GREENWICH: OUR FUTURE TOGETHER
Terms of Reference (September 2016)

1 Synopsis
1.1 This paper sets out the terms of reference given to the Greenwich Fairness Commission “Greenwich: our future together” by the Council’s Executive.

2 Background
2.1 Fairness Commissions have been established to put forward recommendations to tackle inequality and poverty within defined areas, primarily with council boundaries. To date, there have been 22 Fairness Commissions set up across the UK.

2.2 In October 2015, the Royal Borough of Greenwich passed a motion to set up a Fairness Commission seeking to address the inequalities within the borough, with a particular focus on the following themes: housing, health, education and employment (including training) and invited Commissioners reflect this agenda. The Council agreed to set up the independent Fairness Commission named “Greenwich: our future together”. The Commission will be led by Lord Kerslake and will put forward recommendations for reducing and tackling inequality within the borough, based on the evidence gathered.

2.3 The Commissioners agreed on their first meeting in September 2016 that, in addition to presenting recommendations, the Commission should monitor and ensure delivery of the recommendations.

3 Purpose of Greenwich: our future together
3.1 The key outcome for “Greenwich: our future together” is to support the Royal Borough of Greenwich in achieving its mission to close the gaps in outcomes for its residents, increasing opportunities for all to have an improved quality of life.

3.2 This will be achieved through the scrutiny and identification of opportunities for Royal Greenwich to build on its success in tackling inequality and poverty and highlight where improvements can be made, by:

1. Evaluating Royal Greenwich’s current approach to tackling inequality and poverty within the borough;
2. Identifying opportunities for future and effective partnership working;

3. Presenting recommendations that will inform a revised Royal Greenwich Anti-poverty Strategy (2016-19), whilst ensuring that the strategy remains “live” and relevant; and

4. Presenting recommendations on how to tackle poverty and inequality at a regional and national level.

3.3 The Commission will also monitor the implementation of the recommendations in the revised Strategy.

4 Principles for Greenwich: our future together

4.1 “Greenwich: our future together” will:

- Be Chaired by Lord Kerslake;
- Be an independent body;
- Hold 3-4 panel meetings, over the Commission’s timeframe, September 2016 – Spring 2017, with the potential for additional meetings to be scheduled where required;
- Will use an array of means to contact key stakeholders and residents, including (but not exclusive to):
  - Public meetings
  - Testimonies
  - Interviews
  - Case studies
  - Surveys
  - Attending community events/meetings
- Ensure that meetings are made accessible and that a range of communication channels are available and meet the needs of individuals and targeted groups.
- Disseminate all outcomes of meetings to all Commissioners and the relevant services, for information or action;
- Draw on, and feed into, work which has already been undertaken to avoid duplication of work occurring within the borough;
- Consider regional and national factors contributing to poverty within the borough.

5 Membership
5.1 The Commission will be led by Lord Kerslake. Lord Kerslake is the Chair of Peabody, one of the oldest and largest housing associations in London. He is the former Chief Executive of the LB Hounslow and Sheffield CC, as well as the former Head of the Civil Service. The rest of the Commission is made up of key local and national organisations, with the intention that they are represented at all meetings. All information from the meetings will be shared with all Commissioners.

5.2 Each Commissioner of “Greenwich: our future together”, will be a senior individual, within their respective organisations and will have an equal say in discussions. Commissioners will be expected to promote the Fairness Commission to their respective organisations.

5.3 Commissioners should recognise that the Royal Borough of Greenwich is a diverse place and should constructively scrutinise the evidence presented to them and act on behalf of people who experience inequality.

5.4 Commissioners will be expected to attend all meetings and are encouraged to identify and bring forward practical ideas that can be implemented locally through new/existing channels, project projects, services.

5.3 Commissioners (all meetings):
- Lord Kerslake (Chair)
- Richard Brooks
- Gilles Cabon
- Yvonne Doyle
- Dr Carole Easton
- Peter Estlin
- Cathy Francis
- Dr Cathy Garner
- Deborah Hargreaves
- Stephen Howlett
- Baroness Lawrence OBE
- Sam Paret OBE
- Councillor Denise Scott-McDonald
- Naomi Goldberg

5.4 Suggested Representation:
The Chair may invite additional representatives, as appropriate to agenda. Below lists organisations that the Chair may wish to consider, but is by no means exclusive:

- Royal Borough of Greenwich – representatives from all departments (where necessary)
- University of Greenwich
- University of Greenwich Students’ Union
- Ravensbourne College
- London South East Colleges
- Environment Agency
- Charlton Athletic Football Club
- Friends of Parks representative
- Heritage representatives such as Greenwich Hospital, Royal Parks
- Advisor sector representatives such as Greenwich CAB, Plumstead Community Law Centre, Greenwich Housing Rights
- Tennant representative
- Representatives from developers
- Representative from Registered Social Landlords
- Greenwich Multi Faith Forum
- Greenwich Young People Council

5.5 The Commission will also be supported by officers within the Council’s Corporate Services Team and Lord Kerslake’s Team.

5.6 All interested parties/representatives can attend any public meetings; additionally they can also express interest in attending meetings to which they are not directly invited, if it is practical for them to do so.

6 Meetings

6.1 Meetings will be organised thematically, focussing on areas where the Council and its partners have the most influence in tackling poverty and inequality.

6.2 Agendas will be set by the Chair, and will need in its deliberations to consider issues surrounding health, education, training, employment and housing.
6.3 The Commission will hold public meetings between its launch and Spring 2017. It is important that the Commission meets in a variety of locations across the borough for visibility and to give Commissioners a feel of the diversity across the borough.

7 Desired outcomes
7.1 To deliver an evidenced based strategy with clear and defined actions to tackle inequality and poverty within the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The final report will be available in Spring 2017.

7.2 The Royal Borough of Greenwich will be expected to consider and implement the recommendations raised in the “Greenwich: our future together” report, which specifically pertain to the Council’s practices, process and services and to support partners in achieving the same, where recommendations are relevant to them.

7.3 The Commission’s report will be presented at Full Council. The Council must evidence and report its progress in implementing the Commission’s recommendations to the Housing and Anti-Poverty Scrutiny Panel.

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Questions and comments regarding these Terms of Reference should be directed to:
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