

Lewisham Poverty Commission Terms of Reference

1. Context

In 2016 the Council's Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee conducted a review into poverty in borough, as some areas in Lewisham are among the most deprived in the country according to the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation.¹

As a result of the review into poverty, Mayor and Cabinet agreed at their 7 September 2015 meeting to appoint the Cabinet Member of Policy and Performance as the lead member responsible for overseeing the Council's actions on poverty and that a Lewisham Poverty 'Commission' be convened to develop a comprehensive Poverty Strategy.

2. Purpose of the Commission

The Commission will build on the work done by the Committee by combining expertise about poverty with expertise about the local area.

The principal aim of the Commission is to agree recommendations to alleviate poverty in Lewisham, mitigate against its negative effects and strengthen people's resilience.

The Commission will:

- Analyse and build on the evidence by the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee's review, *Poverty in Lewisham*.
- Identify key areas where the Council and its partners can make the biggest impact on poverty.
- Identify best practice from Lewisham and elsewhere for tackling poverty in the borough.

As part of this work, the Commission will:

- Convene a Poverty Summit to bring key stakeholders together to discuss actions to tackle poverty in Lewisham
- Support Lewisham Council to develop a comprehensive Poverty Strategy
- Produce a final report to Mayor and Cabinet with practical recommendations for the Council and its partners to implement

3. Membership and Status

The name of the Commission is the Lewisham Poverty Commission. The Commission will be chaired by Councillor Joe Dromey. The additional members will comprise 6 councillors (two executive and four non-executive), and 7 local partners and national experts.

The Commission will act in an advisory capacity to Lewisham Council. The Commission will have no decision-making or budgetary powers.

Lewisham Council's Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee will:

- Receive updates on the Commission's work
- Comment on the Commission's final report

¹ The English Index of Deprivation 2015 published by the Office of National Statistics, which combine information from a range of official administrative sources and census data in to develop a coordinated picture of deprivation across the whole country.

Lewisham Council's Mayor and Cabinet will:

- Receive the Commission's final report.
- Respond to its findings and recommendations

Support for the meetings will be provided by Lewisham's Mayor and Cabinet Office.

4. Chair and member roles

The Chair will work closely together with the other members of the Commission to shape the Commission's work and outputs, and will actively seek input from all members.

Members will work with the Chair to provide strategic direction, drawing on their knowledge, expertise and connections to support the Commission's work.

The full membership of the Commission will be as follows:

- Councillor Joe Dromey, Cabinet Member for Policy and Performance, Cabinet responsibility for poverty
- Councillor Joan Millbank, Cabinet Member for the Third Sector, Community and Equalities
- Councillor Colin Elliott
- Councillor James-J Walsh
- Councillor Joyce Jacca
- Councillor Brenda Dacres
- Bharat Mehta, Chief Executive, Trust for London
- Debbie Weekes-Bernard, Policy and Research Manager, Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Alice Woudhuysen, London Campaign manager, Child Poverty Action Group
- Bill Davies, Head of Policy, Central London Forward
- Gloria Wyse, Lewisham Citizens
- Dr Simon Griffiths, Goldsmiths College
- Claire Mansfield, Head of Research, NLGN

5. Planned programme of work

Meeting 1: Poverty in Lewisham (Monday 27th February)

Introduction to poverty in Lewisham with reports by Lewisham Council Officers.

Meeting 2: Current work and areas of best practice (Thursday 4th May)

Commission to consider further information on the Council's work in key areas and examples of best practice from outside the Council.

Meeting 3: Poverty Summit with partners (Wednesday 12th July)

Commission to discuss its thinking with key partners and stakeholders in Lewisham.

Meeting 4: Report and recommendations (Thursday 28th September)

Commission to consider draft report and formulate recommendations.