

# Local Democracy Review

Tell us your views



“ A democratic and open Lewisham ”



# About Lewisham Council

**1** **Mayor** – directly elected by voters across the whole borough

**54** **ward councillors** – three elected by voters in each of the 18 wards in the borough

**800** **different functions** – some are mandatory (we have to provide them by law) and some are discretionary (we can choose whether to provide them)

**£240m** the Council's **annual budget** for this year

## Did you know?

- Only **four** London boroughs have directly-elected Mayors (Lewisham, Hackney, Newham & Tower Hamlets)
- The Council is required to have a **Constitution** which sets out how we operate and the procedures we follow – find it at [www.lewisham.gov.uk](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk)
- Lewisham is the **15th** most ethnically diverse local authority in England – 46% of residents are from Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds (rising to 76% for the school population)

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# 800 different functions

Refuse & recycling

Planning

Youth offending

Libraries

Housing benefit

Schools

Leisure centres

Licensing

Parks & open spaces

Trading standards

Adult social care

Community events and festivals

Street cleaning

Children's social care

Council tax

Adult learning

Housing & homelessness

Parking

Public health

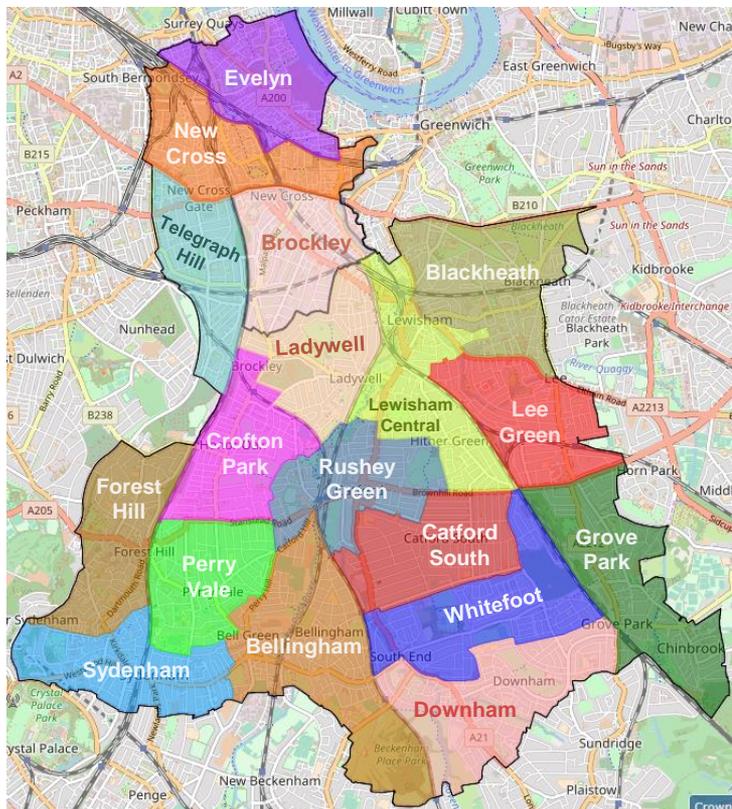
£100m (or 40% of the £240m budget) is actually spent covering the special needs of 3,500 of our most vulnerable adults and children.

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# About Lewisham Council

Lewisham is split into 18 different wards.  
Do you know which ward you live in?



Do you know which ward these local landmarks are in?

Horniman Museum



Forest Hill

University Hospital Lewisham



Lewisham Central

Catford Cat



Rushey Green

All Saints Church



Blackheath

Goldsmiths



New Cross

Deptford Lounge



New Cross

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# What is the Lewisham Democracy Review?



In May 2018 - as part of his election campaign, the new **Mayor Damien Egan** promised to launch a review that will make Lewisham **'even more democratic, open and transparent'**



Mayor Damien Egan

In July 2018 – Full Council (made up of the Mayor & all councillors) agreed to establish a **Local Democracy Review Working Group**.

## Working Group:



Cllr Kevin Bonavia  
(Chair)



Cllr Sakina Sheikh  
(Vice Chair)



Cllr Chris Best



Cllr Juliet Campbell



Cllr Patrick Codd



Cllr Colin Elliott



Cllr Alex Feis-Bryce



Cllr Aisling Gallagher

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# Why are we doing the review?

A lot has changed since the last review:

...to **301,000** people today.

The Council has also reduced in size and function due to Government cuts over the past eight years.

The population is expected to rise to over **344,000** by 2031.

There is also a growing demand for services and a growing population...

**£164m** government cuts with more to come...

First complete review of how the Council operates in 16 years.

There has been new legislation introduced and new responsibilities during this time.

...from **250,000** people in Lewisham in 2001...



We want to encourage more people to participate in local democracy and become even more informed, involved and empowered as a result





# Focus of the review

## 1) Enhance openness and transparency

**How do you know what's going on and find out why things are happening the way they are?**

## 2) Increase public involvement in Council decisions

**How can your views be fed into Council decisions like new parking or planning policies?**

## 3) Promote effective decision-making

**How can the way we make decisions be done better?  
Do we test new ideas properly before we agree them?**

### ***October-December 2018:***

Members of the Working Group are currently gathering evidence from a wide range of residents, community groups and businesses (extended to January 2019).

### ***January-March 2019:***

Members of the Working Group will review all the evidence gathered and make recommendations to Full Council.

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# 1) Openness and Transparency

The Council currently has a number of ways that allow the public to access information about what the Council does, how it makes decisions and how it spends money.

How many ways of accessing information can you think of?



## Did you know?

- All formal Council decision-making meetings are **open to the public** to attend and observe
- **All spending over £250** is published on the Council website
- The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) gives citizens the **right to access recorded information** held by public sector organisations

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# 1) Openness and Transparency

## Have your say:

We want to hear what you think about how we share information about our decision-making.

- What are your views about and experiences of using these ways of accessing information?
- Do you have any ideas you have about how we could improve them or do things differently?

**A democratic and open Lewisham**

Take part in the first full review of the borough's local democracy in 15 years

Tell us how we can:

- enhance openness and transparency
- increase your involvement in decisions
- promote effective decision making

Visit [www.lewishamdemocracy.com](http://www.lewishamdemocracy.com) to find out more and take part.

My views

My experiences

My suggestions

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## 2) Public Involvement in Decision-Making

- The Council currently has a number of ways for involving the public in decision-making. The most obvious one is **voting in local elections**.
- Local councillors also represent, support and engage with local residents in a number of ways: **surgeries, door knocking, campaigning** and attending **ward based activities**.

Can you guess the average percentage of Lewisham residents who voted in the last local election?

A) 19%

B) 37%

C) 55%

D) 78%

The turnout for the Young Mayor election in 2018 was 58%.

### Did you know?

- There were **73 online consultations** (opportunity for you to tell us what you think) published between July 2016 and July 2018.
- **25 petitions** were presented to Full Council between July 2016 and July 2018.
- Local Assemblies funded a total of **205** projects in 2016/17.

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## 2) Public Involvement in Decision-Making

How many other ways of getting involved in decision-making can you think of?

Responding to a Lewisham Council Consultation

Responding to a statutory consultation

Being a Young Adviser

Signing or organising a petition/e-petition

Being a member of a Neighbourhood Community Development Partnership (NCDP)

Taking part in a Local Assembly

Participating in the Overview & Scrutiny process

Being a School Governor

Being involved in the Young Mayor programme

Attending a civic event

### Have your say:

- What are your views about and experiences of using these ways of involving the public in decision-making?
- Tell us about your experiences of engaging with your local councillor/s?
- Do you have any ideas you have about how we could improve them or do things differently?

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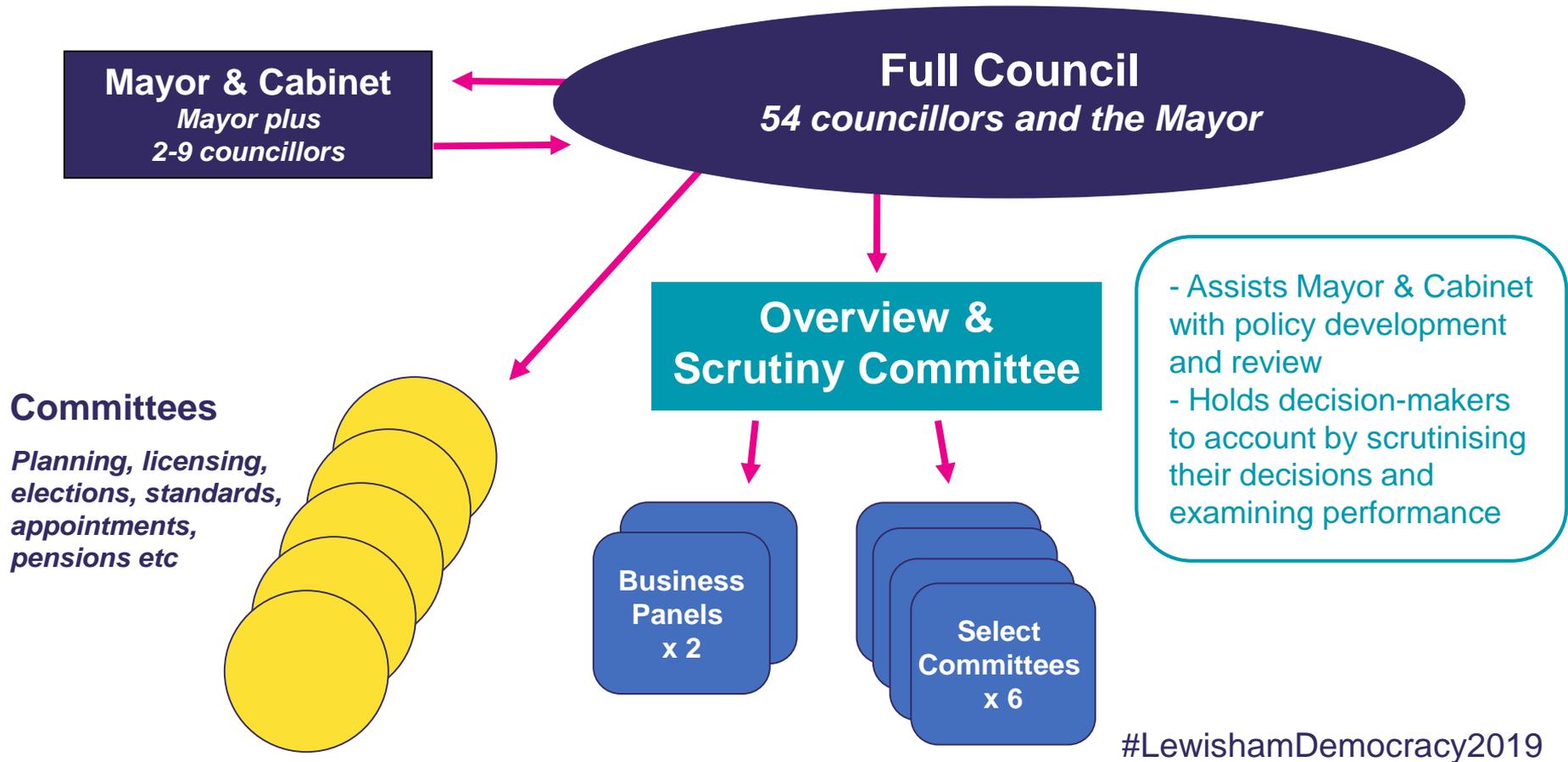


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# 3) Effective Decision-Making

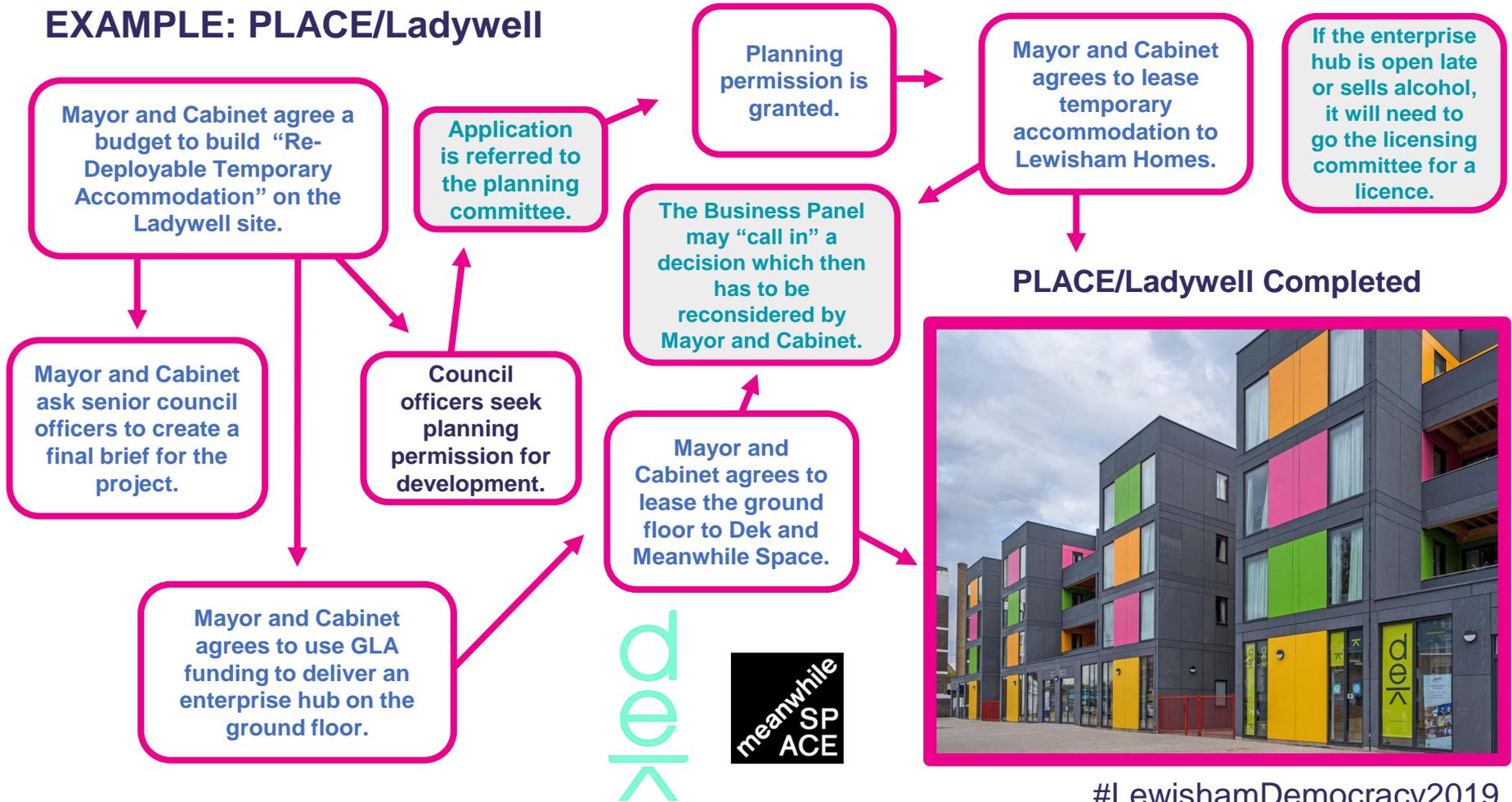
How does decision-making currently work in Lewisham Council?



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# 3) Effective Decision-Making

## EXAMPLE: PLACE/Ladywell



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# How can I get more involved?

- Provide your comments using the flyer
- Complete the online survey (closes on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019)
- Talk to your friends, family, colleagues and neighbours & encourage them to participate
- Visit the website at [www.lewishamdemocracy.com](http://www.lewishamdemocracy.com)



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