

Opportunity and Fairness Commission Terms of Reference

Croydon is an aspirant, young and diverse borough. It combines areas of endemic poverty with those of relative prosperity. It has unfulfilled potential and can and must do better. But it can only do this if residents, local business, and the voluntary and public sector develop a common understanding of the challenges it faces, share a vision for the future, and agree a route map to unlock the potential of all its residents, particularly the most disadvantaged.

- Highlight and map the assets and potential assets the borough has: the skills, ingenuity and the contribution of residents, the community and voluntary sector to creating better lives, and the physical and technological assets that are underutilised.
- Analyse and understand the extent and causes of disadvantage and lack of opportunity in the borough, recognising the differences across areas and populations with as much attention as possible to the particularities of each locality.
- Reach out to all parts of the community to understand their concerns and priorities. Ensure that residents and the voluntary, community and statutory sectors are engaged throughout the process and that their perspectives are embedded in any analysis. As part of this the commission will seek for solutions that meet the needs and aspirations of both poorer and more prosperous communities, and propose policies that aim to benefit all residents and workers in Croydon.
- Analyse the changing nature of the labour market and technology and its impact in Croydon. Engage the business community – the people who create job opportunities for Croydon residents – as partners in the work of the Commission and in any new partnership.
- Recognise that Council and other public service providers are under severe financial pressure, and many residents struggle to make ends meet, to make recommendations which enable

partners in the Borough to achieve more with less, using the resources available – better utilising existing assets and harnessing untapped ones.

- Reappraise the long-term vision for Croydon from an Opportunity and Fairness perspective.
- Propose achievable policies and solutions. Engage with those who will have to implement them (service providers, businesses, the voluntary sector and residents) so they are motivated to deliver them and are publicly committed to doing so.
- To provide interim reports and a final report by early 2016