

**Lewisham Infrastructure Delivery Plan**  
**Prepared to inform the Local Plan Examination**

December 2024



## Revision record

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1	11 Mar 2020	Draft IDP for consideration by Mayor & Cabinet
2	25 Nov 2020	Draft IDP for consideration by Council
3	17 Feb 2022	Draft Final IDP for consideration by Sustainable Development Select Committee
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5	October 2023	2023 Update of IDP for Submission of Local Plan for Examination
5	October 2023	2023 Update of IDP for Examination
6	October 2024	2024 Update of IDP for Examination
7	December 2024	Further final revisions to fully populate detail of projects set out under Appendices.

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## Executive summary

- I. This Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is an evidence base document that has been prepared to both inform and support the delivery of the Lewisham Local Plan. The Council is preparing a new Local Plan which will cover the 20-year period from 2020 to 2040. The new Local Plan will form part of the Council's statutory Development Plan together with the London Plan (2021) and adopted Neighbourhood Plans. It will support the 'Good Growth' policies in the London Plan and ensure that planning decisions are made in the best interests of local neighbourhoods and communities.
- II. The IDP will play an important role in helping the Council and its partners to prioritise and direct infrastructure investment in line with the spatial strategy for the Borough, as set out in the Local Plan, recognising that Lewisham is an integral part of London. The IDP identifies the different types of infrastructure that will be required to support the levels of growth planned within the Borough over the long-term. It will be critical to ensuring that there is an appropriate provision of facilities, services, and infrastructure to support sustainable development in Lewisham.
- III. The IDP will be under continuous review and will be treated as a 'live' document that will evolve over time and updated on a regular basis.
- IV. National and regional planning policy and guidance set out the framework for the Council to identify, plan for and help to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure needed in the Borough. As such, this document has been reviewed to align with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and the London Plan.
- V. Both the Local Plan and the IDP are prepared within the context of the London Plan and the direction it provides for managing 'Good Growth' across the region. This includes an overall housing target to meet need in London, which is then disaggregated to a target for each borough. For Lewisham, the London Plan's minimum ten-year housing target is for 16,670 net new homes over the period 2020 to 2030 (or 1,667 net completions per year). Housing-led population projections indicate that Lewisham's population will grow by approximately 42,423 people from 2020 to 2040.
- VI. Whilst the IDP is an evidence base document for the Local Plan it should also be used to inform the preparation of planning applications and decisions on these. The London Plan requires development proposals to assess impacts on local infrastructure and to address demands arising from new development. Therefore, it is the responsibility of landowners, developers, and other key stakeholders to ensure that adequate information is submitted

to support planning applications. The IDP is a useful reference point for such considerations.

- VII. The schedules set out in Sections 3-6 of this IDP set out the main infrastructure required to support growth and development over the Local Plan period. The schedules provide a current picture of key strategic requirements. They will continue to be reviewed and updated as further details become available, including for additional needs, timing, costs, and delivery mechanisms.

# 1. Introduction

## Background

- 1.1. Lewisham Council (“the Council”) is producing a new Local Plan that will help guide future growth and development in the Borough over a 20-year period, from 2020 to 2040. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) forms part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan. The IDP has been prepared to both inform and support the delivery of the Lewisham Local Plan.
- 1.2. The London Plan includes requirements for boroughs to assess the capacity of physical, environmental, and social infrastructure to support growth, and to plan for the necessary infrastructure and improvements to capacity in the Borough’s infrastructure delivery plans and programmes. This IDP seeks to provide details on the key strategic infrastructure requirement identified for the new draft Local Plan. It does not capture all the infrastructure requirement over the plan period; rather it focuses on strategic matters that underpin the delivery of the Local Plan. The Council will continue to undertake infrastructure planning in relation to the spend of S106 and CIL, and to work with residents, businesses, Neighbourhood Forums and other community groups and associations, to plan for the delivery of other supporting infrastructure that is not been covered in this IDP.
- 1.3. This IDP is a ‘live document’ and captures the infrastructure need based on the best information available at the time of writing. It is Council’s intention to provide annual updates to the IDP. The IDP will evolve over time, responding to the latest available information from the Council and its delivery partners on project programming and financing, indicate when strategic infrastructure has been delivered, and reflect changes in the expected level of provision required. It will also be used to inform decisions on infrastructure delivery, for example the allocation of CIL receipts to projects identified within the IDP.

## Aim and Scope

- 1.4. The aim of this IDP is to support the Council’s strategic infrastructure planning activities and to provide a joined-up approach to the planning of strategic infrastructure for the new Local Plan. Infrastructure planning is often complex, involving a wide range of organisations and bodies operating at different geographical levels and working to different timescales and delivery objectives. The IDP supports the Council’s Local Plan process by bringing together relevant information and by clearly identifying the key strategic infrastructure requirement to support growth in the area, as well as arrangements for delivery.

- 1.5. The main output from the IDP work is an updated Infrastructure Delivery Schedule (IDS) – a list of the strategic infrastructure requirement that have been identified or committed by infrastructure providers to support the delivery of the Local Plan. The IDS will seek to capture the following information:
- What the infrastructure proposal or project entails;
  - The lead organisation responsible for its delivery;
  - The location(s) identified for the infrastructure proposal or project;
  - The expected timescale for delivery (with regards to the Local Plan); and
  - The estimated cost/funding requirement for its delivery
- 1.6. The IDS will be further developed with infrastructure providers and other stakeholders to refine the information included and ensure key strategic infrastructure requirement are identified and planned for in the Local Plan. The IDS will also provide evidence for the preparation of the Council's Infrastructure Funding Statement.
- 1.7. The IDP has also informed the preparation and development of the Council's Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) documents; specifically, those with infrastructure delivery partners. The agreed Statement highlight the relevant strategic cross- boundary infrastructure issues for the area and set out how the Council has engaged with infrastructure providers and strategic partners on any strategic planning issues, and the outcomes from joint-working activities.
- 1.8. Parallel to this IDP, and where appropriate, infrastructure proposals and projects identified through relevant area-based strategies and adopted neighbourhood plans have been reflected in this IDP.

### **Relationship with previous IDPs**

- 1.9. A draft IDP was prepared to support a Regulation 18 stage public consultation on the 'Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches' document, which ran from 15th January to 11th April 2021. Most work on the draft IDP took place between quarter four of 2018 and quarter four of 2019. It was informed by the latest available studies, Council service strategies, and early-stage feedback from infrastructure providers and delivery partners.
- 1.10. After the Regulation 18 stage consultation, the draft IDP was reviewed and updated to include the latest population projections prepared by the Greater London Authority (GLA) (see Section 2 for further details). The Council then re-issued the draft IDP in November 2021 to internal and external



stakeholders for their review to provide an opportunity to consider the revised population projections and infrastructure requirements.

1.11. The Reg 18 IDP then considered feedback received from the Regulation 18 stakeholder consultation and engagement and the information gathered through other infrastructure planning evidence bases and discussions. This included:

- IDP August 2010
- Work undertaken to support the submission version of the Lewisham Core Strategy (October 2010) and IDP Framework Document in 2015 to support a previous Regulation 18 Local Plan public consultation
- CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule consultation in 2019,
- working with key infrastructure providers and delivery partners.

### **The Reg 18 IDP included two stages. Stage 1: Information gathering and initial review**

1.12. The first stage of the IDP was a desktop review of available information and data relating to the planning and delivery of strategic infrastructure in the area, including a review of relevant policy requirement, existing delivery plans and relevant service strategies. Infrastructure providers were also engaged to discuss any potential issues and key considerations that may need to be considered when planning for infrastructure in the area, including any additional requirement for evidence/technical studies as part of the evidence for the new Local Plan.

1.13. It should be noted that in most instances infrastructure providers have their own processes and arrangements for infrastructure planning in the area. To support the infrastructure planning process, where relevant, information on potential development locations and projected population growth were made available to infrastructure providers.

### **Stage 2: Further engagement and identification of specific infrastructure requirement**

1.14. The second stage of the IDP involved working with infrastructure providers and other key stakeholders to refine the information gathered in Stage 1 and to agree on the specific requirement for the Local Plan, including land required for safeguarding, policy implications, latest funding arrangements, and the total funding gap expected.

1.15. Neighbouring planning authorities were also engaged to discuss key findings and assumptions at this stage and identify any cross-boundary dependencies that may exist in the local area, and how these may be best addressed. These issues were primarily discussed through the South East London Duty to Cooperate forum.

1.16. Where relevant, the Council undertook have sought to identify any key risks for infrastructure delivery, their potential implications, and reach common ground with infrastructure providers on the contingencies and alternative arrangement that needed to be in place or planned for in the new Local Plan. Opportunities for the provision of new infrastructure alongside proposed new developments, and the potential for the co-location of new infrastructure with existing facilities and uses were also discussed explored where possible.

**Regulation 19 and examination IDP**

1.17. A version of the IDP was prepared for the Regulation 19 consultation and included further updates from Council departments. It was prepared with the specific objective of providing an updated position at the point of submission of the new Lewisham Local Plan to its examination. During the Local Plan examination, the Inspectors requested a further additional update on infrastructure planning and delivery resulting in updates found in this version of the IDP.

**Infrastructure covered by this study**

1.18. The IDP outlines the strategic infrastructure need of the following infrastructure asset classes:

Social Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and childcare</li> <li>• Health, care and emergency services</li> <li>• Libraries, Archives and Local History Services</li> <li>• Sports and recreation</li> <li>• Youth and Community</li> </ul>
Green Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and open space</li> <li>• Biodiversity corridors</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Cemeteries and burial space</li> </ul>
Transport Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional and sub-regional transport</li> <li>• Local transport</li> </ul>
Utilities Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Waste</li> <li>• Digital</li> </ul>

1.19. This IDP identifies two levels of infrastructure that are pertinent to delivering the growth anticipated in the London Plan and Lewisham’s new draft Local Plan:

- Regional or sub-regional infrastructure: infrastructure that services (or is needed) to meet the forecast growth in Greater London generally, or its sub-regions; and
- Borough-level infrastructure: infrastructure that is needed to meet the forecast growth in Lewisham over the life of the new Local Plan period (2020-2040).

#### 1.20. The structure of the document is as follows

- Section 2 addresses the policy context of planning for infrastructure delivery through the plan making process;
- Section 3 addresses the Council's current social infrastructure provision across the Borough, and forecast infrastructure requirement to 2040;
- Section 4 addresses the Council's current green infrastructure provision across the Borough, and forecast infrastructure requirement to 2040;
- Section 5 addresses the Council's current transport infrastructure provision across the Borough, and forecast infrastructure requirement to 2040;
- Section 6 addresses the Council's current sustainable infrastructure and utilities provision across the Borough, and forecast infrastructure requirement to 2040;
- Appendix A provides a list of planned projects with indicative delivery costs
- Appendix B provides a list of pipeline projects that are yet to be assigned an indicative delivery cost
- Appendix C provides a list of sources of information that were used to prepare this document.

## 2. Policy Context

### National planning policy and guidance

- 2.1. The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023) requires all development plans to be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, and to seek opportunities to meet the development and infrastructure needs in their area. Development plans are also expected to be shaped by early, proportionate, and effective engagement between plan-makers and other stakeholders, including with infrastructure providers and statutory consultees in the area.
- 2.2. The Government's National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) provides further detail regarding these requirements. The NPPG advises that to demonstrate a plan is capable of delivering strategic matters, including the provision for infrastructure, that strategic plan-making authorities should work with infrastructure providers and relevant stakeholders early in the plan making process to ensure that a collaborative approach is taken to:
  - Assess the quality and capacity of existing infrastructure, and its ability to meet forecast demands. Where deficiencies are identified, policies should set out how those deficiencies will be addressed; and
  - Considers the need for strategic infrastructure, including nationally significant infrastructure, within their area
- 2.3. The development plan will provide a spatial strategy that addresses the borough's relevant strategic priorities, includes adequate provision for infrastructure, and allocates sufficient sites for development, having considered cross-boundary needs/issues. All plan policies are supported by relevant, up-to-date and proportionate evidence.
- 2.4. The Council also has to prepare an annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). An IFS is a report which sets out CIL and S106 receipts and expenditure for the preceding reporting year; the infrastructure the Council intends will be, or may be, funded at least in part by CIL; details of s78 agreements as well as various detailed matters.
- 2.5. A local authority also has to prepare an annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). An IFS is a report sets out CIL and S106 receipts and expenditure for the preceding reporting year the infrastructure the Council intends will be, or may be, funded at least in part by CIL, details of s78 agreements as well as various detailed matters.

## **London Plan**

- 2.6. The London Plan was formally adopted in March 2021. It is the regional spatial strategy for Greater London and provides the planning framework for addressing issues of strategic importance to the Capital. London boroughs' local planning frameworks, including Local Plans, are required to be in 'general conformity' with the strategic policies set out in the London Plan.
- 2.7. In general, strategic transport infrastructure and other major infrastructure in London is identified and planned for in the London Plan, led by the Mayor of London in partnership with providers and other partners. Instances where additional work and evidence are required from boroughs on local infrastructure planning are set out in relevant London Plan policies (key relevant plan policies are highlighted in the beginning of each infrastructure section of this IDP document).
- 2.8. The London Plan places a particular requirement on boroughs to assess the capacity of existing and planned physical, environmental, and social infrastructure, and to plan for the necessary improvements to support growth identified in the development plan, through borough's infrastructure delivery plans or programmes. There is also an emphasis on boroughs to plan for and provide the necessary infrastructure along growth corridors and Opportunity Areas, advocating an area-based approach, and to engage local communities and stakeholders at an early stage.

## **Duty to Co-operate**

- 2.9. The Localism Act 2011 introduced new statutory obligations, known as "Duty to Co-operate", where it must be demonstrated that local authorities are engaging and working effectively throughout the plan making process with adjoining authorities, relevant strategic policy-making authorities, and prescribed bodies on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.
- 2.10. The IDP seeks to identify the specific infrastructure that may have cross-boundary implications and support other work relating to this requirement (including joint-working activities, the preparation and updating of Statement of Common Ground documents through the plan-making process).

## **Growth assumptions for this IDP**

- 2.11. The London Plan sets out a housing target for Lewisham of 16,670 additional homes (equivalent to 1,667 additional homes per year) over the 10-year period 01 April 2019 and 31 March 2029. The new Local Plan has been prepared in the context of meeting this strategic housing requirement.
- 2.12. The Council has worked with the GLA on bespoke borough-level population projections to inform the preparation of the Local Plan and the IDPs. The population in the Borough is projected to grow from 300,600 (from 2021

Census) in 2020 to 349,370 by 2040, an increase of 48,700 people or roughly 16%. This is based on the GLA 2019 Borough Preferred Option (BPO) projection, which draws on the latest data on committed pipeline supply (i.e. unimplemented planning permissions) and planned housing development provided by the draft Local Plan (which considers the new annualised London Plan target of 1,667 net homes). This projection has considered up-to-date information including the impact of Covid-19 and data on migration, births, and deaths.

2.13. In September 2021 the GLA issued its latest round of population projections for London.<sup>1</sup> This assumes that growth is aligned with the London Plan housing targets (which for Lewisham is 1,667 additional homes per year). This GLA projection indicates an overall population increase of 39,203 people in the Borough from 2020 to 2040. Comparing, the bespoke 2019 BPO projection with the GLA 2021 projection, there is only 1% difference in the population growth across the Borough. As such, the increased growth from both sets of projections will have similar impacts on infrastructure provision across the Borough. For the purpose of the Local Plan and the IDP, the 2019 BPO projections are being used as these are considered to align more closely with the spatial strategy and potential development sites (site allocations) included in the draft Local Plan.

2.14. In November 2021, the Council re-issued the draft IDP with the latest population projections, as set out above, working assumptions on potential sites, their location, and the phasing of future developments (and population change) over the plan period were also shared by the Council with relevant infrastructure providers and delivery partners. The IDP was updated considering feedback received from this engagement, along with responses received on the Regulation 18 stage public consultation on the Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document.

2.15. Growth is expected across much of the Borough although concentrated in the wards of Lewisham Central, New Cross, Evelyn and Rushey Green (as shown in the chart below and the green figures in the table below). This is aligned with the London Plan Opportunity Areas and consistent with the London Plan Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). Population growth is also expected to be experienced in Bellingham and Lee Green.

2.16. Between 2020 and 2040 the number of children aged 14 or below is expected to fall steadily by 5,414 people (from 56,401 to 50,987). The number of adults is expected to rise by 26,764 (from 221,073 to 247,837) and older people will also rise by 21,075 (from 29,472 to 50,547). By 2040, children will account for 15% of the total population (down from 18% in 2020), adults will account for 71% of the total population (slightly less than

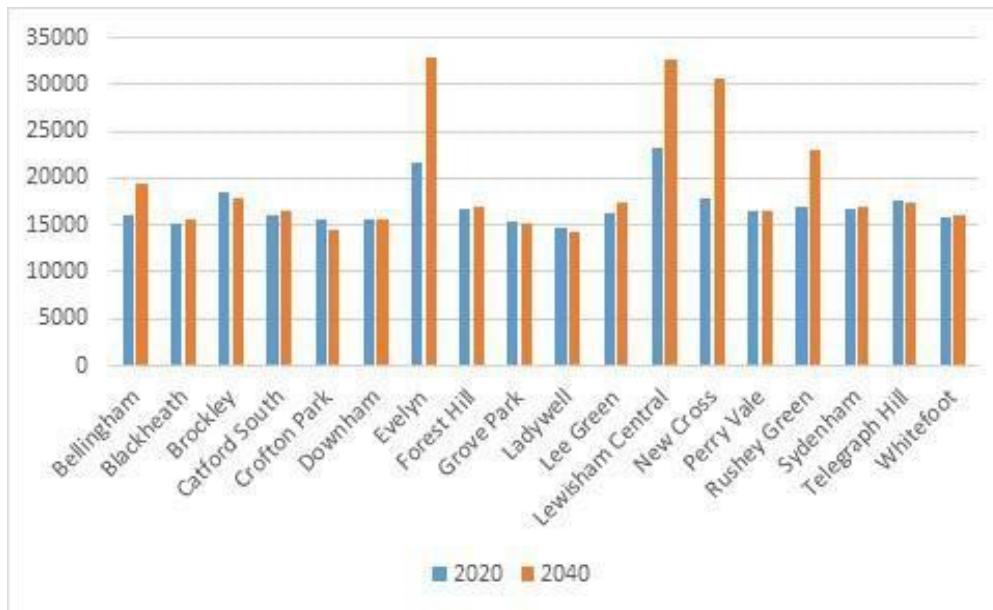
72% in 2020) and older people will account for 14% of the total population (a rise from 10% in 2020).

**Table 2.1. Lewisham population projection by Ward 2020-2040**

GLA 2019 based projections: BPO (ward level)	Population in 2020 2040		Population change 2020-2040
Bellingham	16151	19474	3323
Blackheath	15186	15605	419
Brockley	18582	17833	-749
Catford South	16093	16412	319
Crofton Park	15633	14594	-1039
Downham	15623	15613	-10
Evelyn	21781	32985	11204
Forest Hill	16644	16848	204
Grove Park	15368	15178	-190
Ladywell	14761	14158	-603
Lee Green	16254	17449	1195
Lewisham Central	23287	32678	9391
New Cross	17811	30569	12758
Perry Vale	16613	16440	-173
Rushey Green	16949	22979	6030
Sydenham	16820	17034	214
Telegraph Hill	17614	17413	-201
Whitefoot	15777	16108	331
Borough total	306947	349370	42423

Source: GLA 2019 based Borough Preferred Option (BPO) Projection

**Chart 2.1. Lewisham population projection by Ward, 2020-2040**





### **3. Social Infrastructure**

#### **Education and Childcare facilities**

- 3.1. Local authorities in England have a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for pupils of statutory school age within their local authority area. London Plan Policy S3 'Education & Childcare Facilities' sets out the requirement for London's boroughs to identify and address local needs and any shortages in supply both locally and sub-regionally, and to identify sites for future provision, particularly in areas with significant planned growth.

#### **Childcare and Early Education**

##### **Policy context**

- 3.2. Childcare and early years education typically refers to provisions for children under 5 years old, delivered through a range of settings, including nursery schools, primary schools with nursery classes, private, voluntary, and independent (PVI) and child-minders. All children aged between three and four years old in England are entitled to a universal 570 hours of funded early education per year (usually taken as 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year) with an Ofsted registered childcare provider. For children of working families who meet the criteria there is an additional 15 hours available. In addition to this in 2024 Early Entitlements for working families were extended to include children from the age of 9 months up to when children start school. This is currently offered as a 15-hour entitlement which will be extended to 30 hours in September 2025. There is also an entitlement to 15 hours for 2-year-olds whose family is in receipt of certain benefits. In Lewisham this is known as the Lewisham 2's offer.
- 3.3. [The Council's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023](#) provides an overall assessment of childcare provision and demand in the Borough and identifies the priorities for the coming years. The Council's Education Strategy 2022-2027 sets out the Council's overall principles and strategy for ensuring sufficient childcare provision in the area over the relevant period. Progress against the Education Strategy 2022-2027 is reviewed on a yearly basis in an update report to the council's Children & Young People Select Committee.

## Current situation

- 3.4. The Council's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2023 found that while most parents are happy with the childcare on offer, some have faced issues in finding out about, accessing and affording childcare. Many childcare providers currently have vacancies indicating there is no concern for sufficiency in the borough. The type of childcare available may not always be the preferred choice for parents. However, there is ongoing work to raise awareness of places available at a childminder setting and why parents should be open to this option. More than half of children in early education in the Borough attend places within private, voluntary, and independent (PVI) settings, with maintained school provision the next most popular choice, with childminders following very closely.

**Table 3.1. Childcare Provision in Lewisham**

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Number of providers</i>	<i>Number of registered places</i>
Childminders*	327	1635
Maintained classes in schools	51	1509
Maintained nursery schools	2	244
Private, Voluntary and Independent Nurseries	133	5960

*The data in this table was correct at: September 2022.*

- 3.5. The 2024 early years census reported that 78% of eligible three- to four-year-olds accessed funded places (with 96% doing so in good or/and outstanding quality settings), a 58% of eligible two-year-olds accessed funded places (with 97% doing so in good or outstanding quality settings).

## Future requirements

- 3.6. The Council's Education Strategy 2022-2027 indicates that overall, it is likely there will be sufficient childcare and early education places to meet anticipated demand (including the extended entitlements) over the strategy's period. Despite the strategy determining that there is not a current need for additional places, additional investment has been made to improve the flexibility of the service, as well as improving the quality of provision, particularly for children with special or additional learning needs.
- 3.7. For this IDP no specific infrastructure requirement has been identified for childcare and early education provision. However, some capital funding has been made available by central govt to support providers to expand their provision, to accommodate the extension to the Early Entitlements. The Early Years Quality and Sufficiency Service is working closely with providers to ensure this funding is used effectively to improve choice and ensure

sufficient access to affordable and high-quality childcare. This will be monitored in future IDP updates.

### **Primary Education**

3.8. Lewisham's Education Strategy 2022-27 outlines the Council's approach to school place planning. The strategy provides a framework for how the Council meets its statutory sufficiency duty considering the capacity of schools using either the school's Net Capacity or the school's Published Admission Number (PAN). The Net Capacity is a standard government calculation made based on a school's available teaching area, with the PAN being the number of places available at the normal point of entry.

### **Current situation**

3.9. As of May 2024 (the date used for the 2024 Department for Education School Capacity Return) there were 68 state-funded schools providing Primary education (including those that are part of an all-through school) in the Borough providing a net capacity of 28,435 places, with 22,122 pupils on roll (NOR). The peak for Primary school numbers was in 2017, when the Published Admissions Number (PAN) was 4025. Since that time, given the fall in birth rate, the Council has worked with schools to reduce the PAN to 3420, with further reductions planned for future years.

3.10. In terms of new entrants, the Council's Revised Forecast for Summer 2024 found that the total forecasted Reception intake for 2024 would be 3,164. As a general principle the Council seeks to maintain a circa 5% surplus in school places to account for parental preference in choosing a school, and to accommodate additional admissions throughout the year. The Council's forecasts suggest that there are sufficient places to meet pupil demand in the foreseeable future (projections run through to the 2028/2029 academic year) including this 5% surplus.

## **Future Requirements**

3.11. Revised forecasting shows that no further primary school places should be required through to 2028/29. The Council are continuing to work with schools to reduce the supply of places to bring the surplus places closer to 5%. Over 600 Reception places have been removed (via PAN reductions) since 2017, with additional capping of Local Authority allocations in other schools to help better strategically manage the supply of places and provide surety of pupil numbers to schools.

## **Forecasting of demand for school places**

3.12. The planning of school places in Lewisham is informed by Borough birth rate data, GP registration data, housing growth, pupil movement, School Census data and accepted places data. This is then modelled to provide throughput expectations from birth through to reception and then through each year group. This is updated on an annual basis to better reflect recent trends.

3.13. The 2024 forecasting indicates that in the 2024/25 to 2028/29 period it is likely that there will be sufficient mainstream school places to meet demand in the Borough, with the number of young people and indeed the birth rate expected to fall further.

3.14. Based on the assumptions for the new Local Plan, the Council considers that over the next five years it is likely that there will be sufficient mainstream primary places to meet the anticipated demand from pupils without the need for additional permanent school places in the Borough.

3.15. The planning of primary school places beyond the next five years is likely to require further review within the Local Plan period and will be considered alongside larger development proposals over that period, as well as future IDP updates, to ensure school places and other related educational facilities are provided in a timely manner.

## **Secondary education**

3.16. This section outlines the existing provision and future need for secondary education facilities. The information provided in this section is based on the 2024 Department for Education School Capacity Return, which is based on May 2024. The capacity of secondary schools in the Borough has been assessed by the school's Net Capacity and the school's identified Published Admission Number (PAN). The PAN in this case is the number of class places available at Year 7 identified by the school/Council.

## **Current situation**

- 3.17. In May 2024 there were 14 state-funded schools providing mainstream Secondary Education in the Borough, providing a net capacity of 15,753 places, with 13,044 young people on roll.
- 3.18. In terms of new entrants, the Council's Revised Forecast for Summer 2024 found that the total estimated intake for Year 7 in 2024 would be 2,439 against a current PAN of 2,412. As in the past few years, this presents an opportunity for the Council to work with schools that are less popular and strategically over-offer for these schools – knowing that the physical capacity of the schools can accommodate significantly more pupils than the current PAN.
- 3.19. As of May 2024, the percentage of pupils living and attending state-funded secondary schools in the Borough was approximately 70%, with 30% of pupils living in the Borough attending state-funded schools in other local authorities. The Borough is a net exporter of secondary age students. The Council works closely with neighbouring boroughs when planning for the provision of secondary school places to ensure that there is adequate provision across council boundaries.

## **Future requirement**

- 3.20. Revised forecasts show that there should be sufficient places within schools through to 2028/29, as the smaller Primary cohorts experienced in recent years start feeding through to the Secondary phase. In general, the forecasting of secondary places is more reliable as the methodology considers children registered from the primary level, and recent forecasts have been very accurate.

## **Forecasting of demand for school places**

- 3.21. Based on the assumptions for the new Local Plan, the Council considers that over the next five years it is likely that there will be sufficient secondary places to meet the anticipated demand from pupils. The Council considers that capacity/intake could be increased, if necessary, by increasing the PAN for Prendergast Ladywell School, Deptford Green School, Forest Hill School, and Sedgehill Academy (which have all recently reduced their PAN).
- 3.22. Given the cyclical nature of population demographics, the need to accommodate additional secondary school places beyond 2029 will be monitored and reflected in future iterations of the IDP. Given the nature of secondary school enrolments, the Council will continue to work with neighbouring authorities and the Mayor of London when planning for additional secondary places.

## **Special education**

3.23. This section outlines the existing provision and future need for the Council's special education facilities that provide for children and young people under 25 years old with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

## **Policy context**

3.24. The Council's Education Strategy 2022-27 and (soon to be updated) SEND Strategy 2020-23 sets out the partnership's vision and priorities for improving life outcomes for children and young people with SEND, and their families and carers. Progress against both the Education and SEND strategies are reviewed on a yearly basis. Specialist education provision is provided for children and young people identified with particularly complex special educational needs and disabilities.

## **Current situation**

3.25. There are five specialist schools offering placements for children and young people with SEND in the Borough:

- Watergate School caters for primary aged pupils with severe learning difficulties (SLD) and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD);
- Greenvale School caters for secondary aged pupils with SLD and PMLD;
- New Woodlands School caters for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH);
- Brent Knoll School caters for pupils with a wide range of needs including autism spectrum disorder (ASD), speech and language needs, and for non-ambulant pupils; and
- Drumbeat School caters for pupils with ASD.

3.26. As of May 2024, there were 945 children and young people accessing places in the 5 specialist schools in the Borough, with the remainder of children and young people having to take up placements outside the Borough.

3.27. This follows recent increases in placements at Drumbeat School, Watergate School, Greenvale School, and Brent Knoll School.

## **Future requirement**

3.28. Demand for specialist school places in the Borough is expected to increase in the short to medium term, increasing the reliance for placements outside the Borough if no additional capacity is provided. The Council's strategy has highlighted a need to ensure specialist schools are able to meet the range of complex needs identified in the Borough, particularly in relation to children

and young people with ASD and SEMH needs, as well as alternative provision.

3.29. The Council is therefore seeking to create additional capacity for children and young people with ASD and SEMH in specialist provision, as well as increase the number of Resource Bases in mainstream schools to provide for the broader continuum of need - to better provide for the needs of children and young people within their own communities. As this work progresses, it may result in additional requirement for SEND provisions in the Borough over the Local Plan period, which will be reflected in future reviews of the IDP.

### **Alternative provision**

#### **Background**

3.30. Alternative provision is defined as a setting that children and young people attend on a part-time or full-time basis away from their regular school, where they are not able to engage in mainstream education. Any school that is established and maintained by a local authority for alternative provision is known as a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). SEN schools for pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties are also a form of alternative provision. Statutory guidance sets out the government's expectations of local authorities and maintained schools who commission Alternative Provision and Pupil Referral Units. The Council is responsible for arranging suitable full-time education for permanently excluded pupils, and for other pupils who because of illness or other reasons would not receive suitable education without such arrangements being made.

#### **Current situation**

3.31. There are currently two LA alternative provisions in the Borough. Grinling Gardens, which is based at Grinling Gibbons Primary School and provides alternative provision for Primary aged pupils, and Abbey Manor College which is based across 2 campuses and provides alternative provision for Secondary aged pupils.

## **Future requirements**

- 3.32. In the last few years, the Borough has seen a marked decrease in the number of permanent exclusions. This has been attributed to the implementation of reintegration programmes, and partnership initiatives to reduce permanent exclusion.
- 3.33. To meet future demand for alternative provision placements in the Borough over the Local Plan period there is a requirement for a new fit-for-purpose alternative provision facility for secondary aged students to improve outcomes, and to meet demand for placements. No specific location or funding has yet been identified for the new secondary alternative provision facilities, and potential projects will be included in future updates to the IDP.

## **Health, care, and emergency services**

### **Background**

- 3.34. The Health and Care Act 2022 formalises Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), bringing providers and commissioners of NHS services, local authorities, and other partners across a geographical area together to plan health and care services that meet the needs of the local population. Lewisham forms part of the South East London ICS together with Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich Lambeth, and Southwark.
- 3.35. On 1 July 2022 the South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was replaced by the South East London Integrated Care Board (ICB). At the ICS level an Integrated Care Partnership will bring all parts of the NHS, the Council and other partners together and will set out a Strategy for delivering health and care services. At the borough level a local place partnership will take forward local delivery together with the existing Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.36. Health and care services in the Borough are provided through a network of local GP practices, Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust (LGT) (acute and community services from health centres), South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) (mental health services). Specialist hospital services are provided through Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College NHS Foundation Trust. These partners work closely with the Council which provides other health and care services, such as social care and public health.
- 3.37. The challenges for health are substantial with recovery from the pandemic a central priority, the growing and ageing population creating additional and changing demands across the health system. A substantial proportion of the infrastructure is outdated, in poor condition requiring substantial investment



to provide facilities fit for modern health care. The focus on integrated care and partnership working together with reducing health inequalities will involve greater collaboration, co-location, and reconfiguration to ensure services are accessible from appropriate facilities.

3.38. Lewisham has ambitious plans to modernise, reconfigure and rationalise its health and care estate to make sustainable, affordable, and fit for purpose. The investment required will need to be secured through different sources of funding, including developer contributions and innovative routes to meet the growing needs of the Borough.

3.39. In addition to repair and update existing infrastructure the requirement for additional infrastructure to meet the needs of the additional anticipated 38,000 residents is calculated using the NHS HUDU Model to cost up to £67 million (2022 prices).

### **Policy content**

3.40. The NHS long-term plan (2019) sets out key ambitions for health and care over the next 10 years. The plan builds on the NHS five year forward view (which articulated the need to integrate care to meet the needs of a changing population and commits, amongst other things, to reducing pressure on A&E departments, establishing primary care networks and to developing fully integrated community-based health care.

3.41. ICS policy is to bring health and local partners together to collaborate at different geographies, at the South East London level, the Place level (borough level) and neighbourhood level (typically populations of 30,000 – 50,000).

3.42. The South East London Integrated Care System (SEL) recognises with regard to estates that:

- Of the more than 200 buildings in SEL located outside main hospital sites, many have reached the end of their useful lives.
- Whilst as a system we aspire to reduce our overall estate footprint to reduce running costs and enable investment in our core buildings, in some cases, estate capacity will also need to be expanded to meet growing demand, particularly for planned care.
- We must change how we plan and manage our properties and other assets across SEL, moving to a co-ordinated and strategic whole system approach.

3.43. The SEL priorities are:

- Improving the utilisation and efficiency of our core estate

- Identifying opportunities to share estate between health and care
- Make better use of capital investment to enhance community-based care
- Realising value from unused and under-utilised estate
- Expand estate capacity to meet growing demand for planned care

3.44. Much of the work to promote better integration between health and care services is taken forward by Lewisham Health and Care Partners (LHCP), which includes health and care commissioners and providers. The LHCP Estate Steering Group (ESG) which reports to the board is responsible for coordinating the delivery of estate projects in Lewisham. These project priorities are articulated in the SEL ICS Estate Strategy and provider strategies (SLaM, LGT and NHS Property Services).

3.45. The former Lewisham CCGs 2018 Local Estate Strategy aimed at transforming the delivery of community-based care will be superseded later this year reflecting the current challenges and opportunities.

3.46. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies and sets out key priorities for the Council and NHS and how these will be addressed by the local partnerships.

3.47. One of the six 2021 London Plan strategic objectives is 'Creating A Healthy City' which sets out mechanisms and policies to help achieve this and other related objectives. Policy S2 'Health & Care Facilities' states that boroughs are expected to work with Clinical Commissioning Groups and other local health organisations to:

- Identify the need for health and care facilities in their area;
- Consider the impact of the latest forward planning strategies and new models of care; and
- Identify sites for future provision (including consideration for co-location or reconfiguration of services through new infrastructure), particularly in areas with significant planned growth.

## **Primary care**

### **Background**

3.48. Local health and care services are provided by a wide range of health professionals including GPs, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and opticians. This section of the IDP focuses on primary care medical services (i.e. GP practices, PCNs, GP Federations).

## Current situation

3.49. As of June 2022, there are 27 GP practice contracts in the Borough operating from 34 sites. Of these, there is a mixture of purpose-built health facilities and converted residential/retail premises which are of varying quality.

3.50. Lewisham has 6 geographically coherent Primary Care Networks (PCNs) covering the whole population, ranging in size from 40k to 100k patients. 2 of the PCNs in Lewisham are also 'super-practices' who operate from multiple sites across their PCN geography.

## GP Federation

3.51. Lewisham has a borough-wide GP Federation, One Health Lewisham Ltd, which is delivering an increasing number of primary/community services directly and also coordinating delivery across GP practices.

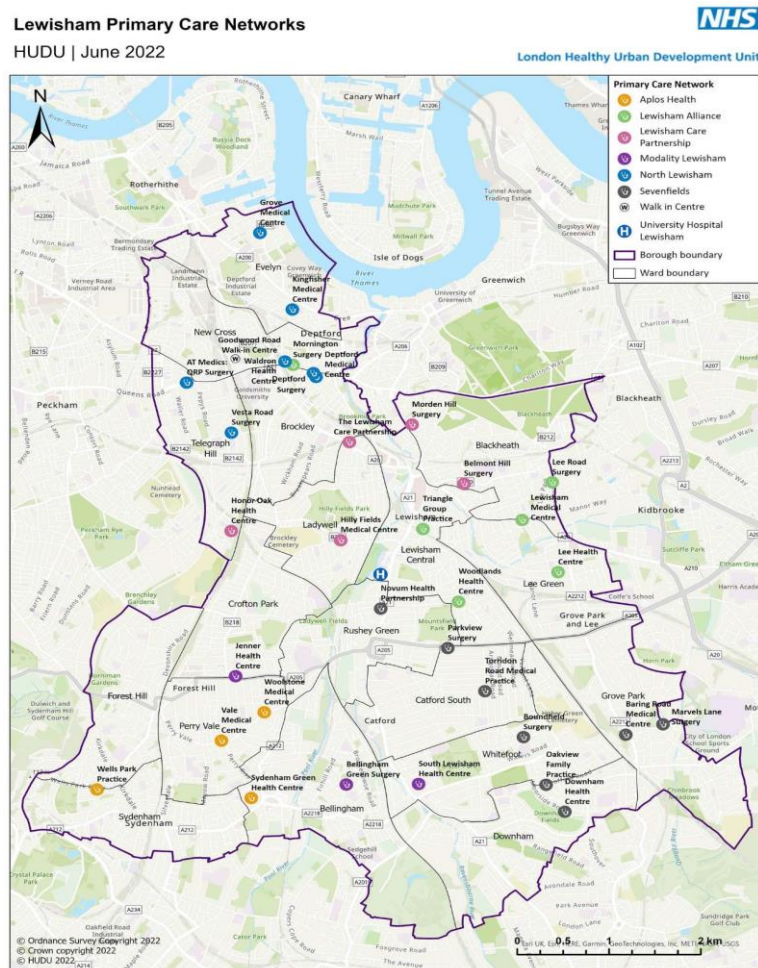


Figure 3.1 Lewisham Primary Care Networks

## **Future requirement**

- 3.52. An increasing volume of activity is expected to be delivered out of hospital in a primary care setting through practices, PCNs and GP Federations. Through the PCN Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS), we have already seen an increase in new roles supporting primary care (i.e. pharmacists, social prescribers, physiotherapists, physicians, associates, and paramedics) and expect this to continue to increase over the coming years. These changes will need to be supported by appropriate estate development.
- 3.53. Improvement and consolidation of the primary care estate will be important, moving towards delivery from purpose-built facilities where possible. Several developments are currently in various stages of review, feasibility study and or progress such as Queens Road Partnership; Jenner Health Centre; Sydenham Green Health Centre; Waldron Health Centre, South Lewisham Health Centre, Lee Health Centre, Downham Health and Wellbeing, Marvels Lane Health Centre.
- 3.54. A priority will be to develop additional capacity in the areas with substantial growth in recent years and with ongoing development, in particular Lewisham Town Centre and the A21 Corridor.
- 3.55. Opportunities to improve existing estates, creating additional clinical space where possible, improving efficiency and sustainability and ensuring that they remain infection control and DDA compliant will also be key to ensuring accessible and fit for purpose facilities.
- 3.56. This includes consolidating back-office functions across practice groups, super-practices and PCNs where possible, which is likely to maximise the efficiency of high quality, accessible clinical space.
- 3.57. The increasing shift to digital access and investment will likely impact on how much and what configuration of estate is required in the future. However, this needs to be balanced with the ensuring appropriate access to face to face and addressing health inequalities. The continued digitisation of records across all practice sites to maximise use of existing space for clinical service delivery.

## **Community healthcare**

### **Background**

- 3.58. Lewisham & Greenwich Healthcare NHS Trust (LGT) provides many of the healthcare services for residents in Lewisham. Those services include;

- Maternity services in the community with the community midwifery teams
- Adult Community nursing team
- Paediatric Community nursing teams
- Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy, occupational therapy

3.59. Similarly, South London & Maudsley NHS Trust (SLaM) provides mainstream and specialist mental health services for people across south London, including community mental health services.

### **Future requirement**

3.60. The current community health and care estate in Lewisham has been mapped and Lewisham Health and Care Partners have identified several projects as priority areas for action in Lewisham.

3.61. The ambition is to support the Partners' vision for community-based care and to further embed the integrated working across community and primary care teams as part of the ICS development in addition to growing the Trusts own anchor role in its locality. The development of Lewisham's health and care estate needs to be flexible to support co-ordinated, integrated, and agile working through digital modernisation and more sustainable places, as described in the NHS Long Term Plan.

### **Acute provision**

#### **Background**

3.62. The Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust (LGT) completed its estates and digital strategy which fully support the Trust's clinical strategy. The work is now underway to define the 10-year vision for the Trust's estate, which will focus these strategic agendas by supporting the demands of today by doing what is needed right now whilst keeping a view on the medium-term changes in the delivery of health and care services as technology evolves and the way they work changes.

3.63. The current state of the health estate is constraining the existing delivery services in many areas given much was designed and developed many decades ago when hospitals functioned in different ways. The Trust is committed to ensuring that funding is directed towards the sustainable delivery of high-quality patient care and getting our physical spaces right is of paramount importance in achieving that ambition. Most of the estate needs transformation or expansion with a complex make up of building types and conservation considerations given the historical context of many buildings. Some areas within the estate can also be adapted for different uses and some parts can remain unchanged, which will be a key consideration in our sustainable approach aligned to our green plan, to developing the future vision for the sites.

3.64. Some challenges of managing the LGT estate include physically sub-optimal adjacencies where departments or services are either widely dispersed across a site or not immediately next to key elements of the patient pathway that require improved proximity. The Trust will be focusing on how these practices can be improved through physical changes with some smaller planning applications underway to mediate the immediate services pressures.

### **Current Situation**

3.65. The principles of the Trust's Clinical Strategy are:

- Productive and effective
- Supporting greater integration and more coherent system working
- Ambitious but realistic
- Based on clinical best practice and national guidance
- Focused on reducing unwarranted variation
- Networking and working in partnership where it is best for patients

### **Future requirement**

3.66. The Trust has an opportunity to make better use of its acute and community estate, to ensure it meets current and future standards for the delivery of modern healthcare and provides a place from which to deliver services closer to patients' homes across Lewisham. Equally the Trust wants to develop its anchor institution role and the University Hospital site has a significant footprint plus it's the adjacency to Ladywell Fields, and economic corridor of Lewisham High Street, make it a strategically important area of place making for the Borough.

3.67. The Trust will be developing a vision for the estate that supports the delivery of high quality, modern healthcare, improving both patient and staff experience, promoting wellbeing and which is reflective of the NHS Long term Plan to deliver services closer to home where appropriate.

3.68. The Trust with its partners through the evolving ICS and One Public Estate forum work to ensure a collaborative approach to service delivery which is financially sustainable and supports the wider health system needs across South East London. The Trust will be focusing its approach to commerciality through this development of vision process embedding social value in the outputs of its own and wider Public Sector spend in the area.

3.69. The estates strategy supports the Trust's clinical vision and is compatible with other Lewisham plans for the health and care estate and the development of a 10-year vision will help to define the investment required

to support the development of a sustainable health & care estate given the population growth expected by 2032. The hospital site in Lewisham provides a key opportunity for the ICS to deliver the health & care provision which can meet the constantly evolving changes required to service delivery.

## **Specialist provision (Mental Health)**

### **Background**

3.70. South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLAM) provide a range of mental health services, treating patients in the community whilst also providing inpatient care. SLAM provide services in 3 of SEL's borough: Lewisham, Lambeth, and Southwark.

3.71. Across Lewisham, excellent opportunities exist to further develop and improve the estate for mental health services. To provide sufficient geographic and population coverage, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust has proposed three principal mental health sites in Lewisham at Heather Close, Churchdown Domus and Speedwell. These will be standalone mental health centres. SLAM is also committed to working with primary care and other health and care partners to create four integrated neighbourhood hubs offering a wide range of services including those which support mental health.

### **Current situation**

3.72. A significant proportion (81%) of the SLAM estate is over 40 years old and the majority (67%) is less than 500sqm in size. Properties built longer than 40 years ago are considered functionally unsuitable. Investment in the estate is required.

3.73. The existing Ladywell Unit on the Lewisham Hospital site is dated and hard to reconfigure or change to meet modern therapeutic standards. In partnership with LGT and fully supported by the South East London Integrated Care System, a new build unit to replace the existing within the Borough of Lewisham is the preferred option. There is no local NHS funding for this development and SLAM is preparing a business case for submission to NHS E to seek capital. There are currently five adult inpatient wards and one Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit on the Ladywell site. The current Ladywell Unit is over capacity and discussions are underway with other NHS providers to look to share better quality accommodation close to but off the main hospital site. Only good quality accommodation will be considered.

### **Future requirement**

3.74. Lewisham has many sites (24 in total) from which mental health services are delivered, including single use sites. This offers a significant opportunity for site consolidation with substantial investment required to bring these up to modern standards. This is in the context of growing demand for mental

health services and particular challenges post pandemic with significant increased capacity across the full range of services.

- 3.75. SLAM will continue to explore the investment required for standalone mental health centres, integrated hubs, step down facilities and inpatient provision.
- 3.76. Over a 10-year period, the intention is to reduce the number of sites and maximise the opportunities to share use of the NHS/public realm estates within the Borough.
- 3.77. It is proposed that the unused staff accommodation on the Heather Close site will be converted into an adult psychiatric crisis house to help divert patients, in acute mental distress, from being admitted into the Emergency wards/and other inappropriate facilities. Planning is currently underway and expectation that the site will be operational in 2023.
- 3.78. To build a replacement Ladywell Unit for the current service preferably on the Lewisham University Hospital site. Assume a 4/5 – 7-year times scale.

## **Integrated models of care**

### **Background**

- 3.79. Lewisham Health and Care Partners have set out their vision and expectations for the future development and delivery of community-based care. This is compatible with the vision described in the NHS Long Term Plan.
- 3.80. The key elements of Lewisham Health and Care Partners' vision for community-based care are:
- Population based, meeting the health and care needs of the whole population not just part of it
  - Expanding and strengthening primary and community care, providing most care at home or near to people's homes.
  - Promoting health and wellbeing, providing easy access to information and advice and support, activities, and opportunities.
  - Providing a co-ordinated response to the specific needs of the individual.
  - Providing a holistic and personalised care which addresses a person's physical, mental, and social care need and provides integrated care
  - Working in partnership with patients, service users, carers, and wider communities – involving them in the design and development of services and pathways, listening to their experiences and seeking their feedback at an early stage.



- Evidence based and outcome focused – using the evidence available across health, social care, and public health, taking account of patient and user experience, to identify and adopt best practice, develop new ways of working, and identify and address inequalities.

### **Future requirement**

- 3.81. Currently, a range of health and care services are organised on a neighbourhood footprint in the following geographical areas: (1) North Lewisham (2) Central Lewisham (3) South East Lewisham and (4) South West Lewisham. The six Primary Care Networks broadly align with the four neighbourhoods, and both will continue to focus on delivery of community-based care at a local level.
- 3.82. As the local population continues to grow, demand for health and care services will increase across the Borough. To meet the increasing demand for services and to support better multi-agency working as well as delivering more integrated models of care, LHCP partners recognise the need to utilise existing estates more intensively, with mergers, relocation and co-location of services encouraged where appropriate. This lies alongside the need for GP practices to support more flexible working arrangements and to embrace new technologies.
- 3.83. LHCP aims to develop four neighbourhood care hubs to support a wide range of community-based health and care services, as well as providing flexible and adaptable spaces to support health and wellbeing within each neighbourhood area. These hubs will be supported by other sites providing complementary primary care and community care services.
- 3.84. Sites for Neighbourhood 1 (Waldron Health Centre) and Neighbourhood 3 (Downham Health & Wellbeing Centre) areas have been identified. For the N2 hub, potential locations include land at University Hospital Lewisham, while Sydenham Green Health Centre is being considered as a potential site location for the N4 hub. Given the number of partners involved and the development of other health and care strategies, these options will be kept under review. The opportunities from development and growth in Lewisham Town Centre will also be explored.
- 3.85. Funding for health infrastructure is constrained with NHS England's Estate & Technology Transformation Fund (ETTF) having finished and notice of further waves of DHSC funding awaited Department of Health and Social Care Wave 4 fund, various NHS improvement grants, capital investment by partners are delivering current projects alongside, One Public Estate funding and contributions from CIL and S106 agreements. Further funding will be required as progress is made on estate development in Lewisham.

3.86. The NHS London Healthy Urban Development Unit's Planning Obligations Model (HUDU Model) is used to calculate the additional requirement arising from the increased population. (up to £67m). However, this does not include changes required to support the increase in complex and long-term conditions arising from an ageing population, or the impacts of responding to Covid-19. As developments are brought forward the HUDU Model will be used to calculate the impact of specific schemes. Ongoing work with the Council and other partners through the existing and new partnership arrangements will identify opportunities for infrastructure improvements and role in delivering the broader objectives for the ICS.

## **Emergency services**

### **Police**

#### **Current situation**

3.87. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) operates policing services in Lewisham and is scrutinised by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. There is a police station in Lewisham Town Centre, and a number of contact points across the Borough which are supported by various Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

#### **Future requirement**

3.88. The MPS have an infrastructure requirement for a car pound facility within Lewisham or surrounding boroughs. The requirement is for 6-7 acres of open industrial land.

3.89. A car pound facility is where the MPS deal with vehicles that have been stolen, seized for motoring offences or for forensic examination. The MPS are finding that the owners of their existing car pound sites are seeking to pursue development opportunities and cease the current use when the lease permits. Both current car pound sites are subject to pressure for industrial and/or residential development and intensification of use. Due to the urban nature of the Borough and the lack of available land that hasn't been identified for housing, employment or town centre uses it is unlikely that this could be located within the Borough. However, the Council will work other South East London boroughs and the MPS to agree an appropriate location within the sub-region.

3.90. The MPS have also indicated a requirement for a neighbourhood police facility that can provide a base of operation for officers. The MPS have indicated that further information on the neighbourhood police facility will be disclosed soon. It is noted that the Catford Police Station was recently disposed of by the MPS citing that it was surplus to requirements.

3.91. The Council will continue to engage with the MPS and neighbouring boroughs through the Duty to Cooperate to identify land suitable to accommodate these requirements.

#### **Ambulance Current situation**

3.92. The London Ambulance Service (LAS) offers ambulance services for London Borough of Lewisham. LAS provides rostered ambulances and cars, intended to meet the demand in the area, but resources are not formally dedicated to Lewisham or other CCGs. They form part of a fluid response designed to effectively manage spikes in demand across South East London. Currently, since 2013, the LAS runs 111 service in the South East London area, which covers Lewisham and other Boroughs including Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, and Southwark. The LAS, operates from newly built, fit for purpose offices in Croydon, and employ around 120 staff which ensures that the NHS 111 service provided a safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led service to a diverse population in South East London.

#### **Future requirement**

3.93. The LAS five-year strategy, “A World Class Ambulance Service for a World Class City: Strategy 2018/2019 – 2022/23”, does not provide specific details around future land-use or infrastructure requirements for Lewisham. The Council will continue to engage with LAS through the Local Plan and IDP process to identify and plan for future requirements.

#### **Fire Services**

3.94. The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA), a publicly accountable body, manages the London Fire Brigade (LFB) which runs five fire stations in Lewisham (Deptford, Downham, Forest Hill, Lewisham, and New Cross). The LFB provides fire cover on a London-wide basis and Lewisham is not solely reliant on the fire stations located within it. Fire engines at surrounding stations (and from elsewhere in London if necessary) are sent to incidents in Lewisham.

## **Libraries, Theatres, Archives and Local History service**

### **Policy context**

- 3.95. The Council is required to provide “comprehensive and efficient” library services to citizens under its statutory obligations in the Public Library and Museums Act 1964. The service should operate on this principle of universally striving to offer “unbiased access to information, learning, and works of creative imagination”. It is also a service that supports civic interaction through its openness, trustworthiness, and reliability.
- 3.96. It is noteworthy that the London Plan also acknowledges that libraries can play in providing valuable public spaces; specifically in terms of expanding their use beyond their normal day-time operation so that they contribute towards the night time economy. Consequently, the London Plan’s Policy HC6 Supporting the Night-Time Economy encourages proposals that involve libraries that could contribute towards improving access, inclusion, and safety, and diversify the range of night-time activities in town centres to support the night-time economy.
- 3.97. The Library and Information Service supports all of Lewisham’s eight strategic themes:
- **Cleaner and Greener** - The Service hosts regular events by external agencies that support residents on identifying greener utilities providers, insulation solutions, etc. The Service consistently encourages people to take personal action to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.
  - **Strong Local Economy** – The Service supports residents and businesses through free public access to WIFI, computers, reference resources and partnerships such Business Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC Local) programme delivered with the British Library, and much more.
  - **Quality Housing** – The archive and heritage service play a vital role in safeguarding our local heritage. Heritage is constantly changing and evolving, and the service has a duty to preserve Lewisham’s heritage, so that the council and residents can learn from the past, whilst balancing the needs of present and future generations. The archive and heritage service are valuable not only for the story it tells but also for the contribution it makes to the quality of life and economic prosperity of local residents and businesses
  - **Open Lewisham** – The library and information service is core to the promotion of cultural and creative industries and celebrates diversity. Through book stocks, resources and in the archives and collection, the

service promotes inclusion and the promotion of books, resources, creative and cultural artifacts from underrepresented groups. Events and activities include the celebration of Black History Month, LGBTQ+ History Month and Gaming industry careers event in Downham targeting young people within this community etc. Robust community partnerships ensure the delivery of Community Libraries and the groundbreaking Lewisham Model. The service also supports Lewisham Borough of Sanctuary status supporting asylum seekers and refugees settling within the Borough.

- Health and Wellbeing – The Service actively support social prescribing, hosts health lectures, promotes national programmes such as Reading Well and unique initiatives such as the Reading Friends aimed at combating social isolation. The Service further encourages people to be actively involved, supporting their physical and mental well-being, including opportunities to access free sessions in the libraries, such as Tai Chi, sitting down exercise, yoga and more.
- Corporate Capabilities – Libraries are a free, statutory, universal service and provide access to information and support for residents to become digitally engaged. As such the Library service provides a front facing information resource for the council to residents across the Borough. The service collaborates with community partners and service areas across the council. For example, the BIPC programme is run in partnership with the economy, jobs, and partnership service, Book Start and Making it Real is delivered collaboratively with the Children’s and Young Peoples directorate, Book Start and the National Children’s Bureau. Outreach activities are run in schools, community groups, DWP/Job Centre Plus and with public health to ensure that residents have access to the support they need to thrive.

3.98. In addition, libraries have the potential to act as partners and gateways to a wide number of key initiatives and services – customer access points, for example – and have a role to play in digital developments, most notably tackling digital exclusion.

3.99. This section sets out the need for and provision of libraries, archives, and local history services across the Borough.

### **Current situation**

3.100. The Council currently provides library services on 13 sites across the Borough. These sites operate as either ‘hub’ library (staffed and owned by the Council), or ‘community’ library (staffed and owned by/leased to community organisations). These sites are identified in Table 3.2 below.

**Table 3.2. Library Provision Across Lewisham**

Name/Location	Type	Size (sq m)	Ward	Services provided
Blackheath Village Library	Community	46	Blackheath	Library service
Catford Library	Hub	632	Rushey Green	Library service
Crofton Park Library	Community	443	Crofton Park	Library service
The Library at Deptford Lounge	Hub	1,124	New Cross	Library service
Downham Library	Hub	645	Downham	Library service
Forest Hill Library	Community	450	Forest Hill	Library service
Grove Park Library	Community	662	Grove Park	Library service
Lewisham Library	Hub	2680	Lewisham Central	Library service; Local History and Archives
Manor House Library	Community	482	Lee Green	Library service
New Cross Library	Community	432	New Cross	Library service
Sydenham Library	Community	547	Sydenham	Library service
Torridon Road Library	Community	433	Catford South	Library service
Total		8718		

3.101. Since 2010, the library service has gone through profound transformation, driven primarily by reduced resources that have decreased the services budget by over 50%. This has significantly impacted on Council's ability to continue to provide a reasonable level of service for existing residents and reduced the capacity for the Council to maintain the physical infrastructure of Council's library service.

3.102. Lewisham Library has a significant backlog of building maintenance defects, and the roof is in urgent need of repair. The library is now significantly below the standards of service that can be offered elsewhere in the Borough.

Lewisham Archives and Local History Centre, while being accredited by The National Archives, is at risk of damage because of water penetration, issues with electrical supply, and other critical building maintenance defects. As a result, the archives and collection has been relocated into storage to ensure its preservation. £7m has been secured through the successful Levelling Up fund bid to renovate Lewisham Library and deliver improved library offer, archive storage and reading room, a café, and business hub. The Council also operates a site at Hither Green which provides storage and ancillary services that used to support the broader library service. As the refurbishment of the Central Library building progresses, this site will be held for storage only awaiting its disposal and the integration of its functions in the refurbished Central Library in Lewisham.

- 3.103. More recently, the Catford Library has moved out of the ground floor of Laurence House, and into a refurbished unit in the Catford Broadway Shopping Centre. This interim measure awaits the development of a Civic Space part of the Catford Regeneration Programme.
- 3.104. Digital offer - The quality of ICT infrastructure is recognized as poor, resulting in the libraries not being able to adequately facilitate digital access for residents who are experiencing digital poverty and exclusion. There are also differing arrangements for ICT provision in Hub Libraries versus Community Libraries. The council is responsible for the self-service operations and for the access to the staff functionalities of the library catalogue in the Community Libraries. At present, updates to the ICT in our Hub Libraries are not aligned with core ICT provision across the council. The rationale has been that the ICT in libraries predominantly supports external rather than internal service users e.g. the public accessing computers, Wi-Fi, print facilities and so on. There is currently £230,000 allocated to upgrade the ICT infrastructure and equipment in all 4 Hub libraries. The ICT upgrade project is currently being deployed for Catford, Downham and Deptford Lounge. The upgrade for ICT infrastructure and equipment will take place in line with the Levelling up Fund capital programme. This investment will enable the Library Service to support the councils' ambitions toward digital by default.

### **Forecast supply vs. demand**

#### **Library provision**

- 3.105. Between 2005 and 2018 Lewisham's population has increased by approximately 19%, however during that same period there has been no additional floor space provided for library services in the Borough. Current industry benchmarks recommend that 30 square metres of library floor space should be provided per 1,000 residents, and 6 square metres of floor space per 1,000 residents for local history / archival services.

- 3.106. Based on forecasting undertaken in 2018, the Council had an estimated deficit of 3,780 square metres of hub library floor space. To redress this undersupply, Council would need to increase the floor space provision for hub libraries by approximately 34% to adequately meet the needs of Lewisham's residents against the industry benchmark.
- 3.107. If no further action is taken, the Borough will have a deficit of approximately 5,493 square meters of hub library floor space by 2040. This would require an increase of provision by approximately 44% to meet projected resident need. In this scenario, Lewisham's network of community libraries would not be able to meet the shortfall in supply, with a net deficit of 1,373 square meters of library floor space across the Borough.
- 3.108. Based on the findings of a recent review of the Community Library model, it was identified that there are some common challenges Community Library providers are facing with the recurrent maintenance issues, high running costs and pressures on the council's facilities management team, where they have responsibilities for repairs. As a result, some of the community library buildings require significant investment to ensure their future sustainability as a community library. The report has recommended a buildings amnesty which will collate a list of the outstanding building conditions issues and identify a programme of works and associated investment required.
- 3.109. Where repairs are not the council's responsibility and repairs are not currently affordable the council would need to prioritise support for a resolution such as the allocation of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy or section 106 agreements.
- 3.110. For example, a recent conditions survey of Sydenham Library has identified a significant number of defects. The building is suffering from a lack of investment in terms of repairs and maintenance particularly with regard to the fabric elements, which has led to the deterioration of the roof, timber windows and internal decorations. The survey revealed that a total investment of £1,189,022.00 will be required over the next ten-year period to return all of the building and M&E elements to a suitable condition.
- 3.111. The use and importance of ICT in all our libraries for our residents is evidenced in the public consultation undertaken by the service between June-July 2022. Key findings from almost 1,100 respondents shows that:
- Over one-third (37%) of respondents had used the library in the last 2 years to access online resources.
  - Over one-quarter (28%) of respondents had used the library in the last 2 years to access free WI-FI.



- Over one-quarter (27%) of respondents had used the library in the last 2 years to use the computer or printing facilities.
  - Almost half (46%) indicated that access the computers in the libraries was very important/important to them.
  - Over half (53%) indicated that using the libraries' Wi-Fi was very important/important to them.
- 3.112. The significance of these percentages should be set in the context of the over 2.2 million visits to libraries per year. The main reasons cited by respondents for making use of the ICT in libraries were for job searches and applications; study, homework, research; checking emails; connecting with family; browsing the internet; access to free Wi-Fi; printing; reading newspapers online; paying bills; business continuity; and a 'change of scene' when working.

### **Archival provision**

- 3.113. Based on forecasting undertaken in 2018, in the Council had an estimated deficit of approximately 1,012 square metres of floor space for local archives. To meet current need, the Council would need to increase the floor space provision for local archives by approximately 55% against industry benchmarking. If no action were to be taken, this would increase to a deficit of 1,354 square metres by 2040. However, the renovations of Lewisham Library will see an increase to the archive floor space to 300 sq meters and increase of 37 square meters which gives the service the potential to grow the archive in forth coming years. There are currently no other services in the Borough that can offset the Council's need for archival floor space requirements.

### **Future requirement**

- 3.114. The Council's ability to address this deficit has been hampered over the last decade by the impacts of austerity cuts to local authorities, impacting on Council's ability to maintain current services before considering the provision of new community infrastructure.
- 3.115. Lewisham Council secured over £19m to revitalize Lewisham Town Centre, after successfully bidding for money from the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) in July 2022. This funding combined with £5m of additional match funding from the Council, will be used for improvements to the town centre. An ambitious LUF Programme will deliver these improvements by 2026/27. A key component of the LUF Programme is Project 2, which will renovate Lewisham Library and deliver a new Culture and Business Hub. Once completed, it will include newly renovated provision of library, archive and heritage services, a new community space, a new business hub and new hospitality spaces, and a ground floor café.

- 3.116. The Council will also need to re-provide existing library services at the Catford Broadway Shopping Centre in a new civic building as part of the regeneration of the Catford Town Centre. This re-provision will be considered as part of the Catford Town Centre Masterplan.
- 3.117. It has been further identified that any development in the northern part of the Borough, particularly in more intensive and high-rise developments should consider the provision of additional library floor space to service incoming populations. Acceptable approaches include the integration of library space in other community facilities or hub spaces. Co-location has enormous potential for the service, with other statutory providers, the community, faith, and voluntary sectors or in some kind of mixed public / commercial development.

## **Theatres**

### **Policy Context**

- 3.118. The London Plan recognises the role that the creative industries and theatre plays in diversifying the range of night-time activities in town centres to support the night-time economy (Policy HC6 'Supporting the night-time economy'). Wider capital works alongside community outreach will position the venue at the forefront of Lewisham's 'Catford Masterplan', shaped by a 4-year consultation period and prioritising evening footfall and a boost to nighttime economy.

### **Background**

- 3.119. Within the borough there are a [number of theatres](#) and [cultural venues](#). LB Lewisham was the Mayor's London Borough of Culture 2022. The year-long, 350 event cultural programme, 'We Are Lewisham', was a celebration of the borough's history, people and place.
- 3.120. Lewisham's Cultural Strategy identified a stark disparity in cultural engagement amongst residents. This is particularly evident in the Rushey Green ward which houses the Borough's largest theatre, the Broadway. In Rushey Green, 38% of residents identify as Black, and 66% of households are deprived. The Broadway Theatre is a key delivery mechanism of Lewisham's Cultural Strategy and focusses on tackling inequalities across the creative and cultural sector by championing new work, artists and audiences from unrepresented groups. The Broadway is at the forefront of Global Majority storytelling in the UK today.
- 3.121. The Broadway Theatre is one of the last publicly owned cultural venues in the UK. Last year the Broadway welcomed over 44,000 visitors. In 2020 a £7 million refurbishment delivered urgent mechanical, safety and electrical works but unaddressed issues significantly impact the viability of the venue.

## **Future requirement**

3.122. The Broadway Theatre requires capital investment to:

- replace broken and old stall seating.
- replace the auditorium and studio lighting with led versions.
- purchase glassware and dishwashers to reduce waste.
- treat the water ingress which is damaging the paint, fibrous plasterwork and stonework and the damp inside the building.

## **Sports and recreation facilities**

### **Policy context**

3.123. The London Plan Policy S5 'Sports and recreation facilities' sets out the need for local authorities to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities at the local and sub- regional level, and to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of facilities. Local authorities are also expected to plan strategically to accommodate future forecast demand by securing sites for a range of sports and recreation facilities.

3.124. In 2019 the Council prepared a Playing Pitch Strategy needs assessment, which provided an up-to-date assessment of supply and demand for playing pitches across the Borough. Building on this evidence base, the Council developed a five-year Physical Activity Strategy which launched in June 2023. This strategy provides a comprehensive plan for the development of sport and physical activity in Lewisham until 2028 and sits alongside the Indoor Sport Facilities Assessment which guides the principles for the future management and development of sports and recreation facilities in Lewisham until 2033.

3.125. The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact the landscape of sport and physical activity across the country; and for this reason, the Council are currently updating the 2019 Playing Pitch Strategy.

### **Background**

3.126. For the purposes of this document, sports and recreation facilities have been taken to include indoor sports halls, swimming pools and outdoor sports playing pitches (including grass and artificial grass pitches) as identified by the council's Playing Pitch Strategy. It is noted that several sport facilities across London are provided by the education sector which are only available for private use or have restricted community use hours at these facilities.

## Sports halls and leisure centres

### Background

3.127. Sports halls and leisure centres typically operate on a pay and play/membership basis, or through a local sports club or community association. Main halls are typically sports halls that are at least three badminton courts in size and can accommodate sports that require a larger area of hall space.

### Current situation

3.128. There are 18 sites across the Borough providing sports halls for community use, providing a total of 25 sports halls. Based on the current size of the population, there are currently 3.0 courts per 10,000 residents, which is equal to the London average.

3.129. The current provision of sports halls in the Borough currently meets approximately 78% of demand, based on analysis by Sports England. The unmet demand for sports halls is estimated to be in the order of 19.6 courts. Unmet demand is highest in the northwest and central areas of the Borough, including Evelyn and Lewisham Central. Since 2017, the sports hall at Lewisham and Southwark College have also closed, further reducing supply in the Borough.

Site/Location	Equiv. courts	Utilised capacity (%)	Management type	Access type
ADDEY AND STANHOPE SCHOOL	4	100	Education	Sports club / association
BONUS PASTOR COLLEGE	4	100	Education	Sports club / association
CONISBOROUGH COLLEGE	4	100	Education	Sports club / association
Deptford Green School	4	100	Education	Sports club / association
Forest Hill School Sports Centre	4	100	Trust	Pay and play

HABERDASHERS ASKES HATCHAM COLLEGE	4	100	Education	Sports club / association
HABERDASHERS ASKES KNIGHTS ACADEMY	4	100	Education	Sports club / association
Haka Sports Complex	4	100	Education	Pay and play
Millwall Lions Centre	4	100	Trust	Sports club / association
Prendergast Ladywell School	4	100	Education	Sports club / association
PRENDERGAST SCHOOL	4	100	Education	Sports club / association
PRENDERGAST VALE SCHOOL	4	100	Education	Sports club / association
SEDGEHILL ACADEMY	4	100	Education	Sports club / association
St Dunstans' College Sports Centre	4	100	Commercial	Sports club/ass ociation
Sydenham High School GDST	4	100	Education	Sports club/ass ociation
Sydenham School	4	100	Education	Sports club/ass ociation
Tidemill Academy	4	100	Education	Sports club/ass ociation
Glass Mill Leisure Centre	-	-	Trust	Pay and play
Forest Hill Pools	-	-	Trust	Pay and play
Wavelengths Leisure Centre	-	-	Trust	Pay and play

Bellingham Leisure & Lifestyle Centre	-	-	Trust	Pay and play
Downham Health & Leisure Centre	-	-	Trust	Pay and play

**Table 3.3 – Sports halls and leisure centres available for community use.**

Source: Sport England

3.130. As part of the consented redevelopment of Surrey Canal Triangle, there is outline planning permission for a large indoor sports facility as part of the development. The sports facility would be managed by the Surrey Canal Sporting Foundation, and the detail of its size and facilities would be secured as part of any future reserved matters application. When delivered, this new facility will address some of the unmet demand in the north of the Borough.

#### **Future requirement**

3.131. Based on Sport England’s assessment, with no additional supply identified by 2041 the effective supply will likely reduce from 1.9 courts to 1.6 courts per 10,000 population. The unmet demand for sports halls in the Borough is expected to increase from 19.6 courts to 30.5 courts, and the level of satisfied demand is expected to fall from 78% to 71%. Overall, the Sport England assessment indicated that demand for sports halls in the Borough exceeds the effective supply, with the level of unmet need expected to increase further by 2041. New facilities at the Surrey Canal Triangle site and Convoy’s Wharf are expected to address some of the forecast demand.

3.132. The Council is continuing to monitor the demand for sports halls. In 2021, the Council commissioned an independent Indoor Sport Facility Assessment, which sets out the vision for indoor sports facilities between 2021 and 2033. The overall objective of this assessment is to ensure the Borough’s leisure facilities are in the right locations, of the right scale, of high quality, which are accessible to the residents of the borough to enable them to improve their health and well-being and help achieve the vision outlined in the Councils Physical Activity Strategy.

3.133. 'Let's Get Lewisham Moving' the Lewisham Physical Activity Strategy 2023 – 2028 provides a comprehensive strategy to get and keep Borough’s residents active. Alongside the Indoor Sports Facility Assessment, future provision and management of sports and recreation facilities in Lewisham will inform future updates to the IDP.

## Swimming pools

### Background

3.134. Swimming pools in the Borough operate on a pay and play basis and are managed either through a trust or by a commercial provider. All swimming pools in the Borough are available for community use. Main/general pools are swimming pools that have a minimum size of 4 x 20m lanes (160 sqm of water space), pools smaller than main pools are referred to as learner/teaching/training pools.

### Current situation

3.135. There are currently six sites with swimming facilities available for community use in Lewisham, providing a total of nine pools. Based on the current size of the population, there is currently 8 sqm of water space per 1,000 population, below the London-wide average of 11 sqm of water space per 1,000 population.

3.136. The current provision of swimming facilities in the Borough currently meets approximately 94% of demand, based on analysis by Sports England. Unmet demand was calculated at 191 sqm, with the highest unmet demand identified in the northwest of the Borough. Around 42% of the used capacity was estimated to be imported demand from neighbouring boroughs.

Site/Location	Facility type	Area (sqm)	Utilised capacity (%)	Management type	Access type
Downham Health & Leisure Centre	Main Learner	300 130	90	Commercial	Community access
Forest Hill Pools	Main Learner	325 117	90	Trust	Community access
Glass Mill Leisure Centre	Main Learner	425 160	100	Trust	Community access
St Dunstons College Sports Centre	Main	360	100	Commercial	Limited community access.
Beckenham Place Park Swimming Lake				Commercial	Community Access
Wavelengths Leisure Centre	Main Learner	200 375	100	Trust	Community access

**Table 3.4. Swimming pools available for community use.** Source: Sport England, 2017 (Updated 2024)

## **Future requirement**

3.137. The Council is continuing to monitor the demand for swimming pools. In 2021, the Council commissioned an independent Indoor Sport Facility Assessment, which sets out the vision for indoor sports facilities between 2021 and 2033. The overall objective of this assessment is to ensure the Borough's leisure facilities are in the right locations, of the right scale, of high quality, which are accessible to the residents of the Borough to enable them to improve their health and well-being and help achieve the vision outlined in the Council's Physical Activity Strategy. 'Let's Get Lewisham Moving' the Lewisham Physical Activity Strategy 2023 – 2028 provides a comprehensive strategy to get and keep Borough's residents active. Alongside the Indoor Sports Facility Assessment, future provision and management of sports and recreation facilities in Lewisham will inform future updates to the IDP.

## **Artificial playing surfaces**

### **Background**

3.138. Artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in the Borough typically operate on a pay and play basis, or through a local sports club or community association. Most of the full-sized AGPs in the Borough is provided within education sites and have reduced hours for community use or operate with restricted hours due to lack of flood lighting. Adopted benchmarking encourages the provision of 0.2 AGP pitches per 10,000 people.

3.139. In 2019 the Council prepared a Playing Pitch Strategy needs assessment, which provided an up-to-date assessment of supply and demand for playing pitches across the Borough. Building on this evidence base, the Council developed a five-year Physical Activity Strategy which launched in June 2023. This strategy provides a comprehensive plan for the development of sport and physical activity in Lewisham until 2028 and sits alongside the Indoor Sport Facilities Assessment which guides the principles for the future management and development of sports and recreation facilities in Lewisham until 2033.

3.140. The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact the landscape of sport and physical activity across the country; and for this reason, the Council will be updating the 2019 Playing Pitch Strategy within the next year.

### **Current situation**

3.141. There are currently four sites with full-sized AGPs for community use in the Borough, providing five pitches. One pitch is a newer 3G pitch, with the other four being sand based. The AGP at Sydenham High School operates to reduced hours due to the lack of flood lighting. There is one athletics



facility for community use in Ladywell, which includes a hard surface six lane 400 metre athletics track and gym facility.

- 3.142. Approximately 54% of total resident demand for AGPs is currently being met in the Borough was being met in 2017, with unmet demand estimated to be at approximately 10.6 pitches. Demand is highest in the north of the Borough, particularly in and around Evelyn and New Cross. There is a subsequently a considerable need for additional AGPs both in Lewisham, and across Greater London generally.

### **Future requirement**

- 3.143. Based on forecast population growth, it is estimated that effective supply will reduce from 0.2 pitch to 0.1 pitch per 10,000 population. The Council is currently going through the process of updating the Playing Pitch Strategy (last conducted in 2019). Once complete, the strategy will provide the Council with a clear evidence base and set of recommendations for future outdoor sports facility development across the Borough.

### **Grass playing surfaces**

#### **Current situation**

#### **Grass football pitches**

- 3.144. There are currently 27 sites providing grass football pitches in the Borough, however only three have a formal community use agreement or written confirmation to ensure unrestricted community access. The remaining 24 sites provide community access on an informal basis or are either partially or wholly restricted for community use. Football currently has the highest participation rate of any organised sport in the Borough, with a concentration of local teams (and subsequent demand) for pitches in the south.
- 3.145. Based on the supply available from secured sites only, there is large deficiency for most types of pitches (except for 7-a-side mini soccer pitches), with a particular deficit (15 pitches) for 11-a-side youth football pitches.
- 3.146. Several sites in the Borough operate beyond their optimal capacity, which is increasing maintenance costs to the Council in the longer term. Evidence of overuse is particularly evident on 11-a-side pitches, due to the existing undersupply. High levels of informal demand from primary schools and local communities further exacerbates capacity issues and associated maintenance costs across the Borough.
- 3.147. Overall, the quality of football pitches in the Borough is of a good standard. However, several user groups (including football clubs) have identified issues with drainage and maintenance, with several sites considered to be

at risk of degradation if current maintenance programmes are not continued at their current level.

### **Future requirement**

- 3.148. Demand for football pitches is projected to increase to 55.5 matches per week, with growth in demand expected from adult and youth 11-a-side teams, and a decrease in youth 9-a-side and 'mini' format matches. The forecast deficit of grass football pitches for youth games is forecast to increase to 17.5 pitches by 2041. There is also the potential that additional take up could occur from local clubs if additional football pitches and/or improved facilities become available.
- 3.149. It is acknowledged that the Council will need to secure new formal agreements for community use to ensure that future demand for football can be accommodated in the Borough.
- 3.150. The Council is currently investigating the potential of reconfiguring some adult football pitches for youth 11-a-side use. The Council is currently going through the process of updating the Playing Pitch Strategy (last conducted in 2019). Once complete, the strategy will provide the Council with a clear evidence base and set of recommendations for future outdoor sports facility development across the borough.

### **Cricket pitches**

#### **Current situation**

- 3.151. There are ten sites in the Borough with cricket pitches for community use, two of which are secured for community use (Catford & Cyphers Cricket Club and Catford Wanderers Sports Club). There is a high demand for cricket facilities, particularly in the south of the Borough where several community cricket teams are located.
- 3.152. Based on the supply available from the two secured sites only, there is a deficit in provision for cricket facilities based on current benchmarking. If all sites with cricket facilities in the Borough are considered, there is likely sufficient capacity to meet current demand for cricket pitches for community use.
- 3.153. Several playing fields are operating at full capacity during peak periods of play, which could limit increased participation in the future. St Dunstan's Jubilee Ground is also likely to be subject to overuse. Overall, the quality of cricket facilities in the Borough is at an acceptable standard, with only a few sites considered to be in a poor condition. Artificial wickets, including cricket nets, were generally considered to be of poorer quality.

### **Future requirement**

- 3.154. Future demand for cricket facilities is expected to increase across the Borough to 2033. The lack of secured sites means that it was unclear whether there will be sufficient capacity to meet future demand for cricket in the Borough. While the increase in demand is likely to be moderate, the lack of secured sites means that there could be a significant deficit for cricket pitches available for community use by 2033.
- 3.155. The Council are considering the recommendations of the Playing Pitch Strategy 2019 whilst going through the process of updating the strategy. Once complete, the strategy will provide the Council with a clear evidence base and set of recommendations for future outdoor sports facility development across the Borough.

### **Rugby pitches**

- 3.156. There are four sites in the Borough that are currently used for by community groups for rugby, however none of these sites have a secured community use agreement in place. Council analysis indicates that there is currently little demand for rugby pitches, with no community rugby clubs located in the Borough. The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is looking to work with local authorities to increase participation in urban areas in line with the RFU's national strategic priorities, and demand and participation of women's rugby is expected to grow in the future. Sites that can be used as rugby pitches in the Borough are considered to be of a good standard.

### **Hockey pitches**

- 3.157. There are four sites with full sized, sand based artificial hockey pitches currently available for community use in the Borough. None of these sites have a secured community use agreement in place. Based on sites available for community use, there is currently sufficient supply to meet hockey demand in the Borough, though facilities are at capacity. Any future demand will likely have to be accommodated elsewhere in the Borough. Overall, the quality of hockey pitches in the Borough was considered high, with facilities at Kings College particularly well maintained and considered to be of a high standard.

### **Play and informal recreation**

#### **Background**

- 3.158. The London Plan Policy S4 'Play & Informal Recreation' sets out the requirements for boroughs to undertake audits of existing play and informal recreation provision and produce strategies on play and informal recreation facilities and opportunities to address identified needs. Play spaces can be complemented by other facilities, such as Multi-Use Games Areas.

## **Multi Use Games Areas**

### **Background**

3.159. Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) are playing spaces providing outdoor sport facilities/playing surfaces for several different sports and activities, including informal types of sports, play, and recreation activities.

### **Current situation**

3.160. There are 31 MUGA facilities available for community use, with a further 26 sites that offer partial or restricted access. The majority of MUGA sites are located in the northern, central, and south western areas of the Borough. MUGAs unavailable for community use are usually located in schools, which do not usually allow for out-of-hours use.

3.161. Based on sites that are available for community use, most areas to the north of the Borough are identified to have good access, however large areas of Bellingham, Downham and Grove Park have limited access. Based on available population data in 2018, approximately 39,000 people in the Borough do not have access to a MUGA facility within a 20-minute walk, and when looking at the target population for MUGA facilities (0- to 19-year-olds), the unmet demand is over 9,700 people.

### **Future requirement**

3.162. Based on projected population forecasts, by 2033 the number of people that do not have access to a MUGA facility within a 20-minute walk will increase from approximately 39,000 to approximately 43,300 people.

3.163. The Council is continuing to monitor the demand for pitches over the plan period, with the emerging Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles Strategy to provide a comprehensive strategy for the future provision and management of sports and recreation facilities in Lewisham, informing future updates to the IDP.

### **Children's play spaces**

3.164. The London Plan requires that adequate provision for play spaces is made when determining large scale development applications.

3.165. Nationally, designated play spaces are typically considered in the form of Local Areas for Play (LAPs) aimed at very young children, Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) aimed at children who can go out to play independently, and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) aimed at older children and young people.

### **Current situation**

3.166. The provision of LEAPs, LAPs, and NEAPs in Lewisham are well distributed across the Borough, and of a good standard. However, there are small catchments with areas of deficiency, including between New Cross and Forest Hill, between Catford and Grove Park.

3.167. Children's play spaces include playgrounds, playing fields, skate parks and other outdoor recreation areas. The Council's OSA identifies 23 hectares of standalone provision for children and young people (of which, 8.5 ha are publicly accessible spaces), and 79.8 ha of outdoor sports facilities (of which, 13.7 ha are publicly accessible spaces).

### **Future requirement**

3.168. The Council is continuing to provide children's play spaces through the planning process, in accordance with the requirements of the London Plan and the Mayor of London's Play and Informal Recreation SPG. The emerging Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles Strategy to provide a comprehensive strategy for the future provision and management of sports and recreation facilities in Lewisham, informing future updates to the IDP.

## Youth and Community Facilities

### Policy context

3.169. Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to secure sufficient educational and recreational leisure time activities and facilities for young people aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24. In revised statutory guidance introduced in 2012, the Act also placed new responsibilities on local authorities to:

- Ascertain young people's views on positive activities;
- Publicise positive activities; and
- Consider alternative providers.

3.170. The Council's Youth Services contribute to the delivery of priorities in Lewisham's Corporate Strategy 2018-2020, with greatest impact on:

- Giving children and young people the best start in life: We will work tirelessly with our partners to keep Lewisham's children and young people safe from exploitation, violence, and serious youth crime. We will work with our local communities to ensure that children and young people have early access to a strong and ambitious early help offer;
- Building Safer Communities: We will continue to work with the organisations we supported to gain funding from the Mayor of London's Young Londoners' Fund in their delivery of services to turn children away from crime and provide early interventions.

3.171. Youth services additionally support our approach to Early Help and wider strategic developments in Lewisham, such as the Public Health approach to reducing violence, contextual safeguarding, and our Mental Health and Emotional wellbeing strategy and action plan.

### Background

3.172. The Council meets its statutory requirements in part through its provision of youth services. In this area of work, the Council's requirement is very minimal, and could be met, for example, through the provision of targeted support for the most vulnerable together with signposting of more general universal activities. As a result, during the current period of central government financial austerity there has been a near complete withdrawal of youth services provision by local authorities in England. Lewisham has sought to maintain some level of provision, despite the loss of central government investment. Recent changes to national policy are now beginning to recognise the value of youth services, albeit without a commitment to central government funding.

- 3.173. The Council's youth services are a critical provision to support our young people, which can impact positively on a wide range of outcomes, including increased engagement and attainment in education, employment, and training; developing life skills and transition into adulthood; increased self-esteem and resilience; and promoting positive behaviour and relationships.
- 3.174. Providing youth specific Council facilities allows for the provision of services (including organised activities and informal space for recreation) in a safe environment for young people aged 8–19 (25 for young people with additional needs). These spaces provide the opportunity for youth workers to build trusted relationships with young people through consistent contact and can become a protective factor in their lives – able to identify when things are going wrong and ensuring access to the right support. The variety of activities offered is the draw that encourages young people to attend sites and allow those trusted relationship to build.

## **Youth Centres and Adventure Playgrounds**

### **Background**

- 3.175. Youth services have been subject to several funding reductions in recent years, with a cut of £1.034m delivered across 2013-15, and a further cut of £1.4m agreed as part of the Council's budget strategy for 2015-2018. These cuts were delivered via restructures of the existing internal service, and a reduction of service delivery at sites.
- 3.176. The current service is provided by Youth First, who operate five youth clubs and five adventure playgrounds which are leased from the Council. In addition, further provision is delivered in other sites and spaces across the Borough, for example, a "pop up" service provided in Glass Mill.
- 3.177. Youth services are currently delivered Youth First, by a staff and young person owned mutual.

### **Current situation**

- 3.178. There are currently eleven council owned sites in the Borough that provide youth and adventure play facilities:

- Riverside Youth Club
- Honor Oak Youth Club
- Woodpecker Youth Club
- TNG Youth Club
- Bellingham Gateway
- The Richard MacVicar Adventure Playground
- Ladywell Fields Adventure Playground
- Home Park Adventure Playground

- Honor Oak Adventure Playground
  - Dumps Adventure Playground
  - Grove Park Youth Club
- 3.179. Youth First additionally offer – either directly or through subcontracting arrangements - delivery at the following sites:
- Lee Green Youth Club
  - Lewisham Pop-up Youth Club
  - Bromley & Downham Youth Club
  - Goldsmith Urban Connect Youth Club
- 3.180. The Grove Park Youth Club Building Preservation Trust and the Rio Ferdinand Foundation provide provision at:
- Grove Park Youth Club

### **Future requirement**

- 3.181. Officers are looking at usage of Children and Family Centres at the same time to see if shared usage can be an option for some buildings across the two service areas.

### **Children and family centres**

#### **Background**

- 3.182. As with youth services, Children’s Centres have been subject to several funding reductions in recent years. These cuts were delivered initially in outsourcing provision, and then through tender exercises and amendments to service specifications. This has had an impact on the number of sites and the amount of activity delivered in sites since 2010/11.
- 3.183. Lewisham Children and Family Centres provide a wide range of support and advice for families with young children. Along with Health Visiting, they also deliver a pathway of support across the early years to ensure our pre-school aged children are nurtured, healthy and school ready at 5, they also provide more specific and targeted support for families who may be more vulnerable or benefit from a higher level of support.
- 3.184. The core purpose of children and family centres is to improve outcomes for young children and their families, specifically the current offer focuses on:
- Improved parenting and attachment
  - Improved school readiness
  - Improved child and family health and life chances
  - Prevention of escalation



- Housing, Employment & Finance Support

3.185. The Lewisham Children and Family Centre service providers have responded flexibly to the changing needs of the Borough and delivered successful outcomes for many families, as well as providing considerable added value. Equally they are a core contributor to Lewisham's Troubled Families claims.

### **Current situation**

3.186. The current service is delivered across 8 children and family centres (3 delivered by and in schools) leased from the Council, with further provision in other sites and spaces across the Borough.

3.187. Children and Family Centres in Lewisham are currently delivered by Early Years Alliance, Donderry School and Eliot Bank and Kelvin Grove School:

3.188. There are currently 5 council owned Children and Family centres in the Borough:

- Evelyn Children's Centre
- The Honor Oak - Old Depot Children Centre
- Hatcham Oak Children's Centre
- Ladywell Early Childhood Centre
- Bellingham Children's Centre

3.189. A further 3 dedicated Children and Family Centres sites are provided by schools:

- Kelvin Grove & Elliot Bank (School)
- Donderry (School)
- Clyde (School)

3.190. Early Years Alliance, additionally deliver in a number of other locations:

- Beecroft Gardens (School)
- Marvel's Lane (School)
- Sandhurst (School)
- Goldsmith's Community Centre

### **Future requirement**

3.191. The contracts for Children and Family Centres will end in March 2021, with an option to extend for a further 12 months, which is available within the existing contract terms. Officers are looking at the use of Children and Family Centres at the same time as reviewing Youth Services delivery to

see if shared usage can be an option for some buildings across the two service areas.

- 3.192. Approximately a quarter of Lewisham's population is under 18, with recent years seeing a rise in the number of births and population of 0- to 5-year-olds who, if they stay in the Borough, will become our teenagers. We therefore anticipate demand for our services remaining high, or growing in coming years, and there is a need to have a quality and enough buildings in the Borough from which to deliver services.
- 3.193. Further, in line with our developing strategy to deliver 'Early Help' in Lewisham, we seek to deliver support to children and families early, at the first sign of need to stop needs from escalating – and we seek to do this in a locality model, so that families can access the support they need close to where they live. This adds to the need to maintain and improve buildings across Lewisham to deliver this successfully.

## 4. Green Infrastructure

### Parks and open space

#### Policy context

- 4.1. The UK Environment Act 2021 gained Royal Assent on 9 November 2021. The Act is significant environmental legislation that helps give effect to the Government's ambitions for improving the natural environment, including open spaces and biodiversity. The focus of the Act is the provision of targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment. These cut across a wide range of policy areas, including waste and resource efficiency; air quality; water resource management; and nature and biodiversity.
- 4.2. The new London Plan Policy G4 'Open Space' directs local authorities to undertake a needs assessment of all open space in the Borough to inform policy, and to identify areas of public green and open space deficiency. Local authorities are also expected to ensure future open space needs are planned for in areas with potential for substantial change, and to promote the creation of new publicly accessible open spaces, particularly green spaces, and improved public access to open spaces in areas of deficiency.
- 4.3. The new London Plan Policy G6 'Biodiversity and Access to Nature' also directs local authorities to identify Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and green corridors, as well as areas of deficiency where access to an accessible Metropolitan or Borough SINC is greater than 1km walking distance.

#### Background

- 4.4. The new Lewisham Local Plan is informed by an Open Space Assessment (OSA) (2019) and the 2022 review of the OSA and typologies which audited all existing green and open spaces in the Borough. This considers the amount of open space that is needed to support the projected future population over the plan period, based on a fixed quantity, quality, and accessibility standards. The study suggests that a significant amount of additional provision will be required to maintain the standard of open space over the long-term. The OSA also provided a register of the range of uses, facilities, and levels of accessibility to Lewisham's green and open spaces. The OSA is the primary evidence base document that has been used to inform the Council's understanding of its objectively assessed need for public open space.

4.5. The Council’s Parks and Open Space Strategy 2020-2025 (POSS) has also been used as a guide to describe the general types of interventions that may be required in the future to improve community access to public open space, parks, and gardens in the Borough. A key principle of the OSS will be to recognise the critical importance of supporting and enhancing the biodiversity of Lewisham’s parks and open spaces for wildlife and conservation purposes as well as for the enjoyment of local communities.

4.6. References to ‘open space’ in this section refer to the Greenspace Information for Greater London GIC (GiGL) categories, some of which by their nature provide a greater level of public access than others. References to ‘public open space’ follows the GiGL definition of “a designation applied to sites that are publicly accessible and perform a role in the local community”.

4.7. The categories surveyed in the 2022Lewisham Open Space Review were:

- Allotments and Community Gardens;
- Formal Amenity Greenspace
- Informal Amenity Greenspace
- Cemeteries and Churchyards;
- Provision for Children and Young People
- Green corridors
- Natural and Semi-natural
- Urban Greenspace;
- Outdoor Sports Facilities; and
- Parks and gardens.

4.8. The Council’s OSA survey excluded the following open space categories: private green space; golf courses; agricultural land; urban greyspaces; road verges; and sites left over after development.

### Current situation

4.9. As of 2022, there are 405 open spaces in the Borough. Table 4.1 below sets out the number of open spaces by typology.

Typology	Number of open spaces
Allotments and Community Gardens	50
Formal Amenity Greenspace	70
Informal Amenity Greenspace	40
Cemeteries and Churchyards	10
Provision for Children and Young People	42
Green Corridors	66

Natural and Semi-natural Urban Spaces	38
Outdoor sports Facilities	30
Parks and Gardens	59
Total	405

**Table 4.1. Green and open spaces in Lewisham.** Source: LB Lewisham (2022), *Lewisham Open Space Review*

4.10. According to GLA’s published Natural Capital Account, over a 30-year period, parks and other green spaces in Lewisham are estimated to provide up to £2.1 billion in public benefit, including £371 million in physical health savings, £215 million in mental health savings, and £444 million in recreational benefit.

### Access to public open spaces

4.11. The London Plan identifies a range of distance-based benchmarks to a range of public open space categories to determine whether Londoners can be considered to have desirable access to green spaces or are in an ‘Area of Deficiency’ (AoD). The government has also made a commitment in the Environment Improvement Plan that everyone in England will live in a 15 min walk from green or blue space. Fields in Trust have also produced the Green Space Index that calculates AoD based on walking distance: <https://www.fieldsintrust.org/green-space-index> which the Council are now using.

4.12. Lewisham is bisected by several natural and constructed features (including two significant river valleys, as well as railway lines and major arterial roads), which act as a barrier to pedestrian movement and interrupt the walking distance from homes to public open spaces. Council commissioned GiGL to audit Lewisham’s access to public open space against the London Plan benchmarking, which is summarised in Table 4.2 below:

Type	Description	Summary of access
Regional Parks	Large areas, corridors or networks of open space, the majority of which will be publicly accessible and provide a range of facilities and features offering recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural or green infrastructure benefits. Minimum size: 400 hectares Distance from home: 3.2km to 8km	The whole of the Borough is identified as being within an Area of Deficiency.

Metropolitan Parks	Large areas of open space that provide a similar range of benefits to Regional Parks and offer a combination of facilities at a sub-regional level. Minimum size: 60 hectares Distance from home: 3.2km	Area of Deficiency identified mainly along the western boundary (New Cross to Crofton Park, and north of Forest Hill); and a small area in the southeast (Grove Park).
District Parks	Large areas of open space that provide a landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities, and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits. Minimum size: 20 hectares Distance from home: 1.2km	Many parts of the Borough are identified as being within an Area of Deficiency. The wards of Blackheath, Lewisham Central, Ladywell, Crofton Park, Rushey Green, Downham and Bellingham generally have access to District Parks. Other areas of the Borough are substantially within an Area of Deficiency.
Local Parks and Open spaces	Providing for court games, children's play, sitting out areas and nature conservation areas. Minimum size: 2 hectares Distance from home: >400m	South, parts of central, and the north-west of the Borough generally have better access to these public open space categories than other areas of the Borough.
Small Open spaces	Gardens, sitting out areas, children's play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas. Minimum size: < 2 hectares Distance from home: <400m	
Linear Open space	Open spaces and towpaths alongside the Thames, canals, and other waterways; paths, disused railways; nature conservation areas; and other routes that provide opportunities for informal recreation. Minimum size: N/A Distance from home: N/A	

**Table 4.2. Access to public open space.** Source: GiGL (2020), GiGL Areas of Deficiency Maps. See also Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches (Part 2, Section 10 – Green infrastructure) for maps.

## **Quality assessment of public open spaces**

- 4.13. The OSA indicated that of the 514 ha of open spaces that are publicly accessible, around 203 ha (40%) of these open spaces are of 'good' quality, around 287 ha (56%) are considered to be of 'fair' quality, and less than 24 ha (5%) are considered to be of 'poor' quality.

## **Future requirement**

- 4.14. To maintain the current standards in the level of green space provision, there is an implied need for approximately 50 hectares of additional green space in the next twenty years to meet the expected population growth in the Borough. Given that there are limited prospects to deliver a significant increase in the quantum of open space provision, the Council's approach seeks to improve access and quality of the existing provision in the Borough. The draft Local Plan seeks to ensure that development proposals, particularly those located within areas that are deficient in open space, maximise opportunities to introduce new publicly accessible open space and improve connections to existing or planned new open spaces.
- 4.15. The POSS contains the goal to target and deliver investment for parks, pocket parks and small open spaces that are classified as fair or poor in the OSA. The POSS identified and prioritised projects and seeks to achieve investment in all of them by 2027. The Council publishes an annual review monitoring report to track progress.
- 4.16. The POSS also seeks to address access issues by working to support and encourage walking, cycling and other active travel modes that link open spaces. It will also identify the need to provide interpretation and way marking to link the River Pool Linear Park and Ladywell Fields Park with, Manor House Gardens, Manor Park, Mountsfield Park and Lewisham Park. Identified projects of strategic priority to Council will be included in future iterations of this IDP.

## **Biodiversity and nature conservation**

### **Policy Context**

- 4.17. The National Planning Policy Framework (2021) paragraph 180 outlines the need for planning policies and decisions to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment, including by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, and establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.
- 4.18. The Environment Act 2021, which amends the Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA), requires a minimum of 10% mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain from February 2024 for major developments and from April 2024 for all

developments (which are not exempt). The Environment Act applies to England only which sets key components including:

- Does not change existing legal environmental and wildlife protections
- It maintains the mitigation hierarchy of avoid impacts first, then mitigate and only compensate as a last resort
- Significant on-site habitat and all off-site habitat secured for at least 30 years via conditions/ obligations/ conservation covenant
- Net gain habitat should primarily be delivered on-site, and if this is not possible off-site or as a last resort via statutory biodiversity credits
- There will be a national register for net gain delivery sites
- Will also apply to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)
- Does not apply to marine development

4.19. The Environment Act requires local authorities to produce a biodiversity report every five years on their strengthened biodiversity duty. These reports will need to state what actions authorities have taken to improve biodiversity, and their impact.

4.20. London Plan Policy G6 'Biodiversity and access to nature' outlines the role of local authorities to protect Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), and after identifying areas of deficiency in access to nature, seek opportunities to address the barriers to access. Policy G6 also outlines, among other requirements, the need to seek opportunities for creating habitats for priority species, including through the creation of artificial nest sites.

4.21. London Plan Policy G7 'Trees and woodlands' outlines the role of local authorities in protecting and maintaining London's urban forest and woodlands, and the importance of planting new trees and woodlands to increase the extent of London's urban forest. This includes protecting 'veteran' trees and ancient woodland on sites that are not already part of a protected site, and through the development assessment process, retaining existing trees of value.

4.22. Similarly, in November 2021, the London Borough of Lewisham and partners published an updated Biodiversity Action Plan "A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham" (2021-2026). This identifies the opportunities and objectives which the Lewisham's Biodiversity Partnership (including the Council) is committed to achieving and demonstrates the links that the conservation of Lewisham's biodiversity can make to the Council's continuing programmes within various directorates. This highlights the need and actions to conserve locally important plants and animals and the



landscapes in which they live and help partners to focus on the priorities, and what, when and where action should take place.

- 4.23. The Council's current Biodiversity Action Plan, "A Natural Renaissance for Lewisham 2021- 2026", sets out the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership's aspirations to contribute to and enhance the existing nature conservation sites and biodiversity corridors, including railways corridors and the River Ravensbourne catchment.
- 4.24. The Council undertook a survey of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) located in the Borough over 2015-16 and a review of the Hither Green to Grove Park Corridor in 2022-23 as an accompanying evidence base to support the new Local Plan. The recommendations of these surveys have been used to inform the potential future priorities for the Council within this asset class.
- 4.25. The Council's Parks and Open Space Strategy (OSS) has also been used as a guide to describe the general types of interventions that may be required in the future to improve the quality of biodiversity corridors. As identified in Section 4.1, a key principle of the OSS will be to recognise the critical importance of supporting and enhancing the biodiversity of Lewisham's parks and open spaces for wildlife and conservation purposes as well as for the enjoyment of local communities.

## **Background**

- 4.26. SINC's are designated wildlife habitats classified as sites of metropolitan importance, sites of borough importance, or sites of local importance. This often includes green corridors, which are relatively continuous areas of green and open space such as railway embankments and cuttings, roadside verges, parks, playing fields and rivers that may not always be publicly accessible. These corridors can act as a biodiversity link between habitat sites and can be critical to help sustain local wildlife populations and priority species.
- 4.27. The Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership was established in 1999 to develop an action plan for the Borough's wildlife and natural environment. The Partnership is made up of a range of parties, including the Council, Glendale Managed Services, Creekside Education Trust, Thames 21, Quaggy Waterways Action Group [QWAG], London Wildlife Trust, Thames 21, Butterfly Conservation, Horniman Museum and Gardens, Sydenham Garden Organisation, and many local Friends groups and individuals.
- 4.28. The role of the Partnership is to consolidate the interests and expertise of a range of organisations and individuals with duty to, or interest in, conserving the Borough's wildlife and natural environment.

## Current situation

4.29. There are currently 64 identified SINC<sup>1</sup>s in the Borough, with the majority of these sites publicly accessible during daylight hours. The sites are listed in Part 5, Schedule 8 of the Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document. Key corridors in Lewisham include the South East London Green Chain, a linked system of over 300 open spaces extending from Thamesmead to Crystal Palace Park and Nunhead Cemetery, and the WaterLink Way, a share route for cyclists and pedestrians that runs from the River Thames at Deptford Creek southwards to Beckenham Place Park following the rivers Ravensbourne and Pool.

4.30. There are also several railway embankments and adjoining soft landscaping that provide long stretches of valuable natural greenspaces with high levels of biodiversity.

Type of Access	Metropolitan SINC		SINC Borough		SINC Local	
	No. sites	Area (Ha)	No. sites	Area (Ha)	No. sites	Area (Ha)
Free public access (all/most of site)	1	161.9 ha	16	146.0 ha	14	66.5 ha
Free public access (part of site)	2	96.6 ha <sup>1</sup>	2	16.6 ha	2	2.1 ha
Access at limited times	0	0.0 ha	0	0.0 ha	2	0.4 ha
Access by prior arrangement	0	0.0 ha	2	4.5 ha	2	0.7 ha
Access by prior appointment or limited times	1	37.6 ha	13	54.6 ha	2	1.4 ha
No public access	0	0.0 ha	2	5.2 ha	3	3.0 ha
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>296.1 ha</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>226.9 ha</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>74.1 ha</b>

**Table 4.3. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.** Source: LB Lewisham (2016), SINC Survey

## Areas of deficiency in access to nature

4.31. Access to nature is increasingly seen as a key metric to improving the lives of Londoners living in a dense urban environment. The London Plan sets out a desirable distance in which people living in London should travel in order to have access to nature, locations beyond this distance are considered as Areas of Deficiency (AoD) in access to nature. Policy G6 of the London Plan defines an area of deficiency as areas that are more than

<sup>1</sup> Only a small portion of the River Thames and tidal tributaries Metropolitan SINC (M031) is located within the Borough, therefore, the table above does not include the area of this SINC.

1km walking distance from a publicly accessible SINC of metropolitan or borough importance.

- 4.32. Prior to 2016, there were five main AoDs in the Borough, covering approximately 14% of the Borough's land area.
- 4.33. Following the 2015-16 SINC survey, AoD in the Borough has reduced from 520ha to 337.4ha, a decrease of 182.6ha or 35%. This is the result of improvements at Bridgehouse Meadows and Ladywell Fields, creating wildlife rich habitats valued at the borough level. Improved access into the River Quaggy and Manor Park Site of Borough Importance has also helped to reduce the AoD.
- 4.34. A proposed boundary extension to Beckenham Place Park will alleviate the AoD by 28.5ha in the London Borough of Bromley to the south. A further 45.5ha of AoD will be also alleviated in Southwark as a result of changes to the designation of Bridgehouse Meadows.

#### **Future requirement**

- 4.35. The Lewisham Local Plan: Main Issues and Preferred Approaches document (draft Local Plan) proposes to provide for the designation of six new SINC. This will increase the SINC area from 595ha to 614ha. This represents a 3% increase in ten years. Following the Regulation 18 stage consultation on the draft Local Plan and in response to feedback received, the Council has commissioned additional evidence base work on open spaces and biodiversity sites. As a result of this study the Council has prepared the Regulation 19 stage Local Plan which proposes new SINC as well as the removal of SINC and changes to the boundary of others.
- 4.36. The POSS contains the goals to target and deliver investment in a range of parks and open spaces, as well as objectives to improve the quality of biodiversity corridors as development comes forward. Progress will be set out in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) prepared by the Planning Service and the POSS Annual Monitoring Report.

## **Allotments**

#### **Policy context**

- 4.37. The Allotments and Small Holdings Act 1908 states that councils have a duty to provide land if six people or more request an allotment. However, as an inner London authority, the London Borough of Lewisham has a discretionary rather than mandatory power to provide allotments under section 55(4) of the London Government Act 1963. The allotments legislation does not lay down minimum standards or a required nature or

extent of allotment garden provision (Memorandum by the Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions [AL 23] 1998).

## Background

4.38. Allotments are in high demand across London and Lewisham is no exception, with applications increasing year on year. As of September 2024, there were 3739 people on the central waiting list for an allotment in Lewisham. Although the Council has no legal requirement to provide allotments, there are 37 long-established council-owned sites in the Borough. All of these allotments have waiting lists.

4.39. Of those allotment sites already provided on council-owned land, 13 are statutory. This means the land was originally acquired by the council for the purpose of allotments. Such sites are protected by the Allotments and Small Holdings Act 1908. The other 24 sites are legally termed as temporary and not subject to the same levels of legal protection, despite having been in use as allotments for many decades.

## Current provision

4.40. The 37 Council-owned allotment sites cover 16.21 hectares. Historically, most were directly managed by the Council, however in the early 1980s plot-holders were offered the opportunity to set up committees and self-manage the sites under a Management Agreement with the Council. Approximately three-quarters of the sites have since become self-managed. Over the intervening years these Management Agreements have remained in place, except for a small number which have reverted back to direct Council management.

4.41. There are currently 27 self-managed sites, 10 which are directly council-managed, providing a total of 1164 allotment plots on council-owned land. Table 4.4 below identifies these sites and current status.

Site	Status	Direct or self managed	No. of plots
Ballamore Road	Non-statutory	Self-managed	5
Barmeston Road	Statutory	Self-managed	26
Blackhorse Road	Non-statutory	Self-managed	26
Blythe Hill	Non-statutory	Direct-managed	18
Broadmead	Non-statutory	Self-managed	25
Castillon Road	Non-statutory	Self-managed	92
Chinbrook Meadows	Statutory	Self-managed	73
Clarendon Rise	Statutory	Self-managed	9
Dacre Park	Non-statutory	Direct-managed	46
Deloraine Street	Non-statutory	Direct-managed	29
Edward Street	Non-statutory	Direct-managed	4

Exford Road	Statutory	Self-managed	60
Firhill Road North	Non-statutory	Direct-managed	30
Firhill Road South	Non-statutory	Self-managed	23
Hazelbank Road	Non-statutory	Self-managed	67
Hurstbourne Road	Non-statutory	Self-managed	21
Jim Hurren	Non-statutory	Self-managed	10
Kendale Road	Non-statutory	Self-managed	47
Knapmill Way	Non-statutory	Self-managed	27
Lee & District Land Club	Statutory	Self-managed	59
Leslie Silk	Non-statutory	Direct-managed	9
Longton Nursery	Statutory	Self-managed	46
Meadow Close	Statutory	Self-managed	28
Oldstead Road	Statutory	Direct-managed	14
Priestfield Road	Statutory	Self-managed	41
Romborough Gardens	Non-statutory	Self-managed	20
Royal Naval Pl. Stage I	Non-statutory	Self-managed	19
Royal Naval Pl. Stage II	Non-statutory	Self-managed	11
St Mildreds Road	Non-statutory	Self-managed	19
Sedgehill Road	Non-statutory	Self-managed	24
Slaithwaite Road	Non-statutory	Self-managed	13
Stanley Street	Non-statutory	Self-managed	11
Sydenham Park	Statutory	Direct-managed	30
Taylors Lane	Non-statutory	Self-managed	38
Trewsbury Road	Non-statutory	Self-managed	71
Weavers Estate	Non-statutory	Direct-managed	54
Windlass Place	Non-statutory	Direct-managed	19

**Table 4.4. Allotments in LB Lewisham.** Source: LB Lewisham

4.42. The National Allotment Society recommendation is that authorities should supply 20 plots (or 0.5 hectare) per 1,000 households. As of the 2011 census there are 116,000 households in Lewisham, therefore the current provision in Lewisham (considering only the council-owned sites) is 9.4 plots per 1000 households. This is comparable with other inner London boroughs which tend to have less provision than outer London boroughs, in terms of number of sites and per head of population.

4.43. However, according to a London Assembly Report - A Lot to Lose: London's disappearing allotments 2006 - "allotment provision measured by square ki presents a slightly different picture, with Haringey and Lewisham, both inner London boroughs, among those with the highest concentrations of sites". It is important to note that whilst there was a net loss of 4.2% allotments

across London between 1996 and 2006, the provision of council- owned sites in Lewisham has been maintained without loss.

### **Future requirement**

4.44. Maintaining existing allotment provision in the context of increasing population density and demand will likely result in a net loss of provision per 1,000 households over the life of the new Local Plan. This may be partially addressed through the provision of community growing space as a result of new developments but, given the scarcity of land for new allotments, the efforts to meet increasing demand for allotments in Lewisham will need to focus on how the existing provision is managed. Investment in infrastructure is essential to this aim.

4.45. Key areas of projected infrastructure need are:

- Plot-restoration / creation – increasing provision of allotments in the Borough;
- Improving the safety and security of allotment boundaries, including fencing and security;
- Provision of composting toilets to improve the amenity of the site for existing plot- holders and organised group visits;
- Upgrading of surfacing, including the repair of hard surfaces that have not been maintained since the creation of the sites, and the expansion of existing site paths networks to create more, smaller plots;
- Provision of communal buildings to provide a venue for site meetings and events;
- Upgrading or installation of water systems (capture, storage, plumbing); and
- Improvements to noticeboards and signage.

4.46. The Council's Parks and Open Space Strategy (POSS) seeks to provide direction on the future management and provision of Council-managed allotments.

## **Cemeteries and burial space**

### **Policy context**

4.47. London Plan Policy S7 'Burial space' states that boroughs should ensure provision is made for the different burial needs and requirement of London's communities.

## **Background**

4.48. An Audit of London Burial Provision was completed in 2011 for the GLA by the Cemetery Research Group (University of York) that looked at the demand for burial space using mortality projections and modelled demand for burial space for the period 2010/11-2030/31. This considered the overall incidence of cremation and the preference for cremation or burial amongst particular religious groups.

## **Current situation**

4.49. There are a number of cemeteries and crematoriums in Lewisham:

- Brockley and Ladywell Cemetery
- Grove Park Cemetery
- Hither Green Cemetery and Crematorium

4.50. The Coronavirus Pandemic inflated death statistics between January 2020 and when the Coronavirus Act 2020 was lifted in March 2022, during that period there had been 4,279 funerals performed by Lewisham Bereavement Services (1,441 earth burials and 2,838 cremations) for the same 2 year reporting period following March 2022 (post pandemic) there was 3,151 funerals performed by Lewisham Bereavement Services, a decrease of 26%, this total figure is broken down into 1,217 earth burials and 1,934 cremations. It is worth noting that not all earth burials involve virgin burial land, of the 1,217 earth burials during this period 44% of the earth burials took place in historically owned graves (538 pre-owned graves).

4.51. In 2011 the Cemetery Research Group was commissioned by the GLA to undertake an audit of burial space in Greater London. The audit found that Lewisham had 39.7ha of available cemetery space, and an estimated need for 9,116 virgin grave spaces between 2010/11 and 2030/31. The report concluded that it was probable that Lewisham had sufficient capacity to meet demand for burial space over the next twenty years. Following on from that report, from January 2011 to September 2024, 3,484 of the anticipated 9,116 virgin graves required were used.

4.52. As of September 2024, specific site capacity was identified as follows:

- Brockley and Ladywell Cemeteries have an estimated 10-year capacity (based on approximately 430 spaces left, and used at a rate of 43 per year)
- Grove Park Cemetery has an estimated 9-year capacity (based on approximately 1,233 spaces being left and used at a rate of 137 per year)

- Hither Green Cemetery has an estimated 5--year capacity (based on approximately 655 spaces being left and used at a rate of 131 per year)

### Future requirement

4.53. A number of planned projects are expected to commence in the short term (2024-2030) that will increase the capacity of a number of sites in Lewisham, as identified in Table 4.5 below.

Site	Proposed Works
Brockley Cemetery	<p>Following the excavation and removal of the base and foundations of a former Victorian Chapel in 2019, the area is now settled and ready for use Autumn/winter 2024, this new space has created over 300 new virgin ground for burial.</p> <p>A depot belonging to the cemetery used for storing borough wide refuse bins will be surveyed for the feasibility of new virgin burial ground, 17,184.18 ft<sup>2</sup> of land capable of hosting 500-600 new grave or a new option for burial provision based on Borough needs.</p> <p>Work has started to identify the feasibility of grave re-use of historical public graves (graves owned by the Council where burials have taken place on consecrated grounds) if feasible a full business case will be drafted with the potential for up to 1500 potential graves for reuse</p>
Green Park Cemetery	<p>An area within the cemetery (previously used by a Youth Training Scheme for Amenity Horticulture until its closure in 2007) has been cleared of existing buildings and structures for an expansion of burial space. The Council has undertaken a topographical survey, soil and wall structural surveys and soil physical surveys to determine the potential scope of the expansion. It is anticipated that the repurposed site could accommodate up to 1000-1100 new burial spaces. Work to remove concrete foundations and bases has been completed, Management is currently engaging with project manager regarding path installation, layout and facilities upgrade, development work due to start 2025 based on forecasted costs.</p> <p>On the SW side of the grounds, there is an old cherry orchard that is owned by Lewisham Council and an ideal location for cemetery expansion, feasibility survey to take place on 2026, this land has potential to provide 1200 virgin burial spaces.</p>



	<p>Work has started to identify the feasibility of grave re-use of historical public graves (graves owned by the Council where burials have taken place on consecrated grounds) if feasible a full business case will be drafted with the potential for up to 600 potential graves for reuse..</p>
<p>Hither Green Cemetery</p>	<p>Following a risk impact assessment in 2011, ten pathways were identified as not providing safe access, particularly for people with additional mobility requirements. Access works across the cemetery is currently underway, which will result in a rationalisation of the path network and redundant / damaged paths removed to provide additional land for burial spaces. 7 of the paths are now in use and providing daily virgin burial spaces, this has created up to 560 virgin grave spaces, the remaining 3 paths will be removed and prepared for burial and in 2025/26, it is anticipated that these 3 paths will create a further 240 virgin burial spaces.</p> <p>There is room for expansion on the southwest of the cemetery, this is land owned by the council and previously set aside for burial land, feasibility survey to commence in 2025, this site is expected to have capacity for 600 virgin grave spaces.</p> <p>Work has started to identify the feasibility of grave re-use of historical public graves (graves owned by the Council where burials have taken place on consecrated grounds) if feasible a full business case will be drafted with the potential for up to 3000 potential graves for reuse</p>

**Table 4.5. Proposed works to burial sites in Lewisham.** Source: LB Lewisham

4.54. Following the completion of the works described above, burial space capacity will increase in accordance with Table 4.6 below

4.55. Site / Location	4.56. Current supply (in 4.57. years)	4.58. Additional capacity 4.59. created (no. spaces)	4.60. Total supply 4.61. following works
4.62. Ladywell & Brockley Cemeteries	4.63. 10yrs	4.64. 300 4.65. 500-600 4.66. 1500	4.67. Additional 7yrs 4.68. Additional 13yrs 4.69. Additional 34yrs
4.70. Hither Green Cemetery	4.71. 5yrs	4.72. 240 4.73. 600 4.74. 3000	4.75. Additional 1yr 4.76. Additional 4yrs 4.77. Additional 22 years
4.78. Grove Park Cemetery	4.79. 9yrs	4.80. 1100 4.81. 600	4.82. Additional 8 years 4.83. Additional 4 years

**Table 4.6. Anticipated capacity of burial space in Lewisham (by years) following short-term upgrades.** Source: LB Lewisham

4.84. It is anticipated that continuing the process of improving the design of Lewisham’s cemeteries, along with an increased take up of re-using burial sites will ensure there is sufficient burial site capacity in the medium to longer term. Where there is not a factor of religious reasons for virgin earth burial, the burden to find new virgin land will reduce if sufficient effort is made to support and encourage increased use of cremation as a sustainable funeral option. Lewisham Bereaved Services currently works at 62% cremation and 38% earth burial.

## 5. Transport infrastructure

### Policy context

- 5.1. The London Plan Policy T3 'Transport Capacity, Connectivity and Safeguarding' sets out the requirement for local authorities to safeguard land and buildings used for public transport, active travel, or related support functions. Policy T3 also expects that development plans will identify and safeguard new sites, route alignments, and supporting infrastructure accommodate future growth in the transport network. This includes rail, road, and London's walking and cycling networks.
- 5.2. The London Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS) was adopted in 2018 and sets out the Mayor's policies and proposals to reshape transport in London over the next two decades. The Strategy has the overarching aim of reducing dependency on car travel and sets a strategic target for 80% of journeys in London to be made by walking, cycling and public transport by 2041. Initiatives to achieving this objective are set out under the themes of 'Healthy streets and healthy people', 'A good public transport experience', and 'New homes and jobs'.
- 5.3. The Lewisham Transport Strategy 2019 – 2041 outlines the Council's vision for implementing the London Mayor's Strategy at the borough level and is a key evidence base for this IDP. The Strategy also identifies the short- and longer-term transport infrastructure interventions required to ensure that the transport network can accommodate the expected growth forecast over the life of the new Local Plan.
- 5.4. The draft Integrated Active Travel Strategy is currently in development and aims to integrate all of the borough's existing infrastructure and plans for active travel into one overarching strategy, which will provide direction for the delivery of active travel improvements over the next 7-10 years. The Integrated Active Travel Strategy is due to be published in 2025.
- 5.5. Council's Local Implementation Plan (LIP), a programme of investment over the LIP's three-year period (2025/26 to 2027/28), has informed the short-term infrastructure priorities (0-5 years).

## Regional and sub-regional transport infrastructure

### Rail-based infrastructure

#### Current situation

- 5.6. Rail transport in south east London is dominated by National Rail services operated on the Southeastern franchise area. Services accessible from train stations in Lewisham provide direct connections to main London termini, including London Bridge, Cannon Street, Charing Cross, and Victoria. Thameslink services also operate across Lewisham, travelling through Blackfriars, Farringdon, and St Pancras stations.
- 5.7. The Docklands Light Rail (DLR) provides a connection from Lewisham to Greenwich, and across the River Thames to Canary Wharf, Stratford, London City Airport, and Central London (Bank).
- 5.8. London Overground trains serve the Sydenham corridor and New Cross, travelling through to the City and East End.
- 5.9. While the Borough is reasonably well served by rail services, coverage and capacity varies greatly, particularly in the south-east and north of the Borough which have limited or no access to rail. The current design of the rail network in south-east London also limits the ability to travel east-west, and where services do exist, they are often along orbital routes that make travel slower and less attractive.
- 5.10. Network capacity is an increasing area of concern in Lewisham, with DLR services to Canary Wharf frequently running at or over capacity, and the Lewisham Station Interchange (DLR and Southeastern services) overcrowded during peak travel times. Lewisham train station itself has experienced a threefold increase of footfall over the past 15 years, from 4 to 11 million, and is expected to grow by a further 32% in the next 20 years. As a result, Lewisham Station has been prioritised nationally by Network Rail System Operator for investment to resolve current and future capacity constraints.
- 5.11. Fifty-four new DLR trains are expected to replace most of the fleet. 43 are from the TfL base order and 11 more are to be funded by the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bid. The new, fully walk-through trains will provide extra capacity through a mix of length and frequency enhancements. This includes the Lewisham branch, where they'll serve Borough residents, businesses, and visitors. The fleet is expected to enter service from 2024, with all service enhancements complete by 2027.
- 5.12. A number of London Overground train stations, including Brockley, Forest Hill, and New Cross Gate also experience overcrowding on platforms during

peak travel periods. TfL has secured some funding from Central Government to deliver some upgrades to signalling infrastructure and a new station entrance for Surrey Quays station in neighbouring Southwark. This will create the ability to increase frequency in the core section of the line from 16 to 20 trains per hour, which is made up of two additional services per hour on the Clapham/Peckham Rye line and two on the Crystal Palace branch which serves New Cross Gate, Brockley, Honor Oak, Forest Hill, and Sydenham. TfL are now seeking additional funding to support the delivery of new stabling infrastructure and a new station at Surrey Canal to support the expected development in the area.

5.13. There are no Underground lines within Lewisham and Borough residents need to access the tube network via congested interchanges near the Borough boundary, including Canada Water and Canary Wharf (Jubilee Line), London Bridge (Jubilee and Northern Lines), or Central London termini. Without access to the London Underground network, rail therefore provides a vital role in connecting the Borough to central London and surrounding areas. This is reflected in TfL usage data, which shows Lewisham as having the highest proportion of residents commuting on trains than any other inner London borough. Despite this, high levels of car usage persist due to poor and/or limited-service coverage in some parts of the Borough.

5.14. The proposed Bakerloo Line Extension (BLE) to Lewisham and Hayes provides a significant opportunity to improve rail access between Greater London and the south-east. On 1 March 2021 the Secretary of State for Transport gave safeguarding directions (Directions) for the BLE. In October 2024, TfL announced the design and feasibility studies for four new stations along the proposed route, including New Cross Gate and Lewisham. This work is joint funded by Lewisham Council, Southwark Council and TfL. TfL continue to have discussions with the Government regarding funding for the extension.

### **Future requirement**

5.15. The Council's Transport Strategy outlines several regional and sub-regional transport infrastructure investments that will be needed to meet current and future demand, as well as unlock future development opportunity in areas less well served by public transport.

### **Lewisham Station**

5.16. Lewisham station has been designated as one of the four London-wide Strategic Interchanges by the London Mayor in the MTS Lewisham Station has been prioritised nationally by Network Rail for investment to resolve current and future capacity constraints. Network Rail, working with TfL and Lewisham Council, was until 2022, developing plans for an upgraded

Lewisham station. The upgrade sought to meet future passenger demand to 2041, reduce congestion, increase station capacity, and improve safety and security conditions.

5.17. It will also consider integration with the wider public realm, the DLR station and the proposed Bakerloo Line Extension (BLE).

5.18. Network Rail are investing £250 million in the track and signalling through the Lewisham area which covers Nunhead, Ladywell, Hither Green, Blackheath, St Johns, and New Cross.

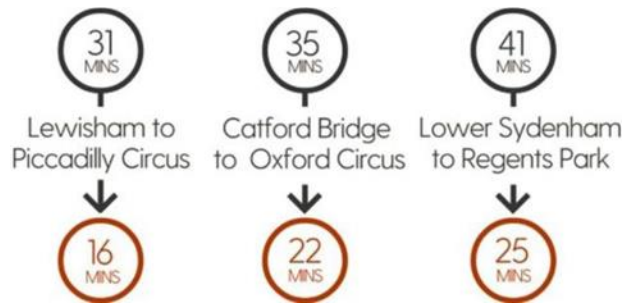
### **New Cross to Lewisham Overground Extension**

5.19. The proposed extension of the London Overground line beyond the current terminus at New Cross to Lewisham Station. While Lewisham Station is well served by a number of rail lines, the complexity of the rail network in the area means only a proportion of the trains that currently pass-through Lewisham Station stop there. The extension of the Overground network to Lewisham would increase the resilience of the rail network in the area and compliment the station's role as a Strategic Interchange.

### **Bakerloo Line Extension (BLE)**

5.20. The proposed extension of the Bakerloo Line would run underground from Elephant & Castle to Lewisham via new stations at Burgess Park, Old Kent Road, and New Cross Gate (Phase 1). A reversing and stabling facility would be constructed at the site of the Wearside Road Council depot. There is also the opportunity, which the Council are championing, for a further extension (Phase 2) beyond Lewisham to Hayes and Beckenham Junction. This further extension would make use of existing Network Rail infrastructure and could be delivered at the same time as Phase1 or later.

5.21. Securing the delivery of the BLE would enhance the Borough's rail connectivity with the rest of London and provide resilience on the transport network. There are also journey time savings with a much wider choice of destinations and more frequent trains; and it will create 2 new interchanges in the Borough at Lewisham (DLR and National Rail) and New Cross Gate (London Overground and National Rail).



**Figure 5.1 BLE Journey Savings**

5.22. The Council continues to advocate for the extension of the Bakerloo Line to Hayes as a single phase, to serve Catford and Lower Sydenham which would in turn support a wider step-change in the levels of walking, cycling and public transport use in the south of the Borough.

5.23. The financial implications of the Covid-19 pandemic have resulted in the project being delayed, however progress towards the BLE has continued including safeguarding of sites and work has commenced on design and feasibility studies for the extension on the extension to Lewisham which includes Lewisham station and New Cross Gate station. TfL remain committed to delivering the BLE and work on it is funded until the end of 2025; however this depends on a viable funding package being put together and the Council is working with Southwark Council, TfL and Central London Forward to build the case for it.

5.24. In terms of timeline the BLE could be operational by 2038 regardless of whether Phase 1 is delivered alone or Phases 1 and 2 are delivered together. This is because both phases can be delivered in parallel. In a scenario where Phase 2 is delivered sometime after Phase 1, there is flexibility over the delivery timetable.

5.25. The draft Lewisham Local Plan acknowledges the potential benefits of improved public transport access and connectivity, particularly in the south of the Borough, with the potential for Lower Sydenham / Bell Green to be designated as an Opportunity Area contingent on the delivery of the BLE and other strategic infrastructure.

**Bakerloo Line Upgrade**

5.26. Bakerloo line trains are the oldest in use on the TFL network (over 50 years old) and require replacement. Plans to replace the existing rolling stock with new accessible, walk-through trains and improvements / modernisation of signalling equipment would improve train carriage capacity by approximately 10 per cent, improve train speeds and frequency of services along the entire

line. Works to upgrade the existing line are due to commence in 2027 with new trains operational in 2031.

### **Brockley Station Interchange**

5.27. The provision of new upper platforms at Brockley Station would create an interchange between the London Overground and the Lewisham-Victoria Line. The existing station currently has two station platforms supporting north-south rail services only, and while trains on the London Overground network travelling from Lewisham go past the station, there is no accessible platform at the station to connect to the orbital rail network.

5.28. New upper station platforms will allow passengers at the interchange to access services along the Lewisham-Victoria Line, and train services towards southwest London and Victoria, and provide an opportunity to address existing station access and capacity issues.

### **New Bermondsey / Surrey Canal Station**

5.29. The Surrey Canal Triangle area is served by South Bermondsey station which has an infrequent national rail service to London Bridge. Significant development is expected in the area and a new London Overground station is required to meet demand. Passive provision for a station was delivered as part of the line extension works in 2012. The new station would provide better access to rail services supported by improvements to bus infrastructure and compliment other rail improvements and will support the regeneration and significant development growth planned in the north of the Borough. Financial support for the delivery of the station is being considered alongside the Surrey Canal Triangle redevelopment proposals.

### **'Metroisation'**

5.30. TfL's proposal for rail services in the south and southeast areas of London would result in the reorganisation of existing services to provide metro-style services, with regular trains running on standardised routes. A more simplified service and standardised route network is expected to release network capacity as well as delivering more frequent and reliable train services for passengers and potentially reducing operating costs. Progress in delivery will depend on the establishment of the new Great British Railways organisation and the development of its 'Whole Industry Strategic Plan'.

### **Road-based infrastructure**

#### **Current situation**

5.31. There are several regionally significant major roads ('red routes' operated and maintained by TfL) that run through Lewisham, including the A205 South Circular, A20, and the A21/A2. While London's network of red routes only makes up five per cent of roads, they carry up to 30 per cent of the



city's traffic. Given the location of these routes in the Borough, these major roads create a complex mix of challenges for the Borough in encouraging modal shift to active and sustainable modes of travel.

- 5.32. There are also 46 bus routes and 14-night routes operated by TfL which service the Borough. These routes provide critical connections to other south-eastern boroughs, as well as Central London. These routes operate with varying frequencies of service, with higher frequency routes generally operating on radial routes. Less frequent services are generally found operating orbital routes and are more common in the west of the Borough.
- 5.33. Road based transit is a significant contributor to air pollution in the Borough, with the Council's emerging Climate Emergency Action Plan finding that transport accounted for 25.6% of the Borough's estimated CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 2017/18, with road-based transport the single largest factor. To manage this, the Borough has in place six Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), which were declared under two AQMA orders (Lewisham AQMA, Crofton Park, and Honor Oak AQMA) which are located along and to the north of the South Circular, the A212, and A2218.
- 5.34. The Council's Air Quality Action Plan (2021) (AQAP) has been produced as part of our duty to London Local Air Quality Management duties. It outlines the actions we will take to improve air quality in the London Borough of Lewisham between 2022 and 2027. This action plan replaces the previous plan which ran from 2016 to 2021.
- 5.35. Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan was approved by the Mayor and Cabinet in 2020 and includes a range of radical actions across the Council's corporate estate, housing, transport, and green spaces intended to support delivery of the ambition for Lewisham to be carbon neutral by 2030. Carbon dioxide is not, in itself, considered a primary pollutant in terms of air quality in the Borough, but the main sources of carbon at a local level, particularly in urban environments, are energy use in our homes and transport sector. These are also key determinants of local air quality in our Borough.
- 5.36. National data shows emissions in the Borough have dropped by 100,000 tonnes in the last 4 years. Lewisham has two AQMA orders which include 6 AQMS which cover most of the Borough apart from the south eastern part. The Council contributed towards the installation of a state-of-the-art Air Quality Supersite, at Honor Oak Park Sports Ground, managed by the Environmental Research Group at Kings College, London. This is one of only six sites in the UK and there are only two sites in London. We will continue to look for opportunities to expand our air quality monitoring around the Borough and support scientific research to better understand the

problem and solutions. Cleaner Air Borough Status was awarded to Lewisham by the Mayor of London in recognition of the efforts made via the AQAP towards tackling air pollution. This status has enabled the Council to bid for additional air quality funding from the GLA. Improving air quality and maintaining Cleaner Air Borough Status by achieving our AQAP actions is a critical priority for Lewisham.

5.37. The Council’s Air Quality Action Plan also identifies six Air Quality Focus Areas (AQFAs), which are due to the presence of high levels of air pollution (nitrogen dioxide levels exceeding EU limits of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> annual average, and PM10 particulate matter (PM10) exceeding World Health Organisation guidelines of 20µg/m<sup>3</sup>) generated from vehicles, and high levels of pedestrian activity. The Action Plan also outlines a number of priorities and actions to improve air quality within the AQFAs, including by controlling emissions from new developments through the planning and enforcement process. Currently however, while carbon emissions in Lewisham have reduced by approximately a third in the period 2005-2017, transport emissions have remained relatively constant.

Lewisham’s Air Quality Focus Areas
Deptford Town Centre
New Cross Gate & New Cross
Forest Hill and Perry Vale Junction; Loampit Vale & Lewisham High Street
Catford Road & Catford Gyratory
St Mildreds Road (A2015) from Hither green Lane to Burnet Ash Hill (A2212) A205 Brownhill Road

**Table 5.1 Air quality focus areas.** Source: LB Lewisham

5.38. The Council’s Transport Strategy, adopted in 2019, covers the period from 2019- 204 and seeks to respond to these challenges by supporting the delivery of the Mayor of London’s Transport Strategy (MTS), as well as identify and deliver targeted local interventions to improve road infrastructure through the Healthy Streets Framework across the Borough. These projects generally seek to encourage modal shift to active and sustainable modes of transit by improving the quality of the public realm to encourage walking and cycling, as well as improve linkages to public transport nodes.

5.39. The Strategy also addresses the need to reduce the number of people who are killed or seriously injured (KSI) on our roads. Between 2012 and 2016 a total of 5,040 casualties were reported in Lewisham, including 329 serious casualties and 20 fatalities. The majority of casualties were on the major

road 'red route' network, which are also among the most congested in London.

- 5.40. Bus performance in Lewisham also suffers from congestion on the major road 'red route' network, with passengers on high frequency routes waiting approximately 20% longer than intended. The slowest average speeds are generally near local centres such as Lewisham, Catford and Deptford. This is where the highest levels of activity and human movements take place and is reflected in the average numbers of bus boarders in these areas.

### **Future requirement**

- 5.41. The Council's Transport Strategy seeks to achieve a net reduction in private car use by 2041, in line with the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy (2018), and to improve accessibility to public transport as a means to improve social inclusion outcomes, particularly in areas in the south of the Borough which have poor access to frequent and effective public transport options which in turn leads to higher private vehicle use.
- 5.42. There is also a need to consider expanding the bus network in Lewisham, particularly frequent east-west bus routes to provide more viable travel options for commuters living or working in the south. The Council will continue to engage with TFL to shape the future bus network and consider how the associated bus infrastructure can be accommodated. TFL keeps the bus network under review and makes changes based on the latest demand data and developments. Any enhancements to the bus network are dependent on a viable business case as well as provision of suitable highway design, bus tops, stands and driver facilities.
- 5.43. Bus Route 225 currently runs between Canada Water and Hither Green via Lewisham Station and runs at a peak frequency. There is a proposal to extend the service from its current terminus at Hither Green to Bellingham station, to help provide better connections between the north and the south of the Borough.
- 5.44. The Council has also identified a number of opportunities to improve the borough's road network to promote modal shift to more active and sustainable modes of travel and promote Healthy Streets principles on major roads in partnership with TfL. These projects are identified in Table 5.2 below:

Project	Timeframe
A2 New Cross Road / Amersham Gyratory removal Short	Short
A21 Healthy Streets Corridor ('Lewisham Spine') Short to medium	Short to medium
A205 (South Circular) Re-routing and A21 improvements (Catford) Short	Short
Ringway Corridor (Southend Land and Whitefoot Lane) Medium	Medium
Healthy Neighbourhoods Short to medium	Short to medium

**Table 5.2 Major road 'red route' improvement projects.** Source: LB Lewisham

5.45. As part of the 'Vision Zero' Action Plan, TfL introduce a 20-mph speed limit on major road 'red routes' in town centres and other high-risk areas. This includes the A21 between Catford and Lewisham, sections of the South Circular Road and the A205., This contributes to a more cohesive road network and reduce any uncertainty for more vulnerable users.

5.46. The Council has succeeded in bringing 90% of its bus stops to accessible standards, and it aims to increase this by bringing all bus stops (where feasible), to TfL accessible standards over the life of the Local Plan period.

### **Ringway Corridor Improvements**

5.47. Proposals to improve the public realm environment and provide better active travel and public transport links through the reallocation of excess carriageway space between Southend Lane and Whitefoot Lane. The Council will be considering the location's potential to become a bus priority corridor or/and active travel corridor with enhanced bus/cycle lanes, alongside installation of new linear parks.

### **Public Transport Supporting Interventions**

5.48. A programme of supporting measures to compliment strategic schemes outlined in the TfL Business Plan, as well as any other longer term transport aspirations proposed in Council's Transport Strategy. This includes works to improve pedestrian accessibility to rail stations, complete Council's Bus Stop Accessibility Programme.

## **Local transport infrastructure**

### **Local road network**

5.49. Lewisham is proposing a traffic reduction strategy that aims to target rat-running and encouraging active travel as the most direct routes. The Council will implement this, in collaboration with communities, through localised road closures to through-traffic and one-way enforcements, complemented by a range of other measures, through a Healthy Neighbourhoods programme.

### **Future requirement**

5.50. There will be a negligible expansion of the local road network in Lewisham, as all new development expected to be delivered over the life of the new Local Plan will be delivered on infill sites. Projects to improve the provision of the existing local road network are identified below.

### **Road Danger Reduction**

5.51. A programme of measures to reduce road danger, aligning with the Mayor of London's "Vision Zero" objective. Short term projects include introducing traffic calming measures to support the delivery and implementation of a 20-mph speed limit across the Borough, reduce the dominance and overall number of vehicles on the local road network, create safer streets to encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport.

5.52. There are several road danger reduction schemes that are identified each financial year based on the latest collision data, prioritising locations that experienced the highest collision levels in Lewisham. The current locations that are being progressed are Hither Green Lane and Courthill Road, Lee Terrace and Baring Road.

### **Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)**

5.53. From October 2021 the ULEZ was expanded to include all areas of the Borough to the north of the South Circular. On 29 August 2023 the ULEZ was further expanded to cover all London boroughs.

### **Low Emission Bus Zones (LEBZ)**

5.54. TfL's bus retrofit programme has meant that, since early 2021, the entire bus fleet now meets or exceeds the latest emissions standards. In effect, this means that the whole of London is now a Low Emission Bus Zone. TfL also continues to expand its fleet of zero-emission buses and has brought forward its target date for converting the whole fleet to 2034.

5.55. The expansion of the London Mayor's Low Emission Bus Zones beyond the current coverage to include Lewisham and Catford.

## **Walking and cycling network**

### **Current situation**

5.56. The Borough benefits from an existing network of signed and off-road riverside paths, including the National Cycle Route 21, the Waterlink Way, and large areas of low movement local residential streets. The Council has also introduced a borough-wide 20 mph speed limit on all borough-controlled roads.

5.57. There is significant potential to increase the number of cycling journeys in Lewisham, with analysis undertaken for the Lewisham Cycle Strategy indicating that there are currently approximately 282,600 trips made daily by residents that could be made by bicycle.

### **Future requirement**

5.58. Given the anticipated population growth in the Borough over the period of the new Local Plan, it is essential that current and future residents are incentivised to complete more local trips by walking and cycling. The Council's Transport Strategy provides a range of potential local interventions that, if implemented, would achieve the following outcomes:

- 70% of residents doing at least 2x10 minutes of active travel a day by 2041; and
- 71% of residents will live within 400 metres of the strategic cycle network by 2041.

5.59. The Strategy identifies the opportunity to increase active travel links to public transport nodes, where higher instances of multi-modal journeys associated with accessing public transport can be supported, particularly in the south of the Borough where active travel is shown to be the lowest.

5.60. To increase the proportion of residents that will live within 400m of the strategic cycle network (SCN), the Strategy highlights that in addition to existing and committed schemes in the Lewisham Cycle Strategy, there is a need to deliver all of the Cycleway route proposals identified in the Lewisham Cycle Strategy. This includes routes not currently identified by TfL as current priorities.

5.61. There are a series of local projects that are being progressed to improve the Borough's walking and cycling network, including:

### **The Lewisham Spine/A21 Healthy Streets corridor**

5.62. Comprises a proposal for a 'Healthy Streets' corridor along a central spine running through the Borough, from Cycle Superhighway 4 (A200) to Bromley Road (A21), supporting better connections between the south of Borough and public transport provisions in the north.

5.63. The corridor will include Healthy Street improvements, cycle superhighway standard facilities, low emission bus zones, piazza-style public realm to create attractive environments for active travel, and support more multi-modal journeys. The proposals also include a major public realm improvement scheme at Deptford's Church Street.

### **Lewisham Town Centre**

5.64. Comprises transport schemes and opportunities identified in the Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan, to improve the streetscape environment, and provide better pedestrian and cycling routes and facilities to support a more connected town centre that encourages more walking and cycling activities and the use of public transport provisions in the area. Improved transport facilities are also seen as a key contributing factor to the attractiveness of the town centre for retail developments, and the elevation of the town centre's status to a Metropolitan Centre. A number of improvements to Lewisham Town Centre are being delivered through a £25 million grant allocated to the Council through the Levelling Up Fund. More than £8 million has been allocated to enhance the high street providing:

- New and improved pedestrian crossings
- More Trees and greening
- Improved entry routes for cyclists
- A new mobility hub for shared transport.

### **Catford Town Centre Masterplan**

5.65. Comprises transport schemes proposed in the emerging masterplan for Catford, including the realignment of the South Circular A205, and better pedestrian and cycling routes and facilities to create a healthier and greener street environment. The emerging masterplan also includes proposals for the replacement of the current gyratory with a new traffic junction and two-way traffic flow lanes around Plassy/ Catford Island.

### **Crofton Park Corridor**

5.66. Project that includes works to enhance road safety, air quality and public realm quality along the B218 corridor (Brockley Road, Stondon Park and Brockley Rise). The scheme includes proposals for the narrowing of roads and the widening of footways, raised table junctions to reduce vehicle speeds, and the provision of improved pedestrian crossings, planting of new street trees and other public realm improvements.

## **Safer Corridors and Neighbourhoods Healthy Neighbourhoods**

5.67. Lewisham by the Mayor of London in recognition of the efforts made via the AQAP towards tackling air pollution. This status has enabled the Council to bid for additional air quality funding from the GLA. Improving air quality and maintaining Cleaner Air Borough Status by achieving our AQAP actions is a critical priority for Lewisham.

### **Behaviour Change**

5.68. A programme to promote healthier lifestyles and active travel options in the borough. The 2024/25 programme includes cycle training initiatives for adults and children, support travel planning for schools, including activities with local communities to identify ways to encourage more walking and cycling, and to address any real or perceived barriers to the take-up of active travel in the Borough.

### **School Streets and Safer Routes to School programme**

5.69. School Streets have been delivered for 47 schools in the borough, aiming to tackle congestion, improve air quality at the school gates, make it easier to walk, scoot and cycle to school, and create a friendlier and calmer environment for everyone. There is continuing work to introduce these measures where possible for the remaining schools. There is also a further 'Safer Routes to School' programme, identifying opportunities to upgrade crossing points along routes to primary schools across the borough to encourage walking and cycling to and from school.

### **Cycling**

#### **Cycle Network Development**

5.70. A programme of local transport improvements to support and encourage cycling in the borough. The 2024/25 programme for Cycle Network Development includes the construction of a segregated cycle lane along Deptford Church Street between the A2 Deptford Broadway/Deptford Bridge and the A200 Creek Road; the replacement of the Waterlink Way timber footbridge in Catford along the C18; the introduction of contraflow lanes to one-way routes and upgrading of existing cycle routes to support better linkages and connections with greenspaces to complement TfL's Cycle Quietway and Cycle Superhighway programmes. All new or upgraded cycle routes will include Cycleways wayfinding, both in the form of surface markings and of signs, in line with TfL's Cycleways Signing Guidance. Such signs include journey times to destinations in minutes.

#### **Cycle Parking**

5.71. One of the largest barriers to cycling is people not having access to a secure storage area for a bicycle. Cycle hangars provide on-street secure storage for six bikes and take up less than half a parking space.

### **Micro-mobility**



5.72. There has been high demand for micro-mobility (e-bike and e-scooter hire schemes) in London in recent years. The rapid expansion of these schemes across the city has resulted in poor management of parking. To combat this, the Council is introducing a network of designated parking bays for e-bikes to support the expansion and operation of cycle hire schemes, whilst also managing the impact of obstructive and/or inconsiderate parking. There has been high usage of e-bikes since the Council began introducing micro-mobility bays and the growth is expected to continue with the phased expansion of bays across the Borough.

5.73. Officers have been meeting with TfL and London Councils regularly to discuss micro-mobility across London. The Council has submitted a signed statement of intent to join a pan-London contract to improve the operation and control of micro-mobility schemes.

### **Walking**

5.74. A programme of local transport improvements to provide a better walking environment. A key aspect of the programme is the improvement of pedestrian accessibility around rail stations and ensuring that access to public transport provisions is fully inclusive and accessible to all. The 2023/24 programme includes the resurfacing of streets and improvement of public realm environments. Fifteen new crossings and crossing upgrades have been delivered in the last 12 months and another thirty – five are currently in the design, development, or implementation stages.

### **Sustainable Streets**

5.75. Lewisham has low coverage of controlled parking and, with a number of Zone 2-3 stations, is susceptible to commuter parking. The Sustainable Streets programme seeks to deliver controlled parking zones alongside a range of sustainable transport measures, including EV charging points, cycle hangars, micro-mobility bays, car clubs, new/improved crossing points and greening.

## 6 Utility infrastructure

### Energy infrastructure

#### Policy context

6.1. London Plan Policy SI2 'Minimising greenhouse gas emission' sets out the requirements for London's boroughs to promote development that is net zero- carbon. To achieve this, the following energy hierarchy outlines how new development can reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

- Be lean: use less energy and manage demand during operation;
- Be clean: exploit local energy resources (such as secondary heat) and supply energy efficiently and cleanly;
- Be green: maximise opportunities for renewable energy by producing, storing, and using renewable energy on-site; and
- Be seen, monitor, verify and report on energy performance.

6.2. Measures to achieve this include:

- Major development proposals including a detailed energy strategy to demonstrate how the zero-carbon target will be met within the framework of the energy hierarchy;
- Achieving a minimum on-site reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of at least 35 percent beyond Building Regulations for major developments, 10 percent for other residential development, and 15 percent for non-residential development;
- Where the zero-carbon target cannot be fully achieved on-site, any shortfall is to be provided either through a cash in lieu contribution to the Borough's carbon offset fund, or off-site at an alternative scheme where achievable.

6.3. London Plan Policy SI3 'Energy Infrastructure' sets out the requirement for London's boroughs to work with relevant energy companies and bodies to establish the future energy infrastructure needs from development in their area, including new infrastructure and network upgrades required to service new growth. This includes the development of energy master plans for large-scale development locations and realising opportunities to utilise heat from energy from waste plants, low and ambient temperature heat networks, and identifying land requirements for electricity and gas supplies.

6.4. The Geospatial Commission is building a digital map of underground pipes and cables that will revolutionise the way we install, maintain, operate, and repair our buried infrastructure - the National Underground Asset Register

(NUAR). This information will improve the efficiency and safety of underground works by providing secure access to privately and publicly owned location data.

## **Electricity**

### **Background**

- 6.5. UK Power Networks (UKPN) is London's main Distribution Network Operator and is responsible for distributing electricity from National Grid's Grid Supply Points to homes and businesses. It maintains the electricity distribution network and is responsible for providing new connections onto the network as required to service new development.
- 6.6. UKPN is not regulated to carry out speculative upgrades of the network, and while it does monitor the strategic policies of the London Plan and local authorities' development plans, does not play an active role in planning policy. The primary function of UKPN within planning is to respond to requests from developers to connect, with developers meeting these costs and a relevant proportion of any reinforcement that is necessary.
- 6.7. National Grid - The National Grid is the system operator of Great Britain's electricity and gas supply. This includes England, Scotland, and Wales. It is the company that manages the network and distribution of electricity and gas that powers all homes and businesses. It has the responsibility for making sure electricity and gas are transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is needed.
- 6.8. Electricity transmission - Development of site(s) near National Grid assets are expected to have regards to National Grid policies. There is general expectation for developers to retain existing overhead lines in-situ, though it recognises that there may be exceptional circumstances that would justify the request where, for example, the proposal is of regional or national importance. National Grid's Guidelines for Development near pylons and high voltage overhead power lines promotes inclusive development. These guidelines demonstrate that a creative design approach can minimise the impact of overhead lines whilst promoting a quality environment.

### **Current situation**

- 6.9. There is currently a range of electrical energy infrastructure in the Borough, including:
  - Strategic and secondary electricity sub-stations, overhead power lines, and underground cable network
  - South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP) Energy from Waste Facility

6.10. UKPN are responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of the majority of the existing provision in relation to the distribution network. They directly manage any new requests for additional connections to the network that arise from new developments.

### Future requirement

6.11. A 2023 study for Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark Councils on network capacity identified that delivery of electrification of heating and transport would create significant additional demands on the existing electricity infrastructure. Without additional investment in mitigation measures, such as heat networks and building retrofit, peak demands increase by 130% from 646 MW in the base year (2021) to 1,488 MW by 2030 in the combined Lewisham, Lambeth, and Southwark subregion. Even with all available demand reduction and flexibility technologies peak demand grows by 72%. The total capital cost of primary substation reinforcement is estimated to be £643m for all substations serving the three boroughs and £340m for those serving Lewisham.

**Table 6.1. Network Capacity Reinforcement Costs and Savings by Primary Substation.**

Primary Sub station	Borough/s	2021 Base Case (MW)	2030 Peak, Base Case (MW)	Amount over 2021 firm capacity (%)	Reinforce ment Cost (£k) No flex measures (base case)	All flex measures + Deep Retrofit ("Max Impact")	Reinforce ment Cost (£k) All flex measures ("Max Impact")	Reinforce ment cost savings (£K)
Churchfields 11kV	Bromley, Lewisham	33.6	96	83%	£46,841	68.79	£26,550	£20,292
Deptford Grid 11kV	Greenwich, Lewisham Tower Hamlets	72.8	148	-1%	£58,692	112.78	£31,113	£27,579
Dermody Rd 11kV	Lewisham	24.7	66	90%	£30,938	48.71	£18,297	£12,641
Forest Hill 11kV	Lewisham Southwark	22.4	64	74%	£31,366	47.11	£18,836	£12,530
Sydenham Park 11kV	Bromley, Lambeth, Lewisham Southwark	38.9	102	84%	£49,159	75.13	£28,194	£ 20,966

Verney Rd 11kV	Lewisham Southwark	61.2	127	91%	£50,066	96.99	£27,275	£22,791
Winlaton Rd 11kV	Bromley, Lewisham	40.1	136	151%	£72,551	97.61	£43,382	£29,168
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>293.7</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>5.72</b>	<b>£339,613</b>	<b>547.12</b>	<b>£193,647</b>	<b>£145,967</b>

6.12. At the present time no strategic electricity infrastructure projects have been identified in Lewisham, however, projects will be required to accommodate future growth, and the electricity operator, UKPN, will be required to respond to individual requests for connections. As the statutory undertaker they are required to oversee the delivery and maintenance of the network and system of distribution. The identification process for developing new projects associated with electrical infrastructure will be led by the operator.

6.13. The necessary switch from fossil fuel gas to low carbon forms of heat are likely to result in an increase in the demands on the electricity grid. Some areas may require additional infrastructure such as sub-stations to increase the available capacity to serve the higher demand from heating.

## **Gas Background**

6.14. National Grid owns and operates the high-pressure gas transmission network in the UK. Major gas infrastructure assets, including gas distribution networks and facilities, are not located in the Borough. The role of National Grid is to maintain the gas distribution network and is responsible for providing new connections onto the network as required to service new development. Between 2001–2017 London’s gross gas usage across both domestic consumer and commercial/industrial markets has decreased by approximately 26%. This is a trend that is expected to continue, driven by improvements to technology resulting in higher efficiency, and a general shift away from individual gas boilers toward district heating.

6.15. High Pressure Gas Pipelines form an essential part of the national gas transmission system and National Grid’s approach is always to seek to leave the existing transmission pipelines in situ. There is expectation for developers to contact Health and Safety Executive (HSE) when site(s) are affected by High-Pressure Gas Pipelines. National Grid have land rights for each asset which prevents the erection of permanent/ temporary buildings, or structures, changes to existing ground levels, storage of materials. In addition, National Grid requires written permission before any work commerce within 12.2m building distance and a deed of consent is required for any crossing of the easement.

## **Current situation**

- 6.16. There is currently a large gas network in the Borough, and the industry is not expecting a general increase in gas demand. However, alongside the continuing programme of replacing old metal gas mains, local infrastructure improvements may be required to supply growth areas in the Borough.
- 6.17. SGN is legally obliged to develop and maintain an efficient and economical pipeline system and, subject to that, to comply with any reasonable request to connect to premises. In some instances, specific system reinforcement may be required to maintain system pressures for the winter period after connecting a new supply or based on demand. Dependent on scale, reinforcement projects may have significant planning, resource, and construction lead-times, however at the present time no infrastructure projects have been identified in Lewisham. Nevertheless, projects will be required to accommodate growth, and the gas operator will be required to respond to individual requests for connection.

## **Future requirement**

- 6.18. At the present time no strategic gas infrastructure projects have been identified in Lewisham. However, projects will be required to accommodate growth, and the gas operator will be required to respond to individual requests for connections. As the statutory undertaker SGN are required to oversee the delivery and maintenance of the gas distribution network. The identification process for developing new projects associated with gas infrastructure will be led by the operator.
- 6.19. The necessary switch away from fossil fuel gas heating could result in a gradual decommissioning of the local gas network.
- 6.20. Government funding programmes such as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF), Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS), and Home Upgrade Scheme (HUG) offer funding for deep retrofitting of homes and council-owned corporate buildings with low energy performance ratings. Programmes eligibility may also rely on income or vulnerability status of occupants and/or have variable contribution allowances based on tenancy or building use. These schemes will reduce reliance on gas heating, however, management of schemes at scale require resourcing and match-funding commitment and must be part of a mix of demand-side reduction schemes.

## **Local Energy Generation & Distribution**

### **Current situation**

- 6.21. The South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP) facility in South Bermondsey processes around 430,000 tonnes of waste from

Lewisham and other boroughs to generate electricity, which is fed back into the National Grid. However, due to various political and legislative constraints, the extraction of heat, in the form of hot water that is created as part of the energy generation process, has not been possible. More recently, concerns over climate change have led to a renewed interest in better utilising the capabilities of SELCHP to develop a local heat network to supply properties with heat and hot water. In 2014 the London Borough of Southwark partnered with the operator of SELCHP to create a 5km pipe network to supply approximately 2,500 properties in Southwark.

6.22. Secured through a planning agreement, in 2014 the Glass Mill Leisure Centre was opened in Lewisham Town Centre. This development houses a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) led energy centre serving the Loampit Vale network. This network supplies the leisure centre and several residential developments in the vicinity with power and/or heat.

6.23. An extension of the SELCHP Waste Heat network to Neptune's Wharf and Trundley Road, with potential future connections to the Convoys Wharf development, is underway. A change in the proposed route will require further planning permission and commercial negotiations are ongoing with developers along the proposed and future routes.

#### **Future requirement**

6.24. There are several scalable projects that Council is seeking to progress as opportunities arise, including:

- The development of a ~11GWhth low carbon energy network served by waste heat from a data centre supplying the Riverdale Shopping Centre site, the Gateway sites, and potentially connecting with the Loampit Vale network. A new data centre would be required, and two potential sites have been identified. The scheme is anticipated to cost approximately £14m.
- Connection of the Surrey Canal Triangle development to the SELCHP heat and hot water network; and
- Investigating the feasibility of developing a wider strategic network to supply heat to Lewisham Homes' sites from the SELCHP heat and hot water network, including expansion to the Pepys Estate and Convoys Wharf
- The development of a low carbon energy network in the Catford Town Centre area to serve the new development sites identified in the Catford Masterplan.

## Water infrastructure

### Policy infrastructure

6.25. London Plan Policy SI5 'Water Infrastructure' sets out the requirements for London's boroughs to promote improvements to water supply infrastructure to ensure security of supply. Other policy objectives include:

- Minimising the use of mains water in line with the Optional Requirement of the Building Regulations (Residential Development), and achieving water mains consumption of 105 litres or less per head per day;
- Incorporating measures such as smart metering, water saving and recycling measures, including retrofitting, to help to achieve lower water consumption rates and to maximise future-proofing;
- Promoting the protection and improvement of the water environment in line with the Thames River Basin Management Plan, taking account of Catchment Plans; and
- Supporting wastewater treatment infrastructure investment to accommodate London's growth and climate change impacts.

6.26. London Plan Policy SI12 'Flood risk management' sets out the requirements for London's boroughs to assess and manage flood risk from all sources in a sustainable and cost-effective way in collaboration with the Environment Agency, the Lead Local Flood Authorities, developers, and infrastructure providers. Where particular and cumulative flood risk issues exist, actions and policy approaches should be developed to reduce these risks, and where cross-boundary flood risk issues are identified, boroughs are required to co-operate and jointly address these issues. Further, development plans should contribute to the delivery of the measures set out in Thames Estuary 2100 Plan.

6.27. London Plan policy SI16 'Waterways' and SI17 'Protecting London's waterways' cover the use and enjoyment of waterways, as well as stating that Local Plans should protect and enhance waterway infrastructure to enable water-dependent uses including water-based recreation and sports, and to identify opportunities for increased local distinctiveness. This includes river restoration works.



## **Strategic water supply**

### **Background**

6.28. Thames Water operates the water and wastewater network in Lewisham and is responsible for the water and wastewater distribution network. In relation to wastewater infrastructure, London boroughs work with the relevant agencies and bodies to identify the wastewater infrastructure required to service expected demand in the local area. Local Plans should also safeguard strategic sites required to meet the current and future strategic infrastructure requirements, including tunnel alignments, as required by projects such as the Thames Tideway Tunnel Scheme.

### **Current situation**

6.29. There is a range of water and sewage infrastructure located in the Borough, including:

- Deptford Water Treatment Works;
- Trunk sewers and network of combined sewers;
- Water supply network; and
- Combined sewer overflow (CSO) and pumping station.

6.30. Thames Water is responsible for the maintenance and upgrading of this existing provision, and directly manages any new requests for additional connections to the network that arise from new development.

6.31. Thames Water published their improvement plan, which sets out how they intend to extend, improve, and maintain the network over the 25-year period from 2025. This has been published after considering responses received in relation to the draft DWMP published in June 2022.

### **Future requirement**

6.32. Thames Water has submitted plans for a new, larger pipe across Blackheath to link Lewisham Town Centre new developments to their infrastructure in Greenwich to fulfil increased demand from new development. Thames Water are proposing to commence construction in Spring 2024 at the earliest, with completion expected by Autumn 2025.

6.33. Paragraph 26 of the NPPF (2021) requires effective and on-going joint working on strategic matters, to determine whether additional infrastructure is required to support future growth. In line with the NPPF, Thames Water recommends early engagement with developers to establish the following:

- The developments demand for Sewage/Wastewater Treatment and network infrastructure both on and off site and can it be met; and

- The surface water drainage requirements and flood risk of the development both on and off site and can it be met.

6.34. Thames Water offers a free Pre-Application service to confirm whether capacity exists to serve the development or if upgrades are required for potable water, wastewater, and surface water requirements.

## **Wastewater infrastructure**

### **Current situation**

6.35. The northern part of the Borough is served by two 'Low Level' trunk sewers which flow eastwards through Deptford to Thames Water's pumping station in Greenwich. Greenwich Sewage Pumping Station lifts flows into the Southern Outfall Sewer which continues easterly to Crossness Sewage Treatment Works (STW) in London Borough of Bexley. The southern part of the Borough is served by the 'High Level No.1' trunk sewer which flows eastwards through Lewisham and then north easterly towards Crossness Sewerage Treatment Works.

6.36. The Thames Tideway Tunnel project is currently under construction in parts of Lewisham. This project consists of a scheme to reduce and limit pollution of the Rivers Thames and Lee from the Beckton and Crossness sewerage system. It involves the construction of a storage and transfer wastewater tunnel from West London to Beckton in East London and the interception of a number of combined sewer overflows along the River Thames. In Lewisham, the project involves connecting existing combined sewer overflow at the Earl Pumping Station in New Cross to the new main tunnel, and ventilation infrastructure at a site on Church Street in Deptford.

### **Future requirement**

6.37. Thames Water recognise the need to upgrade wastewater infrastructure in Lewisham, aside from completing the Thames Tideway Tunnel project. Thames Water will also be required to review on an ongoing basis the need for network improvements. The identification process for developing new projects associated with water infrastructure will be led by the operator. The Water Resources Planning Guidance (2021) requires water companies in England or Wales to prepare and maintain a water resources management plan (WRMP) at least every five years subject to annual review. The plan is required to forecast the supply and demand of water over at least the statutory minimum period of 25 years. There is also a need for more Sustainable Urban Drainage Solutions, permeable surfaces, nature-based solutions, and green infrastructure to mitigate the surface water runoff. The combination of inadequate sewage water infrastructure with the increased surface water runoff is a cause of pollution to waterways.

6.38. Thames Water has identified the need to upgrade Crossness STWs to meet the requirements of increasing population growth. A planned upgrade project will provide additional capacity up to a design horizon of 2026. The scope will include enhancements to ensure the site can robustly meet all aspects of the consent, accommodate additional growth, and integrate with the London Tideway Tunnel.

6.39. The Council will continue to work with Thames Water to ensure that adequate provision of sewerage/wastewater treatment and water supply infrastructure are provided to support the growth across the Borough.

## **Flood risk management and Waterways**

### **Policy context**

6.40. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 designates local planning authorities are also the lead local flood authority for the area. The Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, is responsible for leading in managing local flood risks from surface water, groundwater and ordinary (smaller) watercourses.

6.41. The NPPF (2021) and accompanying Technical Guidance emphasise the responsibility of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to ensure that flood risk is understood and managed effectively using a risk-based approach throughout all stages of the planning process. As such, London Borough of Lewisham has carried out Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) to support the preparation of the plan and decisions on planning applications and has a Flood Risk Management Strategy published in 2022. The latest evidence base documents include the Level 1 SFRA (2018) and Level 2 (2020). The SFRA and local plan policies will be regularly reviewed to ensure that the needed flood defence infrastructure required to support the proposed growth are adequately provided for throughout the plan period.

6.42. The London Plan Policy SI12 'Flood risk management' requires London boroughs to identify areas where particular and cumulative flood risk issues exist, and to develop actions and policy approaches aimed at reducing these risks. Boroughs should also employ natural flood management methods in development proposals due to their multiple benefits, including increasing flood storage, creating recreational areas, and habitat.

### **Background**

6.43. Significant parts of the Borough are located within areas that are at risk of various sources of flooding. Lewisham is located in the Ravensbourne Catchment, and as a result much of the Borough is at risk of fluvial flooding from the River Ravensbourne and its main tributaries, the Pool River and River Quaggy. North of Deptford Bridge, the Ravensbourne merges with the tidal Deptford Creek, which creates additional risk in the north of the

Borough for tidal flooding from both Deptford Creek and the River Thames. in the north of the Borough, despite tidal defences along the River Thames being in place.

6.44. Addressing the impact of surface water flooding will become of increasing importance as Lewisham's population grows. While historically surface water flooding was the result of saturated soil and insufficient drainage capacity, the accelerating impacts of climate change and the increase in non-permeable surfaces in a denser built environment will likely exacerbate the effects of surface water flooding in the Borough.

6.45. Groundwater flooding, which occurs when the water table reaches the surface, is not presently identified as an area of significant concern for Lewisham.

6.46. The Borough also has a mix of separate and combined sewer systems. Sewer flooding arises when surface water enters the system via misconnection, or where the capacity of the sewer system is exceeded. This can result in contaminated water being discharged at the surface or into other adjoining water catchments. Sewer flooding has been previously recorded in the Lewisham, with particular issues recorded in Catford South and Hither Green.

6.47. There are a number of formal flood defences built to reduce flood risk from Main River (under the Environment Agency's jurisdiction) within the Borough including:

- Flood walls along The River Thames;
- Flood walls along The River Ravensbourne and the River Quaggy;
- Embankments along the River Quaggy and the River Ravensbourne;
- and
- High ground/bunds following most of the Ravensbourne River and the River Pool.

6.48. A number of informal flood defences also exist in the form of wharfs, embankments and walls built for other purposes, but have a positive impact in reducing flood risk. These defences include:

- Wharfs along Deptford Creek;
- Embankments at Deptford Environmental Centre;
- Walls in several buildings and structures along Deptford Creek;
- Rail Embankments in Lewisham Town Centre; and
- Rail Embankments near Grove Park Cemetery and Sundridge Park.

## **Current situation**

- 6.49. As part of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)'s Surface Water Management Action Plan (July 2018), the Council has successfully secured a grant to develop more detailed local surface water modelling in the Honor Oak and Sydenham study area. This modelling and mapping work will allow the inclusion of more detailed local surface water mapping information on the national Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW) map, which showing surface water flood risk. The improved map will ensure that homes and businesses can make informed decisions about flood risk in the longer term. This modelling is completed, and the results have been fed back to the EA who have included them in their update to the national surface water flood model, which is now publicly available.
- 6.50. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, the Council is a statutory consultee for major developments of 10 dwellings or more. In this role, the Council works actively to ensure that effective Sustainable Drainage Systems are integrated into new development in accordance with London Plan and local development management policies.
- 6.51. A modelling and feasibility studies are being undertaken for the Honor Oak Lower Catchment Flood Alleviation Study before an Outline Business Case is produced. A preferred option to reduce surface water flood risk for Verdant Lane is also being assessed. A feasibility study for the candidate scheme is being assessed before an Outline Business Case is produced.

## **Future requirement**

- 6.52. The Council continues to work with the Environment Agency, Thames Water, Thames21, Transport for London and neighbouring authorities through the South East London Local Flood Risk Partnership (constituting the London Boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, and Lewisham, and the Royal Borough of Greenwich) to investigate and implement flood reduction measures across south-east London. Measures include the development and monitoring of Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans, the Thames River Basin Management Plan, Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan, and the Ravensbourne Catchment Plan. The Council will continue to work agencies, partners, and community groups to participate in retaining and improving the management of existing waterside habitats and features within river corridors.
- 6.53. The Council will also continue to explore alternative sources of funding, such as the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Grant-in-Aid Funding programme, to enable the undertaking of feasibility studies to identify viable interventions that can reduce flood risk in the Borough. Government's grants provided are bid-based capital grants that can only be

provided in line with the partnership-funding rules under the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. The Environment Agency uses Partnership Funding scores to help prioritise projects. The council is currently developing a pipeline of projects that would be eligible for grant funding in the current 2015 to 2021 FCERM investment programme, and the next beyond 2021.

6.54. As part of this process, the Council is working jointly with the Environment Agency to develop a project mandate to investigate the feasibility of reducing flood risk at Chinbrook Meadows, and an asset management strategy for the River Ravensbourne. Council is also seeking to undertake further studies to investigate flooding mechanisms at several identified local flood hotspots, including:

- Carholme Road, Perry Vale Ward;
- Bankhurst Road, Crofton Park Ward;
- Avignon Road, Telegraph Hill Ward;
- Ivy Road, Ladywell Ward;
- Heath Lane, Blackheath Ward;
- Lewisham Road, Lewisham Ward
- Loampit Vale, Lewisham Central Ward
- Verdant Lane, Lewisham Central Ward
- Brockley Cross, Brockley Ward
- Woolstone Road, Perry Vale Ward.

6.55. The Council is also seeking opportunities to work with third sector organisations, local community groups, government agencies and developers to utilise the Ravensbourne River Corridor Improvement Plan to encourage the incorporation of restoration projects into new developments that are adjacent to identified river corridors. Works may include the re-naturalisation of river culverts, restoring natural floodplains into new development schemes, and improving woodland management to manage runoff and reduce flood risk.

6.56. Many of the formal flood defences referenced in 6.2.16 were constructed in the 1970s and are likely to need significant intervention or replacement within, or shortly following, the plan period. The Council will work with landowners, in consultation with the Environment Agency and other stakeholders, to plan, fund and implement flood defence improvements which align with the broader aspirations to improve the river corridor

6.57. The Council will also investigate opportunities to retrofit sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to reduce surface water runoff rates and volumes, promote infiltration and contribute to a reduction in fluvial flood risk from the

ordinary watercourses and main river systems. In particular, it will seek opportunities to install retrofit systems in conjunction with other functions and services which it provides, including:

- regeneration projects, traffic calming and footway schemes: through enhancements to public spaces and highway verges and changes to raised planted areas (e.g. installation of permeable paving and introduction of rain gardens);
- refurbishment of large estates;
- school projects (installation of measures in extensive external space and hard standing areas, providing additional education benefit; and
- park and open spaces improvement projects.

6.58. The EA has completed a comprehensive programme of study (Thames Estuary 2100 Plan) that establishes the best approaches to manage flood risk in the estuary, taking into consideration various climate change scenarios. In Lewisham the study indicates that further action is required, including an increase in the level of flood.

## **Waste infrastructure**

### **Policy context**

6.59. London Plan Policy SI7 'Reducing waste and supporting the circular economy' and SI8 'Waste capacity and net waste self-sufficiency' set out the requirement for London's boroughs to identify waste management facilities, allocate sufficient land in their Local Plans to meet the waste apportionments set out in the London Plan, and promote a circular economy and reduce overall levels of waste.

6.60. The Council, as a member of the South East London Joint Waste Planning Group, is committed to addressing the requirements of the London Plan, policies 5.16 and 5.17 in line with national policy for waste management (set out in the National Planning Policy for Waste, October 2014) and National Planning Policy Guidance set out online. The Waste Planning Group was originally formed by five London unitary waste planning authorities working together to identify and meet sub-regional requirements for waste management facilities. The initial group consisted of the London boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Lewisham, Greenwich, and Southwark. The City of London subsequently joined the group, with Bexley taking responsibility for their apportionment.

## Current provision

- 6.61. A key strategic focus within Lewisham is to deal with waste in the most sustainable way by moving waste management up the waste hierarchy by prioritising waste reduction followed by re-use, recycle and composting.
- 6.62. There are three strategic waste management sites with facilities that are currently in operation in the Borough: a waste transfer site, a Reuse and Recycling facility, and the South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP) plant, which are all located in South Bermondsey. These sites have been identified and safeguarded in the Site Allocations Local Plan 2014 to meet the Borough-level waste apportionment set out in the London Plan. The draft Lewisham Local Plan provides for their continued safeguarding. In addition, there are several sites within the Borough with waste management permits from the Environment Agency.
- 6.63. Residual waste is taken to the SELCHP for incineration, and bulky waste is taken to the waste transfer site for sorting within the Borough. Dry recycled waste is currently taken to Bow, East London. Food waste and garden waste are taken to Dagenham where food waste is disposed via anaerobic digestion and garden waste sent for composting.
- 6.64. During 2021/22, Lewisham collected a total of 113,601 tonnes of waste, a reduction of 4,052 tonnes compared to 2018/2019. Of which 92,184 tonnes was household waste. 0 tonnes to landfill and a total of 80958.94 tonnes was incinerated. A total of 25888 tonnes was sent for recycling/composting or reuse.
- 6.65. The waste collection service collects from approximately 134,000 households within the Borough for recycling and residual waste, with approximately 80,000 households receiving a collection for food waste. The next phase of the food waste collection service is due to start summer 2022, concentrating on estates.
- 6.66. London's boroughs are required to demonstrate that they have allocated sufficient land for strategic waste management facilities to meet the apportionment requirement identified for their sub-region. The Southeast London Joint Waste Planning Group prepared a Joint Waste Technical Paper, which calculates current capacities against the current London Plan apportionment target.
- 6.67. Table 6.2 below is extracted from the latest version of the Joint Waste Technical Paper (to support Bexley Local Plan submission, April 2022). which demonstrates the southeast London boroughs can demonstrate they have sufficient capacity to meet London Plan pooled apportionment. The table sets out, at 2021 and 2041, the combined capacity of safeguarded



operational strategic waste management facilities within the SELJWPG area as well as the consented capacity of non-operational facilities or theoretical capacity of sites that have been safeguarded for waste uses. This capacity is then compared to the combined waste apportionment requirements of the SELJWPG boroughs, in 2021 and 2041 respectively, set in the London Plan. The result is a surplus in capacity from operational facilities of 17% in 2021 and 14% in 2041. In addition, recently consented new facilities at Belvedere coming online by 2024 will bring the operational capacity to 158% of the London Plan waste apportionment requirements (at 2041) in the SELJWPG area.

Waste planning authority capacity figures (tonnes per annum)	2021	2041
Combined London Plan apportionment requirements for the SELJWPG area	1,593,000	1,692,000
Combined relevant capacity from safeguarded strategic operational sites	1,868,186	1,936,382
Projected surplus capacity from operational sites	275,186	244,382
BX05 - Energy from Waste facility at Belvedere (consented additional waste treatment capacity programmed to be operational by 2024)	0	745,000
BX08 - Safeguarded waste site at LB Bexley's Thames Road Depot	0	173,600
Projected surplus capacity from all sites (including non-operational sites)	275,186	1,162,982

**Table 6.4 Pooled capacity of each Waste Planning Group member. Capacity from operational facilities and other safeguarded sites measured against apportionment requirements** Source: Southeast London Joint Waste Planning Group (SELJWPG).

6.68. The Joint Waste Technical Paper is periodically updated, and forms part of the Local Plan evidence base for the constituent boroughs.

#### **Future requirement**

6.69. In terms of the Council's obligations toward meeting the pooled waste apportionment requirement set out in the London Plan, Lewisham has sufficient infrastructure capacity to meet its waste needs of the Borough to 2040.

6.70. There are, however, emerging changes in the market that is resulting in higher standards being imposed on the quality of waste that will be accepted

by downstream waste re-processers. In recent years, there has been an increase in pre-processers rejecting lower quality material (such as spoiled or comingled waste), placing pressure on existing Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) that will accept co- mingled waste, and have capacity. Changes in legislation may also introduce new requirements for how waste is sorted and managed. Lewisham does not currently have a waste transfer site to allow for the sorting of waste to improve the quality of waste sent to MRFs.

6.71. As a result, over the period of the Local Plan there could be a future need for Council to consider providing a new Waste Transfer Site (WTS) within the Borough. The WTS would allow for sorting of waste materials and an improved quality of waste material that then can be more easily transferred for re-processing. While the WTS would not be needed to help achieve the apportionment targets, it would assist in achieving the waste targets in place for local authorities in the Environment Strategy.

6.72. The Council has agreed that by 2030 the vehicle fleet will be zero emissions – this will include all of the heavy goods vehicles currently engaged in waste collection activities. Prior to 2030 the collection vehicle fleet will require a phased replacement programme as the vehicles reach the end of their economical and operational life. The current move away from diesel collection vehicles towards electric vehicles means consideration will need to be given to the additional facilities required within Wearside Depot to enable electrification infrastructure and power needed for the collection fleet of around 50 vehicles including HGV's. From a fleet and services perspective, there is concern about the future use of Wearside Depot during the proposed Bakerloo Line extension works that may commence. Dependent on when the site is needed a replacement Depot needs to be found with the ability to manage an electrification programme as replacement fleet vehicles are purchased and put onto the collection service. Street Environment Services are currently working on a project to establish the power and infrastructure required to operate 8 electric food waste collection vehicles, to enable several strategic waste objectives to be met. The project will also require additional funding Finding a replacement for Wearside within Lewisham will no doubt be difficult, but an option may be smaller sites that are strategically placed within proximity of neighbouring boroughs for example. Any site will need to meet the legal requirements and permits for an operating centre and the infrastructure required for an electrified collection fleet, but this is dependent on timescales for the takeover of Wearside and the return at some point in the future. The household waste and recycling centre (HWRC) at Landmann Way is a strategic depot and should be considered as a key asset in the vehicle electrification project. As it is near the SELCHP plant and power could be drawn to power vehicles parked in the Landmann way site. The HWRC

function would need to be relocated elsewhere to enable the site to be used for vehicle parking. For information Veolia and Westminster City Council have leased railway arches adjacent to SELCHP and the WCC electric vehicle fleet now operate from Lewisham with power taken from SELCHP.

## Digital infrastructure

### Policy context

6.73. In the current international and national policy context, the provision and enhancement of digital infrastructure is ultimately the responsibility of the commercial market, with public sector bodies restricted in their ability to intervene and influence where and when the market invests in new capacity. There are also specific provisions within EU state aid legislation that provide guidance for member states to provide financial incentives to support the rapid deployment of broadband networks.

6.74. Paragraph 112 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that local authorities “should support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections.”

6.75. London Plan Policy SI6 ‘Digital connectivity infrastructure’ directs local authorities to work with the Mayor and other partners and bodies to improve digital connectivity in their area, including in identifying gaps in connectivity and promoting better digital connectivity. To ensure London’s global competitiveness now and in the future, local authorities should ensure that sufficient ducting space for full fibre connectivity infrastructure is provided to all end users within new developments, unless an affordable alternative 1GB/s-capable connection is made available to all end users;

- Meet expected demand for mobile connectivity generated by the development;
- Take appropriate measures to avoid reducing mobile connectivity in surrounding areas; where that is not possible, any potential reduction would require mitigation;
- Support the effective use of rooftops and the public realm (such as tree furniture and bins) to accommodate well-designed a suitably located mobile digital infrastructure.

6.76. London Plan Policy SI6 also expects that local authorities adopt Development Plans that support the delivery of full-fibre or equivalent digital

infrastructure, with a particular focus on areas with gaps in connectivity and barriers to digital access.

## Background

6.77. In 2018, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) published the Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review (FTIR), which outlined government targets for the availability of full fibre and 5G networks. These include:

- 15 million premises connected to full fibre by 2025
- Full fibre coverage across all parts of the country by 2033.
- Most of the population to have 5G coverage by 2027.

6.78. Achieving these targets will require the national roll out of gigabit-capable networks at pace, and significant investment in 5G infrastructure and services. The FTIR was set up to identify the market and policy conditions that could help secure this investment.

6.79. In 2018, Lewisham Homes supported by London Borough of Lewisham, commissioned a report from Regional Network Solutions: Development of a Social and Economic Digital Strategy. This made several recommendations as to how council assets and infrastructure might be leveraged to accelerate the pace of Digital Infrastructure roll out in the Borough.

## Current provision

6.80. According to Summer 2019 broadband connectivity data prepared by the Office of Communications (Ofcom), Lewisham currently provides a high level of broadband provision, though it is approximately 6 per cent below the London average for ultra- fast broadband availability (fibre to the cabinet – FTTC technology). Critically, sections of the Borough – particularly in the north and between Forest Hill and Brockley – are unable to access 30Mbps services, which may impact the ability of businesses in the creative industries to operate to their full potential.

Broadband connection type	Lewisham	London average
Super Fast (Fibre optic >30Mbps)	96.5%	95.59%
Ultra Fast (Fibre option >100Mbps)	67.9%	74.3%
Full fibre (Fibre to the premises – FTTP)	13.3%	10.68%
>1,000Mbps)		

**Table 6.5 Broadband connection by type in Lewisham.** Source: Ofcom (2019), *Connected Nations Update: Summer 2019*.

- 6.81. Most people and businesses do not require the high bandwidths offered by full fibre, and “superfast” speeds which can be delivered over a hybrid fibre/copper solution are adequate. Lewisham currently enjoys superfast penetration of 96.5%. This compares to a London average of 95.59%
- 6.82. At the end of 2018, Deptford / New Cross was named as one of six Creative Enterprise Zones (CEZ) by the Mayor of London, with a funding grant provided to support the growth of the creative industry sector in the area. Key to the success of the CEZ will be to retain creative talent from local educational institutions such as Goldsmiths and Trinity Laban, provide pathways for local community groups to access affordable and high-quality workspace, and support creative businesses to connect and collaborate. Access to gigabit full fibre broadband will be an important asset to support the CEZ, however currently there are gaps in coverage, including properties that cannot access standard superfast (>30Mbps) connections.
- 6.83. There are also parts of the Borough’s social housing stock that suffer from poor and unreliable broadband connectivity. To help resolve this, Lewisham Council has signed fibre wayleave agreements with two connectivity partners, Hyperoptic and Community Fibre. As of September 2024, just under 3000 social housing units have been connected to Community Fibre’s network, with just under 6000 social housing units connected to Hyperoptic’s network. We continue discussions with other operators to expand choice and competition.
- 6.84. The 5G mobile technology has been rolled out across the Borough, seeing extremely high frequencies across the network.
- 6.85. Through estate regeneration, there is an opportunity to address the lack of broadband infrastructure in some of Council’s social housing stock by ensuring all properties are provided with full fibre connections during construction. As a broader objective, The Council is currently developing a digital connectivity strategy that will provide a series of recommendations as to what role the Council can play in providing greater access to full fibre technology across the Borough.
- 6.86. In the interim, the Council will continue to work with developers across the sector to ensure that broadband connectivity provision is adequate to service the needs of residents. The Council will also work with private market operators to upgrade existing networks to allow for Lewisham residents to take advantage of new technology as it becomes available.
- 6.87. To help increase the coverage and capacity of mobile signal in the borough, Lewisham has signed small cell contracts to install 4G/5G equipment in our street assets. Currently there are three mobile connectivity partners who

have deployed to approximately 100 locations in Lewisham: BT Openreach, Ontix and BAI Communications.

## Appendix A - Infrastructure Projects by service area with Indicative Costs assigned (Planned)

### 1. Education

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Additional ASD provision (all-age)	Existing Drumbeat sites?	Further expansion of Drumbeat School or additional provision to meet need	Lewisham Council	2020-2035	£10m	High Needs Capital Allocation. School Condition Allocation. CIL. Disposals	Increased numbers of children needing SEN provision	3
Reprovision of Secondary Alternative Provision	TBC	Consolidation and making fit for purpose the secondary alternative provision (Abbey Manor College)	Lewisham Council	2025-2030	£15m	High Needs Capital Allocation. Mixed use receipts. Disposals. CIL	Changing demographics in the borough	3
Additional SEMH/ASD school	TBC	New provision required to meet SEMH/ASD need	Lewisham Council	2025-2030	£15m	High Needs Capital Allocation. CIL. Disposals	Increased numbers of children needing SEN provision	3
Additional SEN Resource Bases	TBC – as feasible on existing mainstream school sites	Resource Bases to provide for lower levels of SEN where being in a mainstream school is more suitable	Lewisham Council	2020-2035	£250k	High Needs Capital Allocation. CIL. School Condition Allocation	Increased numbers of children needing SEN provision	3
Additional SEN Units	TBC	Units operate like mini special schools and can be the bridge between mainstream resource bases and special schools, providing a more nurturing (smaller) environment	Lewisham Council	2020-2035	£250k	High Needs Capital Allocation. CIL. School Condition Allocation	Increased numbers of children needing SEN provision	3
				Total indicative costs	£40.5m			

### 2. Healthcare

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Expansion of capacity within the Primary Care Network capacity to meet needs of increased population	North Lewisham PCN - Waldron Health Centre – and other practices within the network	Reconfiguration & refurbishment including increased capacity to meet increased demand	ICB/CHP	2025–2030	£100k	CDEL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's North Area –	2

							Specifically at New Cross and Deptford	
To bring up to modern standards, increase capacity for integrated services (now no longer a minor internal improvement now it will be an extension)	Lewisham Alliance - Burnt Ash Surgery / Nightingale Surgery, Lee Health Centre	Reconfiguration & refurbishment	LGT	2025–2030	£1.5m - £2m	CDEL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's East Area – specifically at Hither Green and Lee Green.	2
Improve and expand provision within LCP PCN	Lewisham Care Partnership - LCP PCN	Expansion of primary care facilities to meet recent and ongoing growth	ICB	2025–2040	£10-£15m	CDEL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	3
Delivery and expansion of an Integrated Healthcare Service via the Lewisham Care Partnership PCN	Lewisham Care Partnership - Honor Oak Group Practice	Redevelopment of existing premises/building to provide a new community health centre	NHS/ICB	2025–2035	£1.2m	CDEL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's West Area – specifically at Crofton Park, Forest Hill and Honor Oak.	2
Site reconfigured to improve integration of services and increase capacity.  *The reason for an increased indicative cost for this project is due to a need to identify an alternative site due to a displaced GP practice at Marvels Lane	Sevenfields PCN - The Downham Clinic / ICO Health Group (Moorside Clinic)	Proposed healthy places project 22/23. ICB recently undertook feasibility study for site reconfiguration	ICB	2025–2035	£2m	CDEL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's South Area – specifically Downham.	2



Provision of adult mental health crisis centre	5 Heather Close, Catford, SE13 6UG	Redevelopment of existing building into an adult crisis house to develop new models of mental health care in the community	SLAM	2025–2030	£1.5m	SLAM, CEDL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's Central and East Areas – specifically Catford and Hither Green	3
Urgent works to improve 6 wards and outpatients for Lewisham Mental Health	SLAM Ladywell Unit (existing) Lewisham Hospital site	Urgent maintenance	SLAM	2025–2030	£3.8m	SLAM, NHS England, CDEL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	3
Replacement of existing Ladywell Unit (mental health wards and outpatients)	UHL site	New build of modern, fit-for-purpose mental health facilities	SLAM	2030–2040	£90m - £100m	SLAM, NHS England, CDEL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	2
SLAM - Community Mental Health provision increase adults/perinatal team/outpatients/ café	Co-location with new build Ladywell Unit	Options appraisal part of the new build Ladywell Unit	SLAM	2025–2035	£10m	SLAM, NHS England, CDEL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	2
Review of utilization and reconfiguration to increase capacity for children and young people's services across community mental health	Kaleidoscope Children's Centre, Rushey Green	Reconfiguration to allow greater capacity across a wide range of children and young people's services	LGT/SLAM/LBL	2025–2030	£6m	CDEL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	2
Reconfiguration and expansion of existing buildings to increase A&E and urgent care capacity and enable new modern service delivery	Lewisham Hospital	Refurbishment/extension of A&E facilities	LGT	2025–2030	£20m	NHS England, CDEL, s106 CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	3

Provision of new health facility to meet the needs of an expanding and changing population for primary and community services.  *This provision is only required if planning permission is not granted for the Lee Green Health Centre.	Lee Green	Dedicated healthcare provision will sit within the new development	ICB/LBL	2025–2035	£7.5 - £15m	NHS England, CDEL, s106, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	1
				Total indicative costs	£153.6m - £176.6m			

### 3. Library facilities, Theatre facilities, Archives and Local History

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Redevelopment of the Lewisham Library site	199 -201 Lewisham High Street, SE13 6LG.	The Levelling up Fund project is underway, and Lewisham Library is now closed for refurbishment. The renovation will see the development of a improved library and community space, archive floor and reading room, ground floor café as well as a business hub. Lewisham Library will reopen as the Culture and Business Hub after the works are completed in 2026	LB Lewisham	2025-30	£7.5 m	LUF grant, sale of Library Resource Centre & General Fund capital monies.	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	3
Undertake the programme of works at Sydenham Library to return the building and M&E Elements to	210 Sydenham Rd, London SE26 5SE	The building is suffering from a lack of investment in terms of repairs and maintenance which has led to the deterioration of the roof, timber windows and internal decoration. Works would also include upgrades to key M&E	LB Lewisham and V22	2025 - 2035	£1.18 m	NCIL or Section 106/Potential grants and fundraising together with the community library provider	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's South Area – specifically Sydenham.	2

a suitable condition		elements to bring them up to current day standards.						
LED Lighting, Dishwashers and glass wear to improve environmental sustainability and futureproof the technical viability of the venue	The Broadway Theatre, Rushey Green, London SE6 4RU	Replace entire tungsten lamp stock with LED's and also upgrade lighting desk to be able to operate new lights. Purchase and install catering grade dishwashers and glass wear for the bars	LB Lewisham	2025-2030	£360k	Fundraising, Section 106, CIL	This would increase the income generated by the venue to contribute to the overall running costs. It would also save significant costs in energy consumption for the venue	2
Replacement of stalls and raised stall seating	The Broadway Theatre, Rushey Green, London SE6 4RU	Full replacement of the stalls and raised stalls seating	LB Lewisham	2025-2030	£350k	Fundraising and CIL	This would increase the income generated by the venue	2
				Total Indicative Costs	£9.4m			

#### 4. Sports and Recreational facilities

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
3G artificial grass pitches	Whitefoot Lane & TBC	Installation of two full-sized 3G artificial grass pitches with floodlighting for community use.	LB Lewisham, Sport England	2025 - 2030	£1m	Football Foundation, London Marathon Charitable Trust	Existing development	2
Athletics Track Re-surfacing	Ladywell Arena	To re-surface the existing track to support competitive sport and club growth	LB Lewisham, London Marathon Charitable trust	2025-2030	£250,000	England Athletics, LB Lewisham	Existing development	2
BMS Upgrade	Wavelengths Leisure Centre	Upgrade to a more efficient building management system to replace current decommissioned on	LB Lewisham, Leisure contractor	2025-2030	£60,000	LB Lewisham	Existing development	2
MUGA / Basketball court upgrade	Hilly Fields	To upgrade the current tennis and basketball courts in place to provide enhanced community facilities	LB Lewisham	2025-2030	£200,000	LB Lewisham	Existing development	2
				Total Indicative Costs	£1.51m			

## 5. Youth and Community Facilities

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Youth Clubs	Various	Maintenance works to maintain buildings for ongoing usage	LB Lewisham, Provider	2020-2030	£300k	S106 and CIL	Improvements to services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	2
Riverside Youth Club	Evelyn	In addition to ongoing maintenance, our current provider is working in partnership with the Council to secure funding to develop Riverside site and re-provide a new youth club on-site	LB Lewisham, Provider	2020-2030	£1m	LB Lewisham, Football Foundation, S106, Youth First Public Donations	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's North Area – specifically at Deptford	2
Youth APGs	Various	Adventure playgrounds have a shorter lifespan than our youth clubs. Condition surveys have not been carried out, but if this provision is to remain in the Borough, they will need significant work in the next ten years	LB Lewisham, Provider	2025-2030	£1m	S106, CIL	Improvements to services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	2
Children & Family Centres	Various	Maintenance works to maintain buildings for ongoing usage.	LB Lewisham, Provider	2020-2030	£250k	S106, CIL	Improvements to services will support growth across Lewisham's entire Borough area.	2
				Total Indicative Costs	£2.55m			

## 6. Green Infrastructure

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Investment in parks, pocket parks, and small open spaces	Various	Target and deliver investment to parks, pocket parks, and small open spaces that have been classified in the Open Space Assessment (2019) as being in 'poor' or 'fair' condition.	LB Lewisham	2020-2030	£2.75m	S106, CIL, external funding	Park improvements will improve livability for residents and encourage development in an area.	2
Deliver 'Greening Fund' projects	Various	Work in partnership with park user 'friends' groups, Local Assemblies, Neighbourhood Forums, the Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership and Allotment Committees to deliver the 'Greening Fund' and other grants and initiatives to provide additional facilities and make improvements to parks and open spaces	LB Lewisham, Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership, Friends groups	2020-2030	£2.75m	S106, CIL, external funding	Park improvements will improve livability for residents and encourage development in an area.	2
Naturalisation of waterways and water quality improvements	Ravensbourne, Pool and Quaggy Rivers	Work in partnership with Thames21 and the Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Group to identify projects that will enhance the biological quality of the rivers and river corridors and create river bank units for Biodiversity Net Gain.	LB Lewisham, Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership, Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Group, T21	2020-2040	£1- 10m	GLA funding, S106, CIL, RFCC, BNG	River naturalization will reduce flood risk in the Ravensbourne Catchment and increased access to rivers improves the livability of the area. Selling river units created as part of the BNG process will allow further river improvements in the Borough.	2
Railway Children urban national park	Grove Park	Linear connection of green infrastructure complemented with community facilities and public realm enhancements	LB Lewisham, Network Rail, Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum, Phoenix Housing	2020-2040	£1-10m	GLA, S106, RFCC,	Delivery of the urban national park will improve livability and provide better transport links in the Grove Park area	2

Allotment amenity improvements	Various	Investment in existing allotment sites to improve access and amenity to users, including safety and security of allotment boundaries; composting toilets; pathway resurfacing; upgrading or installation of water systems.	LB Lewisham	2020-2030	£100,000	S106, CIL	Allotment improvements will improve livability for residents and encourage development in an area.	2
Sydenham Wells Park Improvements	Sydenham Wells Park	Seek to alleviate the impact of flood issues within the key play area of the park. To work in partnership with colleagues, park stakeholders and contractors to explore funding opportunities and appropriate landscape designs to negate flood impact.	LB Lewisham, Froglife	2020-2030	£300k-£500k	HLF, flood alleviation sources	Improvements will reduce flood risk in the area and make it more livable.	2
Bridgehouse Meadows, redevelopment of Millwall	Bridgehouse Meadows	Providing more park features and infrastructure and integrating better the N and S part of the park as part of the Millwall redevelopment and new train station at Bridgehouse Meadows	LB Lewisham	2025-2035	£1m-£2m	S106	Park improvements will improve livability for residents and encourage development in an area.	2
				Total Indicative Costs	£8.9m - £28.1m			

## 7. Transport

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Catford Gyrotory Removal	Catford	Rerouting the South Circular Road to provide more pedestrian space and improvements to transport infrastructure	TfL, LB Lewisham	2025-2030	£60m	TfL, LB Lewisham, HIF Funding	vital part of the council's ambition to make Catford the greenest town centre in London, as well as supporting our wider vision for regeneration in Catford	3
Surrey Canal Triangle Station	Bermondsey / Surrey Canal Triangle	A new London Overground station to be brought forward through the regeneration scheme of Surrey Canal Triangle.	TfL, Network Rail, Department for Transport	2025-2030	£30m	TfL, Network Rail, Department for Transport, CIL	Increased number of homes and specifically affordable homes in the Borough	3

Lewisham Healthy Streets	Various	Lewisham Borough response to the London Mayor's Healthy Streets initiative. Healthy Streets reduce car use and encourage more people to walk and cycle.	LBL, TfL	2020-2025	£6m	LB Lewisham, TfL	Human-centered framework for embedding public health in transport, public realm and planning.	2
Cycle network improvements	Various	Delivering the network of routes set out in the Council's Cycling Strategy	LBL, TfL	2025-2030	£2m	LB Lewisham, TfL	More sustainable development	2
Bakerloo Line Extension	Across the Bakerloo line	Extension of the Bakerloo line beyond its current terminus to Lewisham (Phase 1), with opportunity to extend further to Hayes and Beckenham Junction (Phase 2).	TfL, LB Lewisham, LB Southwark	2035-2040	£4 - £8b	LB Lewisham and LB Southwark: CIL and S106 TfL GLA Central Government Possibly Over Station Development	A key infrastructure project that will deliver significant opportunities within the Old Kent Road and New Cross / Lewisham / Catford Opportunity Areas. While Phase 2 would promote further growth at Bell Green	3
Bakerloo Line Upgrade	Length of existing line.	Replacement of the existing rolling stock with new trains (Stage 1) and improvements / modernisation of signaling equipment (Stage 2).	TfL, DfT	2025-2030	£1.4b	LB Lewisham and LB Southwark: CIL and S106 TfL GLA Central Government Possibly Over Station Development	New walk-through trains will increase train capacity. New carriages and signaling will enable faster line speeds, increase train frequencies, and improve safety and reliability.	3
Lewisham Spine Healthy Street	Lewisham – Catford	Linking CS4 (A200) to the southern Borough boundary on the A21. Including Cycle Superhighway standard facilities, low emission bus zone, healthy streets improvements with piazza-type environments.	TfL, LB Lewisham	2025-2030	£50m	TfL, LBL, LBS, S106 / CIL	Greater north / south connectivity in the Borough and more sustainable patterns of development in the Borough	2
A2 Healthy Street	A2 Corridor	Transformation of A2 corridor to create a healthy street environment to encourage sustainable modes of travel	TfL, LB Lewisham	2025-2030	£30m	TfL, LBL, LBS, S106 / CIL	Greater east / west connectivity in the Borough and more sustainable patterns of development in the Borough	
					Total Indicative Costs	£6.7b - £9.8b		

## 8. Energy Networks and Electrical Distribution Upgrades

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Electrical distribution upgrades	Borough wide	Upgrades to the local area and building level electrical infrastructure to meet increased demand resulting from higher population and the necessary switch away from fossil fuels to decarbonised heat supply where capacity is exceeded.	UKPN, LB Lewisham	2020-2035	£214m	Central Government, Local Business, and sites with high electricity demand	Grid capacity will limit the location and scale new development alongside roll out of electrification of heat and travel	2
Heat network Catford	Catford	Delivery of a heat network with the wider regeneration of Catford Town Centre	LB Lewisham and other partners to be determined	2025-2030	£17m	LB Lewisham, Green Heat Network Fund, connection charges, Energy Services Company	Heat networks will promote growth through enabling new low carbon development and take pressure of constraints on growth such as grid capacity	2
Heat network Lewisham Town Centre	Lewisham Town Centre	Delivery of a heat network supplying developments in Lewisham Town Centre	Commercialization phase to determine	2025-2030	£14m	Energy Services company, Connection charges, Green Heat Network Fund	Heat Networks will promote growth through enabling new low carbon development and take pressure off constraints such as grid capacity	2
Domestic retrofit	Borough wide	Low energy retrofit of 80% of Lewisham Council owned social housing stock to reduce the heat demand to enable connection to low carbon heat sources without increasing bills or exceeding local grid capacity.	LB Lewisham	2020-2040	£470m	LB Lewisham, Social Housing, Decarbonisation Fund, Government Grants, Regeneration funding	Future growth will need investment in existing housing stock alongside new developments to respond to the borough's housing needs	2
Domestic retrofit	Borough wide	Low energy retrofit of 80% of Lewisham Council owned social housing stock to reduce the heat demand to enable connection to low carbon heat sources without increasing bills or exceeding local grid capacity.	Registered social housing providers with stock   Lewisham	2020-2040	£500m	Social Housing Decarbonisation, Government Grants, Social Housing providers	Future growth will need investment in existing housing stock alongside new developments to respond to the borough's housing needs	1



Domestic retrofit	Borough wide	Low energy retrofit of 80% of Lewisham Council owned social housing stock to reduce the heat demand to enable connection to low carbon heat sources without increasing bills or exceeding local grid capacity.	Private landlords and private owners	2020-2040	£1.5b	Homeowners, Government grants	Future growth will need investment in existing housing stock alongside new developments to respond to the borough's housing needs	1
				Total Indicative Costs	£2.7b			

## 9. Flood Risk Management

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Verdant Lane Flood Alleviation scheme	Hither Green	Proposed installation of SuDS along Verdant Lane and creation of a wetlands in Reigate Road Open Space.	LB Lewisham	2025-2030	£600k	Local Levy, FDGiA, Replenish	Increased flood risk due to development and growth	2
Carholme Road flood alleviation scheme	Forest Hill	Proposed public realm improvements in Forest Hill to reduce surface water flood risk.	LB Lewisham	2025-2030	£600k	Local Levy, FDGiA, Thames Water, SWMP	Increased flood risk due to development and growth	2
Sydenham Wells Park Wetlands	Sydenham	Proposed natural flood management and detention basin in Sydenham Wells Park to reduce surface water flood risk in Sydenham.	LB Lewisham	2025-2030	£600k	Local Levy, FDGiA, Thames Water, SWMP	Increased flood risk due to development and growth	2
				Total Indicative Costs	£1.8m			

## 10. Digital Infrastructure

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Roll-out of full fibre broadband network	Borough Wide	Leverage council buildings and assets as fibre end points, to stimulate fibre deployment. Any public funding beyond that normal operational costs is expected to come from external sources (e.g. DCMS, GLA)	third party service providers	2020-2030	£5m	TBC	This will support growth across the whole Borough.	1
Upgrade of social housing stock to full fibre broadband	Borough Wide	Develop a common wayleave in conjunction with Lewisham Homes and other local providers and invite the market to deliver high quality broadband into social housing	Lewisham Homes, LB Lewisham, Hyper optic, Community Fibre, registered housing providers	2020-2030	£5m	TBC	This will support growth across the whole Borough.	1
				Total Indicative Costs	£10m			

## Appendix B - Infrastructure Projects by service area without Indicative Costs assigned (Pipeline)

### 1. Education

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Watergate School extension	Watergate School	Expand main school site to accommodate 24 reception places and 27 per year group across Years 1 to 6	Lewisham Council	2025-2030	TBC	CIL, SEND High Needs grant and Basic Needs grant.	To meet the increase in need.	1
Additional Secondary provision (Mainstream)	TBC	The current forecasting operates on a 5–7-year horizon (significantly less than the Local Plan period). Demographics are cyclical, and as such this needs to be considered and reviewed periodically in case need arises – a Secondary site is difficult to find, therefore this needs highlighting.	Lewisham Council	2030-2040	TBC	TBC	TBC	1
					Total indicative costs	£N/A		

### 2. Healthcare and Emergency Service Facilities

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Delivery and expansion of an Integrated Healthcare Service via the North Lewisham Queens Road Partnership (North Lewisham PCN).	North Lewisham - Queens Road Partnership, Besson Street, New Cross Gate	Relocation of Queens Road Partnership to new development, Besson Street, New Cross Gate	CCG/Developer/LBL	2025–2030	£TBC	Developer, CIL	Expansion and improvement of services will support growth across Lewisham's North Area – specifically at New Cross.	1
Feasibility for meeting the needs of GP/PCN and integrated services	Linked to South Lewisham/Jenner Practices	Redevelopment & re-provision to provide a modern GP practice and health centre	NHS PS/ICB	2025–2030	£TBC	NHS PS	This improvement will support growth being delivered in Lewisham's Central	2

							and West Areas – specifically Catford and Forest Hill.	
Feasibility for meeting the needs of GP/PCN and integrated services	Aplos PCN - Sydenham Green Group Practice	Planned redevelopment of GP practice	ICB	2025–2035	£100k	NHS England	This improvement will support growth being delivered in Lewisham’s West Area – specifically Forest Hill and Sydenham.	2
Decarbonisation programme of UHL site	Lewisham Hospital	Phased de-carbonisation of existing buildings (and focus on net-zero carbon for new buildings)	LGT	2025–2030	£TBC	NHS England	It is anticipated that this improvement will at least serve growth across the Borough – potentially have a wider role for South East London.	2
Review of existing buildings and potential contributions to expand training, skills, employment, and research to support LGT and wider NHS system	Lewisham Hospital	Reconfiguration and new build depending on feasibility work	LGT	2025–2040	TBC	NHS England	It is anticipated that this improvement will at least serve growth across the Borough – potentially have a wider role for South/ South East London.	1
Improved provision for offices and community hub for health and social care	Catford Old Town Hall	Refurbishment to provide high-quality health and social care hub and offices	ICB/LBL	2025–2030	TBC		It is anticipated that this improvement will at least serve growth across the Borough.	1
Sub-regional - MPS car pound facility	6-7 acres site	Facility to accommodate vehicles that have been stolen, seized, or for forensic examination	MPS	2025–2035	TBC		It is anticipated that this improvement will at least serve growth across the Borough – potentially have a wider role for South/ Southeast London.	2

Relocation to 120 Rushey Green - Re-provision of Family Support and Safeguarding Centre	120 Rushey Green			2025–2030	TBC		It is anticipated that this improvement will at least serve growth across the Lewisham’s Central Area. It is possible that it will provide wider Borough-wide support.	2
Accommodation and Support for 16/17-year-old Looked After Children				2020–2030	TBC		It is anticipated that this improvement will at least serve growth across the Borough.	2
Accommodation and Support for high-needs 18+ year-old Care Leavers	In-borough Children's Home			2020–2035	TBC		It is anticipated that this improvement will at least serve growth across the Borough.	2
				Total indicative costs	£N/A			

### 3. Library facilities, Theatre facilities, Archives and Local History

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Redevelopment of the Grove Park Library and nursery site	Grove Park	Replace the current library and nursery with a new building.	LB Lewisham	2025 - 2035	TBC	LB Lewisham	This improvement will support growth being delivered in Lewisham’s East and South Areas – specifically Grove Park.	1
Additional library floor space provision integrated	Convoys Wharf	Library provision within new civic /cultural space.	LB Lewisham	2025 - 2035	TBC	Site Allocation Developer	This improvement will support growth being delivered in Lewisham’s North Area – specifically the new community being created at Convoy’s Wharf.	1
Catford library provision within new civic space	Catford Town Centre	Re-provision of Catford library floor space within new civic building.	LB Lewisham	2025 - 2035	TBC	LB Lewisham	This improvement will support growth planned for	1

							Lewisham's Central Area – specifically in Catford.	
Community Library building conditions survey – support form community library providers in Council owned assets to return the building and M&E Elements to a suitable condition.	Grove Park, Crofton Park, Torridon Road, Forest Hill and Manor Park	A programme of works to ensure all Community Libraries in council owned assets to return to the building and M&E elements to a suitable condition	LB Lewisham and Community Library providers	2025 - 2035	TBC	LB Lewisham	These improvements will support growth planned for Lewisham's Central, East and West Areas.	1
				Total Indicative Costs	£N/A			

#### 4. Sports and Recreational Facilities

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
<b>Sports and Recreational facilities</b>								
New leisure centre	Surrey Canal Triangle	New leisure centre that provides a range of services aligned to the Physical Activity Strategy	LB Lewisham, Developer	2025-2035	TBC	Policy LNA SA 9 site allocation developers	Future growth being planned and delivered across Lewisham's North Area.	1
				Total Indicative Costs	£N/A			

## 5. Youth and Community Facilities

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Family Hubs	One in each Health Area	Four new family hubs to be identified to provide the central hub to a hub and spoke model of early intervention and family services		2025-2030	TBC		This will support growth across the whole Borough.	1
				Total Indicative Costs	£N/A			

## 6. Transport

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Lewisham Station and Interchange	Lewisham	Enhancements to capacity and station quality to create a high-quality interchange between National Rail, DLR, the future BLE, buses, taxis, walking and cycling	National Rail, Department for Transport, TfL, LB Lewisham	2030 -2040	£100-£150m	DfT, Network Rail, TfL, LB Lewisham	Growth and regeneration of Lewisham Town Centre, and other district centres within the catchment of Southeastern services, DLR and future BLE	3
				Total Indicative Costs	£100-£150m			

## 7. Flood Risk Management

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Rolling programme of SuDS and nature-based solutions	Borough Wide	Delivery and construction of identified solutions for flood alleviation such as wetlands, rain gardens and other SuDS measures in parks and open spaces, highways, housing areas and schools.	LB Lewisham	2020-2040	TBC	Local Levy, FDGiA, Thames Water, SWMP	Increased flood risk due to development and growth	2
Rolling programme of river restoration	Borough Wide	Re-naturalisation of the River Pool, River Ravensbourne, River Quaggy, and the Honor Oak Stream.	LB Lewisham	2020-2040	TBC	Local Levy, FDGiA, Thames Water, SWMP	Increased flood risk due to development and growth	2
Raising of tidal Thames flood defenses	Lewisham and sub regional	Raising of all defenses along the Thames, upstream of Thames Barrier by up to 0.5 m by 2065, and by an additional 0.5 m by 2100. This includes the lower reach of the River Ravensbourne (Deptford Creek) downstream of Deptford Creek weirs.	Multi Stakeholder	2035-2040	TBC	TBC	Increased flood risk due to development and growth	2
Thames Tideway Tunnel	Lewisham and sub regional	In Lewisham, the project involves connecting existing combined sewer overflow at the Earl Pumping Station in New Cross to the new main tunnel, and ventilation infrastructure at a site on Church Street in Deptford	Tideway	2035-2040	TBC	TBC	Increased flood risk due to development and growth	2
				Total Indicative Costs	£N/A			



## 8. Waste Infrastructure

Planned Provision	Proposed Location	Description of Project/Proposal	Project Lead (and Delivery Partners)	Indicative Timescale	Total Cost Indicative	Anticipated Sources of Funding	What Growth is the Provision Supporting?	Prioritisation (3) Critical (2) Essential (1) Important
Repurpose HWRC Landmann way to charging station for electrified waste collection vehicles	Borough wide	Would require new site to operate as waste transfer station, civic amenity/recycling site. Strategic use of current HWRC site at Landmann that is no longer fit for purpose. Site could be re-purposed to draw power from SELCHP for electric waste collection fleet.	LB Lewisham	2025-2030	TBC	TBC	This will support growth across the whole Borough.	1
Replacement depot if Wearside is taken by TfL Bakerloo line project	Wearside depot	If 1 large depot cannot be found then it may be possible to find smaller depot sites that are within strategic geographical areas, inside Lewisham or neighbouring boroughs. Sites must be able to enable electrification infrastructure dependent on the occupation of Wearside timetable. Lift and shift infrastructure is available and would reduce costs as equipment could be relocated back to Wearside when the depot became available again	LB Lewisham	2020-2030	TBC	TfL, LB Lewisham	This will support growth across the whole Borough.	1
Waste Transfer Site	Borough wide	Potential project to improve service to the Borough and to improve quality of material being exported for treatment, to help reduce cost for dry recycling and organic waste treatment	LB Lewisham	2025-2030	TBC	TBC	TBC	2
				Total Indicative Costs	£N/A			

