energy) to meet some of its energy requirements.
- Work alongside the South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP) plant to progress sustainable measures for heating and powering local developments.

How can we all help?

 Follow the waste hierarchy – reduce your waste, reuse wherever possible and finally recycle. Resist the temptation to feed your bin: paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, cans and glass can all be recycled in your green bins.

- Reduce your energy usage –
 consider your insulation and the
 appliances you use. There are grants
 available for people who want to
 make changes to their homes
 for example by installing cavity or
 loft insulation. Contact the council
 for more information.
- Consider how you travel around the borough. Would it be easier to walk, cycle, share a lift with a friend or colleague or make use of public transport?

- Energy Strategy.
- Climate Change Strategic Framework.
- Municipal Waste Management Strategy.
- People, Prosperity, Place Lewisham Regeneration Strategy.



Increase the supply and quality of housing to accommodate the diverse needs of our population

The quality of housing affects the look and feel of a local area. It makes a major contribution to the physical and mental well-being of its residents. Good quality housing provides much more than a shelter. It empowers people, providing them with a home, a connection to their local area and the basis for their own and their family's success.

Lewisham's population is expected to grow in both number and diversity over the next 12 years. Housing for larger families will continue to be much in demand and there is a growing need for smaller homes for individuals and couples without children and for homes that are adaptable for use by disabled people and older people.

Lewisham's Local Development
Framework will ensure that planning
authorities and commercial partners
work together to extend the supply
of high quality, well designed and
mixed housing. The council, Lewisham
Homes, Phoenix Community Homes
and our other registered social landlord
(RSL) partners will ensure that the
availability of affordable housing will be
a crucial part of this mix.

What has been achieved

- Since 2002 an additional 4,200 new homes have been built in the borough. Major regeneration and refurbishment schemes have transformed housing on the Sundermead, Pepys, Silwood, Kender and Honor Oak estates and resulted in mixed tenure developments with a mix of landlords. Further development is planned for the Heathside and Lethbridge estates.
- Phoenix Community Housing, operating in Bellingham, Downham and Whitefoot, is the first Housing Association in London to use a 'Community Gateway' model. This approach empowers tenants by enabling them to be involved in decision-making about their housing and to elect members to the Phoenix board.

 Tenants have voted in four ballots so far to transfer the ownership of their homes to an RSL, including Lewisham Park, Phoenix, Grove Park and Foreshore. This secures investment of over £140m for approximately 7,500 homes.

Plans for the future

- Deliver 11,000 more homes by 2020 of which up to 50% will be affordable housing. This will help to reduce homelessness and the number of households in temporary accommodation as well as provide real opportunities for people on low and modest incomes to afford a home.
- Work with all housing providers to bring properties up to a decent standard and improve the sustainability of social and private sector dwellings within Lewisham.

- Deliver new housing that is well designed and adaptable to different needs, sensitive to the local area and constructed using environmentally friendly methods in line with the government's Code for Sustainable Homes and the lifetime homes standard.
- Support disabled people, older people and people with long-term conditions through the provision of home care, sheltered housing and assistive technology and adaptations to manage their housing requirements and retain their independence.

How can we all help?

- Many estates and neighbourhoods have tenant or resident organisations where people can make their voices heard. Local housing associations employ community development workers who would like to hear your views on how the area might be improved in the future.
- If you're a landlord, consider bringing your empty properties back into use.
 The council is also looking for private sector landlords willing to help meet local housing needs.

- Housing Investment Strategy.
- Homelessness Strategy.
- People, Prosperity, Place Lewisham Regeneration Strategy.
- Local Development Framework.



Protect and enhance our parks, open spaces and local biodiversity

Lewisham, like most inner-London boroughs, is densely populated. Some 250,000 people live, work and learn in a compact area of only 14 square miles. Increasingly our green spaces provide the natural balance required to make living in a densely populated and dynamic city attractive.

Parks, commons, ponds and woods are part of the fabric of the borough. Approximately 12% of Lewisham is public green space. This provides places for our children and young people to play together, space for our citizens to congregate and facilities for sport and leisure pursuits. It contributes to our health and well-being and provides a fantastic educational resource for the borough, in the form of easy and safe access to nature. The protection and management of our open and public spaces is therefore crucial for maintaining and improving citizens' quality of life.

Our open spaces support our natural heritage and biodiversity. There are a number of species that make their home in the borough, including the stag beetle, house sparrow, black redstart and song thrush. Lewisham has over 60 sites of ecological importance, as well as the rivers Quaggy and Ravensbourne, which provide important wildlife corridors. Half of the borough's residents tell us that they visit a park more than twice a month.

What has been achieved

- The borough now has eight 'Green Flag' parks, which exceed the national standard for clean, attractive and well-managed public spaces.
- Work is under way on our waterways to improve accessibility and to reduce the risk of flooding. A continuing improvement programme will naturalise the Ravensbourne river and its tributaries from Lewisham through to the Thames.
- Cornmill Gardens is a new public space at the heart of Lewisham town centre offering improved river channel habitats, a children's playground, a central lawn and a piazza-style square.

- The 'Good Going' and 'Healthy Walks' initiatives both rely upon the attractiveness of our green spaces to encourage activity and physical exercise.
- Living or green roofs, which incorporate vegetated space, are being installed on buildings throughout the borough including the Laban Centre. These roofs not only encourage biodiversity but also improve a building's energy efficiency.
- A partnership of local people and organisations, the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership, has identified species and areas of the borough where action is required to preserve our natural heritage.



Plans for the future

- Safeguard our parks and open spaces and ensure that developments are appropriate and sensitive.
- Maximise access to and use of our open spaces by all local communities and organisations, by making them feel safe and open to all.
- Achieve 10 Green Flag awards by 2010.
- Ensure that all new developments aim to maintain, enhance or restore local biodiversity.
- Support volunteering opportunities in our nature reserves, parks and open spaces.
- Promote the installation of living roofs on all appropriate new buildings to benefit biodiversity.
- Promote wildlife-friendly gardening to householders and estate managers.

How can we all help?

- Biodiversity is not restricted to nature reserves and parks. Bird boxes, small ponds and even less managed areas all contribute to making the borough a more hospitable place for wildlife.
- Get involved in your local park or green space. Many parks in Lewisham have a user group or friends group that meet to decide what they'd like to see in their park now and in the future. Volunteer groups dealing with nature conservation exist throughout the borough and provide a good way of getting involved in your local community.

- A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham.
- Open Space Strategy 2005–2010.
- Local Development Framework.





Healthy, active and enjoyable – where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being

The quality of our health is affected by the interaction of a wide range of factors. They include: broad social and economic influences, such as income, educational attainment and the environment; specific risk factors, such as age and ethnicity; and the personal lifestyle choices we make, for example whether to smoke, and what to eat and drink.

It is our responsibility as individuals and communities to make healthy lifestyle choices and to engage in activities that maintain and improve our physical and mental well-being. High quality, local health and social care services will provide specialist and targeted interventions to tackle specific diseases and improve well-being. They will support people to make healthy choices, manage their health conditions and maintain their independence by providing relevant advice and assistance.

Over the course of the next decade, Lewisham's health and care services will be more responsive to local need, with more care delivered in the community and less need for people to go to hospital. Citizens will enjoy access to a range of leisure and recreational pursuits which contribute to their health and well-being. Lewisham's population will continue to live longer as our lifestyle choices improve and as medical advances enable better intervention.

To support this priority we will work together to:

- Improve the well-being of our citizens by increasing participation in healthy and active lifestyles.
- Improve health outcomes and tackle the specific conditions that affect our citizens.
- Support people with long term conditions to live in their communities and maintain their independence.

What will progress look like?

- An increase in the take-up of healthy lifestyle activities including an increase in the number of citizens participating in sport and a reduction in the numbers smoking.
- An improvement in overall life expectancy and a reduction in the gap between the most disadvantaged and the Lewisham average.
- An increase in the number of older people, disabled people and vulnerable people achieving independence and having choice over the services they receive.
- An overall improvement in the experience of care users.

Improve the well-being of our citizens by increasing participation in healthy and active lifestyles

Lifestyle choices, the things we choose to eat and drink and the activities we engage in are some of the major factors determining the quality of our health. Levels of obesity are rising among all sections of the population. Around a third of adults in Lewisham smoke, with one in five deaths in the borough attributable to smoking-related illnesses. Poor sexual health not only raises the risk of unwanted pregnancies and contracting sexually transmitted infections or HIV but is also closely linked to emotional health problems.

A healthy diet containing a variety of fruit and vegetables can help to increase life expectancy and protect against diseases such as strokes, cancer and diabetes. Regular exercise and physical activity keeps you fit and is crucial to preventing illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, coronary heart disease and respiratory disease. Our young citizens aged 18–24 are currently the group least likely to take exercise or to eat the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables.

Local agencies, supported by voluntary and community groups, can provide people with the right information so that they can take personal responsibility for their health. Lewisham's sports centres, green spaces and cultural activities at its theatres and libraries all stimulate healthy physical and mental activity.

What has been achieved

- New sport and leisure facilities have been completed or are on their way.
 The Downham Health and Leisure Centre combines modern sports facilities with GP surgeries, a dentist and a library.
- A number of initiatives, such as the Healthy Walks and Everyday Swim programmes for those aged 50+, help our older citizens to remain healthy and active. The Lewisham Plus Card offers disabled people over 16 and those aged over 60 free swimming and free use of fitness suites.
- Lewisham's GPs and the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust now prescribe a range of physical and mental activities to help improve people's lifestyles and complement other medical activity.

- The MEND scheme, which addresses childhood obesity by providing intensive support to the whole family, is being rolled out across all the borough's leisure centres and children's centres.
- Young disabled people are taking up sporting activities – Sharks Borough Swimming Club has successfully developed a programme to train disabled swimmers to a high standard.
- Lewisham has screened the highest proportion of 15–24 year olds for Chlamydia nationally and is making progress in reducing the high rates of this sexually transmitted infection in the borough.

Plans for the future

- Promote the advantages of a healthy lifestyle and empower people to take steps to change their behaviour and improve their health and well-being.
- Promote participation in physical activity by providing safe areas to exercise and play and highlight the benefits of sport and leisure as part of the Olympic 2012 Action Plan.
- Support active participation in the arts and local culture and heritage, promoting opportunities for children and adults to develop their creativity and acquire new skills.
- Expand sexual health education, providing access to contraceptives and appropriate sexual health services and working with both parents and young people so that they are able to approach the issues in an informed manner.

 Support people to stop smoking and reduce the availability of illicit tobacco including smuggled and under-age sales. Smoke-free public spaces and businesses will be enforced throughout the borough and new methods will be developed to reduce the number of children and young people taking up smoking.

How can we all help?

- Take responsibility for maintaining or improving your health and well-being. Support, advice and guidance are available to help you make healthy choices.
- Volunteer to become a health trainer and be part of a group of local people trained to help the public take better care of their health.

- Lewisham Primary Care Trust: Commissioning Strategy Plan.
- Health Inequalities Strategy.
- Children and Young People's Plan.
- Ageing Well Strategy.



Improve health outcomes by tackling the specific conditions that affect our citizens

Along with the right lifestyle choices, wider environmental and social factors are major determinants of our overall health and well-being. Poor housing, education and sanitation and employment status all play a part in determining our level of health.

Life expectancy in Lewisham is lower than in other parts of the capital and certain conditions affect particular sections of the community to a greater extent. Overall mortality in Lewisham is the second highest in London and while male life expectancy is steadily increasing, women's has not improved as consistently. We have high rates of cancer and cardiovascular disease and our black and minority ethnic communities are at higher risk from conditions such as diabetes, sickle-cell and certain mental health conditions.

When we do fall ill, we need to be able to rely upon our local services to deliver appropriate healthcare. People in Lewisham want to be able to access health services more easily. Our older residents want to know that high quality health and social care services are not only available but also responsive to their needs. Lewisham has high quality acute provision in the form of University Hospital Lewisham. Primary provision will continue to improve and we can expect to see more care provided closer to home.

Whether working to prevent hospitalisation, caring for people once they are in hospital or supporting people who have had treatment, health and care services in Lewisham need to be provided in an integrated and 'seamless' manner to ensure the best quality services and results.

What has been achieved

- In May 2007 a new wing of University Hospital Lewisham was opened.
 The Riverside ward has 419 beds for adults and elderly inpatients and incorporates specialist services and the latest technology and design.
- Since the mid-1990s, Lewisham's infant mortality rate has halved and is now less than the rates for London and for the country as a whole.
- Life expectancy for men in Lewisham has increased at a faster rate than for men in the country as a whole. Since 1996 average male life expectancy has risen from 72.5 to 75.1 years. Women's life expectancy has also increased but at a less consistent rate.
- Targeted plans, such as the Women's Plan and North Lewisham Plan, address specific inequalities by involving local communities and the voluntary and community sector in assessing need and directing people to appropriate services.

Plans for the future

- Reduce the gap in life expectancy between Lewisham and England as well as between the wards in Lewisham with the highest and lowest life expectancy.
- Introduce more collaborative working projects which allow communities to help tackle specific health inequalities in their local area.
- Provide health services closer to people's homes, ensuring that unnecessary admissions to hospital are prevented and people are supported to come home from hospital in a timely manner.
- Explore new ways of delivering services in the community and reducing demand on hospitals.
 This could include Urgent Care Centres and polyclinics which will house GPs and provide services traditionally associated with hospitals.

 Provide citizens with accessible and easily understood information about the health services and health options available, giving people a choice on how, when and where they are treated.

How can we all help?

 Join LINks – the Local Improvement Networks to have your say on your local health and care services

- Lewisham Primary Care Trust: Commissioning Strategy Plan.
- My Hospital.
- Health Inequalities Strategy.
- Ageing Well Strategy.
- Primary Care Strategy.
- Children and Young People's Plan.



Support people with long-term conditions to live in their communities and maintain their independence

Approximately 40,000 people in Lewisham have a long-term illness, health problem or disability. The majority of these people are able to live independently in their communities with the right support.

As the population increases so the number of people affected by longterm conditions and requiring effective care and support will increase. Some of this will be provided by the public, voluntary and community sector but the majority will come from 'informal' care provided by family and friends. A significant number of older people in particular will find themselves in caring roles, having to deal with additional physical and emotional pressure and often with little time to pursue their own interests or even look after their own health and well-being. Parents of children with long-term conditions or young people looking after their own parents or relatives also require guidance and support.

Our citizens want to be active partners in the management of their health and well-being. In the future they want choice over how and when treatment and services are provided. Carers and those who provide caring support have told us that more opportunities for respite and greater continuity in terms of care professionals is important.

What has been achieved

- Public agencies and voluntary and community organisations such as the Lewisham Carers centre offer a range of support to carers and the people they care for.
- Community befriending schemes run by voluntary and community organisations provide people with social contact which helps to prevent isolation and allows people to interact with others.
- Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust and social care services are working closely together to ensure that people are able to leave hospital as soon as possible and receive further support either in rehabilitation homes or, where appropriate, within their own homes.
- Two of the borough's schools, Greenvale and Watergate, have services for children with disabilities which are recognised as examples of good practice. Lewisham College is a centre of excellence for students with severe learning and physical disabilities.

Plans for the future

- Provide appropriate assistive technology and equipment and ensure its installation at an early stage to prevent accidents and help people to maintain their health and improve their quality of life.
- Ensure that all agencies supporting people with a long-term condition do so in an integrated manner, and provide the individual with choice and information about the assistance they receive.
- Provide people with more personalised services and a greater say over the care they receive, through initiatives such as Direct Payments.
- Reduce where possible the reliance on hospital care, providing community-based support and care nearer home.
- Continue to work in partnership to improve the quality of support available to carers through the provision of respite care, advice, counselling and other services.

How can we all help?

- Join the Expert Patients Programme, which will give you more help and advice on managing your own health condition. For more information contact the Primary Care Trust.
- If you provide care to a friend or relative, there are a number of services available that can offer you and the person you care for support, respite care, advice and guidance.
 For more information contact the council or Carers Lewisham.

- Health Inequalities Strategy.
- Ageing Well Strategy.
- Long term Conditions Strategy.
- Carers Strategy.
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Strategy.





Dynamic and prosperous – where people are part of vibrant communities and town centres, well connected to London and beyond

As London grows over the next decade, emerging sectors, including e-business and creative and environmental industries, will broaden its economic base. These developments will bring with them a whole range of new opportunities and Lewisham's citizens will be in a strong position to take advantage of their proximity to the capital.

Lewisham in 2020 will be better connected to the capital, the region and beyond. Access to London's economic and cultural hotspots will be enhanced. Within the borough Lewisham's town centres will be hubs of local activity, where established, independent and new businesses thrive, boosting local employment and inward investment.

To support this priority we will work together to:

- Improve the quality and vitality of Lewisham's town centres and localities.
- Increase access to the number, quality and range of employment opportunities.
- Improve access to sustainable modes of transport within the borough and our connections to London and beyond.

What will progress look like?

- An increase in the overall employment rate.
- An increase in the number of businesses in the borough and the capacity of these businesses.
- An improvement in the employment rates of disadvantaged groups, including older people, disabled people and people with no qualifications.

Improve the quality and vitality of Lewisham's town centres and localities

Lewisham is characterised by distinctive local areas and neighbourhoods. Major centres such as Lewisham, Deptford and Catford are complemented by local centres including Blackheath, Brockley, Downham, Forest Hill, Hither Green, New Cross and Sydenham. These centres play an important role in creating a sense of local identity and promoting a better quality of life in the area. Town centres provide people with convenient access to business, retail, leisure and entertainment opportunities. They act as a focal point for local communities, a place where people meet and interact.

Local people have told us that they value their town centres and would like to see them improved in the future with more facilities, cleaner streets and a safer environment. They also identified better business, retail, leisure and entertainment opportunities as a priority. Deptford High Street is a prime example of how a local centre, characterised by a range of quality independent outlets, can energise an area.

What has been achieved

- Town centre managers work successfully alongside local businesses to help them improve the local area and their business prospects.
- Vibrant local events, such as the Lewisham Country Fayre and French Markets, provide variety and activity in Lewisham's local centres.
- Forest Hill Library, Manor House and other notable listed buildings which are vital to the quality of their local landscapes, have been or are in the process of being refurbished.
- Lewisham's creative sector has continued to grow. The Creative Lewisham Agency provides a support base for creative enterprises, including information and guidance on resources, workspace and gallery facilities and attracting partners and funding.

Plans for the future

- Lewisham Gateway has ambitious plans for the future of Lewisham town centre, including replacing the roundabout with a new road layout, opening a new park and attracting a major department store to the area.
- Catford town centre will undergo substantial regeneration. This will include transforming the former greyhound stadium into a new housing development and small shops. Catford and Catford Bridge stations will be linked by a new plaza and a new pedestrian bridge over the railway will provide better connections with the town centre.
- Support the growth and development of our town centres by working with commercial partners and developers.
- Encourage a mix of businesses that reflect the diversity of the borough and its citizens and ensure that our town and local centres are fully accessible for all our communities.

- Maximise the use of our town centres as places to engage the local community.
- Strengthen Lewisham's economy by continuing to support and encourage the cultural and creative sectors.
- The Giffin Street development will see the extension of Giffin Square as well as new library and learning facilities and a new home for Tidemill Primary School.

How can we all help?

- Where possible shop local.
 This helps to support the local economy and can help to reduce the impact of travel on the environment.
- Get involved in the development and regeneration of your local area.
 Plans and planning applications are available to view at the council or online at the council's website.

- Lewisham Local Development Framework.
- Lewisham Statement of Community Involvement.
- Lewisham Economic Development Business Plan.
- Town Centre Management Strategy.
- People, Prosperity, Place Lewisham Regeneration Strategy.



Improve access to the number, quality and range of employment opportunities

The borough's economy has changed significantly in the past 20 years. Where the borough once had a number of major private sector companies, employing large numbers of people, now it is characterised by small businesses, retailers and retail chains. The majority of Lewisham residents now work outside the borough and Lewisham citizens play a key role in leading and contributing to the economy of central London and Canary Wharf.

The London Plan advises east and south east London to plan for a minimum of 249,000 jobs between now and 2016. People in Lewisham need to have the skills to access these opportunities as well as other employment prospects in the region. Some groups will require additional support. Statistically our older residents, disabled citizens and people from black and minority ethnic communities find it harder to secure and retain jobs. The overall employment level in Lewisham is around 70%, which is below the national average. More work is required to support people into employment and to tackle the complex issue of worklessness.

Within the borough, the public sector is the main employer, but there is a growing range of local enterprises. Recently the creative sector – artists, art venues, galleries and art groups – have flourished in Lewisham. Local businesses have told us that if they are to grow and prosper they would like more support and access to larger properties.

What has been achieved

- Opening Doors, which offers confidential and impartial careers information and advice, has supported a significant number of jobless lone parents into employment and has conducted targeted outreach work in the local community.
- Since 2006, targeted work has helped over 5,000 of Lewisham's most disadvantaged citizens secure and remain in long-term employment.
- The number of businesses in the borough has increased. Since 2005, an additional 80 VAT registered businesses now operate in Lewisham.
- Bi-annual Lewisham Business
 Awards recognise the contribution of local businesses to the vitality of the borough.

Plans for the future

- Provide high quality education, training and development to improve skills and give citizens the means to compete for the best jobs and opportunities.
- Promote local economic growth, business clusters and mixed use developments and facilitate the expansion of businesses through the planning process.
- Increase the overall number of jobs in the borough and maximise the local benefits from development and regeneration opportunities, such as the East London Line depot in New Cross and the Building Schools for the Future programme.
- Tackle issues around worklessness by recognising the different barriers that citizens face to securing and retaining employment and delivering tailored support.

 Provide the lead in applying equal and fair employment practices, ensuring that all people and all sections of the community have equal access to jobs and employment opportunities.

How can we all help?

- Recognise the opportunities for employment that are available both locally and across London and develop the skills that these jobs might require. There are education and training courses available from providers across the region that can help you improve your skills and employability.
- If you run a business, consider being involved in apprenticeships and employing and training a local young person.

 If you're looking to start a new enterprise or develop your existing business, speak to the Lewisham Business Advisory Service. The service offers free or subsidised support and guidance to all types of local business.

- Local Development Framework.
- Lewisham Economic Development Business Plan.
- People, Prosperity, Place Lewisham Regeneration Strategy.
- NDC New Cross Gate Delivery Plan.



Improve access to sustainable modes of transport and connections to London and beyond

Good transport places all the creativity. diversity and prosperity of the capital within easy reach of people in Lewisham. However, London's growth will place additional strains on the transport system. It is projected that by 2025 there will be an extra 4 million journeys undertaken in the capital every single day.

The majority of Lewisham people already travel out of the borough to work. In fact, more people in Lewisham rely upon trains for their journey to work than in any other London borough. 43% of Lewisham households have no access to a car or van so the quality of public transport now and in the future will have a major impact upon the ease with which people travel and their work-life balance. This is not just an issue for travel providers: it involves improved access and safety at stations and bus stops, encouraging people to leave their car at home and listening to communities so that developments are in line with their needs.

Citizens have identified traffic and congestion as major sources of frustration. A citizen's jury in Lewisham recommended that the borough develop a workable balance of transport methods by minimising car usage and encouraging people to use alternatives. The citizens felt that the benefits would not just be in terms of time saved but would simultaneously make the local area more attractive, improve the environment and result in a more friendly and sociable borough.

What has been achieved

- Working with Transport for London. we have helped to deliver the East London Line extension. Work began in the winter of 2007 and by 2010, Brockley, Forest Hill and Sydenham will all be part of the Overground network and will appear on the tube map.
- We are working with other London local authorities and Transport for London to complete by 2010 the London Cycle Network Plus, a capital-wide network of cycle routes. We are promoting cycling to schools and workplaces and are providing cycle training for both children and adults.
- A plan has been agreed to develop and improve the network of walking and cycling links in Deptford and New Cross better connecting people with places and green spaces.

Plans for the future

- Promote and improve alternatives to the car (walking, cycling and public transport) so that they remain the community's preferred means of moving within the borough and beyond.
- Ensure that the Lewisham transport infrastructure, its roads, pavements, bus stops and stations are accessible to everyone and especially our disabled citizens. By 2015, eight of the borough's stations will be fully accessible and initiatives such as 'Legible Lewisham' will ensure that well-signed and accessible routes are available across the borough.
- Ensure that all areas of the borough and new developments can access a range of transport options.

 Remove Lewisham roundabout, as part of the town centre development, and provide an 'H shaped' street layout to rationalise traffic movement and provide simple and safe pedestrian access directly from the station to the high street.

How can we all help?

- Consider the forms of transport you use to travel and whether there are alternatives. Could you share a lift or cycle to work?
- If you have children at school, look at their School Travel Plan.
 If you currently take your children to school by car, consider if there are alternatives.

- Local Development Framework.
- Local Implementation Plan for Transport.
- People, Prosperity, Place Lewisham Regeneration Strategy.



How we will work together to achieve this vision

The Lewisham Strategic Partnership (LSP) is responsible for leading on the Sustainable Community Strategy, developing the related Local Area Agreement (LAA) and ensuring all partners progress towards achieving our priorities.

The Partnership is led by the LSP board which is chaired by Lewisham's directly-elected Mayor. Working with it are a series of thematic partnerships, each concentrating on a specific set of cross-cutting policy issues. The thematic partnerships bring together the relevant organisations and individuals to determine appropriate interventions and to ensure that jointworking results in the best possible outcomes.

The Lewisham Compact, developed with Lewisham's voluntary and community sector, contains the principles of accountability, consultation and partnership working which the Partnership abides by.

The Partnership will ensure that the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the LAA are delivered. Over the period of the strategy the LSP board will monitor progress in relation to the priorities and will support and challenge the thematic partnerships and partner agencies in their progress towards their achievement. The LSP board will ensure that partners' individual objectives mutually reinforce each other and yield more than the sum of their individual parts. The LSP board will focus its attention on those outcomes where it can add most value and which are of critical importance in achieving our vision.

In order to do this effectively an annual review programme will be agreed. These reviews will provide a focus for the LSP board allowing it to prioritise areas for work and act as a catalyst for service change and innovation.

The role of the Sustainable Community Strategy

Shaping our future will be a driver for change. The strategy provides a common goal for all partners to work towards. The Partnership and appropriate local organisations and agencies will be responsible for demonstrating how their activities are delivering against the priorities established in this strategy. All appropriate resources from across the partner agencies will be available to direct towards the achievement of its outcomes.

Supporting this strategy are other plans which provide more detail on how specific challenges will be addressed, how local opportunities will be realised and what resources will be available. Some of these supporting plans have been referenced in this strategy, others will be developed in the future. All of these plans will be able to show how they link to *Shaping our future* and deliver its vision of a sustainable future, where inequalities are targeted and the overall quality of life in the borough is improved.

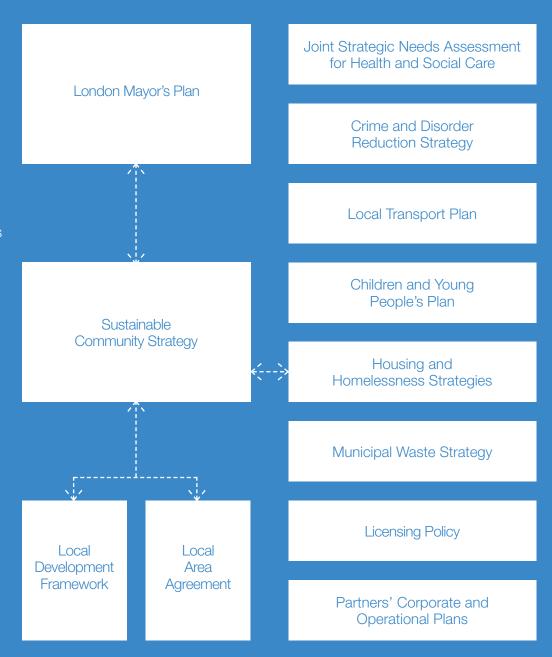
How this strategy relates to other local and regional plans

Monitoring our performance

In order to tackle some of the specific challenges identified by this strategy, the Lewisham Strategic Partnership has developed a Local Area Agreement. This is an agreement with national government, which establishes 35 challenging targets that the Partnership and Lewisham as a whole will have to meet. In addition the LAA contains 17 statutory targets on educational attainment and early years. All these targets are linked directly to the strategy's outcomes and will provide a means by which we can measure progress towards achieving our shared objectives.

Around each target local organisations and partnerships will develop and continue successful programmes and interventions to address local problems and inequalities. In many situations a specific organisation will act as the lead agency. However, as this strategy has made clear, effective and longlasting change will only be realised if activity draws upon the expertise and involvement of other organisations in the voluntary and community sector and the engagement of local people themselves.

Each Local Area Agreement runs for three years. In 2011, 2014 and 2017 new Local Area Agreements will assess what has been achieved, what challenges persist and what new issues have arisen and will once again establish the targets and the means through which effective action can be taken.





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Copies of Shaping our future are available, on request, in other formats including Braille, large print, audio tape, BSL or computer disc. For information, contact the LSP Support Team on the details below.

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Copies of Shaping our future are available online at www.lewishamstrategicpartnership.org.uk along with the latest news and information on the work of the Lewisham Strategic Partnership.

Hard copies of *Shaping our future* are available in Lewisham's libraries and, on request, from the LSP Support Team.

For further information please contact: LSP Support Team 2nd Floor Civic Suite Catford London SE6 4RU

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