



Community Leadership and Libraries Committee

20th June 2022

Title	New Administration's priorities
Report of	Chair of Community Leadership and Libraries Committee
Wards	All
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Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	none
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Summary

Following the 5 May 2022 elections, the Council has a new administration and officers will work with Chair of the Committee to clearly set out this committee's priorities to be delivered over the next 4 years.

This paper sets out the priorities of the new administration relating to this Committee's remit. These commitments will be developed into policy, reviewed, costed, and brought back to committee prior to implementation.

Officers Recommendations

1. That officers work with the Chair of this committee and where appropriate, other relevant Theme Committee chairs, other relevant committees and strategic partners to develop Council priorities and establish a series of work programmes which consider costs and other implications for implementation over the next 4 years.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Following the 5 May 2022 elections there is now a new administration and officers now need to work with Chair of the Committee to establish the committees' priorities to be delivered over the next 4 years
- 1.2 Priorities and a work programme for this committee need to be developed. This is expected (but not limited to) to include:

Community Safety
- 1.3 The new administration has made a number of commitments on community safety including:
 - Provide community safety hubs (to raise concerns about crime with the police and council enforcement officers)
 - Programme of 'Street Safe' audits - walks with residents, police and community safety officers and Streetscene and green spaces officers to identify together ways of making spaces safer.
 - Provide a named community safety officer for each ward to create community safety action plans based on local priorities (work nearly completed)
- 1.4 To do this we will work with the Committee Chair to agree the scope of a review and timetable for delivery of the above.
- 1.5 Further, there is an item on the agenda for this meeting "*CCTV programme – Revised Outline Business Case & Update on the Strategic Review*" (this follows previous Committee discussions on the Strategic CCTV Review (October 21)) and confirms the outcome of the Strategic Review, member consultation and updated funding requirements. There are also a number of commitments in the remit of other committees that will contribute to this outcome, for example improving lighting sits within the remit of Environment and Climate Change Committee, and ensuring new developments are designed with safety in mind falls to Policy and Resources, Housing and Growth and Strategic Planning Committees.
- 1.6 Also falling under the remit of the Environment and Climate Change Committee but supporting the community safety activity is the development of a park ranger service. During the COVID -19 pandemic, the Council appointed Parkguard to deliver a pilot parks patrol service. Following the success of this, the Greenspaces service is starting to develop an options

appraisal to introduce a dedicated park ranger service for the Borough. In the meantime, the service is engaged with Parkguard to support enhanced operations for Summer 2022.

Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

- 1.7 Following extensive consultation, the previous administration of the council published the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022 to 2025 in March 2022.
- 1.8 We will work with the Chair of the Committee to review the action plan that supports the Strategy in light of the new administrations priorities to identify what change might be required. Progress of the action plan is reported to the Community Safety Partnership
- 1.9 We will also undertake work to assess the impact misogyny has on violence against women and girls, including reviewing outcomes from other areas where misogyny has been recorded as a hate crime.

Community engagement

- 1.10 A unifying thread, uniting all the new administration's commitments and aspirations is to have stronger, more consistent and impactful resident and community engagement.
- 1.11 The new administration has also set out aspirations which signal a clear intent to have a different approach to developing and implementing strategies and policies. This will include greater partnership working with residents and communities on capacity building, place - based approaches and social investment (e.g. neighbourhood CIL, Social Value and grant funding) and exploring potential for new models of co-production including community-led commissions, e.g on sustainability and climate change, and piloting different approaches to improving local place-making and community initiatives and opportunities.
- 1.12 In the short term, this is likely to mean changes in how the council engages with residents and communities and could signal potential change over time in service delivery. This kind of activity will take longer to implement and will be considered as part of the development of a new corporate plan, as well as budget setting and Medium-Term Financial Strategy discussions.
- 1.13 As a matter of priority, we want to review our whole approach to resident and community engagement to ensure that it is consistent with the aims and aspirations of the administration. To do this we will work with the Committee Chair (and other relevant committee chairs) to agree the scope of a review and timetable for delivery. Based on discussions thus far we expect a new approach to be built around:
 - **An on-going conversation with residents** - listening and engagement events for all residents and communities
 - **Community co-design** - developing responses to specific challenges or plans for particular places

- **Arts, Culture and Events** - engaging a diverse range of residents with the council through events and celebrations
- **Joined up public services** – piloting services in neighbourhood community hubs and ensuring that the front-door is supportive and welcoming for all residents, and that residents can easily access the support they need
- **Partnership with the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector** – building on the improved working with the sector during the covid pandemic to maximise our collective contribution to improving the Borough

Culture & Libraries

- 1.14 We will be developing a culture strategy, working with a range of creative and community organisations and businesses, building towards a bid for the London Borough of Culture (2026 round).
- 1.15 We will work with the Chair of the Committee to support our library services, working towards implementing the recommendations of the Activist report (agreed by the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee on 5 March 2020), the manifesto commitment to develop library facilities in Brent Cross Town and the delivery of community hubs.

Food Security

- 1.16 Our work with the voluntary, community and faith sectors, has supported the Food Hub (run by the Barnet Together Alliance) and the delivery of the Community Innovation Fund which supported a number of food related projects. We will work with the Chair of the Committee to establish what scope there is for additional activities. Also, the Health and Wellbeing Board is due to consider refreshed actions that tackle the challenges of food insecurity food security in September 2022. The new administration has declared support for the Right to Food campaign – giving every person a legal right to food rightly places the responsibility on the Government to end hunger.

Resettlement schemes

- 1.17 There is an item later on the agenda on refugee and resettlement schemes the council is currently managing.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The new administration commitments need to be translated into council policy. To do this, officers need to work with the Chair of the Committee a series of work programmes (which fully consider implications) to bring back to Committee prior to implementation.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 None in the context of this report

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Council officers will work with relevant Theme Committee leads, other committees (e.g. Health & Well-being Board), colleagues in partner organisations and strategic partners within the Borough or regionally, to develop a coherent work programme for implementation. These will be reported back to committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The activities above align with the Clean Safe and Well Run priority in the current corporate plan (the Barnet Plan 2021-2025) however, we expect the a new administration to develop a new corporate plan, consistent with the new administration's priorities.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)]

5.2.1 None for this report. Resource implications of the programmes and activities therein, will be considered as part of the development of that work and report to committee, including Policy and Resources Committee when relevant, prior to implementation.

5.2.2 The council is legally bound to set a balanced revenue budget every year. The future impact of any changes that result from the developed work programmes will need to be delivered within the envelope of the available financial resources at that point in time.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 The council's Constitution, Article 7.5 Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships, sets out the functions of Community Leadership and Libraries which include:

- (1) Responsibility for libraries, culture, civic events, the mayoralty, voluntary, community and faith sector strategy and engagement, community safety, environmental crime (excluding littering, fly-tipping, fly-posting and graffiti), registration and nationality service, food security and Covid-19 enforcement.
- (2) To act as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 (Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny Regulations) 2009
- (3) To receive nominations and determine applications for buildings / land to be listed as an Asset of Community Value (Community Right to Bid)

- (4) To receive reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee.
- (5) Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls
- (6) Reducing reoffending
- (7) Safeguarding Vulnerable Adolescents and Adults at Risk of Violence

5.4 Insight

5.4.1 There is no insight relevant to this report.

5.5 Social Value

5.5.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. While there are no Social Value implications for this report, Social Value will be considered in work programmes. All programmes will be developed in a manner that is consistent with the Council's Social Value policy (December 2021)

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 Risks and risk management will be considered as the work programmes develop.

5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.7.1 The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

5.7.2 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and person and persons who do not share it.

5.7.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

5.7.4 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

5.7.5 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Tackle prejudice, and
- Promote understanding.

5.7.6 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and Civil partnership

5.7.7 Relevant new policies will be subject to an EQIA which will be reported to committee so that decisions can be made being mindful of equalities considerations.

5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.8.1 In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. There are no implications for Corporate Parenting in relation to this report.

5.8.2

5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1 There are no implications for consultation and engagement in relation to this report

5.10 Environmental Impact

5.10.1 There are no implications for Environmental Impact in relation to this report

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 none