

<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>COMMUNITY SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT AND RESIDENTS' SERVICES POLICY & ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p>20 November 2017</p>	
<p>REPORT OF THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM BIODIVERSITY COMMISSION</p>	
<p>Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and Residents' Services, Councillor Wesley Harcourt</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification: For review and comment Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Consultation: The Biodiversity Commission has consulted with council officers, residents and organisations in Hammersmith & Fulham throughout the process of developing and drafting this report.</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Sarah Thomas, Director of Delivery and Value</p>	
<p>Report Author: Peter Smith, Head of Policy & Strategy</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 020 8753 2206 peter.smith@lbhf.gov.uk</p>

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Biodiversity is a vital aspect of living healthy lives. LBHF aims to be the greenest borough in London and putting biodiversity at the heart of council policy is fundamental to this, as it reconnects us all to nature. The H&F Biodiversity Commission was launched in January 2017 and completed its work in October 2017.
- 1.2. The Commission's work has included a literature review, an evidence gathering exercise and a survey of borough residents. Specialist council officers and external experts in the field were called to give evidence to the Commission on planning policy and practice, estate management, the variety of trees across the Borough, flood risk management, parks and open spaces and other environmental matters affecting biodiversity.

- 1.3. The Commission's recommendations are intended to establish the primary importance of biodiversity in making Hammersmith & Fulham a thriving community in which people and wildlife flourish and our surroundings are enhanced, making it a beautiful place to be. The recommendations are aimed at the Council and local businesses, the Mayor of London and regional bodies, as well as national bodies, including the NHS and the Government, as all have a role to play in protecting and enhancing biodiversity and its place in a sustainable UK future.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The PAC is invited to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Report of the Hammersmith & Fulham Biodiversity Commission at Appendix 1 and should it see fit make suggestions, including on implementing the recommendations, for the Council to consider in its response.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. The report has been drafted by the Biodiversity Commission, not by council officers. They are presented here for consideration and discussion.

4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 4.1. The PAC is requested to consider and discuss the report's recommendations, particularly those aimed at the Council, and to refer its comments on to Cabinet.

5. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 5.1. The Biodiversity Commission is the seventh H&F resident-led commission to report to a PAC on its findings and recommendations. Since 2015, the Council has received reports from: the Commission on Airport Expansion; the Commission on Council Housing; the Air Quality Commission, the Business Commission, the Poverty and Worklessness Commission and the Disabled People's Commission. A further commission - the Rough Sleeping Commission - is also at the final report stage of its work. A ninth commission – the Older People's Commission – held its inaugural meeting earlier this month.
- 5.2. These commissions demonstrate the Council's commitment to "Working with residents to get things done". The commissions are an example of how the Council is engaged with residents in the co-production of council policies.
- 5.3. The Biodiversity Commission has engaged with council officers from across service areas to help inform and shape its recommendations. It has also gathered evidence from experts in the field and via a survey of borough residents. The PAC is asked to consider and discuss the DPC's recommendations.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. The Commission has been engaged in consultation with borough residents, environmental organisations, council staff and councillors throughout the year, as it has gathered evidence to inform this final report.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The implementation of these recommendations will have no equality implications.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The attached report is that of an independent resident-led Commission and there are no legal implications for the Council in considering the Commission's findings and recommendations. If, in due course, the Council proposes to adopt the Commission's recommendations, the legal implications of those proposals will be considered at that time.

Implications completed by Rhian Davies, Chief Solicitor (Litigation and Social Care) 020 7641 2729

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. At this point there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. If, in due course, the Council decides to adopt the Commission's recommendations, then any financial implications will need to be evaluated and considered as part of the Council's financial planning process.

Implications completed by: Andrew Lord, Head of Strategic Planning and Monitoring, tel. 020 8753 2531.

10. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

- 10.1. *Implications completed by: Albena Karameros, Economic Development Team, tel. 020 7938 8583.*

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

None

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Report of the H&F Biodiversity Commission