


<p style="text-align: center;">London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CABINET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27 MARCH 2017</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">H&F POVERTY AND WORKLESSNESS COMMISSION - FINAL REPORT</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion: Councillor Sue Fennimore</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification - For Decision</p> <p>Key Decision: Yes</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Kim Dero, Director of Delivery and Value</p>	
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The H&F Poverty and Worklessness Commission has completed its review of poverty and worklessness in Hammersmith and Fulham and approved its final report with a programme of ten recommendations. This is herewith presented to Cabinet for acceptance.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. That the Council welcomes the Commission's report.
- 2.2. That the Council promotes the report's findings and recommendations to central government and other parties to whom the recommendations are directed for action.
- 2.3. That officers are tasked with producing an action plan and costings for the implementation of the recommendations directed at the Council.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. The H&F Poverty and Worklessness Commission is a resident-led commission charged with reporting back on its findings to the Council. The attached report is the result of the Commission's research and evidence gathering over the past eighteen months and is presented to Cabinet for consideration and action.

4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 4.1. The Hammersmith & Fulham Poverty and Worklessness Commission was launched in November 2015, at the direction of the Leader, to:

- identify the factors underpinning the continuing prevalence of both poverty and worklessness in the borough, drawing upon the perspectives of local people living in, or on the edge of poverty and/or worklessness, as well as professionals, leading experts and best practice from the UK and around the world;
- formulate recommendations for interventions and/or service redesign, to deliver better outcomes for local people living in, or on the edge of, poverty and/or worklessness, and increase economic, employment and other opportunities for all;
- make proposals to local, regional and national policy makers for freedoms, flexibilities and funding where necessary to implement these longer-term, in so doing helping central government to deliver on its agenda of encouraging self-reliance in society while saving public funds;

with a view to reporting back on its findings to the Council in early 2017.

- 4.2. The Commission, chaired by Christina Smyth, a local resident, consists of fifteen Commissioners drawn from partner agencies, third sector organisations and local residents. The Commissioners were appointed on the basis of specific recommendations and, in the case of the local residents selected, following a call for expressions of interest. They have considered an extensive range of evidence and analysis to inform their discussions and debates.
- 4.3. This report (attached) is the fruits of that labour and it makes a series of ten recommendations aimed at central government, the Council, partner organisations in the public and voluntary sectors and local businesses.

5. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 5.1. This cover report recommends that the findings are welcomed by the Council and that the recommendations are taken forward by way of promotion and the development of an action plan.

- 5.2. The HASCSI PAC considered the report at its meeting of 31 January 2017, where Members of the PAC and other attendees praised the report and the work of the Commission. The Commission has fulfilled its brief and its report has been welcomed by the PAC.

The recommendations directed at the Council should be costed and subject to the development of an action plan that sets out timescales and monitoring arrangements. The costing of the implementation of recommendations directed at the Council will, inevitably, impact upon timescales for delivery.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. As part of the process of the Commission's research, focus groups were held with eighteen different organisations working with borough residents living in poverty and/or worklessness and a programme of over 100 semi-structured interviews was undertaken with borough residents. The evidence was analysed on behalf of the Commission and this has informed its deliberations and the resulting findings and recommendations. In addition, the consultation draft Commission report was circulated to all Council directors in December 2016, with an invitation to comment ahead of the Commission meeting to agree and approve the final version on 18 January 2017.
- 6.2. The HASCSI PAC meeting on 31 January provided an opportunity to consult members of the public on the Commission's report.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no equality implications related to the recommendation to Cabinet to agree the Poverty and Worklessness Commission's report.
- 7.2. If the Commission's recommendations are implemented in whole or in part by the Council and its partners, a substantial contribution will be made to addressing the inequalities experienced by borough residents living in poverty and/or worklessness.

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.
- 8.2. Implications completed by Rhian Davies, Chief Solicitor, 020 7641 2729.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. In considering the findings and recommendations of its report there are no direct financial implications arising from the officer recommendation to Cabinet. If, in due course, the Council proposes to adopt some, or all of the Commission's recommendations in principle, further work will need to be done to ascertain the financial implications of those proposals. It is at this stage they will need to be considered as part of the Council's financial planning process, in the context of reduced resources and competing demands.
- 9.2. Implications verified/completed by: Andrew Lord, Head of Finance (Budget Planning and Monitoring) tel. 020 8753 2531.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

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

LIST OF APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Report of the H&F Poverty and Worklessness Commission