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
- 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)

#LewishamDemocracy2019
800 different functions

Refuse & recycling
Planning
Libraries
Housing benefit
Youth offending

SCHOOLS
Leisure centres
Licensing
Trading standards

Parks & open spaces
Community events and festivals

Street cleaning
Council tax
Adult learning

Children’s social care
Housing & homelessness
Public health

Parking

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

#LewishamDemocracy2019
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
- University Hospital Lewisham
- Catford Cat
- Forest Hill
- Lewisham Central
- Rushey Green
- All Saints Church
- Goldsmiths
- Deptford Lounge
- Blackheath
- New Cross

#LewishamDemocracy2019
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’

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**

#LewishamDemocracy2019
Why are we doing the review?

A lot has changed since the last review:

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

£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.

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

2002

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

2010

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

2018

...to 301,000 people today.

A lot has changed since the last review:

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.

#LewishamDemocracy2019
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
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?
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.
How many other ways of getting involved in decision-making can you think of?

**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?

#LewishamDemocracy2019
3) Effective Decision-Making

How does decision-making currently work in Lewisham Council?

Mayor & Cabinet
   Mayor plus 2-9 councillors

Full Council
   54 councillors and the Mayor

Overview & Scrutiny Committee
   - Assists Mayor & Cabinet with policy development and review
   - Holds decision-makers to account by scrutinising their decisions and examining performance

Committees
   Planning, licensing, elections, standards, appointments, pensions etc

Business Panels x 2

Select Committees x 6

#LewishamDemocracy2019
3) Effective Decision-Making

EXAMPLE: PLACE/Ladywell

Mayor and Cabinet agree a budget to build "Re-Deployable Temporary Accommodation" on the Ladywell site.

Application is referred to the planning committee.

Planning permission is granted.

Mayor and Cabinet agrees to lease temporary accommodation to Lewisham Homes.

Mayor and Cabinet agree to use GLA funding to deliver an enterprise hub on the ground floor.

Council officers seek planning permission for development.

The Business Panel may "call in" a decision which then has to be reconsidered by Mayor and Cabinet.

Mayor and Cabinet agrees to lease the ground floor to Dek and Meanwhile Space.

PLACE/Ladywell Completed

If the enterprise hub is open late or sells alcohol, it will need to go to the licensing committee for a licence.

#LewishamDemocracy2019
3) Effective Decision-Making

Have your say:

• What do you think are the most important features of effective decision-making?

• Do you think we could do more to improve the effectiveness of our decision-making?
How can I get more involved?

• Provide your comments using the flyer

• Complete the online survey (closes on 27th January 2019)

• Talk to your friends, family, colleagues and neighbours & encourage them to participate

• Visit the website at www.lewishamdemocracy.com