


<p align="center">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p align="center">CABINET MEMBER DECISION</p> <p align="center">20 July 2016</p>	
<p align="center">POVERTY AND WORKLESSNESS COMMISSION – INTERVIEW PROGRAMME WITH RESIDENTS LIVING IN POVERTY AND/OR WORKLESSNESS</p>	
<p>Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification - For Decision</p> <p>Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Kim Dero, Director of Delivery and Value</p>	
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AUTHORISED BY:

The Cabinet Member has signed his report.....

DATE: 20 July 2016.....

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. As part of the Council’s policy-making process, the resident-led Poverty and Worklessness Commission seeks to investigate from a local perspective the twin topics of poverty and worklessness and assist in formulating policy and proposals for action to help the Council promote social inclusion.
- 1.2. The qualitative research, of which the interview programme forms a part, is intended to provide insight from the perspective of residents living in poverty and/or worklessness, to complement various packages of background information, analysis and evaluation already provided to the Commission.
- 1.3. As the available officer resource is committed to running a parallel focus group programme, an external contractor is sought to deliver the interview programme.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. That a sum of up to £28,000, secured from Section 106 funds, is made available to Delivery and Value Services for the purpose of conducting an interview programme with borough residents living in poverty and/or worklessness, and to cover associated costs, to inform the work of the Poverty and Worklessness Commission.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. To inform its deliberations and reporting, the resident-led Poverty and Worklessness Commission seeks a robust and complete examination of the nature of poverty and worklessness in the borough from the perspectives of residents who live in one or both states. A programme of semi-structured interviews and associated analysis and typology will complement a series of focus groups in providing this information. All available officer resources are being deployed to deliver the focus groups so an external contractor with the requisite expertise is required to deliver the interview programme.

4. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 4.1. The current administration took control of the Council in May 2014 and has been delivering a whole new social policy agenda over the past two years. The Council's policy priorities are now firmly established, supported by local residents working with councillors through new policy development structures such as the Policy and Accountability Committees and resident-led Commissions, of which the Poverty and Worklessness Commission (PWC) is one.
- 4.2. The PWC has met every two months since November 2015 in order to establish its scope and deliberate on various packages of background information and analysis. The available information, while comprehensive and of sufficient quality to ensure that some conclusions can be drawn, is however not enough in itself to allow a robust and complete examination of the nature of poverty and worklessness in the borough, in particular the reasons/motivations/emotional state behind high rates of worklessness in some cohorts, in the context of a very high overall rate of overall employment and no shortage of part-time and entry level jobs.
- 4.3. For this, an extensive programme of qualitative research with people living in and on the edge of poverty and/or worklessness is required. One element, a programme of focus groups with third party agencies and referred clients, will be delivered by the Commission and supporting officers. The other, the commissioning of research consisting of a series of semi-structured interviews with up to 100 borough residents living in poverty and/or worklessness, and analysis and typology, forms the subject of this Cabinet Member decision paper.

5. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 5.1. The brief requires the services of an external research company with the relevant capacity and expertise as there is insufficient officer resource to deliver the programme within the timescale required, which is three months from appointment. This is to ensure that the research is delivered and analysed in time to inform the Commission's report, which is expected by the end of the calendar year.
- 5.2. In addition to the quote of £23,652 for the interview programme, a sum of up to £4,348 is sought to allow a £25 voucher incentive to be issued to up to 100 participants in the focus groups. The balance of funds will be used to pay where necessary for room hire and basic catering for the complementary focus group programme being delivered by the Commission and supporting officers, which is running in parallel with the interview programme.

6. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 6.1. This interview programme, with associated costs, is additional to the annual budget for the Policy and Strategy Team and there is insufficient officer resource within the Delivery and Value Services Department to deliver the interview programme within the timescale required.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1. The Poverty and Worklessness Commission has been consulted on two occasions about the proposal to commission qualitative research. In addition the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and the Director of Delivery and Value Services have also been consulted.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. Equality implications of carrying out the research will be addressed by the contractor as part of its methodology and by the Poverty and Worklessness Commission as part of its final report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. When considering using Section 106 monies the Council should be clear what the Section 106 Agreement, from which the monies originated, stated. Each Section 106 Agreement will outline the purpose for which any monies obtained by the Council can be used and the Council should be clear the purpose is adhered to.
- 9.2. Implications verified/completed by Joyce Golder, Principal Solicitor, tel 020 7361 2181.

10. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. The required funding could be drawn from the Social and Physical Infrastructure contribution from the Section 106 legal agreement relating to the development at Parsons Green Club, Broomhouse Lane, SW6. One of the purposes considered lawful is Business Training and Employment, which this use would appear to fall within.
- 10.2. Funds totalling £371,176 are currently in hand and the use for this project would be lawful.
- 10.3. Implications completed by Peter Kemp, Planning Change Manager, tel 0208 753 6970.

11. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. The costs of the review can be met from existing s106 funding.
- 11.2. Implications verified/completed by: Andrew Lord, Head of Strategic Planning and Monitoring, Corporate Finance, tel 020 8753 2531.

12. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

- 12.1 There are no immediate implications for businesses in the borough.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 13.1 No strategic risk management issues required as having being identified associated with the report content.
- 13.2 Implications verified/completed by: Michael Sloniowski, Shared Services Risk Manager, tel 020 8753 2587.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	None		