

CABINET

18 October 2016

Title: Independent Growth Commission – Select Committee Feedback and Recommendations	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance, Growth and Investment	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: Yes
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Summary At the Cabinet meeting in April this year, a report on the recommendations of the Growth Commission (GC) was considered and Members agreed to refer the recommendations to the relevant Select Committees for further consideration. The Living and Working, Children’s Services and Public Accounts and Audit Select Committees were asked to prioritise the recommendations to be taken forward and report back to Cabinet on their discussions. This report provides details of the outcome of these discussions with details on which recommendations should be prioritised and feedback on the GC report in general.	
Recommendation(s) The Cabinet is recommended to: (i) Note the feedback from the Select Committees following their consideration of the Growth Commission recommendations; and (ii) Agree the responses to the Select Committees’ comments and recommendations as set out in section 3 of the report and that a report updating the Select Committees on progress against the priorities and the wider Growth Commission recommendations shall be presented in 12 months’ time.	
Reason(s) To assist the delivery of the Council’s vision of “One borough; one community; London’s growth opportunity” and delivery of corporate priorities with regard to growth.	

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At the Cabinet meeting in April, a report on the recommendations of the Growth Commission (GC) - No-one left behind: in pursuit of growth for the benefit of everyone - was considered as part of the Council's ambition for the Borough to be seen as London's growth opportunity. The GC made 109 separate recommendations on a wide range of issues covering housing, education, skills and employment and social cohesion. At that meeting, Members agreed to publish the report of the GC and referred the recommendations to the relevant Select Committees for further consideration.
- 1.2 Members of the Living and Working Select Committee and the Children's Services Select Committee were asked to prioritise three of the recommendations to be taken forward. These proposals were then put before the Public Accounts and Audit Select Committee before making final recommendations to Cabinet.
- 1.3 Cabinet is to consider these priorities and the implications for implementing them before deciding whether they would form part of the future aims and ambitions of the Council to achieve growth. This report summarises the deliberations that took place on this matter.

2. Select Committee Priorities and Feedback

- 2.1 The views of the relevant Select Committees on the prioritisation of GC recommendations are attached as appendices and a summary of discussion at each meeting is set out below:

Living and Working Select Committee

- 2.2 The Living and Working Select Committee reviewed recommendations 17-66, 87-90, 92-94, 96, 98-109 relating to 'The Borough and its urban form', 'The Borough's areas', 'Skills and employment' and 'Business'. Members agreed a list of nine, rather than three priorities, plus two other areas which they considered should be prioritised relating to protection and redevelopment of all shopping areas and cleanliness. These recommendations are set out in **Appendix A**.
- 2.3 There were also some concerns expressed over the GC recommendations in general as follows:
 - The strategic nature of the Growth Commission meant that prioritising its recommendations was challenging;
 - The role of public engagement needs to be given greater priority in developing policy;
 - Consideration should be given to consulting with Members concerning the functionality of the Development Control Board in view of the GC's comments on it; and
 - In supporting the inclusion of the burying of pylons and with reference to some of the other major initiatives included in the GC's recommendations, Members questioned whether such projects could be achieved given the extremely high costs involved.

Children's Services Select Committee

- 2.4 In the section about 'Opportunities and potential: Supporting People', the GC made 21 recommendations about issues within the remit of the Children's Services Select Committee. The Select Committee reviewed recommendations 67-86 and 95 and agreed to prioritise them under three separate themes. The response is set out in **Appendix B**. Members chose recommendations 81, 69 and 82 as key priorities but noted some areas of overlap with other recommendations which could be incorporated into the work stream.

Public Accounts and Audit Select Committee

- 2.5 Members noted the proposals put forward by the Living and Working and Children's Services Select Committees. In addition, in the 'Skills and Employment' section, the Select Committee welcomed and agreed two additional recommendations being submitted to Cabinet on the basis that they should be linked together. Recommendation 91 relates to implications of the Work Programme being replaced by the Work and Health programme and recommendation 97 proposes that the Council should work with health care providers and social economy organisations to identify where peer support schemes could be put in place beyond those that already exist in the Borough. The response is set out in **Appendix C**.
- 2.6 The Select Committee also expressed general concerns about the total cost of the Growth Commission report and the approach to the public consultation exercise. Members suggested that a multi-faceted approach should have been adopted. They also felt that there should have been far greater Member engagement in the consultation.

3. Responding to Select Committee feedback

- 3.1 Lessons from the engagement undertaken by the GC have been learnt and recent consultation exercises have produced better results with around 200 responses to the Ambition 2020 consultation, circa 400 with regard to the Waste Strategy and over 800 on the current Borough Manifesto work to date.
- 3.2 Comments with regard to the number of recommendations, 109, are noted and the large number precludes a specific blow-by-blow report as to the acceptance and implementation of each. Rather the Council is using the GC as a guide to inform its future work. The Cabinet recognises the strategic and wide-reaching nature of the GC and the challenge faced by SCs in prioritising its recommendations. It also welcomes it as an exercise in helping the Cabinet improve policy outcomes and will seek other opportunities to do this going forwards.
- 3.3 The cost implications of each recommendation need to be considered when deciding on its acceptance/implementation. LWSC noted the potentially high cost of burying pylons and the cost/benefit of such a project would need to be carefully considered in the development of any business case developed prior to taking it forward.
- 3.4 The cost of the GC report was raised as a concern, however the impact of the GC for the Borough in cementing our reputation as open for investment and regeneration and providing a roadmap for growth cannot be underestimated. In this

light the GC can be considered an investment, that whilst not cheap, represents good value for money.

3.5 Cabinet is supportive of the prioritisation of the following recommendations as recommended by the Living & Working Select Committee, namely:

- tunnelling the A13;
- attracting anchor institutions to the Borough;
- being a high speed digital hub pilot;
- stronger regulation of private landlords;
- focus on different housing tenures;
- focus on retail areas & a plan for the Heathway;
- development of wildlife space on the riverside;
- improvement of iconic community facilities.

3.6 In many cases work has already started to take these forward. Coventry University will be opening a campus in the Civic Centre from September 2017 and the A13 Tunnel has received wide-spread support from local, regional and national figures.

3.7 The Borough's private landlord licensing scheme is having results and we are exploring ways of strengthening existing provision.

3.8 Prioritisation of the recommendations highlighted by the Children's Services Select Committee as set out below are endorsed by Cabinet and will be taken forward as part of the Council's work in improving educational attainment:

- Importance of schools engaging with parents;
- Persuading tutoring organisations to support students in the borough;
- Ensure that schools are providing careers education to students from a young age to raise aspirations;
- Support for a multi-agency early intervention strategic partnership playing a critical role in developing and implementing the range of interventions needed during early years;
- Build strong partnerships across a range of stakeholders to address educational under-achievement;
- Schools should adopt an experiential approach to the curriculum enabling students to have wide-ranging experiences that both inform their learning and contribute to widening their horizons; and
- Schools should support the development of healthy lifestyles and active citizenship through their curricular and extra-curricular activities.

3.9 The Cabinet undertakes to produce a report updating Select Committees on progress against these priorities and the wider Growth Commission recommendations in 12 months' time.

4. Consultation

4.1 The report is responding to Select Committee discussion of the Growth Commission recommendations.

5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Jon Bunt, Strategic Director of Finance and Investment

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Fiona Taylor, Director of Law & Governance

- 6.1 There are no legal comments on this report.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

“No-one Left Behind: In Pursuit of Growth for the Benefit of Everyone” - Independent Growth Commission Report, February 2016 (<https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/business/growing-the-borough/our-strategy-for-growth/overview-2/>)

List of appendices:

- **Appendix A:** Priority Recommendations identified by the Living and Working Select Committee
- **Appendix B:** Priority Recommendations identified by the Children’s Services Select Committee
- **Appendix C:** Minutes of the Public Accounts and Audit Select Committee